

Crazy in Love

By Reg P. Wydeven
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True love is pretty hard to come by. That's why many people go to great lengths to try to find it. Sometimes these measures seem somewhat questionable.

Take Leroy Greer, for example. Leroy called 1-800-Flowers and sent the love of his life a dozen long-stemmed red roses, along with a note that read, "Just wanted to say that I love you and you mean the world to me." Then his wife found out.

1-800-Flowers sent a thank-you note to his house that his wife found. She called the florist and they faxed her a copy of the receipt for the purchase. At the time, the couple was going through an amicable divorce. That all changed after Greer's wife's discovery of the affair, as she is now asking for a \$300,000 divorce settlement in addition to child support.

Upset that his cover was blown, Greer is suing 1-800-Flowers in a federal court in Texas for breach of contract and deceptive trade practices for revealing his infidelity. Greer is seeking \$1 million in damages. According to the suit, Greer asked the florist to keep his order private. Apparently every rose has its thorn.

Some people try to change themselves to help them in their quest for love. In 1994, the already well-endowed Anna Nicole Smith had breast augmentation surgery. Her Texas plastic surgeon, Gerald Wayne Johnson, videotaped the procedure. The video is now the subject of another Texas lawsuit.

Howard K. Stern, Smith's former attorney and executor of her will, requested a temporary restraining order preventing the release of the tape. The injunction prevents the sale, distribution or dissemination of the video.

According to Stern's court filings, Johnson furnished Thomas Riccio, a Los Angeles-based memorabilia dealer, with a copy of the procedure. Stern alleges Johnson taped the surgery without Smith's consent and that Johnson's wife and Riccio would share in any proceeds from the sale of the videotape to various media outlets.

Johnson said he routinely records surgeries with the patient's permission and promises to keep the video confidential "during the patient's lifetime." Johnson said he gave Riccio permission to use the video after Smith died. Superior Court Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff issued the temporary restraining order, so Johnson's plan to profit from selling the tape is a bust.

Finally, some people go out to clubs looking for love, but instead find injustice. Attorney Roy Den Hollander has filed a class action lawsuit in New York against Manhattan nightclubs Copacabana Nightclub, China Club, A.E.R. Nightclub and Sol for "invidious discrimination" against men because of ladies night.

According to his suit, Hollander alleges that the clubs are violating the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law, and he is seeking nominal damages and an injunction to halt the nightclubs' practice of admitting women for free or reduced fees and shorter waiting periods.

Clubs traditionally have ladies nights to lure more women to their establishments, which brings more men, who buy more drinks. Hollander is seeking to be named class representative for all men charged more money or burdened by stricter time restraints than women at these clubs over the last three years. It's no surprise that most women, and most men, oppose the suit.

A hearing was set for October 11, when Hollander is hoping it will be men's day in court.

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