

Getting it together

Avoiding conflict can poison marriage

It has been said so often about marriage that there is a cliché. There are few endeavors that we take on in our lives for which we are so greatly optimistic and so poorly prepared.

Newlyweds and about to be married are buried in gifts, good wishes and innocent advice. In fact, what they need most is to get less. Reliable information about marriage. Not the over-emphasized trials and prophecies of the wedding, but how to make their marriage relationship work.

They need to know, for instance, that the odds are not in favor of their living happily ever after, especially if they blindly believe their feelings will be strong enough to carry them through any future crises.

The reality is that feelings are perishable, and there are no guarantees of permanence. Love can be kept alive in marriage, but only by couples who recognize that such feelings are as fragile as they are precious and those who are devoted to nurturing their love with energy and practice.

THAT MEANS a priority on honesty, intimacy and mutual happiness, not just material devotion. For many young marrieds, all they have to live for is the time while they devote their energies to building a home, acquiring possessions and status that they dreamed would make them happy.

Looking at marriages that have failed, it's partly some that factors which killed the relationship actually came from early conception of how to make a marriage succeed. The beliefs that led them as newlyweds are too often the main culprit in the eventual failure of their marriage.

No such belief deserves more credit for causing bad marriages than the conviction that marital success depends on constant harmony. In fact, the most common mistake made by newlyweds is to avoid conflicts, and to minimize incompatibilities.

Believing that arguing is bad, couples learn ways to prevent it and to stifle anger. They learn to be more considerate, to be empathetic, to facilitate comfortable, harmonious interaction. Partners choose separate areas of responsibility. He becomes the provider, she takes care of the nest. She makes the social decisions, he manages the checkbook. He initiates sex, she gives in first when an argument is brewing.

LIKE TRAFFIC laws, these rules and roles prevent collisions at the intersections of marriage. Like laws, they become entrenched, and are often violated in the relationship. They become the standards by which the ongoing success of the marriage is judged. How well are we living up to roles of a good husband and a good wife? And the young married couple, as they grow older, often do not change.

The fact is, newlyweds should chew on this: that the vast majority of marital unhappiness is not caused by a failure to live up to such role definitions.

On the contrary, these role definitions, along with the way couples have decided to avoid conflicts, are deadly poison to love relationships and severe obstacles to personal happiness.

Legal secretaries will honor bosses

The eighth annual "Beers Night" dinner for the Oakland County Legal Secretaries Association will be held Monday, Dec. 4, in the Kingsgate Inn, Bloomfield Hills. The event is open to all legal secretaries and their employers in Oakland County at a cost of \$10 for secretaries, \$12 for employers and \$18 each for non-members and their employers. Cocktails are extra.

Reservations must be received by Nov. 29, will be limited to the first 150 received and must be accompanied by payment in full. For further information, call Diane Bourke at 433-1014 after 4 p.m. or Sharen L. Read at 433-1001.

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The trick to being successfully married is to keep your communication open. Your responsibilities are ultimately the ultimate friends to a relationship. They are the signals that something important needs to be discussed and worked out.

SOME OF THE BEST advice I can give a brand new couple is to look at your marriage as an instrument, your own personal creation. You have come together with an

über human being in hopes that the instrument you create will add to both your lives in very important ways.

So it makes sense that you will want to know as much as possible about each other's needs, the ones that are compatible and the ones that are not. Stating differences is not this understanding and eventually subverts your entire reason for getting married.

The marriage that truly succeeds is the

one which is really customized to the needs and personalities of the individuals who created it. There's no way this can be done without accepting the honest differences as well as comfortable fits.

By BOB TRENZ,
Ph.D.



Wiggs Brings You Special Holiday Savings from Reed & Barton

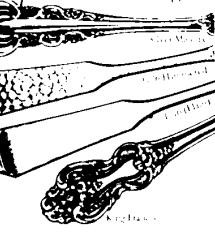


20 Piece Set Sale

Reed & Barton Silverplate

Here's a great opportunity for you to purchase that ideal set of top quality Reed & Barton SuperSilver Silverplate. All 20-piece sets in all five patterns are now 1/3 off. That's a savings of \$22.00 per set. Each 20-piece set consists of four 5-piece place settings of a teaspoon, place fork and knife, salad fork and place spoon. All Reed & Barton SuperSilver Silverplate is guaranteed for a lifetime.

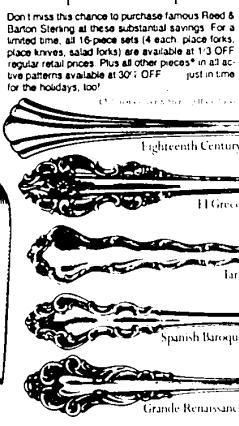
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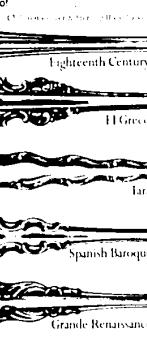
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REED & BARTON STERLING

16-Piece Starter Sets plus 30% Off Open Stock



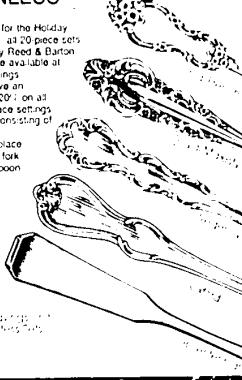
Don't miss this chance to purchase famous Reed & Barton Sterling at these substantial savings! For a limited time, all 16-piece sets (4 each place forks, place knives, salad forks) are available at 1/3 OFF regular price. Plus, other pieces* in all active patterns are available at 30% OFF just in time for the holidays, too!



20 Piece Set Sale

REED & BARTON STAINLESS

Just in time for the Holiday Season, all 20-piece sets in top quality Reed & Barton Stainless are available at Special Holiday Savings! You can save an average of 20% on all 20-piece place settings, each consisting of a teaspoon, place fork, place knife, salad fork and place spoon.



Holiday savings from Towle:

1/3 OFF

on 32-piece service for eight

30% OFF

on all other pieces

50% OFF

on trade-in of sterling flatware

Do you have enough sterling for the holiday entertaining season? If not, we have three plans for starting or completing your Towle sterling service at substantial savings.

PLAN 1: \$5 off the regular retail price for a 32-piece service for eight (8 teaspoons, 8 place forks, 8 place knives, 8 salad forks). Available in all active patterns.

PLAN 2: 30% off all other pieces in all active patterns.

PLAN 3: 50% off on trade-in of sterling flatware. If you are unhappy with your present sterling flatware, bring it in and trade for an active Towle sterling pattern. Sterling flatware traded in will entitle you to a 50% discount from the retail price of the replacement pieces you purchase.

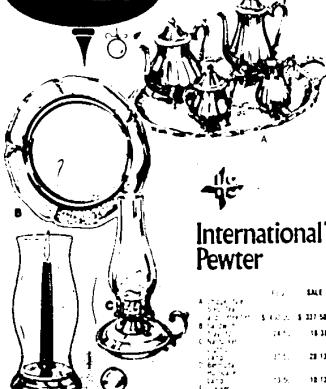
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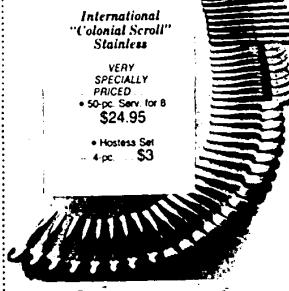
SAVE 25%



International Pewter

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16-pc. Service for 8	\$113.75
16-pc. Service for 8	\$99.00
16-pc. Service for 8	\$84.25
16-pc. Service for 8	\$79.50
16-pc. Service for 8	\$74.75
16-pc. Service for 8	\$70.00
16-pc. Service for 8	\$65.25
16-pc. Service for 8	\$60.50
16-pc. Service for 8	\$55.75
16-pc. Service for 8	\$51.00
16-pc. Service for 8	\$46.25
16-pc. Service for 8	\$41.50
16-pc. Service for 8	\$36.75
16-pc. Service for 8	\$32.00
16-pc. Service for 8	\$27.25
16-pc. Service for 8	\$22.50
16-pc. Service for 8	\$17.75
16-pc. Service for 8	\$13.00
16-pc. Service for 8	\$8.25
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