

THE CHANGING FACE OF DATING

It's a mindfield out there...



ON TOP: If he's wealthy she's interested, as she's coining it too. PICTURE: SHUTTERSTOCK

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RELATIONSHIPS have and will always be a tricky field to play on. You just never know where you stand and if you do, you will soon have to readjust your footing, as most relationships offer only fleeting moments of predictability.

These days, more singles are focusing on their careers and acquiring wealth before even considering marriage. More women are deciding to stay childless and, of course, the divorce rates keep on climbing.

Bonita Erasmus, a relationship specialist, interviews singles daily to determine their suitability for membership on her MatchVIP database. She shares some of her findings on what other dating and relationship trends can be expected in 2014 and beyond.

Women on top

Women are outperforming men both financially and academically. An emerging generation of young, highly educated and focused ladies is taking the corporate world by storm. For the first time we are seeing ladies who are far more accepting of a partner who earns less than they do – and if not, they choose to date much older men.

Sapiosexuality

Singles who place an emphasis on intelligence before being attracted to another person are classified as sapiosexual. Chemistry and physical attraction are also important to

these individuals, but if there is no intellectual connection, there's no possibility of a relationship. Sapiosexuals almost always have one or more postgraduate qualifications.

Interracial dating

South Africans aren't entirely new to this concept, but interracial dating hasn't been as prevalent among older generations, with only 23% of single South Africans willing to date outside their own skin colour. The younger generation (under 30) are far more open to dating other cultures. This trend will lead to more interracial marriages and Rainbow Nation children.

Comfort without commitment

Many divorcees would like to meet a new partner, but aren't willing to combine households. They prefer keeping their lives separate, with stay-over friendships. This makes life easier, especially when kids and step-kids are added to the mix. Naturally, divorced parents place the interests of their children far above those of a love interest. Not necessarily healthy, but true.

Decline in online dating

Online dating hasn't been a new concept for years and singles often share their online dating experiences with each other. Their horror stories, combined with low rates of success, leads many to professional dating services.

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RAINBOW NATION: Today, interracial dating between the younger generation is completely acceptable. PICTURE: SHUTTERSTOCK



CHEMISTRY FIRST: Many businesswomen may need attraction first but unless he matches her intellectually, he's history. PICTURE: SHUTTERSTOCK

The rich have better sex?

AFTER prying into the sex lives of Spaniards, a team of researchers have concluded that richer people, particularly women, report higher rates of satisfaction in the bedroom.

Overall, it appears that Spaniards are happy with the quality and quantity of their time in the bedroom. A whopping 90% of men and women said they were

among female respondents.

"People of a lower socio-economic status claim to be less satisfied sexually, which especially applies to women, who seem to be more influenced by these factors," lead author Dolores Ruiz says.

Conversely, the study, published in the Annals of Epidemiology, noted that those who were more well-off seemed to have a

