

Is it really love?

By Alice Petric

Love and romance. Yes, it's scary alright. I finally catch his attention and then what? What do I say? What do I do? And if he somehow likes me, like I like him, will it last? Or will it fizzle out like the last time?

After all, whatever happened to happy-ever-after? What

went wrong? Don't things always work out if you're really in love? But I thought we were. I thought he liked listening to me read passages from the latest best-seller. He never said he didn't, but then he just blew up and walked out. Just like that.

I must confess, I made the last bit up. But it happens. You get those 'feelings,' you put on the face you think he (or she)

wants to see, you change to be more acceptable, and then.... Well, then you get tired of pretending, that's all. You want to be yourself, and the conflict starts.

Most relationships end right here.

We see it as not being right for each other. But really, it's just a stage - conflict, the dark scary tunnel between romance and commitment.

Love has other scary sides too. Like when you thought you knew him, you trusted him, and he forced you to... They call it rape these days. It's scary. You look the same the next day, but inside it's all

different.

Is it okay to keep on asking a girl for sex when she's said no? Is it wrong to say no after allowing (and enjoying) heavy petting? Is it really my fault because my skirt was tight and my blouse too thin?

Or maybe you didn't want to go out with the guy in the first place, but you didn't want to be rude.

One study says that out of 6000 women on 32 campuses, one in six were victims of sexual assault, and usually by an acquaintance. And one out of every fifteen guys had either committed or attempted rape. Now that's scary.

There are so many things to think about these days when you fall in love, or even in like. And even when you're as old as me and the hills, you won't know all the answers. Not on your own, and maybe not until it's too late.

That's why Larry Finkelman at Counselling Services has prepared a Relationship Education Program. Any organization, group, class, or residence may call him into discuss relationships - love, conflict, communication, even date rape.

Some have already taken advantage of the opportunity, but Larry is still looking for invitations. His presentation can be anything from 20 minutes to 3 hours long - whatever suits you, whatever you need. Just call and set up a time - 453-4820.

And on the chance that you aren't an organization, group, class, or residence, feel free to call anyway. Larry will help people in one's and two's too.

Shelters for poor in trouble

By HORACE AWORI

NAIROBI (IPS) - Shelter for the world's poor in urban centres of the developing world has become steadily worse, says the UN Secretary General.

In a message to mark World Habitat Day on October 3, Javier Perez de Cuellar said "this is a situation with ominous implications for peace and social stability in all countries.

"To redress it should be one of our major social priorities," de Cuellar added.

During the next decade the urban poor will rise to 75 million, up from 33 million 10 years ago.

The Executive Director of the Nairobi-based UN Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT), Arcot Ramachandran, said the long-term solution for this crisis is a concerted effort to work with the poor and assist them to build and improve their homes and neighbourhoods.

"The poor have already demonstrated their creativity and ingenuity, and their will-

ingness to engage in all forms of self-help and mutual assistance," said Ramachandran.

The poor's greatest need is access to affordable building materials, access to and security of land tenure, even if it is just the right of use for "often these are the biggest obstacles to community buildings," Ramachandran added.

Finance is also needed and the HABITAT head called on the financial institutions to be flexible so that the majority of the poor can have access to housing finance markets.

A HABITAT report states that "given firm support by the authorities, poor communities worldwide are capable of providing decent shelter for themselves..."

This document also states that data show poor communities are coming together to improve their lot, "changing the face of their cities as they do so."

The U.S.-based Urban Homestead Assistance Board (UHAB) assists low-income

private tenants to renovate, manage and ultimately own their own apartments. In Thailand, slum dwellers have found a unique way of providing shelter through land sharing.

Many of Bangkok's urban poor, once fugitives in slum subcultures, are now shareholders of the land which they occupied for many years as unwanted squatters.

The HABITAT report also cites the dwellers' associations in Ethiopia, and the self-managed cities of once landless people in Peru, which have "made all the difference bet-

ween destitution and economically-viable neighbourhoods."

Growing cities "simply magnify the impact of mistakes, delays and omissions, so that it is in the large cities that failures are particularly visible," the shelter organization added.

Urbanization is the single-most important process in the Third World today, but "it is not a negative phenomenon in itself. Size is not the master of the urban failure, nor the important parameter for manageability," Ramachandran said.



WUSC CRAFT SALE

If you are looking for exotic and unusual Christmas gifts this year, check out the WUSC Third World Craft sale in the Blue Lounge Wed-Fri, Nov. 9-11, 9am-9pm.

The World University Service of Canada is an organization devoted to international development. The Caravan craft sale crosses the country once a year, stopping at most university campuses along the way. It provides an outlet for crafts made by artisans in the developing world. WUSC purchases the goods from local cooperatives in all parts of Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East.

Last year's sale at UNB, which proved very successful, featured woodcarvings, jewellery, brass, woven rugs, handknits and colourful Christmas cards and ornaments, as well as many more beautiful and unique pieces.

In addition to spending three days in the Blue Lounge, Caravan will be at the Fredericton Mall 10am-10pm on Saturday, November 12.

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