

Perspectives

A little understanding can go a very long way

Perhaps you've noticed the same things I have, or maybe you haven't given much thought to it.

Have you noticed how quickly individuals change when they separate from their partner or become divorced?

Perhaps if some of these changes had occurred prior to either of the above happening, the results would have been different. Wonder why things that all of a sudden become so important were of little concern before?

If you have friends or associates that have recently separated or divorced, notice the changes they'll make. Women who seemed to care little about themselves begin to take a renewed interest in their appearance. If they are overweight, they begin to lose weight very quickly. Often hair styles are changed and makeup is applied in places never noticed before. Looking attractive becomes very important, and old wardrobes are discarded and replaced with the latest fashions. Personalities change and they become more conscious than ever before of things that previously went unnoticed.

And men are the same. They go through many of the same changes, and in some cases, are more inclined to sport a totally "new look" than women. And their dispositions toward women seem to change overnight. They attain that look in their eyes that seems to say, "Look at me, I'm a free man and available."

It's simple to understand many of these changes. In order to get back into the "swing" of things, it is necessary to update one's image. It is doubtful much interest will come if old habits and ideas are kept. While there seemed to be little need to impress your former partner, in order to attract attention, changes must be made.

That separation and divorce have become an accepted part of society is nothing new. Marriage is no longer the binding agreement it once was, and the odds against a long-term relationship occurring are great. There are many reasons why so many marriages fail. Of these, a



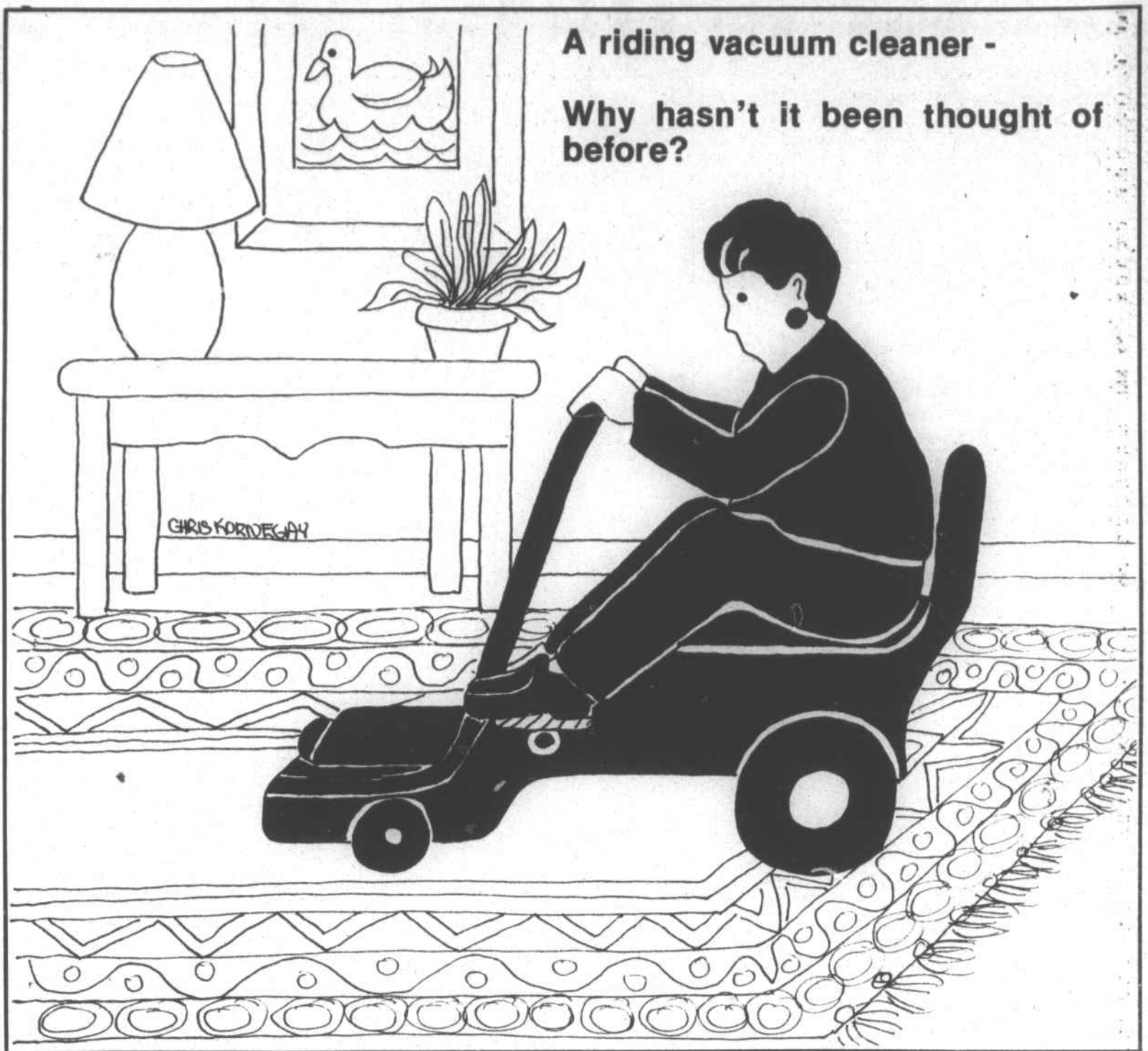
complacent attitude toward one's partner is the greatest. We begin to take feelings and needs for granted, and forget that everyone is an individual. The desire to do the little things that are important to a relationship begins to decline. It seems we often forget how to care.

This is not to say one should not feel relaxed in a good relationship. If you can't be yourself with the one you have chosen to be your partner in life, then there are deeper problems than are realized. You shouldn't have to be at your "best" all the time. But neither should you become a slob, an individual that takes things for granted.

Perhaps if we put only one-half of the energy into making a relationship work that we would expend attempting to establish a new one, there would be no need to be looking.

Of course, not all relationships are intended to last. Many marriages begin for the wrong reasons and many people will never really be content with a long-term relationship. They will never find a partner that meets all their needs. Little can be done in these situations. But for those who truly want a lasting and rewarding relationship, a little understanding can go a long way. And we'd probably be surprised to find what a difference just a little special attention would make.

I've said it in this column before and I think it is worth repeating. While the grass may seem greener on the other side of the fence, it just isn't so. Once you've made the effort to cross that fence, you'll find the only place the grass is greener is over the septic tank. Why cross the fence if you don't have to?



A riding vacuum cleaner -
Why hasn't it been thought of before?

How honorable is your honesty?

HOW HONORABLE IS YOUR HONESTY?

I'd like to think that most of this world is honest. However, life has taught me better. Into it has entered many a dishonest person that claimed to be otherwise. Like Ralph Waldo Emerson, I too have discovered that "the louder he talked of his honor, the faster I counted my spoons." And, I've found it out after the fact, like most everybody else. Total honesty would prevent a lot of things...particularly divorce. Of course, total honesty would also prevent a lot of marriages too.

Whenever, I think of honesty, I am always reminded of the story of the honest finder, by Paul Bodor, which was sent to me a while back by Oswald Singer, who did an authorized translation of it.

It seems that the subject of honest finders came up at a social gathering



in which a group of men were talking in the corner. It was the opinion of one of them that there were no such people as "honest finders." He related that he had lost many things in his lifetime, including a watch, briefcase, ring, dog, umbrella and eyeglasses. However, none of them were ever returned to him.

Then a man named Joe spoke up. "You may say what you will, but there IS honesty in the world. Listen to my case. It happened a few weeks

ago." Then Joe began the story of the honest finder.

"On a clear, sunny day, I took a walk on the promenade. It was evident that others had the same idea, for the street was already crowded when I arrived. Suddenly, someone from behind tugged at my coat sleeve. I turned around to see a pale, poorly-dressed young man standing before me."

"Excuse me sir," the young man said. "You just lost your wallet. Please count the money. It is all there. All two thousand dollars."

"Excitedly, I snatched the wallet out of the young man's hand and hastily counted the bills. To my great delight, the two thousand dollars was really there. I very gratefully shook the hand of the finder and took two, one-hundred dollar bills from the wallet to give to him as his reward. But, the young man refused the

money, stating that he had just done his duty and it would not be proper to accept it. Afterwards, he simply disappeared into the crowd. So, as you see, there really ARE honest people in the world. Especially honest finders."

There was a profound silence as the impact of the story seeped into the gentlemen gathered in the group. It was plain to see that it had a great effect on all of them.

Finally, breaking the silence, one gentleman commented, "But tell me, Joe, how can anyone be so careless as to take a walk carrying two thousand dollars on his person, and take such a chance as to lose it that way?"

"I wondered about that myself," Joe replied thoughtfully. "The loser must have been a very stupid person indeed."

Weekly constitution corner

CONSTITUTION CORNER

By Charles W. Lowry

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One of the impressive things about the Constitutional Convention was the spirit of civility which animated all its sessions and deliberations. There was little or no politics in the narrow sense of the term. Discussion was full and free, and there was no attempt to shut off counter proposals or different ideas.

It is notable that at the end of the presentation of the Virginia Plan and its amendment and refinement by the whole assembly which had constituted itself a committee of the whole, the consideration of the report was postponed "till tomorrow, to give an opportunity for other plans to be proposed." The morrow was June 14 and on that morning Mr. Patterson of New Jersey arose and observed to the Convention that it was the wish of several deputations, particularly that of New Jersey, that time might be given them for study of the plan reported from the Committee of the whole and also "to digest one purely federal, and contradistinguished from the reported plan." The Convention without hesitation consented and adjourned for the day.

On June 15 Mr. Patterson was ready with what has come to be known as the New Jersey Plan. It represents the antithesis in what might be called the dialectic of the Constitution in its totality. I am referring to the Hegelian formula, applied to all history, of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. Our Constitution is actually a fairly striking instance of the fruitfulness of the Hegelian dialectic.

After Mr. Patterson had laid his plan before the Convention, the matter of giving it a "fair deliberation" was discussed, and it was agreed that



it too should be referred to a Committee of the whole, along with the earlier plan. At the request of Mr. Lansing of New York, however, this move was delayed for 24 hours to give friends of the Patterson proposals time for further preparation with a view to their support.

The New Jersey Plan, put forward by Mr. Patterson, was specifically a revision by way of correction and enlargement of the Articles of Confederation. The United States in Congress was to remain central but to have additional powers. The Congress would be authorized to pass acts for raising revenue, by

levying a duty or duties on all imports into the United States, by Stamps, and by postage on all general post office mail. Requisitions when necessary would be in proportion to the population (instead of land values) with a three-fifths formula for indentured servants and slaves, and should be mandatory. A Federal Executive and a Federal Judiciary, much as in the Virginia Plan, would be appointed by the Federal Congress. The Acts of Congress and Treaties made and ratified under its authority should be the supreme law of the land.

History of the Eagle Hotel is revealed

The southwest corner of Church and Grubb streets has always been reckoned as one of the prime business locations of the town of Hertford. When the town was first laid out in 1759 that lot was desired for its proximity to the Courthouse and the path leading to the ferry landing.

In the 1760's Charles Jordan acquired the choice corner lot and erected a dwelling house. Soon he took out a license from the county to operate a tavern in his house. That proved to be the nucleus of one of Perquiman's most famous buildings and businesses.

When it finally disappeared a century and a half later, the tavern in Jordan's house had become a long, sprawling building known as the Eagle Hotel.

It is an article of faith among Perquimans' residents that George Washington spent a night at the Eagle Hotel. Did he, indeed?

That article as just stated cannot be true, for the establishment in question was not known by the name Eagle during Washington's lifetime. The tavern-hotel had been called Jordan's, then for many years Wood's, then Hathaway's, and only took the name Eagle late in the nineteenth century.

The article must then be recast. Did Washington stay in the building which later became known as the Eagle Hotel?

The answer may be found in Washington's diaries. In October 1763 the Virginian journeyed into North Carolina to study the Dismal Swamp and the drainage out of it, with an eye to acquiring land which could be developed. (He did not then or later "survey" the area as folklore would have it.)

By his own account, Washington and his party "crossed from Elias Stallens (one Miles above the upper bridge on Pequemmin) across to a set of People which inhabit a small slipe of land between the said River Pequemmen & the Dismal Swamp" and on into "Paspetank".

Washington specifically stated he did not go as far south as the other bridges on Perquimans River. He did not go to Hertford. Therefore, he did not stay in any local tavern, neither

the predecessor of the Eagle nor any of its business rivals.

Since it can be proved that George Washington never stayed in the Eagle Hotel, how did such a belief become common in Perquimans? There survives a story which may hold the answer. Sometime before 1915 a boy

wondered at the Eagle and its evident age. "How old was it?" he wanted to know. An oldtimer obligingly told him it was so old he thought George Washington must have stayed there. The facetious remark came to be mistaken for a declaration of fact.

NEWS COUPON

The news and editorial staff of the Perquimans Weekly would like you to tell us what kind of stories you like to see in the paper. If there is something or someone you feel is important — or some provocative issue you would like us to examine — please, let us know.

Just clip and fill out this coupon. Include as many details as possible (Names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc.)

It may not be possible for us to use some of the stories suggested but we are always looking for new ideas.

So, next time you think of something you feel would make a good story, send it to: News Coupon, Perquimans Weekly, P.O. Box 277, Hertford, N.C. 27944.

STORY IDEA:

COMMENTS:

New Feature

This feature will be called the Perquimans County Resident of the week. This feature will highlight citizens of the county, their activities and interests.

Anyone who would be interested please call or contact Gina Jepson, at the Perquimans Weekly Newspaper at 426-5728.



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