

**What do I Know? I'm just a Clown : March / April 2016**  
**"Ask the Clown" : an advice column by Martin "the Clown" Barry**



Dear Clown,

I am in a committed relationship currently, but it seems that it will end soon. We pay less and less attention to one another and spend less and less time together. I am thinking she will break it off any moment now. I have become close to someone else recently and, should this fall apart, I will want to pursue that. The trouble is that it's her sister. What to do?

Sincerely,  
Waiting

Dear Waiting,

Whoa. If your current relationship ends, and you start dating her sister, I see LOTS of strife in your future. Bad feelings between you and your current mate and worse between her and her sister could hang a cloud over everything. Honestly, you should have a talk with your current girlfriend and see if you are headed for the end. If it is ending, just stop and do you for a while.

Good luck!  
The Clown

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Dear Clown,

My friends are using crowd funding sites to finance things they want to do rather than to support a cause or build a business. I think this is wrong. What do you think?

Sincerely,  
Earning My Way

Dear Earning,

I share your opinion here. Crowdfunding has been used to finance movies, build or start businesses, and collect for causes quite well, but financing a personal trip is not the wisest use of the platform. You may wish to advise your friends to add incentives per dollar amount for what they are trying to accomplish. This way, those contributing get a little

return on the investment. They could do anything from provide original art work to washing a car. It will make both parties feel better about it in the end.

Wishing you well-earned experiences,  
The Clown

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Dear Clown,  
Why?  
Sincerely,  
Curious

Dear Curious,  
Why not?  
Kindest regards,  
The Clown

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Dear Clown,  
I am a live in caretaker for my aunt. She is healthy enough to get around the house, but she cannot drive nor do heavy chores. I have taken on these duties. I have a bit of trouble with the way she has begun to hang on to certain items, though. Her room is filling up with newspapers and magazines that she will not allow me to move or discard. I was not aware of this until the collection filled the space under her bed and in one closet. Now the items are stacked on the floor. Help?  
Sincerely,  
Fear of an Avalanche

Dear Avalanche,  
As we may see on television, hoarding can be a psychological problem. Something is missing for the hoarder, so they fill the hole with objects that make them feel secure. Your aunt will likely need to get some sort of help to modify this behavior. To keep this from getting worse, I advise cancellation of all magazine and newspaper subscriptions and perhaps acquisition of an e-reader so that your aunt can still read her regular publications. Serving irony and safety,  
The Clown

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**Do you have a question for The Clown? Write him at [martin.barry@yahoo.com](mailto:martin.barry@yahoo.com)**