

Dear Debbie

Letters to DEBORAH WHITE

Dear Debbie:
Our neighbor's 17-year-old daughter is dating a divorced 37-year-old man. They do not know about this. Should they be informed?

Dear You Mark:
Very Much Concerned
Is a divorced man ineligible for dating? I can't begin to list the number of men (Married and single), who have married women 20 years their junior. I think your problem is that you don't have a problem.

Dear Debbie:
I'm strictly a following my without any serious intentions by way of that architect, in a Victorian institution called marriage. I'm looking for an attractive, clean-cut girl around 20 years of age, whose only interest is a lot of fun on weekends. Do you know of any?

Dear Debbie:
Surely you just.

Dear Debbie:
I want to leave my parents' home and live in another town but I know it will break their hearts if I do. I like living with them but I've gotten myself into a mess in my own town. I fell in love with a married man before I knew his situation, but then stopped seeing him the minute I found out. I don't want to see him again but I'm forced to since we work together every day. The only

chance I've got is to remove myself from the temptation, and that leads me to a problem with my elderly parents. As a kid

Dear Ina Kutz:
Your parents might better understand if you tell them you'd like to change your whole outlook on life. Naturally, it starts a new lifestyle (they had a chance to start theirs) you like to start fresh, which, in your case, means a brand new setting.

Dear Debbie:
My husband and I recently had our first baby. Since it's the first baby granddaughter on his side of the family, it's a big occasion. My son's mother—who is younger by five years than my mother-in-law—doesn't mind being called "Grandma." But my husband's mother insists the baby call her "Aunt." What do I say to a woman like this?

Dear Men:
If she wants the baby to call her "Aunt," let the baby call her "Aunt." When the baby gets to be a big girl and wants to know why her grandfater is married to her aunt, let her "Aunt" explain.

Dear Men:
If you have a problem, sometimes it helps to let it write to me of that newspaper. Personal replies aren't always possible, but I'll be glad to letters of widest interest in this column. (© 1974, McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

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YOU AND YOUR HEALTH

By Peter J. Esch, M.D.

LONG-DISTANCE DIAGNOSIS
There's danger in diagnosing your ills by telephone. Although you and your doctor may live in the same city, I call it long-distance diagnosis.

You take a chance. Your doctor takes a chance—either relies on a medical tag unless he has seen you face to face and has laid diagnostic hands on you. Unquestionably, the telephone is often the ally of both patient and doctor. But "more often than not," telephone "diagnoses" may have serious consequences, as shown in the following letter:

Dear Dr. Esch: One night I got a pain in my belly. I called my doctor about 3 a.m. The snow was about a foot deep and the temperature about 10 below zero. I didn't blame him for not offering to come out to the house. When I told him about my cramps, he told me to try some hot and toast. If I wasn't better in the morning, he advised that I get in touch with him again.

I felt a little better. When morning came, I went to my office instead of calling him. But all day I had this discomfort "in my insides." When I reached home that night I could not stand it anymore.

I called again. He told me to get over to the hospital emergency room. I was operated on within the hour. My bellyache had turned into a ruptured appendix.

Since I am writing this letter, you know I recovered. I can thank penicillin for that. I am not blaming the doctor for advising me over the phone. I am blaming myself for going to work the next day.

I'll never take medical advice this way again. I think both patient and

doctor gamble with life and death even when the telephone advice is so simple and apparently harmless as, "Take two aspirin."

Any blind diagnosis and treatment is potentially dangerous. Don't you agree, Mr. Esch?

COMMENT: True. Don't depend entirely on the telephone. If symptoms persist, even though of less intensity, anyway, somehow see the doctor or he can really "see" you. Telephone diagnosis and treatment is largely guesswork.

Dear Dr. Esch: I have been to my regular doctor and to an eye, ear and nose specialist. They cannot seem to find the reason for my trouble. For over a year I've had intense dryness in my nose. At times when I walk I must look like a drunken man. I've had nasal polyps in my sinuses, but they don't help. Please let me if another doctor can help.—Mr. P.

COMMENT: Have you had a complete physical checkup by an internist? Have your doctor suggested an examination by a neurologist? I have an idea what is causing your dizziness.

For Mrs. K: It's true that not every lamp is life threatening. Two ophthalmologists have said you have a very small fibroid in your uterus that does not require by hysterectomy. Depend upon your judgment, rather than keep on worrying that it may be cancer. Since you have not yet had any children and want them, you would be making a great sacrifice in needlessly losing your uterus. Forget it. Be thankful, and have faith in your doctor. (© 1974, McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

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COUNTY 4-H TALK MEET—Champions selected by age divisions at the County 4-H Talk Meet held on Wednesday, Dec. 4 were: Chuck McDonald, "Tobacco—From Seed to Cigar"; Barry Rible, "Wildlife Conservation—Are You Doing Your Share?"; Michelle George, "Kentucky My Home State"; and Brenda McDonald, "People of the Desert". All champions gave their speech presentations at the Blue Grass Area 4-H Talk Meet which was held at the Eastern Kentucky University on Dec. 2. The Area 4-H Talk Meet and Banquet were sponsored by WKYT-TV, Channel 27, Lexington.

GI benefits bill passed by Congress

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