

Mother unable to forgive and forget

Dear Annie: My daughter recently passed from complications of myasthenia gravis. She died unexpectedly one evening after she stopped breathing during an MG crisis. Myasthenia gravis is a chronic autoimmune neuromuscular disease that causes weakness in the skeletal muscles, which are responsible for breathing and moving parts of the body, including the arms and legs.

My problem is with her mother-in-law. While my daughter was receiving treatment for this disease, her mother-in-law told her she was making up the symptoms and actually went so far as to accuse her of having Munchausen syndrome. Mind you, this was after a weeklong stay in the ICU. This is just one example of her dislike for my daughter. She did not approve of my daughter's marriage to her son and was not very happy about their relationship from the beginning.

My question is this: How can I ever be friendly to this person again after she made these horrible accusations toward my daughter and treated her with such disrespect? It was hard enough to be cordial with her and her husband at the funeral. Since we live in the same town and share a grandchild with them, I'm trying to forgive and forget. But I am having a really hard time with this. She gave my daughter a lot of stress, and stress is one of the things that can trigger a crisis when you have MG. So every time I see her, I can't help but feel she played a contributing factor in my daughter's passing. — *Missing My Daughter*

Dear Missing: I am so sorry for your loss. Your daughter's mother-in-law is heaping additional pain onto your already unbearable load. Her behavior goes beyond the realm of meanness: It sounds as though she might suffer from a mental disorder herself. A mentally

healthy person doesn't say the things she has. I hope she seeks help and recognizes the impact she's had on people, especially you and your daughter.

In the meantime, you are under no obligation to be friends with her. I'm not advocating hostility: A neutral, matter-of-fact attitude will do just fine. If she finds that offensive, she shouldn't have said what she did. It's not about harboring a grudge but rather respecting your own boundaries and needs.

Focus on you and honoring your daughter and your loss right now. The work of grief is demanding enough.

Dear Annie: My wife and I and four friends went out to dinner at a new restaurant. They had a ladies' room and a men's room visible from where we sat. After the meal, I needed to go. The men's room was locked (it was a single-stall situation). I walked around for a bit and came back after nearly 10 minutes. The door was still locked, and I continued to wait. Finally, I couldn't last any longer. The women's room was unlocked and vacant, so in I went. When I came out, everyone said that I was rude and out of line. I said that they were being overly sensitive! What should I have done? — *Almost Up a Tree*

Dear Almost Up a Tree: You did your due diligence in waiting for the men's room. Next time, I'd caution you not to wander around the restaurant, in case the person emerges and you miss your opportunity. And I'd encourage you to go to the restroom preemptively, before it's an emergency. That said, I don't think anyone can fairly call you rude here. It was a single-stall bathroom, and you ensured that it was empty before entering. If your wife and friends find that so uncouth, I'd ask them what the other options were in that moment. Sometimes, when nature calls, you have no choice but to answer.



Tribe hopes to hunt whales again

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Patrick DePoe was in high school the last time his Native American tribe in Washington state was allowed to hunt whales. He was on a canoe that greeted the crew towing in the body of a gray whale. His shop class worked to clean the bones and reassemble the skeleton, which hangs in a tribal museum.

Two decades later, he and the Makah Tribe — the only American Indians with a treaty right to hunt whales — are still waiting for government permission to hunt again as their people historically did. The tribe, in the remote northwest corner of Washington's Olympic Peninsula, hopes to use the whales for food and to make handicrafts, artwork and tools they can sell.

The tribe's plans have been tied up in legal fights and layers of scientific review. The next step is a weeklong administrative hearing that began Thursday in Seattle. Whatever the result, it's likely to be stuck in further court challenges, with animal rights activists vowing to block the practice they call unnecessary and barbaric.

"It shouldn't have taken 20 years to be where we're at now," said DePoe, a tribal council member. "People ask how it makes me feel. I want to ask, 'How does it make you feel that this is the process we're having to go through to exercise a right that's already been agreed upon?' It's a treaty right. It's settled law."

In 1855, the Makah, a tribe that numbers about 1,500, turned over 470 square miles of land to the U.S. under a treaty that promised them the "right of taking fish and of whaling or sealing at usual and accustomed grounds." They killed whales until the 1920s, giving it up because commercial whaling had devastated gray whale populations.

By 1994, gray whales in the eastern Pacific Ocean had rebounded, and they were removed from the endangered species list. Seeing an opportunity to reclaim its heritage, the tribe announced plans to hunt again.

The Makah trained for months in the ancient ways of whaling and received the blessing of federal officials and the International Whaling Commission. They took to the water in 1998 but didn't succeed until the next year, when they har-



Elaine Thompson/AP Photo

Makah Tribal Council Member Patrick DePoe before a federal court hearing in Seattle to help determine whether his small American Indian tribe can once again hunt whales.

pooned a gray whale from a hand-carved cedar canoe. A tribal member in a motorized support boat killed it with a high-powered rifle to minimize its suffering.

The hunts drew protests from animal rights activists, who sometimes threw smoke bombs at the whalers and sprayed fire extinguishers into their faces. Others veered motorboats between the whales and the tribal canoes to interfere with the hunt. Authorities seized several vessels and made arrests.

After animal rights groups sued, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned federal approval of the tribe's whaling plans. The court found that the tribe needed to obtain a waiver under the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Eleven Alaska Native communities in the Arctic have such a waiver for subsistence hunts, allowing them to kill bowhead whales — even though bowheads are listed as endangered.

The Makah tribe applied for a waiver in 2005. The process repeatedly stalled as new scientific information about the whales and the health of their population was uncovered.

Some of the Makah whalers became so frustrated with the delays that they went on a rogue hunt in 2007, killing a gray whale that got away from them and sank. They were convicted in federal court.

NOAA Fisheries has proposed regulations allowing the tribe to harvest 20 whales over a decade, with limits on the timing of the hunts to minimize the chance of killing endangered Western Pacific gray whales.

The population of eastern Pacific gray whales, which number about 27,000, is strong, despite a recent die-off that has resulted in hundreds washing up on West Coast beaches, federal scientists say.

The hearing that began Thursday will focus on highly technical arguments about whether the tribe meets the requirements for a waiver.

"There isn't a big conservation issue here," said Donna Darm, a retired NOAA official who began working on the issue in 2005 and still does as a contractor.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and Animal Welfare Institute oppose the hunts. They argue that NOAA's environmental review has been inadequate, it's not clear to what extent the whales' recent die-off has hurt the population and the Marine Mammal Protection Act may have voided the tribe's treaty right.

They say the tribe cannot claim a subsistence or cultural need to hunt after so many decades.

"The Makah's family and tribal traditions and rituals associated with its whaling history can continue without the resumption of whaling," the Animal Welfare Institute said Thursday. "The Makah could, if it chooses, attract and educate untold numbers of visitors to its lands by promoting non-lethal use of whales through whale watching."

DePoe chafes at outside groups dictating what his tribe's culture requires. He recalled the pride he felt when the Makah crew succeeded, the joy of sharing the feast and the taste of the whale meat.

"I have a little brother who's in his 20s," DePoe said. "He doesn't remember it. I'm hoping one day he can experience that."

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11-15 CRYPTOQUIP

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EO WQJ BJHKY GHLY
IHFGEOB KJEOA LYTTYNT,
PY'JY AOWPO HT BNHTTIHFYT.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THEME SONG THAT PEOPLE HEAR PLAYING AT CHEWING-GUM BLOWING COMPETITIONS: "TOURNEY BUBBLES."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals L

11-16 CRYPTOQUIP

EDZP OSCJQOV CDILTMJQ JV
EGJQG DBDCWTNKW MNB DZ
NVD IOCPJQLMOC QNRINZDC
NS NIDCOZ: QOID BDCKJ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE ALL THE STUDENTS IN OUR GRADE HAVE MATCHING DRINK VESSELS, WE'RE KNOWN AS GLASSMATES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals R

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110 Announcements

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Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!

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