

Men tend to bounce back — if a woman helps

Q. About three months ago I started dating this really neat guy. He's very sensitive and caring. Things were going really well up until about two weeks ago when he started pulling away from me.

A. If he is truly being honest with you, then you may be experiencing what is known in the Mars and Venus world as the rubber band effect. This is when a man begins to pull away from a woman after a period of very active emotional and intimate connection.

It is as if he's temporarily given all he's got to give in the intimacy department and feels the need to regain some personal autonomy and independence

in order to reexperience his male sovereignty.

It is important to know that he is not doing this because you have done anything wrong.

This is sometimes hard for a woman to understand because when she pulls away it is usually because she feels hurt or angry about something that has occurred in the relationship. But not so for a man. He will pull away just because he needs to in order to regain his balance.

Support helps

Just like when a man goes into his cave, it is important that the woman not make the man wrong for this behavior. In fact it is her loving support and acceptance of him in these times, which allows him to stretch like a rubber band to his fullest extension of autonomy.

At this point if he doesn't feel her blame, anger or hurt feelings, he will begin the process of returning back towards her just like a retracting rubber band. This is because once he has fully experienced his autonomy, he will actually begin to miss the good feelings of love and connection he had with her and want to spring back into the relationship again.

During their separation, a woman can further assist a man in springing back with something like a simple, friendly, non-blaming phone call. This

gives him a clear message that he is not in trouble and he will feel free to begin pursuing her again.

However, unlike a woman who may need a little time in order to get back into the flow of intimacy, a man will come back and want to start up right where the relationship left off before he pulled away.

In this situation, the man needs to realize that the woman may need a short period of time to reacquaint herself with the feelings she had before he pulled

away. Therefore, he needs to give her the same non-blaming and accepting behaviors that she gave him.

Steve Mandell is one of three therapists who alternate in writing this new relationship column. 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.



RELATIONSHIP REALITIES
STEVE MANDELL

BIRTHS

Olivia Marie Polewarczyk

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Polewarczyk of Rochester Hills announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Marie Polewarczyk, on June 9. Grandparents are Chuck and Gail Goulah of Center Line and Ed and Arlene Polewarczyk of Houston, Texas.



Grace Olivia Charnesky

Ann Marie and Guy Charnesky of Rochester Hills announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Olivia, on May 6, 1998 at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. Grandparents are LouAnn and Earl Vogtmann of Bay City and Ruth and Maurice Charnesky of Shelby Township.



WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Rice-Rencher

Dr. and Mrs. Vernon E. Rice of Kansas City, Mo. announce the engagement of their daughter, Alita Rene, to Anthony Edmond Rencher, son of Christine Rencher of Detroit.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Missouri and Meharry Medical College. She is a pediatrician at Providence Medical Center in Livonia.

Her fiancé is a graduate of The University of Michigan. He is an engineer at Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn.



A September wedding is planned in Detroit.

Bosco-O'Connor

Mr. and Mrs. Louis C. Bosco Jr. of Orchard Lake announce the engagement of their daughter, Molly Elizabeth, to Michael Kevin O'Connor, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. O'Connor of Gaylord.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Mercy High School and Boston College. She is co-owner of Studio B Jewelry Designs in Farmington Hills.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Gaylord High School and Michigan State University. He is employed at Ford Motor Co.



An October wedding is planned.

Chea-Junga

Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Chea announce the engagement of their daughter, Alicia, to Brian Junga, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Junga Jr. of Rochester Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of William R. Boone High School and University of Central Florida.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Rochester Adams High School and Michigan State University.

An October wedding is planned with a Nuptial Mass at St. James Cathedral in Florida.



On submitting announcements

Local engagement, wedding, anniversary and birth announcements run in Thursday and Sunday editions of The Observer & Eccentric.

Residents of the Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield areas should send their engagement, wedding, anniversary or birth information, with or without photograph, to: Attn: Brides, The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Residents of the Troy and Rochester areas should send information to The Eccentric, 1814 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills 48307.

Residents of the Farmington area should send information to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335.

Preprinted forms outlining information needed for your announcement are available at all Observer & Eccentric offices.

If you have questions regarding your announcement, call Sue Wills in Birmingham at (248) 901-2550; Debbie Douglas in Rochester at (248) 651-7575 or Katie McManus in Farmington at (248) 477-5450. For a recorded message with complete information on submitting announcements, call (248) 901-4730 for The Eccentric and (313) 953-2065 for The Observer.

AUGUST 8 & 9 1998

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