

ANN LANDERS



Mean Well? Stay Away

Dear Ann Landers: Today I saw a dignified old gentleman lose all hope and very nearly go into a state of shock because of his well meaning relatives.

The gentleman has a terminal illness. His days are numbered. He has known for a long time that he is very ill, but he was hoping for another couple of years. Now he knows the real story.

A mob of relatives barged into his home last night to celebrate his birthday. They brought a birthday cake and casseroles of rich food. (He can only eat strained vegetables.) Nobody brought him a gift because they figured he'd be dead soon so why waste the money.

The sad part of the story is that the old gentleman's birthday isn't until March. His life expectancy is approximately three weeks. The family knew this. He didn't. But he guessed the reason for the party.

Please tell your readers that informal visits are fine, but please—no premature birthday parties. The purpose is all too obvious.—ANTI-GHOUL

Dear Atti: Another excellent sample of people who meant well but did the wrong thing. Perhaps this letter will serve as a lesson to others.

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Dear Ann Landers: I am 19 and engaged to marry a fine man who is 21. We have been going together for three years and are very much in love. My problem is that Ron is not affectionate and I'm a warm, outgoing person who likes a spontaneous kiss or a caress. Even if he would reach over and hold my hand it would mean a lot.

My mother is affectionate and my dad is like Ron. Sometimes I see a hurt look in Mom's eyes when she kisses Dad and he doesn't respond.

Will it be the same with Ron and me after we are married? Is it possible that I can change him? —HONEY BUN

Dear Honey: During courtship both parties are on their best behavior. If Ron is unable to thaw out now he will probably freeze into cubes later.

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Dear Ann Landers: I have been married to Jim for 15 years. His first wife died leaving him with two little girls. I was divorced and had a daughter of my own.

Jim was always tight with money. He never gave me a dollar to spend on my own. We never went anywhere. I didn't mind for the first few years because I was young and in love. As time went on Jim became stingier and stingier. I used to clean house and do the ironing for a woman in the neighborhood in order to have a little extra money. My husband never knew this.

Now the children are grown, our home is paid for and we have money in the bank, but I still don't get money like a wife should. I have to fight for every dime and I am sick of it. I am 47 years old, disgusted, tired and ready to leave. What is your advice?—JUST A SERVANT

Dear Just: You aren't even a servant. Servants get paid. There's no point in telling you now that your trouble started 15 years ago. The appropriate time to decide how the family money is to be divided is before marriage.

It is shameful and demeaning for a wife to walk around penniless. Every woman whose husband is employed is entitled to an allowance. Now you must get your husband to talk to a counselor or a clergyman. I hope the tightwad knows that if you leave him he will have to hire a housekeeper and support you under another roof.

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"The Bride's Guide," Ann Landers' booklet, answers some of the most frequently asked questions about wedding. To receive your copy of this comprehensive guide, write to Ann Landers, in care of The Press-Herald, P.O. Box 100, San Pedro, California 90723. Write in care of Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problem. Send them to her in care of The Press-Herald, containing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Military Personnel Get Break on Vehicle Fees

Military personnel stationed in California, but whose homes are in other states are exempted from part of the vehicle fees collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

But registration renewal cards which are mailed to military personnel this year will show the regular fee, according to Tom Bright, director of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The renewal period officially begins Tuesday, Jan. 3, and will continue through

Monday, Feb. 6, according to Bright.

ELECTRONIC machines automatically assess the regular fees issued of all California. Bright explained, and the Department is unable to make a special run of cards for non-resident military personnel.

Bright said department officials have been instructed to recompute fees for all non-resident military personnel to comply with recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court. The

total fee will be reduced by the 2 per cent tax which is allocated to cities and counties in lieu of a property tax on vehicles.

In most cases, Bright explained, the registration balance will be \$10 for passenger cars (\$11 for station wagons). With the in-lieu tax, the total for passenger cars of recent manufacture may be several times that amount.

Nonresident military personnel will be required to establish or re-affirm eligibility for the exemption.

WEST SANTA... Members of the Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club entertained some 40 youngsters last week during a Christmas party. The youths are from the Tolerman Settlement House in San Pedro. Pictured with Santa is Cassandra Gardner, while William Myatt of the Sportsman's Club waits with other youngsters who were given a chance to visit with Santa. Each of the youngsters received a gift and the 40 youths were guests of the club for lunch.



TOP STUDENTS... Area students honored by the Southern California Industry-Education Council included (from left) Frank Scott, Fernin Lassen High; Elliot J. Dixon, representing the Department of Water and Power; Pamela Comler, Studio City; Robert Sheup, North High; and Ralph Wilson, Narbonne.

Vandals Face Heavy Fines, Jail Terms

Franksters or vandals who damage or destroy mailboxes or their contents may be liable for heavy fines or imprisonment. Postmaster Carl L. Backlund warned this week.

Fines may be as much as \$1,000 for each offense. Backlund said, and the law provides for up to three years imprisonment upon conviction of damaging or destroying mailboxes or mail, he added.

The law applies to all mailboxes and their contents, even though the boxes have been purchased by private citizens and are their personal property, the Postmaster said.

"FRANKSTERS — especially children who do not know better — should be made to realize — the seriousness of their actions," Backlund said. "A \$1,000 fine or a term in jail is enough to take the humor out of any prank."

Backlund said damage to mailboxes is often the work of youths who do it for "kicks" and he added that the courts should have little or no sympathy for such means of expression. In Michigan, Backlund said,

two 18-year-olds received 10 days in jail — including two days on a diet of baby food — and a fine of \$25 when they were convicted of damaging a mailbox. The diet, the judge explained, was "because they acted like babies."

SEVERAL OTHER examples were cited by Backlund, including the case of two Iowa youths who were convicted of damaging 39 mailboxes. The youths were required to repay the damage and to apologize to each boxholder.

In Missouri, the postmaster added, three 17-year-olds convicted of damaging some 63 mailboxes lost their driving privileges, were given a 9 p.m. curfew, and required to report twice a week to juvenile authorities.

And, he concluded, four Arkansas youths were ordered to (1) stop driving until further notice, (2) observe a 10 p.m. curfew, (3) return to court a month later with letters from their school principals reporting on grades and attitudes, (4) pay all damages, and (5) wear a sign for 30 days which stated, "I have not learned to respect the property of others."

The free preparedness training, taught by specially trained registered nurses, gives couples an opportunity to learn needed skills in baby care. Adoptive parents and prospective grandparents also are invited to register for the 14-hour course.

DIAPERING, bathing, burping, feeding and other skills and techniques are practiced on life-size cooperative dolls. Illustrated lectures by the nurse-instructors cover such subjects as pre-natal care, delivery and general care of a baby through its first year of life.

Little Company of Mary's head nurse, Mrs. Frances H. Church of Redondo Beach, another young mother, will teach the course at the hospital classroom.

Mrs. Abner Kaplan of Portuguese Bend, chairman of Red Cross Nursing Services for Red Cross in the Southern District, is a veteran instructor and is also an experienced mother. She will teach the course in San Pedro.

Registrations are being accepted at 831-0751.

Attorneys Like Lights, So Leave Them On, Dear

Women, bless their little hearts, are so revealing when they bare their problems to me. In today's mail pouch some manage very well to solve their own problems, others beseech me to solve them for them. But this first one, unlike so many women who are afraid of the dark, is afraid of the light.

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"Dear Count Marco: One of our young and promising attor-

COUNT MARCO

neys actually lowered himself to the point where he married one of the original topless girls. I think this is disgraceful, since there are, I'm sure, quite a number of decent girls (like myself) with high moral standards. We would appear nude only for our husbands in the bedroom and only after all the lights are out. With women like her taking the cream of the crop just what chance do the rest of us have? —Confused"

Not very much chance if you persist on leaving those bedroom lights out. Attorneys have long been noted for preferring the spotlight so if it's a lawyer you want try leaving the lights on next time. However, methinks you would do much better chasing doctors. Lights on, Lights out, to them a body is a body dead or alive.

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This young woman got into a battle with her husband. They resolved their differences rather uniquely.

"Your Excellency: Women are emotional creatures; we go through cycles. Women just love a masterful man whether they admit it or not. My husband and I got into a scrap and I was sassy to him. He slapped my face, I slipped on a throw rug and my freshly waxed floor and fell. I came up fighting. After we calmed down, he agreed to only spank my bare bottom and never hit me in the face again. Then we got into a hot bubble bath together and split a magnum of champagne." —Hot Damn"

It's difficult to comment on this not knowing first hand which suffered the most damage — the waxed floor, the bare bottom, the face or the tub. There's no doubt who lost the battle though. What'd you use, Judo?

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Politics often gets into the mail too.

"Are you a Republican or a Democrat? You sound like a Communist." —Just Curious"

I'm a Monarchist.

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"Count No Account: You say it is always the girl's fault when she gets into trouble never the boy's. Well, mister, in case you don't know it takes two to tango." —The Dancer"

Who's talking about dancing?

Press-Herald Sunday Crossword

(Answer on Page A-7)

ACROSS

- 1—A swordsman
- 2—A seeking
- 3—A very fond of
- 4—A region of which ancient Troy was
- 5—A join
- 6—To be very fond of
- 7—State of Spain
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DOWN

1—Light sport jacket