

Portland Gay Symphonic Band is a performance group for queers and supportive friends of varying musical skill levels with annual fall and spring concerts. Subgroups include the Rose City Swing band and a marching band with flag corps. Come join us! (503-790-2170. info@rcgfb.org. www.rcgfb.org.)

Satori Men's Chorus welcomes new members of all ages and races, regardless of sexual orientation or musical background, to join Wednesday rehearsals. No audition necessary. (503-242-4244. www.satorichorus.org.)

General

Asian & Pacific Islander Lesbians and Gays is a nonprofit community voice for gay, lesbian and bi Asian and Pacific Islanders. Activities include potlucks, recreational outings and cultural events. Friendly environment to meet and connect with other API. (PO Box 12661, Portland, OR 97232. aplg_pdx@yahoo.com.)

Bad Girls is a social and educational leather and B/D/S/M club for self-identified women with an emphasis on safety and education. Workshops, discussions, events and parties. Women of all orientations can connect and ask questions during the Kinky Women's Welcoming Munch at 7 pm every second Tuesday. (503-972-2233. www.pdxbadgirls.net.)

Bookwomen is a lesbian discussion group that meets monthly to share stories, favorite authors, top 10 lists and opinions and reviews of the assigned book. (503-684-0305. mikkata@comcast.net.)

Border Riders Motorcycle Club provides social opportunities for gay men interested in recreational motorcycle touring and promotes education on safe and legal machinery. (503-281-4488. brmcprez@yahoo.com.)

Cascade Flyers are gay, lesbian and bi aviators, both private and professional, in Washington, Oregon and southern British Columbia. Dinner meetings in Portland area. (503-701-7922. castflyers@yahoo.com. www.geocities.com/castflyers.)

A Common Bond is a social support network for former or questioning Jehovah's Witnesses who are queer. (acbpportland@webtv.net.)

Cosure is a social group for people who were assigned a female sex at birth but identify otherwise (female-to-male, genderqueer, drag king, etc.). First Sunday meetings are open to partners and families of any configuration. (503-471-1515. groups.yahoo.com/group/cosure.)

Dungeon Men PDX hosts a men's S/M party every other month in a Portland dungeon. Masters and novices always welcome. (503-281-2076. bighnboy@aracnet.com.)

F.A.G. PDX (Femme Affinity Group Portland), a radical activist and social group open to self-identified femmes of all genders, seeks to create solidarity among femmes, promote femme visibility and combat femmephobia in the community at large. (www.otsorry.org/fagpdx.)

50+ lesbian social group for women meets on the third Saturday of the month. (4-7 pm. 503-642-3360 or 971-216-1173. sutaytg@aol.com.)

FTM Pacific NW OR & WA is a social and discussion group for female-to-male trans men. (groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM_PacificNW.)

Funny Ladies, a social group for nice lesbians 35 and older as well as their friends and loved ones, holds potlucks on the second Saturday of each month. (flataps@yahoo.com.)

Gay Men Who Have Lost Their Partners meets at the West Cafe to provide an opportunity for conversation and socializing. The death need not have occurred recently. (7:30 pm second Wednesday. 1201 SW Jefferson St. 503-701-9376.)

Genealogy group forming. Gather with other lesbian researchers to trace your family tree and tackle "brickwall" female ancestors. (famhistnw@aol.com.)

Happy Ours Productions is a grassroots group dedicated to building the visibility, community participation and collective leadership of lesbian women of color through a wide variety of social, networking, consciousness-raising and action-oriented activities, events and projects. (www.happyooursproductions.com.)

Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon is the oldest gay, lesbian, bi and trans social/human-raising organization in the state of Oregon. Meetings are the first two Mondays of each month. (www.rosecourt.org.)

Jewish Gay Men's Group—please call for meeting time and place. (503-246-5939. efrainlevi@aol.com.)

Kesher is a social connection group for queer Jews and their spouses, partners, significant others and good friends, whether Jewish or not. It meets monthly for potluck dinners and special events. (David 503-226-7079, ext. 14, or Mike 503-331-1111.)

Lesbian Garden Club is a group of women who love gardens and gardening. They exchange plants, seeds, advice and encouragement while having a good time. Call for a copy of the newsletter.

ter and information about upcoming events. (Linda 503-909-2002.)

Lesbians with Degrees is a social group that was started for degreed women, but no degree is necessary. Just come and join the fun! Pool parties, Scrabble and more. (Lani 503-233-3557. Join listserv at LesbianswDegrees-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.)

Lulu's Pervy Playhouse is a social group for self-identifying women who are into S/M. Play parties are held on the second Saturday of the month. (503-231-3992. dykedadi@comcast.net. www.luluspervyplayhouse.org.)

Men Over 40 is a small, socially supportive group that meets second and fourth Thursdays. (503-777-1376.)

Night in Black Leather and The Leather Duck Club are the first and third Friday of each month at Gail's Dirty Duck Tavern. (9 pm-midnight. 439 NW Third Ave. 503-224-8446. orleatherfrat@yahoo.com.)

Oregon Men Enjoying Naturism is a social organization for gay male naturists/nudists. Social gathering second Saturday of every month. (omenpdx@omenpdx.org. www.omenpdx.org.)

PDX FTM is a social group for female-to-male trans men and their significant others, friends, families and allies. (groups.yahoo.com/group/PDX_FTM.)

The gay **Pinochle Group** meets Sundays at Hobo's. Come play cards and meet the gang. New players always welcome. (6 pm. 120 NW Third Ave. Mike 503-641-7224.)

Poder Latino is a nonprofit social community voice group for gay, lesbian, bi and trans people that reaches out to Latinos and Latinas by organizing events and retreats and advocating HIV prevention. Meets every other Monday at Outside In. (6:30 pm. 1030 SW 13th Ave. Hugo 503-997-8615 or Audencio 503-261-5463.)

Portland Leather Alliance is one of the largest pansexual, nonprofit B/D/S/M, leather and fetish lifestyle organizations in the Northwest. Regular social and educational opportunities, including KinkFest, Leather Ball and Fall Vendors Fair. (www.pdxleatheralliance.org.)

Portland Leather Men meet every second Saturday for potluck and socializing. Meet men into a leather lifestyle and keep abreast of leather happenings. No dues, no formal organization, no officers or board, just leather socialization for the past 21 years. (360-896-6665. plm@direcway.com.)

Portland Lesbian Book Club gathers monthly to chat about a chosen book or to attend selected events. (6:30 pm third Tuesday. groups.yahoo.com/group/portlandlesbianbookclub.)

Portland Lesbian Network organizes brewpub visits, golf events, hiking, kayaking, cycling, Scrabble games and movie nights and keeps you aware of what's going on in the area. (PDXLesbianNetwork-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.)

Portland Metro Prime Timers was established as a social group for older gay men as well as younger men who enjoy their company. Meetings include potluck meals, dining out, bingo and celebrations of special occasions. (PO Box 5884, Portland, OR 97228. 360-254-1718 or 503-286-4613. pdxprimetimers@yahoo.com. www.geocities.com/pdxprimetimers.)

Rose City Discussion Club, the largest and oldest open pansexual/alternative sexuality club in the Northwest, is open to all orientations, fetishes and lifestyles that are safe, sane and consensual. Monthly meetings, social, workshops and newsletter. (rcdc@teleport.com. www.rcdc.org.)

Sappho Social Club is a group of women 40 years and older building community through social and cultural activities. (thesapphosocialclub@yahoo.com.)

Soyboys Vegetarian Men's Group is a fun, social gathering for gay and bi men who are interested in a healthy vegetarian or vegan lifestyle. A variety of activities and monthly potlucks on the last Saturday. (veggieguys@aol.com.)

Tuesday Twilight Tastings meets for casual tastings of fine wines and inspired food at West Cafe. (6-8 pm third Tuesday. 1201 SW Jefferson St. RSVP to 503-784-4807 or 503-227-8189.)

Women of the Rivers, the Portland/Vancouver chapter of **Women on Wheels Motorcycle International**, encourages women who love to ride to gather for good times, support and growth in the sport through social meetings, professional seminars, rider training and organized and pickup rides. Monthly meetings at MacTamaha's Taproom. (6:30 pm second Thursday. 2730 NW 31st Ave. www.womenoftherivers.org.)

Physical Recreation

Adventure Group organizes a variety of activities year round, including hiking, walking, cross-country and downhill skiing, rafting and mountain biking. (PO Box 2201, Portland, OR 97208-2201. www.adventuregroup.org.)

Amazon Dragons Paddling Club invites women 16 and older to join Portland's only out lesbian dragon boat team. Be part of the fun and fitness with this dynamic group. (www.amazondragons.org.)

Fits Bowling invites you to come join this fun, friendly, alternative league at AMF Pro 300 Lanes. (7 pm Friday. 3031 SE Powell Blvd. 503-234-0237.)

The Forest Group outings are cooperative adventures for women. Participants are responsible for providing their own equipment and choosing outings appropriate for their skill and fitness level. All skill levels welcome. (503-772-1860. innoregon@comcast.net. www.geocities.com/ncc1127/forestpdx.)

Gay Men's Walking Group invites gay, bi and questioning men to stroll in various neighborhoods around Portland for fun, friendship and exercise. (10 am Saturday. Tom 503-984-4549.)

Gay Women's Golf Group welcomes all levels of players. (www.turfgrlz.com.)

Lesbian Equestrian Group gets together for equestrian activities in the Pacific Northwest. (Denise 503-654-3865. Lynn 503-777-2339. kelrav@rdrop.com.)

Out Dancing teaches dancing for same-sex couples at Ankeny Street Studio. Classes for different dance styles start the first Friday of each month: country, swing, tango, cha-cha, etc. Call for schedule. (503-236-5129. out_dancing@yahoo.com. home.att.net/~outdancing.)

OutKayaking, Portland's gay and lesbian sea kayak group, explores the lakes, rivers and bays of north-west Oregon and southwest Washington. (www.outkayaking.org.)

PDX Pride Bowling League is recruiting for fun games Friday nights September through April. (info@pdxpridebowl.com.)

PDX NetRippers is Portland's queer soccer organization with competitive indoor soccer, outdoor scrimmages, practices for all levels and regional tournaments. (Kyle bendoverbeckham@gmail.com. www.myspace.com/netrippers.)

Portland Gay & Lesbian Bowling Association celebrates 30 years with its 2007-08 season. Meets Sundays from Labor Day through Memorial Day at Hollywood Bowl. Drop-ins welcome anytime. (3:30 pm. 4030 NE Halsey St. Mailing address: PO Box 42034, Portland, OR 97232. 503-693-6261. pdxbowl@yahoo.com. www.pdxbowl.com.)

Portland Gay Basketball Association welcomes all skill levels. (groups.yahoo.com/group/PortlandGayBasketballAssociation.)

Whether you're a running novice or a seasoned marathoner, **Portland Frontrunners** welcomes gay, lesbian, bi and trans people of all abilities and interests. (Gary info@portlandfrontrunners.org. www.portlandfrontrunners.org.)

Rose City Softball Association is Oregon's largest sports organization for the gay and lesbian community. With open and women's divisions at all levels, RCSA plays slow-pitch softball games on most Sundays throughout the summer at Gordon Faber Recreational Complex in Hillsboro. Join a team or form a new one! (4450 NW 229th Ave. membership@rosecitysoftball.org. www.rosecitysoftball.org.)

Rosetown Ramblers, Portland's gay and lesbian square dance club, dances at mainstream and plus levels. (PO Box 5352, Portland, OR 97228-5352. www.rosetownramblers.com.)

Ruby Red Flippers, a group of gay and lesbian scuba divers in the Portland area, teaches new recruits and takes dives in Tacoma, Hood Canal and other Pacific Northwest waters. (rubymredflippers@yahoo.com. www.rubymredflippers.org.)

She Rocks, a supportive rock climbing group for lesbians 18 and older, organizes year-round climbing and training events chosen according to skill level. Monthly meetings are held at Bagdad Pub. (6:30-7:30 pm second Thursday. 3702 SE Hawthorne Blvd. www.sherocks.wetpaint.com.)

Team Oregon, the umbrella sports group coordinating efforts for Outgames 2006 in Montreal and Gay Games 2006 in Chicago, holds monthly meetings for those wanting to participate. (503-736-3292. www.teamoregon2006.org.)

Team Tennis meets Sundays at University of Portland. All levels of play welcome, and the first time is free. (8 am-noon. www.teamportland-tennis.org.)

YOUTH

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) is the only international organization specifically supporting young people with sexual minority parents. (colage@imfamily.org. www.colage.org.)

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/ expression. (12700 SW North Dakota St., Suite 180 #129, Tigard, OR 97223. 503-525-1177. glsen@glsenoregon.org. www.glsenoregon.org.)

House of MOCHA (Men of Color Healthy & Aware) is a group of gay/bi/same-gender-loving men of color between 16 and 25 who want to engage in activities, socials and community events among their peers. (Kourtni 503-417-7991. www.brotobrodpdx.org.)

Am I Dating a Vampire?

"No-Sex Mary" always comes up with excuses to refuse nighttime dates

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I have been dating Mary for a few weeks and am smitten. We've made out a few times, but only in public.

The problem is that we always meet in the middle of the day for lunch or a walk or for tea, and she always has to get back to work. I've asked a thousand times for a nighttime date or a weekend outing, but Mary always comes up with an excuse. A friend of mine has nicknamed her "No-Sex Mary."

Am I wasting my time here? Should I cut my losses, make an ultimatum or make a move for public sex? The problem is that she seems perfect in every other way.

—Pro-Sex Jodi

DEAR PRO-SEX JODI:

If Mary won't see you at night, there are four possible explanations:

1. She has a secret girlfriend and can't get out at night.
2. She knows she looks horrific in incandescent light.
3. She's a vampire and is protecting you from herself.
4. She fears that a nighttime date will lead to sex, and she's not ready to get naked with you.

You're not really in a position to give Mary an ultimatum or to hump her in a public garden. Next time you invite her to an evening activity, and she insists she's only available for lunch, try asking directly why she doesn't want to see you at night. You don't have much to lose. You're already spending your nights alone, so you may as well find out if you're barking up the wrong lesbian.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My girlfriend, Randi, and I have been a couple for six months, but we live in different cities. Mostly, because I have a looser schedule, I travel to see her and spend long weekends visiting. Everything is always great when I arrive and the weekend is fun and affectionate, and we have good sex.

The problem rolls around when it's time for me to leave. I notice that Randi becomes silent and withdrawn about five or six hours before my departure, and usually she is slow during the early part of the week in returning my phone calls, until about Thursday when she warms back up again. She claims it's because she's busy, but I suspect she is mad at me for having to leave, which is necessary due to my job. I hate the push and pull of the situation because it only makes our separation worse.

Why can't she just act normal and be close to me the whole week long? What can I do to get her to change?

—Long-Distance Lover

DEAR LONG-DISTANCE LOVER:

It makes sense that Randi feels sadder than you do at the end of your weekends together because you're the one who goes home and leaves her behind. In some not-so-conscious way, Randi is probably triggered by your departure into feeling abandoned. If you can arrange to have her visit you more frequently, that may help her feel in control and stay more connected when you're apart.

Separation in a new relationship can be difficult, particularly if a sense of constancy and commitment hasn't yet been established. Psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott, an object relations theorist, described stages of child development that seem also to apply to the stages of a new relationship. Early on, the infant needs an illusion of being connected with her mother, until she realizes she can exist and survive as a separate being. Prior to this development, the infant can be helped by a "transitional object," a doll or blanket that substitutes for Mommy and helps the infant develop a healthy sense of self.

When you visit Randi, try leaving a transitional object when you depart. This can be a T-shirt or a pillow that smells like you and will remind her that you still exist in the world and that you're coming back. Hopefully, after a while, she'll remember that you'll return and that it's safe for her to have feelings for you even when you're away. Her ability to trust you and the situation will unfold slowly. It's an organic process, and there's not much you can do to "get her to change," other than remaining constant and reliable (like a "good enough mother").

Don't take the Mommy stuff too literally, though, or it may kill your sex life. ☺

MERYL COHN is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette*. Signed copies are available directly from the author. Send questions or correspondence to msbehavior@aol.com.



Ms. Behavior
BY MERYL COHN

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