

# Outlook on Lifestyle

## DEAR MEG



Meg Whitcomb

DEAR MEG — My 11-year-old daughter has a filthy mouth. You wouldn't believe her vocabulary.

I have tried dealing with it in a calm manner. First I sat Mandy down and explained that cursing isn't lady-like, but that didn't work. Next, I sent her to her room without TV. Then I fined her 25 cents every time she swore. I even washed her mouth out with soap.

Finally, I said that the next time I hear her use foul language I'll put her over my knee and spank her. Meg, I've never spanked any of my kids and I can't believe I made this threat. It makes me very uneasy. You see, I was spanked by my parents well into my teens, and I resent it to this day. I don't want my daughter to resent me.

I'm worried that Mandy may put me to the test to see if I really will spank her. My friends say if I don't follow through, I'll have trouble disciplining her forever. Can I back out? — UNCERTAIN, PADUCAH, KY.

DEAR UNCERTAIN — Sure you can. But you'd do better to ignore her when she lets loose with the dirty words. Most kids go through a rebellious stage, when they drop goodies even parents haven't heard before. They do it to feel important and get attention because they know it'll get a rise out of the folks.

The next time your daughter starts in, say, "Y'know, Mandy, those words are just so dumb, they're not even worth listening to," and let it go at that. When you stop hitting the roof, she'll stop swearing.

DEAR MEG — My husband and I argue about money because Bob wants to divide the bills up evenly. In two-income families where the husband and wife have similar incomes, I don't think dividing up the bills is fair if the woman still performs all of the traditional household duties. Bob says he does "his share," but I don't think mowing the lawn (summer only) and infrequent household repair jobs compare to the day-in, day-out drudgery of household chores.

Another thing: Bob doesn't contribute his overtime pay to the pool. He keeps it for himself. — TIGHTWAD'S WIFE, JOLIET, ILL.

DEAR T.W. — Studies show that husbands in two-career households almost always overestimate the amount they help with housekeeping, and have no idea of the monetary value of their wives' contributions.

To make sure that Bob's ignorance is no excuse, stop arguing and start keeping weekly records of the exact amount of time you spend on domestic chores. Ditto for him.

Then convert both sets of hours into dollars, using the going rates for different kinds of household help, as well as outdoor or repair work.

Show the figures to Bob. After you peel him off the ceiling, suggest that both totals be subtracted from your outside incomes, including his overtime. Then offer to pay only your share of the bills. That should open his eyes to the inequities of the situation.

If it doesn't, write me and I'll give you the next steps for dealing with what is not ignorance, but a play for power in your marriage.

## DR. GOTT



Peter H. Gott, M.D.

### Transmission of HTLV virus

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT — I have two women friends whose husbands have hairy-cell leukemia. If the day comes when they are alone again, will they be able to have other sex partners or will they be carriers of the HTLV virus?

HTLV-1 causes adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATLL), a rare form of blood cancer. HTLV-1 has recently been shown to cause another form of blood-cell disorder, called hairy-B-cell leukemia.

HTLV-2, the second retrovirus, causes the T-cell variant of hairy leukemia. The term "hairy" refers to the shaggy appearance of the cancerous blood cells when they are smeared on a slide and examined under a microscope. The terms "B" and "T" de-

scribe the types of blood cells that are penetrated by the HTLV-1 and HTLV-2 viruses.

HTLV-3 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Most of the investigation of retroviruses has thus far centered on the HTLV-3 (also called HIV) because AIDS is a worldwide epidemic for which there is no known treatment. HTLV-3 is spread through the exchange of body fluids, such as semen and blood products.

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Cursing kid needs to clean up her act

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