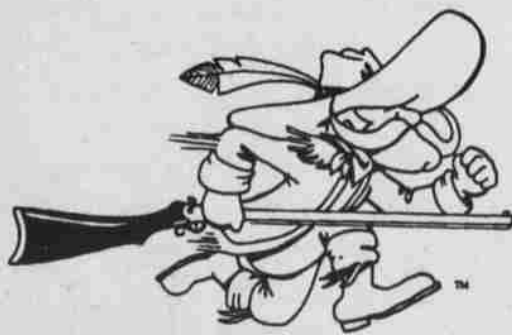


PERSPECTIVE

REBEL YELL



"Life is all memory, except for the one present moment that goes by you so quickly you hardly catch it going."
- Tennessee Williams

First date is an elusive matter



TO THE POINT

NICK HALEY

"The eternal quest of the individual human being is to shatter his loneliness"— Norman Cousins

Everyone has a skeleton. I'm 22 years old. I've looked at a lot of women, but I've never been on a date.

That's my skeleton. I've done nearly every other activity associated with the passage to adulthood. Moved away from home. Held a job I could live off of. Paid off a car. But I've never been on a date.

It isn't that I haven't tried. I've asked women out many times in the past. But not

anymore. At least not for a while.

Can anyone relate?

Certainly some, but not most.

So let me explain.

I'm a confident individual. Some even call me egotistical. Maybe they're right—I wouldn't swap personalities with anyone. I've achieved success in the workplace, in the classroom, and in athletics.

But for some unknown reason, I quake with anxiety

whenever I'm around a woman I find attractive. I become uptight and defensive. Everything I do and say embarrasses me. Suddenly, my face breaks out and my voice cracks. I'm 13 all over again. Even those of you who have dated can relate to this.

What you can't relate to is the isolation.

The feeling that no one out there wants to spend an evening with you. Not even once.

I watched as all the

friends I grew up with began dating. The weekends they once spent with me they now spent elsewhere. As if being turned down wasn't bad enough, now I no longer had friends around to make me feel better. No one.

As if the possibility of hearing "no" weren't enough to discourage asking, after 100 or so times it seemed like a certainty. I doubt even electro-shock could stymie an action more than hearing the word "no" (in all its variations) over and over again. And it only gets harder with practice.

But who can blame them for turning me down? Uptight, defensive people aren't much fun. How are they suppose to know what I'm really like?

Sometimes, when you least expect it, your mind will replay the scenario so you can suffer from it all over

again. You'll remember the minutest of details. In hindsight, you always have the perfect retort. But at the time, you just want to spontaneously combust.

Eventually, all the friends that left in my early teens came back. But still there's a void. A phase of life they've gone through, that I haven't.

The company of friends doesn't make it go away. Finding a mate is one of the most needy of instincts. And not simply for procreative purposes.

What I'm seeking seems simple— someone to enjoy life with. Someone who enjoys my company, and whose company I enjoy. Sort of like what I already have with friends, except with a woman. Alone.

At some point in life, everyone is lonely. But for those like myself, it feels more like a lifetime.

"I doubt even electro-shock could stymie an action more than hearing the word 'no' (in all its variations) over and over again".

Is California U. still in the 90210 zip code?



FROM THE SAP

JAY SAPOVITS

Brenda just couldn't stand being away from Dylan.

Kelly seems a little jealous that Brenda is home.

Sanders wants to join the KEG fraternity.

He's trying to get Brandon to join.

Zuckerman wants to write for the school paper (mistake!).

Silver wants to be on the college radio station.

And Donna just needs to get...

That's right, it's "90210," simply the most entertaining television show on the air.

You thought that it would end with their high school graduation

Wrong. And this season all the gang is all enrolled at California U.

But the plot thickens, and from the looks of the first three college shows, it's for the worse.

It used to be real fun to watch "90210."

I'd sit there and quip about being back in high school, and what the similarities were between West Beverly and Unionville (my high school).

But now watching the gang start college is quite annoying.

For some reason the show's writers have decided to make California U. this Mecca.

Fraternities court their pledges from the first day of class.

The *Condor*, the daily newspaper on campus, requires a writing audition, and the managing editor talked to the interested writers as if they were pukers.

The radio station's pro-

gram director had a desk "90210." bigger than Aaron Spelling himself.

And no classes except Diving 101 and History of Nothing 115 are available for freshman.

The scenarios that are set up are simply not as believable as when the

gang was in high school. And they're also more predictable.

So as I did so many times last year in sports, I'll once again look into the future to tell the tale of the cast of

"An interesting angle has Silver's loins exploding"

Brenda and Dylan will get back together. In fact, don't be surprised if Dylan proposes marriage to Brenda by the end of the school year. I still believe that Brenda won't be written off as off-camera disturbances to Donna.

Remember, the show has downplayed

it, but Dylan still has millions of dollars. Neither he, nor anyone he chooses to spend his life with needs a college education.

What to do with beautiful Kelly?

I'll take her.

No, really she will end up happy in a sorority after another bitter fight with Brenda.

Highlights reveal that next week Kelly will be courted by a fraternity guy, and that may add a new twist to the cast's lives. Otherwise, Kelly is beautiful, but played out.

An interesting angle has Silver's loins exploding because Donna won't succumb to her religious beliefs. Although it would seem Kelly would be a vulnerable first (sleazy and living under the same roof), they are still half brother and sister. The show still does need advertising.

Jay Sapovits

Jay Sapovits is the Perspective Editor. His column From the Sap appears every Tuesday and Thursday