

Dating season: isn't it time we made the hunt official?



Marvin Baker
Guest Columnist

Let me be the first to officially welcome you back to Spring term. I myself had a frenzied little break, accomplished absolutely nothing of consequence, and gained back five more pounds than the ten I lost last term. Needless to say I'm kinda pissed about that, so I'm looking for somebody to take it out on. How's that for a disclaimer.

I'd like to call this piece the secret to successful dating. I'd like to, but I can't. As I've already pointed out in one of my classes last week, busy does not necessarily mean successful. Sad to say people, but I've taken bad timing to new highs, or lows, if you will. See if any of this sounds familiar guys, "I'm sorry, I already have a boyfriend. Thanks for dinner though...next time we should ALL do something together." How about this one, "Does your friend so-and-so have a girlfriend?" Or my personal favorite, "How did you get in here?" No, busy simply translates into tired, broke, and, in my case, heavier from all that restaurant food. So I'm declaring a general strike against all things dating. I expect this to last until Elizabeth Hurley loses touch with reality and becomes exceedingly desperate, or at least until I finish the Calvin and Hobbes anthology, whichever comes first.

I'm assuming most of you are like me (except younger and better looking with a flatter stomach, social skills and a car), and you'd like an easier way to sort through potential dating prospects without the endless hours sifting through their garbage or hiding in some prickly shrub freezing your ass off. I believe I may have such a solution, a solution that would solve the problem for both sexes. What I propose is a regulated dating season,

complete with licensing requirements and tags. There is already a government infrastructure in place that could easily be modified to enforce dating permits and eligibility. Fish and Game for instance, although a name change might be in order; we wouldn't want homosexual men and straights to feel that lesbians and bondage practitioners had preference for registration.

Here's how it would work: you simply fill out the application with all the pertinent information, take a physical, psych test, and maybe an oral exam for compatibility (no pun intended). After the screening process and reference checks of previous relationships, you would be issued a visible tag - possibly a wristband with color-coded markings - and officially registered as OTM, On The Market. The regular season would, of course, run from May thru December, with lotteries for extra trolling privileges available for rebounders, divorcees and winter birthdays.

Think about it guys, if she already has a boyfriend, this information would be readily available from across the room. How about a nice fire engine red stripe for emotional instability? Maybe something reversible for those of you who swing both ways? Even the excess tag dangling from a guy's bracelet could be a useful reference tool. Keep in mind this isn't a perfect plan; I still haven't figured out how to prevent some jerk-off with a pair of scissors from trimming down his competition, but I'm working on it.

To keep things equitable, we would also be issued quick reference cards to discern some of the more exotic coding we're bound to eventually come across. Want to know what that rocket with the circle and slash on her tag means? There'd be no guesswork involved. A quick check of the old reference card would tell us guys to leave her alone. That's not a rocket; you'd be wasting your time. When you get sick of dating just exchange the tag for a pint of Ben and Jerry's at the local Health Department. If you change your mind there's always poaching.

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Violence class Gift of Fear put off until fall due to low enrollment

SHADRA BEESLEY

Staff Writer

Have you ever been in danger and not known it? Have you ever felt fear when you were not actually in danger? The Gift of Fear, a class that will be offered Fall Term at Clackamas, explores feelings of fear and the causes of those feelings.

This class is designed to help students understand the difference between irrational fear and fear based on real danger. This class also studies violence, reasons people commit violent acts and warning signs that people are prone to violence. It is based on the book "The Gift of Fear" by Gavin de Becker.

David Campbell will be one of the instructors teaching The Gift of Fear. He has been a counselor at the college for 21 years, and thinks that educating people about fear and violence is essential. The most important reason to take this course is "so people can protect themselves against becoming the victim of a violent act," he said. Campbell's main concern is helping women avoid violent relationships.



INTERNET PHOTO

Campbell will begin by presenting a brief history of violent acts and explore the causes and consequences of those acts. The rest of the class is dedicated to studying the psychology, science and evolution of fear and violence. It will touch on fears linked to terrorist acts and how to alleviate those fears.

The students and faculty at Clackamas are not the only people interested in this course. Three weeks ago, KINK FM, a

Portland radio station, invited Campbell and his co-instructor Rosemary Jane-Craven to talk on the air about the course.

The three credit class will be listed under Human Development and Leadership in the fall schedule. For more information, contact the counseling department at (503) 657-6958 ext 2213.

To reach Shadra Beesley e-mail heterodox@onebox.com or drop by B-104.

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