

# COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXXIII, Number 131, 2 December 1999 — Dear Spec Goddess... [ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]

## *Dear Spec Goddess...*

**Dear Spec Goddess,**

I have been falling in love with a male friend of mine over the past semester as we spend more and more time together and find that we have the world in common. We didn't discuss our feelings for each other until very recently because he was involved with someone until this past summer and I thought I should give him space to deal with things. Over the semester, as I've learned more and more about him, I've come to believe that he is the man with whom I am supposed to spend my life. I love him. So I told him. And he told me that he loves me too, and that he has AIDS.

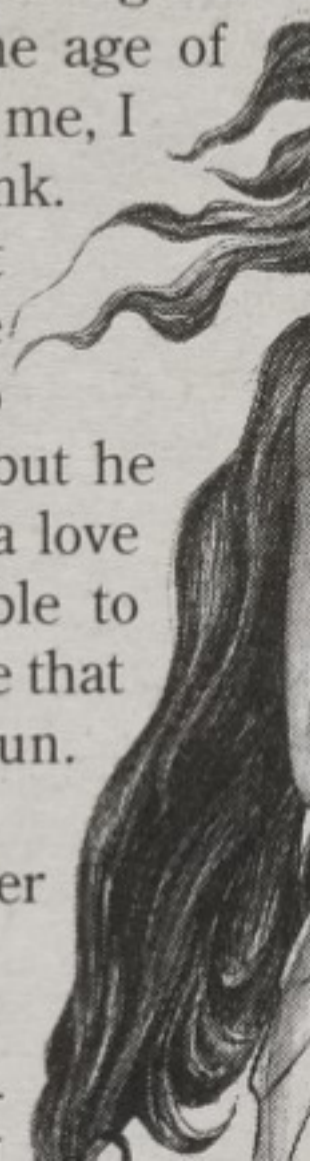
Actually, he has HIV, but he has been told there is an expectancy for him to reach AIDS in the next two years. He got it through a blood transfusion at the age of six. Now that he's told me, I don't know what to think.

I love him, and I want to be with him, and he has told me that he also wants to be with me, but he doesn't want to begin a love that he will not be able to stick around for. I argue that it has already begun. What do I do now?

The Lover

**Dear Lover,**

Oh my. This is probably the hardest case I



by the hardest case I  
have ever come across.  
My initial reaction is that you  
should look out for your heart. If  
you leave him now or attempt to  
deny your feelings, you'll only be  
breaking your own heart, and it  
isn't as if someone as perfect for  
you as this man is just going to  
pop up disease-free. You love  
him, and no love is promised  
through old age, regardless of  
what fairy tales promise. So if  
you get a chance to really love  
someone, you have to take it or  
regret it forever. Remember that  
there are millions of Americans liv-

ing healthy wonderful lives right  
now, even though they are affect-  
ed with this disease in some form.  
He loves you and you love him.  
There are definite issues of safety  
that you need to address, as well  
as the boundaries of how serious  
you plan to get. But people with  
AIDS are not dead; they live, love,  
work, play, and carry on the same  
way anyone else has to. The only  
difference is that they have a clear  
idea of what they will die from, and  
they have to be careful not to pass  
that death onto others. You want to  
spend your life with this man. You  
love each other. You can do this. I  
would go so far as to say that you  
have no other option. Good luck.

The Spec Goddess

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