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Our banquet room, overlooking Venice Lake and surrounded by acres of woods, can accommodate shower and wedding parties for groups of 50 - 200 persons. Our chef has carefully prepared a variety of menus for your selection that will fit any budget. Weather permitting, you can even have your ceremony and reception outdoors, surrounded by acres of woods and lakeside scenery.

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Venice Of The Woods

936 Cooley Lake Road
Union Lake, Michigan

Girl of his dreams

Contrary to what TV ads would have you believe, it isn't the right toothpaste, shampoo or deodorant that will win you a mate.

At least not according to a group of men questioned during a recent visit to Somerset Mall in Troy. Although chemistry and timing are important, other factors are too.

What is he looking for? Apparently, not a mindless, voluptuous Barbie doll.

Jeffrey Roberts, 30, of Birmingham, said compatibility was first on his list.

"Then intelligence, looks and affection," he said. "Luckily, I found all those things."

"Mostly companionship," said Walter Arnaiz, 33, of Mt. Clemens. "Someone who shares my same interests and is enjoyable company. That's all."

Jerry Ashley, 66, of Troy, has been married for 37 years to a nurse he met on a blind date. Her Irish beauty and freckles attracted him, he said.

"She was a sweet, gentle Irish maid who could put up with a hot-headed Irishman."

"We've only had one argument in all those years," he said, then joked, "it's still going on."

Ed Hardegree, 37, of Grosse Pointe, said he wasn't looking when he met his wife but the thing that impressed him most was her ability to communicate.

"On our first date, we talked until eight in the morning. On our second date, I proposed, and we were married in less than 30 days."

He described his wife as a very motivated person who got things done.

"We met in Minneapolis where she had a little dress shop which she had put together and made a success of on her own. And, she's very athletic, not an onlooker, but a doer."

"Also," he added, "she was interested in a simpler life. She doesn't care about large homes or expensive cars and neither do I."

Dr. Lowell Paul, 28, of Oak Park, said attractiveness was important, not necessarily "gorgeous, beautiful, or sexy, but attractive to me."

"Personality is important. And someone who is her own person. I don't want to do battle all the time but I do want someone who can think for herself and has the self-confidence to speak out and stand up for herself," he said.

Intelligence is also important, he said, adding that it could mean just good common sense. "Class and style," were also listed, "although that is hard to define. Either you have it or you don't."

Continuing, he said, "someone interested in something other than what I'm interested in, which tends to be mostly science. Perhaps someone interested in literature and the arts."

Ray Tatu, 26, a salesman at the mall who was married in August, said personality was important.

"Looks are important too," he said. "I knew my wife eight years before we were married and she has been getting better looking all the time I've known her."

He said they grew up in the same neighborhood, had similar social and economic backgrounds and common interests.

Galas,

When it comes to weddings and engagements, young people today seem to be veering back to the traditional, but not always. Vive la difference.

A survey of 420 girls aged 15 or over who are engaged or planning to be within the next six months shows that the overwhelming majority will opt for formal church or synagogue weddings.

The brides-to-be want to walk down the aisle in a traditional white wedding gown preceded by several gowned and belowered attendants.

Of those polled, more than 90 per cent reported they want a formal ceremony and traditional gown, while 83.3 per cent preferred their wedding scene be set in a church or synagogue.

Diamonds continue to be a girls' best friend as an engagement ring, and 92 per cent of those Seventeen Magazine polled said they had already received or soon would acquire an engagement ring.

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