

LIFESTYLES

MAKE SURE KIDS HAVE SAFE HALLOWEEN

Trick-or-treating has its dangers

Dear Ann Landers: Some time ago, you printed a column about the dangers of trick-or-treating on Halloween. How about running it again? I think a lot of parents could use the reminder. — Chicago Mom

Dear Mom: Thanks for asking. Your timing could not have been better. Here it is:

Dear Ann Landers: Please get this in the paper before Halloween. It could save some little lives. I am addressing myself to the parents of children under 11 years of age.

If your kids want to go trick-or-treating, don't just let them run loose. An older brother or sister (at least 16 years of age) or you should stay close enough to keep an eye on them at all times. Instruct the children to ring only the doorbells of neighbors they know. A two-block radius of your own home should be the limit.

Impress on your children that they must not eat anything given to them until they get home. Then, examine whatever they collect, and decide what is safe. Every year, children die because some nut put razor blades in apples or poison in the fudge.

If your children wear costumes, make sure they can walk in them without falling down. Several youngsters have been hit by cars because they tripped in the street on long skirts.

Also, make certain they wear

ADVICE ON LIFE

by Ann Landers



something white so they can be seen by oncoming cars. Black costumes or all-dark clothes are hazardous.

The best idea of all is to have a Halloween party in your own home and invite the neighbors' kids. It would eliminate a lot of worry and be a great deal safer. Believe me, it's worth the trouble. — A Mother Who Learned the Hard Way

Dear Ann Landers: Can you stand one more response to "Harry," the ex-Englishman who wanted to know why American men keep their hats on in restaurants?

Ann, in West Texas, every cattleman (which includes almost the entire male population) puts on his cowboy hat as soon as he gets out of bed in the morning and takes it off when he retires at night. He might remove it for a funeral if the deceased was a close relative.

Chances are "Harry" pulled off the interstate in Pecos for a breakfast of scrambled eggs, grits, biscuits and white gravy. You can

be sure every trucker in the place had a hat on. This has been standard operating procedure for a hundred years, and it will not change in our lifetime. — Dallas Native

Dear Dallas: Since I haven't had breakfast at a truck stop in quite some time, I'll take your word for it. Incidentally, savvy motorists say that's where the best food is.

Dear Ann Landers: I have been married for 20 years. After six years of marriage, my husband stopped wearing his wedding band. He said he just doesn't like to wear a ring.

I was deeply hurt. We exchanged rings at our wedding, and to me, it is a symbol of our love and commitment.

I have tried to explain this to him, but he still refuses to wear the band. What do you think? — Frustrated in Binghamton, N.Y.

Dear Frus.: I think if you've been complaining about this for 14 years and getting nowhere, it's time to stop.

Dear Readers: Remember to turn your clock back one hour tonight. Also, put a new battery in your smoke detectors. This could mean the difference between life and death.

Feeling pressured to have sex? How well-informed are you? Write for Ann Landers' booklet "Sex and the Teenager." Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$4.45 Cdn (this includes postage and handling) to: Teens, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562.

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New ideas offered on choosing mates

by MALCOLM RITTER
the Associated Press

After poring over statistics on Playboy playmates and scrutinizing the spouses of identical twins, psychologists are offering two new ideas about how people choose their mates.

Men are first attracted by the lower half of a woman's hourglass figure, one new study says.

But when it comes down to the final choice, the second study says, the selection process is surprisingly random.

The research is the latest in the long effort to figure out how men and women choose each other for marriage.

Prior studies have found some general trends. People tend to marry others who are similar to themselves in such areas as intelligence, political values, religion, age and ethnicity.

However, prominent mating researcher David Buss of the University of Michigan says no theory can predict just who a given individual will marry.

One important first enticement for men may be women whose waistlines are small when compared with their hips, Devendra Singh of the University of Texas at Austin suggests in the August issue of the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

That may not surprise many laymen, but Buss called the findings important because the idea had not been demonstrated before.

Singh found that although women in Playboy centerfolds and Miss America winners have become thinner through the decades, their waist-to-hip ratios have barely budged.

Singh said the attractiveness of a low ratio of waist to hip measurements probably began as a way for early humans to assess a woman's fitness to produce and rear children. Research has linked low ratios to good health and reproductive capability, he said.

The other mating study, in the July issue of the same journal, is by David Lykken and Auke Tellegen of the University of Minnesota. They propose that although mate-seeking people choose from a field broadly similar to themselves, the final choice is surprisingly random.

That might surprise people who can think of good reasons they chose their mates. But Lykken sees that as rationalizing.

"One thing about human nature is that you can't tolerate a feeling that doesn't seem to have any legitimate cause," he said.

Lykken and Tellegen surveyed middle-aged identical twins and their spouses, and they proposed the randomness idea after finding no evidence that people use any set of criteria to choose a mate.

If they did, the researchers reasoned, identical twins who grew up together, having identical genes and very similar childhoods, should share nearly the same criteria and so choose highly similar spouses.

But they found that spouses of twin pairs in their study were not especially alike. They also found that twins did not consistently approve of their sibling's choice of mate, contrary to what one might expect if the two twins were using similar selection criteria.

The spouses also failed to report any consistent attraction toward their spouse's identical twin.

We would like to congratulate our Mom & Dad on 50 years of Wedded Bliss

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Understanding Each Other: Men, Women & Communication

This session is designed for professionals and paraprofessionals working in social services, health sciences and education. Content includes:

- * differences in communication styles, based on research, including power through one-up-manship and networking, genetic/cultural factors, conversation styles
- * identifying gender differences and biases in listening and communicating
- * developing strategies for understanding and communicating with male/female client groups
- * developing strategies for understanding and communicating with male/female colleagues

The workshop includes experimental activities and learning, as well as mini lectures and cooperative learning.

Bruce Innes holds degrees in sociology and adult education and has extensive experience in course development and delivery.

Registration Deadline: November 19, 1993

Date: Friday, November 26, 1993
Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Fee: \$125.00 / person
Facilitator: Bruce Innes

For additional information and registration call 561-5801.

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