

Features



Dear Diana: I am a sophomore in college and my boyfriend is a sophomore at a different college in Winston-Salem. We both love each other very much and we like the same things. We often talk of marriage. The only major problem in our relationship is I'm black and he is white. We both come from middle-class family backgrounds. He has told his parents that he dates all types of girls but he did not tell them he was serious with one in particular. I have not told my parents about dating guys of the opposite race at all. I'm afraid they won't approve. It's not that we are ashamed of each other because we are always together in public and we act as boyfriend and girlfriend do. Of course we get a few occasional stares in public and we've lost a few so-called friends. But all this does is make our love stronger because we want to be together. We just want to know when to tell our parents and what to do if they don't approve. -- Tired of Prejudice.

Dear Tired of Prejudice: Love is one of the most wonderful and powerful things two people can ever have. I suggest that if you and your boyfriend are really serious about one another, then you both should tell your parents no matter how afraid you are. Prove to them and yourselves that you two can be happy and have a wonderful relationship. A person will find out that in one's lifetime there are always going to be some people who do not approve of things one does. But a wise man once said: "A person can tell in one's heart when something is right." Good Luck.

Dear Diana: I am a male sophomore who is slowly but gradually flunking out of WSSU. I just can't seem to concentrate on my school work or in class anymore. I was an honor roll student in junior high and high school. But college life is so different. I want to graduate from college so I can get a good job and make a nice salary. If I flunk out my family will be hurt, I will not get a chance to pledge the fraternity I want to belong

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to and my life just might fall apart. What should I do? -- Borderline

Dear Borderline: It sounds like you are facing problems that many first- and second-year college students face. I suggest that you sit down and think about whether you really want to be in college. College is not for everyone. You may find that you will do better taking a semester off and working. This will give you time to think things out. If you decide that you really want to be in college, you need to find the source of your problem and get rid of it. Remember it is your life, and a mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Dear Diana: I am worried about my roommate. We have been together for two years straight, but this semester is different. She does not want to go to class and she usually does not come in until the early morning hours. I want to help her get back into the swing of things. How can I do it without hurting her feelings or harming our friendship? -- Lost Roommate

Dear Lost Roommate: It sounds like you are a very concerned person who cares a lot about your roommate. Your roommate has probably found a new pastime, be it a job, hobby or a new friend, male or female. There is nothing wrong with this except when it interferes with one's schoolwork. Your roommate needs to sit down and get her priorities straight and decide if she is going to let this new pastime keep her from her education. I suggest that you sit down with your roommate and tell her that you are concerned and you care about her.

Dear Diana: My best friend, who is a girl, just told me that she wants more than my friendship. We've been the best of friends since we were kids, and I really don't want a serious boyfriend-girlfriend relationship with

her. She's a beautiful young lady and I love her to death, but not in the way that she would like me to. She's a very sensitive person and I just know I'll break her heart by telling her the opposite of what she wants to hear. Can you help? -- Desperate

Dear Desperate: Your best "friend girl" may be stronger and more understanding than you think. Talk to her and let her know that you'll always be her best friend, but you don't want that type of relationship. Remember -- telling her just what she wants to hear will not be good for you or her. Also, not telling her anything can break her heart more.

Dear Diana: My love life is topsyturvy and I don't know what to do. I am torn between two guys who say they love me but one seems to show it much better than the other one, and I'm not certain who I really want. One is very possessive and the other "allows" me to be free to talk and be in the company of other men. I feel more wanted by the one who is possessive simply because he seems to care more. But on the other hand, the other guy seems to trust me. I care for them both dearly but am forced at this time to make a decision. What should I use as a basis to choose? -- Cybil

Dear Cybil: Do not feel more wanted because one of your mates is possessive. If he is possessive now while you're merely dating, it will only get worse and could result in you living in a prisoned nightmare. Possessiveness is a result of insecurities and security is very treasurable in a relationship. Your other mate seems to be more comfortable with the relationship and therefore allows you to be carefree. The question is how carefree is he? Honey, really weigh each man's qualities out equally and honestly to see who will truly make you happy now and in the long run.

If you need advice from Dear Diana, write to her c/o Room 313, Hall-Patterson Communications Building.

