

DEAR ABBY

Woman not happy with her life at common milestone

DEAR ABBY: For years, I've heard about what and where a woman "should" be in her life once she turns the big 3-0. She should have a thriving career, be married with kids — or at least engaged — and have a full sense of her worth and knowledge.

I recently turned the big 3-0, but my cards aren't all stacked that way. I have never had a romantic relationship. Most of the men I wanted to start one with only wanted sex with me, and a relationship with someone else. As I entered my late 20s, I began rejecting men who showed signs of wanting only a sexual relationship, and now I seem to have no takers at all. The fact that I have gained weight hasn't helped, either. It's not like once I meet a guy the first thing I say is, "Hey, I want a meaningful relationship." I'm beginning to worry that something is wrong with me. What should I do? — **THIRTY BUT NOT FLIRTY**

DEAR THIRTY: There is nothing wrong with you, just as there is nothing wrong with getting to know someone before embarking on a physical relationship. (In fact, I recommend it.) However, to eliminate a man because you think he "only" is interested in having sex with you was jumping the gun.

I wish you had mentioned where you were meeting men. You may have better luck if you figure out what interests you have in common with the men you meet, and develop relationships based on them. And, because you suspect the weight you have gained may have something to do with your problem, resolve to become involved in physical activities that will get you out of the house and into an environment where you'll not only

get some exercise, but also meet some eligible prospects.

DEAR ABBY: I've been married to my husband, "Asher," for 20 years, and during our marriage, I have always been the person who plans and throws birthday parties, including his. I gave him a large surprise party for his 40th birthday.

Abby, this whole time, nobody has thrown me a party or planned a celebration centered on me. I'm lucky to get a last-minute, store-bought cake and a dinner out on my birthday. Our 50th birthdays are coming up in a few months, and friends and family are asking what I'm planning for him, but nobody says anything about mine.

I resent that these people, including Asher, take me for granted, and I'm considering

digging in my heels on party planning this time around. I have told Asher that maybe it's about time somebody planned ME a party, but he doesn't seem to get it. Have you any advice for me? I like a nice celebration, but I'm tired of being the one doing all the work without reciprocation. — **PARTY GIRL IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR PARTY GIRL: While you can't control how other people behave, there is nothing wrong with enlisting some "help" in your planning. Express your feelings (again) to your self-involved husband and also to the friends and relatives who have enjoyed your hospitality for so long without reciprocating. Plan the party for Asher, and if your birthday is again ignored, plan something special you might like with your closest friends — preferably, out of town — and follow through. I think you are entitled, don't you?



JEANNE PHILLIPS
ADVICE

DAYS GONE BY

100 years ago — 1921

The road between Pendleton and The Dalles is now passable. A message to this effect was brought here by J. G. E. Shotwell of Portland and J. Hays of Harrington, Washington, who arrived from The Dalles after a trip which was not lacking in hard work. The young men left Portland and detoured to The Dalles. The going was not easy from there to Pendleton, they knew when they started, but they stuck to the trail even through 10 feet of snow and little seas of mud which were their lot in some places. They derived a lot of good exercise in shoveling their way through the snow, and 29 cars left The Dalles after them when they had broken the trail, they said. The boys drove a 1915 Ford.

50 years ago — 1971

A Hermiston woman, Mrs. Al (Kay) McCall, was honored Saturday evening by the Veterans of Foreign Wars for her successful efforts in saving the life of a 77-year-old man who had fallen in the Umatilla River while fishing late in the summer. Mrs. McCall was fishing in the river east of Nolin, a short distance from Figurski and his wife, when she heard him fall in. She said when she reached the 77-year-old fisherman he had already gone under once in the swift water. Figurski was unhappy over the loss of his hat. He was in a weakened condition at the time, having been released from the veterans hospital a short time prior to the accident. This was not the

first time Mrs. McCall has played the life-saving role in water accidents. The Umatilla fisherman, she said, is the fourth person she has saved from drowning. The other three were a 15-year-old boy who stepped into a deep hole in a river, a 2-year-old infant, and a middle-aged woman she pulled from a mill pond. The first three incidents occurred years ago in Montana. Mrs. McCall opines that she happens to be at the right place at the right time.

25 years ago — 1996

People all over the world can expect increased food costs and a poorer quality of life in the 21st century, unless they support research and development to reverse several alarming agricultural trends. That was the message Gary Reed of the OSU Experimental Station in Hermiston had for those who attended the Hermiston Farm Fair this week. Agricultural production rates are lagging behind the growth in population, he said, and meanwhile, grain production, providing the staple of most diets, has decreased for the past 20 years. Tree production on farm land has also hindered crop levels, said Reed. Between 120,000 and 200,000 acres in Oregon and Washington will be used to grow trees, and that's land that could feed more than 4 million people if it was used for crops. He said necessary to prevent food shortages in the future is funding for research, support for increased irrigated crops and containing urban sprawl to land that's not suitable for farming.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

On Dec. 4, 1942, during World War II, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time with a raid on Naples. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

In 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his Continental Army officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson left Washington on a trip to France to attend the Versailles Peace Conference.

In 1954, the first Burger King stand was opened in Miami by James McLamore and David Edgerton.

In 1956, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins gathered for the first and only time for a jam session at Sun Records in Memphis.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard on a two-week mission. (While Gemini 7 was in orbit, its sister ship, Gemini 6A, was launched on

Dec. 15 on a one-day mission; the two spacecraft were able to rendezvous within a foot of each other.)

In 1967, actor-comedian Bert Lahr, who played the Cowardly Lion in "The Wizard of Oz," died in New York at age 72.

In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.

In 1980, the bodies of four American churchwomen slain in El Salvador two days earlier were unearthed. (Five Salvadoran national guardsmen were later convicted of murdering nuns Ita Ford, Maura Clarke and Dorothy Kazel, and lay worker Jean Donovan.)

In 1986, both houses of Congress moved to establish special committees to conduct their own investigations of the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush ordered American troops to lead a mercy mission to Somalia, threatening military action against warlords and gangs who were blocking food for starving millions.

In 2000, in a pair of legal

setbacks for Al Gore, a Florida state judge refused to overturn George W. Bush's certified victory in Florida and the U.S. Supreme Court set aside a ruling that had allowed manual recounts.

In 2018, long lines of people wound through the Capitol Rotunda to view the casket of former President George H.W. Bush; former Sen. Bob Dole steadied himself out of his wheelchair to salute his old friend and one-time rival.

Ten years ago: Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's party hung onto its majority in Russia's parliamentary election, but faced accusations from opponents of rigging the vote. Rafael Nadal recovered from a terrible start and beat Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (0) to give Spain its fifth Davis Cup title. After going more than two years and 26 tournaments without a victory, Tiger Woods won the Chevron World Challenge.

Five years ago: A North Carolina man armed with a rifle fired several shots inside Comet Ping Pong, a Washington, D.C., pizzeria, as he

attempted to investigate an online conspiracy theory that prominent Democrats were harboring child sex slaves at the restaurant; no one was hurt, and the man surrendered to police. (He was later sentenced to four years in prison.)

One year ago: The government reported that America's employers scaled back their hiring in November as the viral pandemic accelerated, adding 245,000 jobs in the fifth straight monthly slowdown. Actor David L. Lander, best known for playing Squiggy on the popular ABC comedy "Laverne & Shirley," died at 73 after a decades-long long battle with multiple sclerosis.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Wink Martindale is 88. Pop singer Freddy Cannon is 85. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 84. Actor Gemma Jones is 79. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is 79. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 77. Musician Terry Woods (The Pogues) is 74. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 73. Actor Jeff Bridges is 72. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd; the Rossington Collins Band) is 70.

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 "Twas brillig ..." poem (11)	_____
2 be a nitpicker (7)	_____
3 Belize's sea (9)	_____
4 hedges (9)	_____
5 place for a knickknack (9)	_____
6 lack of stability (10)	_____
7 overly timid (8)	_____

BBLE	UBBE	RIBB	ESS	OCKY
WOB	NEBB	JAB	CU	RY
SHR	BLIN	QUI	BBY	HO
CA	BERW	ISHY	LE	EAN

Today's Answer: 1. JABBERWOCKY 2. QUIBBLE 3. CARIBBEAN 4. SHRUBBERY 5. CUBBYHOLE 6. WOBBLINESS 7. NEBBISHY

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- John _____
- Four countries ending with IA
- Two oceans
- Greenwich _____ Time
- Direction of the sunrise

Answers to Saturday's puzzle: SHOWER SCOUR TOWER FLOUR HOUR SOUR / LAOS PERU CUBA IRAQ IRAN MALI / GOLD GONE GOSH / TOXIC PIXEL / ICARUS

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H	B	Q	T	B	C	A	N	D	Y	N	R
C	U	U	N	R	C	W	A	Z	O	N	N
I	Z	R	L	I	A	I	A	N	P	A	A
F	K	A	T	G	N	V	N	Y	M	E	I
I	E	C	M	O	A	E	O	D	N	M	S
C	R	A	T	B	L	R	O	L	G	E	S
A	M	S	S	P	I	O	I	C	T	X	U
P	E	J	Q	T	G	A	V	A	R	A	R

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