



THE RARY PAGE

Dear Uncle Mike,

I'm thirteen, a girl, and I don't have a boyfriend. I've never really had one, just friends. Most of my girlfriends have one, even if they're not the kind of person I'd be interested in. There's this guy I like a lot, we just know each other. He's shy too but I think he likes me.

My friends tell me I should let him know how I feel. I've tried and I can't. Should I wait for him to say something? I told my girlfriend I was going to write to you and she said you were probably too old to remember being young. She was just kidding.

Lonely in Eugene

Dear Lonely,

Your snotty friend was right. Uncle Mike is too old to remember his youth and old enough not to care. This is what young people are for, to remind him that life could be more exciting and less amusing than it is. Fortunately, Uncle Mike doesn't need blissfully repressed memories to deal with your question. Courtship is a persistent ritual, older than dirt and common to insect societies. The gender two-step hasn't changed significantly since we were marsupials; the music slows with the years but, for better or worse, the dancing never stops.

Should you say something to your young man? This depends on two variables: what you plan to say and whether you're able to say it without choking on your tongue or dissolving into giggles. (A counterproductive reflex that mellows with age but never goes away, and whose male version is no prettier. In time, you'll smile about it.) Uncle Mike doesn't recommend spilling your heart, and guts, to someone who is, at the moment, a nearly complete stranger. If he doesn't share your feelings, everyone will laugh behind your back, you'll die of embarrassment and your life will be ruined. Just kidding. It won't, however, be pretty.

What you need now is more information. You need to know how he feels about you and you should surround him with opportunities to demonstrate it. Uncle Mike suggests this passive mode not because you're a girl human but because you're a girl human engaged in a courtship dance. The steps aren't gender specific. Give the lad subtle signals and wait for a less subtle response. Uncle Mike assumes you've been signaling already and that the object of your attentions is brighter than a brick and senses something's afoot. Being a boy human, he won't know what it is but there'll be time enough later for you to explain. Be attentive, interested, and mildly aloof. We're attracted most to what we don't understand and mystery is a large component of romance. Later, it's a large component of divorce. Welcome to the fun house. Uncle Mike wishes you much laughter.

Dear Uncle Mike,

I love my boyfriend but he does this one thing that makes me sick. He kills every insect he sees. He goes out of his way to stomp on ants, even outside, and will chase a fly around the living room for hours. Spiders don't last five minutes. This is not a violent man. He doesn't go hunting, doesn't eat much meat, and would never think of hurting an animal. But 'bugs' don't count. Is there something I can do to change him?

A bug hugger in Portland

Dear Bug Hugger,

There are many things you can do to change another person's behavior, most of them hilariously ineffective. Before Uncle Mike suggests one or two, he must congratulate you on finding a man who only does one thing that makes you sick. You're ahead of the game already. This said, what you're dealing with is a murderer. As a practitioner of unnecessary killing, your boyfriend is demonstrating a critical ignorance of reality. Sanctity of life is not a right reserved to humans. Contrary to what your little biopath seems to think, there aren't even chosen species. Life is life and even broccoli has rights. Aside from eating, and then only enough, we have no authorization from the Great Maker to kill anything. Yes, in a universe that's alive, it's not possible to 'kill' anything. But reducing an ant, a complex life form millions of years old when our ancestors were still lemurs, to a smear of organic chemicals by stomping on it is something that seldom occurs to those thinking clearly.

What actions might you take to transform your friend into a responsible part of the creation? Buy a book on insects and shame him with tales of their social skills and elaborately functional lives. Give him a National Geographic video for his birthday. Explain that, if he'd allow spiders to roam more freely, the problem with flies and ants would largely solve itself. And that, if he persists in murdering innocent life forms, you'll give him a taste of rolled up newspaper. As you swat the back of his thick skull, murmur "Got him!" and smile sweetly.

OSBORNE WORKING STUDIO & GALLERY
 TRADITIONAL, CONTEMPORARY & ORIGINAL FINE ART, SMALL EDITION PRINTS, GRAPHICS, COMMERCIAL ART, ARCHITECTURAL RENDERINGS & CUSTOM FRAMING
 SERVING YOUR AESTHETIC NEEDS SINCE 1882
 WINTER HOURS: BEST BY APPOINTMENT
 635 Manzanita Avenue P.O. Box 301
 Manzanita, Oregon 97130
 503 • 368 • 7518

PAVILION
 CONTEMPORARY DESIGN FINE ART
 (503) 436-2910
 263 N. Hemlock P.O. Box 1208
 Cannon Beach, OR 97110
 Christen Allsop Linda Kinhan

Pizza à fetta
 (A & F Enterprises, Inc.)
 Traditional Hand-Tossed Gourmet Pizza and More
 BY THE SLICE OR WHOLE PIE
 (503) 436-0333
 Proprietors: Corey R. Albert & James D. Fiorentino
 231 N. Hemlock, Suite F • P.O. Box 187 • Cannon Beach, OR 97110

GOURMET PIZZAS
 HOUSE SALADS
 HOMEMADE PASTA
 MINESTRONE SOUP
 MICRO BREWED BEER
 OREGON & ITALIAN WINES
 SOFT DRINKS
 BIG ITALIAN TASTE IN LITTLE CANNON BEACH!

BLUE SKY CAFE
 MANZANITA 368-5112

The Wine Shack
 Cannon Beach
 In Coaster Theater Courtyard
 Established 1977
 Featuring Northwest, California & Imported Wines
 Collector Wines From 1875 Through Current Vintages
 Featuring Over 1000 Wines
 Wine Racks, Glasses & Wine Related Items
Wine Tasting
 Every Saturday Afternoon 1-5 PM
 Different Wines From Around The World Each Week
 Open 11 AM-5 PM - Closed Tues.
 436-1100
 124 N Hemlock P.O. Box 652, Cannon Beach OR 97110

expose yourself to our reuben sandwich!
 The Northwest Examiner 1997 SELECTED The Best REUBEN SANDWICH
Goose Hollow Inn
 1927 SW Jefferson
 228-7010

HOPE L. HARRIS
 LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST
 503/ 325-2523

BISTRO
 Memorable Meals Of Honorable Mention
 RESERVATIONS: 436-2661
 263 N. HEMLOCK • CANNON BEACH

Steve's Maintenance
 Licensed Specializing in: Environmentally Friendly Window Cleaning
 Steve LaMontagne
 P.O. Box 669
 Cannon Beach, OR, 97110
 (503) 436-0942

As time passes we all get better at blazing a trail through the thicket of advice. -Margot Bennett

General Counseling
 Individuals
 Couples & Families
Victor H. Plucy, M.A. - LMFT.
 436-9225 Washington State License 223-8198
 Cannon Beach #MF2000040 Portland

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

LuLu's
 A SHOE & ACCESSORY BOUTIQUE
 503-436-0577 239 N. HEMLOCK
 CANNON BEACH, OREGON

Taking joy in life is a woman's best cosmetic.
 -Rosalind Russell

IN AN UNJUST WORLD...JUSTICE.
 Personal Injury Lawyer
GREGORY KAFURY
 202 Oregon Pioneer Building
 320 S.W. Stark Street
 Portland, OR 97204
 Phone: (503) 224-2647