

Family Council

Clyde M. — They should lay off the matchmaking.
Bob V. — His attitude is all wrong.

Clyde M. — I am a bachelor of 34—happy too—or I would be if my friends, family and the world at large weren't engaged in a conspiracy to get me married. I can't figure out why people can't rest until they see everyone they know hooked together in pairs.

My special beef is with my close friend Bob and his wife. I believe they stay awake nights trying to think up women for me to meet. The awful part of it is they come up with the worst dogs. If these women aren't a head taller than I or cross-eyed, then they have an IQ of about five. I'd hate to say how many miserable evenings I have spent with creatures like that.

All of the really nice women I know are married. I enjoy their company and like visiting their homes and seeing their families—as long as they lay off the matchmaking. It's causing real conflict between me and my friends. Shouldn't they lay off?

Bob V. — My wife and I are really not the matchmaking type. We don't like to meddle in anyone's affairs, but in Clyde's case we can't resist.

Clyde is a good-looking, intelligent man of excellent character. Yet he really has no life outside of his work. He has no family and lives at a hotel. I notice he loves those home-cooked meals and home atmosphere he gets when he visits married friends.

My wife and I feel Clyde really has no right to let the better things of life pass him by. We are rather hurt about his attitude toward the women we have introduced to him. If we didn't think they were nice and attractive, in one way or another, we wouldn't introduce them. It is really getting a bit awkward—the way he shuns these single women at any parties we give. We don't want to annoy him or intrude on his privacy, but we feel that his attitude is all wrong.

The Council: Clyde and Bob have both made social errors and should rectify them.

Close friends often feel that their sincere desire for the happiness of a single friend gives them a right to ask personal questions or to give lectures about "attitudes" or about the joys of married state.

Unless the single friend seeks this kind of discussion, it should not occur. Sometimes an individual has a private reason for not marrying, or it is possible he simply doesn't know his own reasons. In either case, he is forced to evade or lie. He feels hounded and persecuted by social pressures and begins to avoid those who seek to impose them.

On the other hand, any social introduction should be accepted in a friendly spirit. Clyde has no right to brutally criticize the women he has met through his friends. He probably observes the social amenities in other areas and should try to carry through acquaintanceships with single women with grace and respect for those who made the introductions. In the process of doing so, he may be able to subdue some of his private conflicts enough to get to know and like one of those "creatures."

If Bob and his wife value Clyde's friendship, they should steer away from personal observations and obvious matchmaking and should make all social introductions as casual as possible. Any change in Clyde's "attitude" will take place from within. The best they can do is to keep the doors to new relationships open.

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