

# Ask NAN LAUNDERS

Dear Readers: The Timber Cruiser has received a deluge of mail asking my views on marriage. The staff would like to devote all eight pages to my delightful column, but other staff members must be given equal time, or rather, opportunity. Our advertising manager would be most frustrated if he could not write on rings again this issue - he's sure Mr. Launders has one in his nose. He'll be even more sure as he reads on.

You concluded that if I took high school civics in 1944, during the succeeding twenty years, I must have snagged somebody and from experience would be able to help you with questions on marriage which I gather is a current popular pastime. Experience does not make an expert however, for if that were true the more marriages one contracted, the better one would be equipped to advise. The most representative of your questions will be answered in the following, which are my comments on marriage.

Neitche wrote "Marriage is a long conversation." I concur with him. Marriage is a long conversation -- with oneself, with the dog, the cat, her kittens, the children, their teachers, the storekeeper and the milkman.

Why do people marry? The long - conversation concept hints at the idea of companionship. Although sometimes obscure, that ideal element is present in marriage. As underlying reasons guiding human behavior are little affected by the passage of time, man does marry for companionship and get it, with his-feet-resting-in-front - of - the - television kind.

You say boys and girls marry for love. This reason sounds jam-packed

with virtue, and I'm all for it, providing the love converts to like. It's better to be liked for a lifetime than loved for a year.

No one would acknowledge marrying for reasons of physical appearance only but I can see from your letters that it is quite important to some people. I'll share with you a conclusion of mine which I like to believe is valid even though arrived at subjectively.

You can determine the physical attractiveness of a man's wife without seeing her. Observe the extent of his interest in other females. If his eyes wander to and fro, hither and yon, his spouse is handsome, and may I cynically add, she likely possesses active intelligence and efficiency as a homemaker. He's learned appreciation of beauty at home, and the source of all that energy to look around is the good cooking he gets there.

Humans marry because they wish to extend themselves. There are those who actually believe the purpose of marriage is contained in the ancient command, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." Other than to complement the story of Adam and Eve, the command seems superfluous.

In the first place, the word "replenish" means to restock a dwindling or exhausted supply, and further, this word suggests an earlier civilization.

Secondly, humans need no command to be fruitful. To suggest it as a motive for entering marriage is utterly absurd, unless it is the reason. The latter bit of logic may show the absurdity of my logic.

I join the host of arm-chair psychologists who say, "The trouble with marriage today is..." selfcenteredly many of us marry expecting to obtain something for ourselves.

We believe there are benefits peculiar to marriage and that marriage

owes us these benefits. We can only be disappointed. Except for children, what material gains are peculiar to marriage? Or what rights? You may say, "the right to receive humane treatment." That right already belongs to men and women as humans; The right to be understood and to be shown sympathy. No more kindness and understanding can one require from a spouse than from a good friend.

Are there material benefits to be obtained by marrying? Almost none that can't be acquired faster and better by one person living on one income. Whether in human relations or tangible worldly goods, the emphasis on getting instead of giving is wrong.

Sincerely, readers, I believe companionship, satisfying family relationships and opportunities for individual personality growth are potentials intrinsic in any marriage which has been entered into with some degree of deliberation. However, these blessings need to be worked out and nourished. Just as when one prays for patience and receives tribulation, the wonderful benefits of sharing a lifetime together aren't dropped down from heaven in a package. Marriage is an extension of individual personalities; two people have decided to participate in life together. Only in popular love songs do people belong exclusively to one another through magic mis-labeled "love." It is an act of the will, and act of integrity, not a condition we find ourselves in, to be faithful to the ideals of marriage.

My principal comment on marriage is a suggestion. Instead of two people announcing, "We are being married this summer" that they say literally "We have decided to cry, tolerate, laugh, enjoy, disagree, and grow old together all the rest of our lives."

Confidential to L.S.T. - You didn't follow my advice that a fellow should be at least 27, and have \$10,000 in the bank before getting married.

## John Dovaras

John Dovaras is one of the most interesting instructors I have ever met at this college. He is in charge of the music program, which includes public school music, (where he demonstrates a beautiful falsetto) music theory, and the collegiate singers.

But his day does not end with just these college classes; he teaches music to the elementary, and secondary schools of Alpena. He also teaches a class of retarded children, which shows how versatile this man is in his teaching profession.

Thus, from early morning until early evening, he teaches the children and

young adults of Alpena the art of music. I am sure that this community, and our college are very proud to have John Dovaras as a part of it.

Bob Moers

## DEAN'S COLUMN

Continued from page 2

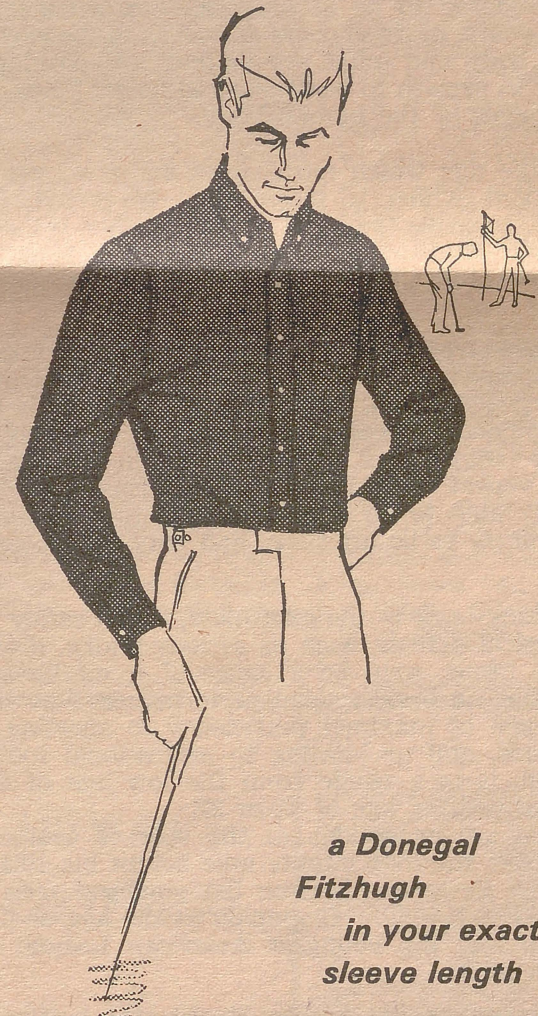
to men can be improved. Perhaps the College can add curriculums that can accomplish this. I would again like to invite students to present their views of college problems by working through the Student Council.

Stanley E. Van Lare, Director, Alpena Community College.



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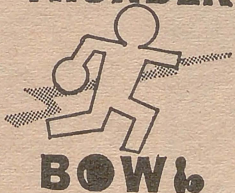
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