

# Mark just loves his hate mail

by Mark Owens

Everyone here at the Collegian office is pretty happy this week. We survived the weekend, my editor got out of that newt-filled trunk and I even got mail, which is a pretty rare occurrence.

The last time I got mail was when I was slightly overdrawn on my checking account. The fact that two large men named Luigi and Rocky came with the letter, well...

Anyway, I received a letter concerning last week's column about women. It was an interesting letter written by a nameless woman who really didn't like what I wrote. I'm thinking that she'd like nothing more than to string me up by my...toes.

Here are some excerpt from that letter, along with my comments. (I will remind this unknown woman writer that had she signed her name, her letter would have been printed in its entirety on the Opinion Page).

*"Why do women go to the bathroom in groups? There are a few answers for this question. First, some men can be rude, make gross noises, and sometimes even play with their food. Most women find these to be offensive, and feel the need to escape so they go together to the bathroom."*

My answer is simple: find better dates.

*"Second, we (women) might have something important about you (men) that we have to talk about, so we go to the bathroom."*

My question is: what is this something important? If you're going to tell my date that you know for a fact that my credit card balance is expired, I can understand saying that in private. If my hair is on fire, I want to

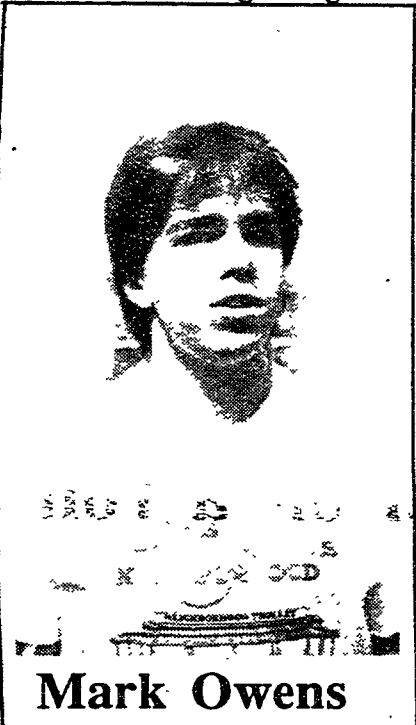
know - right now!!

*"And finally, [sic] we may be bored with the conversation."*

Believe it or not, most men either date or hang out with women for more than a one night stand. I'm sure that if you made an effort to change the conversation, no one would object.

*"And finally, we don't usually play cards and never smoke cigars (maybe some women some women smoke cigarettes)."*

There is nothing wrong with



Mark Owens

playing cards. I do object to the statement that women never smoke cigars. Who do you think started Fidel Castro anyway? And a Surgeon General's report came out a while ago that says women smoke more than men.

*"Why don't men go to the bathroom in groups? Are you afraid of being laughed at?"*

Yes.

*"You ask, 'why do women wear make-up?' First of all, not all women wear it... I, personally, don't see a need to go through the process you*

*mentioned. I only wear blush, and sometimes lipstick and eye shadow."*

I agree that not all women wear make-up. Some just don't need it. The fact that you said you wear less than average sounds like you only need a touch-up rather than an overhaul.

*"In fact I believe the opposite is true, that it is men who don't know what they want."*

I think that you have taken that section of the column out of context. I was referring to the apparent division among women concerning the feminist movement.

*"Some things we would like from men are: chivalry, humor, respect, intelligence, remember important dates and to not embarrass us in public."*

Gee, would you like us to roll over and fetch too?

As far as remembering important dates, I know Christmas is December 25, The last day of finals is December 16th, and the Battle of Puebla is May 5th. By the way, if we're not supposed to embarrass you in public, what if you do something that really deserves it?

Here are some other questions she asked me:

1) *Why do you think you know it all?*

I don't, but since it's my column, I try real hard.

2) *Why is it you usually have three things on your mind? (alcohol, sports and sex?)*

I'd like to think that I go through the day pondering more than those three things. I kid you not when I say that I don't drink. Not beer, not hard liquor, not even the stuff used to remove paint. I merely used beer as an example because it is a beverage consumed by a lot of people, including most of the Collegian staff, who down more than their fair share. And they're pretty

# The Missing Pieces

where you got the impression that I was some sort of sex fiend. I may shed on a date and maybe scratch behind my ear once in a while, but I'm no beast.

Finally, I'd like to compliment you on your signature at the bottom of your letter. "Signed, a woman's point of view," really shows the confidence you have in your opinions.

Every week a lot of people on the Collegian staff sign their names to the things they've written and sometimes take a lot of flack for it. All we ask of you is to do the same. Thanks.

damn happy about it, too.

Sports are OK, as long as they're quality stuff like professional cycling or triathlons. Squid sports like professional wrestling and baseball - I'd rather watch *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*.

As for sex -- I never claimed I was a monk, but I'm not sure

GENE HACKMAN - WILLEM DAFOE  
1964. WHEN AMERICA WAS AT WAR WITH ITSELF.



# MISSISSIPPI BURNING

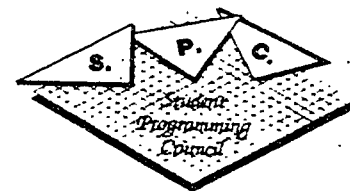
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## Freshmen need help

(continued from page 7)


have dedicated their careers to protecting you from such perils as MTV in the Reed Building, Jolt cola in the Wintergreen Cafe, and association with members of the opposite sex anywhere outside of the classroom. Learn to deal with it.

Guys, while there are in fact many, many attractive females at Behrend, they're not going to date you. They hooked up with upperclassmen on their first campus visit and intend to have nothing to do with you until you become seniors. Get used to it.

Your professors will not monitor you as closely as did your teachers in high school. You can sleep through class, cut frequently, sneak out while the instructor's back is turned, and blow off your assignments, all largely without reprimand. However, faculty members will quietly resent you for abusing

your new freedom while they're stuck teaching the same mind-numbing courses year after year, and they will send your grade average down in flames if given the opportunity. Don't push them too far.

And finally: keep in mind that, until Webster changes his mind, "party" is a noun. Trust me on this.

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