

Ask Uncle Mike

Dear Uncle Mike

My neighborhood in Portland (the Hawthorne district) has been taken over by yuppies and trendoids. People with more money or attitude than class crowding any sort of reality off the sidewalk. It's enough to gag a maggot. What makes my blood boil and makes me long for an assault squirt gun are the arrogant asses who insist on riding their bicycles on the sidewalk. Is this legal? Can I do anything about it?

Cracking in Portland

Dear Cracking,

Uncle Mike shares your horror and dismay at the Attack of the Natural Fibre People but realized long ago that stuffing one's fingers into the disintegrating dike of civilization as we know it can make Jack a very dull and bitter boy.

The problem, of course, is one of vanishing manners. Like the homeless (to whom politically correct over-consuming grazers are closely related) the Invaders from the Planet of Fuschia Belly Beggars confuse public areas with personal space. The homeless sleep and beg there, the politically correct whine about parking and table space, laugh like people in Doublemint commercials and squeal uncontrollably when they meet. Forced to choose between the two groups Uncle Mike would go with homeless who at least have a life.

Is it legal for the ecologically aware to ride their \$500 mountain bikes on the sidewalk? Yes. Can one do anything about it? Perhaps Uncle Mike has found jamming a bequette into their spokes and screaming "Seize the day!" has a marvelous effect.

Dear Uncle Mike,

Could you explain what's happening in Bosnia?
Bill T. The Dalles

Dear Bill,

People are killing each other.

Dear Uncle Mike,

A business acquaintance, a young woman in public relations, has me guessing. We have lunch every other week and lately she's been getting 'touchy'. Not that I'm complaining, she's charming, intelligent and a knockout, but I'd really hate to confuse her intentions and foul up a business relationship. Does it mean anything when a woman pats your thigh?
Guessing in Seaside

Dear Guessing,

In today's world, absolutely not. As her lawyer will be more than happy to tell you by registered letter, she was just being friendly. Uncle Mike suggests you set matters straight. Since your meetings are presumably business lunches, next time she takes liberties with your person, tell her she's interfering with your work and according to federal law, her behavior qualifies as sexual harassment.

Dear Uncle Mike,

I've been dating this great guy for six months. I thought he was normal but last week he wanted to set aside an evening to watch a porno flick. It's not like our sex life isn't great already. Are all men like this?
Jennifer in Lincoln City

Dear Jennifer,

Like what? Recent statistics hint that 30% of all adult movie rentals are made by women, the other 70% presumably by the men they rent them for. The fascination for what others do with their bodies is, if not rooted in the collective unconscious, at least as old as Uncle Mike. Unless you're prone to easily induced heart attacks and bouts of hysterical laughter, watching a skin flick with your boyfriend probably won't be fatal. If you want to make a point, slip into something uncomfortable and screen 'In the Realm of the Senses' for him -- an erotically charged Japanese masterpiece on obsession and its consequences, whose final scene will guarantee you a good night's sleep.

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ENTER STEAM ROOM. YOU MAY WANT TO STRETCH OUT IN A RECLINING POSITION TO COMPLETELY RELAX.

PULL STEAM CORD UNTIL DESIRED TEMPERATURE IS REACHED. 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. REPEAT 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!

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL AFTER STEAM FEELING! CIGARETTES AND ALCOHOL ARE NOT COMPATIBLE WITH A STEAM BATH.

WARNING! EXCESSIVE HEATING OR OVERHEATING FROM HEART DISEASE, HYPERTENSION, LOW BLOOD PRESSURE OR OTHER PHYSICAL DISORDERS, BRUISES, SWELLING & PHYSICAL INJURY CAN OCCUR WITH A STEAM BATH. IF YOU ARE NOT AN EXPERIENCED STEAM BATHER, DO NOT OVERDO IT. USE YOUR JUDGMENT IN THE STEAM ROOMS. DO NOT USE THE STEAM ROOM AS AN ENCLOSURE. KEEP.

BUSINESS HOURS THURSDAY-SUNDAY 4:30-10:30
FRIDAY-SATURDAY 3:30-10:30