

The other day when I called a friend of mine, his sister answered the phone. Now I've known this friend and his family for a long time, so it wasn't unusual for me to chat with his sister for a bit. For a long time, I had been debating about whether or not to tell her of this one annoying habit she had when talking on the phone.

Finally after about ten minutes, I couldn't stand it any longer. She was cracking her gum so loudly into the mouthpiece I thought I was going to go out of my mind. When I told her that absolutely drove me up the wall, she was truly surprised, because she didn't even realize she had been doing it.

Don't get me wrong! I love gum,

DO YOU chew gum? So does David-he has definite ideas of where & when!

too, and I chew it at just about every opportunity. But there are just some situations where I wish girls would refrain from chewing gum, or at least so loudly and noticeably.

BIGGEST BUBBLES

If you're going to chew gum, please stay away from bubblegum. That was great when you were a little kid and had contests with your friends to see who could blow the biggest bubbles. But do you realize how unattractive and silly it looks for an attractive and grown-up person to do the same thing?

You don't have to give up chewing gum entirely. Just be selective about it. For instance, a definite "no-no" would be to chew gum all night long when you're out on a date. Give your jaw a rest for the

evening.

Take gum out of your mouth if you're on the phone. It really is annoying to have to listen to someone chewing over the phone. Maybe it's something in the phone itself that amplifies all the sounds of chewing. It also makes it very difficult to understand what you're saying if you have a mouthful of gum when you're speaking.

WATCH THE IMAGE

Do yourself a favor sometime and stand in front of a mirror when you're chewing a piece of gum. Don't let the mirror inhibit you. Chew the gum as you normally would and watch the image of your appearance.

There is no graceful way to chew gum, but you can avoid looking like a cow chewing her cud. For one thing, don't "double your pleasure" by chewing more than one piece at a time. In fact, maybe you could just chew half a piece so it doesn't look like your whole mouth is bulging with the gooey substance.

Don't chew your gum with sound effects! You don't have to "snap, crackle, and pop" to the world. The joy of gum is that it brings a delightful taste sensation to the mouth. Surely you can enjoy the taste without making a sound.

I sure hope I haven't put a dampener on the gum industry. With my luck, I'll probably get clobbered by one of those giant packages of gum on those TV commercials. Worse yet, I may never again be allowed to watch a baseball game at Wrigley Field in Chicago!