

## 'Straight Up' with Steve Austin

**Steven:** My life is ruined! I had just gotten out of the car to return a couple of books at the library when I saw her: The woman from my past who was responsible for almost three years of nightmares. Well, at least I thought it was her. My heart pounding, I flew back into the car, cranked it up and left 100 feet of rubber as I got out of Dodge. I dated Cheryl when I lived in New York, and our relationship ended up on a very sour note. We made a clean break of it and I even left town to get away from her. The woman I spotted at the library sure did look like her, but why would she have moved here? If it is, this time I can't pack up and split. I'm married with my second kid on the way. I'm so nervous I don't know what

to do. When my wife asked why I looked as white as a sheet when I returned home, I told her I ran over a cat. Boy, am I in trouble. What should I do? *Nervous in Raleigh, NC*

**Dear Nervous:** About a year ago a similar thing happened to me while I was doing a load of laundry. I turned around and spotted a lady who looked too much like an old flame of mine from Miami. Well, I didn't hang around the laundromat long enough for my stuff to dry, and got into the car trying to figure out how I'd break the news about our new neighbor to my wife. I saw her again a few days later and was relieved to discover that all my sweat was for nothing. In fact, I even intro-

duced myself and told my new friend, Lisa, what she had done to me. Before locking yourself up in the closet, why don't you do a little checking around even though the odds are a million to one that your ex has invaded your territory. A call to a friend or two in New York may give you an answer. Ask telephone information for her listing. Drop her name at the library. Even if it is her, there's no need for a major freak-out. Most of us can grow a lot in three years. Maybe you can handle a casual hello the next time around. Let us know how it turns out.

**Steven:** Last weekend I went out with "A" for the first time. She's a nice lady but the chemistry just wasn't there. Well, at least on my end it wasn't. During the course of the evening we ran into her friend, "S". We enjoyed a couple of drinks together, and "S" and I seemed to really have some kind of magnetic attraction for each other. We were about to exchange numbers on a cocktail napkin when "A" came back from the restroom. I left with my date

for the evening, but I sure don't have to tell you where I had left my heart. I want to see "S" again as soon as possible, but I don't know her last name or too much about her. I'd still like to keep my friendship going with "A," but want to keep the chance of any kind of romance out of it. My problem is basic: How do I get "A" to put my in touch with "S" without making her suspicious and upset? Any help will be appreciated, but please don't give me one of those boring *Dear Abby* answers like "Be honest and it will all work out." *Lover Boy, NCSU*

**Dear L.B.:** Well, I have too unofficial consultants on matters of the heart: My own past experience and my best friend. He has managed to remain single after all these years, and has enough women chasing after him to last any guy a lifetime. It didn't take us long to come up with a plan: Tell "A" that during your date a friend of yours saw you talking with a lady he'd like to meet, "S," and wants to contact her. If you're convincing enough, "A" will offer the info and you'll be in business. I don't normally advise persons to be sneaky and so calculating, but you did say you didn't want one of those ridiculous "see a counselor" replies. Let me know how it turns out.

## Reader's Digest little known facts

An epidemic far more deadly than the flu, possession of lethal small arms, is on the rise. Reader's Digest says that while no one knows for certain, reliable estimates are that some 500,000 military-style assault guns are now in private hands in the United States.

Approximately one out of every six married couples of childbearing age find they are unable to achieve pregnancy. The good news, the Reader's Digest reports, is that fertility specialists can now help more than 50 percent of these couples.

### CROSS WORD PUZZLE

FROM COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Soft food 4 Shovel 9 Shade tree 12 Macaw 13 Small drum 14 Portuguese currency 15 Basement 17 Prayer book 19 Sea in Asia 21 Latin conjunction 22 Jog 25 Precious stone 27 Opera by Verdi 31 Take unlawfully 32 Three-sided figures 34 Near 35 Chinese pagoda 36 Pedal digit 37 Note of scale 38 Perverted 41 Mire 42 Exact 43 Pronoun 44 Country of Europe 45 Printer's measure 47 Expires 49 Extreme disgust 53 Reply 57 Perform 58 Variety of wheat 60 Be in debt 61 Insect 62 Plague 63 Seine</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Moccasin 2 Exist 3 Crony: colloq. 4 Astral body</p>	<p>5 Subdivision of chapter 6 Hebrew month 7 Monk's title 8 Great Lake 9 Bitter vetch 10 Meadow 11 Wire measure 16 Unit of Latvian currency 18 Platform 20 Hawaiian wreath 22 Pamphlet 23 Moving part of motor 24 River in Siberia 26 Fabrics 28 Negative prefix 29 Hesitate 30 Stage 32 Greek letter 33 Bow 35 Woody plants</p>	<p>39 Symbol for ruthenium 40 Spread for drying 41 Note of scale 44 Worm 46 Bird's home 48 Heraldry: grafted 49 Catch: colloq.</p>	<p>50 High card 51 Southwestern Indian 52 Simian 54 Emerged victorious 55 Female sheep 56 Soak 59 Babylonian deity</p>
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As the only female instructor in our engineering department, I am always berating my male students on their use of the sexist terms "girls" and "gals" (not to mention "broads"). An older student, a paramedic, had a particularly difficult time adjusting to the use of "ladies" and "women."

One morning he came running into class late. I looked at him quizzically awaiting an explanation. "Sorry," he said. "I got tied up delivering a, uh, baby lady."

Bed sheets are often displayed at televised college-football games with messages such as "Hi, Mom, send more money!" or "Hi, Dad, wish you were

here!" At a game between the University of Michigan and Ohio State University, one student's message read: "Hi, Mom, send more sheets!"

My husband started college ten years after high school and was nervous about his English composition class. When the first term paper was assigned, the teacher suggested covering it with a folder because, she said, that gives a good impression by making the paper look neater. She also implied that using a folder could mean the difference between an A or a B.

My husband raised his hand. "What's your favorite color?" he asked.

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