



Dear Uncle Mike,

I had my vet perform a tubal ligation on my cat last year and she's done nothing but eat ever since. Is she depressed? Should I have the good doctor untie her tubes so she can once again attract the opposite sex, procreate and get her girlish figure back? Please, Uncle Mike, I know for a fact you're almost seven in dog years--she's only two in cat years--and the sight of her munching on kibbles aimlessly and wishing for the sound of the can opener is very sad -- for it is indeed the only the only music she dances to anymore.

---Concerned
Iris B. Oregon City

Dear Iris,

First the bad news. Your vet almost certainly did not perform a tubal ligation on your cat. As opposed to human sterilization options, what they do with female cats is remove the uterus and ovaries. Unless you find a donor and your cat has excellent medical coverage, the little dowager is as fertile as she'll ever be.

You say she does nothing but eat. What, pray tell, is she suppose to do? Play mah jong with the girls? Is she depressed? Wouldn't you be? So she munches aimlessly on kibbles. At least she's not watching soap operas and joining victim support groups. If she is the only nonhuman in the house, you might consider getting her a pet. Uncle Mike understands they work wonders.

What concerns Uncle Mike most is that the sound of a can opener is the only music your cat dances to. Have you tried James Brown?

Dear Uncle Mike,

After five years of marriage, my husband has decided our love life needs 'spicing up'. I've gone along so far, but Victoria's Secret lingerie makes me feel gift-wrapped, porno flicks are silly when they're not disgusting, and dildos aren't my idea of fun. I'm 30, haven't lived a sheltered life, and I'm sure no prude, but our sex is starting to look like performance art. Last night he asked if I'd ever fantasized about having another woman in bed. I asked him if he dreamed about singing in the Vienna Boy's Choir. Am I out of touch or is he?

--Monica T., Portland

Dear Monica,

Sounds like both of you are. In Uncle Mike's impeccably unprofessional opinion, what we've got here are the unfulfillable expectations of two members of alien sexual lifeforms. That the survival of the species depends on the coupling of matched organisms which barely inhabit the same perceptual universe is, in case you haven't noticed, the plot structure for much of what those old enough to laugh about it call the human comedy. Yes, it should have come with instructions and a laugh track.

Your question seems to be, "Is my husband becoming a sexual whacko who'll come to bed one night in a bunny suit and carrying a mixmaster?" Probably not. More likely he is just bored. To see what male primates do when their environment doesn't stimulate them, a trip to the zoo can be embarrassingly poignant. While a good case might be made by female separatists that this is his problem, it hardly amounts to a solution.

If wearing lingerie as transparent as someone else's wet dream isn't your gig, tell him so. (On the other hand, if you're into chenille bathrobes and sweatpants, the poor mope has Uncle Mike's profound sympathy.) You might want to ask yourself if he puts a jacket and tie on only when he feels like it.

If the naughty movies he brings home make you giggle till you vomit, trot out some alternatives. Contrary to what Andrea Dworkin might shriek at you, not all erotica is rape. As for dildos, Uncle Mike finds them horribly intimidating and has found that, aside from ostrich plumes and riding crops, the only marital aids that really deliver are flowers and honest declarations of love. You might try getting this across to him.

Above all, Monica, if you don't like the sort of spice your husband is suggesting, trot out some of your own. What are you saying, he's not worth the effort? Light a few candles, slip into the tub, get him tipsy on cheap champagne, then take him to bed and burn the man down. It's cheaper than counseling and twice the fun.

Finally, while Uncle Mike has nothing against manage-a-threes, he doubts their utility in your situation. Tell your husband for me that most men are in over their heads handling one woman with spirit. Adding a second will have all the therapeutic value of a divorce.

Dear Uncle Mike,

I met this really cool guy a month ago and we've been seeing each other once or twice a week since. We have a great time together, he's a lot of fun and real good looking. The only problem is he wants to have sex. I told him I need to know him better. He keeps trying and getting frustrated and hurt. I get mad. Why can't guys take no for an answer?

---- Willing to Wait in Seaside

Dear Unwilling,

This seems to be the month for sex, sort of. Why can't guys take no for an answer? They can and do. It's just that their experience with women teaches them that answers are conditional. Uncle Mike has no idea how old you are, or how long you've spent slogging through the perfumed trenches of love, but he has an impossible time believing that (even after a month) you haven't noticed that the biological imperative that drives boy humans is wildly different from the one that makes girl humans prefer to walk.

Regardless what you hear on Donahue, men and women are alike only to the extent that they both walk erect and breathe air. A million self-help books and sexually correct bumperthoughts will not change this. No matter how sensitive Robert Bly groupies become, or how sexually avaricious Calvin Klein models may seem, testosterone is not estrogen and never will be.

Uncle Mike suggest you decide if this person interests you as a lover, then act on your decision. Anything else is a waste of time and a violation of friendship.

THERAPY PAGE



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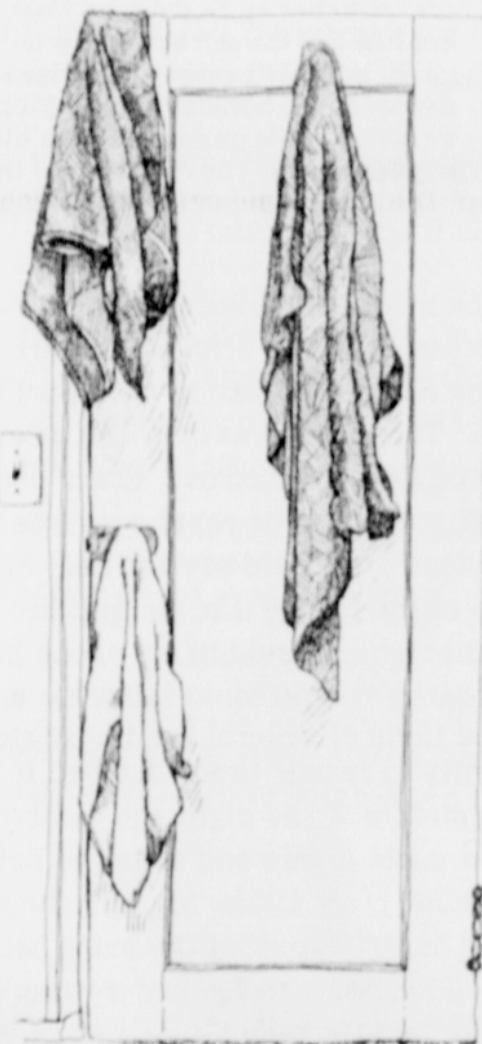
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- ALLOW YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME. UNDRESS IN THE AREA PROVIDED. TAKE OFF WATCHES AND LOOSE JEWELRY.
- ENTER STEAM ROOM. YOU MAY WANT TO STRETCH OUT IN A RECLINING POSITION TO COMPLETELY RELAX.
- PULL STEAM CORD UNTIL DESIRED TEMPERATURE IS ACQUIRED. IF BREATHING IS DIFFICULT, BREATHE THROUGH A COLD WET WASH CLOTH. AFTER 10-15 MINUTES TAKE A REST IN THE DRESSING ROOM.
- REENTER THE STEAM ROOM FOR ANOTHER 10 MINUTES REPEATING THE PROCESS. USE ENOUGH STEAM FOR YOUR OWN LIKING.
- AFTER REPEATING THE CYCLE 2 OR 3 TIMES END WITH A SOAP AND WATER SHOWER AND RINSE WITH COOL WATER TO CLOSE PORES. DON'T GO OUT INTO COLD OR WET WEATHER UNTIL YOU ARE DRY AND HAVE FINISHED PERSPIRING, OR YOU MAY GET CHILLED.

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UPPER LEFT EDGE MAY 1993 7