



Ask Louanne
The Collegian Advice Column
by Dr. Louanne Barton,
Psychologist

Dear Louanne,

I am a non-traditional student who is new on campus. Behrend is a pleasant place and the staff and faculty are all very nice. My problem is this: I'm having a hard time finding other non-traditional students to relate to. Is there a group or organization on campus for a person like me?

Signed,
SociallyLovely

Dear Socially Lonely,

There sure is! It's the Top of the Hill gang (TOTH). The reason you haven't heard about them by now is that they've gotten off to a slow start this fall. Their newly elected president didn't return to Behrend, and they have had to reorganize. The new president is Marlyn Tomlin and meetings are held Thursdays at 12:15 pm in the Reed Seminar room (Reed 117).

Behrend has a great group of non-traditionals (or returning adult students as I prefer to call them). You can usually find them hanging out at the table near the window in the Wintergreen Cafe sharing coffee and conversation or studying. They even have monthly Friday night socials with the Gannon returning adult students at the Plymouth Tavern.

I can understand your need to find other non-traditional students to relate to. The returning adult often has more challenges to contend with. There are the conflicting roles of trying to be a spouse, parent, employee, and student all at the same time. There are often additional financial responsibilities. Goals and priorities are different for you than for those who are 18 or 19 and leaving home for the first time.

Watch for signs announcing TOTH meetings, and don't hesitate to introduce yourself in the Wintergreen Cafe. I know they'll make you feel welcome.

Signed,
Louanne

Michael Douglas gives credible performance in movie Black Rain

By Joe Williams
Collegian Staff Writer

"Black Rain's" plot isn't highly original (cop gets gangster, loses gangster, gets gangster back). Writers Craig Bolostin and Warren Lewis, however, put enough twists on the plot to keep things fresh and exciting.

Michael Douglas, who got his start on "The Streets of San Francisco," makes a welcome return to playing Nick Conklin, a cop who is tired, broke and under investigation for stealing money from a drug bust.

Conklin and his partner Charlie Vincent, played well by Andy Garcia, are street-smart New York cops in charge of Delivering the gangster to Osaka police. Once in Japan, they are baffled by the foreign language, laws, and customs. They are easily duped into giving the gangster to the wrong people.

In his pursuit of the gangster Sato (played by Yusaka Matsuda), Nick is thwarted by the cultural differences.

"Black Rain" doesn't drag out any chase scene or shootout any longer than needed. The film is

violent without being gratuitous.

Michael Douglas, who also produced the film, turns in a good performance as the jaded cop. He makes the character real, capable of getting out of or around any situation without trying to be superman.

Ken Takakura plays Masahiro, an Osaka cop assigned as Nick's liaison. His acting style is understated, which makes him very believable.

'Black Rain' doesn't drag out any chase scene or shootout any longer than needed.

Yusakau Matsuda is also notable as the Yakuza (gangster) Sato. He plays Sato with a maniacal twist that is very unsettling.

Kate Capshaw plays Joyce Kingsley, an American expatriot and bar hostess. She helps Nick, but we're never told what brought her to Japan.

The economical script gives just enough information to keep the plot going. Never explaining why things are the way they are, it just leaves you wondering.

The pace of the film doesn't give you a chance to sit back and think.

The picture, which is shot mostly in Osaka, gives a very glittery view of modern Japan. The settings and imagery have the same feel as director Ridley Scott's earlier film "Blade Runner".

Overall, "Black Rain" is very entertaining, with enough plot twists to keep you guessing and enough suspense to keep you on the edge of your seat.

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