

MISS MANNERS

For better or worse
looks worse to her

Dear Miss Manners: When I met my husband, 25 years ago, we worked together in a restaurant. I went on to college to become highly educated with a master's degree and am presently working



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on my doctorate. I'm presently an educator, respected by my colleagues, and admired by my family and friends, none of whom has advanced as far as I have or ever will.

My husband (I'll call him D), on the other hand, has the exact same job he did when I met him — he's a fry cook, a job held almost exclusively by teens, dropouts and ex-cons. D has refused to go back to school or even attempt a professional career, claiming that it's just too late to start over.

• **Our advice columnists:**

Sunday, Thursday: Cheryl Lavin, "Tales From the Front"

Monday, Friday: Judith Martin, "Miss Manners"

Tuesday, Saturday: Harlan Cohen, "Help Me, Harlan!"

Wednesday: "Elder Wisdom Circle"

D, knowing that he will never be my intellectual equal, has gone to great lengths to try and appear incredibly important by 1) referring to himself as a chef (he isn't), 2) keeping in constant view his beeper, cell phone and fax machine, 3) insisting on buying a new car every few years, 4) passing out his business cards, etc. All the while, he insists, "I must stay in touch with my people 24-7."

His constant efforts to show how important he is have made him a laughing stock, and I can no longer take the embarrassment. Do you or your readers have any suggestions as to how to deal with a husband who I feel is constantly dragging me down? I didn't go to college for 10 years to be on the arm of someone that always reeks of fish and onions.

Gentle Reader: Miss Manners suggests that you end the embarrassment by associating only with people at your own level. There are a great many cold-hearted snobs from among whom you can choose, and it will spare your husband, other relatives and friends the embarrassment you must be causing them.