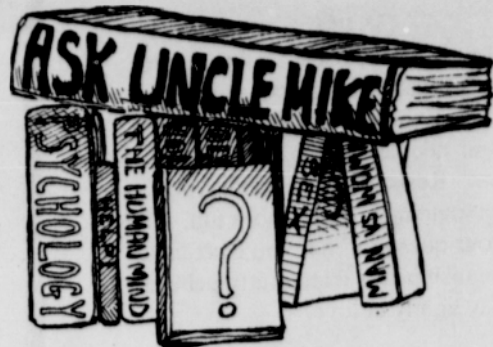


Dear Uncle Mike,

My girlfriend and I think you're really cool. We're sixteen and we want to know why okay guys hang out with slutty girls. I mean, is it just sex? Don't guys have to like the girl? Are guys really that dumb? Do they get smarter when they get older or are they just less obvious about it?

Two fans, Lincoln City



THERAPY PAGE

Sometimes A Great Lotion

ELITA BRAND COTTON BRAS AND PANTIES

LINGERIE AND SLEEPWEAR WITH AN EMPHASIS ON COTTON AND SILK
27 SCENTS OF PERFUME OIL AND CUSTOM SCENTED MASSAGE OIL, BODY
LOTION, AND BATH & SHOWER GEL
INCENSE AND CANDLES

239 N. HEMLOCK CANNON BEACH OR

436-0129

Dear Fans,

Uncle Mike would first like to say how much your letter brightened his day. Whenever people who've never met Uncle Mike, let alone wintered in a small cabin with him, write to say he's really cool, it always makes Uncle Mike smile, and then bury his face in his hands.

You ask why okay guys hang out with slutty girls. Let's define our terms. By 'okay guys', Uncle Mike guesses you mean adolescent males who are able to curb their unbridled lust at least part of the time, know how to use a fork, and are able to form complete sentences. By 'slutty girls', he assumes you mean adolescent females who use their sexuality to achieve personal and social goals, laugh too loudly, and pop their gum.

What draws these people together? There isn't a force in the universe strong enough to keep them apart. Unless we count self awareness and restraint, which we can't. Is it just sex that draws the males into the candle flame of merciless truth? Yes and no. Young males, and not a few older ones, tend to fall in love, at least briefly, with any female willing to have sex with them. Strange, but there it is. Is what they feel love? Maybe, maybe not. The toxic levels of testosterone sloshing through the systems of the most okay of young guys can blur the subtle distinctions between naked lust and a burning desire to pair bond.

Can guys really be that dumb? You bet. But then, it depends on what you mean by dumb. Uncle Mike is more than seven in dog years and has yet to witness, let alone experience, a meaningless relationship. Or, for that matter, a meaningless act. We're all just out here trying to figure out what it means to be human. One of life's less funny truths is that we learn more from our failure than our successes and some lessons are best learned while you're still young enough to bounce back. The first rule of the playground is that we all try to play nice. With luck, and our good wishes, the okay guys and slutty girls may teach each other something about love. Do guys get smarter as they get older? Some do, some don't. And the ones who do aren't always easier to train. When someone says there's no fool like an old fool, they're probably not talking about a woman.

Dear Uncle Mike,

I read somewhere they've found out some of the stars are older than the universe. What does this mean?

Confused in Eugene

Dear Confused,

In nontechnical terms, it means someone figured wrong.

Dear Uncle Mike,

I'm writing about a buddy of mine. He's in his late thirties and his life's a mess. He hates his job, he drinks too much, he's depressed. Like the rest of us, he's had his share of troubles, but it's like he's forgotten how to have fun. The worst part is that he doesn't think he can change anything. The guy's got a lot going for him and I keep trying to cheer him up. Nothing seems to be working. Any advice?

James S., Portland

Dear Jim Bob,

Your friend's problem is spiritual. What you're describing is someone who's lost their faith. There's a lot of it going around. Uncle Mike's first suggestion would be for him to stop drinking. Strong drink, as someone pointed out, makes fools of men and robs them of their will. These are alcohol's great charms and, in all fairness, the results aren't always bad. Uncle Mike has had many moments of harmless epiphany celebrating nothing in particular with epic quantities of sour mash. But he eventually learned not to drink when the blackness was on him. He kept waking up with very bad poetry. Your friend is waking up with a bad novel.

Tell him for Uncle Mike that he's behaving like a nincompoop. On exactly what principle of the universe does he base his professed inability to change things? Deciding not to change things changes things. It has, for instance, made his life an unholy mess that's involving people who love him. Try pointing out the obvious. No matter how rotten his day's been, it's over. In all of creation, nothing's more dead than yesterday, and forcing yourself to live there, pouring over spilt milk, is not the act of a rational person. Remind your friend that the sun will rise tomorrow on a day no one's ever seen. Ask him where he gets off saying it's ugly before it's born.

Which brings us back to faith, without which the human comedy becomes a bad soap opera. How does your friend get it back? If nothing else, by pretending he never lost it. Act as if you have faith in something larger than your definition of yourself and faith, as one of the Carpenter from Galilee's scribes put it, will be granted to you. It doesn't matter who or what does the granting. Uncle Mike is no more Christian than he is Buddhist, and no more Buddhist than he is Quantum Cabalist, and none of them more than a Probabilistic Pantheist with strong Pythagorean leanings. He does know good advice when he hears it. Uncle Mike has seen no evidence refuting the notion that the world is the spirit made flesh. Or that, in terms of the world, we are what we do and our lives are the merciless reflection of it. If they're a mess, it's no accident. Since Uncle Mike has a hard time believing we're sinners in the hands of an angry God, when his life unravels he automatically suspects it's the result of something he's either done or not done. And darned if that's not always the case.

If your friend's been wallowing in self pity very long, and you should assure him that's just what it is, it may be time to play hardball. Remind him that he has a responsibility to himself and the people who love him to be the best human being he can. The nice thing about a spherical universe is that, no matter where you are, you can get where you want to go. We all do it one step at a time. When the going gets really tough, Uncle Mike starts wondering if the mess he's made of things isn't really beyond him this time, he falls back on one of life's noble truths: laughter is the purest form of revolution.

No business which depends for existence by paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country.

F. Roosevelt

CANNON BEACH MASSAGE

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPY
ROSALIND CUSACK, LMT
OREGON & WASHINGTON
P.O. BOX 1224
CANNON BEACH, OR 97110
(503) 436-2425

Hansen Stained Glass



ORIGINAL WINDOWS, LAMPS, AND SPECIALTY PIECES

CUSTOM WORK FOR HOME OR BUSINESS

(503) 436-2761

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

P.O. BOX 30
CANNON BEACH, OR 97110

CBAC

Cannon Beach Athletic Club

171 Sunset Blvd.


Let CBAC be your Athletic Club away from home.

Come visit our exciting new facility.

CBAC Offers:

- * Free Weights
- * Aerobic Classes
- * Bikes
- * Treadmills
- * Shower Facilities
- * Tanning
- * Rowing Machine
- * Climbers

Drop in rates available
503-436-1515



Christina Stanley RN, IBCLC
Lactation Consultant
Breast Feeding Assistance
Medela Breast Pump
Rental Station

P.O. Box 201
179 Coolidge
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

(503)436-0161

Valoree Gift, L.M.T.

Licensed Massage Therapy

PO Box 872
Cannon Beach, OR 97110
Pager # 738-4438
Phone # 436-0148

The original comfort shoe.



Arizona

BIRKENSTOCK

The Birkenstock Plus

A Birkenstock Specialty Store

139 N. Hemlock
P.O. Box 909
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

© 1996 Birkenstock is a registered trademark.


Acupuncture — Chinese Herbs — Massage



Bob Rice L.Ac.

P.O. Box 193
Cannon Beach, OR
97110
436-1911

COMPUTER CONSULTING



CHETH ROWE CONSULTING
P.O. BOX 192
CANNON BEACH, OR 97110
503-436-0211
CIS: 70754,2423

PC's Networks Help & Advice

UPPER LEFT EDGE JUNE 1996 9