

What do I Know? I'm just a Clown : January / February 2017
"Ask the Clown" : an advice column by Martin "the Clown" Barry



Dear Clown,
How does one handle family gatherings when two or more individuals do not get along?
Sincerely,
Hostess with the Mostest

Dear Hostess,
The first thing to do is always invite everyone along to a family gathering. The second thing to do is not involve yourself in any of the conflict. You will find that they tend to naturally find their own spaces in the crowd without stepping on anyone's intended warmth.
It's a good thing,
The Clown

Dear Clown,
I met someone that I identified with almost instantaneously and I want to make sure that we will continue to have time together. I want to invite them along to everything, but I do not want to overwhelm them. What is a guy to do?
Sincerely,
Enthusiastic

Dear Enthusiastic,
Certainly, do not invite them to everything immediately. Keep things loose and find out more about them. Ask about their schedule and ask when they have some free time to hang out. Make the appointments and keep them. If what you have seen is pervasive, they will begin to see the same thing and want to spend more time with you.
Be cool,
The Clown

Dear Clown,
I am setting my resolutions for the new year and I was wondering if you did the same?
Sincerely,

Goal Oriented

Dear GO,

I never set resolutions because they will linger and gather dust as the year wears on and then, suddenly, it's November and I haven't done a thing. What I WILL do, though, is set a realistic string of small goals for myself month by month and hold myself accountable. This way, if I am a few weeks, or even a month behind, I can catch up to where I am supposed to be.

Wishing you success,

The Clown

Dear Clown,

I have been wanting to write for some time and I have promised myself I will hit "send" after writing this. I am feeling a massive sense of dread for myself and others lately and I keep thinking it would be easier if I just wasn't around anymore. I am almost done with college and I have employment waiting, but it means that I will be on my own for the first time in my life. I am terrified. Help?

Sincerely,

Fearing

Dear Fearing,

When you say "easier if I just wasn't around anymore", I sincerely hope you do not mean ending your life. If this is the case, please seek help immediately. That is never a good solution and it hurts everyone you love to their core. I can understand your dread in being alone for the first time. I would advise that you visit your loved ones as often as you can, get out and do things that you love doing, and seek professional counsel to talk out the darker fragments of what you are feeling. I will also make you an offer. Find me, and you will instantly have another friend on your roster to drink, laugh, and hang out with. You can do this and everyone reading this is pulling for you.

Much love,

The Clown

Do you have a question for The Clown? Write him at martin.barry@yahoo.com