

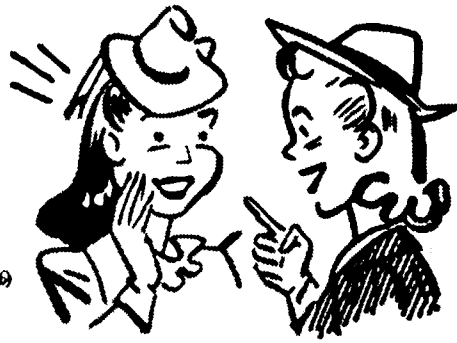
The "friendly" hook up

I Know What Boys Like....

From a guy's point of view I'd like to ask, What is a friend, a platonic friend anyway? I mean if you're not married, can't just about any female be considered a friend? Thus, for us guys the line between friendship and "relationship" can become quite hazy. In the dating scene, establishing friendship is the real goal anyway. You don't go out on a date and expect to end up marrying this person, thus what you are actually doing is simply establishing a friendship. However, there is no telling where that friendship will lead and we shouldn't worry about that either. Thus if you and your friend become movie partners for the next couple of weekends and you happen to want to take the relationship further, then technically you are hooking up with a friend, and there is nothing wrong with that.

Hooking up with close friends can even be a good thing in certain situations. Suppose that girl which has confided in you with everything since junior high finally gets the hint that you have only been letting her chew your ear off for the past nine years because you like her. You both have grown to know each other really well so you might actually find yourselves more comfortable with further commitment.

The only time I strongly discourage hooking up with a friend is if anxious feelings threaten what you already have. Be careful with sex because in our culture (young college students) it's often seen as the right now thing instead of the right thing to do.



What A Girl Wants....

Let's get this straight: there are two ways to "hook up" with a friend. (And incidentally, "hook up" is subjective, so define it however you choose.)

Anyway, the first way—we'll call it the "safe" way—is where you set some guidelines, recognize the convenience of your friend, and don't get attached. Did you get that last part? Generally, this is when both people understand there is no potential for a relationship, but don't care because, hey, we all got needs.

The other, more dangerous way, is the devious sort of hook up that happens after you've driven your friend home for the night and he or she asks you in. One of you is harboring lustful feelings (yes, lustful, not to be confused with "loving" feelings because, sorry, it's probably lust) and has chosen the one time when you are in no condition to know how you feel to divulge them. If you attempt to hook up because you are in the one percent that actually has fallen in love with your friend, go ahead, but be prepared for disappointment. On the other hand, if you really care about your friend and just happen to be feeling lonely, back off! If it does happen like that, the next week will go something like this: some phone tag, a lot of anxiety, "the talk," more need for closure because the talk didn't quite cover it, and then the "drunken talk" where more is said than should've been. If you're lucky, both of you come out of it a little shaken but still friends. If not, you feel awkward every time the person you used to tell everything to walks in the room.

Sometimes, you just have to see what happens. But here's a trick to know what percent you're in: if you don't feel the same way at noon as you do at 2 a.m., then nothing good can come of your reckless actions.

Do you have a relationship question? If so, send it to Behrcoll5@aol.com and have it answered by our relationship experts. Answers will be given in our features advice column from a male and female point of view.

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21 - April 19). Beware of persons with green markings on their forehead.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20). Screw it, get a Cavalier.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21). Somewhere your evil twin is lurking in the shadows.

Cancer (June 22 - July 23). It's better than the plague.



Leo (July 24 - August 22). Avoid Scotch Tape at all costs, but scotch is ok..



Virgo (August 23 - September 22). Avoid dumb, it's contagious.



Libra (September 23 - October 23). Plums: they aren't just for breakfast anymore. Wink, wink. Nudge, nudge.



Scorpio (October 24 - November 21). Happy birthday to the horoscope writer.



Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21). If you knew who this was, you'd all be laughing.



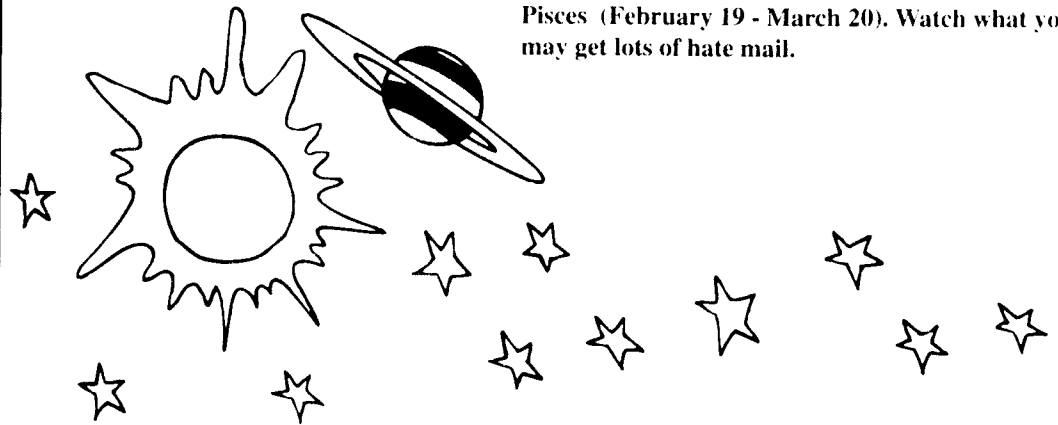
Capricorn (December 22 - January 19). Nothing is more fun than listening to a speech from a telephone next to a microphone.



Aquarius (January 20 - February 18). You can stop doing it now.



Pisces (February 19 - March 20). Watch what you say; you may get lots of hate mail.



Happenings in Erie

November 3

Dueling Pianos, at the Sportsmen's Athletic Club, 8:00 p.m.

November 4

Dance Erie Presents: All American Jazz, Tap and Swing, at the Mary D' Angelo Performing Arts Center, Mercyhurst College, 8:00 p.m.

November 8

Pianist George Winston, at the Warner Theater, 7:30 p.m.

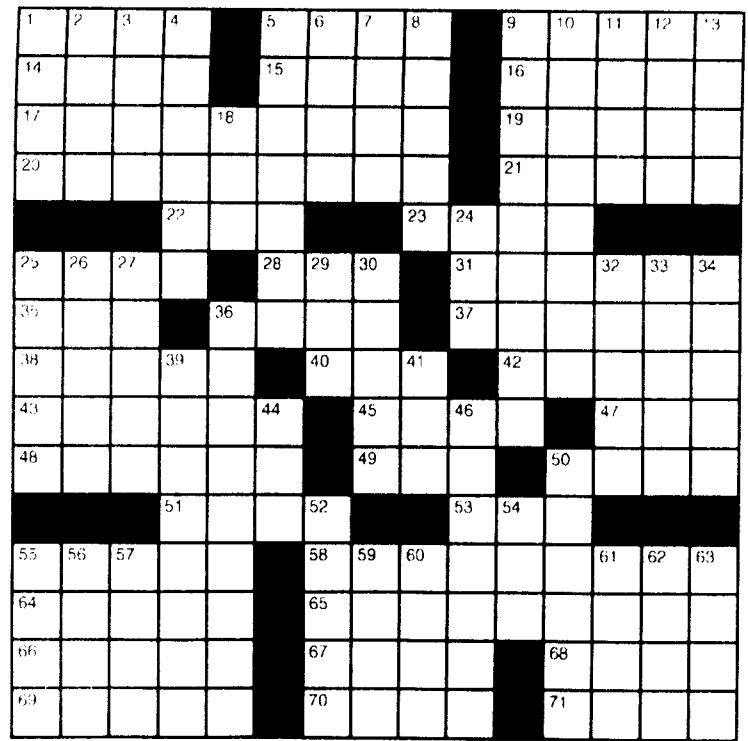
November 9

"Lake Erie Shipwrecks," Dr. David Frew lectures about his latest book "Kiss of the Devil Wind: The Sinking of the Steamship Gerkin," at Gannon University, 7:30 p.m.

Crossword

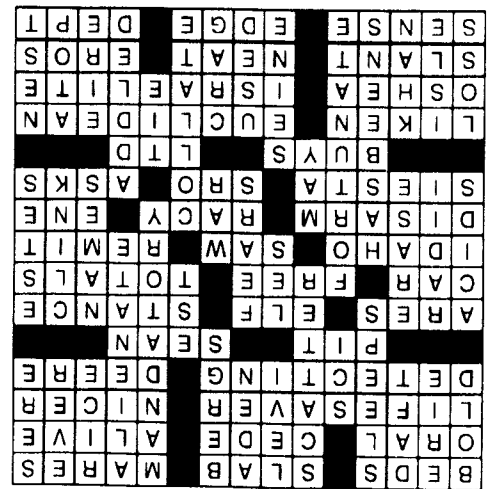
- ACROSS
- Four-posters and singles
 - Large, thick slice
 - Foals' moms
 - Spoken
 - Yield
 - Vibrant
 - Rescuer
 - More pleasant
 - Sleuth's specialty
 - Tractor manufacturer
 - "The and the Pendulum"
 - Actor Connery
 - God of war
 - Pixie
 - Posture
 - Coupe or sedan
 - Unrestrained
 - Adds up
 - Germ State
 - Adage
 - Send payment
 - Demilitarize
 - Risque
 - Wind dir.
 - Pablo's nap
 - Sell-out letters
 - Questions
 - Purchases
 - Inc. in Great Britain
 - Compare
 - Type of geometry
 - Milo of "The Verdict"
 - Follower of Moses
 - Viewpoint
 - Tidy
 - God of love
 - Feel
 - Advantage
 - Part of USDA

- DOWN
- Brave
 - Cleveland's lake
 - Wacky
 - Visits dreamland
 - Disperse
 - Jacob's third son
 - Gulf of the Arabian Sea
 - Ice masses
 - A must
 - Estrange
 - Houston university
 - Always
 - Withered
 - fi
 - Winter hours in NYC
 - Etching fluids
 - Wheel spokes
 - Rub out
 - Guitarist Paul
 - Dreads
 - Titles
 - Hoosegow
 - Senator Kefauver
 - Lucky
 - Washed-up celebs
 - Armed hostilities
 - Receives permission
 - Assemble in sequence
 - Confused
 - River of Rouen
 - Bond
 - Profit's partner?
 - Capri or Anglesey
 - Genghis —
 - Exploited
 - Steep, rugged rock
 - Ireland
 - Resting on
 - Cozy retreat



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Solutions



WIN \$250 Have you gone on a road trip lately? If so, write about it and send your entry to behrcoll5@aol.com.

Contest ends on November 15, 2000. Contestants must be students at Gannon University during the fall or spring 2000 semester. The trip must be more than 150 miles from the original location. A photo must accompany entry with sufficient proof that the trip was made. Insufficient proof will lessen chances to win contest. If more than one student took part in the road trip, only the student submitting the story is eligible, unless all members send name in with entry. If more than one student name appears on entry, prize will be divided amongst the students who entered. Send in entries to behrcoll5@aol.com as soon as possible to ensure publication in the Beacon. Only entries appearing in the Beacon will be voted on. Beacon members are ineligible and will vote on the winner.