BIRTHS

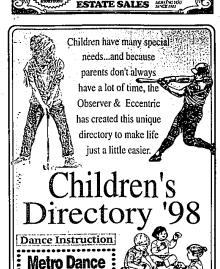
Cameron Davis Sweeney

Daniel and Anne Sweeney of Berkley, formerly of Troy, announce the birth of their first child, Cameron Davis Sweeney, on May 19, at Huron Valley Hospital in Commerce.

Grandparents are David and Susan Benttie of Traverse City, formerly of Troy and Rochester, and JoAnne Sweeney of Petuskey.









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Kenneth Chi Wang

Zhaoxi Wang and Ji Zhang of Troy announce the birth of their son, Kenneth Chi Wang, on Aug. 23, 1997, at William Beaumont Hospital in Troy. Kenneth has one big sister,

Konneth has one big sister, Lily. Grandparents are Zhenyu Wang and Huiying Chen of Shanghai, China, and Ming Zhang and Jinian Pan, also of Shughai. Great-grandparents are C.F. Chen of Singapore and Guiyin Nic of Shanghai.



Submitting announcements

Residents of the Birming-ham-Bloomfield, West Bloom-field and Southfield areas should sond their engage-ment, wedding, anniversary or birth information, with or without photograph, to: Atta Brides, The Ecentric, 805 E. Mople, Birmingham 48009. Residents of the Troy and Rochester areas should sem information to The Eccentric, 1814 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills 48307. Residents of the Farming-ton area should send informa-tion area should send informa-tion to the Farmington

Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335.
Preprinted forms that out-line the information needed for your engagement or wedding announcement are avail-able at Observer & Eccentric officer.

able at Observer & Eccentric offices.

If you have questions regarding your announcement, call Sue Wills in Birmingham at (248) 901-2560; Debbie Douglas in Rochester at (248) 651-7575, or Katie McManus in Farmington at (248) 477-5450.

Girlfriend wants to delay marriage



RELATIONSHIP
REALITIES

Q. I'm a 20year-old male
and my girlfriend is 26.
We've been
dating about
six months
and I want to
get married
right away
while sho
secure about the relationship. We've argued several
times about this in the last
several weeks, but sho does
night we had another argument about esting the data
and I actually began to cry
and begged her to marry me
sooner. I thought that when
I cried it would show her
how much I cared about her
and that I was a sensitive
man who could openly
express my feelings of sadness and disappointment.

But it had just the opposite effect. It seemed to shut her down and she became more aloof and we had a hard time continuing the conversation. What gives? I thought women wanted a man who was sensitive and could show his feelings.

A. When a woman says she wants a sensitive man in her life, what she is really asking for its a man who is first and forement sensitive to her and her feelings. A woman feels most cared for and understood by a man who is sensitive and open enough in ways that take her feelings and needs into consideration as well as his own. We call that empathy. Empathy is the ability to "connect with" and "feel with" another human being. She is not asking for agreement as much as she is asking for her feelings, emotions and ideas to be heard and acknowledged by him. This to her signifies the qualities of a sensitive man.

Most likely, when you began to cry and beg her to marry you, in

spite of how she felt, she beganto feel overwhelmed and turned off in two important areas. First, that somehow you really were not sensitive to her feelings in this matter and that she didn't feel heard again.

Second, when you bring your girlfriend your tears and make her feel blamed for them, you are asking her to carry your emotional burden as well as her own, and that can be very overwhelming for a woman dealing with her own issues, fears and concerns. In that sense, it is shout a man giving a woman a part of his emotional life that he has no business giving.

emotional life that he has no business giving.

In order to resolve this issue, I would suggest that you begin to listen and learn more about your girlifriend's true feelings and why they are important to her, and blame no more. Also, it seems to me that there are some strong emotions behind your tears, would begin to look at what fears and wounds lie behind your tears.

tears.

One way to do this is by work-

ing with a therapist or a men's support group to help you uncover and resolve the feelings of anxiety and fear which come up for you around your girlfriends disagreement with you about the date of your wedding. Then, if you need to share your feelings of sadness and disappointment with her, you will be able to do it in the context of helping her understand you better, based on what you've learned about yourself, instead of making the problem about her.

Steve Mandell is one of three therapists who alternate in writ-ing this new relationship col-

ing this new relationship col-umn.

He is a psychologist trained in relationship counseling by Dr. John Gray utilizing the "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus" approach. He lives and works in Southfield.

Questions for him may be sent to: Steve Mandell, Suburban Life, The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Beaumont offers prenatal series for expectant moms

"Fit for Delivery," a six-session series for expectant mothers, offers exercise and techniques for a healthy pregnancy. Classes will be held 7-9 p.m. Wednes-

days, July 8, 16, 22, 29, and Aug. 5 and 12 at the Beaumont Rehabilitation and Health Center in Birmingham. Fee is \$55. For details, call 1-800-633-7377.

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