

OPINION

Whines & Gripes

collected by Jillian Curtis

BDH: your chicken noodle soup sucks! For the love of God, get some Campbells.

To the girl that stole my umbrella while it was drying outside my door: I hate you.

Dear Meredith Girls Wearing Ugg Boots in the Pouring Rain: I know Daddy can just buy you another pair of one hundred dollar shoes, but seriously, for my sake, put on some rain boots.

Why are their random piles of steaming dirt in the student parking lot? \

Dear professors: Do you all purposefully get together and plan tests on the same day/week just to drive me crazy?

Can someone please tell me why I'm paying 32,000 to go to a school that charges me for printing and copying?

I hate how I can never use the track (which I'm sure my tuition helped pay for) because of all the random youth soccer games! Seriously little kids, go play somewhere else.

Dear people campaigning for random positions on campus, if I get another flyer with candy attached to it, I may vomit. I want to know your ideas on policy, I don't want your cheap bribes.

Love and Other Angel Antics

Alegha Page, Staff Writer

Do you ever wonder why our relationships don't work out? Why can't we be like the girls in all of our favorite movies? Can't we all be Blair Waldorfs being swept off by our feet by a suave, handsome man of the Upper East side? Or why can't we be Jane, winning the sweet affection of the adorable Mr. Bingley? Unfortunately, these girls are the figments of writers' imaginations, and we will never be them. However, if you really wish to have your current relationship fail so that you may pursue one of these men, here are a few tips for you.

1. Assume that you are a queen and expect your man to bow to your every demand.
2. Tell him you don't like his mother.
3. Force him to watch the Notebook with you and the girls.
4. Argue when he says "no honey, that dress doesn't make your butt look big."
5. Insist on watching Grey's reruns while the big game is on.
6. Never offer to pick up the tab.
7. Act like one of his boys. He loves for his sweetie-pie to burp the alphabet.
8. Be a picky eater every time you two go out.
9. When he doesn't immediately reply to your texts, keep forwarding him the same one. Every 10 minutes.
10. When he does something nice but it goes wrong point out all of the flaws.

Mother May I?

Lyn Hovis Triplett, Contributing Writer

It is 1971, a time of social turmoil. How often had I heard Mother say that all she ever wanted to do was to be a wife and mother? She would sit in her Boston rocker and watch TV, baffled as the women of the era burned bras, stormed institutions, and refused to marry. How could women ever entertain the idea of a different kind of life? Mother never changed her perspective. Only spinsters and/or widows should be allowed to be teachers or nurses. The rest should get husbands, have children, and raise those children to be future wives for future husbands.

But when I announced that I planned to go to college, major in music education, graduate, teach

and never get married, Mother was, oddly enough, very supportive. She campaigned for me with Napoleon-like power. She went eyeball to eyeball with my father, demanding that he give me the equal opportunity given to my older brother. Dad grudgingly gave in – griping and complaining about every red cent for four years.

When I brought up the idea of returning to teaching after my boys were born, Mother pitched a fit. She went on and on about how it was not just my responsibility but also my divine destiny to devote myself to being a wife and mother, how not only her grandchildren but all of society was going to hell because of women in the workplace.

I could not believe it: I would be personally responsible for contributing to the downfall of civilization if I went back to work. She was quite clear about her stand on this issue.

"Well," I challenged, "why in the world did you make sure I got a college education if you never intended me to use it?"

Her response: "So that when you were married, if your husband ever left you or died, you would have something to fall back on and not be trapped like I was." All this time, I thought she had wanted to provide me with the education she had been denied. I was right—but for all the wrong reasons.

Virginia Claire Tharrington, Contributing Writer

Perhaps it the habits of our mothers, that annoy us the most, which we are most likely to pick up. The idea of becoming like my mother in all of her nonsensical, backwards habits truly terrifies me, though I know she is a wonderful woman at heart. My mother does nag. Perhaps it is her fatal flaw, but I truly think sometimes she just wants to make conversation, and nagging is the only way she knows how. Nagging is not her best quality but she has many others that outweigh her sometimes pestering nature. My 18 year old brother has some very lackadaisical habits which my mother is constantly trying to correct. He will never do any-

thing without being told or nagged multiple times. It drives my mother crazy, and whenever I come home it bothers me as well. Sometimes I try to correct my brother's behavior, but he often combats me just like he does my mother. When my brother is truly trying to get under my skin he know exactly what to say. He turns to me with a smirk on his face and says, "You are turning into Mom." As I protest to my brother that I am not nagging him like our mother he then proceeds to turn around the insult to a "compliment" by saying, "Why are you getting so upset? It is not a bad thing. Mom is great." The moment before he had meant it as a scath-

ing insult, but like trickster that he is, he then proceeds to go tell Mom that I don't like her, and I don't want to be like her. She is a good sport and takes it all with a grain of salt, knowing my brother is playing off of both of us. Yet it does seem to be my mother's nagging, which I hate, that I have picked up from her and it drives me up the wall. How do you combat this? Is there any way to break down 21 years of conditioning, so that I do not turn into my nagging mother, or is my fate already sealed? It might not be a terrible thing if I turn out like my mother, she is a wonderful woman after all, but I would certainly like to give it a try a different way.

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