**Sex**

**Love is the answer, but while you're waiting for the answer, sex raises some pretty good questions. *(Woody Allen)***

**Sex: the thing that takes up the least amount of time and causes the most amount of trouble. *(John Barrymore, actor)***

**It follows: At a Singapore book fair. P. G. Publishing's best-seller was 101 Questions and Answers About Pregnancy and Children. This was entirely natural considering their best-seller the previous year had been 101 Questions and Answers About Sex. *(The Straits Times, Singapore)***

**Scientists studying the Y chromosome, the chromosome that creates biological males, are quick to notice how small it is. It contains only 45 genes, compared to the almost 1,000 genes on an X chromosome. Scientists have determined that the Y chromosome has shrunk over millions of years, leading some to wonder if Y chromosomes may disappear entirely. Are men in danger of going extinct? Other animals such as mole voles have evolved to lose Y chromosomes, yet they still have males in the species. Scientists speculate that other genes will step in and do the job of determining sex. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**Not all sex crimes are equal: At the risk of being labeled a rape apologist, said Meghan Daum, "I'm going to say what many reasonable people have been thinking for a while." Not all sexual assaults are equal. "Violent rape is not the same as psychologically coercive sex, which is not the same as regrettable sex, which is not the same as fielding an unwanted touch or kiss at a party." All these experiences are bad, but they lie on a spectrum "ranging from truly horrific to merely annoying." In today's grievance culture, though, we're taught to believe that a drunk college student who "has sex she neither exactly consented to nor exactly resisted" is as much of a victim as "the clearly brutalized woman." Campus activists argue that it's wrong to "privilege" one kind of trauma over another. But it's insulting and dangerous to liken the fight against rape culture -- a phenomenon that is "terrifyingly and appallingly real" -- to the petty complaints of grievance culture. "By shaking so many individual trees, its adherents create distractions from the perils of the big, terrifying forest. And we can't afford such distractions any longer." *(The Week magazine, March 20, 2015)***

**Sex: In America an obsession. In other parts of the world a fact. *(Marlene Dietrich)***

**I don't have a sex "drive." "I just sit in the car and hope someone gets in." *(Louis CK, comedian)***

**Each generation thinks it invented sex. *(Robert Heinlein, author)***

**After much controversy, a school adopted a sex-education program. One mother hadn't been too enthusiastic about it and was worried about how her small daughter would react. Imagine her feelings when the youngster came home and said, "Mommy, guess what? We learned how to make babies today!" "What?" the mother gasped. Then, trying to speak calmly, she asked, "Tell me, dear, how do you make babies?" "Easy," the little one said. "You drop the y and add i-e-s." *(Sister Claudia, in Catholic Digest)***

**On the new "female Viagra": "When ingested, flibanserin increases a woman's sex drive. You might know it by its old name -- wine." *(Jimmy Fallon, on the Tonight Show)***

**I know nothing about sex because I was always married. *(Zsa Zsa Gabor)***

**Getting randy after 55: Young people usually think that sex is only for the young. Not so. Women over 55, several new surveys have found, are having sex more frequently than women in their 30s -- and they're enjoying it more, too. Many women who came of age in the 1960s and '70s learned to be comfortable with their sexuality, and continue to take good care of their bodies, Massachusetts sex therapist Aline Zoldbrod tells USA Today. "I'm 59, and I look very different from my mother at that age," she says. "I still see myself as a sexual person." New surveys on the sex lives of women ranging from their 30s to their 70s have found that the younger women are often so preoccupied with child-bearing, work, and other responsibilities that sex falls far down the list of priorities. But after their children leave the next, today's older women put much more thought and effort into having a satisfying sex life with their husbands or partners. "There's more permission in society for my generation to be sexual," Zoldbrod says. That permission, a University of Chicago study found, extends into what previous generations considered "old age" -- the 60s and 70s. *(The Week magazine, December 7, 2007)***

**No one will ever win the battle of the sexes. There's too much fraternizing with the enemy. *(Henry Kissinger)***

**Life in Lubbock, Texas, taught me that sex is the most awful, filthy thing on earth, and you should save it for someone you love. *(Butch Hancock, country musician)***

**Sex is the most compressed set of circumstances that we've got. Everything is in that collision. *(Arthur Miller)***

**The minister asked a group of teens what they were doing. “We’re seeing who can tell the biggest lie about their sex life,” a boy said. “I’m shocked,” the minister said. “When I was your age, I never thought about sex.” “You win!” the boy said. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**We are all born sexual creatures, thank God, but it is a pity so many people despise and crush this natural gift. *(Marilyn Monroe)***

**More sex, more sperm: Couples who are trying to get pregnant should have as much sex as possible, says a new study. The suggestion may seem an obvious one, but many couples actually abstain from sex on the belief that this will enable the man to build up a surplus of sperm for the time when a woman is at her most fertile. "I remember one couple in which the woman would only let the man ejaculate when she was in her fertile period," Dr. Allan Pacey tells BBCNews.com. "So the poor chap was going without for almost a month at a time." Such strategies are counterproductive, Dr. Pacey says, and can actually harm the quality of sperm. Having sex every day can increase a male's sperm production by 20 percent to 30 percent, and will also clear out old, damaged sperm to make way for the fresh swimmers right off the assembly line. *(The Week magazine, November 2, 2007)***

**When it comes to sex, the most important six inches are the ones between the ears. *(Dr. Ruth)***

**Semen’s natural antibiotic: Researchers recently discovered a startling fact about semen: it contains a substance that they believe to be an antibiotic at least as potent as penicillin. Scientists at West Germany’s Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry is now investigating the properties of “seminalplasmin,” an ingredient of semen discovered by accident during studies of artificial insemination of cattle in India. Seminalplasmin turns out to be a protein with an unusual ability. One inside the cell, it kills germs by preventing the synthesis of RNA, a chemical vital to cellular function and reproduction. In laboratory cultures, at least, the substance destroys streptococci and a number of other germs as effectively as penicillin, streptomycin and tetracycline. Seminalplasmin, which exists in humans as well as in animal semen, probably aids the health of both men and women. Karl Heinz Scheit, one of the researchers, speculates, for example, that it naturally protects women, through intercourse, from the microorganisms that often cause vaginal infections. Since semen normally contains many bacteria, which can be blamed for at least some cases of male infertility, seminalplasmin may also be nature’s way of ensuring fertility by keeping these bacteria under control. *(Newsweek)***

**Nostalgia is like sex: Every generation thinks it is discovering it for the first time. *(Michael Barrier, in Nation's Business)***

**If you're not a sex object, you're in trouble. *(Helen Gurley Brown)***

**Physics is like sex. It may give some practical results, but that's not why we do it. *(Nobel laureate Richard Feynman, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**Good week for: Feeling the spirit, after scientists at the University of Utah discovered that engaging in prayer has the same effect on religious people's brains as having sex. "We're just beginning to understand how the brain participates in experiences that believers interpret as spiritual, divine, or transcendent," said lead researcher Jeffrey Anderson. *(The Week magazine, December 9, 2016)***

**I was nine months pregnant and browsing at a garage sale when the homeowner asked me if I knew whether I was having a boy or a girl. I told her I didn't. As I left a few minutes later, she yelled after me, "I hope you get the sex you want!" *(Melanie Riley, in Reader's Digest)***

**Sex protects aging brains: Here's another good reason for older folks to keep making whoopee: An active sex life late in life may have a protective effect on the brain, helping older people stay mentally sharp. In a new study, British scientists gave more than 6,800 men and women between 50 and 89 years old a series of cognitive tests. The older men who were sexually active scored higher on number sequencing and word-recall tests. For women, an active sex life wasn't linked to higher scores on the number test, but it was associated with a better memory for words, reports Reuters.com. "It is possible that our results may be related to hormones which affect the brain -- and hence cognitive functions -- in men and women differently," says study author Hayley Wright. These findings don't prove a causal relationship between sex and improved brain health, but researchers note there are other perks associated with physical intimacy, including stress relief, improved sleep quality, and a stronger immune system. *(The Week magazine, February 26, 2016)***

**Overheard: "It was time to sit down with my son for a question-and-answer session about sex. I asked the questions, and he gave me the answers." *(Gary Apple, in Current Comedy)***

**In hindsight, I should have been more specific. I was visiting my doctor as part of a checkup after surgery. "When can I resume regular activities?" I asked. He blushed slightly. "You mean like sex?" "Actually, I was thinking of vacuuming." *(Patty Keberle, in Reader's Digest)***

**A high-school teacher was giving a lecture on male adolescence. "According to the latest research," said the instructor, "the average male teenager has a sexually related thought once every 17 seconds." Just then the bell rang. As the students shuffled toward the door, one teenage boy said to another, "One sexual thought every 17 seconds? Man, that's hard to believe!" "It sure is," the other replied. "What do you think about the other 16 seconds?" *(John R. Powers, in Do Black Patent Shoes Really Reflect Up?)***

**I’m so old, the first time I had sex it was in the back of a chariot. *(Joan Rivers)***

**The sexiest seasons: Human beings become friskier in early summer and early winter, new research has found. Villanova University psychologists analyzed Americans' Google searches over five years and discovered a semiannual jump in words related to sex. "Whether it was searches for 'eHarmony' or 'brothel,' there was this exact same pattern," study author Patrick Markey tells MyHealthNewsDaily.com: one above-average spike in June and July and another in December and January. Previous research into birth records, condom sales, and rates of abortions and sexually transmitted diseases has suggested heightened pursuit of intercourse during those months. One reason for the seasonal amorousness could be that during winter holidays or summer vacations, "being around more people, or being around people more often," triggers an increased desire for connection, Markey says. It could also be that humans are hormonally hardwired to copulate at those times, perhaps because giving birth in early spring or autumn presented an evolutionary advantage for our earliest ancestors. *(The Week magazine, August 24-31, 2012)***

**No species of life on earth requires sexual training. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**An advertisement in our local newspaper read: "Boyfriend wanted for female Siamese cat. Object: Kittens. Terms negotiable." Since I had a male Siamese, I called the party. The woman offered $10 an hour as a stud fee. I said, "You mean if it takes three hours, I'll get thirty dollars?" The woman answered, "Yes." Then I asked, "Suppose it takes six hours. Will I get sixty dollars?" After a long pause, the woman asked, "Just how old is your cat?" *(D. L. L., in Reader's Digest)***

**The toll of toxic sexism: Men who feel a need to dominate women and consider themselves “playboys” are more likely to suffer from depression and other psychological problems, according to new research. An analysis of nearly 80 different studies involving 20,000 men found those who adhere to traditional masculine norms – including a need to win, aggression, emotional isolation, and pursuit of sexual conquests – are more likely to suffer from depression,stress, body image issues, and substance abuse, reports The Washington Post. Because they believe manliness requires self-reliance, these men are also less likely to seek out help for their problems, leaving them isolated and deprived of meaningful relationships. The study’s lead author, Y. Joel Wong, argues that sexist ideas about “manly” behavior are toxic to society as a whole, but that it’s possible for men to reinvent their interpretation of masculinity. “Just because you’ve always behaved in a particular way,” Wong says, “doesn’t mean you’ve got no choice.” *(The Week magazine, December 9, 2016)***

**Sex is like money. Only too much is enough. *(John Updike)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Residents of an Irish village claim that fumes from a nearby Viagra factory make the locals unusually frisky. People in Ringaskiddy claim that their sex lives have improved since production of the erectile dysfunction drug began locally in 1998. "One whiff and you're stiff," local residents are fond of saying. The locals attribute a baby boom in the early 2000s to the factory and insist the vapors are even affecting the village's dogs, which they say "walk around in a state of sexual excitement." *(The Week magazine, December 15, 2017)***

**An older father noticed his son's Viagra tablets in the medicine cabinet. "Could I try one?" he asked. "Sure," his son said, "but make the most of it. Each of those pills costs ten bucks." His dad was shocked by the price. "Don't worry," he promised, "I'll pay you back." The next morning the son found an envelope under his breakfast plate. Inside was $110. "Dad," he said, "that pill only cost $10." "I know," his father said, smiling. "The ten is from me. The hundred is from your mother." *(Don Kelly, in Reader's Digest)***

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**Sexiness wears thin after a while and beauty fades, but to be married to a man who makes you laugh every day, ah, now that’s a real treat. *(Joanne Woodward)***

**Scientists studying worms in the highly irradiated ground of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster zone have discovered the creatures are having far more sex than their counterparts living elsewhere. The team of biologists from the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas in Sevastopol found that nearly a quarter of irradiated worms are seeking out partners to reproduce sexually rather than asexually, compared to about 5 percent in less-radioactive areas. It appears sexual reproduction allows the worms to transmit their most radioactivity-resistant genes to their offspring, giving them a better chance of surviving the harsh environment, according to one biologist. *(Rocky Mountain News, April 28, 2003)***

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