

Couples can accommodate level of desire



abigail van buren

• dear abby

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ways, she may find, as I have, that his desire grows in time. Libido fades with age; love does not. — SATISFIED IN ALL WAYS IN KNOXVILLE

DEAR SATISFIED: You and your husband have been able to negotiate past your differences and make your marriage a fulfilling one. That is not the case with many of the wives and husbands who write to me. Sometimes I wish I could run a dating service for all of the mismatched couples who feel sad, frustrated, isolated and unattractive to the person they love.

DEAR ABBY: My second wife found herself with a far stronger libido than I could match. This, of course,

left me with a lot of disappointment. She, a nurse, said, "Off to the doctor with you!" The doctor said, "Let's do some lab work." Sure enough, there was a little brain chemistry issue I needed to deal with.

DEAR HAPPIER NOW: I'm pleased that your problem was resolved. Thank you for pointing out that a low sex drive may be an indication of a medical problem.

DEAR ABBY: That letter from "Needs More" could have been written by me 20 years ago. I married my best friend, who also had very little interest in sex. During our six-year marriage we argued frequently and I

felt more and more undesirable. When I finally found the strength to leave the marriage, it broke both our hearts.

Two years later, my ex realized that he was gay. It made so much sense in retrospect. I agree with the advice you gave "Needs More." She should keep her fiancé as a friend, but she should not marry him. — BEEN THERE, DONE THAT IN VIRGINIA

DEAR BEEN THERE: Thank you for sharing your experience. The mail I have received from readers has been divided on this issue. About one-third came from women, like yourself, whose husbands turned out to be gay.

Another third said the problem had been caused by a hormonal or chemical imbalance or depression, which

had been successfully treated. The rest felt I should reconsider my advice:

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have learned that with open communication, compromise and respect, we can work through this difference. Intimacy, although important, is only one part of marriage. Because people are different does not mean they should not marry. Marriage is the union of two individuals, not two identical people. Please reconsider your advice to "Needs More." — FEELING FRISKY IN FRISCO, TEXAS

DEAR FEELING FRISKY: Although I admire your level of maturity, I think I'll stand pat with my answer.

TUESDAY EVENING AUG. 17, 2004. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and program listings across various channels (A&E, ABC, ANPL, BRAVO, CBS, DISC, DISN, E!TV, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FIT TV, FMC, FOOD, FOX, FX, FXSP, HBO, HGTV, HIST, IND, LIFE, MTV, NBC, NICK, PBS, SCIFI, SPK, TLC, TNT, TRAV, TVLND, UNIV, USA, WB, WGN).

WEDNESDAY EVENING AUG. 18, 2004. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and program listings across various channels (A&E, ABC, ANPL, BRAVO, CBS, DISC, DISN, E!TV, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FIT TV, FMC, FOOD, FOX, FX, FXSP, HBO, HGTV, HIST, IND, LIFE, MTV, NBC, NICK, PBS, SCIFI, SPK, TLC, TNT, TRAV, TVLND, UNIV, USA, WB, WGN).

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FRIDAY EVENING AUG. 20, 2004. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and program listings across various channels (A&E, ABC, ANPL, BRAVO, CBS, DISC, DISN, E!TV, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FIT TV, FMC, FOOD, FOX, FX, FXSP, HBO, HGTV, HIST, IND, LIFE, MTV, NBC, NICK, PBS, SCIFI, SPK, TLC, TNT, TRAV, TVLND, UNIV, USA, WB, WGN).