

Unfulfilled wife needs more from husband



Dr. Joyce Brothers

● Ask Dr. Brothers

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I have been married four years. We have no children yet, partly because both of us have decided to wait a couple more years until we're more settled financially. Naturally, we were thrilled when he got a promotion, and even though it meant more work for him, it also meant a lot more money. We love each other, and I'm almost positive he isn't having an affair. He's just not the cheating type, but in plain words, I want more sex. It doesn't seem to bother him that our passion almost seems to have disappeared, but it does me. I don't want to cheat on him. Any suggestions? — N.N.

Dear N.N.: I think you should talk about this with him if you haven't already — not in a nagging way, but in a manner that reassures him of your love and perhaps expresses your concern that he might be overtired because of his heavy new work schedule.

The point is that you don't want to add to his pressures, but instead find creative ways to relax — not just those areas directly related to sex, but rather thinking of entertainment you both enjoy when you are together. He might need to be reminded of some of the fun you had before there were so many responsibilities. Find time to cuddle, to hold hands during a film — in other words, focus on removing sexual demands, and just share activities together. This can put sex back into perspective. Encourage him to talk about his feelings and to share any problems he may be having.

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Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm sure

you've heard this question a million times, but I'll ask it anyway. Should I give my husband, the father of my two children, a second chance when he's hit me hard enough to leave bruises and a broken tooth? This is the second time he's attacked me in a fit of temper, and he's also been with other women. The first time, I walked out with my children and threatened to leave him permanently if he ever did it again. Well, it did happen again last night, but a neighbor heard the row, came in and my husband fled. I know he'll come back, apologize and beg me not to leave him. My friends, family and my neighbor say I should get rid of him. I'm scared. — D.A.

Dear D.A.: First, get new locks on the doors, and make sure neither you nor your children are ever alone with him without full protection. Report this to the police. Also, I'd suggest you talk with Family Services and someone in the department of domestic abuse to get their advice on the best way to handle this.

He clearly needs treatment in anger management, and if alcohol or other drugs are involved, he should begin to address these problems as well. If you still love him and if he loves you enough to be willing to invest the time and effort needed to save your marriage, then make it clear to him that you won't consider reconciliation until he's receiving help and the two of you are getting marriage counseling. Until all this is well underway, it's too dangerous for you and your children to be with him.

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Naming things after politicians can be embarrassing, costly

ATLANTA (AP) — As Rep. Cynthia McKinney was preparing to leave office after being ousted by voters in her own party, a state lawmaker proposed striking her name from a major thoroughfare that runs through her former district.

“The reason is her track record, the fact that she has done things that are embarrassing,” said state Rep. Len Walker, whose district borders the Atlanta-area district once represented by McKinney, the state's first black congresswoman.

McKinney has long been controversial. She once suggested the Bush administration had advance knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks but kept quiet to allow defense contractors to profit from the aftermath. More recently she scuffled with a U.S. Capitol Police officer. Still, the Cynthia McKinney Parkway in DeKalb County, just east of Atlanta, remains named after her.

As the parkway illustrates, naming public infrastructures and buildings after living politicians, particularly those still in office, can be fraught with the potential for embarrassment, and a lot of costly changes.

“Their legacy isn't even established yet,” said Derek Alderman, a cultural geographer at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. “They are more susceptible to the politics of the day.”

Or to the conviction of the day. In South Carolina, many clamored to have former lieutenant governor Earle Morris Jr.'s name removed from a stretch of highway after he was convicted on security fraud charges in November 2004. Investors in the firm he led and its parent company lost \$275 million when the companies collapsed.

Thirty years after Morris was bestowed with the highway honor, his name was replaced with South Carolina 153. The state's Transportation Commission approved the change four months after Morris was convicted.

“It was a sad day ... but that's what people wanted,” said commissioner Marion Carnell, who represents Anderson and Pickens counties, where the highway is, and had served in the state legisla-

ture with Morris.

Ohio University recently was in a similar quandary. In December, its Board of Trustees scratched the name of former U.S. Rep. Bob Ney from an athletic facility on its St. Clairsville, Ohio, campus, a month after Ney resigned from Congress and pleaded guilty to federal corruption charges. The former Robert W. Ney Center for Health and Physical Education is now the Ohio University Eastern Campus Health and Education Center.

In Chattanooga, Tenn., the same fate nearly befell the University of Tennessee. In 2005, lawmakers filed a resolution to name a new engineering building after state Sen. Ward Crutchfield, but dropped the project after he was indicted on federal bribery and conspiracy charges.

The university is considering naming the building after a funder, spokesman Chuck Cantrell said.

Donating big cash is usually how living individuals, especially politicians, get their names onto roads, bridges and buildings. For example, some 40 structures have been named after Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., in his home state.

In return for their buck, politicians get highly coveted name recognition.

“Almost anybody who drives in West Virginia sees Byrd's name,” said Josh Hagen, a geographer at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. “Name recognition is a big plus for a politician. All place names create a kind of invincibility.”

That advantage, particularly useful at re-election time, and the possibility of embarrassing changes, have prodded some legislators to introduce bills that would prevent naming public structures after living people.

That tradition is well established for federal projects, an exception being the Ronald Reagan National Airport outside Washington, which was named after the former president left office, Hagen said.

Far from every state regulates the naming of public structures, and just a few deal specifically with living people and active officials, said Kae Warnock, a policy analyst with the National Council of State Legislatures.