



# Ask Louanne

Dear Louanne,

I am quite aware of the fact that women mature at an earlier age than men, and in most cases I have found this to be true. Just like in my last relationship it was totally devastating when we had to break up because he couldn't meet me half way and settle down. I vowed never to become involved with a younger man again.

So what happens next? I meet this guy whose funny, bright, affectionate, and seems to have a good head on his shoulders. We have wonderful times together, and I can tell already that if this relationship holds tight I could possibly fall in love again. But guess what he's 18 - I'm 22. I feel like a cradle robber. I'm totally paranoid waiting for something to go wrong. I want this relationship to work because he's very special to me. What can I do to ease my fears?

Signed,  
Happy but Scared

Dear Happy but Scared,

It's always scary to enter into an intimate relationship, but think how boring life would be if we didn't take these risks. Being able to take that risk depends in part on how strong our own identity is, our sense of who we are. The women who are really in trouble are those who feel they are nobody without a man.

As for different rates of maturity between men and women, that pretty much evens out by age 18. What is more important is social maturity. That depends on life experiences. Adolescents go through a gang stage where they strive to fit in and be like their peers. A lot of experimentation goes on until eventually we gain a sense of individual identity. Only then can we really relate intimately with others in a healthy way.

Independence is another important factor in maturity. Are we able to separate from our family, to make decisions on our own, to determine our own values and goals independent of our family? Your special person may be very mature socially depending on his experiences. Is he still tied to Mom's apron strings or looking for another mother? Or does he seem to have a strong sense of who he is and an ability to function independently? I've known 18 year olds who are more socially mature than 40 year olds.

Send letters to: Dr. Louanne Barton, Personal Counseling  
213 Glenhill Farmhouse, Behrend College, Erie, Pa 16563

## Peer Ministers

contd. from previous page

evening. I knew about this, and I prevented anything from happening. The action really depressed her. She took all of her bad feelings and turned them on herself.

She kept reiterating how she felt like a failure because she was getting nowhere with her boyfriend. Getting nowhere with me proved to be equivalent to pouring salt in an open wound. I wanted desperately to help, but seeing as I was part of the reason for her bad feelings, opening my mouth would only make her feel worse. All I could do was offer her my shoulder to cry on.

More recently, another girl I know was having problems with her "would-be" boyfriend. When the boy turned out to be less than expected, she felt sad because she had been on the receiving end of a long line of heartbreak in her life. I tried to share my own similar experiences in that area to make her feel more at ease.

Both of these instances made me feel uneasy. It's terrible that such feelings can hurt such good people. This pain doesn't just cause them to hurt, however; they suffer. This pain drives right through you, and you can feel it, physically. They hurt from the soul. When this pain afflicts you, you can feel as if the world was a cold, uncaring, unfeeling, place. You feel alone.

You're NOT alone. There are people out there who have shoulders willing to be cried upon, whom you can share with, who are willing to become friends.

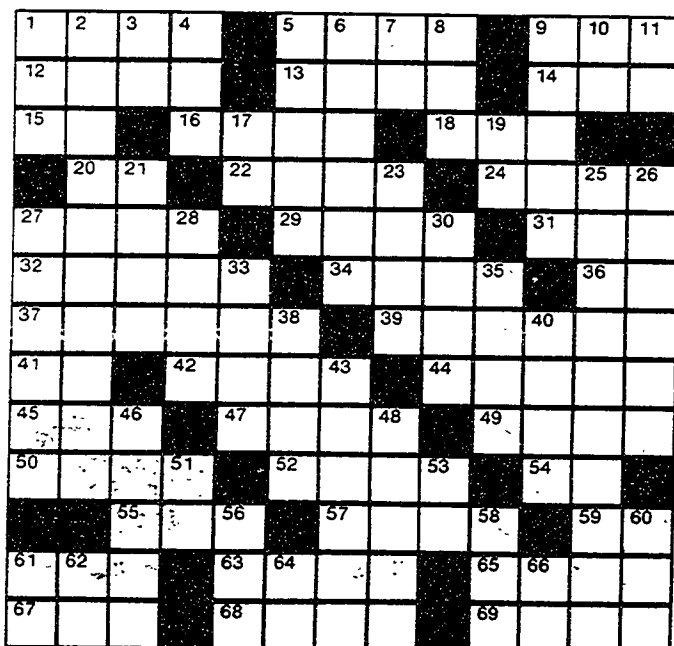
These people are called "peer ministers." We are a small group of students who are willing to do anything that you need, if you feel the same way as the people in this article. Someone in a movie once said, "Life is pain. Anyone who says otherwise is selling something." If you need someone to talk to, but are intimidated by the possible stigma of seeing a psychologist, please give us a try. We are located in the Student Services suite on the second floor of the Reed building, in the Campus Ministry office. We are:

- Darrell J. White: Tuesday, 2-3:00 p.m.
- Marie Sprumont: Friday, 2-3:00 p.m.
- Virginia Schwartz: Friday, 3-4:00 p.m.
- Gina Gomez: Friday, 12-1:00 p.m.

The Collegian has a new location and a new phone number. Our Phone number is now 898-6488. The Collegian, now conveniently located between the Backroom and the Boiler room in the Reed Union Building.

## The Weekly Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Oriental nurse
  - 5 Night birds
  - 9 Cleaning utensil
  - 12 Story
  - 13 Region
  - 14 Time gone by
  - 15 Printer's measure
  - 16 Sagacious
  - 18 Marry
  - 20 Paid notice
  - 22 Intertwine
  - 24 Rodents
  - 27 Matures
  - 29 Stalk
  - 31 Small rug
  - 32 Calumniate
  - 34 Wild plum
  - 36 Japanese drama
  - 37 Repeals
  - 39 Vegetable
- DOWN**
- 1 Devoured
  - 2 Control
  - 3 Indian mulberry
  - 4 Chop
  - 5 Fertile spots in desert
  - 6 Takes from
  - 7 French article
  - 8 Carpenter's tool
  - 9 Title of respect
  - 10 King of Bashan
  - 11 River in Italy
  - 17 Negative prefix
  - 19 Teutonic deity
  - 21 Erase: printing
  - 23 Succor
  - 25 Equivalent in value
  - 26 Bends
  - 27 Lessens
  - 28 Transgressions
  - 30 Cries like a cow
  - 33 Redact
  - 35 Girl's name
  - 38 Asterisk
  - 40 Dry
  - 43 Sculptured likeness
  - 46 Pigeons
  - 48 Spirit: colloq.
  - 51 Greek letter
  - 53 Symbol for tin
  - 56 Viper
  - 58 Suitable
  - 60 Diocese
  - 61 Roman gods
  - 62 Attached to
  - 64 Hebrew letter
  - 66 Maiden loved by Zeus



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