

Yo-yo boyfriend should spin solo

Dear Harlan,
I have been seriously dating a guy for about eight months. We have been through about five break ups. Recently he broke up with me again. A week later he apologized, saying he did not mean what he said and he wanted to get back together again. Two days later he said he wanted to break up. Then about two days after that he wanted to get back together.

Between being together and not being together, he would tell me we would still be together if he knew how to handle me, school, panic attacks, his car, not being able to get a job, his siblings, smoking, etc. But when we are together he flirts with other girls right in front of me. When I accuse him of it, he denies it. I'm getting very confused. Do you have any advice?

— Hard to handle

Dear Hard to handle:
I say wait until you've been dumped 25 times before calling it quits.

He doesn't know what he wants. The last thing you need to do is get

ADVICE

Ask Harlan

involved with a guy who is so reckless with your emotions. You deserve better.

You need to get your life together. If you're so desperately looking to be with someone who is so confused, it only makes me think you're confused. Take some time to get back to better on your own. Gain a new sense of confidence and independence and then start over again with someone who isn't so needy and confused.

This guy sounds anything but positive. Besides, he's too busy for you. He still needs to find a job, fix his car, have his panic attacks, find time to stare at other girls, etc.

Harlan is not a licensed psychologist, therapist or physician, but he is a licensed driver and a syndicated columnist. Write Harlan online at: www.help-meharlan.com. All letters submitted become the property of the column.

Elliot Smith

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al, bleeding-heart melodies that make up his fragile and tranquil foundation.

The Beatles' influence is undeniable, and "Figure 8" sounds a little like the long lost second disk from "Abbey Road."

Smith does a good job here, and

his fans will watch to see if he'll continue to push himself forward.

"Everything Reminds Me of Her" and "Easy Way Out" recapture the folksy simplicity of his early records, while "Son of Sam" and "LA" rock with newfound conviction. As long as his empathic songwriting skills and lucid voice remain intact, Smith will continue to make immaculate records like this one.



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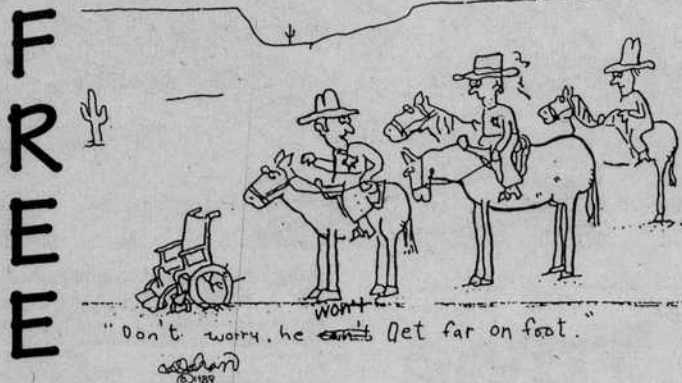


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