



Ned Hickson

A public service message about horrible pickup lines

I've been ridiculously happily married for almost 10 years now, so the singles bar scene is a long-forgotten memory.

Or maybe just a deeply repressed one.

Either way, it all came screaming back over the weekend when an old friend came to town and treated me to a beer at a local hangout.

As we began catching up, we couldn't help but overhear a series of pickup lines

being exchanged by a group of 20-somethings who — at least in their minds, and thanks to several happy-hour pilsners each — had assembled a list of clever lines "No woman could resist!"

Their words, not mine. In a moment, you'll understand why.

Think of this as a Public Service Announcement of sorts, aimed at single men everywhere, and in particular to that group of 20-somethings once they've sobered up; I felt obligated to jot down some of your "fail proof" pick-up lines and explain — through a "trial" and "error" format — what

you can expect should those lines leave your mouths in the general direction of an actual living female.

Let us begin...

Trial: *Do you like magic? Because I'd like to make your clothes disappear.*

Error: Even David Copperfield wouldn't attempt this horrible pick-up line. If you do, chances are the only thing disappearing will be her drink in your face.

Trial: *Do you know CPR? Because baby, I think I'm having a heart attack!*

Error: This is particularly ineffective for men over the age of 40, who could easily

be mistaken for having an actual heart attack. Nothing says "sexy" like coronary infarction.

Trial: *I'm not a religious man, but you make me want to shout hallelujah!*

Error: I must warn you there is a very real risk of being struck by lightning from God at the sheer stupidity of that line.

Trial: *If I were Captain Kirk, I would love to boldly go where no man has gone before.*

Error: Better keep that one in your Captain's Log because it will send women away faster than you can say "Warp speed, Mr. Sulu."

Trial: *Someone call the police because I think you just stole my heart!*

Error: With a line like this, the only call anyone is going to make will be to the 1980s so they will come take you back. Assuming they want you.

And lastly,

Trial: *Baby, your smile is so sweet it should come with a calorie count.*

Error: As any supermodel will tell you, there's no point in counting calories when you're too busy throwing up after a line like that.

In a random poll taken here in our office, women unanimously agreed that

their favorite pick-up line starts out like this: "Hi, my name is..."

If any of you in that group of 20-somethings is reading this, there's no need to thank me. If one woman is saved from enduring any of those torturous pickup lines, that will be thanks enough.

Not to mention the lives this column might end up saving.

Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, "Humor at the Speed of Life," is available online at Port Hole Publications, Amazon Books and Barnes & Noble. Write to him at nedhickson@icloud.com

DanceAbility brings eclectic dance to Florence

"Don't Leave Me" is an enthralling modern dance performance that celebrates creativity and the potential that is only possible when people with and without disabilities work together as equals.

This is the first professional mixed-abilities performance to ever be shown in Florence. It is also the first time that DanceAbility International will perform in Florence.

"Don't Leave Me" is presented by the DanceAbility International dance company in collaboration with the University of Oregon School of Architecture, which designed the set structures.

The show explores how we are all dependent on each other and how space determines action and vice versa. The dancers use the ever-changing set design as apparel, as furniture and as architecture. The human and architectural bodies act as a symbiotic



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of DanceAbility perform an original modern dance, "Don't Leave Me."

community.

This cross-discipline collaboration of dance and architecture takes risks with frames and bodies. During a rehearsal, one of the dancers was high up on the designed structure and felt it start to shake.

She immediately called out to the dancers below her "don't leave me!"

This became the title of the piece.

It speaks to our interdependence and also the DanceAbility method belief

that nobody should be left out or left behind.

This performance will open audience's hearts and minds. It shows the unlimited potential of people when disabilities are not viewed as something inferior. The dancers with and without disabilities create and express together as equals.

DanceAbility International performances surprise and delight, as they dissolve labels and barriers.

This project is made possible in part by Western Lane Community Foundation, Plum Creek Foundation, and Lane County Cultural Coalition, with operating support from Lane Arts Council and Oregon Arts Commission.

"Don't Leave Me" will be performed at the Florence Events Center June 10, at 7 p.m.

For tickets, visit www.eventcenter.org or call 541-997-1994.

Make friends, play cards June 9

The Friendship Club will meet at Driftwood Shores Restaurant at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 9.

The Friendship Club meets every month on the second Thursday, September through June.

In addition to luncheons, the club sponsors card games: Pinochle on Thursdays; triple play on Mondays; 5 crowns on Tuesdays; and Hand and Foot on Fridays.

This month's guest speaker will be Florence Fire Marshal Sean Barrett of the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue.

In addition to playing cards, the club sponsor's fundraisers for the benefit of the local community.

Annual dues are \$15.

For more information, contact membership chairwoman Mary Danforth at 541-590-5012.

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