

Life & Self Chronicles of Afromerica

From the areas of:

Careers

Life-Learning

Relationships

Entrepreneurship: Another Option

Instead of Black America awaiting a new Black "Messiah" to deliver us from modern-day oppression, we must, in an individual effort, break any perceived cycles we suspect. One area of oppression suspected most by Black Americans is the economic displacement of Blacks in the job market.

Legislation is not the answer. Who is going to pass laws to better the employment situation of Black America, or fix - with political red-tape - the future of social security simply because we have legal and or political knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, academic degrees, and elitist connections to higher ups?

Why should we depend on these weak methods of bettering ourselves when the opportunity lies in individual exertion and persistence? Utilizing our talents and experiences is our best option in surviving today's economic challenges.

Educate yourself, train yourself, push yourself, and most of all believe in yourself. We can establish economic security by beginning businesses and marketing within our communities. It does not take a degree to open a service to the public as basic as changing motor oil, doing taxes, keeping records, or keeping and training kids.

Innovative efforts at beginning a home base or small business takes mere dedication on an individual level and a few courses and/or classes in that particular area of expertise. Waiting on the perfect job has become obsolete. Retiring from the government will not always be an option, and the factory industry has all but abandoned the American economic base.

Home-base businesses have skyrocketed in society and are contributing more to the national GDP than ever before. Black America must see this as an opportunity to develop itself and become self-sufficient from government need. The move to place Black politicians in office believing they can help better the Black situation is dying fast. Loose the American dream where it pertains to the college, good job, retirement cycle, and implement a new future by trusting yourself and your brothers and sisters.

2005 by CR Hamilton

Educated For Work

Many agree that education is the key to success, and this view is a reality in American society. Without an education, a person could not land the job that would earn them a decent living to enjoy the luxuries this society has to offer. This is what education is all about, a lesson on how-to survive in a knowledge-power hungry society. From elementary school throughout to the ultimate degree, a person is taught how to be a productive worker and compliant citizen of America.

On the surface, this seems logical because this is what has settled deep within the crevices of the average citizen's think tank, however, this programming leaves no room for human originality. Some would argue, however, that a person can do whatever they want to do in life and there is nothing holding them back, but this logic is flawed because any lifestyle contrary to the one society has chosen for us is deemed a threat to that society.

For example, if a family decided not to allow the public (or private) school system to educate their children and they teach those children to never work for another but always remain self-sufficient, there would be more obstacles in those children's way than there would be if they were trained systematically. The possibility is there, but the social stigma will always be strong against them.

Not many alternatives to education offer a person a high place at the level of social prominence according to the current standards. Many are self-taught and many have learned a trade-knack that enables them to survive and even get rich, but how far do any of those go without compliance with the legal system, a strong sense of ethics and honesty, or requiring further schooling.

In the classroom, students are taught to abide by the laws, commit to their civic duty, respect authority, and work hard for success or else failure will knock hard at the door. These are not lessons of morality for life but training tactics for being a productive worker: the embodiment of the capitalist system. The educational system is not responsible for teaching morality, our parents are. The educational system is to train a citizen to subsist in the workforce and never breathe a word of independence.

2004 by CR Hamilton

Girls Wear Earrings

Who Ok'ed boys wearing earrings? From what distant matrix of social confusion did this trend escape? Do not take this the wrong way, this is not an attack on brothers who currently wear earrings, wait, yes it is. Traditional old school logic was that girls wore earrings to look pretty, so why do new school boys wear them, to look pretty too?

Nephews, little cousins and even some older lost-in-time OGs are cascading through life, on the job, in the mall, at the club, wearing glittery earrings; some wear one while some, wretchedly befuddled brothers are wearing two, one on each ear. Now, trends sooner or later come and go but this one has got to go, sooner than later.

Church pastors, professors and teachers, pro athletes, of course rappers and singers, and entertainers are sporting earrings making some sort of statement but beat the hell outta anyone what the hell the statement is. Explain this statement. What possible words can convince society to listen to someone who is borderline transvestite?

This girlish trend has opened doors to feminist behavior in Black men, especially on the movie screen, where entertainers like Eddie Murphy, Martin Lawrence, and Tyler Perry are cross dressing playing the roles of elderly Black women with attitudes. Where the hell did this come from? Each woman is a ghetto-bred sister with an attitude. Is this some sort of social prestigious image Blacks want?

Sorry, but the old school was a better school. It was funded a little better than today's new school, it was more respectful of gender than the new school, it had actual books, it taught identity and everyone knew their place. This new school is the result of confusion, self-hatred, and feminism.

Hopefully time will clear up this confusion in young Black men. They will some day understand what being a man really is. Go ahead and wear your earrings and you actors cross-dress until you start your period, but if our daughters ever come home sporting a mustache, we know the new school is completely bankrupt of funding.

Jan. 2008 By Cartel Q

Marketing to Black America

Tis the time to be manipulated by corporate greed through the use of commercialism and targeted marketing techniques. Every holiday brings a form of propaganda meant to encourage all people, and in many certain situations Black people, to spend into debt for the purpose of showing their loved ones how much they care.

The marketing business is an apathetic business. It specializes in learning the spending, leisure, and working habits of income earners. Regardless of what race, gender, or sexual preference, marketing companies collect data on the individual and family in order to sell them their goods.

Niche marketing is one technique used to narrow down the demographics of a certain group of people, from the wealthy and their habits, to the working female, to the father, to the Black single female parent and many other groups. Once these habits are learned, they appeal to that group through various mediums using different appeals.

The Black market is tracked and targeted in their weekend shopping habits within their communities. Using tracking devices such as discount-card key chains at certain stores where the shopper frequents and department store credit cards owned by the shopper.

After they learn the spending habits, they project advertisements through the cable programming the consumer most watches. Using celebrity appeal, marketers promote goods and or services to that audience. For instance, in the Black community where there is a high volume of season ticket holders of that city's basketball team, promoters use the local or well-known basketball celebrity to appeal to that group. People with weak minds and that are star-struck are most vulnerable.

Sex appeal is the most prominent form of marketing because everyone believes that sex is the ultimate desire in everyone's life. This is when they exploit the female body image to sell their goods. The exploitation of the female is okay for marketing, but not okay, when it comes to sexual harassment based on dress code in the workforce.

Through bill boards in urban areas, magazines often bought in one zip code and surrounding areas, and by way of local television viewing is the Black community targeted with goods that marketers believe most appeal to that group.

The advertisements and sale prices are completely different in other parts of the city and nation because the demographics are different. The advertisements in rural Oregon are extremely different from the ones in urban Miami or Chicago. The lifestyles of people and their needs and wants in addition to their buying power has a lot to do with what is marketed to them.

Electronics and music is marketed to Black communities more often than other goods because this is the pattern Black consumers show when making purchases. Why does Coca Cola use so many Black people in their commercials? Because marketers know that Blacks buy a lot of coke.

When we contribute to this economy and help build stronger this capitalist system, we become weakened more because we are giving them more power to track us and manipulate our habits. This does not help the struggle of Black America to become free and independent, but more dependent on the system that keeps us suppressed as consumers of goods we truly do not need.

2004 by AfroStaff

Redirecting Black America: An Afro Rebuttal to Tavis Smiley's Theory of Black Assimilation

Tavis Smiley has become an emerging voice for Black Americans. He is respected in mainstream media sources, and once a Black voice has gained momentum in the mainstream, they tend to render an image of Blacks to the rest of society. The image of Blacks Smiley is projecting seems to be one mirrored by the current image with little change.

The list below is one that Smiley suggests that Blacks follow in order to better themselves and to better assimilate with American society. In rebuttal to his suggestions, Afroamerica will redirect the Black mind away from what he suggest by giving alternative ways of thinking and living in America.

21 Things African Americans Should Do According to Tavis Smiley

Smiley - 1) Register to vote, or shut up!

Afromerica - 1) If anyone pays taxes and manages to stay out of jail, they have just as much right to say and speak what they will. Why register your name in a system that protects the rights and wishes of the rich and continually ignore the needs of the poor?

Smiley - 2) Take all that money out of those stocking caps, in cans, mattresses, and floorboards and invest money in something. For starters, invest in the food you eat and clothes you wear.

Afromerica - 2) This is an out-of-date stereotype that should be thrown away. People are required to have direct deposit and bank accounts in today's cashless society and many do; ignore this insult. As a national spokes person, instead of talking down to the bottom, start from the top and suggest that Black doctors and manufacturers start marketing to their own communities and not "where the money is," in the white communities.

Smiley - 3) Learn another language. Ebonics does not count.

Afromerica - 3) Another insult pulled from the white book of insults. Why must we perfect the King's English just to make whites happy? They seem to accept the broken English of foreigners when approving bank loans. We are not of the Euro sock and breed. If they do not like the way we talk, make them adapt to us.

Smiley - 4) Stop using the "N" word in the year 2005, especially since Merriam-Webster has announced it isn't changing the definition.

Afromerica - 4) Again, grow some testicles and go to the top with this one Smiley. Talk to Black movie stars and comedians who make light of the "nigger" and Sambo image. As far as Webster is concerned, does this not raise a flag as to the racial injustice we face in America? How does this have anything to do with what Blacks are doing?

Smiley - 5) Buy something each week from a black vendor.

Afromerica - 5) On this we agree.

Smiley - 6) Stop blaming white folk for 98% of your problems, while giving them 100% of your money.

Afromerica - 6) Referring back to number 5, if there were enough Black vendors who specialized in everything we need, this would be no problem. Furthermore, whites have 98% of the wealth so any complaints are legitimate until we have our own wealth. Mr. Smiley, stop using catch phrases and myths about our people to help undermine them.

Smiley - 7) Subscribe to Ebony, JET, Black Enterprise, Essence. Then subscribe to one of the three weeklies: Time, Newsweek, or US News and World Report. After we read about what's going on in our world, how about knowing what's going on in theirs? It is, after all, your world.

Afromerica - 7) Subscribe to the world of conspicuous consumption? We think not. These periodicals are nothing more than fantasy worlds created by boogie Blacks who were slighted by their white mentors after they gave them all their money to attend their schools and work in their businesses. And why support Black businesses that feed us white concepts and have no originality of their own? Time, Newsweek, and any other weekly is nothing more than an extension of cable TV, which is the essence of

bias and lies. How about us acknowledging reality, writing about it and publishing the truth for our people to read.

Smiley - 8) Stop walking past each other and not speaking.

Afromerica - 8) Where do you socialize? Obviously not the hood. The only Blacks who do this are Blacks who are outnumbered by whites. When one Black face reaches their destination of success and another Black comes in, they must avoid each other in order not to seem too Black. This happens in your world, not ours.

Smiley - 9) Be on time for something ... anything!

Afromerica - 9) Another stereotype. This can happen to anyone. There are white folks who are lazy, late, sorry, shiftless and whatever else they have attributed to Black folks. Open your mind and see reality.

Smiley - 10) Get an annual check up; herbs do not cure everything!

Afromerica - 10) An annual check up from whom, the HIV/AIDS injecting doctor? Though this may seem paranoid, some people just simply do not trust doctors and western medicine. There are ways to heal thyself without the use of drugs. Herbs and prayer do heal.

Smiley - 11) In all thy ways acknowledge Him (GOD) and He shall direct thy path." And prioritize this as #1.

Afromerica - 11) Cannot argue with scripture.

Smiley - 12) Stop being jealous of one another, learn to look past the material things and see the person for who they are.

Afromerica - 12) Jealousy does destroy unity. Blacks are no more jealousy of one another than the white man is of Blacks as a whole. Jealousy stems from the "keep up with the Jones" syndrome, which comes from material wantonness, which comes from the idea of success in a capitalist society. Maybe you should dig deeper into the psyche of this society and not criticize the actions of an individual people.

Smiley - 13) Get involved in at least one charitable or voluntary community service.

Afromerica - 13) Why? Unless it is a Black community group in your own locality. National groups are pandering idiots that waste the dues-payer's money and get nothing accomplished. Start in your own community.

Smiley - 14) Say a prayer for someone beside yourself.

Afromerica - 14) This observation is mere assumption. Who says we do not?

Smiley - 15) Hug your child/spouse/parent today.

Afromerica - 15) Noble suggestion, but again, mere assumption that we do not.

Smiley - 16) LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

Afromerica - 16) Expound on that. What is love? What measures a person's love for another? Put in simpler terms, care about what is going on with your neighbor (next door, down the street).

Smiley - 17) Learn to Let Go and Let God.

Afromerica - 17) Catch Phrase (Not written anywhere in the Bible).

Smiley - 18) Stop talking about it, and be about it.

Afromerica - 18) And you are? All you are doing is feeding Blacks what the oppressor wants with these suggestions. It runs deeper than just doing, it is a matter of what people think and believe, and then they can do differently. As long as we believe in this system and its definitions, laws, acts, and policies, we can never "be about it."

Smiley - 19) Let GOD order your steps instead of the world.

Afromerica - 19) We must first know God and in which direction he wants and as long as our so-called Black church leaders practice the act of capitalist Christianity, we can never get away from the world. Again, go to the top with this one.

Smiley - 20) P.U.S.H!! Pray Until Something Happens!

Afromerica - 20) Acronyms never solved a problem. However, the concept of prayer has to be carefully crafted. You cannot pray for anything, you have to have a just and workable goal in mind. Example, you cannot pray you get rich because troubles come with money. You have to pray that money does not corrupt you.

Smiley - 21) In all that you do, get understanding, (turn off the TV, and open a book). Don't just read this, DO IT and encourage others Take nothing for granted. Tell people what they mean to you - TODAY!!!!!!

Afromerica -21) Respectable suggestion, but how about suggesting the books to read and explaining to Black America why television is bad.

The above list of suggestions by Smiley to Black America is considerable things in need of redirection away from mainstream thinking. America and her ideologies about life are not ones that the Black mind need adapt simply because it places us in the very position we are in today. If we continue to think along these same lines, in 50 years, someone else will be writing exactly what Afromerica has just written.

2005 by CR Hamilton

Redefining the Stages of Life for Black America

American society has taken it upon themselves to define the stages of life and what people should expect, and do during their lifetime, including Black Americans. If we study these stages, we will find that there lies an agenda for people, one laced with an industrialist undertone that fuels the need for production.

As Black Americans in a capitalist country, we must recognize this society's stipulated stages of life for what they really are and redefine what we should expect from life. By doing this, we redirect ourselves away from being mere cogs in the operation of industrial capitalism and can begin to structure a purpose for our own lives.

By following the stages of life according to American scientist and sociologist, we will dissect this theory - the stages of life - and put into place one that would work better for Blacks as a people within a land of self-centeredness and the monopolization of the masses as a labor force only.

Normative Life Stages Theory

America - Age 16-23 - Youth and Adolescence

The stage in which young people are traditionally expected to finish school, leave home, and begin to establish work careers and intimate relationships. Because this period of life involves so many changes and is often a time of searching and trying out new roles, it is sometimes said to involve an "identity crises," a period of self-reflection in which young people try to understand more about who they are.

Afromerica - Age 12-18 - Young Adulthood (redefined)

First, we redefined the age bracket of the first stage. It is well known and documented that in Africa and many other countries, boys begin training as men as young as 12 years old. To date, there are young boys who live their lives in their teen years as if they are adults equaling 30 years here in the U.S.

The concept behind this is that people, by nature, are capable of developing and understanding life at younger ages such as 12-15 than what is actually expected of them today in America. It is believed that young people can begin a skeleton of a life at 12 years by realizing that at some point they will be adults and on their own. They learn the particulars of responsibility to their family and community (the Black family and community), and to the greater society. This is a lesson that Black Americans should become accustomed, teaching young people at early ages that life is more than materialism, but a strategy of living.

The dark secret behind American's definition of the stages of life is that it prepares people for the workforce. All are expected to "finish school, leave home, and begin to establish work careers," thus people are subconsciously preconditioned to become contributing mechanisms to the capitalist structure by working for corporations.

They are not encouraged or taught to become business owners nor is there academia in public schools to teach this and prepare children for becoming their own business owners and community developers, but the academia is specifically for developing workers, which is needed to run a successful labor force.

Black America should teach their children, and demand from urban schools, that lessons on becoming self-sufficient business people and barterers should be taught as curricula instead of learning to become

workers. On the contrary, Blacks shuffle through life with one and only one paradigm of what a normal and acceptable life is, which is becoming educated enough to find a good job and working for others.

America - Age 18-40 - Young Adulthood

The time when formal schooling is completed and roles associated with work and family careers become more important as many people marry and begin to raise children. The major challenge facing people in this stage is balancing work and family commitments.

Afromerica - Age 18-35 - Adulthood

By this time, young people should be prepared and ready to leave the home and start a business in the community. They should have had formal training and schooling by urban schools to understand how to do business with others in the community, basically their graduating peers and other already established businesses. If the cycle were to begin with a foundation of funding for new businesses, there would be enough of a business base for new businesses to grow and serve the community.

Where family is concerned, the family should consist mainly of relatives such as brothers, sisters, distant relatives and elders. Exploring self and the character of others should be encouraged but not to an extent of marriage until the person has a good understanding of how to treat the other gender. This should be taught to young men and women, and by the early twenties, a couple could then begin considering a family and children.

According to America's stages of life, "the major challenge facing people in this stage is balancing work and family commitments." In order for corporations to succeed in their undertaking of molding and utilizing the labor force, they have to give incentive for people to work. In other words, they place people in the position of needing to work so to depend on their jobs for survival. Such is the concept of balancing work and family.

If people have families, it is expected of them to support that family, and rightly so, however, one can support their family by working for themselves instead of others. And in the rebuilding of the Black community and the stages of life, Blacks will learn to run and maintain a business for the Black community before starting a family. Once the business is solid, there will always be a place for the children.

America - Age 35-70 - Adulthood, Maturity, Middle Age

The stage in which children get older and begin to leave home and the struggles involved in balancing work and family demands tend to lessen. Both men and women begin to feel encroaching signs of age, report experiencing more health problems, and often have parents and other elderly friends and relatives who are in failing health.

Afromerica - Age 35-60 - Middle Age

By this time in the stages of life, Black Americans will have successfully established a business (family business) and are preparing and or raising a family. They have strong ties with the community and can now reach out to distant communities and regions of Black America in intercontinental trade. They travel

and begin to enjoy the fruits of their labor. They also contribute to the continual building of their own communities by teaching classes and directing the young.

According to the American stages of life, however, it is during this time that people begin to lessen their ties to work and family when on the contrary, the Black community should be strengthening theirs to keep the cycle going. Also, according to them, people begin aging physically along with those around them. This expectation is a defeatist one because one becomes more dependent on government assistance and the madness of today's medical field, which furthers the endeavors of big business.

Black America, by this time, will understand that health and well being can last as long as happiness and prayer is involved in life. Gathering regularly with other elders for prayer and meditation and through group healing, people can live longer without dependency on government or medicine but on the knowledge of nature alone.

America - Age 60-90 - Late Maturity, Old Age

The stage in which people begin to retire from work and suffer from some type of disability that requires drastic changes in activities. Changes generally involve unavoidable losses, such as jobs, significant others through their deaths, and health and energy. The major challenge of old age is learning to cope with the new identities and roles associated with these losses.

Afromerica - Age 60-100 - Elders

Older aged individuals in the Black community according to the stages of life are happy and healthy, though general nature of life claims the body as far as aging is concerned, Blacks are more happy, longer because the fruits of their loins have grown to become successful people and pillars in the community. They are also happy because there are no dysfunctional families or drama and no worries about medical assistance.

The business has provided well for them and the community is a continual comfort at this age. Instead of falling by the way side of American life and retiring in Florida, Black elders are rewarded from their accomplishments and honored as elders. They are sought after for advice and council and are not neglected by family or the community.

These are the stages of life for Black America, redefined. We do not have to live up to the expectations of American society concerning how we live our lives. If we accept this model, we will always be subject to corporations and the new form of modern day slavery. We should not allow society to use us as workers and be given only the hope of succeeding in a career job; we should have new expectations and set better standards for our children and ourselves.

Source From: Discovering Sociology (Stockard 2000).

June 2005 by CR Hamilton

Statistics Lie

While researching the statistics on race and abortion, Aframerica researchers came across an interesting contradiction. In one study the rate of abortion among Blacks and whites looked like this:

Abortion rates - 1997

White	Black
19%	56%

In another study for the same year the rates looked like this:

Abortion rates - 1997

White	Black
57%	33%

Which one is correct? Well since it is obvious that we cannot count on statistics for accuracy, Aframerica decided to use what we know and what was once called "common sense" to bring these stats to a more believable reading.

The way we did this is to first estimate the number of white women in America and the number of Black women. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Blacks are 12% of the population and Black women outnumber Black men by 6:1, therefore, we can safely conclude that Black women make up at least 60% of the Black population.

The white population in America is five times that of Black America. So if white America makes up at most 60% of the population, we supposed that white women outnumber white men by 5:1, therefore, we can conclude that white women make up at least 55% of the white population.

Now where it pertains to pregnancy and abortion, we can assume that out of the entire female population (both Black and white) possibly 3 out of 10 women get pregnant every year and from those 3, maybe one will get an abortion. (Remember, we are not relying on statistics any longer because they have proven to be unreliable).

Now this is where common sense comes in. If there are more white women in America than Black women, and at least an equal amount of these women get pregnant and have abortions, how can it be possible that Black women get more abortions than white women? All things considered, living standards and all, to say that a minority does anything more often than the majority would mean that either the minority has serious issues or the stats are lying.

Though possible that that assumption could be scientifically proven wrong, it is highly unlikely unless extreme circumstances are in play. In the matter of abortion and race from the first set of stats, this would mean that either Black women abort way more often than white women (who knows because of what

condition) or the makers of the stats would like people to believe that Black women abort more than whites.

What would be the reason someone would want the public to believe Black women are more prone to abort than white women? Simple, they want people to think that Black women (or Blacks period) have no consideration for life. And this is what most readers would believe because all are trained to think that stats never lie. But we at Afroamerica have proven that to be untrue; stats do lie and we have the resources to prove it.

Furthermore, what makes any Black person think that the researchers of this country would provide viable stats when pertaining to Blacks? We have to be aware that racism still exists and we are in the age of psychological slavery and oppression and one way to psychologically deceive people, especially Blacks, is to falsify statistics, something we have been taught to believe in since elementary. There are many areas based on race and ethnicity that provide stats and these stats govern how we see the world and life in America.

To give an example of how easily it is to falsify stats, think about this. When have advertisers of a stock ever advertised their stock as a graph going down instead of up to win customers? Whenever one sees a graph of stock prices, the prices are always on the rise. If the company showed the stock falling, who would buy their stock?

The same goes for stats of many other issues. People believe what they first see, which has a definite effect on how they will from then on view the world. If we are made to believe that Blacks have more abortions than whites, especially at such alarming rates as the first set of stats imply, what are we to believe about the lifestyle and values of Blacks?

If this country cannot use blatant racism to neutralize Black America what other means could they use? Do not be too quick to think that white America would not stoop to such deception to psychologically deceive and oppress Blacks in this country. If we believe bad things about ourselves, others will believe even worse things.

If you would like the resources that show these stats, just contact us and we will provide them.

2003 by AfroStaff

The Truth About the Hip Hop Generation

It drains the sober brain attempting to figure out how the Hip Hop generation has had a positive effect on our (Black) culture. With all due respect to musicians both legendary and current, with respect to the Harlem Renaissance, the Blues, and Motown, and the many past and present celebrities that vouch for and praise Hip Hop as a positive cultural movement in Black American development, time and the actual state of Black America testifies differently.

When walking the streets of Detroit's' west side in the late 70's, early 80s, when Rap hit the mainstream RnB stations, one can recall the lyrics and the moods associated with this new sound. Three or four young Black men riding through the hood listening to Run-DMC "My Adidas" turned up so the bass could be heard on the next corner usually meant the four-deep were posturing their readiness to throw-down with anyone opposed.

When Adidas, Max Julian Hood Jackets (or Bums as considered in other urban cities), and 2 inch gold ropes, knuckle rings, and Herringbone necklaces were displayed by popular Rap groups that visited urban cities on tour, the trend in that city followed and every young Black male and female who wanted to prove their hardness copied the look.

However, along with the look came attitude and the anticipated ability to live up to that attitude, which meant fighting, gang-banging, and afterward, during the crack decade, selling dope, slangin, throwin, or whatever it was called in your town. Also, during Reaganomics came a huge separation between the haves and the have-nots, which brought about a stronger era of struggle and materialism in the inner cities.

This materialism brought greed and when mixed with crack, attitude and thug rap that glorified it all, thus came robbery, theft and eventually murders in the form of drive-bys and kids being killed - all over the country and all for the sake of materialism and ghetto clout. Call it crazy, but if Rap had not hit the mainstream urban radio stations, and Earth, Wind, and Fire along with the Isleys and other actual musical groups had stayed, maybe Black America would not be as screwed up as we are.

The late eighties and the early nineties brought even more violent rap lyrics suggesting killing cops and rising against the government. It brought an "I don't give a f**k." attitude that entered many of our youth and ourselves and many did not after that. About school, family, the cops, jail, or even life itself. Personally, we walked tall with empty pockets and criminal minded all day long.

By the time one had grown up from the early rap style and began listening to normal RnB or Jazz, the Rap/ Hip Hop attitude had entered into that genre in some form or fashion. The Rap artist attempted a self-identification type revolution in the early nineties but it quickly failed and gave way to East/West rivalry, which ended up with two of Rap/ Hip Hops most talented young brothers dead, unnecessarily. Was that positive? Did it give rise to Black America? Hell no, so where is the glory?

Now, today, it has escalated to where the attitude cannot be stopped. The "I don't give a f**k." attitude and indifference toward the community and life in general including the family, the Black male/female relationship, and even the father/son-mother/daughter relationship, all now a distant memory in the Black mind.

Urban radio today is a complete joke. The liberal/political undertones it sends to the Black community is rotting our brains and draining our innovative energies sending us into an abyss of dependency, samboized antics, and mega-church erroneous beliefs about life. Urban radio DJ's glorify rappers who make millions off songs that do nothing more than tempt Black youth to commit contemptible acts of sexual immorality, individualistic material greed, and rebellion against their own people.

What makes this whole Hip Hop generation so superficial is that major Black celebrities, Black leaders, and church preachers have embraced it as some kind of Cultural Revolution that should have a page in

Black America's history books. Although it will, it will read similar to the words above as a time when Black America sunk to its lowest moral state due to the self-hating voices of Black men and women who thought they were living the American dream.

When a teacher, parent, or any concerned, responsible person reveals the secrets of life into the ear of a listening child, it is loudly drowned out by the misconceptions of life from the voices of the Hip Hop generation. When our Black children should be learning the skills of self-actualization and development, they are copying the lifestyles of the rich and arrogant. And who is encouraging this - Black leaders and Black entertainment media gatekeepers who glorify this crap and feed it 24/7 to our children.

Therefore, no Black intellectual or leader who would give Hip Hop any dap should speak a damn word about the behavior of our youth, our family structure, or the Black state of America. For your privileges have just been revoked. Now, how has Hip Hop strengthened Black America?

November 2005 By CR Hamilton

The Fox and the Hunter

The fox possesses a wisdom the hunter wants to acquire. However, the hunter has yet to perfect the gift of negotiation whereby he can gain this wisdom from the fox rightfully, thus he resorts to what he knows best, the practice of subtle deception. The fox by nature is the essence of human naiveté existing simply as a creation and dependent of the earth from which he came. As a result of the fox's character the hunter was able to capture him.

Once the hunter captured and confined the fox to the penal colony of his social structure, he blew a shotgun shell in the air and proclaimed himself as the now supreme persona of human civility to all the other animals of the world. As long as the fox was confined, this was the authority of the hunter.

For years the fox kept his nose close to the ground all along the brow of the fence and for years the fox listened carefully to the words of the hunter each time he passed by. The hunter exalted his theories of reason disguised as wisdom and his theologies of Divinity muddled with autocracy. He left at dawn and returned at dusk with the spoils of the forest, shores, and valleys of the world. His terrain grew exceedingly great before the inspecting eyes of the fox.

Soon the hunter's daily explorations grew shorter and he waxed fat and sat gloriously on his stoop boasting to his international conglomerates while his offspring greedily consumed the homeland without replenishing efforts. The fox sniffed this lackadaisical aroma and began to notice breaches along the brow of the fence. His time had come.

The night was as dark as ever and the moon howled a delivering bellow. The hunter turned once to admire his own domain and the fox burrowed his way to freedom. Running wild again he recognized

justice ahead and the true essence of liberty as it awaited him in the distance. So long was it since the fox had followed the direction of Divine guidance instead of the path of unfulfilled promises.

The next day the bearers of the hunter's domain informed him that the fox had escaped. Shattered by a tremendous fear, the hunter clutched his heart and head and collapsed in an ecliptic fit. Not simply the fear but the knowledge that the fox had escaped his stronghold disrupted the hunter's entire reasoning algorithm and no longer could he justify his purpose of living. For his absolute reason for being was based on his enslavement of the fox.

Once the Black man escapes the psychological enslavement of Euro-America only then will he recognize justice and the true essence of liberty. The natural embodiment of the Black man rest on the pillars of wisdom. Deception is an illness that infects the soul and traps the mind and the only cure is to acknowledge from whence and through whom it comes.

2004 By CR Hamilton

When You Know You've Been Cheated On

Depending on whether or not you were in love and whether or not you are married should determine your reaction. For instance, if you and your spouse have been married for a number of years and they cheat, you have a legal and moral right to be shocked and highly pissed. But if you are not married, first, legalities are not in your corner, and morally, you were in the wrong from the get.

First, we will address the unmarried scenario then the married one. Regardless of if you were in love or not, if you and your other were not married and they cheated then first of all, shock is not an option for you so just get over it. If you loved that person shock may play a part but if love was a factor, you should have been married. The other can easily say that they did not love you from the beginning and had no real duty to commit to a monogamous relationship.

Second, if you were married and your spouse cheated, you do NOT have the legal or moral right to run them down in the family SUV, but you do have the legal and moral right to damages. Needless to say, love is a factor in this scenario because you were married. However, if the marriage was not based on love, then you are actually in the first boat. Though legally you are justified, morally you should just get over it.

See, love has a lot to do with how you react and how the rest of your life will turn out. It could hurt deeply if someone you truly love and devoted yourself to found comfort in someone else's kitchen and living room. Time heals the hurt but in the meantime what do you do? Your friends (the spiteful ones) remind you of your now ex and they wickedly throw their relationships in your face. Distance yourself from that kind of negativity. Your family reaches out to comfort you but some of them also had their secret spells floating around your relationship. You don't need that either.

When you have found your other cheating, the best thing to do is turn the other way for good. Never, ever, allow them to return to your life because they never truly loved you from the get and they will probably never change. Despite any and all psychological, psychoanalysis, or therapeutic advice, books and experts in the field there are, which attempt to help restore what was lost or help heal the wounds, the only sure fire way to avoid the situation all together is to, in this order:

(This is a down-to-earth, old school, from-the-hood solution)

Before the relationship

1. Make sure it is love from the start, if not, do not take it serious
2. Get married if you both love each other
3. Stay faithful to them first so you cannot be blamed

After they cheat

1. Do not go to jail for a cheater
2. Let them go and do not look back or give second chances
3. Rebuild your life first before dating again

Life is about living, not dating. First priority is to take care of you and let the past go. Once you have your life together then you can begin again to think clearly as to what the rest of life holds for you. There could be something waiting for you out there, a career, a hobby, even a dream. Love is important in life but when love has abandoned you, put love on hold and turn to life.

2003 by Cartel Q

Never Leave Doubt: One of the few secrets to a good relationship

The matter of trust in maintaining a good relationship is well known; one that relationship psychologist and columnist stress for couples to acknowledge. Though trust is the foundation of any relationship, on the flipside of the hand, doubt must be destroyed for trust to have any affect. In other words, for one to totally trust their spouse, they must have no doubt that that spouse is faithful. Also, for the other to trust them, they can leave no doubt in the other's mind, therefore, there can be no subtle indications of flirtatiousness (free sexual expression), preferred self-sufficiency (I do not need you), or invocations of jealousy (if you do not want me, somebody else will).

Today's dating generation has placed a large burden on the egos of people who believe in old fashion courting and romance. The dating scene has forsaken the step-by-step relationship building technique based on trust, faithfulness, and devotion, and resorted to the "share program," (two to a person) in which the other must accept the new age dating rules. These rules require apathy to sustain ones jealousy along with respect for individual freedoms from both parties of the relationship and overstepping the boundaries is a no-no. It constitutes invading the other's space and showing too much suspicion or jealousy, which in turn raises the red flag of possessiveness.

With rules like these, doubt is inevitable; at least in the mind and heart of a normal person. If the person has hardened their heart in the ways of apathy, then doubt is easily flushed away with other natural, mating emotions, and chances of a successful relationship are slim. Even if the perfect spouse comes along, anyone who has been playing the dating game for too long will not know when to stop and to release that which is natural to secure a solid relationship. In fact, many have lost possible spouses and the chance of real love specifically for this reason.

The reason for such stringent dating rules is for a person to have a chance to explore different territories, or to flirt. "Having friends" or "associates" of the opposite sex is not uncommon today in the dating scene and people in a commitment should be able to pal around with these friends and associates without their significant other objecting. If the significant other agrees to the dating rule then they in turn search for friends and associates to do likewise. Afterward, a large window of doubt that a relationship will ever flourish opens in the mind of one of the two. However, that one will never show it because they do not want to appear possessive and unbiased in their dating ideology.

Independence, for the single and now married female, is a compelling trait adopted and respected by today's couples. No more, does the male bring home the bacon and the female fries it up in the pan, this is now an insult to the female's person. Therefore, if the male feels threatened by the independence of his significant other in any way, whether by career earnings, network of friends and associates, or the ability to eventually provide for herself if need be, that would be tough; he just has to learn to deal with it. But how does the playing field equal out in specifying the position of the male? It does not. Men's roles have dwindled from provider to partner, and again, if the male cannot conform, he is controlling and meets the high risk factor as a mate.

The above scenario works both ways, however. In either case, if one spouse feels that the other could easily get along without them, this is a threat to their self-esteem, and if the spouse leaves this impression often enough and as a defense against future hurt, they leave more windows of doubt open. The threatened other will either seek to obtain a stronger position in the relationship or their self-esteem will suffer tremendous defeat.

Subtle implications to spawn jealousy in a spouse are the most dangerous in a relationship. Many think that if their spouse believes that others besides them are interested, they will play that card to the end. In other words, if Jane and John are dating, and Jane leads John to believe that Jim wants her, she knows that John will either show possessiveness - which is a no-no - or he will submit to her every whim not to lose her to Jim. Eventually, when John realizes that Jane is playing with his emotions he will in turn either play the same game or give in to Jim. Jane has placed too much doubt in his mind for their relationship to ever become solid.

Jealousy is a natural rage of a man, especially if that man loves his woman, and vice-versa. To manipulate a person with jealousy shows a lack of respect for that person and shows selfishness on the part of the one doing the manipulating. It also shows that the manipulator lacks confidence in their own selves and need trickery to get and keep whatever it is they want. Independence of a spouse also shows selfishness because whether one knows it or not, in a God-given relationship dependency is a key part of the relationship. If one cannot depend on their spouse, the relationship is a one-way street. Moreover, flirtatiousness in the form of the "share program" should not be a quality trait of a serious relationship, but should remain in the dating scene only because it has no validity in relationship ethics.

Only after the removal of doubt from each of the minds in a relationship will trust take affect. If a person can honestly say their spouse leaves no room for doubt, then they can confidently say they trust them, however, if there is the slightest notion of doubt, they cannot honestly say that their trust is strong. If pure love is a factor in a relationship, neither spouse would ever really want to hurt the other thus they would never give the other any reason to doubt them. This is one way to measure the love in a relationship. In a real relationship, the opposite of flirtatiousness, preferred self-sufficiency, and invoked jealousy actually makes a relationship, which is attentiveness to the other spouse, dependency on that spouse, and to gain the devotion of that spouse.

2003 by Cartel Q

The Husband Syndrome

A sad dilemma has taken hold of Black America; one that threatens the moral fiber of our people in this country. Aside from the myth of the Black male shortage, or the "cannot find a good man" crises, many Black women have resorted to prayer and faith in God to settle them with the right man. And this new market of Black women searching has been captured by religious capitalist looking to build wealth.

Some seventy percent of church congregations are comprised of women, and most of them are in need or want of a husband; while the rest come to church leaving their husbands at home. Off the record, the reason most men do not go to church is because they recognize game in the preacher when they see him coming. Most men do not believe the hype in the messages of today's prosperity preachers. In fact, one has to know game to recognize game.

Women are dreamers. They are in search, first of all, for the perfect relationship, the storybook romance they see on television, not understanding that it takes mental and emotional work to have a good marriage, which can sometimes become exhausting.

Second, women want to be envied of their friends and family. They want lavish weddings they can brag about in the future. They want money, for their man to have a decent job, and many want children. They want these things and rightly so because this is what life is all about in essence, man - woman - bare children, raise a family...it is called reproduction.

The problem is that this is not working for Black women for some reason. They are reaching and grabbing for straws and settling for less. Many have given up hope, become desperate, and even gotten themselves into relationships they knew from the start was not going to be the best for them. But misguided and blind desire can lead a desperate person into the pits of hell.

Many Black women have turned to other races believing this would solve their problems. Some have turned to other women for need of passion, emotional support, and simple love and attention. As a result, the children of these women absorb these dysfunctional feelings and go into the world with a negative view from the start. Preachers see this crisis and have discovered a way to make money from it.

The Bible is a book of promises. To have faith in its words takes long suffering and patience. Nothing comes easy from the promises of God and none come overnight. If something is worth getting, it will take suffering before or during reception. In other words, many will receive a god-given spouse and suffer through to make it work or they will suffer first and then receive a spouse. Either way, suffering is required.

Preachers preach promise. They extend hope to many women but they do it in exchange for money. And women will pay and stand behind any preacher who can make it sound just right. Many women do not realize that the church, the preacher's promises or no amount of money or time given will bring them a husband, only God can, because only God knows what any particular woman needs and when she needs it; love is based on needs, not wants.

Now, many will refute this by saying that the church is the best place to start, but if the church is filled with the same type women, there is little chance on finding a good man. And the men who are in church are either already married or only there to capture desperate women. In fact, more and more scandal has been revealed from within the church involving male members and preachers with single women than in the workplace, community, or nightclub scene.

Promises of finding a spouse by today's prosperity preachers is a hoax because their gospel is based on money, thus money will become the foundation of any marriage that results of their teachings. Love, faith, and long suffering is not taught in its entirety nor to its most effective because they themselves have not learned either. They can only speak through the comforts of wealth, and when the wealth dries up or becomes an issue, the marriage usually fall through also.

So for Black women who are looking for love and a husband, advice to you is to trust God and His plan for humanity, which is reproduction the natural way, and not in promises of love based on the promises of giving. No woman has to live her life's end alone and as she grows and matures and begin to understand her needs, she will eventually find that someone who also needs what she has to offer. Being young and full of imagery brought to you by television, or full of false promises forced on you by prosperity preachers will only bring you pain.

True love binds a marriage and God is the true essence of love. No man-made doctrine, no things, no self-help, or no amount of money can ever supply a woman with what she truly needs in her heart to make her a complete woman. If money answers all things, it can only answer to things of substance, but since faith is the substance of things not seen, money can never buy you love.

Sep 2007 by CR Hamilton

If You Love Me

According to today's women [black women], there are certain signs that should raise a red flag when being involved with men of the world. Below is a list of things women suggests other women should beware of before getting involved with a man [a black man]. Afterward, Afromerica brings forth what we feel people should know about true love, instead of the shallowness of the following list:

Out of 25 women surveyed

Never date a man who...

- takes longer to get dressed than you do
- you catch in a big lie
- doesn't have a job
- doesn't have a sense of humor
- doesn't like your closest friends
- says he loves you but doesn't show it
- can't communicate
- has no future goals
- doesn't respect, or have a good relationship with his mother or sister(s)
- drinks to much
- smokes too much weed
- can't keep a job
- doesn't know how to share
- who still lives with his parents
- have suspicions about his fidelity
- is living with a female
- that carries a bag of his undergarments, clothes, in his trunk

- that trips when asking questions about his suspicious behavior
- always complaining about how hard his life is
- wit missing teeth
- wit crooked teeth
- wit gold teeth
- wit the money to fix his teeth....but doesn't
- sneezes without covering his nose and mouth
- keeps forgetting your name

Being in love [true love] is an intensifying experience for each facet of one's tri-being: And expressing that love comes relatively easy if the person on the receiving end knows what to expect. However, in today's loveless society, knowing what to expect has become blurred in many eyes and hearts, as you can see from the above list.

What you would do if you love me? According to high maintenance people, if you love me you would:

Women

1. pay my rent and/or bills
2. get my hair and nails done (because you should care how I look)
3. buy me flowers, cards, and candy on occasions
4. take me out around your friends
5. take me out to eat, see a movie, and dancing
6. impress me with exciting outings
7. meet and respect my parents

Men

1. look good at all times
2. get my clothes from the cleaners
3. agree with everything I say
4. let me handle my business

5. be there when I need you
6. have your own bank account
7. appreciate the money I make

High maintenance people base their expectations of love on what society portrays as proved love. They have no real idea of what true love is capable of expressing so they have to rely on what society dictates, on television, love stories, and magazines. On the other hand, the low-maintenance, or discrete person, has a very different perspective of love. The discrete person says if you love me, you would:

Women

1. spend time with me
2. take me out occasionally
3. tell me you love me
4. tell me I still look good
5. remember our special dates, places, and songs
6. marry me
7. take care of our children

Men

1. not care how much money I make
2. not flirt with my friends
3. let me hang with my friends
4. let me watch the game
5. cook and clean the house
6. never take my kids from me
7. forgive me when I lie

The above expectations are based solely on hear se and peer group gossip. Though these people are not difficult to please, they are more susceptible to outside influences when interpreting what love is. They are also the people who experience more breakups and disappointing relationships than any others do because they rely on the trends of other people's relationships than the power of real love.

Both scenarios are common in today's society yet both leave little room for what true love is supposed to offer. True love expects no frills, perks, or extremities but rolls out naturally bringing a level of comfort and security both partners can embrace. There is no pressure in love and it never has to be proven. In a

relationship between a man and woman whom love one another, the depths of love are expressed as so, if you love me, you would:

1. Always tell me you do because it's the way you feel not because you are forced to or for occasion
2. want me around you even if neither of us say anything
3. make sure I'm safe, secure and happy
4. not measure my love by the price tag
5. know I am the best thing for you
6. tolerate my flaws and ignore my stupidity
7. look forward to our old age

True love should never be measured by social trends, statistics, or against other people's relationships, but by the tri-being of both partners. Love is not suppose to be a structured design or manufactured agreement, but should shape the people involved; in fact, love can never be structured: And has a power its own that no society can control. Therefore, if one loves another, they would know this.

2004 by Cartel Q

Inner-Race Relations in a Racial Society

Interracial dating and marriage is another taboo social issue often avoided in everyday conversation, though is going on all around us each day. When someone of one race decides to "change teams", there is always opposition from either one or both sides.

According to a study from the Pew Research Center, recent data reveal that 63% of people polled believe that "Interracial marriages are GOOD because they help break down racial barriers" and 26% believed that Interracial marriages are BAD because mixing races reduces the special talents." Six-percent were neutral on the matter and 5% did not know.

Out of those polled, 70 percent of whites and 82 percent of blacks approved of interracial dating. Why is it that more Blacks approve of interracial dating and or marriage? Let us analyze this theory.

Most would think that Blacks are more apt to turn toward the white race because they believe they are getting a better deal. On the other hand, why would whites change teams? Some would feel that whites would because they would like to try something new and different, maybe even living on the "wild side."

This would probably be the first notion of the reasons. However, let us look at the individual sexes. Black women are more likely to go white men because of the shortage of Black men and or they feel they would

have more control. Black men may change teams because they know they would have more control and or they are trying to prove a point.

White women may "go Black" because they were told all their lives not to and white men "go Black" because it is probably in their nature to, like their forefathers. Whatever the reason for either of these species to date outside of their race, interracial dating and marriage draw criticism from the opposing team at every site of a mixed couple.

The opposing viewpoint would rather keep everything in its proper perspective and not throw the cosmos out of sync. Many believe that inter-mixing of the races is not right before God, such as the Bob Jones University, who remains in a state of third world ideology despite their recent removal of the ban on interracial couples at the school.

Others do not care and believe that love matters before race. This mind-set is one that takes a multicultural snapshot of society and weighs the odds for the future. At some point, America will be the complete melting pot of the world, but how will this mix affect race relations? Will it hurt or strengthen America?

Depending on the tolerance of racism in America's future, no one can tell. However, it seems that the old die-hard racist of the country are dying out and a new generation is evolving. One that is more willing to accept a mixture of peeps and who will not view race at a factor when it comes to love.

Source From: <http://people-press.org/reports/print.php3?PageID=260>

2004 by Afro Staff

Why Women Cannot Find a Good Man

The many variables contributing to this phenomenon actually come down to overcoming one negative attribute of the female mind, which is lack of self-knowledge. If a woman does not know who she is and what her purpose and true nature is, she will never understand how to find (get) a good man.

First, let us dispel all the myths and urban legends. One, there is no shortage of Black men. Though Black men make-up 75% of the prison system, there are not as many Black men in the prison system than there are on the streets. And though statistics suggest that 1 out of 7 Black men are gay, they are only a small percentage of the general population. Again, because the marriage rate of Blacks is small, not all good Black men are married; it merely appears that way because of the female preference and wish list.

Therefore, this leaves the majority of Black men available and marriable. There are many college educated Black men, single Black men who are decent men, and many God-fearing men who want a family and would be dedicated to that family. The problem is not so much with Black men or the shortage myth, but what Black women want in their men.

Second, all too many times, women are expectant of something. They say they will settle for a man with a job, any job, but in reality, when the money is not rolling in plentiful enough to keep up with "girlfriend," the woman's true preferences show through. They then attempt to "better" their man by suggesting more schooling.

Many claim that physique is not important or looks, or size, but when time comes for public appearances, family reunions, or physical satisfaction, somehow the woman comes up short. She speaks for the man in public (and society has come to expect Black women to do the talking), she makes excuses to family and friends for her man's situation, and she constantly seeks change and variety in sexuality.

Not to say that all women are like this, but those who cannot seem to find a good man would better fit this profile in more ways than one.

Next, she ignores the brother on her job that just does not spark that physical appeal in her. She is not impressed with the brother's work habits or his nerdy qualities, and she automatically looks the other way because of his lack of sex appeal and she turns to the brother who got it that way instead, yet he is the one who will treat her like a dog.

She has not understood that many men will make her a good husband if she knew what to look for instead of searching for the stereotypical qualities on her list-of-desirable men. She believes in society's definition of what a man is thus she looks for that man. He is the hunk, the bad boy, the jock, the successful, and she ignores the obvious, the nerd, the simple, the bright, the thinker, the anti-social, and the quite.

Last, women cannot find a good man because she does not know who she is and what makes her happy. Her mother told her to find a successful lawyer or doctor but her mother neglected to tell her that lawyers and doctors cheat on their wives. Her friends told her to find a man who could satisfy her sexually but they neglected to tell her that he will satisfy everyone else's sexual desires as well.

The woman's magazine told her to find a man who is sensitive and who will share the house work while she works, yet neglected to tell her that that is reverse oppression and a man will not stay down long under those circumstances.

She has the excuses; she has tried this man and that, but has come to the conclusion that all men are dogs. One problem with that is, if all the men she tried were dogs in her book, then her attempt to train him was a failure. This leads into the drama of what women want.

The mind games, the control factor, and the unrealistic expectations of women have gone beyond that of reality and into the fanatical.

Women first read the man through and then try him in many areas to test his stability. This is a mistake because if she has to test him then she is expecting something other than a real relationship. She is also putting in jeopardy the potential of a relationship from the beginning.

The games, the games, the mind games. The woman then has to gain control. She first seeks out the man's weakness and when she has found it, she will either exploit it for her own benefit, because that is what she is taught by her girlfriends, or she will accept it as is and help strengthen it for her advantage in the future.

She expects sensitivity, consideration, and respect, yet if she is not sensitive, considerate or respectful of others, or herself, she will never receive those things from him. She first has to know herself before expecting this character from others to her own satisfaction.

Does she really want a family or is this something she has come to anticipate from the propaganda of American society and Hollywood. Is she going to be a good mother because many men want children but cannot handle a contentious and or perplexed woman. Thus we have many single mothers.

Not to say that men have it all together, but when women complain about not being able to find a good man, they must first understand what a good man is and what to expect from him. She must also know how to give that which is good to the man if she wants to keep him and call him her own.

July 2005 by Cartel Q

A Matured Relationship

Articles about "putting the romance back into your relationship" flood websites and popular magazines constantly and one would think that by now this issue would have been solved. There should now be a guaranteed scientific remedy on how to keep romance in a relationship. But, there is obviously no remedy and this failure implies that if there is not any or enough romance in a relationship, that relationship has no substance.

American society's sex-starved culture contributes at least 5% to the divorce rate because it places too much emphasis on sexual relations and romantic endeavors in a relationship when there are many other more important aspects of a relationship that help them grow and remain stable. Diamonds, pearls, candy, and hearts are good but mutual respect and cooperation is the soul of any relationship.

Generally speaking, concerns about a dying relationship based on lack of romance are problems women face. Men view the relationship lifeline on an entirely different spectrum, like plans and goals for the future and how they will be achieved. But no one knows where to find articles about "stabilizing your relationship for the future" anywhere.

Although there is no scientific method of stabilizing your relationship or keeping the romance in it, there are proven methods that work based on the primary nature of the relationship.

In all areas of a relationship, romantically, financially, and psychologically, there is a phenomenon known as maturity that fashions a relationship and helps it grow. Just like raising a child, there are stages of growth and development. Only in a relationship, both personalities partake of this growth as one.

In the beginning of a relationship, courtship and dating allow couples to know one another; their habits and flaws, strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, tolerances, and goals. If the couple can mutually endure and even appreciate these traits in their mate, then on to stage two.

Stage two usually whines up in some form of commitment such as living together, engagement, or marriage and the couple cohabitant with one another and learn even more. Also, the couple share relationships with other couples and establish an understanding and mutual respect with one another when relating to other people.

During both stages, the romance is passionate and strong. Sexual relations may occur on a frequent basis like daily or every other day. Walks and talks along with outings and vacations are enjoyed and spontaneity is alive depending on the hobbies of the couples. According to many articles, this is the expected level of romance that a relationship should have throughout its lifetime.

However, this theory is seriously flawed, especially if the couple plans to live the rest of their lives together. Romance and spontaneity will lapse over the years and the actual foundation of the marriage has to take root. People have to, at some point plan for the future of their families and allow romance and merriment in moderation.

The future of a relationship is founded on estate planning and plans for children if any. There must be a solid foundation to build careers and family on, plans for future schooling, extended family relations, and possibilities for any business ventures. The couple must correlate their personal goals and characteristics into a oneness that would strengthen their future plans.

This planning stage kicks in after the days of romance and adventure die down and the couple find themselves in a routine. During the routine, there are challenges that come from the indubitable laws of nature and confront the couple to try and test their devotion, trust, and level of commitment. Naturally, romance decreases because the couple must mentally and psychologically work out any differences and problems that arise.

When the romance lessens during this stage it is normal, and any efforts to improve the romance may interfere with the growth. It is not a good time to initiate the practice of improving romance; it should come naturally like after moments of apology and acceptance, or in instances of mutual attraction. If one attempt to push romance on the other and the other is not completely over any animosity or anger, it could frustrate the situation even more. They may feel disrespected and even violated.

Romance occurs naturally in any vibrant relationship. Spontaneity occurs just the same. Never, ever, force either into a relationship if the relationship is in an awkward stage or time period during one of these stages. Allow the relationship to grow and mature on its own without any second-guessed advice from quickie-starved magazine article.

Romance is not the only ingredient in a relationship; respect and support for one another comprises a large part. If romance is placed higher than the others are, it could put a strain on the others. Not to say that romance is not important, but from a male perspective, it is not top priority as compared to any future plans and stability.

After all three stages of a relationship are successfully achieved; any couple would find themselves satisfied with the level of romance. Basically, if a couple can endure the stages, the romance was never actually a problem.

Valentines day, anniversaries, birthdays, and Christmas holidays are occasions where couples are supposed to show their affection for one another through the giving of gifts. If these are the only times romance is a part of your relationship and it takes an effort to spark the romance, it does not necessarily mean that the romance is dead, it simply means that there is a problem in another area of the relationship that was never resolved.

Love, raising children and eventually growing old together is the basic idea of a serious relationship. If a person goes into a relationship thinking that romance is key to a lasting relationship they are sadly mistaken. Relying on America's sex-quickie remedies to enhance your love life is a mistake. However, to trust in the natural stages of relationship development is wise and will definitely incorporate romance at normal intervals when needed.

2003 by C.R. Hamilton

The Player's Mind

What's on the mind of a player? First let's define "Player." A player is someone single who dates more than one person at a time. By dating we mean a short to long-term personal commitment, intimate relations, and sometimes cohabitant living arrangements. A person cannot be a player if they are 1) married 2) not having sexual relations with at least two or more of the people they are dating, and 3) having feelings for either of the people they are dating.

If a supposed player has feelings for either of the people they are dating, then they are not actually a player, but a cheater. Players have total control of their feelings that's why they can date more than one person successfully. If they lose control of their feelings and give in to any form of deep-seated emotion such as love or jealousy, they lose their ability to manipulate, because by the laws of human nature, a person can either act on emotion or intellect, but not both. It takes intellect to be a player and emotions can never be involved.

See, a player has suppressed all emotion for some reason or another, be it some past bad experience or because of sheer skill and desire to. They constantly have to have control over their emotions in order for them to remain in control of the game. This takes constant thought. This also means that they can recognize what factors play in drawing out their emotions so they have learned ways to avoid or get around those factors.

Factors such as too much time spent together, which could lead to moments of caring; too much physical contact, which could lead to sexual addiction (or being whipped), and holiday season or special occasion gift-giving, which could lead to regular expectations from the other person and a form of commitment. Also, players avoid too many family gatherings and other social functions that require them to make appearances causing the social circle of their dates to expect them at every occasion.

On the flip side, players avoid conflict with competition. If the date has someone else competing for his or her affection, a player will not show any real concern. They may act as though they care, but they really do not because they have to overcome the emotion of jealousy to stay in control. Also, kids and players do not mix. Again any show of interest or concern for the date's children is sheer phoniness.

Thus using the mind, the player retains all power of relationship manipulation. If they can make the other believe that they really care, which takes the skill of deception or really good acting (which is a professional form of deception) they can extend this practice to as many other people they choose. Dividing time, maintaining emotional restraint, and good planning and strategy, players can date up to 10 people while having sexual relations with as many as seven to 8 of them if not all.

Another well thought-out practice of an authentic player is the ability to keep an effective rate of exchange over time. In other words, the player knows when to let one relationship drop off while nursing another to perfection. And during times of seasonal or annual transition, a player can maintain a constant stable of well-nourished candidates for potential and or future relationships. Managing time and emotional stability is key.

The problem with players, however, is they are emotionally killing themselves. When and if the chance of love comes along, they will not recognize it in the least. By that time, they will have suppressed their emotions so deeply and are now dependent such on intellect that they will only see another opportunity, not the real thing. The problem comes when they think they have found the real thing.

Because they have no knowledge of what true emotion is, they will have a distorted idea as to what real love is. So when they believe they have found real love and decide to open up emotionally, there will be little there in the form of true emotion. And nine times out of 10, the person they have given themselves over to will be a player themselves.

2003 by Cartel Q

Living Together Before Marriage

The going mindset among couples that live together is to experience a "try-out" period before actually getting married. That way if the relationship does not work then both can go their separate ways without any legal obligations.

Because free-sexual lifestyles have increased in American society marriage has lost its appeal though not its sacredness; meaning people would rather not be married while they are cheating on their live-in spouse. If they cheat while married, however, they would feel too much like an adulterer rather than a fornicator.

Cohabitation is nothing more than a safety net for people who anticipate something better. Whether waiting on a career opportunity or the person of his or her dreams, the truth is, anyone who cohabitates

wants to leave a backdoor open in the relationship just in case that other opportunity comes along. One thing is for sure in any cohabiting relationship; mutual love is not a factor.

If mutual love is there then the couple would get married knowing that there is nothing or no one that could distract them away from their loved one. Contrary even to the marriage vows that marriage is for life, it is not the institute of marriage itself that is for life, but love; love is for life. Marriages crumble and wither away like the paper it is made on, but love stands through all.

Half the time, however, couples do decide to get married. Whether or not love is the underlying reason is left unanswered but even after an attempt at marriage the rate of divorce among couples that have lived together before they marry is twice the rate of divorce among those who have not lived together before marriage. This implies that people who get married first have a better idea of what it is they want out of life.

Further more, not only is cohabitating a phony attempt at a relationship it is a poor social and economic choice. Recent survey data show that among the cohabitating couples that ever get married, if they have children and break up - which results in a single parent family - those children are six times more likely to live in poverty than are children in married families.

In addition to the drama this situation brings into each of their lives (including a child), couples experience extra stress, higher chances of another failed relationship, and added economic hardships; ones that may have been left unattended during the relationship. But many people continue to believe that the "try-out" theory works.

Out of 8000 women between 20 and 29 years old, 37% of them have cohabitated with a man. The stats are 20% higher for men because men are typically the ones expecting something better and are the first to sever the relationship. In respects to race, 15 percent of white women out of the 8000 lived with a man before marriage while 7 percent of black women did.

But this is not all. Many people shack, leave, shack again and get married then divorced, and shack again. Of these 5% of recent shackies', 3 percent of white women cohabit after their first marriage while 1% of black women do. Though race is irrelevant in such a study, gender says a lot because the percentage of men who re-shack is double that of women. This conclusion confirms why there are no eligible, datable, or marriable men around for the large percentage of women in the United States.

The bottom-line is that cohabitating is a bad choice of lifestyle for anyone. For a woman, man, and any children involved. Children are most affected by cohabitation especially if they are brought into the living arrangement from another arrangement, and even worst from another cohabitating arrangement or a broken marriage. Yet all this is a result of a society that has learned to dishonor marriage to replace it with that of the free-sexual lifestyle.

2003 by Cartel Q

Soul Mates

The phenomenon of the soul mate is deeper than what people think. Having a soul mate does not mean sharing your life with someone who has more than normal similar interest and habits as you, such as liking to read, write, and take walks in the park. No. Having a soul mate is a very delicate experience.

First, there is truth to the soul mate theory. Two people can come together and never part and never have a desire for anyone else. They can meet at young ages, get married, have children, grow and die together without ever straying from one another. Not to say that there will never be problems, trials and tribulations.

When two people are placed together by destiny, God, or whatever force one believes brought them together (minus eHarmony.com and other match-making websites), there is a moment of hesitation from both, simply as a matter of confirmation or assurance. Once all the walls of relationship defense have been broken through, which does not take long in a destined relationship, and assurance is confirmed, the couple know for sure in their hearts the other is for them.

The catch? Once two people are thrown together as one, one person becomes a model for the other. In other words, whoever you are, your strengths and weaknesses play a vital role in developing the other person. For simplicity, it is like raising a child.

If you are a good parent, loving and dedicated, your child will become a reflection of you. However, if you are neglectful and inconsiderate, the child becomes that product of your weakness also. For instance, two people can be made for one another and live in poverty and vice-versa. Regardless of their financial or social situation, the two will stay together through it all.

If the strengths of one come into line with the weakness of the other, there is a balance and the two level out as one person. Also, if the two balance each other and excel, they can grow prosperous and vice versa, they can fall downward.

The ways you treat yourself is the way you will treat your mate and they will become accustomed to that treatment and incorporate it into their daily life. Thus the soul mate phenomenon is a sensitive experience. There can never be an imbalance in a soul mate relationship, such as one loving the other and not getting the same level of love in return. It will always balance.

The struggles of soul mates come from those outside of the relationship who see the connection and become jealous of it as they watch their relationships fall one by one over time and yours stand strong. The soul mate couple will withstand many relationships of friends and will withstand much persecution from them. Jealousy being the underlying force.

Unconditional love constantly grows and trials only bind it to make it stronger and never succeed in destroying that love. Growing older together means going through periods of life learning about one another, the self, and life around you and taking that knowledge and unconsciously moving on.

Lastly, the most fascinating thing about having a soul mate is that once you meet that person you cannot imagine how you lived before them or how you could ever live without them.

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