

Computer cupid

Dating services gain popularity

By WENDELL WOOD

Ugh—another dorm function to invite a date to. You shudder with the thought of going out every night this week to scrounge up a date who isn't your best friend's boyfriend's roommate. Meanwhile, your grades and self-esteem are suffering. What to do?

How about a dating service? The popularity of dating services, whether they are computer-run or hand-picked, has increased significantly during the past several years, and the manager of Dating System of Raleigh suggested a good reason—loneliness.

"Loneliness is a prison that must be unlocked from the outside," said Dating System founder Roderick Jones. Jones, a research assistant for the state division of mental health, opened his dating service to the paying public last March.

In an article that Jones encloses in his service's applications, an expert on loneliness said that the cure to the modern problem, which is evident with divorce statistics, suicide rates and newspapers filled with personal columns, is to form new attachments.

Jones, who operates his service by mail and telephone evenings and weekends, decided to start his service after the suicide death of his best friend. His clients, male professionals ranging mostly between the ages of 25 and 40, pay a \$27 membership fee and a \$15 search fee to match them with dates.

After Jones receives a client's confidential application, which includes questions of physical characteristics, occupation, age, hobbies, personality and a request for a 5-by-7 photo, he looks through his application files to match up likes and dislikes. He then calls the female to give her the profile on the prospect, and if the client sounds like her type, Jones sets up an appointment for them to meet.

He doesn't release the woman's telephone number because "the man might continue to bother her."

The service's fee includes a dinner for two at an "exclusive restaurant," where Jones introduces the couple, takes their picture together and leaves them alone. If the date does not work out, however, there are no guarantees.

If a member-client has not found enough dates during the first year, Jones said he will extend the membership.

Another local service catering to those frustrated with broken relationships is Astromate, a mail service which operates via "astrobiology."

"Perhaps you, like me, are weary of pursuing appearances. Perhaps, like me, you seek your own roots and desire to share with those of like mind and heart," Doctor Dave, operator of Astromate, said in his personal statement about parapsychics and relationship astrobiology.

According to the "doctor," his method of matching mates is through correlation and probability.

"For any Astromate, the configuration of planets and constellations at the moment of birth is highly correlated with certain types of consciousness," Dave's application reads. The application requests birth information, including date, place and time of birth, as well as a \$17 fee. In return, Astromate sends the client a report

consisting of a list of birth dates of potential astromates (AMs), an individual explanation by a physician-parapsychist comparing the client's birth date to other AMs, as well as a color-coded chart used to evaluate the degree of marriage, romantic and sexual compatibility of the client.

Astromate makes no other reference to sexual purposes, while Jones' date system "strongly discourages" an applicant from applying who wishes to meet other members for purely sexual purposes.

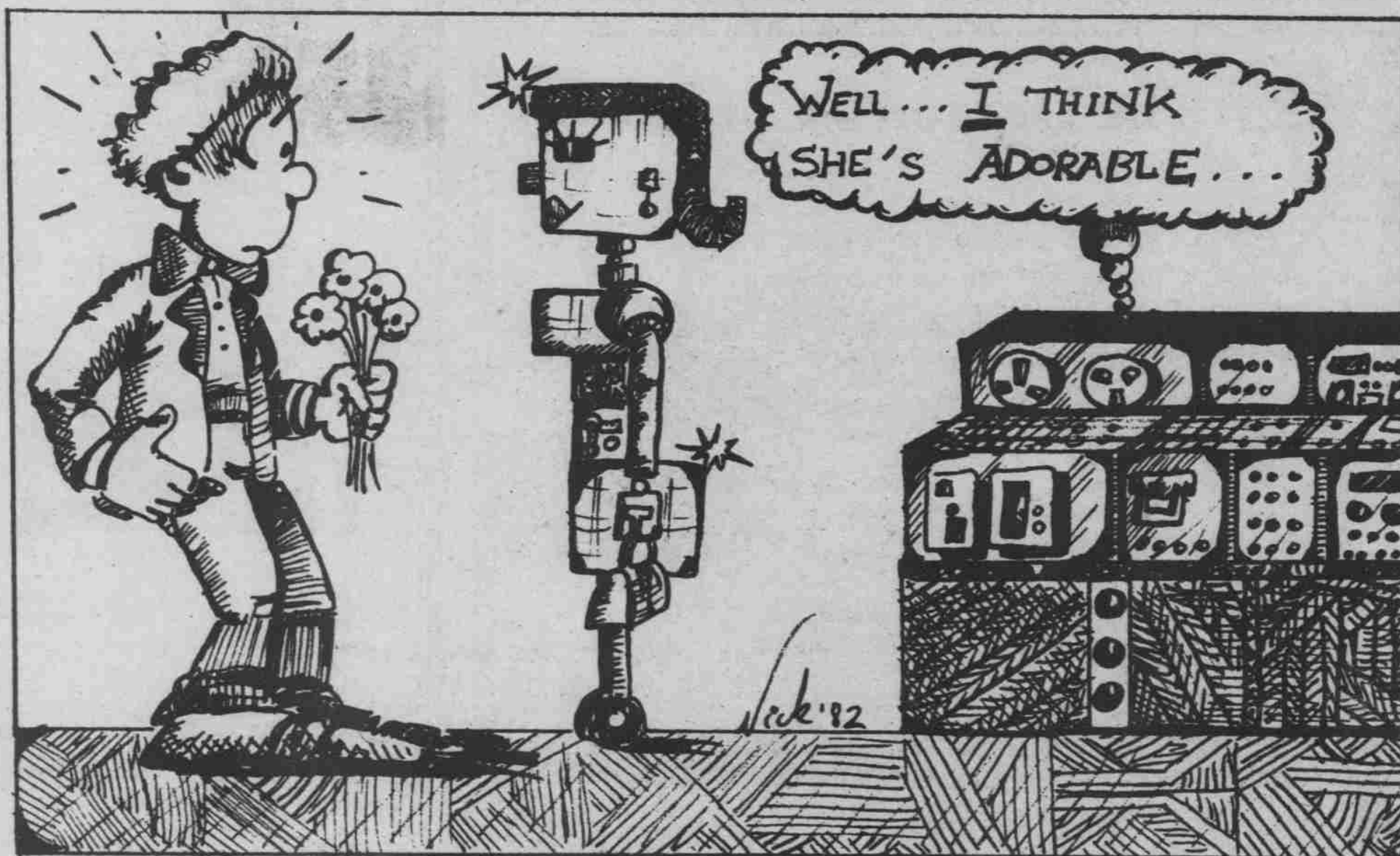
Like the dating system, Astromate cannot guarantee satisfaction, "since (it is) working with probability," Doctor Dave said. "But then again, you could blow this much money on a (relatively) unsatisfying blind date," he added.

Whether you find your date through the stars or through simply matching up likes and dislikes, the use of a dating service should be an interesting experience, while more expensive than most stranger mixers at Granville.

As one 62-year-old client of the Dating System of Raleigh said, "It's like picking out a pair of shoes in a shoe store. You pick what you find suits you in terms of physical characteristics and personality traits."

Or by matching your astrological karma—think of the different people you'd meet.

Wendell Wood is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.



Quartermain Productions Inc. PRESENTS:

"Deciding On A Career In Show Business"

an informative, low cost, one day seminar
Are You Interested in:

- TV Commercials
- Feature Films
- Theatrical Productions
- Children in TV

All for Just \$25.00 * Per Person!

• April 3, 1982 (Charlotte, NC)
Central Piedmont Community College
Pease Auditorium

• April 17, 1982 (Raleigh, NC)
Peace College
Browne-McPherson Recital Hall

Registration Form/Deciding On A Career In Show Business

Fee for this seminar will be \$25 per person. Please check appropriate box for date, location desired. Payment must be made 3 days prior to seminar date.

Make checks payable to:
Quartermain Productions Inc.
P.O. Box 26764
Charlotte, NC 28213

April 3, 1982
Central Piedmont Community College
Pease Auditorium, Charlotte, NC 28204
•Registration 9 A.M.

April 17, 1982, Peace College
Browne McPherson Recital Hall
Raleigh, NC 27604
•Registration 9 A.M.

Name _____ Age _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Quartermain Productions Inc. nor any of its officers, speakers, or consultants imply or guarantee to anyone, employment in show business of any nature whatsoever by attending this seminar.
Quartermain Productions Inc. is not a talent agency, nor is it their primary function to act as an agent.

SPRING DELIGHTS

Discover our intriguing array of delightful specialty shops and restaurant.

Stroll through our brick walkways and lavishly landscaped gardens.

M. PERRIE
jewelry and glass

PYEWACKET RESTAURANT AND BAR

FLORENZA II
shoes and accessories

LA PATISSERIE
a fine French bakery

TRIANGLE METRO
copies and graphics

MORGAN IMPORTS
gifts and decorative accessories

SOMERHILL GRAPHICS
prints, poster and framing

FOXGLOVE
classic sportswear

BOOKENDS
new and used books

ELYNS
exquisite lingerie

WEST FRANKLIN

CHAPEL HILL

The Courtyard