

RHYMES WITH ORANGE | Hilary B. Price

**FIGHTING
with your
PARTNER:**
How to
make it
LAST
&
LAST...

1 START YOUR CLASH WHILE LYING IN BED. USE WORDS LIKE "ALWAYS" AND "NEVER" TO DESCRIBE YOUR PARTNER'S BEHAVIOR.

Must you always react exactly like your father?



2 AT LUNCH, GIVE YOUR PARTNER A CALL-- A FEW WELL-CHOSEN WORDS AND YOU'LL BE RIGHT BACK IN THE THICK OF IT...

I don't want to get into it, but at least acknowledge that...



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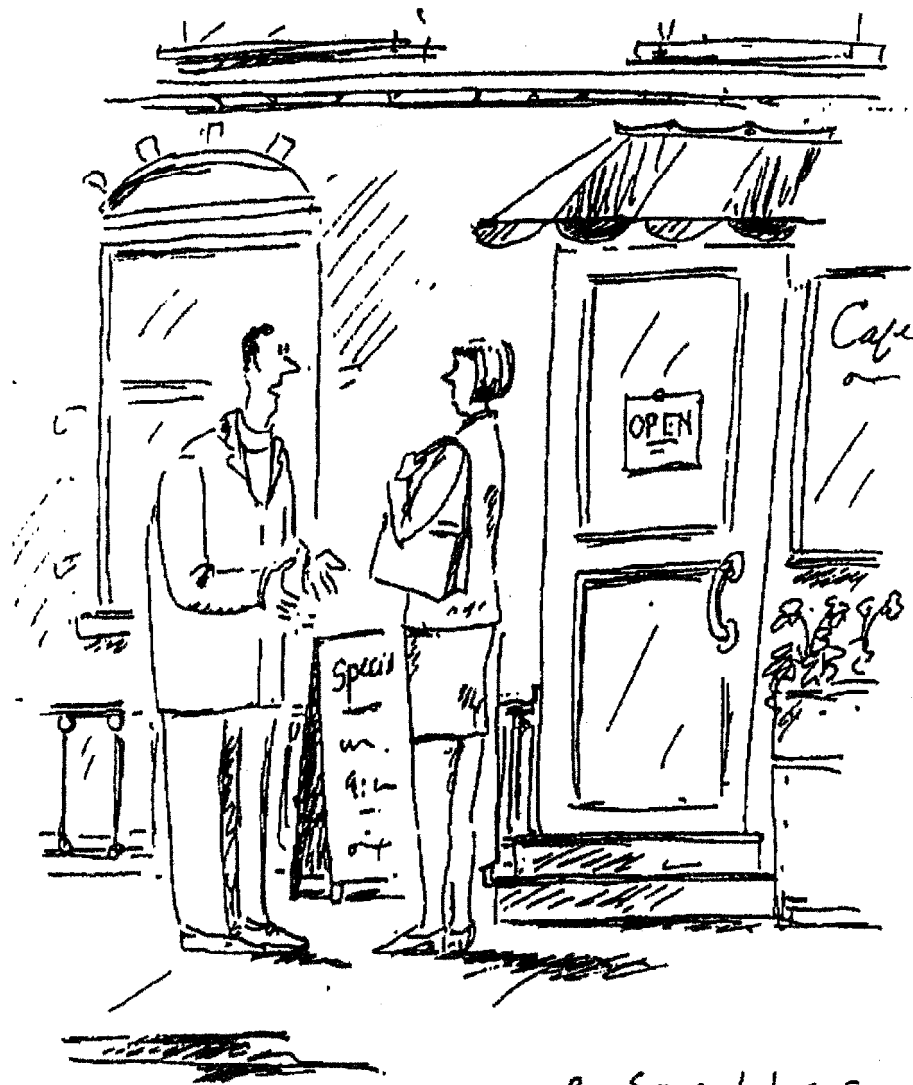
3 AT DINNER, APPROACH YOUR PARTNER WITH AN APOLOGY. THIS ONE WORKS WELL:

I'm really sorry you reacted so sensitively to what I said.



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Dealing with differences will put the clarity of your voice – and your capacity to listen to the different voice of the other – to the test.



B. Smaller

"I'm not saying that I don't have intimacy issues. I'm just saying that I prefer to work on them by myself."

Humans don't tend to do well with differences. We learn to hate a difference, glorify a difference, exaggerate a difference, deny, minimize, or eradicate a difference. We may engage in nonproductive efforts to change, fix, or shape up the person who isn't doing or seeing things our way.

In the history of nations, families, or couples, folks find it hard to discuss their differences in a mature and thoughtful way.



"You owe me three movies where lots of stuff explodes."

Intimacy building is an active process. It requires a conscious attitude, a deliberate choice, a cognitive decision to get more closely connected.

Oh, and it takes time, too.

PARDON MY PLANET | Vic Lee



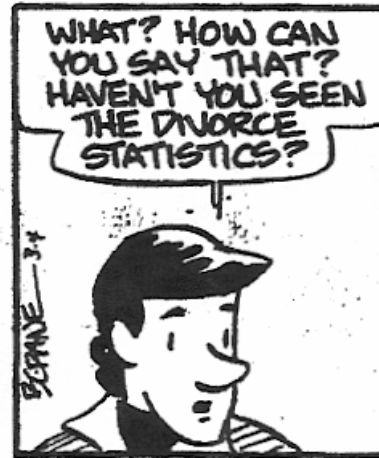
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Differences don't just threaten and divide us. They also inform, enrich, and enliven us. Indeed, differences are the only way we learn. If our intimate relationships were composed only of people identical to ourselves, our personal growth would come to an abrupt halt.

PICKLES • Brian Crane



The difference between the
right word and the *almost*
right word is the difference
between lightning and
lightning bug.

--*Mark Twain*

SALLY FORTH | Francesco Marciuliano



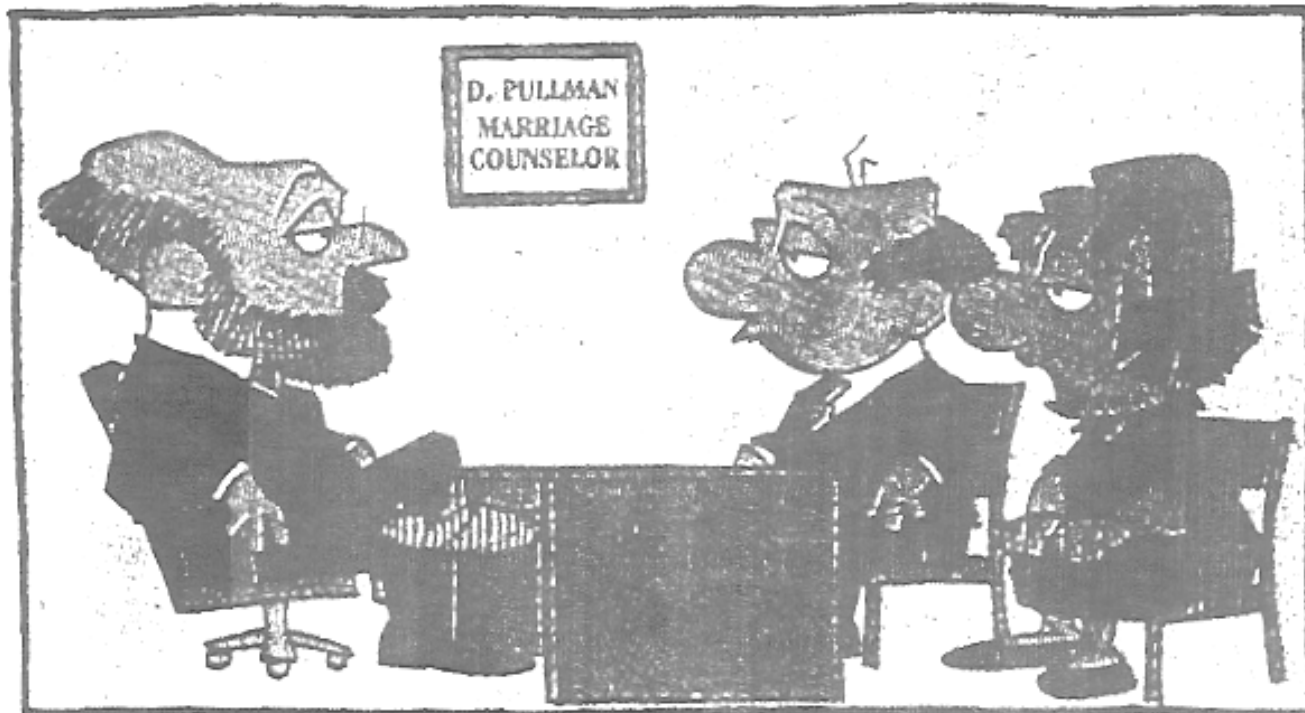
Our capacity for intimacy depends upon our ability to deepen and refine the truths we tell to others as well as to ourselves. It takes tremendous courage to speak the truth, and both courage and resolve to listen to it. We must be brave enough to open up difficult truths to others and to ourselves, and not sacrifice authenticity for the sake of harmony.

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Whether you've been part of a couple for four – or forty – years, you will still have to face the challenge of differences. Long-term relationships suffer when we don't face differences with tolerance, humor and respect.

They also suffer if we become so tolerant of differences that we expect too little from the other person, or settle for unfair and compromising arrangements that erode our sense of self.

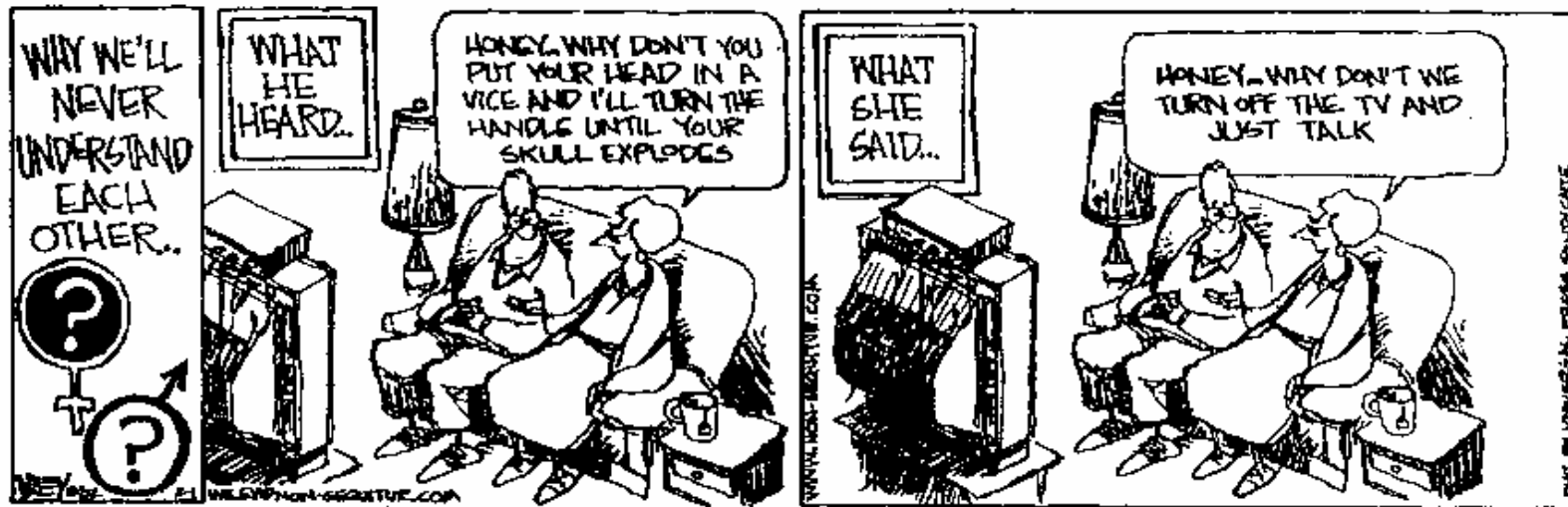


"SOMETIMES I THINK WE STAY TOGETHER FOR THE
SAKE OF THE LAST WORD."

Needing to be
RIGHT is death to a
relationship.

Needing to be
'good' or 'better' or
'best' doesn't help
much either.

NON SEQUITUR | Wiley



Things we can learn from a dog:

*“Avoid biting when
a simple growl
will do.”*

—ANONYMOUS

Marriage tends to make it more difficult for two people to really hear each other and negotiate their differences. Once under the same roof with a partner – hearts, finances, and futures intertwined – it's harder to clarify where we can compromise, give in, and go along – and where we can't.

PARDON MY PLANET | Vic Lee



Honest
differences are
often a healthy
sign of progress

-- Gandhi

NON SEQUITUR | Wiley

I GUESS OUR PROBLEM WITH COMMUNICATION STEMS FROM OUR MIXED MARRIAGE... I'M RIGHT AND HE'S MALE



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We don't see the world
the way it is; we see the
world the way we are.

-- Anaïs Nin