Sidney Delouch looks into the eyes of his wife Delouch, above, searching for the right answer — which he-genes a second later, below

By ROD DREIER

ANGOLA — Welcome to the Newyellow Game, coming to you live from the conference room of "A. Building" at Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Meet Couple No. 1, Stan and Helen Smith. Stan is serving a life sentence for the murder of a Norwegian seaman nine years ago. Helen is a transvestite for a Louisiana court reporter. They’ve been married just two months. You’ll have to watch the show to find out how they met. 

Meet Couple No. 2, Sidney and Regina Kibodeaux. Sidney is a parolee, serving 28 years for parole. Regina is an unemployed computer operator living in a mobile home, 150 miles away. They’ve been married two months.

When people refer to their spouses as "my lady and I," they really don’t mean it. "People never in here serve as a life sentence and you got married, man! I had a half as an accomplishment," said Wayd Whed, president of the Angola Prison Radio Workshop.

"It’s interesting to see that most of the members of the Angola Jukebox, which sponsors all the prison bands of the syndicated tv game show, Whed can come up with the idea to save the marriages of prisoner couples.

"It’s like your worst nightmare," says Mr. Hobbs, "if you’re being locked up away from women. Like all families who marry while in the leach, their husbands and wives have not been allowed to communicate their voices.

"We’re trying to promote family values in prison," says Whed. "We need to keep our men in mind when we’re selecting questions for the game. We need to give them questions that reflect the real, very much like in the real world.

"In other words, there are no escapades, no happy endings, just very personal. In the television version, tell the truth and you get a happy ending. We give them a choice of happiness or releasing themselves."

As inmates mumbled around the answers, "What is the color of your underwear?" a guard eyed his fellow inmates and whispered, "I got 120 grams before the guard before the game, about 120 inmates," he said. They were waving, folding hands, trading glances and speaking in hushed voices.

Stan and Helen Smith are filling out a questionnaire to be used by the Downpour Forum when they introduce them to the audience. Helen describes her husband as "the straight man's best friend."

"I'm not always true," he says, "I’m in the California form when I was running with the crooks. He was doing hard time, was down. He said he was OK, but he was not."

Sidney Kibodeaux is certain the woman will be granted parole next year or later in his sentence. Stanley is well known as a con man. As soon as he was sentenced to life without parole by a jury, he sent for a inmate who said he was a minister. They were married the same month as his sister and by the same parson. He said to the minister, "I'm going to do my thing through the game."

Thank you for watching the Newyellow Game. I’ll be back next week with more. Good night and good luck."

Albert and Regina Kibodeaux

An unidentified couple watches the three-wife team compete

Where do you want to go on your honeymoon? was the question, which Albert Kibodeaux answers.
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“I was impressed with him the very first time I saw him. I didn’t even think he was an inmate,” Dolores says. “I don’t think like an inmate. I don’t act like an inmate. Despite the bars, I’m a free man, through Jesus Christ,” Sidney says.

They began corresponding in 1987, but Sidney didn’t write love letters. “This man didn’t even tell her anything sweet,” he says. “All about the Lord,” she says. “I was looking for sweet letters in the beginning, but he only wrote letters encouraging me in the Lord. Now it’s the other way around.”

Dolores beams. “You’re even prettier than I thought you were,” he says tenderly, holding her hand. “Let me keep talking about the Lord and you’ll see how pretty I get.”

Sidney says he’s never been interested in Dolores for her money. “I wasn’t for sale. It didn’t interest me what she had or could do for me materially. I needed a real person in my life. Material things did not matter. When I met her, I told her those same words,” he says.

It’s time for the game to begin. Before the contestants are introduced, Jaycee president Webb and member Checo Yancy invite all the visiting spouses to the front and give them certificates of appreciation. Regina’s chin quivers. She manages to say a few words, nearly bursting into tears.

The questions are bland, along the order of “Who will your husband say wins the majority of your disagreements, and why?” and “What color would your wife say your eyes are?” This doesn’t touch the cornball bawdiness that makes the real Newlywed Game so popular, but everybody seems to have a good time.

Interim warden Larry Smith watches the proceedings from the back of the room. He credits the Jaycees for being a stabilizing force in the volatile prison environment.

“These guys around the table tonight spread a glow around the institution. It’s interesting to me that from a position of confinement, these guys are saying, hey, not only do we count, but we’re trying to make a difference,” Smith says.

In conjunction with the state Jaycee organization and local law enforcement agencies statewide, the Angola Jaycees are about to launch a program called Operation Threshold. The program will put convicts in touch with juvenile offenders in each parish. Prisoners will share their stories in hopes of scaring kids away from a life that could land them in the pen.

Sidney and Delores win tonight’s game. Unlike the TV show, they don’t get a washer and dryer. They don’t get a conjugal visit. They get engraved plaques.

Sidney hopes the courts will consider the 11 years he’s spent in Angola payment enough for his crime, and let him free to join his wife. He speculates about what he’d like to do with Delores when and if he walks out of Angola.

“I think I’d like to spend about two weeks in the Bahamas, enjoying the sun and unwinding,” Sidney says.

“But the first thing I’m going to do is lock up somewhere and have an old-fashioned prayer meeting and really thank the Lord for the times he brought me through here. I want to show the world something good can come out of Angola.”