

By Carole B. Ricks



# Carole's Corner...

## "I'm Afraid Of How Everybody Would Talk About Me"

Dear Carole:

... There is a girl in my class who I like very much. She is smart, nice and well built. I would like to ask her to go with me. But I'm afraid of how everybody would talk about me. You see she has one problem that keeps people away from her. She has a strong body odor. Everybody talks about her behind her back but nobody that I know of will tell her about her problem. It is hard to believe that as smart as she is, she doesn't know why people avoid her. Anyhow, even with the odor, the more I see her, the better she looks. So I think that now I finally have the guts to talk to her. It's just that I'm not sure of what I should talk to her about first, her body odor or liking her. Can you advise me about the best way to talk to her?

Larry

Dear Larry:

If you really like the young lady, the opinion of others won't prevent you from talking to her. As you get to know her better as a person, try to gain her trust and respect. Through her trust and respect for you she may be able to hear what you have to say about her personal hygiene. You don't want to turn her off before you get to know her if you think that you could have a beautiful relationship.

Carole

Dear Carole:

My wife and I have been having an ongoing argument about this issue. So we thought we'd ask for another opinion. Although our children are only 10 and 12 years old, we are planning for their college education. I say they must start working to earn their way as soon as possible. In fact, working in junior

high school wouldn't be too soon. My wife feels that we should support them fully until they finish school, no matter how long it takes. We can't seem to get this thing settled. We know that we'll have to decide for ourselves what is best. But can you tell us the advantages or disadvantages of both sides?

Charles

Dear Charles:

... It's a good idea to plan and prepare now for later goals. However, you may be putting premature and unnecessary pressure on yourselves at this time.

There are some jobs which your children may be ready for at their present age. Jobs such as delivering newspapers, doing yard work and babysitting may be manageable. Working and saving for a purpose teaches independence and responsibility. But at ages 10 and 12 your children need to focus on having adequate rest, play and time for school work. As long as their health and their grades don't suffer, a small and reasonable job when they are a little older may be okay.

Your children are still young. They will grow up faster than you may realize. Teach them to be responsible but also enjoy them now.

Carole

Editor's Note: Carole B. Ricks is an M.S.W., A.C.S.W. social worker. She has a private practice in Charlotte, N.C., as a counselor. If you have personal adjustment, parent-child or marriage problems that concern you, write:

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A lady of strong character and convictions, Elsie Brewer celebrated her 75th birthday recently at the home of Doris Faulkner. A group of friends gathered

for a birthday luncheon in her honor. From left to right are Elsie Brewer, Mary L. Little, Doris Faulkner and Eva Reid. (Photo By Divine Reflections)

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