

Ask Louanne

The Collegian's Advice Column
by Dr. Louanne Barton
Personal Counselor

Sexually confused student consults Louanne

Dear Louanne,

I suspect I may be bisexual. I do well above average in school. I find myself being attracted to someone on my floor. Lately these emotions have been affecting my concentration. Do I need to confront him or is there any hope these feelings can be eliminated?

Sexually Confused

Dear Confused,

Thank you for writing. I asked another student on campus if he would help me in responding to your letter. I have included his response below because I think it is very helpful. I would like to add: I strongly doubt that your feelings can be eliminated. It is believed that people generally do not have much choice regarding their sexual orientation. The choice comes in whether or not you choose to act on these feelings, and, if so, when, where and with whom you choose "to come out". If you are interested in learning more about students with feelings similar to yours, come to the next open forum entitled "Straight Talk" to be presented by students from the Lesbian Bisexual Gay Student Alliance from University Park. They will be talking about what it's like growing up gay in our society and on college campuses. The event takes place Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 8 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall.

Louanne

Dear Sexually Confused,

When I was in fifth grade, I realized that I was different. My very first crush was on a girl named Theresa who sat beside me. Later that year, I had a new desire. His name was Dave, and he sat on the other side of me. Nothing ever evolved from either one of those crushes, however. After all, I was only about ten years old.

All through high school, I continued to be attracted to members of both sexes. I still am, and probably always will be. What society does not understand is that I cannot change what I desire. I never made a conscious decision to want sex from both males and females.

When considering the dilemma that you are in concerning the guy on your floor, I must leave that decision entirely in your hands. I am, however, advising you not to tell him, unless you strongly believe he will respond positively. If he is gay, bisexual, or at the very least extremely open-minded, confronting him should not be a problem. But, don't forget the fact that he may be strongly against even the idea, and that could spell disaster.

Also, I urge you to call the Personal Counseling and Advising Center at 6164. You should ask for Dr. Louanne Barton. You can leave only your first name and number. All calls are kept absolutely confidential.

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