

CHAT ROOM



Larry O'Connor

Online affair - intrigue, love, then death

In the quest for the perfect mate, sometimes gap-toothed prospectors sift forever through stagnant streams for the eternal hope of a gold nugget turning up.

Or, as jaded dating scene analysts like to term the phenomenon: They are perpetual "4s" looking for "10s."

Certainly no numbers can be assigned to the depth of despair felt by a 28-year-old woman from Paris, France, who came here to meet a man she connected with via computer only to die alone amid barren trees on a frosty night.

She struck up an e-mail correspondence across the globe with a 24-year-old Hills man. Despite distance, their electronic friendship blossomed into an online romance.

She wanted to be with him; He with her. Judging by the fact he paid her airline fare from Paris.

Their eventual union was fraught with obstacles, though. For some unknown reason, U.S. Customs in New York refused to let her enter. She unsuccessfully tried again through Pittsburgh.

Determined to see her man, she flew from Amsterdam to Toronto and made her way down Highway 401 to Windsor where she camped out in a travel motel for several days. There was only a border and river to hurdle to be united with this male figure she'd mostly known only through word.

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Married to the job

These couples work together and live together, too

■ Being married to each other and working together is a successful combination for some Farmington area couples.

By KATHY O'DONOHUE
SPECIAL WRITER

Imagine being married and working together full time as well. While the idea wouldn't be in the realm of wild imaginings for many, some Farmington area residents regard the arrangement as not only plausible but pleasurable.

Consider Dan and Cindy McKay, Farmington Hills residents who are married and in business together. More than 15 years ago as Dan started his landscaping maintenance firm, he found he needed the services of an accountant. Since his new wife, Cindy, worked for an accounting company full time, it seemed a logical step to involve her in his business. Dan joked, "That's why I married her."

For a time, Cindy balanced full-time employment at her primary job with full-time work as Dan's accountant, but overwhelmed after awhile, she joined her husband's business exclusively. Two boys were born to the couple in short order, and Cindy managed to fit in her work around her children's schedules. Dan basically is gone daily with his crews between spring and fall, when area residents are in most need of services, while Cindy manages her home, takes calls and keeps the books.

Cindy describes their relationship as a "very companionable type of thing. Dan needed my expertise. I was able to help him. Don't ask me to identify a tree or plant, but I can do the computer." She adds that "being at home is great for the kids, and the flexibility of our schedule allows me to help out at our boys' schools."

Shared interests

According to Joyce Cornwell, who works with husband David, there are advantages to husband/wife work teams.



Doctor team: Physicians Nancy Hurchick-Munaco and her husband, Anthony Munaco, are in practice together at Farmington Family Physicians. Parents of three children, they cover for each other.

"Obviously, we have very similar interests, and this is helpful in our marriage and career. We both enjoy people, properties and real estate," she said.

The Cornwells own Cornwell and Bush Realtors in Farmington along with David's brother and Mary Bush, mayor of Farm-

ington. They're involved in buying, selling and management of properties, and Joyce said, "With real estate, there are no two deals alike. I enjoy the unique situations and problems."

Married 33 years, the Cornwells

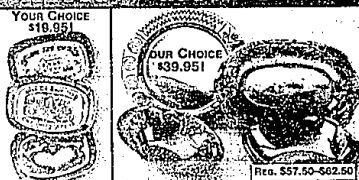
have three grown children. Joyce describes her beginnings years ago when her husband brought customers to their home, and she helped with the

Please see MARRIED, B2

Heslop's

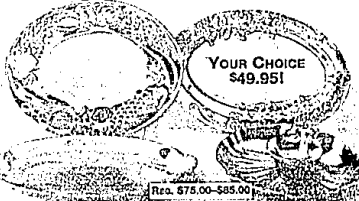
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