



HERS

OPINION

HIS



Can a Long-distance Relationship survive?

BY C.M. BROOKS

I can think of no other union between two people that clearly demonstrates character, that directly challenges the durability of a relationship, and where commitment is exercised on a daily basis, then that of the long-distance relationship. It is quite frankly "The Ultimate Test". In order to develop an opinion about the survivability of the long-distance relationship, it is important to first discuss the advantages and second, to discuss the disadvantages it has to offer.

Time. Time is an important element in the long-distance romance. The advantage lies in the fact that there is not enough time to damage the relationship with demands, expectations, and with the day-to-day pressures of life. As a consequence, the time that is spent together must be of the finest quality.

The type of foundation this particular involvement rests upon is also an advantage. When distance separates two people, sex cannot play a primary role. For this reason, the ties are stronger be-

cause the long-distance relationship is based on an emotional and/or intellectual level.

Another advantage of the long-distance relationship is the absence factor. Absence does make the heart grow fonder in this relationship because you

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tend to "glamorize" that person. That person becomes more intelligent, more attractive, more sensitive, and more understanding when they are absent. This makes their reunion more exciting and enjoyable as a result.

There are, of course, disadvantages in being involved in the long-distance relationship like the cost factor. At

some point in this type of relationship, contact will be necessary to sustain the existing bonds. This can take the form of a phone call, or week-end visit, or maybe even an occasional vacation together. The total cost, if not handled wisely, could turn out to be an enormous financial burden!

Another drawback is that you won't be able to share in life's simplest pleasures that make us smile or laugh. You cannot share in and you certainly cannot recreate a spontaneous moment with someone who is miles away.

One of the most important disadvantages of the long-distance relationship is that larger issues that will eventually surface, like marriage and who will have to relocate and sacrifice their career in order to be together in the future, are shelved because the answers might mean the demise of the relationship.

For this reason alone, I conclude that the long-distance relationship cannot work as a permanent situation. Sooner or later, if you love each other, you will want to be together.

BY ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.

Atlanta to New York City. Washington, D.C. to New York City. Minneapolis to Washington, D.C. Minneapolis to New York City. Boston to New York City. Boston to Minneapolis. Boston to Washington, D.C. St. Louis to Boston. St. Louis to Washington, D.C. St. Louis to Columbia, S.C. Portland to Boston. Portland to Dallas. Portland to Washington, D.C. Portland to St. Louis. Tired yet? This is not a schedule of flights for one of the major airlines, it's a list of attempts I've made to cultivate relationships with women in other cities. The HER side of this column recently asked me if long distance relationships could work or develop positively. Needless to say, I am not an advocate of these types of encounters and I believe that they can endure only under certain circumstances. Temporary long distance is cool.

Relationships, in the same city, can be very tough or difficult under daily stresses, job pressures, and economic conditions that exist. Throw in a couple of thousand miles and it further complicates matters. As stated, long distance relationships can work only under certain conditions and those conditions in which they can work are when a person is in college, the armed forces, or in jail (though I hope not). I base that on the fact that eventually the one who is away will come back home to the same city as their lover. Still, no one is immuned to temptation, loneliness, or cheating while away from their partner. **Some people, because of their psychological or emotional make-up--maybe even because of their values/morals, need to have someone in their life. Others are capable of enduring the pain, dark moments, or emptiness**

associated with being away from the one they love or cope with living in another city. **Some people require more human touch than others and then there are those individuals, who through faith/trust in the relationship, remain strong or wait for their mate to return.** Depending on the circumstances, it can simply boil down to a matter of morals, will, or values as to whether a relationship can survive the distance.

Over the years, I watched people or couples idealistically chase the dream of commuting from state to state for their love needs. Some have been very successful and others died before they had an opportunity to get off the ground (or plane). Economics play a very big role in long distance relationships. Fortunately, in my attempts, I had jobs that provided a great deal of travel and a lot of the cost was not out of my pocket. Building miles in various frequent flyer programs also enhanced my mobility around the states. Most folks aren't that lucky. What it comes down to is who is going to relocate where or who is going to give up what is to be with the other? Some people are attracted to long distance relationships because they are generally safe, less demanding, and they also offer much more freedom. Again, who gives up what? For example, you and your sweetheart both earn over \$40,000 annually and own homes in two different cities. You both are in upper management and vested comfortably with your companies. Who gives up what? What happens when you both fail to gain transfers or promotions to the city where your lover is? How long can you both afford to commute or endure high telephone bills? How badly do you both really want to be together? Are their doubts about faithfulness? There are a thousand questions that need to be addressed before establishing a long distance relationship and many more once people thrust themselves into these encounters.

Even if one of you decide to relocate to the same city as your lover, there are other questions that need to be addressed. Do you take a cut in salary? How is the job market for your given profession? Do you find a job before moving? Do you move and start from scratch? Do you like the environment?

Is the person worth moving for? There are some places in this country where even a marriage proposal is not enough to convince someone to relocate. What happens when one of you move to the city where your lover is and you don't find a job right away? Does your frustration blame him/her for things not going right? Can he/she afford to carry the economic burden until things are right? What happens if you move to the same city as your lover and the relationship bombs? Do you get married before relocation? Do you want to live together before marriage? What happens when you live together and it still bombs out?

Again, there are countless questions to be answered before a person allows themselves to get involved in a long distance relationship. Some people make this commitment (emotionally) and give little consideration to potential pitfalls surrounding the choice. Good judgement and serious conversation should also take place before drawing any type of conclusion. I'm sure people like Magic Johnson, Eddie Murphy, or Spike Lee have no problems, economically, commuting coast to coast in a relationship or locally for that matter. Money helps a great deal, especially when one person might find themselves doing most of the traveling or paying the cost.

Now, why would a person want to turn to a long distance relationship? Well, I would hope that it's because they love someone enough to give their love the best chance to succeed or put it through the test. On the other hand, a long distance relationship can ease local pressures (dating others) or provide more freedom. People, in my case, also turn to long distance relationships when their needs are not being met in the city in which they live. If a person's needs are not being met, it is human nature to gravitate towards someone who can meet these needs, but then all the questions come into play. It's a tough call. One more quick question...which is worse, flying all over the U.S.A. to be with someone you care about (not to mention the telephone bills) or being lonely with a \$52.00 telephone in your hometown? People have needs and will go to great lengths to meet these needs. Hopefully, these needs can be met on a local level.

Parenting: Your Child from One to Six Class Scheduled

This American Red Cross course focuses on two primary roles of parents: the protective-nurturing role and the teaching-modeling role. Through group participation and at-home activities, parents are helped to strengthen relationships within the family. Child development, discipline, safety, health and nutrition topics are explored according to the needs of the class. Grandparents and other caregivers are encouraged to attend.

Parenting: Your Child from One to Six, a 12-hour course, will be held on Wednesdays, October 17, 24, 31 and November 7, 14, 21, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Red Cross Building, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave. The cost is \$15 per individual or couple. Call 284-1234, ext. 176, to pre-register.

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HOME SHOPPING NETWORK ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL V. ROBERTS TO BOARD TO FURTHER ITS COMMITMENT TO MINORITY BROADCASTING

Home Shopping Network, Inc. (NYSE: HSN), announced today the appointment of Michael V. Roberts to its board of directors. Roberts is the co-founder of Roberts Broadcasting Company which owns the largest black-owned commercial television station in the country, WHSL-TV (Channel 46) in St. Louis. Channel 46 is the first new commercial television station in the St. Louis market in 20 years and is a full-time broadcast affiliate of HSN. In addition to founding Roberts Broadcasting Company, Roberts also established a firm to provide consulting services for minority business development specializing in the broadcasting industry. In this regard, Roberts is also a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Black-Owned Broadcasters.

Roberts was elected and served on the St. Louis Board of Aldermen (City Council) for eight years prior to entering

the private sector. As a result of his public service, Roberts has extensive political experience and contacts around the United States. He served as a member of the board of directors of the National League of Cities and the Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials.

Roberts has been the recipient of many awards for community service, including from the National Association of University Women and the Urban League of St. Louis.

Roy M. Speer, the chairman and chief executive officer of HSN, stated, "We are delighted with Mike Roberts' appointment to HSN's board of directors since he will add invaluable experience and perspective to the formulation of HSN's future business policy. HSN has made strong commitments to promoting minority broadcasting in this country and Roberts will play a significant role in continuing this commitment."

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