

## THE PLAYBOY ADVISOR

**H**ow does one tell a girl he loves her without sounding like the script of a Rock Hudson-Doris Day movie?—D. N., Gainesville, Florida.

*If you mean it, your sincerity will come through loud and clear. Few people have difficulty distinguishing between real life and most movies.*

**I**n many bars, liquor bottles are spout capped for fast—and accurate—service. Isn't the quality of the liquor impaired when the bottle is left open?—J. S., Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

*Not noticeably. Some slight evaporation of alcohol may take place, but the amount lost won't be sufficient to appreciably weaken the spirit.*

**A** month ago, my wife and I were divorced—after two years of marriage. I realize that the only way to overcome my pain and resume living again is to begin dating. But it's hard for me to get started; I feel shy with girls I don't know well. In my bachelor days, I was quite extroverted and sexually active. Do you think marriage and divorce have permanently damaged my personality?—H. V., Portland, Oregon.

*No. Shyness is common among newly divorced persons, as Morton M. Hunt points out in "The World of the Formerly Married": "Although dating is the necessary means to a desired end, the [formerly married person] views his first dates with uneasiness. . . . But much of the expected discomfort is due to the fear of not being able to revive and play a youthful role successfully; that fear usually vanishes with a little experience." You've been divorced only a month; it would take a broken leg longer than that to heal. In six months, you will probably be looking back on your present phase as ancient history.*

**I**'m planning to drive through Europe next spring in a rented car. Do I have to go through the rigamarole of getting an International Driver's License, or can I just drive on my state driver's license?—N. C., San Francisco, California.

*You may drive in some European countries—England, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands—with your state license, but why draw a border line to your roving? International Driver's Licenses, unlike U.S. driver's licenses, are recognized in all countries. To obtain one, all you need is a valid U.S. driver's license, two passport-size photos, signed on the front, and three dollars. For more information, visit any American Automobile Association office.*

**M**y girlfriend has a rather strange emotional hang-up on so-called obscene words. Every time we hop into bed, she starts asking me, "What are you doing?" and I'm supposed to tell her, not in polite language but in the vocabulary of the street. I know this turns her on sexually, but—perhaps because of my middle-class background—I find it repugnant. Sometimes I suspect that she needs psychiatric help; then, at other times, I wonder if my own prudery about these words indicates that I'm the one who should see a shrink. Your opinion?—M. C., California, Pennsylvania.

*Relax. Each of you is overreacting, in opposite directions, to one of society's sillier taboos. According to psychiatrist Renatus Hartogs, in his new book "Four-Letter Word Games," your girl's behavior "is by no means confined to persons so severely disturbed as to require psychiatric aid. On the contrary, [this] attitude . . . is endemic to our culture." We suggest that you and your girl curl up with a good book—namely, Dr. Hartogs' entertaining and enlightening volume—and then freely ventilate your feelings about this issue. You'll probably realize that you're both engaged in a kind of antic semantics that deserves a good laugh, not a flight to Freud, and that one of you can conquer your hang-up easier than the other. If both of you are so rigid and compulsive about the matter that a compromise cannot be reached, then by all means go together to a professional counselor.*

**H**ow do Mylar, polyester and acetate recording tapes differ?—D. P., Southfield, Michigan.

*Acetate is cheaper than Mylar and polyester and is generally used for sounds that are retained temporarily; acetate usually becomes brittle after a year or two and eventually may crack. Both Mylar and polyester are superior tapes, about equal in quality, and should be used for permanent recordings.*

**O**rdinarily, being rich is not a problem. As a college student in the South, I meet all kinds of girls and have no trouble snowing most of them. I just pour them some Chivas Regal, sit around in a \$50 sweater listening to my \$800 stereo and wait for them to race me to bed. But my money has all but ruined me with one sweet, beautiful goddess I think I'm in love with. She won't even go out with me. My roommate heard her say, "I wouldn't date that spoiled aristocrat for anything!" What bugs me is that this is the kind of girl I want to marry. It may not be she, but I want my wife to be

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someone like her, and I'm afraid her feelings may be shared by other girls with principles, morals and standards. What can I do to change my image? My roommate suggested I switch to dungarees, a transistor radio and beer. I told him to go to hell. Can you give me better advice?—R. C. W., Atlanta, Georgia.

*Judging from the tone of your letter, you could wear rags and carry a beggar's bowl and you wouldn't make it with girls who have "principles, morals and standards." First, you'd have to acquire these qualities yourself, and this would require considerably more self-renovation than a mere change in "image."*

**M**y girl and I like intimate candlelit dinners, either *à deux* or in the company of convivial companions. Can you shed light on what types of candles are correct for what occasions and, in addition, pass on a few helpful rules of candle etiquette?—A. C., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*The setting up of candles is governed more by common sense than by convention. If your dinner is to be a sumptuous formal affair, dripless long white tapers add a sparkle of elegance. However, when a casual meal, such as hamburgers or pizza, is in the offing, you might want to illuminate the table with a candle set in a chianti or other wine bottle. An antique candelabrum loaded with colored candles can also lighten an occasion, but try not to let it—or the color of the candles—clash with the decor of your pad or with the color of your tablecloth. In general, candles should be friendly but functional; they'll heighten an evening, provided you don't let them steal the show.*

**A** very attractive girl has thrown me into a quandary. She is white but claims to be totally uninterested in white men as sexual, or even dating, partners. Only Negro men attract her; and although she feels terribly guilty about it, she can't abstain from dating them. I'd like to assist this sincere and troubled girl, for her own good as well as mine (she regards me as a good friend; but since I'm white, she won't go out with me). How can I help her?—M. S., Los Angeles, California.

*By persuading her to seek psychological counseling, which will presumably be aimed at eliminating her reverse prejudice (with its concomitant guilt feelings) and will enable her to enjoy other males, regardless of race. As for trying to date her yourself, cool it until she weathers this troubled period.*

**I** am currently serving with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. Many of the shops over here sell attractive ivory pipes at



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very reasonable prices. Is an ivory pipe only for show, or can I smoke it?—J. K., APO San Francisco, California.

*Leave your souvenir pipe on the shelf. Ivory reacts badly to high temperatures and, should you puff a bit too heartily and overheat the bowl (poor treatment of any pipe), the chances are that a crack will develop.*

**F**or the past year or so, whenever a coed I've dated more than casually has become pinned to somebody else, I have sent her a dozen roses and an amiable "no-hard-feelings" card. Several of my friends have questioned this practice, contending that it is likely either to embarrass the girl or to enrage her boyfriend. I prefer to think of it as a gentlemanly gesture that adds a touch of class to the drab undergraduate world. What say you?—L. W., Austin, Texas.

*We don't think embarrassment or rage is particularly pertinent (if either occurred in excess, you'd surely have heard about it by now). We do think you ought to take another look at this practice of yours to see if it may be part of a personality that is failure prone. The undergraduate world would be even less drab if you sent the roses in time to win a victory, rather than to celebrate a defeat.*

**I**'m baffled by the various numerical markings, such as 6x30, found on binoculars. Inquiries to local merchants bring vague answers. Can PLAYBOY help?—G. S., Key West, Florida.

*We'd be pleased to bring this subject into focus. Taking your own example, the 6 indicates that the viewing field is being magnified 6 times; therefore, an object 1200 feet from you appears to be only 200 feet away, as seen through the glasses. The second number, 30, is the diameter of each front (objective) lens in millimeters. The smaller this number, the wider the field of vision, and vice versa.*

**T**his may strike you as odd, but my relatively active sex life is occasionally disturbed by the fear that I may fall victim to a type of physical trap I have read about and heard stories of from friends. As I understand it, it is possible for the muscles surrounding a woman's vagina to spasmodically contract during intercourse, thus holding the penis captive. This could be very painful—and humiliating if outside aid were required to effect release. I keep wondering whether next time it will happen to me. I have seen, as I said, references to this phenomenon, but never an authoritative discussion of it. Can such a thing happen; and if so, what can be done about it?—R. G., Portland, Maine.

*Penis captivus, a well-known phenomenon among canines, is impossible*

*in humans, because the soft tissue of the vulva is not capable of holding the male organ tightly enough to lock it in. Moreover, the presence of humiliation, pain or fear during intercourse would almost inevitably cause a loss of erection and thus permit the penis to escape. In spite of the widespread acceptance of this myth, there are no authenticated medical records to support it.*

**H**ere's my problem: A bachelor friend has decided to tie the knot. A few of us would like to throw a party for him. We don't expect it to be a ribald affair, but we'd like to show him a good time and we certainly don't want him to spend any money during the evening. We had planned to invite a group of his friends, including the guys who are part of the wedding party. The catch is this: His brother is the best man and he, after checking an etiquette book, is insisting that such an affair must be in the form of a bachelor dinner, paid for by the groom. At present, our plans are stifled. How can we have the party without causing friction? Is such a party in good taste, or is the best man correct? Would it be all right to ask everyone attending (except the groom) to contribute toward expenses?—B. Y., Green Bay, Wisconsin.

*According to a strict reading of etiquette rules, the best man is correct: The bachelor dinner is given at the groom's expense, with the best man making all the arrangements. Many men, however, prefer to throw a dinner party for the groom, with one person picking up the tab (the best man is a likely candidate) or the guests sharing equally. There's no reason your group can't do the latter—unless the best man stubbornly continues to object. We suggest you talk to him again, pointing out that etiquette books should be read as guides to reasonable behavior, not as compendiums of unbreakable commandments. And tell him we said so.*

**T**he miniskirts in my office have become so numerous and so short that I find myself distracted from work. Any advice on how to adjust to the situation?—R. P., New York, New York.

*Sorry, we're too distracted by the miniskirts in our own office to concentrate on an answer.*

*All reasonable questions—from fashion, food and drink, hi-fi and sports cars to dating dilemmas, taste and etiquette—will be personally answered if the writer includes a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send all letters to The Playboy Advisor, Playboy Building, 919 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60611. The most provocative, pertinent queries will be presented on these pages each month.*

