

Rebuilding trust not an easy thing

Dear Dr. Brothers: After being away and split from my spouse, I just came back to our home after forgiving him for cheating on me with another woman. Now, three months later, I'm beginning to wonder if I did the right thing. I believe we love each other too much to divorce. I have no reason to believe he's done anything wrong, or that he's broken his pledge to be faithful, but I'm having a hard time building trust.

He thinks it's more related to the fact that I was raped in my early adolescence. My husband is the only one who knows this about me. Could it be possible that after all this time, that is making me feel as I now do? — D.G.

Dear D.G.: It could very well be, especially since you've never been able to discuss this trauma with anyone other than your husband. We hear so much about the importance of communication, of being able to discuss problems, especially in situations in which the victim may suffer from guilt that is totally unwarranted. When feelings are bottled up inside, the original damage is increased, as the hurt, fear and anger fester inside. Sharing pain and negative emotions helps to cleanse them.

In your situation, the one person you trusted enough to share your burden with has hurt you, left you feeling unloved and alone, with a shattered sense of trust that probably took a long



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

time to build. Even when the complications you've mentioned are absent, after infidelity it takes a great deal of time and work to heal the relationship. I believe that you, personally, would be greatly helped by some individual counseling to be followed by couples therapy.

Dear Dr. Brothers: For years, I've been watching porn about every other night with my husband because it pleases and excites him. I've also been pretending to like it and share his views, while actually, most of the time I can't stand it. It's a real sexual turn-OFF for me, partly because of what I view as violence and cruelty usually toward the woman.

At first, I thought there was something wrong with me, and I felt like a guilty prude. Then a neighbor, a woman with whom I've become quite close, happened to see the covers of a couple of the films in our bedroom. She was shocked and said that she and her man only watch sexy porn and sexy movies, but ones that are also good. After our conversation, now I'm not so sure

I'm the one who's wrong. — T.H.

Dear T.H.: I don't think you need to feel guilty about the type of films you enjoy. Males tend to have different tastes, especially about what turns them on sexually, but what is troubling and standing in the way of your relationship is the fact that you've apparently never discussed this with your partner. It rarely helps a relationship when one partner constantly pretends to feel something he or she doesn't. As long as this kind of deception exists, nothing can ever be clarified or solved.

Instead of letting your husband select the films, why don't you do some research on your own? Talk with some of your women friends and see if they have any recommendations, or even stop at your local video shop to get a list of the most recent DVDs.

Ask if your husband has a favorite actress — not limited to porn, but a real actress. Surely you can find something you both like, and by talking, your sex life will improve because you'll both feel free to discuss the subject.

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Dracula memorabilia collected

TOPEKA (AP) — Walk in the front door of Cliff Alfrey's apartment, and you will know right away what he finds fascinating.

The welcome mat features Dracula wrapped in a black cape. In Alfrey's living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom images of bats or vampires are everywhere.

Cliff Alfrey, who collects Dracula memorabilia, stopped counting after he hit 200 items. Alfrey fell in love with the character when he first saw "Dracula" as a child.

"As a child, I put together a model of Dracula," said Alfrey, 56, a retired state employee who works part-time as a cake decorator at Sam's Club. "The first movie I saw was 'Dracula.'"

About 15 years ago, he bought the initial item in his collection, a green 1920 Austrian glass dish with a brass handle and applied brass bats. Once that purchase was made, there was no turning back.

"In China, the bat is a symbol of happiness and peaches are a symbol of longevity," he said, explaining the combination of the two images on his hand-painted china from that country.

On the living room wall hangs a framed letter dated Feb. 12, 1898,

Student News

MANHATTAN — Kansas State University is awarding more than 1,700 students semester honors for their academic performance during the 2007 spring semester.

Students earning semester or graduation honors receive commendations from their deans, with the honors recorded on their permanent academic records.

K-State awards summa cum laude to students with a K-State academic average of 3.95 or higher, magna cum laude to students with an academic average of 3.85 to 3.949, and cum laude to students with a 3.750-3.849 academic average.

From Colby, Samantha Kay Wolf, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor of science. She is a graduate of Colby High School.

In addition, Valerie Robin Broeckelman and Landon Gerard Truetken, both graduates of Golden Plains High School received spring semester honors.

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Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/29

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/29

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to today's Sudoku puzzle is left.

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