Counquering pesky first date jitters

Continued from page 1B the moment you take a woman to lunch, she's expecting an engagement ring the next day. That got me to thinking. Is this why dating is so hard because we all have different expectations?

Before meeting Thomas, I'll admit I did expect the worst, so the fact that when I arrived at the restaurant, he didn't look like a troll doll and was exactly what he said he would be, was a great start.

So, what now? How do you get the second date? Who's supposed to call

whom? Hopelessromantic.com offers these suggestions for making the first date work:

• Do not be too extravagant on the first date. Wear clothes

that fit the menu for the date and also your personality. In other words don't wear a \$1,500 outfit when you are going to the carnival. Always dress for the occasion.

• Try to relax. This is easier said than done seeing how the other person will scrutinize everything that you do. So relax and be yourself.

• Drive yourself. One of the worst things to do is to try to spend an evening with someone that you find repulsive. So if you drive, you can always end the date when you see fit.

• Set plans on where you will go before the date. This will help you know what to wear and it also will ensure that you are not about to go to a place that you or your date will absolutely hate

• Keep your conversation simple. Do not try to overly impress. Just stick with a basic conversation in order to get to know the other person better.

• Be sure to ask questions. Do not talk about yourself all night. People love to be heard. It makes them feel welcome. Asking questions is a great way to get to know someone and start bonding with them.

• If you and your date are going out to eat, order foods that will not make you look like a messy pig. Another helpful tip is if you do not like one of the ingredients and the cook can not make your dish without it, do yourself a favor and do not order it. It is unattractive to look across the

table at your date picking through and scrutinizing every bite before they eat it. • Pay attention to what

your date tells you. They will basically lead you to the things they want to talk about. This helps insure that you will not run out of things to talk about and also helps to make the whole rendezvous more interesting.

Carry around a few breath mints. This can only work to your advantage. After all, who wants to smell someone's bad breath.

· Guys, practice chivalry. Most women find it romantic and courteous when a guy opens the doors for them. If you guys get a negative response, be sure not to do it again.

The Charlotte Post

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The divine Providence (ate awaits establishments, the long-Continued from page 1B

namon apple pie are fine selections, but for a bona fide treat, try the delectable white chocolate crème brulee. The white chocolate custard is rich and smooth as silk, and the crunchy, flame-burnt sugar crust on top adds the perfect amount of texture. It is worth it to go for that dessert alone

The bartender will gladly assist you with finding the perfect glass of wine to enjoy with your particular meal. and there is a satisfactory listing of Cognacs, liqueurs, ports, Sherries, and coffees from which to choose when you are finished eating.

For those wishing to linger a little longer, the roomy bar

area, where a regular after work crowd convenes to unwind, is inviting, or you may opt to wander out onto open-air patio area, which can feel more like taking a reprieve in a foreign country rather than sitting feet away from one of Charlotte's busiest streets.

The appeal of the Providence Café is topped off with the knowledgeable, professional service of its waitstaff. Even the specials of the day are carefully printed and mounted on menu tablets, giving the waiters the opportunity to be more relaxed and personable, rather that trying to recall a catalogue of carte du jour details off the top off their heads.

Though it lacks the frills of many of the glitzy Uptown standing Providence Café promises a truly unforgettable dining experience. If you go once, you will go back. And, as its 30-second TV commercial suggests, it will be an experience you will want to share.

FOOD:4 forks-creative, flavorful selections; plenty of diverse choices from appetizers to desserts to after dinner beverages

ATMOSPEHRE: 4 forkscomfortable enough to wear jeans, classy enough to feel special

SERVICE: 4 forks-attentive and friendly without being irksome

PRICE: 3.5 forks-some selections can be pricey for a "café" but worth every penny.



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