

Stranger in town

Hillary Clinton's Senate run disruptive to political system

Hillary Rodham Clinton goes to Arkansas, then to Washington, now to New York. Next, she'll probably be running for prime minister of Canada.

Hillary Clinton's announcement to run for the Senate in New York comes to no one's surprise, but it comes much to our dismay.

We aren't mad that she's furthering her career in politics — go Hil! But she's doing it in a way that undermines the American political system.

Sure, it should be legal to do what she's doing. As citizens of the United States, we retain the right to move freely from state to state and become a resident of a new area.

Hillary is taking this most fundamental of rights inherent to a republic and completely skewing it to her desires. What she's doing is an example of a terrible trend in American politics. If wealthy political insiders continue traveling from state to state to get elected, our electoral system will decay further than it already has.

How would we like it if someone moved to Nebraska just to get elected, saying he or she is all about our struggles?

Of course we wouldn't like it, but we wouldn't stop there. We would kick that person out of our state and tell him never to come back. We would say that a get-elected-wherever-I-can philosophy doesn't belong in our state.

And that's what New York needs to do with Hillary.

She can name the state flower on Letterman, she can go door-to-door in the Hamptons and stand on a stage with a congressman from Harlem, but it doesn't make her a New Yorker.

"I may be new to the neighborhood," she said at her announcement, "but I'm not new to your concerns."

What a complete load of political garbage. She pays lip service to tabloid-reading New Yorkers, is surrounded by New York liberals and doesn't care one bit about the state of New York.

Someone must have mispronounced Hillary's "Rodham" as "Rodman" and confused her. Basketball's Dennis simply travels from state to state, looking for the place that will give him the most money, fame, glory and power.

And that's what Hillary is: a political Rodman, minus the nose rings.

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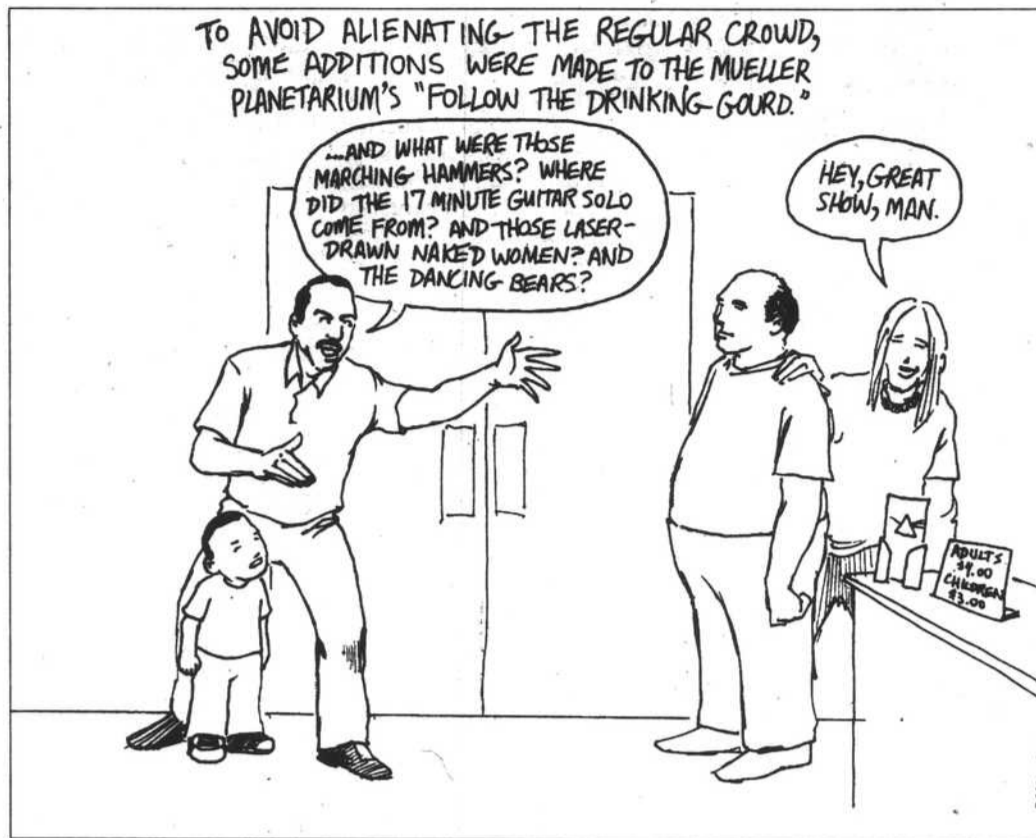
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Obermeyer's VIEW



Fools rush in

Ask hard questions before popping the big one



I can't sleep. I roll around on my bed, but my demons chase and catch me.

"Michael, you are just afraid of commitment!" my now-ex-girlfriend screams as she storms out of my residence hall room and slams the door. (Bang!)

"You're never getting married, Mike. You're just too picky!"

I jump out of bed, wide awake and sweating profusely. Ideas like divorce, commitment and broken marriage dance in my head like so many sugar plums.

More marriage proposals occur on Valentine's Day than any other day of the year, and we are only seven long days away. To those thinking of matrimony, I give the same advice as I would to a man on the roof of a downtown parking garage, threatening to jump. *Don't do it unless you're really sure.*

What's love got to do with it

A recent survey found only four percent of college students in America would be willing to get married without romantic love. Assuming our first prerequisite for marriage is love, how do we know when we are in love? Is it like the Supreme Court says about obscenity — you just know it when you see it?

One piece of advice I received when I asked a woman how she knew she was in love was, "When he walks in

the room, my heart skips a beat." I replied that I knew three women who had this effect on me. "Maybe you should move to Utah then," was her response.

I do think people should be in love before they get married. Unfortunately I don't think I can define the term. Let me pull out my dictionary. Here we are, "A deep tender feeling of affection and solicitude toward a person." Solicitude? Weird word, good idea. The truth is we all need our own definition of love, and if you have one that works, more power to you.

Staying single an option

Nowadays, two-thirds of women in the 20-to-24 age range have never been married. That percentage has doubled since 1970. So, as a generation, we are waiting longer to get married. And that's a good thing. People our age should wait.

What do we know about the people we date? Are they going to be successful in life? What kind of parents will they make? Shouldn't we have the answers to these questions before we forever link our lives to someone? Yes, we should. Of course we can't wait forever, but for my money, I would like to see how a person handles life in the "real world," and not the show on MTV, before I buy.

Divorce a reality

We can't afford to fall into the it-will-never-happen-to-me trap. The divorce rate is 10 times higher than it was a century ago, and about half of us will experience the big D in our lifetimes. Personally, this is my biggest reason for waiting to get hitched. My parents have been married nearly 35 years and, if at all possible, I would like to

pull this off myself.

As I see it, the biggest factor here is picking the right spouse, and I don't want to be rash. Maybe I'm a little abnormal; okay, that's a definite, but one of the first things I look for in a relationship and eventual marriage is stability. Not, "Can I be happy when I look at this person" or "Is she going to look like her mother," but "Can I live with this person for 80 years?" The my-needs-first attitude is the worst byproduct of American culture. We have to make sure we see the bigger picture.

Policy can't save marriage

Though I wrongly have been accused of being a liberal from time to time, the government cannot help strengthen marriage and the family. Rises in divorce and the general weakening of the family have occurred since the '60s, despite government spending in this area, which has increased five-fold. The only person that can increase the chances of your marriage working is you.

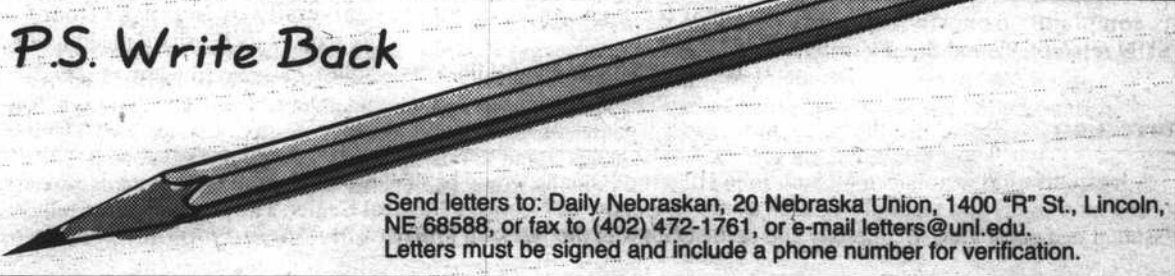
Big decision merits thought

I have thought of marriage three times in my life. The first was when I graduated from high school. The second was when I left the military to attend this great university (no sarcasm here). And strangely enough, this column appears as I prepare to depart college.

Is it a coincidence that I have sought stability when major life changes were on the horizon? Probably not. So, to all my good brothers and sisters in the audience, if you are thinking of proposing, or accepting a proposal, next Monday on Valentine's Day — don't do it! If it's a good decision now, it will still be a good decision in a year.

Michael Donley is a senior sociology major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

P.S. Write Back



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