

s·i·n·g·l·e·s unite

To create a marriage without dating: Use trust, foster friendship and learn to live



I know the question on all your minds since the last time we talked is "How are you supposed to get married if you don't ever date?"

All right, so that's a lie. I do realize that all you've been thinking about lately is making reservations for the Wayne Chicken Festival. But let me remind you that I did promise to answer this question after tearing down the institution of dating some weeks ago before millions of readers, and I intend to make good on my promise.

But first I think we need to realize that yes, it is possible to have a successful

marriage without ever dating. After all, dating as we know it didn't even come about until the advent of the automobile, because it just didn't sound too keen to go knock on the neighbor gal's door and say, "Howdy, Martha, do ya wanna walk ten miles into town with me and hang out at the feed store?"

And yet people got married, so we can too. To abandon the normal way of dating you must trust in either fate, God or yourself.

If you trust in fate, realize that there is an equal chance you will find your spouse with or without dating. If marriage is going to happen to you, it's going to happen to you, and you can't escape it.

If you trust in God, you recognize that by avoiding the selfish pitfalls of dating, you are doing what is right. Therefore, you can trust God to bring that certain someone into your life when you're ready, if that's what is best for you. If you trust in yourself, you can believe in your own ability to find a spouse when you are in the best position to commit to marriage.

I trust in God. I don't believe in fate or my ability to get much of anything right on my own. So the first step is to trust.

As we trust, we can quit worrying about finding the right person and start thinking about being the right person. I get really tired of single friends saying, "I don't understand why I don't have a boy/girlfriend. I'm attractive. I'm funny. I'm smart. What more do people want?"

Well, for starters, people are looking for someone with an ego that will fit through the front door! But people also look for those with purpose. If you're not going anywhere, why would I want to go with you?

Take the energy you normally would spend on dating someone and use it to get your life figured out. After all, you can't let that energy just sit around and fester in jars, or it gets petulant and feels neglected and may eventually eat your

roommate. You've got more time to figure out your life now than you'll have once you've got a job, a spouse and children. Figuring life out encompasses everything including how we should relate to our parents, how to manage a budget, how to stop a toilet from overflowing and how to raise our future children.

You also want to deal with issues from your past, such as abuse or neglect. And when your head starts throbbing from all the self-examination, work on building healthy relationships with your friends, especially friends of the same sex. After all, Martha, when you and Billy have your first fight and you're so hoppin' mad you don't want to sleep in the same house with him, he probably won't be too keen on you spending the night at your buddy George's place.

When you come to the point in your life when you think getting married in the very near future is possible, don't feel like the pressure is on. Remember to trust, even though parents, relatives and friends might pity your single state.

Join the cry for Unchained Heart Day, the single person's answer to Valentine's Day



A day of regret, a day of anxiety, a day of depression is looming before many of us. Aye, you guessed it, Valentine's Day is coming soon to a street corner near you. I say Cupid should watch his back, for there is a curse upon his cute, blonde-curl'd head. A group of people is ready to tear his feathery wings off his back and make a down pillow to sleep upon.

In our time of political correctness, the relationship-impaired should be granted a day to celebrate our freedom from the

feelings of rejection, depression and massive credit card debt. These people can be reasoned with, and their support should be total in the short run. This group has a huge financial potential, already having the skills to carry them in life and support the cause.

The elderly are widowed every day, allowing us to draw from their experience, wit and extraordinary amount of free time. Once the baby boomers start dying off, this group can only become more important to the cause of Unchained Heart Day. We might also expect entire estates willed to the cause.

Business should back this because someone needs to manufacture the propaganda materials. Someone needs to provide the space for our meetings. Someone needs to replace the Valentine's Day regalia we will burn for next year.

There will be no more hoarding of decorations for this day. There is money to be made for the capitalists. I will not sully myself with such materialistic gain, but the point is made.

Yes, lovers have had Valentine's Day for the past century and should continue to celebrate their day of infamy. I argue that the day after should be a singles' holiday, sponsored by a national organization funded by members, with the power to lobby and devoted to supporting the needs of said members. It could be the National Rifle Association of single people.

The organization will not exist just for this one day, rather the 15th will be a symbol of this group. It potentially could drive psychiatric prices down through union force. The organization could help countless recently broken-hearted people with support groups across the nation. It could be a beacon of good, righteousness and the American spirit.

We might even become a charity organization, writing off taxes and even receiving federal support once we are large enough.

With all these meetings, rallies and support groups, it is inevitable that we shall lose members at our own functions. This does not mean the organization members are not firm in their resolve, just that these people most likely will come back to the fold, needing our help again.

Quite possibly the most noble tenet of this organization would be forgiveness at all times. You might get bit by the dating bug, but once

you are dumped, we will welcome you back with open arms, a cup of Irish Mocha and the lyrics of Bob Dylan. You can come back as many times as you need. It will not matter what your creed or color is. It will not matter how many people you have hurt before. We will accept you. We will do what your new ex cannot do: we will forgive.

By now, all single people clearly should see the need for such an organization, that America would be stabilized by this noble institution. The only opposition I see will come from two sources: narrow-minded couples who feel threatened by our rightful, single power and the psychiatrists who have grown wealthy from our feelings of inadequacy and rejection. I say let the shrinks no longer pick at the corpse of our hearts! Rise up and help yourselves.

Of course, this organization will need a body electorate, composed of devout and constant persons, educated and business-oriented. There would be a president to oversee the distribution of money and the national interests of single people. This president should be able to say, "I am not only the president, I'm also a card-carrying member!"

To show your support on campus, you can contact this columnist at GraveofCupid@hotmail.com.



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oppression of mall shopping, feeding the florist monopolies and the salvation of our own unique characters.

Not many people know about this movement, but we feel the truth in our bones. February 15th should be a day of marches, burning effigies of Cupid, black heart arm bands and a celebration of being single. This is my vision for Unchained Heart Day.

According to my logic, there should be enormous support for this idea.

Children usually do not date before the age of 12, so we have every boy and girl from kindergarten through junior high on our side. Speakers could address our youth in gymnasiums across the country, explaining why it is perfectly all right to be alone. The outdated cooties system for coping cannot last, but induced reason has the potential to stay with these young people for the rest of their lives. Now, if we call off school to celebrate being alone, that would really garner support from the youngsters. Indoctrinate early, and our future is assured.

The divorce rate of all marriages in this country is around 50 percent, which translates into a constant influx of people who are angry, single and needing a support group to cope with

When someone catches your eye, develop a friendship with him or her first to determine if he or she is all he or she seems to be. If you rush right into dating, you can be sure the other person is putting the best foot forward, trying to impress you. If you are friends first, you are more likely to get to know who he or she really is.

Also, pursuing friendship first takes the pressure off the relationship—you haven't raised any hopes or made commitments you can't keep. If you decide you want to pursue a relationship, make it clear that you're not playing games, that you're looking for someone to marry. If that scares the person off, don't sweat it—he or she isn't interested in commitment and therefore isn't for you.

For some, getting married in the next six months is a real possibility. But especially for us freshmen and sophomores, the decision to marry is hundreds of decisions away. The point is NOT to wait around twiddling our thumbs, waiting to live.

Learn to be content with your life now, because if you expect your future spouse to meet all of your needs, you will be sadly disappointed. Contrary to Jerry McGuire's philosophy, this person will not completely you.