

Preventing The High Painful Cost Of Divorce

Any way you look at it, divorce hurts.

For splitting couples, there are months or even years of emotional agony as the relationship begins to crumble. For the children, there are years of adjustment as they grapple with "reasons" why their parents are no longer together. Secretly, they may share in feelings of guilt, somehow feeling partially responsible for the break-up.

In a country where now almost one out of every two marriages is destined to end in divorce, it is clear that we are missing something. The cost in terms of emotional pain and disrupted lives is just too high.

Added to that, divorce has a financial price tag that places a heavy burden on our economy. The US Office of Child Support Enforcement estimates that \$20-\$30 billion in taxpayers' money is paid out annually to support children because noncustodial parents have ignored financial responsibilities.

Experts look to many causes for rising rates of divorce. Despite our liberal society, there appears to be little disillusionment with the institu-

tion of marriage itself -- almost 75% of divorced women remarry. The heart of the problem seems to lie with the age old question of love. People simply fall in love with the wrong partners.

If the trend is to be significantly reversed, what we need collectively is not a shift in attitudes toward divorce so much as a better understanding of that mysterious commodity that has, down through the ages, launched battles, united countries, and sent sensible men and women pining.

But is there something more we could understand about love? Yes, as it happens.

In perennial best-seller, Dianetics, by L. Ron Hubbard, we find what is perhaps the most significant new view of love to emerge for decades.

All love is not the same says Hubbard. "It has been discovered that there are three kinds of Love between woman and man: the first is covered under the law of affinity and is the affection with which mankind holds mankind; the second is sexual selection and is a true magnetism between partners; the third is compulsive

"love" dictated by nothing more reasonable than aberration.

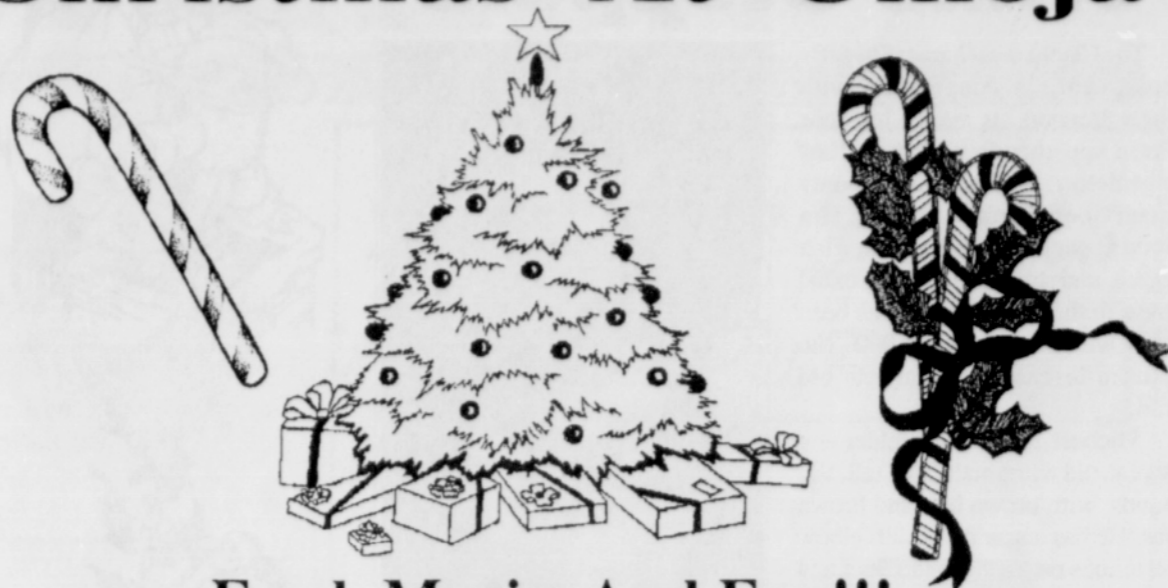
"The third kind we find in plenty," he says, "tabloid literature is devoted to it and its travails; it crams the courts with urgent pleas for divorce, with criminal acts and civil suits; it sends children weeping into the corner away from quarrels; and it launches from its homes broken young women and men."

Through his research, Hubbard discovered ways to reduce the likelihood of people falling victims to compulsive love.

And in that, perhaps there is a brighter hope for marriage on the horizon.

Researchers predict that nearly half of today's children will not live continuously with both biological parents. In divorce, it is the children who are the hapless victims of circumstances they didn't create and who are tossed about in emotional turmoil they cannot control. For the children and the children to be, if for no other reason, learning about love is an important educational requirement for life in our modern world.

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Each day thousands of community activists, concerned citizens and volunteers are working to make our region a better place to live. The Portland Trail Blazers and Budweiser want to make sure that these individuals are recognized and rewarded for their outstanding contributions. That's why for the third consecutive year, the Blazers and Budweiser are teaming up to present the Budweiser Blazers Community Super Stars Team.

The Budweiser Blazers Community Super Stars team will be formed from December 15 through March 4, 1994. Thirty-Six Chambers of C

Commerce in Oregon and southwest Washington Counties have been designated as the primary contacts that will review nominations from their county and select the semi-finalists that will be forwarded to the Trail

Blazers office. A panel of judges will review the regional nominations and select the final 10-members to form the 1993-94 Budweiser Blazers Community Super Stars Team.

At the end of the regular season, the Budweiser Blazers Community Super Stars Team will be invited to attend the Trail Blazers/Seattle SuperSonics game at Memorial Coliseum on April 24, 1994. The Super Stars will be introduced during the game and each will receive a recognition plaque and a \$500 check that will be donated to the charity of their choice.

Individuals interested in nominations to the Budweiser Blazers Community Super Stars Team should contact their local chamber or the Portland Trail Blazer office (700 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232) at 1-800-346-8037.



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