

Ask



Dear Dr. Kim,

I have been married for three years. My husband and I have a 17-month-old daughter. We both work full-time, and we work opposite schedules.

After working, cleaning, doing laundry, cooking and taking care of the baby, my husband wants his "quality time." Is he crazy? I'm so exhausted that I just want to climb into bed and sleep, and he just wants to have sex! I have no desire to have sex whatsoever. When we do have sex, he says I don't put enough effort into it.

Well, it's been this way since the baby was born. Honestly, he is a great husband; he helps tremendously with the baby. He sometimes gets upset with me and tells me that he is a good man and that I don't appreciate him. BUT I DO! PLEASE HELP.

Thank you, Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

It's completely normal for your sex drive to decrease after having a baby. Not only are your hormones working against your libido - watching Barney all day doesn't exactly put you in the mood to get it on. Being a mother has its rewards, but feeling sexy isn't one of them.

Try to set aside some time every week to get romantic with your husband. Even if you don't have the desire to have sex, the two of you need that time to be intimate with one another. This alone will decrease some of the arguments about sex.

The only thing a man really needs is to feel adequate. They just want to feel like whatever they are - it's good enough. Your husband sees his role with you as a job, and he wants to feel as though he's fulfilled his duty.

Try giving him little "atta boys" for things he does around the house. Thank him for taking out the garbage, or just mention how much you enjoy having him around. Tell him what a good provider he is. Men are really dumb animals when it comes down to it.

Don't forget to communicate with your husband about what turns you on. If you give him some direction as to the things that *ahem* arouse your interest, you might be inclined to "put more effort" into the lovemaking.

Society quick to place blame

Laura Cameron

The Clackamas Print

For the love of all things good and holy, please stop being stupid.

The shooting at Virginia Polytechnic Institute last week was horrible. I don't deny that. Thirty-two people were murdered in cold blood - and can anyone imagine what the shooter's family is going through right now? I have nothing but com-

passion for the people touched by this event.

That being said, it has been brought rather forcibly to my attention that a great many people are using these murders as an excuse to completely abandon the world of logic.

It started almost immediately, with the usual claims that "this is all due to violent video games!" I have never bought in to that particular argument; I've been a kid much more recently than Jack Thompson and Dr. Phil.

They would probably consider me to still be a kid, and I can assure them that kids are perfectly capable of telling the difference between reality and a video game.

For that matter, kids have been playing violent games for a lot longer than video games have existed. How is it any different for a little kid with a plastic gun to "shoot" his friend in a game of Cops and Robbers? For that matter, how is paintball or laser-tag any less violent than a game like Halo?

Of course, that particular subject was soon drowned out by strident claims that the Virginia Tech administration "hadn't done enough" to protect the students. I don't doubt that there will be multiple wrongful death suits against the university from bereaved parents.

This ignores the fact that there wasn't much the school could do. Closing the campus

after the first two victims were discovered would have been next to impossible.

Most students were still en route to the campus; how were they to be contacted? If they simply arrived and found classes cancelled, their most likely course of action would be to all gather in one place and talk to each other to find out what's going on. Can anyone imagine what a wonderful target a crowd of hundreds of students in one spot would have been for Cho Seung-Hui?

Administrations don't plan for random, once-in-a-lifetime incidents like this. They can't, or else they would spend 100 percent of their time in planning meetings. The faculty of Virginia Tech is not to blame in this, and I resent the implication that we should all dig a hole and hide every time some nutter goes off the deep end.

I refuse to live in constant fear.

Spartan controversy

'300,' the movie, incites debates over historical accuracy and political subtext.

Heatherann Price

The Clackamas Print

The movie 300 has generated some talk - Iran is demanding an apology.

Critics of 300 say that the film displays the Iranian people in a negative way, incites hate and is helping to pave the way for war between our two peoples.

There are many undeniable points made by supporters of this claim.

The Persian special ops troops are grossly misshaped, looking like bat-faced people. The Persian army consists of other oddities, such as a fat giant with knife arms.

The Spartans are all white, shining examples of manhood, parading about in leather trunks and blazing, red capes, their hard, chiseled muscles gleaming.

Persia uses its superior numbers, along with exotic animals and wizards, to crush the Spartans.

The Spartan forces were only 300 men, with a few volun-

teer allies. They fight to defend their homes and freedom. King Leonidas and his troops are presented as being upstanding examples of manhood, who value freedom and the intelligence of women.

The Persians are shown as being deformed, power-hungry invaders who have slaves and treat women as objects.

These are all good points; however, those claiming that this movie incites hate have forgotten that it is a flight of fiction.

The movie 300 is based on a graphic novel that was inspired by the movie *The 300 Spartans*, made in 1962. Warner Bros. had been planning a remake of said film since the 1990s.

Yes, there was a battle of Thermopylae. Yes, the Persians invaded, and yes, roughly 300 Spartans held them off and were nearly wiped out, giving Athens enough time to rally their army and defeat the Persians soon after. Almost nothing else in the

movie 300 is historically accurate.

If that is not enough, I'd like to ask how many people knew that the Persian Empire occupies much of the same land that Iran does today? I didn't.

More to the point, the Spartans were not set up to be perfect either. They were shown to kill all of their infants who were born imperfect. They practiced the very "pagan" act of sacrificing young, virgin

women to priests, who used them as oracles and sex slaves. In addition, one of the deformed characters in the movie is a Spartan.

Xerxes the Great is made out to be a god. Through camera angles, he is eight feet tall and just as muscular and scantily clad as the Spartans. He is adorned with piercings and gold, made to look like a great, bald demigod.

If you watch closely, you can see the Great Leonidas waver when he is offered rulership by Xerxes, if only the former will bow before the latter. Even our great, white Spartan is not perfect. This film does not favor either side.

The movie 300 is just that: a movie. It is a movie based on a graphic novel, inspired by a movie, based on mythic events, birthed by a battle in 480 B.C.

You can see anything you want to see in literature, be it film or books. Mostly, we tend to see what we want to see. So, take a look in the mirror.



Photo Illustration by Jenessa Palmer and Nicholas Baker Clackamas Print

Fashion tips for the oblivious woman

Lela Dickerson

The Clackamas Print

Girl, where did that outfit come from?

Women who wear clothing that doesn't fit them are irritating - and it's not just fat women. Women who don't dress appropriately to their size, age and body type are obnoxious and offensive.

There are no words to express how gross it is to see a large woman walking down the street with her shirt so tight that her stomach is literally bursting out of her shirt, her thighs ripping

at the seams of her jeans. Sixty-five-year-old women who dress like teeny boppers are nauseating, and size-zero girls who wear oversized sweaters and jeans are aggravating. People need to learn how to dress.

From a retail clothing standpoint, every day there are women who can be spotted shopping whose clothing just doesn't fit.

For example, the plus-sized, middle-aged woman who insists on dressing in clothing that is too small for her. Her stomach hangs out from the bottom of her shirt and flaps against her thighs. There is a lot attractive clothing for plus-sized women, and there is a reason

why pants are sized up to 32.

On the flip side, those skinny girls who dress in huge sweaters and baggy jeans are exasperating. Someone should grab them by their scrawny shoulders and shake some sense into them. Why can't they wear clothing that is the appropriate size? Again, there are plenty of clothes that fit them, and there are size zero jeans.

Above all, the most distasteful are the 55-year-old women who dress like teenage bimboes. If a woman has more wrinkles than a bulldog puppy and her children have children, she shouldn't be dressing like she's 16 - plain and simple.



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