

# Dear Darla

by Darla Pearce

## Dear Darla;

Okay, I'll give this a try, I suppose, but first a little exposition.

Yesterday some friends and I went to Raging Waters (I've got burns all over my feet, legs and arms to prove it—and I put on lots of sun block.)

Anyway, we were all male, and when this group of males gets together, we talk about females. (We needn't get into what, exactly, as there's no way what was said was necessarily justifiable in polite society.) And, of course, we were looking, and talking, and following, and trying to get some girls to join us in our trek through the park. Some of the guys went following the girls through the park (which, for the most part, seemed to annoy the gals), and others were slightly better about sneaking up on them and talking to them, but, nonetheless, some of the methods seemed to me to be quite rude.

Being less than experienced in these matters, my question is: Where does one draw the line between rude and slightly-aggressive behavior? (Slightly-aggressive being a positive trait, rude being negative.)

***"..still relatively new to this social schmuck..."***

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## Dear Social Schmuck:

Where does one draw the line between rude and slightly aggressive?

These are not the best possible choices. Since you don't mention specifics like whether your group had been drinking or was just intoxicated by the fires of youth before launching it's pursuit of female companionship, this response will just give you some general guidelines:

- Rude doesn't work at all.
- Slightly aggressive must fall within reasonable limits.

(You really didn't expect success with these approaches, did you? :D

Much depends on the reaction of those being pursued. If the girls are giggling, they may find all this attention amusing. If their reaction is hostile or they give you a "Drop Dead" expression, it should be clear that an invisible line has been crossed. Consider this a good time to cease and go quietly.

- No approach should involve physical contact—that could get you into a lot of trouble. Even touching someone's arm could be construed wrong—especially if they happen to move.

- Verbal sparring with members of the opposite sex needs to be clean, no four-letter words or overtly suggestive remarks. No sexually explicit overtures or comments regarding body parts. If true, comments like "Wow, isn't she beautiful!" are okay unless you happen to be drooling at the time or when the person is less than desirable and thinks you are making fun. Keep in mind, also, the number of women with black belts has dramatically increased.

- Hand gestures should be kept to a minimum. These are inappropriate and risky. If you scratch your head with the wrong finger, there is also a chance someone's father will rearrange part of your anatomy without benefit of anesthetic. That could smart a lot more than severe sunburn.

- If a group of guys are demeaning gals among themselves and the object(s) of their attention overhears you, you're all dead in the water. It's a legal form of collective suicide. This means your time would be better spent going down the slide and risking sunstroke. At least you can expect some success at that, and maybe even some sympathy. (Do I need to draw pictures?)

- If the gals tell you to get lost—immediately consult your map and do so. Read their lips: **DO NOT** pass Go. **DO NOT** collect \$200. No fun, huh?

While flirtations have been with us since cavemen surfaced, and have enticed women to plant crops, try not to become part of a “pack.” All women and most girls find this type of “gang” approach frightening, no matter how harmless your intentions. In fact, if this type of activity involves more than two guys, it is counterproductive and doomed to failure. It only takes one of the guys getting out of line to wreck things for all of you. If you really want to pick up girls, you will have to develop your own technique and be sincere. I would suggest some other place, some other time. I mean, Raging Waters? Bad omen!

Sorry to hear that your sunscreen failed. You might want to switch to a waterproof type before taking the plunge. With the ozone depleted you can get fried much easier these days just from the reflection. You can't be too careful, you know?

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Readers are encouraged to write Darla with their questions and also to share their own life experience. You may write to Darla in care of *OneNet World* or participate in her conference here within the Life folder in the main Conference area of **The OneNet Member Network**. However, her name may be more familiar in New Uploads in the Files section. Excerpts from “**Dear Darla**” are featured in each issue of *OneNet World*..