

Ask Uncle Mike

Dear Sir:

Uncle Mike, my left foot. What gives you the right to pass out advice? Are you an accredited counselor? I give better advice than you do and nobody pays me for it. Why don't you find a real job?

Earl in Albany

Dear Earl,

Thanks for taking the time to scrawl. Not to worry. The world has not deteriorated to the point that someone like Uncle Mike would be given the right to dispense advice. Uncle Mike got the gig because he knows Reverend Billy, the publisher. And, more importantly, because Uncle Mike has photographs of a little weekend in Drain that Reverend Billy would like to forget.

Of course Uncle Mike is not an accredited counselor. Be serious. Uncle Mike doesn't even have a driver's license. He is a born again hermit whose only qualification to dispense advice is an unbridled amazement at people's capacity to take themselves seriously.

Uncle Mike is not the least bit surprised that you give better advice than he, and is saddened that you are not paid. Not sad enough to give you the gig, but sad nonetheless.

As to why Uncle Mike doesn't have a real job, he regards the term as an hysterical oxymoron.

Dear Uncle Mike,

I went to my 30th reunion this summer and was shocked to see several of my male classmates with women my daughter's age.

Aside from the obvious---boys will be boys and men will be middle-aged goats---what can they possibly see in these children? Don't these girls have fathers?

Disgusted in Portland

Dear Disgusted,

My, we're in a snit, aren't we?

Uncle Mike, middle-aged goat that he is, believes devoutly that love, like bitterness and venom, is where you find it. He also believes it's hard enough these days, when mating's become a home video of General Hospital Meets Let's Make A Deal, to find a friend and lover without outlawing certain combinations.

Uncle Mike thinks this might be fascist.

What can these men see in younger women? Maybe someone who loves them? Who (don't laugh) thinks they're the greatest thing since sliced bread? Someone who hasn't been burned so badly by so many men that she looks at him through 30 years of scar tissue? Maybe someone who reminds them of the power of hopes and dreams.

Uncle Mike had to chuckle a bit at your referring to women in their mid-twenties as children. He also weeps for your daughter. Humans, like cars, are best judged not by years but by mileage.

As for what your daughter might see in an older man, Uncle Mike would humbly guess quite a bit.

Someone with manners, perhaps? Someone who knows how to order dinner? Someone able to carry on a conversation? Who's seen enough of life to value caring, compassion, and friendship? Someone who'll listen to their dreams and fears without saying, "Sure, babe?" Someone not startled by PMS?



Dear Uncle Mike,

Where do you stand on ET? Is there intelligent life in the universe? Are they friendly? Do they want to ravish our women and eat us?

Bill in Lincoln City

Dear Bill,

If, by ET, you mean smooth-skinned, lipless, kind-eyed, salamander humanoids from Betelgeuse, Uncle Mike would have to say he's never seen one. But then, Uncle Mike has never seen a Tasmanian either. He saw someone from Los Angeles once, but wasn't impressed.

Are space aliens friendly? Uncle Mike imagines this would depend. Everyone has off days and there are bad apples in every bunch. It would be alienist to generalize, but Uncle Mike has a hunch their feelings for us would be about like the ones we have for gerbils.

Would they ravish our womenfolk and eat us? Lord only knows. There are, after all, people in Newark who would. Uncle Mike thinks it's far more likely they'd throw sticks, teach us to fetch, and ask a lot of questions about Rush Limbaugh.

As for there being intelligent life in the universe, Uncle Mike believes the universe is intelligent life. There are, of course, stupid reactions to it---a phenomenon that nearly accounts for Rush Limbaugh.

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Committee - a group of the unfit, appointed by the unwilling, to do the unnecessary. S. Harrol

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Committee - a group of men who individually can do nothing, but as a group decide that nothing can be done. Fred Allen

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Commandment Number One of any truly civilized society is this: Let people be different.
David Grayson

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— Pastor Martin Niemoeller



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CUT ME OUT !!

CUT ME OUT !!

To say what you think will certainly damage you in society, but a free tongue is worth more than a thousand invitations. L.P. Smith