

EDITORIAL

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



Time to melt hearts

This is actually the last column of January but I am ready to move on from the "longest" month of the year to something else, anything else, even February. We do have holidays in February after all. Groundhogs Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, President's Day which, I think is supposed to be Lincoln and Washington combined with all those other guys.

Oh, I'm leaving out one; Valentine's Day. I can take a

pass on this day just like I can take a pass on January.

I am a bit of a Valentine Scrooge I guess. I like all the hearts, candy and flowers but each year it seems to be turned in to a needless competition among women that stresses out the menfolk in completely unnecessary ways. Nothing says I love you like anxiety and stress, right?

I liked Valentine's Day growing up because you got to make mailboxes, buy cards and candy then deliver

everything to your friends. Total cost of Valentine's fifty years ago was maximum five bucks and your parents paid for that. Total cost fifty years later and you might be looking at \$500 especially if the object of your admiration is adamant about equating love with a dollar sign.

I used to work in a large office setting and every February 14 it was the same. It was literally like the Rose parade as women were called up one by one to the front desk to collect their bouquets of flowers. You could always tell by the reaction if some dude out there came up short in the floral department. Have mercy on anyone that forgets!

I guess I am just bitter and cynical because I don't have a Valentine to send me stuff or buy me things. So, that leaves me with the other special February dates to celebrate. I hear there is a special this week on Groundhog's Day cards so I better stock up!

Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



How To Get People To Like You

Seeing as Valentine's Day is just around the corner, (and also because I'm tired of hearing all the sob stories from people being alone on Valentine's Day), I thought I would offer some helpful hints on how to get people to like you.

Be genuine. Fake can be spotted a mile away. Get comfortable with who you are and your confidence will shine through. Nothing is as attractive as being truly happy in your own skin. (Keep it real, though. Don't forget you have flaws. There aren't no crowns in anyone's closet yet; we all on the same level. We all human.)

Learn the art of conversation. Ask questions and listen intently. Everyone likes talking about themselves, but hogging the limelight is annoying and rude. Showing a real interest in someone's story, and make good eye contact, and appropriate comments. Know when to shut up and just listen.

Don't smell bad. It goes without saying, I hope, that you must be well-groomed,

clean, and odor free to get people to like you. If you have any doubts if you smell good, ask a child. They are painfully honest. Have high standards for yourself.

Be funny, but know when to cool it. Always consider your audience when being funny. Yo Mama jokes aren't for everybody. Don't force it. If being funny doesn't come natural, you will look like you are trying too hard. That's never cool.

Don't be a jerk. Belittling someone is never appropriate. Being rude is never ok. Treating others with disrespect is never acceptable. And talking about someone behind their back is never a good thing. "If they will do it with you, they will do it to you." Nobody likes a jerk.

Smile. Smile at everyone. It's the number 1 sign that you are approachable.

A smile makes you look instantly friendly. (Unless you are a bulldog.)

When meeting someone, say their name back to them. When you speak their name, they feel a personal connection with you, and closer to you each time you say it. It also helps you to remember their name if you repeat it at least 5 times.

Reach out and touch someone. Studies have shown that merely touching someone lightly on the hand or arm while interacting with them, makes you more memorable and likable to them even days

later. It's also a trick waitresses use to get a bigger tip. Just sayin'.

Wear red. Researchers have found that in blind studies, people who wore red were reported by others in the study to be friendlier, more attractive, and well-liked. The color red induces excitement in humans and even makes some people feel warm just by looking at the color.

Mirror the person that you want to have like you. If they scratch their head, you scratch your head. If they check their watch, you check your watch. Stand like they stand, sit like they sit. Soon they will feel really comfortable being close to you. It will be like you are both on the same page. Crazy, but psychologists say it works.

Get a dog. Being a dog owner shows that you are responsible, caring, empathetic, and capable of forming strong bonds. Plus it gives you one more thing to have in common with someone. More things to talk about!

Compliment correctly. The quickest way to get someone to like you is to compliment them. You could compliment their job well done, a unique necklace, a burgundy jacket they are wearing that reminds you of the Autumn leaves in Camden, Maine. It is best not to mention any body part or feature. Clothing, jewelry, shoes, any external item not physically attached is fine. Make sure the compliment is genuine. **Cont. on pg. 6**

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