

Remarriage? Not for these widows

These are the voices of "women without men" — widows and older divorcees, the proud survivors of aging. Shed no tears for them. They are doing just fine, thank you, and remarriage is not on their agenda.



Bard Lindeman
In your prime

"Pardon my truthful bluntness, but I don't want an old man to take care of. In most cases we widows have nurtured, nursed and buried one husband and cared for parents and other relatives. If I could get a young man, well, I might see the picture differently." — Charlotte P. Breeden, Pearce, Ariz., age 83; widowed since 1978.

"I've been a widow for 25 years and I wonder if I'm abnormal. I know some fine men, yet I've never had the urge to remarry. Many years of independence and freedom from obligations would be very difficult to give up now. I think it's wonderful if older folks have suitable partners, only it's not for me. I have seven wonderful children, I am a busy person, what with church work, hobbies and I drive where I want to go. I am 83, live alone with a cat and give the Lord thanks every day for the blessings he bestows upon me. Give all that freedom up? Not on your life! (Another drawback I don't think I could go through seeing a loved one suffer again, as did my husband before he died.)" — Lucy B. Coulter, Pennsylvania

"Being single is 1) eating crackers in bed and reading all night, 2) never cooking, if you don't want to, 3) enjoying your own company, 4) not having to 'mother' a man, 5) having your own friends, 6) not having to explain your every move, 7) traveling when and where you please, 8) not having to account for money spent, 9) not being controlled by moods or attitudes, 10) being FREE! But if a man were healthy, wealthy and wise, he would indeed be quite a prize." — Mary Hills Munroe, Tucson, Ariz.

"Seven years ago, following my divorce, which ended a marriage of 33 years, I found this description of my new life. I feel it's truer today than when I first dis-

covered it and want to share it now: 'A woman becomes single and decides where she wants to live. She buys the furniture she likes. She works the hours she chooses at the kind of job she likes. She gets all new friends, the kind of people she enjoys. If she grows as a person, it isn't a threat to anyone. If she wants to be alone, or with someone special, that's her business.' Then married friends say they want her to find a husband so she can be HAPPY. Isn't that a laugh?" — Elma D. Oppenheimer, Tucson, Ariz.

These voluntary outpourings were prompted by a mention here that many widows have no thoughts of pursuing another mate. Indeed, Brown University sociologist Frances Goldscheider regards this underreported lack of interest in marriage "the real women's revolution of the last 20 years."

Prime notes: The Census Bureau reports there are 11.5 million widows and 2.3 million widowers (1990 figures). . . George Harrison of the Beatles turns 50 on Feb. 25. . . Headlines we like: "This just in, recession ended 21 months ago" (The New York Times) . . . Quote of the week, from golfer Raymond Floyd: "I believe that at my age, the barrier is totally mental. There's no reason a 50-year-old can't do in golf what someone 35 or 30 can do. If anything, he should have an advantage because of experience."

Bard Lindeman welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot reply to all of them individually, he will answer those of general interest in this column. Write to him in care of the Daily Herald, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights IL 60006.

Tribune Media Services

FIRST PERSON

Babes, hunks keep him glued to '90210'

By TODD NATENBERG
Daily Herald staff writer

I never thought it could happen to me.

I always considered myself in control of the situation. Friends said that in small doses, it was OK. They said it wasn't physically addicting. I always thought I could quit at any time. I was wrong.

My name's Todd, I'm 23 years old, and I'm a Beverly Hills 90210ic.

I've been a 90210ic for more than a year now. I don't really know how it started. It wasn't peer pressure. Sure, there was temptation in college. After all, "90210" was just starting out then. And college students are always willing to try something new, looking for that ultimate thrill. But I wasn't one of them.

Friends had their addictions to "One Life to Live," "All My Children," or "General Hospital." Some would even schedule their classes around the shows so they could watch during the day.

But somehow, watching Luke Perry and Shannon Doherty on Fox Television on Wednesday nights didn't excite them too much. The idea of seeing a bunch of rich kids complaining about the stress of spending money and dating gorgeous people, while only in high school, just didn't cut it. Besides, if we weren't studying, we'd be out partying. Or, make that, if we weren't partying, we'd be out studying.

But after college, something happened. I'm not sure what. I guess it began while I was working on a summer internship at The Arizona Republic newspaper in Phoenix. At first, I thought nothing of it.

After working 50- and 60-hour weeks under the sizzling sun, the



Luke Perry and Shannon Doherty of "Beverly Hills 90210."

idea of coming home and crashing on the couch was comforting. Planting my eyes on the tube for an hour or two seemed like normal behavior. You know, a little escape from reality, a venture into TVland.

"Beverly Hills 90210" seemed as good a show to watch as any. The timing was right; it was on about the time I arrived home from work. And at the time, it was on two nights a week, so it was almost like a hobby. The Wednesday and Thursday setup really allowed me to follow the storyline. Reruns of the first episodes appeared on Thursday nights and the regular episodes on Wednesday nights.

This allowed rookie viewers like me to better understand the current episodes and to enjoy the likes of stud and studees Perry, Doherty, Jenny Garth and Jason Priestly.

Each week, I looked forward to Wednesday and Thursday nights with anticipation: Would this be the night that Dylan finally dumps Brenda? Boy, what a snob. What does he see in her? She's not even that gorgeous. Talk about overrated.

What's up with Steve? There's another jerk. This guy thinks he's God's gift to man and womankind. Andrea is nothing but an insecure little know-it-all who does nothing but screw up Brandon's life. Why is he even nice to her?

Kelly's cool and a fox. Why portray her as a snob, but she's not. I was glad to see her start dating Dylan and trying to steal him from Brenda. Donna is just a dope pure and simple. David is pretty cool, not as hunksly as Dylan or Brandon, but a nice guy.

I don't know what's up with Brenda and Brandon's parents. They are just plain outright morons. What on earth did Dylan do to tick off Jim? If the father had any brains, he'd disown Brenda. Why was it Dylan's fault that Brenda lies to him?

This addiction went on for the entire summer. Each Wednesday and Thursday I rushed home from work to watch the episodes. If I missed one, I was devastated. "90210" was becoming a part of me. During the day, I concentrated at work. I really did. But when I came home, it was cuddle up to Fox time. 90210 had consumed my life.

I was a 90210ic, but refused to admit it. My friends were unaware of the problem. I couldn't tell them.

Even when I returned to Chicago about a year and a half ago and began working for the Daily Herald, I tried to keep my feelings to myself. I couldn't let the editors and my fellow reporters know my problem. I knew they wouldn't understand. They'd laugh at me.

Then one day, I believe it was about six months ago, I let my true feelings come out. I began talking about the show and the storyline of a certain week, when my friends realized I was serious. I truly was a 90210 fan. My editors tried to console me. They told me I wasn't alone.

My eyes lit up. "Really, you mean you guys watch it, too?"

"Oh sure," they said sarcastically, "with my 8-year-old daughter." So it is now a year later and still I am a die-hard "90210" fan. I don't know what it is. I just simply can't get enough. I'm at the point now where I will stay home Wednesday nights just so I can watch the show. If I'm away, I videotape the episodes. The twice-a-week deal has ended; I believe it was a one-summer deal. Thursday nights now has "Melrose Place," an advanced 90210 with similar gorgeous actors and actresses, but older. I enjoy it, too, but nothing compares to "90210."

To this day, I don't know what it is about the show that interests me. There are other shows about teenagers confronting life's problems, but there's something about "90210." Maybe it just shows us all that just because someone might be beautiful or wealthy, it doesn't mean life is necessarily a bed of roses. Whatever it is, I love "90210" and, finally . . . finally . . . I can admit it.

My name's Todd, I'm 23 years old, and I'm a Beverly Hills 90210ic.

Woodstock's Midwestern charm swayed 'Groundhog' filmmakers

By DANN GIRE
Daily Herald film critic

"Ghostbusters" star Harold Ramis explained that he directed his new comedy "Groundhog Day" not in Punxsutawney, Pa., where the story is set, but in Northwest suburban Woodstock because "the town was virtually a character in the film, and Woodstock definitely fit the part."

But Ron Ver-Kuilen, location scout for the Illinois Film Office, said there was much more to the decision than that. It was down-home Midwestern hospitality that clinched the deal.

"Ramis came to look at the town with production designer David Nichols, producer Trevor Albert, executive producer/production manager Doc Erickson and location manager Robert Hudgins. We were looking everywhere for the right location," Ver-Kuilen said. "Here's what happened. One of the time, people seem to be indifferent when filmmakers come looking for a location. But the minute they entered Woodstock, they got hit by the best brand of Midwestern hospitality I've ever encountered."

"Groundhog Day" opens Feb. 12 and stars Bill Murray as a feel-good TV weatherman in the John Cole-

man mold who covers the annual Pennsylvania ritual of watching for the groundhog's shadow. Murray's weatherman feels he's above such trivial work, until he gets sucked into Groundhog Hell where every day is Groundhog Day.

"The message of the film is that if you treat people right, they'll treat you right," Ver-Kuilen said.

Tell that to the star groundhog. On the first day of filming, the title critter bit Murray on the finger.

"For a while, we thought they would take the production up to Wisconsin or Minnesota because of the weather. They thought the snow would stay longer," Ver-Kuilen said.

But in the end, Ramis went to bat for Woodstock over the objections of the studio executives.

"I love those people. I love that town. We'll deal with the weather," Ramis said.

So when production on "Groundhog Day" began last March, filmmakers shot the outside scenes as early as possible to keep the look of a wintry day on Feb. 2.

"It was a blessing that the weather turned out to be so rotten," Ver-Kuilen said. "One of the first days when they needed a lot of bad weather, they got it. They were blessed by bad weather."

By JEFFREY BAIR
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The news cut into the boys at the clubhouse like a 6-iron into bluegrass: Some budget-slicing whippersnappers tried to shut down the Schenley Park Golf Course.

Heck, this place wasn't just for golf. It was camaraderie for about 100 crusty old guys. It was hearts, poker and Crazy Eights, and linoleum tables, bag lunches and flannel sleeves rolled up to the elbows.

Perhaps more importantly, it was a place to get away from their wives. Or, from a different perspective, it was a place for their wives to send them if they lurked too long in the living room.

"It's just like I'm on remote control. I get up in the morning and shoot right down here," said Jake Carr, 65, a retired firefighter, fan of argyle cardigans and 40-year golfer at the city-owned course.

Some of Carr's fellow golfers showed up as usual one chilly November morning, rattled the doors and found they were locked. Disoriented, they perched themselves on benches and began yapping away as they had for years.

"They had nowhere else to go," said Edgar Krause, 78.

In a city that is suffering the same fiscal slings and arrows that all cities face, Schenley had become an easy target.

The city gives the course \$250,000 a year because it can't support itself with fees from the golfers. City Finance Director Ben Hayllar said few of Pittsburgh's 370,000 residents play golf, and it's unfair to make them all pay for the 1,000 people who want Schenley open.



Edgar Krause, seated, plays a hand of gin with friends in the clubhouse at Schenley Golf Course in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press Photo

"We need to be putting cops on the street, not duffers on the greens," he said. "It is a question of where your priorities are."

So in mid-November, Schenley closed.

Shutting Schenley down was like taking San Juan Capistrano away from the swallows, or putting plywood in the windows of the barbershop where the regulars hang canes on umbrella stands and lay odds on each other's cancer treat-

"It beats a bar. It beats hanging out on a corner," said Vince Caliguri, 33, who learned golf from old-timers at the clubhouse.

The building is just that — a clubhouse, like the ones that 8-year-olds build in trees. One almost expects to see a "No Girls Allowed" sign on the wall next to the Senior Scramble results.

The course is open, and everyone plays for free — if they can shake off weather cold enough to make hardy young golfers leave their drivers sheathed in fuzzy club covers.

For his part, Krause said only a hurricane could keep him from golfing. A few years back, he, Carr and other die-hards whacked soggy tennis balls with their irons in foot-deep snow.

This respite may not last forever. Hayllar said officials want private operators or a nonprofit group to take Schenley off its hands, and a decision is expected by spring.

Mary Schenley, the industrialist's daughter who gave the fairways to Pittsburgh in her late 19th-century will, decreed that the land must be used for a public purpose.

Hayllar said one proposal may meet her requirement. A group of Pittsburgh residents suggested building a driving range on half the course and converting the remainder to nine holes designed by Arnold Palmer's golf associates.

Longtime Schenley golfers fear annual fees of \$500 or more if that plan is approved, however. They say a privately run golf course would violate Mrs. Schenley's wishes. Previously, they paid the city \$200 a year.

Until the course's fate is resolved, the regulars are trying to collect enough cash to keep the clubhouse open through the winter.

THREE: We've got three to choose from

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"If you mess it up, she'll reflex it just the way she wants it," Dunn said.

Since Peanuts is something of a recluse, she is not particularly fond of her Groundhog Day duties.

"She gets brought out and she's not too sure what's going on," Dunn said. "She usually makes a beeline for any hiding place she can find."

By the way, if you can't figure out what Peanuts' favorite food is, you're not trying very hard.

As for Shadow and Sunshine, well, they are a little more playful, at least when they are awake.

This time of year, the two male groundhogs tend to sleep a lot in the deep grotto they call home at the Brookfield Zoo children's zoo.

"We've given them lovely sleeping places with artificial logs and boxes and they generally curl up and lie next to other hibernating animals," said Gail Mikenas, assistant curator at Brookfield's children's zoo.

This will be the first Groundhog Day celebration for the pair. They will be taking over a role that was filled for the last nine years by Chipper, who died last year.

"This is their first chance to predict the weather," Mikenas said. "So we don't know what they'll do."

Shadow and Sunshine were orphans who were donated to the zoo. Since arriving there, keepers have found they enjoy eating all kinds of vegetables, fruits and berries, as well as Rabbit Chow and Rat Chow. Sunshine particularly likes to eat and weighs in at eight pounds while Shadow is about five pounds.

HOG: A poor record

Continued from Page 1

spring only 28 percent of the time — a rate even lower than pure guesswork.

Besides, groundhogs aren't even the right animal. The German immigrants to Punxsutawney, Pa., who brought Groundhog Day to this country, believed that badgers could predict when spring would arrive.

But in Punxsutawney, badgers were hard to find, while groundhogs seemed to be everywhere.

So instead of Badger Day we have Groundhog Day, and while no one has ever checked to see if badgers are better weather forecasters, chances are they're not. If they were, you can be sure they'd be standing in front of the weather map on the 10 o'clock news every night.

Cornstarch is best on marshmallows

Dear Polly: I have a recipe for making marshmallows that calls for the pan and the finished marshmallows to be dusted with powdered sugar. However, when I tried it, the surfaces of the marshmallows were sticky and difficult to handle and they stuck to the pan. The whole thing was a real mess. Do you have any suggestions? — Andie

Dear Andie: Powdered sugar melts and becomes sticky when it comes in contact with the wet marshmallow, and therefore it doesn't do much for making the marshmallows easier to handle. I prefer to use cornstarch, which coats the sticky marshmallow surfaces very well and provides a dry, easy-to-manage outer surface. To prepare the pan for molding the marshmallows, I spray it with non-stick spray, then coat it liberally with cornstarch. This will provide a nice, easy release when you try to remove the marshmallow block from the pan. (Treat individual molds, such as small egg-shaped or heart-shaped molds, this way,



Polly Fisher
Polly's pointers

too.) Then dust the top of the freshly poured marshmallow with more cornstarch. Finally, after cutting the set marshmallows into pieces, dust all cut surfaces with more cornstarch. Excess cornstarch can be shaken off the marshmallows before storing them or dipping them in chocolate.

Some candymakers use a half-and-half mixture of cornstarch and powdered sugar, but I find that just cornstarch works best. — Polly

Polly will send you \$1 if she uses your favorite pointer, peeve or problem in her column. Write to her in care of the Daily Herald, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights IL 60006.

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HARPER'S INDEX

Compiled by the staff of Harper's Magazine

Facts and figures about our world

- Number of Japanese tour groups scheduled to visit the new Mall of America, in Bloomington, Minn., this year: **50**
- Number of visitors each year to the Museum of Questionable Medical Devices, in Minneapolis: **6,000**
- Number of bull castrations that Mississippi State's football coach made his team watch last fall as a "motivational" experience: **1**
- Number of members of the Young Black Teenagers, a rap group, who are black: **0**
- Ratio of American marriages between black men and white women to those between black women and white men: **2:1**
- Percentage change, since 1990, in the number of women between the ages of 40 and 44 using birth control pills: **plus 100**

Sources: Mall of America (Bloomington, Minn.); Museum of Questionable Medical Devices (Minneapolis); The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, Tenn.); Soul Records (New York City); U.S. Census Bureau; Ortho Pharmaceutical (Raritan, N.J.).

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