

Career ambition may tear these go-getters



ASK ELLIE | Can they take turns putting their goals on hold and save their love?

DEAR ELLIE: My girlfriend of one year is 25, I'm 27, and we're madly in love. We're also both very driven with ambitious goals: I'm in the technology sector working my way up to the senior executive level; she's a part-time law student and full-time program coordinator at a nonprofit.

She wants to take a job in a developing nation to gain international nonprofit experience helping women and children in need. But I'd have to put my career on the backburner to go with her. I don't know what to do and it's tearing me apart.

We want to spend the rest of our lives together but it seems one of us has to make the ultimate career compromise.

At a Crossroad

DEAR AT A CROSSROAD: Make this decision part of a shared plan: If you accompany her overseas for a two-year stint, she'll move with you for the next level of your career.

Meanwhile, try to find a research project or work connection that you can manage online while away and that will add real oomph to your resume. Corporations are very impressed by candidates who have broadened their experience and added dimensions to their thinking. If you two can make these kinds of compromises, you'll be a more solid unit for the future.

DEAR ELLIE: My boyfriend had a close female friend for three years. I'm not jealous about other women friends, but this woman is always touching my boyfriend or hugging him and ignoring me.

My guy says they've never dated, never hooked up, and she has a boyfriend. I trust them, yet it bothers me that she's overly flirtatious with my boyfriend. And it angers me when people think they're dating because of how she acts. This is making me hate her.

I've tried to be friendly and she's brushed me off. He dismisses her actions, saying, "She's like my sister" and, "She acts this way around every guy"(true).

He has just moved to Arizona and I don't want to nag him about her now that he's away, but I also don't want this to ruin our relationship.

Stressed by Her

DEAR STRESSED BY HER: Since your boyfriend is no longer able to hang out with her, I suspect your focus on their friendship is a distraction from what's really bothering you: You're wondering whether you'll both maintain this long-distance relationship. This issue is making you anxious about the fact that he didn't show understanding of your feelings about his gal pal's flirting.

Raise it with him openly and directly, without blaming him.

Write him a letter — e-mail is often hasty while a letter can be re-read before mailing. Gently explain that once he's in a relationship, his accepting such misleading behavior from female friends feels uncaring to you as his partner.

Ask him to set limits with this girl and to tell her he wants her to acknowledge you as his girlfriend.

DEAR ELLIE: I've recently signed a lease with four girls whom I've gotten along with well for a year.

I later decided to change colleges and so will sub-let to someone. But I'll be in the house for the summer.

The girls have had "house meetings" without me, talking about how inconsiderate I am. They're spreading lies about me.

I mentioned to one that my boyfriend may be getting a job in the area, and she blew it up so now everyone hates me, believing I've invited him to live here without talking to them (not so).

How do I handle them until fall?
Hurt and Confused

DEAR HURT AND CONFUSED: Make it plain to each girl that your boyfriend isn't moving in.

Also say you'll not sub-let to someone until they've met that person (but don't give them approval rights, as they could keep blocking your choice just to be difficult).

Say you haven't changed, but are disappointed that they have.

Ellie's column runs Monday through Friday. Send e-mail to askellie@suntimes.com.

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CHICAGO'S ORIGINAL CITY GUIDE



Las Palmas chef Jorge Miranda says the pan-seared salmon with guajillo chili orange salsa is a can't-miss dish. | CLIFTON HENRI FOR THE SUN-TIMES

UP BY HIS APRON STRINGS

FIVE FOR FRYING | Dishwasher rises to chef

BY MICHAEL NAGRANT
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Taming the hellfire swelter of kitchen stoves and manning the scalding steam bath of power dishwashers, Latinos provide the backbone for many Chicago kitchens. Despite their integral part in building the world-class food reputation our city enjoys, few Latinos have crossed the line that divides the help from the helm.

Las Palmas Chef Jorge Miranda, a Mexican immigrant who served two years in the Mexican army, crossed that line. Securing his first restaurant job with acclaimed Latino chef Dudley Nieto, Miranda rose from dishwasher to head line cook in less than five months. Though he wasn't able to afford a formal culinary education, he audited classes at Kendall College.

His passion for cooking led him to become a head chef at Adobo Grill and Rosa Mexicano in New York. He then teamed up with the Rivera family to transform Las Palmas into a palace of refined versions of the rustic pre-Columbian Mexican cuisine practiced by his ancestors.

Q. What do you wish you could pickle/change about the Chicago restaurant scene?

A. I would maintain the diversity of the industry and a passion for excellent service in the dining room. We have an adventurous passion for the food that we pre-

pare in our kitchens, so I wouldn't change anything there. Except maybe I'd figure out how to add an extra day in the week so I can get all the prep work done.

Q. What would your last meal be?

A. A rack of lamb marinated in a pesto of chilies and spices served over a red mole sauce with a side of ayocotes (black turtle beans) and habas (fava beans) with a side of mashed yucca/plantain mix.

Q. Where do you eat before or after a shift?

A. I have breakfast at home with my daughters. If I don't eat at the restaurant before I leave, when I get home, my wife and I prepare a meljurge, a light and healthy stir-fry of leftovers in the fridge.

Q. What's the can't-miss dish at your restaurant?

A. One of my favorites is el salmon a naranja, pan-seared salmon with guajillo chili orange salsa.

Q. What should we know about your restaurant we probably don't?

A. We support the artists and the young people of our community through fund-raisers and special events. But above all, we try to improve people's lives by opening their eyes to fabulous and intriguing art and also by introducing them to a taste of authentic Mexican cuisine.

Five for Frying is a weekly food feature that asks one great chef five fun questions.

FOOD & DRINK DEALS TODAY

LINCOLN PARK

Other Side: 2436 N. Clark; \$10 buckets of LaBatt Blue and \$3 burgers with fries

Tarascas: 2585 N. Clark; \$4 off your pick of a 45-ounce jumbo margarita

Gaslight Bar and Grille: 2426 N. Racine; \$5 salads, \$3.50 Woodchuck, \$4 Effen Cherry bombs, \$5 glasses of wine and \$14 buckets of Corona and Corona Light

Kelly's Pub: 949 W. Webster; \$1 burgers and \$1.50 Bud and Bud Light bottles

BUCKTOWN/WICKER PARK

Rodan: 1530 N. Milwaukee; \$2 PBR and \$3 Jim Beam drinks

Piece: 1927 W. North; \$1 off Brewer's choice

Lava Lounge: 1270 N. Milwaukee; \$3 PBR and Wittekirke, \$4 mixed drinks

People Lounge: 1560 N. Milwaukee; \$2 PBR, \$5 Stolli mixed drinks

ROGERS PARK

Mullen's Sports Bar & Grill: 7301 N. Western; \$2 burgers, \$3 bottles of Corona and Sol

Morseland: 1218 W. Morse; \$3 bottles of Berghoff Lager and Berghoff Dark

Poitin Stil: 1502 W. Jarvis; \$2.50 bottles of Rolling Rock and Beck's

Hamilton's Lounge: 6431 N. Broadway; \$2 beef tacos, \$2 well drinks and Coors Light

For drink deals in your neighborhood, visit www.CenterstageChicago.com/specials.