

# The End Of Our Man With Vision

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Collegian Staff Writer

So this is how the semester ends...

Not with a bang but with a whimper.  
- T.S. Eliot

When I started here at Behrend in 1855, things were a great deal simpler. The future was something my fellow students and I embraced, not feared. And back in those days, we had no Man With Vision to guide the way.

That's why I feel terrible. I've been neglecting all of my mail from you poor kids still



in search of vision. Unfortunately, this is my last column, so I can't possibly get to the 3,000 or so letters piled here on my desk. I'll do my best, though, to get to as many as possible today.

I am a sophomore business major, but I really want to be a poet like you. What should I do?

You came to the right person. Let me share with you something that really helped me when I was a struggling young business major who wanted to be a poet.

#### HOW TO BE A POET

1. Wear black clothing. You will tell people you are mourning the sad state of mankind. Actually, you are just saving yourself the trouble of sorting lights from darks in your laundry. You, being a poet, never learned to do laundry.

2. Learn to play the guitar. Become just good enough so

that you can make an ass of yourself at parties. Good practice: Teach yourself the classic riff of "Day Tripper," but only up to the key change. Claim that you've never heard of "Smoke on the Water."

3. Misquote famous people (see example above).

**What, in your opinion, is that magic quality that separates you from other writers? I really want to know.**

Every good writer has to have some governing passion. My passion is *italics*. I like italics. *I really, really do.*

**What does a Man with Vision do after he graduates?**

Well, I have this latch hook kit I got for Christmas seven years ago that I've been meaning to work on.

**I've had the song "Surfin' Bird" stuck in my head for weeks. Should I see a doctor or what?**

No.

**What does a Man with Vision do after he graduates?**

Well, I have this latch hook kit I got for Christmas seven years ago that I've been meaning to work on.

**Are there any Women with Vision, or are you just a sexist twerp?**

Yes. No.

**My life is so dull and boring and colorless. What can I do?**

Buy a knife sharpener, a drill and some fingerpaints. Why do you ask me these stupid questions?

Sorry.



## Ask Louanne

Dear Louanne,

I am a freshman here at Penn State-Behrend. I have encountered prejudice dealing with homosexuality. I feel out of place because homosexuality is looked down upon. I feel I should be able to express my true feelings of sexuality with a consenting significant other as long as there is no infringement on others rights. Therefore I feel homosexuality should be discussed openly to alleviate the friction that exists between homosexuals and heterosexuals. I feel that people automatically assume that if you are homosexual, you are infested with AIDS. Most homosexuals use devices to demote the chance of contracting some disease. Just as heterosexuals use devices to demote the chance of pregnancy. Back in 1960's with the sexual revolution, our parents were more aware and more accepting of people with alternative lifestyles. With the issuance of the 1980's, I feel that sexuality should not be a factor with one's life. Considering this is supposed to be the decade of higher enlightenment.

AIDS scares homosexuals as well as heterosexuals. At this juncture, we should be looking towards a cure rather than condemning the source of the problem, because not only homosexuals give AIDS, but also heterosexuals, hemophiliacs, IV drug users and the list goes on. There is no group to place blame upon.

My suggestion is that we accept people for who and what they are. I don't condemn people for being heterosexual so why should anyone condemn me for what kind of life I choose? We have a host of different groups, groups including those for non-traditional students, women, blacks, and even for eating disorders. Why is there no support group for people who chosen alternative lifestyles?

Signed, Disgusted and Trying to Survive

Dear Survivor,

Thank you for having the courage to share your feelings. They are certainly valid. It must be very lonely and difficult being a member of a group so discriminated against, and the AIDS scare certainly hasn't helped. I think your idea of a support group is a good one.

I did some investigating and came up with some resources for you. Here in Erie there is a gay/lesbian support group which meets on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm at The Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul across from the County Court House on West 6th St. (enter on the east side through the glass doors). I am told that many students attend. There is a group called Parents and Friends of Gays. The phone number is 456-1087. There is also an Erie minister who provides counseling free of

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charge to people with "private and alternative lifestyles." I can give you the name and number if you contact me directly; but, unfortunately, prejudice in our community prevents me from publishing this information.

I also called the Hotline at University Park and was given two student resources in the Penn State system:

Gay/Lesbian Switchboard - 814-237-1950 - provides counselling  
Lesbian/Gay Student Association - 814-865-1916 - Bob Kuzma

I have no first hand experience with any of these resources, but I hope they will be helpful. I would appreciate any feedback you can give me.

Good Luck. I hope you find the support you need.

Dear Louanne,

As finals approach I get more and more nervous. Do you have any tips for getting through finals in one piece?

Signed Anxious

Dear Anxious,

Here are some quick and dirty tips that might help:

-Be prepared - know the material.  
-The night before - normal routine, no excesses (food, drink, romance, T.V., music, exercise, reading, partying, socializing).

-The morning before - eat lightly, no more than two cups of coffee.

-Don't over-stimulate or depress senses. No Doz, tranquilizers alcohol, and pot cause fatigue, nervousness, decreases alertness and motivation.

-Get a normal night's sleep.  
-Keep your mind open and clear - no last minute clutter cramming for details.

-Wear comfortable, removable clothing (the outer layer, I mean).

-Arrive early enough to find a good seat away from distractions, but not too early.

-Take life savers to combat drowsiness from low blood sugar during the exam but avoid sugar before the exam.

Timing:  
-Read through the test, calculate time for each question.

-Pace yourself - use a watch.  
-Mark time consuming questions - move on - go back later.

-Ignore other test takers. If they turn pages faster they are probably skipping.

-Guesstimate - eliminate what choices you can.  
-Approximating is better than nothing if time is short.

-Learn how to relax your body. Before and during the exam, take three deep breaths letting go of tense muscles.

-Study with friends.  
-Take a walk.

-Identify and dispute negative thoughts - think positive.

-VISUALIZE SUCCESS!!!

Good luck to you on finals. Have a great holiday. I'll see you next year!!!

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