

Forum

Honey Do, Honey Did!

Okay, men. We all know the term "Honey" is one of affection and love. So why does the addition of one little two-letter word to "Honey" change it from a term of endearment to a term of imprisonment? I refer, of course, to that most hated of all terms — "Honey do."

How many of you have ever been given a "Honey Do" list? Honey do this and honey do that! Well, my wife has been making her list and checking it twice, and during the week of my vacation — my week of supposed rest and relaxation away from the stress and strain of my paid job. After 15 years of marriage, I should have seen the "Honey Do" list writing on the wall. But guess what? Honey did.

For the last few months, my wife has been giving me a fine reputation to live up to. She proved her true leadership qualities by winning me to her way of thinking and gaining my enthusiastic cooperation. She was proud of me accepting a challenge and writing an article that was printed in the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*. She even used it in a class she taught this summer, and I was a guest speaker. Boy did I feel good!

She was also proud about my involvement in the community and other recent accomplishments. I should have seen it coming. Sufficiently stroked and lifted up, here came the list ... "Honey do ..."

"Shampoo the carpets. What happened to the flower-planting plans? The walls need painting. New carpet? You need to take time and work on this house," she repeatedly commented.

Now, mind you, I was on vacation — a rest, break from the stress and strain of work — and I just wanted to go with the flow. I am laughing at myself for even entertaining this thought.

But this list that was about to control my vacation destiny wasn't any list — it was the superstar of "Honey Do" lists. Not only did it include things around the house that needed to be done, but going to Gaffney, S.C. for the family's July 4th cookout; to Concord to a friend's family reunion; and to see several movies she had in mind. As was the honorable male thing to do, I resisted.

During the week prior to my vacation, she asked if I was going with her to South Carolina. I should have said yes then — I knew I was going — but the thought of taking Saturday for myself and doing nothing appealed to me. Five days of resistance was too much followed by: "Why can't you go; will you drive; or that's okay, I'll go by myself." "Okay, go ahead, have a good time," I said. "Well, why won't you go? 'Because I'm on vacation!' You guessed right. Honey did go.

We had a great weekend — great food, family and friends — and Monday I "chilled out" for the morning (or did she allow me to have a few

hours?). Full of vacation generosity, I then suggested we go to the movie, just going with the flow. "What movie are we going to?" she said. "Don't worry, just get ready!" I replied.

"I'm not going if I don't know which movie we are going to see." My resistance surfaced again. This time I held out until we were actually seated at the movies. "Cliffhanger," starring Sylvester Stallone. "I don't even like Stallone.

GUEST COLUMNIST

By NIGEL D. ALSTON



Why this movie? I wanted to see Jurassic Park," she said. Two hours later, she was happy and enjoyed the movie. I smiled smugly at my triumph.

My victory was short-lived, however. The all-empowering "Honey Do" list rose again to the surface. I had been delegated the job of developing a flower-planting plan a couple of months ago. Periodically, Sarah would ask, "What happened to the plan?" "Nothing happened to the plan; I know what I am going to do." I don't know the first thing about planting flowers. I even watered a plant to death once.

I spent about an hour at a local garden shop asking questions, getting advice on what to plant and how to arrange the plants. Soil conditioner. Bone meal. Plants. Shovel. 96 degrees in the shade. She's proud of me again; the plant plan is happening. I think she was more happy I was getting exercise than planting the flowers. I must say they look good. Honey did. The praise starts again. Must be time for the next item on the list, "Honey do ..."

So far my vacation is going just the way she wanted. Armed with my shampoo and equipment, I work until the early morning hours, shampooing and vacuuming. Move furniture. Shampoo carpet. Allow it to dry. Vacuum and rearrange furniture. True to form, she appears. "Honey, it looks good, smells good, too. I am so proud of you!" It's Friday. I know there is more to be done. Painting the walls is next. I just have to take a vacation day today. After all, it's the weekend. I worked hard for this day! The shades are down, the blinds are closed and the fan and air conditioner are on. I have just read the *Chronicle* and am starting to resume reading "Smart Schools, Smart Kids — Why Do Some Schools Work?" "Video Soul" is on and my Macanudo Hype Park cigar is lit. Boy, do I feel good!

She'll be home soon. The funny thing is after all the hard work and praise and exercise, we will be back to square one. There is a lot of work around here to do, what is the plan, you need to find time ... Honey do this! Well! Honey did ... at least until next weekend!

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Discrimination Seems to Die Hard

The myth that discrimination is no longer a major factor in American life persists despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Most Americans seem to think that just because a law is passed, discrimination just fades away. It doesn't.

Most companies think that just because they have strict rules forbidding discriminatory treatment, discrimination no longer exists in their business. They're wrong.

And many people of good will think that because they act in ways that are fair toward all and because they wouldn't dream of treating others on the basis of their race, religion or ethnicity, that discrimination is a thing of the past. They're too, are wrong.

Unfortunately all the laws and company policies and personal good will aren't enough to erase the prejudices and stereotypes that are deeply ingrained in people. The myth of fading discrimination can be helpful, since it reflects a behavioral norm that says discrimination is wrong and should not be tolerated. But it also serves as a barrier to ending discriminatory practices, since believers in the myth look to other causes for African-American disadvantage. That's why we hear so much about people not wanting to work instead of about people unable to find work or about people facing discrimination in their pursuit of a home or a job. And it's why some Americans are so shocked when evidence of discriminatory practices thought long dead suddenly surfaces in the headlines.

That's what happened when news reports told of a lawsuit by six African-American Secret Service agents against the Denny's restaurant chain, charging denial of service on the basis of race. Earlier in the year, another restaurant chain, Shoney's Inc., paid \$132.5 million to settle a lawsuit filed by minority workers and job seekers who had been discriminated against.

That kind of discrimination was supposed to have ended with the passage of the Civil

Rights Act of 1964, but as those incidents show, it's alive and well.

So is the more subtle discrimination rooted in negative stereotypes. Many banks, for example, make far fewer personal and mortgage loans to African-Americans than to whites, despite formal equal-lending policies.

One banker explained to the Washington Post recently why he thinks loan officers treat blacks differently.

He gave the example of a mother and child walking down a street and seeing a black male

TO BE EQUAL

John E. Jacob



approach. "What happens?" he asks. "The mother squeezes her child's hand and pulls the child close. To me, this is one of the classic examples of how biases get built in at the very youngest age."

He's right. Those almost subliminal misperceptions are reinforced throughout life, as people substitute negative stereotypes for reality.

So bankers see African-American loan applicants through the distorted lenses of a lifetime's worth of negative stereotypes. So do landlords, factory managers, personnel executives and teachers.

The result is a web of subtle discriminatory practices that may not be immediately visible to the naked eye. But they show up in lower lending to African-Americans, higher black layoffs, lower black hiring rates and lower black school achievement.

That's why it's necessary to strictly enforce laws and company policies that bar discrimination. It's why the courts have to be strict in their enforcement. And it's why all institutions in our society have to be made to see, to understand and to correct the terrible impact of negative stereotyping and deep-seeded prejudices.

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

With much discussion about teen-age pregnancy flooding the airwaves and the newspapers, the *Chronicle* asked residents whether they thought people should engage in sex before marriage. Here are their responses:



Charles Higgins, 23 J. Riggins
"It's up to the individual. If you think, 'I can sleep with this man even though I know he's not going to do right,' you're doing it because you want to. As long as it's not against your better judgment, the decision should be left to the two consenting adults."



Robert Garner, 45 Alliance Display
"No — it all depends on age. For example, if you're 16, you're still a baby and I don't think you really understand what you're doing. I go by the Bible, so I'm against it."



Gloria Scarborough, 49 Reynolds Health Center
"I really don't think they should. They should wait until they're married because they should know each other well. With all of the diseases going around, they really should wait and get to know the person."



Orris Knight, 22 Frederick's of Hollywood
"I don't think they should because it's morally wrong. Personally, I'd wait until marriage because religiously I know it's wrong. It influences a lot of the things you do afterwards, especially in relationships."