Love: A connection linking incompatibilities

As most people see it, love is founded on compatibility. Similar interests, common values, and shared dreams seem to be the starting point for most love relationships. And current sociological theories make a lot out of this.

Magazines and high school classes are filled with questionnaires to determine whether couples are compatible enough to get married. No wonder, then, that couples panic when they discover seemingly incompatible differences in their relationships. The kinds of differences that arise from a spouse's personal changes, values modified by education, life styles influenced by new friendships, all of these are seen as threats to a love relationship based on similarity. relationship based on similarity

relationship based on similarity.

No wonder, too, that such threatened couples feel desperately compelled to stamp out such differences, even if that means using great pressures to squeich the person who has changed.

Unfortunately, these urgent attempts to iron out differences mostly end in greater alienation and even antagonism.

And what's even sadder is that this urgency is misguided. The compatibility theory of love is wrong.

LOVE IS NOT just an attraction between two identical alter-egos. It's more than just an opportunity to admire your mirror image. Love is a special link between two individuals who are more dissimilar than they are alike. It's a union between humans who have had different lives, different perspectives, different formative experiences. In a man-woman relationship, just the differences caused by growing up as different sexes are countless.

just the dillerences caused by growing up as different sexes are countless. The fact that lovers feel similar at all is a tribute to the power of our wishes over our perception. Our romantic infatuation trip helps us to dwell on the few similarities and to

ignore the thousands of discordant notes in the background.

The real love connection doesn't have anything to do with the outer trappings of our personalities. The attractions and admirations that we feel at this superficial level are based on our current values and experiences. These can change overnight, and our admired objects can be left behind in a moment.

THE ESSENCE of love is much more constant than that. Love is a pathway through our outer differences. It's a connection between our constant, essential selves, the centers of our beings. And it comes from knowing, really knowing each other for who we are.

we are,
Despite our external differences, we humans are brothers. And when we clearly see each other, without the interference of facades and defenses, this kinship becomes obvious. And an

amazing thing happens; our feelings of loneliness and separateness disappear. We experience something that feels like security and closeness. During the time that this window is kept open between our central selves we feel a bond. a kind of oneness. And the depth of the whole encounter helps us to put things in their right perspective. We see, for instance, that values attitudes, and even lifestyles are just decorations, wrappings that cover our rue selves. As long as the feeling of basic connectedness is maintained, we see no reason to panic over changes in our less tessential outer selves. Without love, the intimate contact the property of the contact of t

center-to-center infas.

COLPLES WHO survive these value-gaps don't do it by just trying to force compatibility. They turn their attention to the love connection, the focal point of their relationship that has not changed. They get back in touch with the feeling of essential one-sest that inspired their love in the first place. They find ways to maintain that series of basic constancy that transcends daily and yearly personal changes.

scends daily and yearly personal changes.

Couples who successfully apply the stabilizing power of love have learned how to establish intimate communication whenever they want it. Some tese long, uninterrupted discussions in which defenses are slowly petied away. Some rely on intense emotional ortpourings. Others find that ritualized giramicks like second honeymoons and walks after dark help to re-connect them at an intimate level when they need it. need it.

Most important, though, these



couples are convinced of the power of their loving link. Its ability to heal apparent incompatibilities has been proven to them and so they rely on it as a practical tool.

BOB TRENZ IS A PSYCHOLOGIST AND MARRIAGE COUNSELOR IN

They tend to writing business

The term "free-lance writer" may conjure up images of after-hours coffee houses, ink-stained desks with ancient Royal portables, a life furnished in early poverty.

nashed in earry poverty.

But the atmosphere Saturday at the
first betroit Writers Conference was
strictly business. Except for an
"inspiration break" with a brief
poetry reading by keynote speaker
Michele Russell, it could have been a
rap, session of insurance salesmen
swapping new account stories.
The conference was held in the main
branch of the Detroit Public Library,
Grone Viventil the between and

branch of the Detroit Public Library, Gene Yarnell, guest speaker and free-lance writer, called writing 'one of the lonelies of creative crafts.

"It's particularly hard for writers in the Detroit area." he said. "It seems this country is comprised of the east coast and the west coast and nothing in between. Publishers don't even want to read a submission that comes out of what they think of as a cultural wasteland."

BESIDES SHARING tips and knowl-dge of the business, one purpose of he writers' conference was to build the foundations for the Detroit

witers' Society.
"Too often the writer thinks. Why
don't go straight and find some legitimate way of making a living?" 'Yarnell said. "It's a lonely business, one
that all too often depends on the liveli-

hood of the publisher rather than your skill as a writer. It's just you and that blank sheet of paper. There is no place in the Detroit area now where non-professionals can meet and talk about their writing, and one mark of a writer is an obsessive need to share knowl-edge."

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Herschel Fink, former journalist, and attorney with the law firm Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn of Schwartz an

times enough for a person to win damages by claiming they are portrayed in a comparison of the compari

MS. RUSSELL IS a free-lance writer MS. RUSSELL Is a free-lance writer and poet. She said today's young people are faced with "functional illit-eracy and historical amnesia—they don't remember what happened two years ago, two months ago. Even the letter is disappearing from our control "the city."

retter 's uisappearing from our society.' she said.
"Nowadays you just pick up a phone and dial long distance. A look at the misspelled graffiti and a look inside our schools will tell you that we are losing our audience."

Sherry Cahan of Birmingham attended the writers' conference "out of frustration." She said writing at first was an outlet for her. "It's still a release, yet it can be one of the most frustrating things you do, too." An afternoon session was held with the editors of Monthly Detroit magazine and the Detroit News Sunday supplement.

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Gary Diedrichs, of Monthly Detroit, said writers should on one hand be disheartened by the demise in recent years of several major magazines, including Colliers, Life, Look and the Saturday Evening Post. "But I have to admit they we helped a publication like ours." he said.

The Detroit Writers' Society will officially meet for the first time 11 am. Sept. 9. The location has not been determined. The Detroit Council of the Arts can be phoned for the location at 24-382.

The society is open to all Detroit—

The society is open to all Detroit-area writers.

DAR donates flag

The John Sackett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Redford Township, recently donated a United States flag to the Beechwoods Recreation Center, 22200 Beech, Southfield, Sector of vice-regent and secretary of the center, Mary Helen Pasing of Livotia, recording secretary and press chapter of Louise Siegmund of Liovnia, chapter regent, presented the flag to Bill committee.



Health ed workshop is for teachers

A school health education workshop for teachers in kindergarten through grade three is scheduled Aug. 21-25 in the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education, 746 Purdy. Be presented is officially known as the Primary Grades Health Curriculum Project, Scattle Model. It is a companion to the grades 4-7 School Health Curriculum Project, Berkeley Model, which as been implemented in several Southeastern Michigan school districts during the last three years. Association of Southeastern Michigan and the U.S. department of health, education and welfare. Four teacher trainers (one for each grade) plus a coordinator will conduct the workshop. The five are based in Long Island, New York, one of the original demonstration sites for this ringham will be funded by an HEW grant. Workshop openings are available to

grant. Workshop openings are available to all Wayne. Oakland and Macomb school districts. Guidelines require that at least one teacher spreferably two from each grade level attend the in-service training along with an administrator from the school represented by the teachers.





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