

# Entertainment Outlook

## The withdrawn male



**Weir's View**

**By Ian Weir**

Thomson News Service

At long last, the truth is admitted. An expert on marital relationships has come out and confessed that the communication problems that plague the average marriage arise from the fact that men — as a species — are far too frail to cope with women.

According to Dr. Howard Markham, a researcher at the Centre for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver: "What sometimes looks like a withdrawn, non-communicative man is actually a man withdrawing from his fear of conflict."

"Men are more physiologically vulnerable to conflict than women are," said the good doctor. "It's not that they're emotional. It's that they are weaker constitutionally."

There it is, in black and white — the ultimate rebuttal to women's accusations that men go all shy and silent whenever they hear that dreadful sentence, "We need to talk."

It's not that we don't care. It's not that we're uninterested in improving our relationships. It's just that we're wimps.

Obviously, it comes as no surprise to any man to hear that the male is constitutionally weaker than the female. The mystery is how the myth about superior male strength began in the first place.

My own theory is that the anthropologists have it all wrong when they claim that the prehistoric male was genetically programmed to be the fearless hunter and provider.

My theory states that prehistoric

man would have been much happier sitting at home, eating the ancient fore-runner of quiche. But when he discovered that sitting at home meant being cowed and intimidated by prehistoric woman, he took the coward's way out — which was to sneak off to hunt woolly mammoths instead.

"Sure, Og, half of us is bound to get trampled. But it beats all heck out of trying to explain why we was late gettin' home from bowlin'."

I suspect the same process led to the myth about the strong, silent Western male — the one who went for weeks without uttering anything other than the occasional "yup."

It's not that these occasional "yups" indicated his inner fortitude. It's just that he fell into the pattern after learning that the occasional "yup" was the only safe thing to utter when the strong, vocal Western female was giving him a detailed list of his faults.

The sad fact, of course, is that no man — however inspired by cowardice — can avoid discussing his relationship forever.

My own strategy — being the constitutionally weaker one, and hence more

### OUR LANGUAGE

by Jeffrey McQuain

Allocate distributes or sets apart for a purpose. It also means "locate," which you can locate at the end of allocate.

Ask an arbiter to settle your disputes. Any sharp speller can judge that there's a real bite to arbiter.

Q. I wrote "from whence" in an essay, and my teacher circled it. What's wrong with "from whence"?

A. Whence by itself means "from what place or source," so that from whence is considered redundant. You're in good company, however. Whence comes from whence? Look for it in Shakespeare's plays and the King James Version of the Bible.

physiologically vulnerable to conflict — is to try to get off the hook by hanging my head and agreeing with everything that's said to me.

If you've tried this approach, you'll know that it only works for the first hour or so. After an hour, the constitutionally stronger one will have finished listing your more obvious failings, and will suddenly demand that you stop sitting there like a lump and nodding.

At this point, you have three options. One: sit there like a lump and nod. Two: sit there like a lump and whimper. Three: offer some mild disagreement.

Take option three and you're sunk, since mild disagreement has left you wide open to the charge that you don't really care. Disagree with this one, and the topic will suddenly shift to that fateful Christmas Eve in 1982 when you were three hours late getting back from the pub while her parents were over for dinner.

As such, you're down to one last option — sit there so lumpishly for so long that the constitutionally stronger one is finally forced to announce that she doesn't know why she bothers talking to you in the first place.

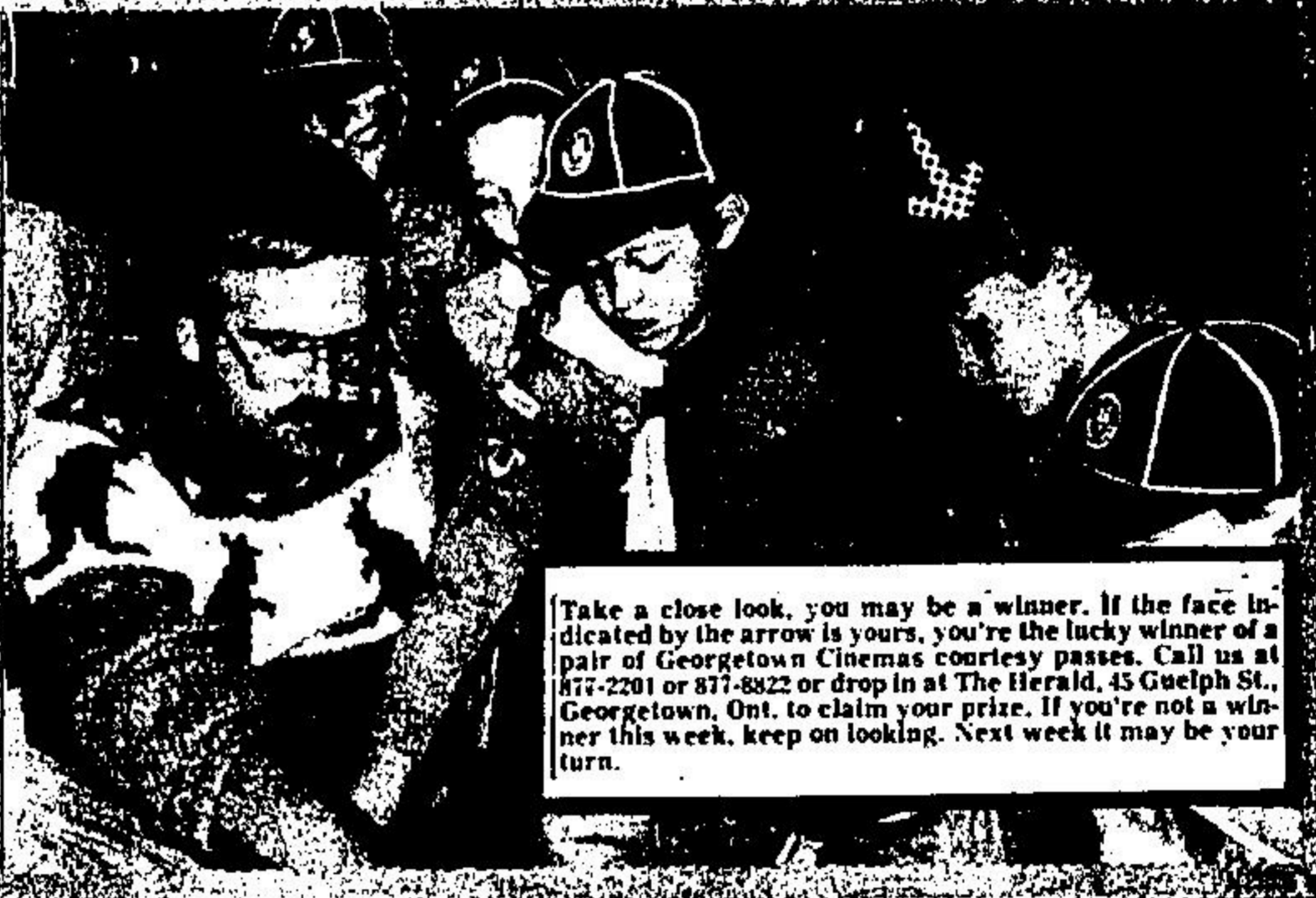
But now, at long last, there's a glimmer of hope. Perhaps Dr. Markham's comments will promote a new and generous understanding of men's emotional weakness.

In fact, I'm going to show the news clipping to The Love of My Life just as soon as she gets home from work. Maybe — just maybe — she'll see me for the well-meaning but frail creature I truly am.

On the other hand, maybe she'll find out what I've just said in this column. Rally round, fellers. Let's go find a woolly mammoth. Fast.

Georgetown Market Place 873-1603  
DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS \$3.95 & Up

## Face in the Crowd



Take a close look, you may be a winner. If the face indicated by the arrow is yours, you're the lucky winner of a pair of Georgetown Cinemas courtesy passes. Call us at 877-2201 or 877-8822 or drop in at The Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. to claim your prize. If you're not a winner this week, keep on looking. Next week it may be your turn.

## GEORGETOWN CINEMAS

235 GUELPH STREET -- 877-6232

**CINEMA 1**  
2nd  
**GREAT WEEK!**

Evenings at  
7:00 & 9:15 p.m.  
Matinee Sat. & Sun. at 2 p.m.

He's back!  
And this time...  
**Ernest**  
saves  
**Christmas**



Hi FAMILY

**CINEMA 2**  
2nd  
**GREAT WEEK!**  
Evenings at  
7:00 & 9:15 p.m.  
Matinee Sat. & Sun. at 2 p.m.

HORROR  
NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN

13 ADULT ACCOMPANIMENT

## IT WILL TERRIFY YOU

**CHILD'S PLAY**

You'll wish it was only make-believe

**CINEMA 3**  
**STARTS TODAY!**

Evenings at  
7:00 & 9:15 p.m.  
Matinee Sat. & Sun. at 2 p.m.

Hi FAMILY

FROM THE CREATORS OF 'AN AMERICAN TAIL'



**THE LAND BEFORE TIME**

**NRS**  
NATIONAL REAL ESTATE SERVICE  
**BRAND REALTY INC.**

Home  
Post Scripts

By Glenda Hughes, Sales Rep. **873-0300**

How does one really know what their home is worth? It's a question that is asked of us on a very regular basis, obviously. It is also the most misunderstood answer that we have to deal with. When we have a phone call to come over to a client's home to evaluate their house, in many cases the client is asking more than one agent (usually 3) to give them a price. Several things happen when this is done, and I think you should be very aware of it. As listings are scarce in town, you can be assured that out of the 3 agents you call in, at least one of them is going to overprice your home because they know that most people will take the agent that gives them the best price. This, my readers, is probably one of the biggest, most frustrating mistakes that you can make. When your home is overpriced, you fall into the category of "spin off." This means, that the showings you get will not result in a sale, but will result in attracting clients in that price range who know that your property is overpriced, and then want to see what is really available in that price range and hence we get a "spin off" client from an overpriced home. Not great for you - but not bad for the agent!

You can prevent this from happening if you have your wits about you and know what to look for when you have agents give you a price. Prices are set on homes by PAST sales of similar homes in similar areas. We adjust for the current market, how your home shows (this could be either up or down) and what is currently on the market in that price range. Your home - regardless of how you feel about it emotionally, will not get \$20,000 over what is currently being sold on the market! We do understand that everyone has an emotional tie to their home - and it is very hard to be honest and accurate with people, when their hearts are involved - but we must do that if we are doing our job right - and that is what you are paying us for.

Your agent of choice can help you come to a marketable price by doing a market evaluation. Now, I don't mean just having someone walk through your home and smile at you and say your home is worth this many \$\$\$\$. Ask him or her to show you figures to back up the figure that is quoted. Ask lots of questions about the homes that have sold - particularly the condition of the home, the extras and the location. A home that looks just like yours does not necessarily mean that yours will sell for the same price. Your agent should know - and if he or she does not, ask for them to find out more information and get back to you before you make a commitment on the price of your home. If you do indeed have more than one agent price your home and one price comes in much higher than the others - your antennas should be up, quickly. Ask why and how that price was reached, and they better have some pretty good answers to substantiate that price. Remember, above all, put your emotions in the closet for now and remain sane.

When you finally have a good figure to work with, then you can choose your agent based on previous columns I have written and will continue to write about in the future.

Keep your wits about you - it is worth it in the end "frustration factor!"

*Homes Sold Creatively*