



Couple to mark 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph (Caroline Kramer) Hingsbergen of 322 Sprucewood Drive, Delaware, and formerly of Paris, Ill., will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their wedding Friday. They were married Feb. 15, 1958 at St. Stephens Church in Hamilton.

They will be guests of honor at an open house reception from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, at the home of their oldest daughter, Dr. Elizabeth Hingsbergen, and her partner, Kate Anderson, 1307 Berkeley Court in Powell.

They are the parents of seven children, Elizabeth, Edward of Sunbury, Joan (Dennis) Stroot of Paris, Ill., Lois (Javier) Invernizzi of Glen Allen, Va., Bob (Dr. Renee Yap) Hingsbergen of Chicago; Kathleen (Sean) Burke of Delaware and Greg (Julie) Hingsbergen of Novato, Calif. They also have eight grandchildren, Jacob, Kelly and Daniel Egan, Isabella and Lucas Invernizzi and Sara, Perry and Jackson Hingsbergen. Cards would be appreciated.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph (Caroline Kramer) Hingsbergen

Singles celebrate friendship at annual Valentine's dinner

DEAR ABBY: Valentine's Day is once again upon us. As a single woman, I have recognized that even on this day one can feel completely left out of things. So, last year I started a new tradition with my single women friends.

On Valentine's Day we meet for dinner. We call it "Singles Appreciation Day." Last year we had a great time together, and this year should be even more fun.

Singlehood is not something to cry about. It's something to celebrate and enjoy, just as we would the state of marriage when we find the right person. People need to learn to appreciate the value of each phase of life as we enter it. For now, I am happily appreciating the stage of being single. — SANDY IN NORTH HIGHLANDS, CALIF.

DEAR SANDY: I'm sure I'm not the only person who admires

your positive and intelligent attitude about the journey we all make through life. Today, more and more people are choosing to remain single into their late 20s and 30s — and Valentine's Day seems to have become less a holiday and more of a marketing campaign that makes the unattached feel adrift, alone and often depressed.

A wise person told me years ago that we are as happy as we

make up our minds to be — and I hope more singles will learn from your example.

DEAR ABBY: Last year on Valentine's Day I had many errands to run, so I started at my favorite coffee shop at 7 a.m.

At a table in front of me was an elderly couple who were already eating. I enjoy people-watching, and it was easy to observe them. The man was having trouble opening his little package of jelly. I almost went over to help him. Why didn't I? Because he was there with a lady. Sister, wife, friend? I couldn't see her left hand. If I had offered help, it might have embarrassed him. This was a buffet breakfast.

As I ate, I watched him make several slow trips for food. He put milk and sugar in her dry cereal. He cut her food and twice wiped her mouth with her napkin. He put sugar and cream in her coffee and stirred it.

When they finally finished, he helped her from her chair, helped her with her coat, straightened out her folding walker, held her arm as they left and helped her into an older model car.

That vignette made my day. Were they sweethearts? I don't know, but there certainly was a lot of love there. Not a word was spoken, but I'm sure the message was received. We could use more of that kind of "conversation" every day, not just on Valentine's Day. — S. FROM TENNESSEE

DEAR S. FROM TENNESSEE: The demonstration of love and commitment that you witnessed transcends any message that could be given verbally, or anything that could be written on a card. You saw a demonstration of the kind of commitment that is promised when people say to each other "in sickness and in health," but few people think through when they make that vow.

Your letter touched my heart, and I thank you for sending it so I could share it with my readers on this day that celebrates love.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Dear Abby

Universal Press Syndicate

Harley dealership caters to women

By ALEXA MCALLISTER
Special to the Gazette

PLAIN CITY — Historically, the combination of women and motorcycles has been associated with passenger seating and "biker chick" stigmas, further alluding to a female's status as mere decoration. With the third largest rider population in the U.S., it seems appropriate that Ohio is also a trendsetter with its rapidly growing female rider population.

Taking the handlebars in their own hands, women motorcyclists have increased in number by 28 percent in the past five years, according to the Ohio Department of Public Safety. And in the case of C&A Harley-Davidson of Plain City, women aren't only riding motorcycles, they're also selling them.

Currently, 15 percent of C&A's customers are women, compared to Harley-Davidson Motor Company's national average of 10 percent. The letter A in C & A — now in business for 20 years — stands for Adonna Besece, owner and mother of general manager and part owner Dena Besece. C&A's female presence further extends into the clothing, finance, parts and marketing departments.

"I grew up in a family of riders where I was encouraged to ride, but not all women are as fortunate. Our staff and calendar of events reflect our dedication to fostering female riders," Dena said.

Traditionally, women control the family purse, making more than half of the purchasing decisions. The power of the purse and increased incomes are two leading factors paving the way straight into motorcycle dealerships, where more women are buying into the motorcycle lifestyle. Dena describes the H-D bar and shield logo as a representation of "hardcore smiles full of fresh air." It is this literal and figurative motto to live life on the edge that is fueling more women onto two wheels.

This "grit and glory" attitude is available without sacrificing safety. Ohio set another trend in 2006 with a 20 percent decrease

in motorcycle fatalities, due in part to high enrollment in safety courses. Women tend to take such courses when learning to ride rather than enrolling in the "one hour, vacant parking lot crash course." To meet customer demands, C&A will open Rider's Edge®: The Academy of Motorcycling, a means for obtaining training and a state-recognized motorcycle endorsement waiver. Starting March 6, Rider's Edge is a four-day, 25-hour course combining classroom and range experience atop the lightweight, 500cc Buell Blast.

Female riders from across Central Ohio already are enrolling in the course. One of those is Delaware Vice Mayor Carolyn Kay Riggle, a self-proclaimed motorcycle fan.

"I want to feel in control of my choice to ride, rather than lean on a friend for everything," Riggle said. "I want to learn with a bunch of women, who aren't going to make fun of me if I do something wrong."

Riggle said she views riding as an accomplishment, something she can be proud of and a means for relaxing after an exhausting day.

"It will be nice to take off and ride; something to do for myself, some down time where I can just be me," she said.

C&A will offer some female-only courses throughout the year, which will emphasize that it is fine to make mistakes when learning.

"Before becoming a veteran, riders must be novices. Our fleet of Buells is meant to be used and abused for learning, rather than your brand new bike," Dena said.

C&A also invites women to its All Female Garage Party, which introduces attendees to the world of H-D in an informal environment. The next Garage Party just for women is from 7 to 9 p.m. on April 16.

To learn more, contact C&A Harley-Davidson at 614-764-2453. For an overview of the oldest motorcycling organization for women in the U.S., Motor Maids, log on to www.Motormaids.org.

newsroom@delgazette.com

Pests in your houseplants: Controlling 'scale insects' indoors

Associated Press

Is your floor or furniture feeling sticky these days? That could be a sign of an insect pest on your houseplants, one that you'd hardly notice otherwise.

That sticky stuff is a sugary "honeydew" secreted by so-called scale insects, who typically start multiplying faster and faster as spring approaches.

Look for the culprit

Even staring right at your houseplants, you'll have trouble finding the culprits.

Look for nothing more than an occasional shiny, brown bump about an eighth of an inch across. They're especially hard to see on bark.

Flick at a bump with your thumbnail to tell whether it's supposed to be there; scale insects come off easily.

What a humdrum life

Let's offer scale insects some sympathy for the drab lives they lead. After hatching from eggs or being born live, the babies crawl around for a few hours or days until they find a place on a plant to settle down.

There, they sink their mouthparts into the plant and start

sucking. And that's about it for many female scale insects.

Males don't even eat. They just fly around and mate — but for only a few hours — then die.

Controlling the pest

That stickiness and those yellowing leaves are reminders that this pest must be controlled.

And control isn't easy because of the protective shield — the scale — these insects grow over their bodies. The protective shield also protects the babies — until they crawl out.

And that's a good time to get them, using various types of sprays. Various plant-extract oils, as well as specially refined petroleum oils, can be effective.

Sprays or dislodging need to be repeated every week or two.

Prevent it

The second easiest approach for a plant that is thoroughly infested is to just dump it.

The best way to control scale, with houseplants at least, involves nothing more than moving the plant outdoors in summer. There, some combination of environmental conditions and/or natural predators and parasites often knock back scale insects — until autumn, at least.

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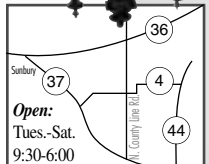
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