

# Couple learns to share

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"The counselor also pointed out some areas that my husband and I needed to work on before they began to cause stress in our marriage," Monica said.

A challenging area that everybody seems to be dealing with these days is living with less money.

"My wife was brought up in a family where money was not an issue, but now money is a constant issue," Maurice said. "As a young couple we learned from our mistakes and we learned that it takes patience to develop the lifestyle that we want."

The Smiths say that working together has also helped them to grow spiritually.

"We've realized that if we keep God in the center, pray

together, and keep love in our marriage, there is nothing that can come between our marriage," Monica said.

Having a spiritual base eases life's bumpy roads.

"The most important thing is to have God in your life because no matter how many bills you may have or how crazy situations may become, when you have God in your life, you can have peace," Maurice says.

Marriage is one of the biggest decisions that two people will ever make, and it'll be an expensive occasion. Weddings are but a start.

"When two people decide to get married the first thing they should do is develop a budget and be considerate of the parents who are going to pick up the tab," Maurice

said.

"Decide if you want to put most of your money in the wedding, the reception, or the honeymoon," Monica said.

Although there are bills, there are ways to keep the freshness and romance in your marriage.

"Couples can exercise together because when you look good, you feel good and this carries over into the marriage," Monica said. Taking walks together, leaving love notes, embracing more, flirting with each other, talking less and listening more are some of the things that can help to keep a marriage fresh and exciting.

"Keep your outside appearance up to par and don't ever take the other person for granted," Monica said.

## Around Charlotte

• **Dennis Jackson Jr.**, an honor student at Kennedy Middle School with a 4.42 GPA has been selected to participate in a People to People Student Ambassador Program this summer in Australia. He is one of 30 students to be selected from the Charlotte area to represent N.C. The 21-day trip will cost him and his family \$4,500. He needs financial assistance. If you can help, contact Dennis Jackson Jr., at 588-2694. Contributions can be sent to: Dennis Jackson Jr., 12207 Red Hickory Lane, Charlotte, N.C. 28273. The number to the People's Ambassador Program is 509-534-0430.

• In celebration of **African American Cruise Month**, the Excelsior Club will run a cruise promotion for eight consecutive weeks starting March 2. At the end of the eight weeks one of the semifinalists will win a three-day cruise to the Bahamas courtesy of B.K. Allen and Associates, Inc. Foot-N-The Door Productions and The Historic Excelsior Club. For more information, call 826-6242.

• On July 18-20 **America's Perfect Teen Pageant** will hold its 15th annual pageant in Orlando, Fla. All contestants must be between 13 and 19, never married, and a citizen of the United States. The application deadline is April 1. Contestants can write to America's Perfect Teen Pageant, National Headquarters - Dept. L, 347 Locust Avenue, Washington, PA 15301-3399. For more information, call 412-225-2343.

• **The Carolina Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs** meet every third Tuesday of the month at the West Charlotte Business Incubator, 617 N. Summit Avenue, at 6 p.m.

On April 6, CABWE will assist in supporting the Salvation Army's Homeless Shelter Annual Easter Egg Hunt. CABWE will donate a giant Easter basket provided by Marcha Livingston. For more information, call 391-7446.

• At 2 p.m. Saturday, the **Museum of the New South** will have representatives of the 1951-53 Amateur Athletic Union Women's Basketball Championship Team share stories of their contributions to the advancement of women's sports. For more information call 333-1887.

• **WTVI** will air a groundbreaking talk show for singles. The premier show will be May 5, and will air from 5-6 p.m. on Channel 42. The talk show is geared specifically for people between the ages of 25-50 who are single, stable, sincere, and emotionally mature for a permanent relationship. Samples of the shows topic include "Charlotte's Bachelors Talk, Single Mothers, and Dating, etc." Individuals interested in participating in the student audience are invited to call WTVI at 372-2442. Taping began March 20.

• At 6 p.m. on April 27, **Brisbane Academy Math & Science Preparatory School** will hold its third annual banquet at the Oasis Temple at University Place. The guest speaker will be astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris. The master of Ceremonies will be Stedman Graham from Stedman Graham and Associates of Chicago. Tickets are \$40. For more information, call William or Geraldine White at 598-5208.

• **The Oaklawn Park Community Organization** will hold its quarterly meeting at 6 p.m. today at Oaklawn School. Candidates for the May 7 primary and fall elections are welcome to attend. For more information, call Anna Hood at 333-4685.

• From 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, the **Rage Against AIDS** mini-festival for young people will be held at the Tremont Music Hall, 400 W. Tremont Ave. Admission is \$5. There will be prizes, educational skits, music, etc. For more information, call Tonda Taylor at 537-5050.

• At 7 a.m. on April 11 **Don Meredith**, the author of two books, "Becoming One" and "Who Says Get Married?" will

speak at the Central YMCA monthly Fellowship Breakfast. For more information, call Lorri Bland 371-3098.

• **Chaunston Avery** of Charlotte Christian School and **Steven Montgomery** of Charlotte Country Day School have won \$2,000 National Achievement Scholarships, which were announced Wednesday. Avery, a member of his school's varsity basketball team, is undecided on a career. He has won a National Mathematics Award and is a member of his church youth group. Montgomery, also a member his church youth group, wants a career in electrical engineering. He is an Honor Society member and attended the Governor's School East and is an International Baccalaureate candidate.

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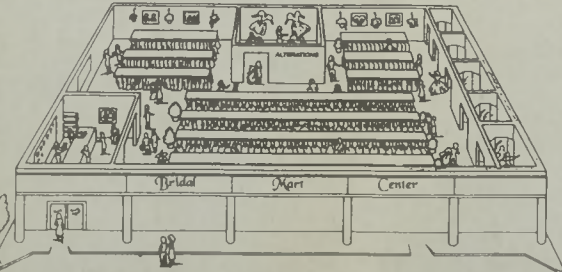
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