



Chat Room

Ellen Herscher

Maxims apply even today

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines a maxim as - 1: a general truth, fundamental principle, or rule of conduct; 2: a saying of proverbial nature.

Many famous people have formulated maxims through both unique and common observations. Rules of conduct are useful reminders for all people who wish to live a moral, ethical life. I believe that most maxims, no matter in what era they were first authored, can be applied to contemporary living.

Here are a few maxims from the chronicles of Benjamin Franklin:

- "Never run down a neighbor's property or goods and praise up your own. It is a mark of low breeding and will gain you nothing."
- "Never form the habit of talking about your neighbors, or repeating things that you hear others say. You will avoid much unpleasantness, and sometimes serious difficulties."
- "Your first ambition should be the acquisition of knowledge, pertaining to your business."
- "Endeavor to be perfect in the calling in which you are engaged."
- "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."
- "In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes."
- The following comes from myriad maxims composed by Napoleon Bonaparte: "Speeches pass away, but acts remain."
- "Liberty and equality are magical words."
- "He who is unmoved by tears has no heart."
- "To have a right estimate of a man's character, we must see him in misfortune."
- "It is the cause, and not the death, that makes the martyr."
- "He who hazards nothing, gains nothing."

Leo Tolstoy gives us these thought-provoking statements:

- "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."
- "Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold."
- Thomas (Stone) Jackson alleged: "Like liquor - its taste and its effects - and that is just the reason why I never drink it."
- "Always mystify, mislead and surprise the enemy if possible."
- "Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve."

Here is some down-to-earth advice from Will Rogers:

- "Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossiper."
- This wise admonition comes from my brother: "Never say anything that you wouldn't say to your grandmother."

W.C. Fields used this saying more than once: "It ain't a fit night out for man or beast."

Shakespeare reminds us to: "Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."

From Gertrude Stein's poetry comes: "A rose is a rose is a rose." (Sacred Emily)

These adages were written by Alexander Pope: "To err is human, to forgive divine."

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

In your Easter bonnet

Expert says every woman can wear a hat

In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it, You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter Parade. It'll be all in clover and when they look you over, It'll be the proudest fellow in the Easter Parade.

Irving Berlin

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

Wide brim, medium brim, no brim, pillbox, sailor and beret. Flowers, feathers, ribbons and tulle.

But most of all, lots of straw, which heralds the end of winter and the advent of spring. We're talking Easter bonnets, the crowning glory for many women until the 1960s, when hats seemed to lose their fashion sense.

But did they? Or is wearing a hat a matter of attitude?

Custom milliner Gena Conti of Wyandotte, whose handmade creations cost \$200-\$300 and more, believes a woman is not fully dressed until she puts on her hat. She recently gave a presentation on hats to members of the Redford Suburban League, a women's charitable organization marking its 48th anniversary.

"This is my passion," said Conti, wearing a wide-brimmed hat in a multi-colored fabric of green, cream and black. "Men love women in hats... Everyone can wear a hat. It has to be the right hat. Cocktail hats are especially popular. Hats are sexy. I don't care if you're 90, sexy is fun."



Eleanor Smith of Livonia poses in one of her favorite Easter hats and coats, circa 1950. Of course, she is wearing white gloves.



Mary Cagnon



Lillian Malley



Maryanne Senkowski

When choosing a hat, get one that fits your face

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

Gena Conti, a milliner who designs custom-made hats, says any woman can wear a hat. "All you need is a head."

But women have grown self-conscious about wearing hats, she said.

"Because it will draw attention to them. Also, they may think it will mess up their hair. That's because they're not wearing the right size, and department stores just have standard-size hats. The public isn't educated any more about millinery."

Conti's hats are handmade from her own designs and patterns. She molds materials

- velvet, wool felt, fine straw, buckram, sparterie, capenet and sinamay, a lightweight straw mesh from China - over wooden block forms using high-temperature steam.

She travels all over the world for her materials and accents, such as silk flowers, ribbons and feathers. Most of her hats are almost completely hand-sewn.

"One of the most frustrating yet satisfying stages (of hat making) is the final trimming and stitching. It's when life comes into the hat," she said. "I see it sitting gently upon a woman's head, her mind playing underneath it, how it enhances her beauty, her style."



Gena Conti (right) talks about her hat making business. In background is her assistant, Georgena Shupe.

the face. Profile brims.

■ Square face. Large brims with soft lines, upturned brims, round crowns or curved edged square crowns. Profile brims.

■ Wide face. Off-the-face styles, such as Bretons (upturned brims) or pillboxes worn back. These will add "lift." Profile brims.

■ Heart face. Asymmetrical designs, square or round browns tilted to one side. Profile hats and brims with soft curves.

FINAL TOUCH

"Pull your hair back so we can see the line of your face," said Conti. "This highlights your face and better accents your hat."

Conti also suggests that every woman have two little black hats, one for summer and one for winter. "Add a string of pearls and your done."

In addition to custom hats, Gena Conti carries ready-to-wear hats for women and men. Contact her at (734) 284-3412 or visit her Web site at www.genacnti.com.

CHOOSING THE BEST HAT

The biggest mistake women make when buying a hat is choosing one that doesn't fit. The crown may be too small, forcing the hat to sit too high on the head. Another mistake is wearing a hat too far back on

the head, said Conti. "Women end up looking like Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm."

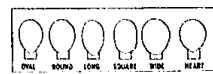
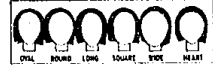
To choose the best hat for your face shape, Conti suggests standing in front of the bathroom mirror and tracing the outlines of your face in soap. Choose according to the following:

■ Oval face. Streamline shapes worn forward, brims turned up at back or swept up

at the sides. Profile brims.

■ Round face. Medium or small brims. Neat styles worn forward or on a jaunty slant. Asymmetrical brims will lessen roundness. Profile brims in varied sizes.

■ Long face. Medium to wide brims (in proportion to stature) worn straight or forward. Sharp, straight styles, which cut the length appearance of



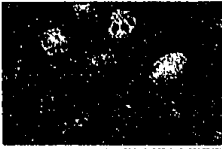
A few good eggs take time, talent, 'pure days'

BY SANDRA DALKA-PRYSZYK
CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of years ago when an Ukrainian woman had a "pure" day - one free of gossip and marked by doing good deeds - she might have spent a few hours in the candle-light that night decorating chicken eggs.

Richard, almost 19 years ago. She admired his parents' egg collection and decided to learn how to create them herself. Her husband's aunt and a Ukrainian nun in Canada got her started with the basics, some equipment and a few how-to books.

That introduction has resulted in the creation of more than a thousand eggs over the years, most of which are her own designs.



Some of the finished eggs.

PLEASE SEE HERSCHER, C7

PLEASE SEE EGGS, C70