

Ideas on love, sex vary with gender

By Cheryl Lavin
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There's an old saying that if you want find out about something — a car, a camera, a laptop computer — ask the man who owns one.

So, when you want to find out about the female psyche, ask a woman. When you want to know how the male mind works, ask a man. ...

PEGGY SUE: "Men say they don't know why they can't get a date. It's very simple, but a lot of men seem to be offended by the simple truth. In this world, there is a 1-to-10 scale that determines pecking order by factoring in looks, education, income, toys, hobbies and personality. Women are constantly adding up a man's points to see if she should go out with him. A man may be smart and have a good income, but if he giggles after everything he says, or clears his throat incessantly and wears shirts with worn collars, he becomes a four. Little mannerisms that he may not even be aware of can turn women off fast. A good-looking, high-wage guy may constantly check out other women when he's on a date. That lowers him to a five.

"It's important for a man to have a realistic number rating for himself and to look for a date with a similar number. In other words, if a guy has a high school education, works as a clerk at Wal-Mart and drives a 1996 Plymouth, he shouldn't hit on a model. He should go where women he approaches will think he's great. (He should hit on someone like another clerk with a high school education who drives a used car.)

"I know this is America, and it greatly offends people when you suggest that we aren't all equal, but the people offended are usually the fours who don't want to make an effort to improve because that would be too much work. We can all improve ourselves — by taking

a public-speaking class, by making trips to the gym to buff up, by talking to a well-dressed sales clerk in a good store, by seeing a dentist and a hair stylist — but most of us will never be tens."

RALPH: "It's very simple. Men don't like to be changed.

"Ladies, if it's important to you to change the man in your life (which seems to be the norm), please do not wait until after the "L word" is spoken. All the women with whom I have shared a loving relationship have attempted to change me, but none of them started in on the process until we were well into sharing important parts of our lives. Please! Let me know if you want to change me. I will smile, hug you and quietly leave."

DOUG: "Romance and honesty are not always compatible, which is why many men will tell women what they want to hear. The more money they have, the more they're likely to romance a woman simply for the thrill of the chase. Some men go into a relationship simply to prove their masculinity. This is a sign of immaturity. Some men do it to prove they can still attract a woman. This is a sign of midlife insecurity. Some do it because they are looking for their next success story. This is the sign of a born salesman. Women need to understand that some of us mean what we say, but some of us don't. 'Boys will be boys' aptly describes a good percentage of men."

CAITLIN: "If I were a man, I could have any woman I wanted, because I would know just what to say and do. Women are suckers for flattery and soft talk. They love extravagant gestures they can share with their friends. That's why a woman would much rather have flowers sent to her office than to her home. I believe men really know these things, but some kind of weird male stubbornness makes them not do it."



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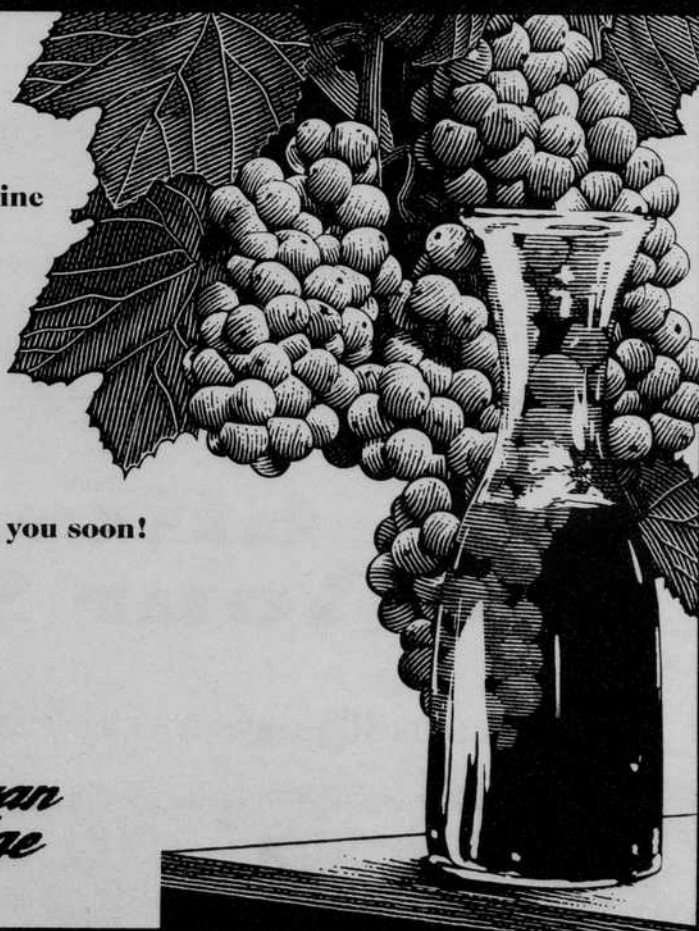
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