

What do I Know? I'm just a Clown : March / April 2015
"Ask the Clown" : an advice column by Martin "the Clown" Barry



Dear Clown,

I work in a professional office environment and I have a problem that I need to address with a co-worker. This person is nice enough, gets work done efficiently, and has no disciplinary problems at all. The trouble is the way this person smells. Clothing and hair always appear to be clean, but there is a strong unpleasant odor about this person that worsens through the day. How do I approach this?

Signed,

Unscented Supervisor

Dear Unscented,

If you happen to have human resource personnel in your organization, these folks are often trained to handle this very situation in a sensitive and timely manner. If you DO NOT have human resources personnel available, then approach this matter privately and sensitively with this individual. I am certain you can both come to some common ground and find relief for your work environment.

Signed,

The Clown

Dear Clown,

I have been married just over 15 years to the love of my life. I wish to surprise her and my kids with a trip for Christmas this year, but I have trouble finding a way to do so without telling a lie. My wife handles all of the bill paying, bank transfers, and other financial matters and she would know instantly if something was awry. How can I make this happen without feeling like I betrayed her?

Signed,

Maker not Manager

Dear Maker,

Your employer or bank may be able to help you in this endeavor. There are often "Christmas Club" type accounts that are made available to earners for this very reason. You may wish to use a different bank altogether for this account if your wife will have a chance of becoming suspicious. If she does find out about it, come clean and remember that you still get to surprise the kids!

Signed,

The Clown

Dear Clown,

I have come to admire someone quite a bit and I would like to take it further. I have attempted to find time for us to do something together on several occasions, but my efforts are met with sparse response, if any. At very least, I would like this person to be a friend if the pursuit of something else is not possible. Whatever you advise, I will follow to the letter.

Signed,

Not So Secret Admirer

Dear Not So,

My best suggestion here is to find out more about this person you wish to pursue. Are they in a relationship currently? Have they recently been hurt in a break up? There are many reasons that people do not respond well in these matters, including the possibility that they may not know enough about you to talk freely. To gather this intel, you need to be a friend first. Keep it light and fun for both of you. Within that light, things will progress as they were meant to progress. Do not let a wish for a relationship get in the way of being a good friend.

Signed,

The Clown

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