

Heart songs

Flirting can take singles back to romantic future

By Shirlee Rose Iden
staff writer

Roses are red and violets blue, but unlocking the secrets of charisma for Valentine's Day, and every day, may do the most for you.

The question is: what is it, who has it and where can you get some?

"Charisma is a kind of positive aura a person exudes who feels good about himself or herself," said a romantic gentleman from Southfield, who blushed and demurred when asked his name. "It attracts people and makes them want to be part of the group around the charismatic one."

Charisma is "the gift of God's grace," a dictionary listing said. Many people agree that Gloria Steinem, John Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe and Martin Luther King had charisma to spare.

As it is beyond price, you don't acquire it, but sweat to develop it. More about that later.

KEEPING A finger on the pulse of romance, singles on the lookout are seeking relationships that may be exhilarating but also safe.

In terms of the dating game, AIDS is making people re-focus and take a new, hard look at relationships.

"All of a sudden, with the reality of AIDS, first base becomes foul territory," said Bill DeLano, self-named "singlesologist."

"Singles have to have a strategy these days. They must pose some vital questions which indicate values

and what's of importance like family, job, community service or whatever."

"It's essentially a matter of establishing trust."

DeLano, 29, a native of Grand Rapids, is now living in North Carolina with his wife of four years. He has established his own aura of trust with singles as a speaker, consultant and founder of a professional network of consultants.

The game plan he offers to singles is a plan of action for marketing themselves in the singles world.

ANOTHER "SINGLESOLOGIST," Richard Geryan, has modeled his InterActions Dating Service after an executive search firm.

Operating in Southfield and now West Bloomfield, the service has a 25-year record of effectiveness in introducing singles looking for a friend and maybe more.

Geryan's firm will produce "The Secrets of Charisma" seminar with DeLano 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Southfield Hilton Hotel.

"The issues and concerns single people have are changing in the 1980s," Geryan said.

"People are choosing to reach for meaningful relationships, yet remain single and many have time restraints as never before concerning their social lives. Mobility has added a new dimension and AIDS has altered perspectives."

FROM HIS perspective, people today are getting married faster and

more frequently, Geryan said.

"Monogamy is in and we're seeing much more of it," he said.

The new first family is large and lots of family values are being presented, he said.

"It isn't exactly that George Bush is good, it's the family perception that's notable."

SINGLES WHO'D rather switch than fight are finding that after years of silence, the sexes are talking again, Geryan said.

Loud discos have gone the way of the Edsel. Today's chic spots are intimate supper clubs where the strategy is to move around to get into the good conversation groups.

"Talking is fun — and safe," Geryan said.

Conversation has become a viable marketing tool in an AID-ridden world, where the sex first/talk later method of courting could be lethal.

During the 1950s, flirting was "out," thought to be dishonest. Women didn't have to rush into marriage for the sake of sex; they had the pill. Flirting and pre-sex talk fizzled to a minimum.

THERE IS a distinct return to the courting process recently, said DeLano, who has been in the communications business for seven years.

"There's a new interest in courtship over conquest and to conversation," he said. "Flirting is natural to every little child. As we grow up, we get de-programmed from some of these natural responses."

For DeLano, the biggest variable

in the past 20 years has been the two-income family that finds women "more flexible, complete and excellent," he said.

The three key points of his seminar are will center on the what, where to buy, and who has it angles of charisma.

BUT LUNCH and a celebration reception (5-7 p.m.) are planned as well as Rapport: the Magic Match Maker; Group Mixer Exercises; Attraction — How to make Yourself Irresistible; Flirtation — The Art of Playing Seduction; Mental Image Makeover; and more.

Geryan asked a client if he were interested in attending the seminar, and was asked if the man could bring his wife.

"It was great, but not so unusual. We've had 1,500 weddings over the past 25 years. After all, that's where it's at."

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Giving food as a prize to a dieter doesn't sound like much of a prize, but that's what Tivoli Restaurant did for the grand opening of the new Weight Watchers Center in Downtown Farmington.

Festivities included a drawing with the grand prize of dinner for two at the new Tivoli Restaurant in Clarion Hotel, at Orchard Lake and 12 Mile, plus the use of Clarion's exercise facility and indoor swimming pool.

The winner, Weight Watchers member Lavonne Boughman of

Farmington Hills, won't have to cheat on her diet to enjoy this prize. The Tivoli Restaurant offers a "HeartSmart" menu prepared under the dietary guidelines of the American Heart Association. Tivoli chef David Fryd will accommodate any dietary restriction, preparing special order meals low in fat, sodium or cholesterol.

Florine Mark, president of the Weight Watchers Group Inc., spoke at the ceremony, and the winning name was drawn by Richard Tupper, mayor of Farmington.

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