



NEWS AROUND TOWN

Selecting A Mate For Life Takes Patience And Faith . . .

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

You know, it's not often when I'm around friends, office mates, or family members where the topic of love does not arise. Everyone wants love in their life and that special person/mate/significant other to be by one's side during those dark moments (the good ones too), and periods of doubt. It has almost become an obsession with people.

What people do not realize is that falling in love is the easy part. It is so easy to fall in love. Sometimes, it can even be for all the wrong reasons. Becoming that significant other/mate/significant person is tougher than falling in love. It takes considerable reflection, thought, and time to decide whether or not a person is the one you would like to spend your life with. Some of my friends have known as quick as 90 days that he or she was/is the one and unfortunately, there are those who spent many years together before concluding that he or she was not the one.

For lack of a better analogy, selecting a mate is like buying an automobile. You check the marketplace, the history or track record of the car, and more importantly, does it serve all your needs. One can purchase a "used" car (involve themselves in a "short term" affair) and get the most miles as possible out of the situation. In doing so, the encounter is designed not for the long term, but for a short period of time. On the other hand, if one thinks in terms of having an automobile around for a very long time, it is worth "every dollar" spent or the "amount of time" it takes to

cultivate a decent relationship with another person.

Once the car is purchased or the relationship established, there is a strong need for maintenance or proper care. Like the automobile, relationships need regular "oil changes" and proper care. Relationships also need tune ups and emotional, spiritual, and psychological check ups. If you allow your relationship to go an extended period of time without an oil change, like the car, the engine will die on you.

So many relationships die because they need an "oil change or a new tire." People need to ask their potential mate/significant person/significant other what love means to them and vice versa. People have different perceptions about what love is or is not. These things need to be clarified up front as opposed to when the engine goes bad.

Selecting a mate is important because we are talking "til death do us" part, not the new way of terminating marriages, "til divorce do us part." We are talking about sharing personal space, values, habits, and lifestyles. Does he leave the top off the toothpaste? Is she a "junky" person? Though trivial examples, sharing your life means a commitment to accepting another individual for who they are and not what you want him or her to be. It's not about changing someone or ones attitude after the mate selection process.

We all have family members or good friends in our lives who we know that we can not share the same environment with. How many times have you told your brother or sister that you love them, but you would find it difficult to

live with them? You know their habits, ways, how responsible they are, and what you do not like about them. The same scrutiny you put your brothers and sisters through in terms of development of a solid relationship should apply, in my opinion, when selecting a mate. It is so important to know who you are going to spend the rest of your life with.

There is no greater feeling than mutual love. Loving someone that loves you just as much, but can you spend the rest of your life with that person. Does that person want what you want when you want it? Relationships or the mate selection process not only must be in the same page. You can not make an individual want what you want. They must desire what you want. Sure, a person might want the same thing you want in days to come, but do you have the patience or desire to wait it out? Do you move on to someone with your same desires? Again, you can not change a person or make them want what you want.

Once you and your special person/mate/significant other have established the tone you desire for positive emotional, intellectual, and psychological growth--then you are on the path to healthy interaction. It is important that you listen, support the goals/dreams, and respect your partner also.

Get the love you want. Do not fall victim to the quick fix or "used car" premise. Be patient and keep the faith. Remember, the bonds of matrimony aren't worth much unless the interest is kept up . . .

This Week in History

by Angellique Sanders

Recently, I went to see "The Handmaid's Tale", a movie that is conceptually reminiscent of George Orwell's 1984. It depicts a completely male-dominated society. The female characters were uproarious and rebellious, and could not be "whipped into shape". A comment from a nearby audience member was to the effect that this aspect of the movie was unrealistic, as one could presume this society of male-domination was highly advanced (in that it was meticulously organized and orderly) and by that time, the women would've been more subdued and would mostly have accepted their role as the repressed.

This is a sensible argument. However, history has proven it is not applicable. Just as cream in milk, many fighters of the status quo have risen up in protest and helped to fight inequality for us all.

Many of these people receive just recognition: Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Gloria Steinem; the list goes on and on. Many of the fighters, though, go unnoticed. You might even be one of them.

We, as a people, can remedy this with education. (It would be better, of course, to--instead of applying the band-aid of education to the wound of inequality--to heal the scar entirely, but this is idealistic to the point of unrealism. Until we can wipe out the whole problem, education is the greatest step we can make.) As Janet Jackson--a fighter in her own way--said, "We're in a race between education and catastrophe."

April 30, 1958-Defying a 700-year-old

tradition (well, restriction), Queen Elizabeth passes a law that permits women to have voting power in the House of Lords. Previous to this ruling, women could not obtain memberships to this upper house of parliament.

April 25, 1959-A masked lynch mob in Poplarville, Mississippi decides to devise their own system of justice: they shot and killed a Black man, Mack Charles Parker, accused of raping a white woman.

Parker was in jail awaiting trial, but the mob members didn't feel like holding off until the verdict. Townspeople added to the hysteria, making it clear they did not want a Black man--Parker's lawyer--questioning a white woman (of course, the townspeople saw nothing wrong with the fact that no African Americans were on the jury).

Mack Charles Parker's body was found in Pearl River by a boatman.

Though the F.B.I. investigated the case and subsequently submitted a report, which allegedly detailed who the members of the mob were, the Justice Department said no federal laws were violated (then it's time to change the laws!) and resigned to inaction. The matter was passed on to a Pearl River County jury, and next to federal grand jury (who looked into possible civil rights' violations): both saw nothing wrong or immoral about the mob's actions; both failed to indict. April 25, 1960-A report on the problems of aging illustrates the problems the elderly are having finding work. The 4% unemployment rate of the time included a disproportionate number of elderly. Louis H. Rabin of the Department of

Health, Education, and Welfare conceded that "old men...find almost insurmountable competition from young men and young and attractive women...this is the result in large measure of a negative attitude [toward the elderly] in society."

April 27, 1960-Police and soldiers in Johannesburg, South Africa raided the West bank African settlement and arrested 312 Blacks on charges of...WORK SHIRKING AND LACK OF PASS-BOOKS. In the ten days preceding this, the total arrests in similar circumstances numbered over 3,000. (I wonder what happened to a Black man who jaywalked...?)

April 25, 1965-One thousand racist whites marched in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, led by Lester Maddox, a man known for his bigotry. A white non-racist threw a smoke bomb on the crowd, and police re-routed the march (though did not terminate it, despite the fact that the park they used to speak and march at had been turned down as a possible marching sight).

Lester Maddox, during the previous week, was found innocent of chasing African Americans out of his restaurant with a pistol. The Blacks were attempting to desegregate the diner.

April 30, 1968-In response to Dr. Charles Spry's offer to establish a medical clinic for social dropouts, then-commissioner Francis Ivancie states: "I'm not interested in helping create any hippie heaven here in Portland." IN Portland, Ivancie--according to the Oregonian--"cracked down on long-hairs in the Lovejoy Fountain."

COMMUNITY CALENDER

Parents Without Partners Family Memorial Day Picnic

All Portland area single families, and especially PWP Alumni, are invited to a family Memorial Day picnic on Monday, May 28th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Laurelhurst Park, SE 39th and Ankeny, in Portland. PWP will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, tablewear and beverages. Participants are requested to bring side dishes and desserts. There will be games, camaraderie, and fun for everyone. This event is open to the public. For more in-

formation, call 257-3649.

The Jefferson Acting Ensemble Performances

The Jefferson Acting Ensemble presents premier performances of three one acts. La Pisca (the Harvest), So Much Water So Close To Home and The Three Little Pigs. A British Panto are each the culmination of the ensemble's efforts with renowned guest playwrights, choreographers, composers and performers. The Jefferson Acting Ensemble's performance is the result of a multi-ethnic company of 12 actors and one

technician ages 15-18.

The ensemble performs at The Portland Center for the Performing Arts, April 28, 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 29, 7:00 p.m. Tickets available at the Portland Center, GI Joe's and all Ticket Master Outlets. Students \$5.00, Adults \$8.00. For information call 280-5180.

King Neighborhood Clean-Up Day

The King Neighborhood Association discussed at its last meeting, April 24, the clean-up scheduled for May 12. The King annual

clean-up will start at the old Fred Meyer parking lot, NE 7th Ave. and Emerson St. There will be lots of work, fun, food and neighborliness, be there at 10:00 a.m. Cleanup will last until 3:00 p.m. There will be dump boxes for yard debris, tires (preferably without rims, limit of 5 per household) Please no garbage or toxic chemicals.

AMA Banquet

The Albina Ministerial Alliance will hold its 11th Annual banquet "Commitment with Action-Agenda For The 90's", Friday, April

27, 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Airport (John Q. Hammond Trade Center).

Mr. Charles Jordan, Superintendent of Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation will be the speaker. Ticket price is \$29.95 and can be purchased by calling the AMA office at 285-0493.

If your club, church, school or non-profit organization has an event you want community support for, please call 288-0033 or drop by the Portland Observer office at M.L.King Jr. Blvd and N. Wygant to give us the where, when and who. The Portland Observer reserves the right to edit for space and style

American Score D+ On Retirement IQ Quiz

Most American don't know how much income they'll need to retire, according to a national "Retirement IQ Quiz" conducted by The Gallup Organization for Fidelity Investments earlier this year.

"The average score on the ten question test was 67 percent--a D+," said Leonard Nelson, vice president and manager of Fidelity's Portland Investor Center. "It tells us there is a dangerous gap in Americans' understanding of the financial realities of retirement."

One-half of Americans expect to live as well in retirement as they do now, Nelson pointed out, but they don't know the price of maintaining their lifestyle. Almost two-thirds of those taking the quiz either underestimated or didn't know how much income they will need when they retire.

Portland residents who want to check their retirement IQs can contact the local Fidelity office at 503/222-5717 to receive a free copy of the Retirement IQ Quiz.

Financial planners saw we need 60 to 80 percent of our income at the time

of retirement. Therefore, a couple with an annual income of \$50,000 would need between \$30,000 and \$40,000 annually to have a comfortable retirement. With the maximum Social Security benefit for a single-income couple today at \$17,550, there is an annual gap of at least \$12,450 that will have to be filled.

Other findings from the Fidelity/Gallup research:

Scores on the quiz improved with age. The oldest group taking the quiz, 55 to 64, were the most knowledgeable about the amount of income they will need to retire.

Regional differences were pronounced, with Midwesterners answering the most questions correctly. Knowledge levels tended to be lower in the South and West.

The majority of Americans (57 percent) are worried about whether the government will have adequate resources to meet the needs of retired citizens after the year 2000, compared to 49 percent who are worried about health care costs, and 45 percent about inflation.

A Wake Up Call To A Pledge

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Recently, I was "faxed" some information from a ms. Peggy Ross of Beaverton, Oregon. She read a story that I wrote several weeks ago ("Enjoy Your Parents While They Are Still In This World") and later sent me the following poem by Maya Angelou. Not only did Ms. Ross suggest, as I did, that we enjoy our parents, but everyone in our family. Without my editorializing or sharing additional insight, let me suggest to all those reading this poem to cut it out, put it where your family can see, and make a pledge to get back to basics. Thanks, Ms. Ross.

Black Family Reunion Pledge

BECAUSE we have forgotten our ancestors, our children no longer give us honor.
BECAUSE we have lost the path our ancestors cleared, kneeling in perilous undergrowth, our children cannot find their way.
BECAUSE we have banished the God of our ancestors, our children cannot pray.
BECAUSE the old wails of our ancestors have faded beyond our hearing, our children cannot hear us crying.
BECAUSE we have abandoned our wisdom of mothering and fathering, our befuddled children give birth to children they neither want nor understand.
BECAUSE we have forgotten how to love, the adversary is within our gates, and holds up to the mirror of the world, shouting "Regard the Loveless."
THEREFORE, we pledge to bind ourselves again to one another,
TO embrace our lowliest,
TO keep company with out loneliest,
TO educate our illiterate,
TO feed our starving
TO clothe our ragged,
TO do all good things, knowing that we are more than keepers of our brothers and sisters. We are our brothers and sisters.

Maya Angelou

They're hot!

May 1 - 6 8 p.m.
Intermediate Theatre
Portland Center for the Performing Arts
Tickets: \$5, \$9, \$11
PCPA Box Office:
248-4496



The
Jefferson
Dancers

Electrifying! Don't miss them.

Say You Saw It In The
Portland Observer!