



Gentile

Sinclair

To Go or Not To Go Steady?



Green

Draper

WIESBADEN—Going steady prevents teenagers from "having the time of their lives," a New Jersey high school administrator said not long ago. He threatened with expulsion any of his students caught going steady.

To find out what American teens overseas think about going steady, **The Overseas Family** talked to students at H. H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden. Here are their answers:

"I'm for it," said freshman **Marc Gentile**, 14. "I'm not going steady, I'm going steadily. I went steady just once last year for a couple of weeks. When you do go steady, breaking up is kind of hard on both. If you are going steadily and then break up, you still like each other as friends."

"I'm against it," said **Arthur Webb**, 17, a junior. "It restricts you too much because you're tied down with one girl and don't get to go with others. When you break up, you just worry about her and it affects your studies."

"I went steady for seven months as a sophomore and for five months this school year and that's how I got my opinion. If you don't go steady you have a better chance to select a better marriage partner. You get to go out with more people, more personalities."

Susie Sinclair, 16, also a junior, said, "I'm for it actually... well, I'm going steady. But not very long. One month. But somewhere else, I went with somebody for 10 months. It broke up because I left."

"You have a kind of security;

you always have a date. You have someone to talk to and you know someone cares and know you have a weekend date. Most boys would rather meet you inside a movie than take you."

"Going steady doesn't tie you down. If you're going with someone you like, you don't want to go with anyone else. You don't go steady with the first boy you meet. You usually date around."

Rosie Neece, a 14-year-old freshman, has been going steady for the last two years with the same boy, now also a 14-year-old freshman.

"The first year I didn't tell my parents because I was afraid they wouldn't let me go with him. He gave me a ring, but I lost it and had to tell my parents. My mother said I could get him a ring for his birthday in June."

Has this limited Rosie's social life?

"You don't get to be around other girls too much," she said.

But she insisted her going steady at 12 won't lead to early marriage.

"I think it's kind of stupid to get married before going through college. He wants to be a doctor. My sister's husband wants to be a doctor too. He graduated from college this year. They got married last February. We didn't want them to get married so soon, but they did."

Johnny Green, 15, a sophomore, is undecided.

"I'm not for it, but I'm not against it. I'm sort of in between. When you're going steady you are tied down and when you break up, it's sort of hard. When you're going only steadily, it's easy to break up. You just wave goodby. Then there's no hard feelings."

"I went steady for four months in the eighth grade. We had been going together for a long time. It's kind of monotonous. There were new girls coming in. It was time for a change."

Doug Sweetland, a 17-year-old junior, doesn't like to carry going steady too far.

"Actually I'm for it, but not when it's carried to extremes. You're still in high school and still young and have a few years ahead of you yet. There's no sense in getting too serious too soon."

As a sophomore, Doug went steady for eight months. Now he's going steadily.

"That means it's not official."

The girl doesn't have a ring or a sweater (from the boy). She just doesn't date anyone else."

Doug doesn't feel going steadily interferes with his schoolwork.

"I get everything done first and then we get together. In this school it's sort of necessary because so many are going steady. It's hard to find a single date. However, you find more kids going steady in civilian schools in the States than in the Air Force because we move around and we're used not to being tied down."

Sharon Purkey, 17-year-old senior, said, "I'm for it, but I think it's up to the individual. The term 'steady' means different things. In some schools it means you have a date for a dance. In others, it means you pair off. In Chateauroux, for example, you go out one time and you're going steady."

"A lot of parents think going steady is the same thing as being engaged. To us, it doesn't mean that at all. It just means you like somebody and want to go with them."

Robin Draper, 15, a sophomore, asked, "If you like a certain boy and you're going to be dating a certain boy, why shouldn't you go steady with him?"

"As a freshman, I went steady for four months and then he left for the States. We still write, but I think it's kind of silly if he expects me not to go out with somebody or I expect him not to go out. I have and I guess he has too. I think it's more of a drag when you're not going steady. When you're going steady you always have dates. But you should go with someone because you like him and not because he's always there and you can rely on him."

Robin pointed out that going steady doesn't have to be confining. When she was going steady, she met new friends by being introduced to her date's crowd.

Turning to the difference between going steadily and going steady, she said, "It might just be status symbols, such things as a boy's ring or an ID bracelet. Of course, some people just have an agreement between them."

Not going steady doesn't mean that you'll be out of school social life, she said.

"There are enough free guys floating around so that there's nothing to worry about as far as getting a date goes."

Here's the Top 10

How do the records on your club jukebox stack up? Here are the latest lists from EES and AFN (as reported to AFN from Stateside statistics). Compare them with the most popular discs at the club.

AFN

- 1—Walk Like a Man
- 2—Ruby Baby
- 3—Hey Paula
- 4—Rhythm of the Rain
- 5—Walk Right In
- 6—You're the Reason I'm Living
- 7—Blame It on the Bossa Nova
- 8—From a Jack to a King
- 9—Wild Weekend
- 10—Our Day Will Come

EES

- 1—Ruby Baby
- 2—Hey Paula
- 3—Walk Right In
- 4—You've Really Got a Hold On Me
- 5—Up on the Roof
- 6—The Night Has a Thousand Eyes
- 7—I Saw Linda Yesterday
- 8—Loop de Loop
- 9—Go Away Little Girl
- 10—My Coloring Book

Students Get Honors England, Germany

Woody is president of the Central High School Student Council and a track man. He holds the Central High School and UK record for the mile and 1,500-meter run, plus the UK—France American high school 1,500 meter record.

Royal A. La Plante Jr., the school's principal, announced factors determining the honor roll: a grade point average of over 3.4 for courses meeting five periods weekly, and grades of C in all courses taken.

Others placed on the honor roll were Richard Abbott, Charles Adams, Joda Boyd, Patricia Carter, Claudia Fariello, MaryLee Gibson, Lee Gibson, Raymond Jones, Maria Kiryle, Serenella Kukla, Yvonne Manucieri, Susan McCabe, Manuela Napier, Frank Romano, Donna Sill, Suzanne Shipley, Jane Shockey and Claudia Wolz.

La Plante also announced that all of the above listed students are eligible to be elected to the National Honor Society. The current seven members will elect two

