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Eubanks digs in dirty laundry to expose newlywed's capers

By Mary Fastenau

If you are taking courses in the college of life, the final exam in marriage class is to appear on the *Newlywed Game*.

Friendship, courtship, love and marriage are just quizzes to prepare you for the final in public embarrassment. To pass this test, you must memorize your notes on intimate moments and come prepared to completely explain them.

television review

Bob Eubanks, the host, administers the test each time, and it does not make any difference on which day you take it, because he uses exactly the same format and directions each time.

His invisible teaching assistant, the voice of Johnny Jacobs, adds variety by sharing new products, such as Rice-a-Roni and Swanson TV dinners, with the "runners-up in the Newlywed Game."

Eubanks and Jacobs must think they have found the formula for success as they repeat the same lines on every game varying the names of the couples and the products being advertised.

Fast talkers

In their role as test instructors, they must have note cards filled with the number of words that precisely fit the allotted time because they both talk at a rate which must be near the speed-of-sound, and they never even pause for a breath or a comma or a laugh or the end of a sentence.

The difficulty of the test is based on the ability of the students. This is the reason that Eubanks asks such difficult, mind-boggling questions as "Does your husband prefer his hot chocolate with or without marshmallows?" or "How many closets are in your house or apartment?"

Every show contains at least one question designed to make the women turn red, allow the men to put on their macho acts and justify Eubanks' quota of raunchy jokes.

A typical "written to embarrass" question

would be "Where was the first place you made love that was much more trouble than it was worth?" Answers to this type of question reflect the mentality of the participants.

For example, Lee, half man, half ape with a bushy beard and broken Southern drawl answered with "In the van, man," while Craig, complete with glasses that look like the bottom of pop bottles and the worldliness of a 12-year-old answered "A motel in Santa Maria, because it was so cold."

Another example of an intimate question is, "What two different letters of the alphabet look the most like you and your husband when you make love?"

It is inquiries like these that get the expected reactions from the couples.

To the viewers, there is no logical reason for any answer, but the love bugs seem to share some personal joke that makes any answer uproariously funny or totally humiliating.

Loving responses

These questions also get the typical love and kisses response. The way some of the couples carry on, it would appear that this might be the first time they have ever agreed on anything, and they're delighted it is being covered on national television.

The couple's reactions to the questions must be considered in the final grade of the marriage class because their actions fall into obvious categories.

The "A's" would have to go to Craig with his pop bottle glasses and Karen, who admits she resembles Totie Fields. When they answer a question correctly, Craig wraps his arm (or as much of it as will reach) around his honey and gives her a big kiss. Karen's reaction is a sixth grade giggle and an exclamation, "Oh, I can't tell my mother when this is going to be played."

A "B" would go to Jim and Joanne. This couple does well because they really dress for the part. Jim appears to have borrowed Jerry Reed's clothes, hair and vocabulary for the show while Joanne has solicited her clothes and answers from the instruction guide on how to be a sex symbol. Too many examples of sick humor exclude them from the "A" category.



Michael and Carol miss a lot of answers, but still pass the test because they look so much alike. Both need to have a chat with their local orthodontist and accumulate a small fortune before they have kids so they can pay for their offspring's dental work.

Their teeth get in the way of their kissing responses, but they still pass the test because Carol admits that Michael's sister set them up because she thought her brother was "a little funny."

Many couples fail the test and the viewer wonders if their final grade will be spelled D-I-V-O-R-C-E. A classic example of this would be Sam and Adelle.

Sam and Adelle come dressed in blue and prepared for Weight Watchers, but that is where the similarities end. There are

harsh words and disagreement after every question. In 30 minutes they argue about swimming, finances, her mother, her tennis playing and hot chocolate.

He insists she looks like a "duck playing tennis" and she retaliates by refusing to play the kiss and hug game, even when they get an answer right. In cases like this, it could be the court judge who gives the final grade.

There are many couples that give glimpses of being "A" students, but then ruin their average with a kiss that hits the eye or a small temper outburst. No matter how they are graded, they remain "married only eight short months." At least, that is the way they are supposed to remain.

Maybe Bob Eubanks had better thank of another show. How about the Divorce Game?

Fantasia appeals to young at heart

By Kent Warneke

Everyone wants to be young at heart, but only the children have it easy.

Senior citizens, middle-aged parents, college students and everyone else all fondly look back on their childhood days and remember the gaiety that filled their lives, but only the children experience it.

"Fantasia 1979" is for the young at heart, whether children or adult. It is a film festival, a magic show, a puppet show, a ballet, a mime and face painting all wrapped into a week of activities for the Lincoln community.

Tim Ryan, managing director of the Lincoln Community Playhouse, the sponsor of "Fantasia 1979" said, "It's been a week of a lot of enjoyment for kids of all ages and older individuals."

This is the first year for "Fantasia 1979" and the Community Playhouse hopes to use it to increase Lincoln's awareness of the need for additional activities for children and youth.

Not soliciting

"We're not actively soliciting people during these activities, but we do have a mobile up showing what still needs to be done for the children's wing and we're hoping that this will draw attention to it," Ryan said.

Children's Theatre has been in existence almost as long as the Playhouse in one form or another, but the plans for a children's wing has only been in the making for five years.

Tull concert at UNL

Tickets will go on sale Monday morning for the Jethro Tull concert April 21.

The concert will be at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Tickets are available at the center after 10 a.m. Monday or at any of the Brandeis stores in Lincoln or Omaha.

"Right now, we've got the exterior shell, a roof on the building and the basic lighting," Ryan said. "But we still need so many other things like heating, plumbing, stage floor among others."

"We've set the beginning of May of this year as our date for when all the funds have hopefully been contributed," Ryan said.

According to Ryan, the highlight of the week is the Playhouse's own production of *Tom Sawyer*, a musical by Sara Spencer, featuring the escapades of all of the wild and humorous Mark Twain characters.

Own production

"*Tom Sawyer* is really exciting for us because it's our own product and it took the most work and from the look of ticket sales, I think we'll have a good audience," Ryan said.

The original version of *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, Walt Disney's *The Rescuers*, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, *Pinocchio* and *The Point* are the films featured during the week.

A puppet show by Maralyn Ryan, a face painting session by Marie Muffley where you can become your favorite character through the magic of makeup, a series of mime sketches by Craig Lowe and a magic performance and workshop by Greg Ebert also are featured this week.

"We've had a big crowd for all of the performances, more than we expected," Ryan said. "In fact the puppet show drew 207 people and we didn't even have enough chairs."

The community has supported this week's activities and people have begun to realize that there is a need for a children's wing, she said.

However, even if the Playhouse receives all of the contributions they are hoping for, that does not mean the end of "Fantasia."

"I think we'll have 'Fantasia' next year," Ryan said. "This year it was mostly us deciding what we thought would work, but next year we would want a lot more input from the community and school systems to make it better than ever."



Photo by Mary Anne Golon

Chris Sayre, a member of the Irish band Paddywhack, will perform at Jesse's 14th Street Lounge Friday from 4 to 6 p.m.