

Dear Louanne:

This week Louanne discusses relationship problems and confidentiality concerns

The Collegian Advice Column
 Dr. Louanne Barton
 Personal Counselor

Dear Louanne,

I've got this problem. My girlfriend--all she does is study. She doesn't have time for us anymore. She says she loves me and wants us to spend the rest of our lives together, but we're actually not spending any of our life together now. To top it all off, she used to do our laundry, and I'm running out of clean clothes.

Neglected

Dear Neglected,

That's down right abusive! To think you might even have to wear dirty underwear!

It sounds like your girlfriend's priorities are pretty clear. She values academic achievement over your relationship. That could translate into career over relationship after graduation. Have you suggested compromises, like one night a week away from the books? How 'bout studying together and taking 5 or 10 minute breaks every hour. Do you share meals together? Good relationships do require good time together.

A final word or caution, however-- Heaven forbid you should offer to do the laundry!

Louanne

Dear Louanne,

I realize that in your recent columns you've addressed the problems of homophobia and alternative lifestyles. I have somewhat of a different problem. I'm twenty years old and have a large body of friends around campus. Only a few know that I'm gay and I don't know of anyone else at Behrend who is. Sometimes I get so lonely and depressed it's unbearable. Those few friends that know, really don't understand my situation.

I don't know what to do. I've considered going to a gay bar, but I don't know about any in Erie, and I'd probably get thrown out because I'm underage. I know from your column that a support group for people of my sexual orientation is starting at Behrend, but I'm worried about confidentiality. What if someone saw me there? If anyone found out about me, my life would be ruined. I don't know what to do, but I need someone I can associate with or talk to.

Stuck in Hiding

Dear Hidden,

It's true. There are efforts to get a support group started for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students at Behrend. Such groups exist on many campuses across the country, but for some reason it had been slow going getting a group started here. It is estimated that at least 10% of students on college campuses have an alternative sexual orientation. That would translate into as many as 300 students on the Behrend campus.

I suspect that your fears about confidentiality are shared by others. If you, and others who are interested will call the counseling center at 898-6164 and ask for me personally, I will treat your call with complete confidentiality. Perhaps an off campus meeting place could be considered.

Flyers advertising the group will be distributed around campus. Watch for the pink triangle which has become a symbol of positive affirmation in the homosexual community.

Louanne

Please drop your letters in the campus mail addressed to:

Louanne Barton
 Personal Counseling Office
 Reed Bldg., first floor
 Penn State-Behrend

Ed. Note: What happened? We were getting all these Letters to the Editor until this week. I hope that somebody out there still has an opinion on something happening on campus or about something they've read in *The Collegian*. If you would like to voice your views on an issue, write a Letter to the Editor

The Collegian encourages letters on news coverage, editorial content or University affairs.

Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced and signed by no more than two persons.

Letters should be no longer than 400 words. Letters should include the semester and major of the writer. All letters should provide the address and phone number of the writer for verification of the letter.

The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste. All submitted letters become property of *The Collegian*.

Letters should be submitted to *The Collegian* office, first floor of the Reed Union Building or *The Collegian* mailbox located in the SGA suite also on the first floor of the Reed Building no later than noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

Bush has Hussein in a class by himself

by Mike Royko

President Bush has now declared that in some ways, such as using hostages as shields, Saddam Hussein is even more brutal and barbaric than Adolf Hitler.

This has surprised historians, Europeans and World War II veterans. But as Bush said: "Brutality--I don't think that Adolf Hitler ever participated in anything of that nature."

And he said even more. But because there was a power failure during his news conference, the TV cameras and microphones were unable to record it. Fortunately, unreliable sources have provided me with what may or may not be an accurate transcript.

"Mr. President, looking back in history, how would you rate Hussein compared to Attila the Hun?"

"No comparison. Attila the Hun was a bully and his fellow Huns attacked weak neighbors, and they did a lot of that looting and pillaging thing. But Attila never once used American hostages as shields. He was never that brutal. Check it out."

"But there were no Americans, as we know them, in the 5th Century."

"You may be right. And it's lucky for Attila that there weren't any, because we wouldn't have stood by and let him get away with that naked aggression thing."

"Mr. President, would you say that Hussein is worse than Godzilla?"

"Absolutely. Keep in mind that, yes, Godzilla was sort of a brutal kind of lizard in his early days. Most lizards that size usually are, you know. Lot of damage to Tokyo real estate. Scared people. Terror thing. But I believe that later he changed his ways and, if my memory is correct, he became a force for good. I think that if you ask the Japanese, they'll tell you that there were worse monsters than Godzilla."

"How would you rank Hussein with Jack the Ripper? Worse?"

"Much worse. Jack the Ripper killed London prostitutes. Not that I condone killing London prostitutes. It's wrong. I don't believe in killing anyone--the murder thing. That's why I'm in favor of the death penalty--the

deterrent thing."

"Would you say that Hussein is worse than Lex Luthor, the greatest criminal mind of his time?"



Mike Royko

"Lex Luthor, bad person, yes. Tried to damage the California coastline so he could make a real estate profit. I can't condone what Lex Luthor did. But, golly, he was more involved in the money thing than the brutality thing."

"And Vlad the Impaler?"

"Sorry, who did you say?"

"Vlad the Impaler. Used to rule Transylvania in the old days. He was always shoving stakes through his subjects. Some people think he was the original Count Dracula."

"Look, I don't condone that impaling thing. Even a little sliver in your foot or finger can sting like the dickens. And if he did that, he shouldn't have. It's wrong. W-R-O-N-G. Reasonable people should be able to disagree without impaling each other. That's the American way. But if this Vlad impaled his subjects, as you say, it's unfortunate, but that's an internal matter, something the Transylvanians should work out for themselves. And Barbara and I have always been against vampires, Dracula and the rest of that crowd. Don't like 'em. Nasty."

"What about Don Vito Corleone? How would you compare him with Saddam?"

"Brutal. No doubt about it. And I didn't like what he did to that horse's head in Hollywood. I love horses. No excuse for that. But he didn't use poison gas. And when he engaged in naked

aggression--not that I condone it--it was in defense of his family. He was a family man, although Barbara and I didn't approve of the way he raised his children. Got to teach them the right values thing."

"Mr. President. . . ."

"Last question."

"Mr. President, what about Freddy from Elm Street?"

"That's a difficult question. Brutality--I don't think that anyone, Hussein of Hitler or that Vlad fellow you mentioned, has done that fingernails thing the way Freddy has. What he does to those teen-agers--not that I condone their behavior, either--is wrong and bad. B-A-D. But I don't know if you could call it naked aggression. As bad as it is, it's something that might be resolved through the manicure thing."

"Thank you, Mr. President."

"And don't forget the Wolfman. Saddam's worse, even without the full moon thing."

Mike Royko is a Chicago-based syndicated columnist. His column appears weekly in *The Collegian*.