



The Fates say 'no dice' on dates

It's an interesting phenomenon. It's happened too many times to count. Each time I begin to think about asking a girl out — just when the thought crosses my mind — panic sets in.

Sitting at home, or walking down the street, the problem isn't too acute. It's when the fateful moment arrives that disaster strikes.

editor's note frank shaw

Like the time I met a girl at the EMU Fishbowl. I went into the deli to get a Coke.

Here was my chance, I thought. I sauntered nonchalantly across the room, stepped up to her table — and spilled my Coke all over her books.

So much for asking her to a movie.

Or the time I ran into a prospective date while paying fees after registration. After about 10 minutes of casual conversation while I tried to work my courage up, I gave up. Well, I've got to get going, I said. Maybe we'll run into each other on campus sometime, she suggested.

Here was my chance, I thought. What did I do? I took two steps backwards, slipped and fell down a short flight of stairs.

I crawled off into the sunset.

How about offering to walk a girl to the bus station, spending half the trip trying to get up enough nerve to ask her out, stepping in a patch of ice, sen-

ding the luggage one way, me the other and my pride vanishing.

What do they say about three strikes? Standing in a bus, holding on to the hand rail and having a conversation with a girl seated on the aisle. Just as I got myself psyched, a biker cut in front of the bus, the driver slammed on his brakes and I went flying about 10 feet through the air, landed on my back in the aisle and slid the remainder of the way to the front of the bus where the trash can stopped my slide by dumping its contents on me.

I tumbled out at the next stop. But the most embarrassing incident took place at the Campus Branch of U.S. Bank.

I ran into a girl while waiting in line to cash a check. We talked casually about the weather, midterms, as we worked our way slowly through the line. I got to the teller, cashed my check, turned around to ask this girl to lunch — and fell over the little red ropes strung all over the place, knocking over all the poles.

So much for lunch. "Dear Abby" would probably recommend counseling. "Ann Landers" might suggest seeking help from a member of the clergy. Freud might blame it on a poor childhood and an unconscious desire to avoid relationships.

I just think it's the Fates conspiring to keep me single.

Maybe hypnotism would help, maybe a witch-doctor or a good shrink. Or maybe I'll go through the rest of my life single. My Saturday nights are for laundry.

Frank Shaw is the news editor of the Emerald.

letters

Wrong number

A recent national poll by the New York Times and CBS News showed that only 29 percent of the respondents in the national survey said they have heard enough to know what will happen on Jan. 1, 1984, when the AT&T breakup takes effect. Unfortunately, people are learning through Bell and AT&T advertising, and coming away with some misconceptions.

AT&T may say they liked things as they were in the past, but they also welcome the breakup because now they come into the open market with an established name, great technology, and massive assets. The settlement between AT&T and the Justice Department is anything but punitive in nature.

In 1934, the federal government got together with AT&T with the goal of providing universal, affordable telephone service to everyone in the nation. In order to reach this admirable goal, AT&T was allowed to monopolize the phone industry. Long distance use was to subsidize local use. In the past, AT&T contributed 37 cents for every dollar that a local Bell possessed. After divestiture, that 37 percent "subsidy" will be gone. Who will pay?

One idea is to have AT&T Longlines, MCI, Sprint and other long distance companies assume the cost of filling that void of 37 percent. This would force these companies to each pay a fair share of the load. Through this charge, these companies would be paying

a fee for the use of local Bell switching equipment. After all, what good is a long distance phone call without a local Bell to complete it?

This idea is unsatisfactory to AT&T Longlines, MCI, Sprint and the other long distance carriers. Since this charge would prevent a decrease in long distance rates, corporate long distance customers would be upset (corporations make up an overwhelming majority of long distance calls). The long distance carriers are afraid to upset their long distance customers, because they might bypass all phone systems by building their own private network. This would increase costs for all phone users, and cut the profits of AT&T Longlines and the others dramatically.

Therefore, it is easier to force residential customers to gradually assume the major burden of the cost, and charge them for the ability to make a long distance call. This is why we are constantly hearing about inevitable monumental rate hikes and long distance access charges.

These rate hikes would be disastrous for residential users. If costs rise only 200 percent in the next decade (a common projection), half of the elderly and very poor would be without telephones.

Obviously, a compromise must be worked out. That compromise should begin with a stated goal of universal, affordable telephone service to everyone. On Dec. 3, OSPIRG is sponsoring a symposium on campus on AT&T divestiture. Entitled "Phone Ser-

vice: A Right or a Privilege?", it will include legislators, utility and corporate spokespersons and citizens discussing the issue. The public is essentially invited. In the meantime, call Bell's divestiture information number, 1-800-555-5000. Find out as much as you can about the issue before Jan. 1, 1984, so you won't be surprised.

Tedrick Housh
OSPIRG intern

No offense

Rick Bay's suggestion to waive tuition for athletes on scholarships is shoddy, if not offensive.

Presently, the University athletic department pays for the scholarships, but Bay, University athletic director, is looking to the state Legislature to pick up the tab by waiving athletes' tuition. The waiver would make available to the athletic department close to \$1 million for program improvements such as higher coaches salaries, better facilities, more athletic scholarships and greater support of minor sports. All of this upgrading made for the sake of a competitive sports program.

Bay cites two reasons to maintain a big-time athletic department. One reason being the publicity and attractiveness a winning team brings to the University; however, I suspect most students select a college on the basis of its academic offerings rather than its box scores. Bay's second assertion — that a competitive program draws money to

the community — is somewhat valid; however, I mistrust the \$3 million figure Bay claimed was brought to Eugene by the Washington-Oregon football game.

The waiver plan has one more fault — money, or, more specifically, a lack of it. Bay says the state will "simply absorb the cost." Unfortunately, \$1 million is not simply absorbed; it is passed on to students and parents through higher tuition and taxes.

So I suggest Bay bag his plan until he can supply good reason and money to back up his scheme.

Paul Priestman
pre-journalism

Civil rights

The people of the United States are concerned with the security of our nation and they care about the declining state of our economy. Unfortunately, not many people are speaking out for Human Rights for the people of the world, nor for their own Civil Rights here in the U.S. Hence many of our leaders have not supported a strong Civil Rights agenda, and in fact the present Reagan administration has even violated and tread upon Civil Rights and Liberties!

I believe that the people of the world are becoming more concerned about nuclear, environmental, and Civil Rights issues; however, we need to speak out more. We must not underestimate the power of an individual and the impact that she or he can make in the political arena. Our founding fathers set up this nation as one to be "run by the people, and for the people." I think that they would be shocked to see how much power

our executive has received and how many have abused this power. If we are all so patriotic, then why don't we act like it by not only standing by our government's side, but by also being critical of it when it makes a grave mistake or walks all over our rights as citizens?

Therefore, we should support leaders who support Civil Rights and Liberties. We should ask our leaders to support Civil Rights. We cannot afford to tolerate Reagan's actions, such as the firing of our Civil Rights (CRC) leaders; his support of "brutal revolutionary thugs"; the invasion of Grenada; his medal awarding secret ceremonies for Human Rights violators (Helms); and his long history of paranoid politics.

Reagan's policies aren't strictly perogative, they are obviously often imperial. Russia and the United States' governments are simply defending their spheres of influences and interests. Yet enroute they are stomping on the Civil Rights of the people who live in these "spheres."

Military intervention helps in the short run (i.e. Grenada), but not in the long run (i.e. Chile). We must care about other nations' interests as well as our own. Politics is not easy; there are a lot of tough and controversial issues, but they must be met immediately. We cannot go on supporting the Reagan administrations present policies.

We must look behind the Reagan administration's military "victories" and come to the realization that he simply wants to "stick it to the Russians." The man is paranoid. These are facts that can't be ignored.

Robert Gerowe
political science, journalism

letters policy

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Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

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