

GET FLU SHOTS EARLY

Now is the time for early flu immunization, especially for high-risk individuals, according to the American Lung Association of Washington. Those considered the highest priority group for the immunization are adults and children with chronic disease of the cardiovascular and pulmonary system. The second highest priority group for immunization are the nurses, physicians and other personnel who have extensive contact with the high risk population. The third highest priority group for immunization against the flu are otherwise healthy people who are 65 or over, adults and children with metabolic diseases such as diabetes, people with kidney disease, severe anemia and/or

compromised immune function.

Health officials report that a highly purified vaccine is available to fight this year's flu, which is expected to be of three types: A-Chili, A-Philippines and B-USSR. Officials also warn that even though some of the flu strains are the same as last year, individuals need to get immunized again because the immunity lasts only for six months.

Persons who are interested in being immunized should contact their county health departments or their own physicians. More information on the influenza virus and its effects is available by writing the American Lung Association of Washington, 2624 So. 38th Street, Tacoma, WA 98409, or by calling 1-800-732-9339 (or 474-9547 in Tacoma).

SUCCESS

Minority Contractors Association presented posthumous awards to Mrs. J.R. Pilcher for her husband's efforts in recruiting Black General Contractors and to Phyllis and Ron Gilvens for their father, Bill Gilvens' efforts in economic development for Blacks. Others receiving awards were: Governor John Spellman for signing the Minority/Women Business Enterprise Legislation; Senator George Fleming for efforts in the passage of the law establishing the Office of Women Business Enterprise; Carolyn V. Patton, Director of

Minority/Women Business Enterprise for her efforts in making the program work; (Ms. Patton stated that state certification processing is getting faster and her staff and advisory committee deserves the credit for the award); James L. Absher for his support of Equal Opportunity through his work with the committee for equal employment opportunity (CEEEO) and Associated General Contractors.

The banquet was well attended by the community, state and local organizations. Russell gave credit to the National Association of Minority Contractors, Tacoma NAACP, Tacoma Urban League, Prince Hall Masons (State of Washington), CBA Enterprise (Olympia), Black Business Association, Central Contractors' Association (Seattle), K Street Boosters, Evergreen State College (Tacoma Campus) and Vancouver and Spokane Plan Centers for their help in co-sponsoring the event.



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Problems of Living Together

Recently I received a letter from a reader like yourself that posed questions of increasing importance. I want to share the letter and my response with you. I would be interested to know your opinions on these issues.

Dear Dr. Faulkner:

I want very much to get married but have a terrible fear of failure because so many of my friends are either separated or divorced. Do you think it would be wise for me and my fiancé to live together (shack up) first, so that we can get to know each other? What about sex? Alyce, Savannah, Ga.

Dear Alyce:

You have good reason to be fearful. Fewer than 25 out of every 100 people who marry remain together. And, only half of those profess to being happy. Marriage today is treacherous territory that should be explored carefully before you invest your future in it.

How can you find out about each other before marriage? There is no guarantee for success but there are ways to enhance the likelihood of success:

1) Premarital counseling - Some counselors are skilled in evaluating couples for compatibility. A personality analysis may let you know if your personality and lifestyle can intertwine successfully with that of your mate. You will be judged in terms of type of personality, goals, age, religion, education, sexual orientation and profession. It is not necessary for you to have identical data but it is important to have characteristics that mutually fulfill each other and contribute to one another's happiness;

2) Living together before marriage - It is becoming increasingly unrealistic to oppose this lifestyle because so many people are adopting it in spite of historical moral convention to the contrary. There are clearly advantages to living for a period of time with your prospective mate. You learn the other person's habits, determine if you can adjust to sharing, find out if your personalities are conducive to teamwork, and you discover idiosyncracies about the mate which could only be discovered during a period of regular contact. The obvious major disadvantages are the possibility of having a child at a time disadvantageous to one or both of you.

The child out of wedlock may or may not conflict with your moral values, may be born before you can afford to adequately support the child financially and parentally, deprive you of the opportunity to establish your career; and may, conceivably, impose an unanticipated burden upon you if you decide to

separate before marriage. The child would be an additional factor to be considered by a future prospective mate. In other words, would a future mate marry someone who already has a child? Only the involved parties, with professional advice, can weigh the factors and make the final decision.

The wise person would be slow to engage in sexual intercourse with someone who has not decided to marry them. It is a decision that only you can make after considering the consequences. It is not realistic to expect two people to live together without engaging in intercourse. So, living together has many built-in traps that are seldom seen prior to the act.

There is, however, and unfortunately, something that can be seen clearly. It is the thousands upon thousands of Black teenagers and subteenagers who are burdened with a child but no husband, no job, no education, no happiness and no prospect for future success.

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