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Type A/Type B couples: What's best for romance?

It was a prenuptial nightmare. Emily and Bill had just mailed their wedding invitations when the bride-to-be learned that their reception hall had been double-booked. She reacted with panic and anger. "What? You can't do this! How did this happen? What am I going to do?"

Her fiance, when separately notified by the hall manager, was unfazed and even sympathetic. "I'm sure we can work this out," he said. "This must be difficult for you, too."

As it turned out, Emily and Bill each had reserved the hall in their own names, so the manager didn't realize she was dealing with the same wedding party. The wedding reception occurred as planned, with no further hitches.

Emily and Bill's very different ways of handling this prenuptial incident may indicate the future course of their marriage, according to psychologists. Emily's reaction of panic and anger is typical of Type A personality; Bill's calm response was classically Type B.

The A/B mix may be best for long-term dating and marriage, according to psychologist Michael J. Struble, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at Washington University. In other words, opposites attract. On the other hand, in separate studies, he and a psychologist at State University of New York-Albany also have found that the presence of a Type A in a relationship can bode ill for the future.

The study of Type A characteristics has been popular in the last decade since medical evidence showed that Type A persons are nearly twice as likely to develop coronary heart disease. Type A persons tend to be competitive, time-urgent and easily aroused to hostility, while Type B persons are more likely to be patient and relaxed.

But now, researchers are going beyond medical statistics and managerial techniques to discover how a Type A relates to his or her 'significant other.' Because the romance research is new, some of the findings may appear to be contradictory. As psychologists continue their investigations, they hope to shed some light on how the role of Type A behavior affects the ultimate dispositions of relationships such as Emily's and Bill's.

"Work of this type may ultimately yield benefits by aiding the understanding of relationship stress and marital discord," says Struble. He explains that Emily (a true story with fictitious names) was panic-stricken by the reception hall mix-up because she felt she had lost control of the situation. According to the "uncontrollability theory" developed by New York psychologist David Glass, selected to head TRW Automotive Worldwide and named assistant president in 1976.

Pace serves on the board of Consolidated Natural Gas Co., Pittsburgh, and is chairman of the executive committee of the National Association of Manufacturers. From 1982-84, he was chairman of the Greater Cleveland Roundtable, a group of community leaders committed to creating jobs and improving housing, education, and race and management relations.

He has long been associated with the Boy Scouts of America and served a three-year term with National Junior Achievement. He is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, American Institute of Management and the National Aeronautical Association.

Since moving to St. Louis in 1985, Pace has become a member of Civic Progress Inc.
Type As like to have great control over their environment. When that control is threatened, they become angry and impatient. Type As are constantly manipulating their environment to prove to themselves how talented they are," Strube says. "That's why they tend to be workaholics. Failure, to Type As, is a loss of control of their environment and feeling unable to predict their future. For this reason, losing a job is devastating to Type As."

So, for that matter, is losing a reception hall.

Although Strube has extensively researched Type A personality traits, until 1985 his work focused mainly on married couples and individuals in work environments. "But whenever I gave talks to any groups, one question always asked was what combination of Type A and B is best for a romantic relationship," he explains.

In his first study, with student Linda M. Rosenberger, Type A females appeared to be the source of strife, whereas their partners were Type A or B. Their study, published in 1986 in the Journal of Applied Social Psychology, indicated that the presence of a Type A female in a short-term dating couple tended to be detrimental to a relationship.

The researchers questioned 32 college couples who had been dating three to four months. Six months later, they recontacted the couples to find out how they were doing. During the second wave of interviews, 83 percent of the couples with Type B females were involved in serious dating relationships, engaged or married. Only 45 percent of the couples with Type A females were involved in relationships of similar intimacy.

"The results of this study," the researchers reported, "suggest that when the female member is Type A, couples are less satisfied with their relationship, view the relationship less favorably compared to alternatives and perceive the relationship as less stable."

But Strube did not stop there. His second study, with student Naomi B. Arffa, focused on 31 college couples who had been dating for a year. The couples responded to questionnaires designed to rate the level of commitment and satisfaction in their relationship. They were tested for magnitude of conflict, extent of free time spent together, quality of communication and likelihood of marriage.

This time, the results, presented in summer 1986 to the American Psychological Association, were different: the most successful couples appeared to be those with a mix of Type A and B, regardless of either partner's gender. "Couples with contrasting behavioral patterns reported greater commitment and greater expectations of marriage than did couples where partners had similar behavioral patterns," the researchers claimed.

But how significant is the difference in the two conclusions? The length of the relationship is likely to be the deciding factor, Strube says. "It may be that Type A behavior on the part of the female is particularly threatening early in the relationship because it violates the traditional expectations that serve to guide partners that don't know each other well." In other words, early in the relationship, despite strides in liberation, women still fare better if they let men take the lead. Type As, geared toward aggression and competition, find this extremely difficult, males may find it hard to lose respect for a woman who tries to call the shots.

But, over the long haul, as traditional sexual politics case, Type As may seem to the merit of 'Vive le couple'. The question in the survey looked at confrontation between partners versus withdrawal as a way of resolving disputes. Couples with two Type Bs maintained a constant and high level of conflict; two Type As increased their use of confrontation; while couples with one Type A and one Type B can bring together a greater array of techniques. They are more cooperative and less confrontative.

He speaks from experience. His wife, artist Christine Strube, complemented the catchphrase with a woman's own calm Type B tendencies.

However, Donna Byrne, professor of psychology at the University of New York-Albany, in his research on 10 couples married about three years, leaned more toward the findings of Strube's first study. Rather than spotting Type B females, Byrne found that Type A, women and men, had less free time and fewer social pleasures. The Journal of Applied Social Psychology, published his conclusions in 1984.

"Type A can behave in a very socially skilled way," Byrne says, "but that's not really what they want to be doing. They are task-oriented, they want to get things done and they want others to stay out of their way.

Type As seem to spend an inordinate amount of time pursuing personal achievement instead of interpersonal and leisurely activities. "Couples of Type As are detritial to the lifestyle of the person's mate," Byrne says. "It can become a vicious cycle.

Byrne says, "Type As inadvertently create a stressful home environment, then they respond to the stress by withdrawing further into their work. That, of course, alienates their spouses even more."

Type As generally have higher incomes than Type Bs and receive more private donations and Student Union funds. Caldwell says the station's yearly operating costs are about $25,000.

Not all KWUR gifts are monetary, however. Caldwell says the station recently received 1,000 jazz and rock albums from the 1960s, thanks to a private donor. Many of the albums were released under the prestigious Blue Note label.

The "Hour of Power" schedule is as follows: On Monday it's Sports Wave with host Freddy Frommer. Student Life's assistant sports editor, on Tuesday the station rebroadcasts tapes of the Assembly Series lectures (which were delivered two weeks earlier); Michael A. Soler, internship coordinator for The Career Center, hosts their Current Events Talk Show on Wednesday. Any topic may be covered; Thursday is Interview Day, featuring interviews with bands visiting St. Louis and short selections of their music; and on Friday, KWUR airs taped musical pieces and interviews with local artists, and selections performed by the University's music department.

Caldwell says the station is looking for deejays for next semester. Interested students should pick up an application at the station, which is located in the basement of the Women's Building. For more information, call KWUR at 889-5987.

Type As continued from p. 1
NOTABLES

Leonard Berg, M.D., professor of clinical neurology and director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the medical school, was a panel member of the Presidential Symposium on 'Present and Future Advancements and Opportunities' at the annual meeting of the American Neurological Association in Boston, Mass. He discussed the crisis resulting from federal cutback in funding of the 10 Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers (ADRCs) at a meeting with directors of the other ADRCs, held at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Berg co-authored with Jack Botwinick, Ph.D., and Martha Storandt, Ph.D., professors of psychology, an article on "A Longitudinal Behavioral Study of Senile Dementia of the Alzheimer's Type" that was published in the Archives of Neurology in November 1986.

Iver Bernstein, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, presented an invited paper titled "Rite Conflict and the Rise of New York City to National Domination in the Nineteenth Century" at the meeting of the Social Science Research Council's Committee on New York City, held at the New School for Social Research. The committee was formed to encourage a combined political, economic and cultural perspective on the history of the city.

Sheng-Tai Chang, a doctoral student in Chinese and comparative literature, delivered a paper titled "The Landscape of Literature and the Taoist Spirit," at the 84th annual meeting of the Philological Association of the Pacific Coast (PAPC) on Nov. 7 at the University of California/Riverside. The paper has been recommended to PAPC's president for publication in the Pacific Coast Philology.

David Felix, Ph.D., professor of economics, gave a paper titled "Import Substitution and Law Industrialization: Latin America and Asia Compared" at the Conference on the Role of Institutions in Economic Development, Nov. 13-14 at Cornell University. Felix was a discussant of the paper presented at the Session on Adjustments to the Foreign Debt Crisis at the International Conference of the Latin American Studies Association, held Oct. 23-25 in Boston.

John M. Fredrickson, M.D., head of the department of otolaryngology, is editor of a supplemental quarterly of C.V. Mosby Co., titled Insights in Otolaryngology in November 1986. He continued his doctorate in sociology, who recently completed his doctorate in sociology, and is at the bottom of NASA's pecking order, says Walker. "Whether we like it or not, science is back down. "Whether we like it or not, science is back down."

Robert Walker, Ph.D., McDonnell Associate Director for Research, gave a paper at the 29 cover story of USA Today. According to the story, many scientific research projects depend on testing in space at zero gravity. One of the tests that has been delayed because of the Jan. 29 Challenger explosion is a cosmic dust experiment being conducted by Robert Walker, Ph.D., McDonnell Professor of Physics. The experiment was launched two years ago aboard the Challenger after 10 years of research. Now there is no way to get it back down. "Whether we like it or not, our futures are intimately tied to NASA," says Walker. "Science is at the bottom of NASA's pecking order."

"Washington University balances fiscal academic, says a headline from the Oct. 29 Kansas City Times. In the article, many University faculty and administrators offer quotes about the growth of the University, academically and fiscally. Included in the story are quotes by William H. Danforth, chancellor, W. Maxwell Cowan, provost, Richard N. Rosset; vice chancellor and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Victor Le Vine, professor of political science; and Edward L. MacCord, associate chancellor for research.

Fewer teens are suicidal says Richard D. Wetzel, Ph.D., associate professor of medical psychology in the Family and Preventive Medicine Department of the New York Daily News. "It's not a huge dropoff," he says of the teen suicide rate, which has dropped to its lowest levels in times what it was before (in the 1950s), but it looks like its starting to edge down." Using new studies from federal surveys on causes of death, Wetzel has made a mathematical prediction that the suicide rate for teenagers should go down by a total of seven percent over the next five years. The story originated with an Associated Press wire story.
Thursday, Dec. 18
4 p.m. Dept. of Pathology Seminar. "Spon- ntaneous autoimmune pancreatitis," Prof. of Medicine, the BB/WOR RAT. "Arthur Love, prof. of pathology, School of Medicine. Pathology Lbr. 3rd fl., West Bldg.
Friday, Jan. 2
6 and 8:30 p.m. WU Association Film Travel Lecture Series. "Siberia: The Sleeping Land," Raphael Green, filmmaker. Graham Chapel. For ticket info., call 889-5122.
Thursday, Jan. 8
Thursday, Jan. 15

EXHIBITIONS
"Faculty Show." Through Dec. 28. Gallery of Art, upper gallery. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. 1:15 p.m. weekends. For more info., call 889-4123.
"Recent Photographic Acquisitions." Through Dec. 28. Gallery of Art, print gallery. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. 1:15 p.m. weekends. For more info., call 889-5423.
"Modern Art." Jan. 4-5. Gallery of Art, upper gallery. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. 1:15 p.m. weekends. For more info., call 889-4123.
"Beckett at 80." In exhibit of books and manuscripts drawn from the Samuel Beckett Collection, Therapy, WU Special Collections, Olin Library. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

PERFORMANCES
Friday, Dec. 26
8 p.m. "The Gondoliers," Gilbert and Sullivan’s opera, is produced by Opera Theatre of St. Louis, in conjunction with Edison Theatre. (Also Dec. 27, 30, 31, and Jan. 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 12 p.m.; Dec. 28 and Jan. 3, 4, 10 and 11, at 8 p.m.) Edison Theatre. Tickets priced from $6 to $28, may be purchased at the Opera Theatre box office. Ticket info., call 889-5122.
Tuesday, Jan. 13
5:30 p.m. Women’s Basketball, WU vs. Smith College. Field House.
7:30 p.m. Men’s Basketball, WU vs. Grinnell College. Field House.
Wednesday, Jan. 14
7 and 9 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Mc-Halu’s Holiday." 9:22 Brown Hall. (Also Thurs. Jan. 15, same time, Brown.)
Friday, Jan. 16
7 and 9:45 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Moscow on the Hudson." 9:22 Brown Hall. (Also Sat. Jan. 17, same times, Brown.)

SPORTS
Saturday, Jan. 10
7:30 p.m. Women’s Basketball, WU vs. Fordham College. Field House.
Sunday, Jan. 11
12:30 p.m. WU vs. Smith College. Field House.

New ‘museum’—which includes the Clayton branch, also the former Hansberger building, the faculty members and the local dealers; the students and graduates of fine arts. We visited their studios and looked at what they were doing, and it was a long, time-consuming process," Jensen says. 

**The Gondoliers’** sails into Edison for holiday cheer

"The Gondoliers," Gilbert and Sul lian’s lively operetta, sets sail on the stage of Edison Theatre for 14 performances beginning Friday, Dec. 26, and continuing through Sunday, Jan. 11. Produced in celebration of the Bi centennial, the show is a tribute to St. Louis in conjunction with Washington University’s Edison Theatre. "The Gondoliers" is a spirited production to be enjoyed by the entire family. Matinee performances of "The Gondoliers" are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Dec. 28 and Jan. 5, 10, and 11. Evening performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. on Dec. 26, 27, 30 and Jan. 2, 5, 6, 9, and 10. All performances are at Edison Theatre. "The Gondoliers" is vintage Gilbert and Sullivan, combining free amorous foibles, mistaken identities and good-natured satire. The operetta is filled with enchanting songs both comic and sentimental. Gilbert’s arch wit and Sullivan’s beautiful melodies shine through this tale of Spanish gentry, Italian peasant girls and, of course, handsome Venetian gon doliers.

The large cast for "The Gondoliers" includes mezzo-soprano Dana Krueger making her Opera Theatre debut as The Duchess of Plaza-Toro; world renowned character tenor James Atherton as her husband, The Duke of Plaza-Toro; soprano Carol Gale as their beautiful daughter, Casilda, tenor John LaPierre as their servant and Casilda’s secret lover, Laiz; mezzo-soprano Rhonda MacAfee as Luis’s clever foster mother, Inez; lyric tenor Carroll Freeman and baritone Gordon Holleman as two masters of the Grand Inquisitor. Placido Domingo, of course, as Don Alhambra Del Bolero, the Grand Inquisitor.

"The Gondoliers" is directed by Opera Theatre’s Artistic Director, British-born Colin Graham, who will stage the production. Graham has directed more than 50 Opera Theatre productions, including previous holiday presentations of "H.M.S. Pinafore" (1981), "The Pirates of Penzance" (1982) and "The Mikado" (1984). His work also has been seen at the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera, San Francisco Opera and many other leading international houses.

Stephen Lord, Opera Theatre’s music staff, will make his professional conducting debut with "The Gondoliers." Lord is an accomplished coach and accompanist and has worked on the music staff of several other opera companies, including Houston Grand Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Wolf Trap Opera and Canadian Opera Company. His past work with Opera Theatre of St. Louis includes serving as music director for "The Beggar’s Opera" and "Carvel River."