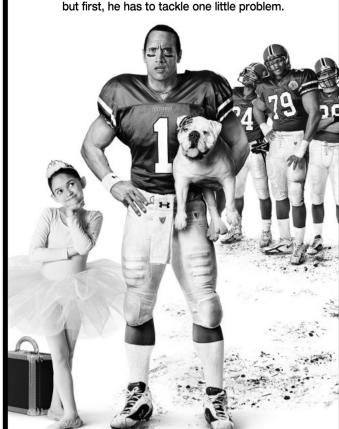
# **DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON** Joe Kingman had the perfect game plan to win the championship...



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## Her bio-clock is ticking. Can boyfriend tell time?

Dear Carolyn: I am a 35-year-old woman in a committed relationship of several years. My boyfriend, 38, is still "not ready" to get married, and I know the situation is unlikely to change soon. I feel like I need to decide between staying with him or leaving for the possibility of children with someone else. If not for my age, I would be happy to stay and see what happens, as I love him and our life together. But I am afraid of waiting until it's too late, only to realize that I wish I'd had kids. How do I possibly make this decision?

Washington

Dear Washington: Same way you make all the others: with your facts, your brain, your heart, your instincts, and, if you're honest with yourself, your hands in the air as you go, "Wheeeeee!" off the ledge of whatever.

Look at it this way. This boyfriend "of several years" knows you, knows your age, knows your circumstances. He knows, in other words, that sacrificing your fertility might be a direct consequence of waiting for him to make up his mind about you.

I don't mean to imply that all men have a duty either to marry or leave the women they're dating within 30 days of the wom-



CAROLYN HAX

en's 35th birthdays. If a man needs time, then he needs time.

But his reason had better be good, in this case that you both agree it's of greater import than your ability to bear children.

That definition comes from what I believe is one of the main rewards of a healthy long-term commitment: knowing someone has your back.

And since you seem to have singled this guy out as a good spouse, it's a natural question: Is he watching your back here as attentively, at least, as he's watching his own, without prompting?

Dear Carolyn: I am a friendly guy and routinely strike up conversations with random strangers. But God forbid I approach an "attractive" woman. I get the rudest responses! It's really quite startling. Can you provide some insights on why this is so? I approach everyone in the same easygoing manner. Is it because they "can"? Is it a defense mechanism against unwanted advances? I find it more humorous than anything else — as well as an excellent "don't date me" filter.

— D.C.

Dear D.C.: Of course it's a defense mechanism; you know that. The real question here is, does that make it OK?

The easy answer: No, rudeness never

It's also possible that you (and the roughly 5,475 guys who've approached the average babe by the time she's 28) were merely deflected, with courtesy, but also with such finality that you feel like roadkill. And roadkill never feels bad for

Remember, too, that attracting a lot of attention means at least some scary attention. Polite is ideal, but sometimes effective is best.

Tell Me About It is written by Carolyn Hax of The Washington Post. Her column appears on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. E-mail her at tellme@

#### HOROSCOPES

#### **By Holiday Mathis** CREATORS SYNDICATE

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The wrong associations drag you down, and the right ones help you fly. If you can't tell which category someone falls into, be slow to commit while you gather information. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You're in need

of fun, reviving distractions. If an activity doesn't appeal to you, take it off the schedule. You have better things to do, like goofing off! Put that on your calendar in red. GEMINI (May 21-June 21): It's all about manners. You're thinking of others first and therefore handling problems before they even look like problems. If everyone were

so in tune, peace would prevail.

circumstances without feeling that you've resigned yourself or settled. Once you decide to take a situation as it is, you find that the way it is is plenty good for you. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Lofty, unreasonable goals are the only ones worth your effort.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): You can accept

If what you want isn't crazy enough to elicit desire in you, it won't have enough juice to motivate you. You really, really want it? You'll get it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You most enjoy those who have the subtle ability to amplify who you are instead of trying to alter it. You're waiting to hear the click between you and a new person before you decide how to proceed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Your sense of what is possible is all out of whack, which is good for you and good for the world. If you knew better, you wouldn't attempt half of the things you try. And you're suc-

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You've always found the human psyche fascinating, and you will continue to be entranced by those you observe now. You'll even impress yourself when you yank an important fact from deep in your memory.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're juggling obligations and chores. You don't have to do it all alone, you know. Talk to friends and family. If they can't take a duty off your hands, at least they'll help vou brainstorm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You easily gain someone's trust. Guard it carefully because it is also easily lost. Tonight is a lucky time to jot down rough ideas for furthering your masterpiece or grand

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be surprised or offended if you encounter some good-natured ribbing and a few chuckles for your recent self-improvement efforts. Stay positive and in a few weeks, you'll be the one laughing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You're hearing whispers of intuition that get louder as you pay more attention. As a result of merely following your inklings, something mysterious and transformative will hap-

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