

Service investigates potential partners

Marcelene Edwards

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It is often hard to tell much about the personality or history of a person from meeting him or her in a bar or even a church. Dinner and a movie does not provide a comprehensive glimpse into the life of a potential love interest.

This person could have a criminal record or could already be married. Finding this type of information is difficult and time-consuming, so Linda Peterson, co-owner of Women for Women Reporting Service, started a business to make it easier.

The reporting service allows women to research the background of a partner through public records and private services.

"I do basic background research so [clients] can make an informed choice about what they are doing," Peterson said.

The basic service costs \$150, but Peterson said she may develop another service that would investigate only criminal activity and cost less.

About 25 women have con-

tacted Peterson in the six months she has been in business to do confidential background research and to look for a history of domestic violence, alcohol abuse and any other criminal activity that may have been committed by potential partners.

One Eugene woman, who owned a preschool, contacted Peterson to find some background information about potential employees who would take care of children. She was worried about a history of child abuse or molestation. She was able to get records on applicants through Peterson.

"Women for Women Reporting Service Inc. delves into your partner's past by following the train of public records obtained from government and private agencies," a company brochure reported.

Although the description sounds similar to a detective agency, it is not, Peterson said. Women for Women Reporting Service does not find missing people, follow people, provide

photos or serve legal papers.

"But it is a good place to start looking for information," she said.

The subjects of the searches are not notified and all the results are mailed to maintain the confidentiality of the service.

Peterson said she started the reporting service because she saw more and more women affected by dishonest men.

Although the title of the company suggests it only helps women, Peterson said she would also like to make her services available to men. Men can also be victims of dishonest partners, she said.

"I've seen the wreckage these types of relationships can cause," she said.

Newspaper reports about people being stalked, battered and killed are becoming more common. The vast majority of these assaults are committed by acquaintances, she said.

"Domestic abuse is not only dangerous, it can be deadly," she said.

But sometimes the assault isn't physical, she said. The partner a person chooses to share a bank account with may have hidden debts that could become joint debts if the couple get married. Men may already be married or they may have children they neglected to mention.

Often the research Peterson conducts shows no history of harmful behavior, and clients are relieved to find that out. In cases such as this, "no news is good news," she said.

About 75 percent of her investigations have turned up clean. The others involved alcohol offenses and a few minor instances, she said.

When the research is done, Peterson gives the client a binder containing all of the documentation she found and the contacts at the agencies from which it came. The client is then free to investigate further.

"We don't just leave them in the dark, but refer them to a variety of different agencies that can help," she said.

■ ET ALS

MEETINGS

Take Back the Night will meet today from 2 to 3 p.m. in EMU Century Room F. For more information, call 346-4095.

Asian/Pacific-American Student Union will meet today from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-4342.

EMU Board of Directors House Committee will meet today from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-3720.

RELIGION

Newman Center will offer the first student Mass of spring term tonight at 9 at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St.

MISCELLANEOUS

ECCO-Design Arts Conference will have a mandatory meeting for volunteers today at 5 p.m. in Room 279 Lawrence. Four hours of volunteer work is rewarded with free admission to the conference. For more information, call 346-0719.

The Southwestern Company will have information available about its summer opportunities today from 3 to 8 p.m. in EMU Century Room E. For more information, call 346-3235.

Career Center will offer a workshop on resume writing today from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. Sign up with the receptionist in Room 244 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.

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FITNESS WORKOUT SCHEDULE - SPRING 1995

| | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI |
|------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| NOON | Body Sculpting 352 GRX | | Body Sculpting 352 GRX | | Basic Bench 220 GER |
| 3:30 | | High/Low Aerobics 352 GRX | | High/Low Aerobics 352 GRX | Motion Aerobics 352 GRX |
| 4:30 | | Basic Bench 220 GER | | Basic Bench 220 GER | Friday Freebie 220 GER |
| 5:15 | Low Impact 352 GRX | | Low Impact 352 GRX | | |
| 6:00 | Basic Bench 220 GER | | Basic Bench 220 GER | | |
| 6:30 | | | | Basic Bench 220 GER | |
| 7:00 | Bench & Weights 220 GER | | Bench & Weights 220 GER | | |

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REGISTRATION - 102 Eöelinger
Registration begins Monday, March 27th, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
CLASSES RUN FROM April 3rd to May 26th, 1995.
For more information call 6-4113 or drop by 102 Eöelinger.