

Once again, it is I, Uncle Leonard.

I know, I know, you thought that Uncle Leonard was the sick creation of a couple of weeks ago who would never again offer advice to those who do battle on the four fronts of dating and relationship warfare. (They're called relationships nowadays because nobody goes steady anymore. Pity.)

You thought Uncle Leonard was something akin to a cheap, one-night stand — heave ho and you're outta there. Bull.

Tell that to the hunchbacked postal gnomes I've had to hire to drag the bushel baskets of cancelled postage — that you people are writing — into my cluttered area here at At Ease. I had no idea that there was that great a need for an advice columnist.

Why, you people have got some real serious troubles when it comes to knowing how to deal with a love spat.

Hey, I shouldn't have to do this. I've got enough troubles of my own without having to take time out to save you people from yourselves.

If you would just apply some simple rules to your everyday perusal of the opposite sex, you wouldn't find yourself stuck with somebody who's going to give you the ultimate Uncle Leonard commode-flushing blow-off.

I'm speaking, of course, of the soul-damning line, "Gee whiz, so-and-so, I really like you a lot and everything, but I think we should date other people."

Man, that's the worst.

And with Halloween and trick-or-treat coming up tonight, I'm worried sick about those of you who've sent letters since the last Uncle Leonard column.

Jeez, use your heads for something other than just empty fishbowls to hang your Halloween masks on.

Some of you are probably going to ignore all of this great Halloween advice I'm fixing to lay on you.

And that's fine because you'll be the ones who disappear from the party tonight with the mummy, only to discover a big scare tomorrow morning when you realize that the person really does have green wrinkly skin and yellow teeth.

Dear Uncle Leonard,

I'm in this sorority, and me and some of my sisters are going to this big Halloween bash tonight at one of the fraternity houses. Frankly, I'm a little worried that things are going to get

out of hand because my ex-boyfriend and my current boyfriend are in that same frat. What should I do if those guys start acting weird?

Signed, Missy

Dear Misty,

Have you lost your mind? Hey, you don't ever date somebody in a sphere where you have to operate everyday.

You blew it not once, but twice.

You should have found yourself a nice cadet to date and this never would have happened. So what if you wouldn't have anything in common?

Remember that all party situations are volatile and the presence of old flames does nothing to diminish the possibility of a brawl.

As for those two guys who'll be there, I suggest that you tease the hell out of both of them and then watch 'em fight to the death for your hand. Besides, the entertainment value of watching two frat daddies try to duke it out while not messing up their hair is just too great.

Dear Uncle Leonard,

I'm a pretty average guy, I guess, and I think what I have is a pretty average problem.

Here it is, another holiday, and I'm spending it alone. I spend almost every holiday, except for Christmas, alone.

I was counting on this Halloween turning up some kind of Smurf-type girl who would fulfill my ghoulish fantasies. Got any last-minute suggestions?

Signed, Orville

Dear Oscar,

Man, you're sick. I hope you're not planning to be handing out candy tonight. No wonder you spend your holidays alone. You don't deserve a Smurf-type girl.

You deserve to be victimized by some large girl dressed as a vampire.

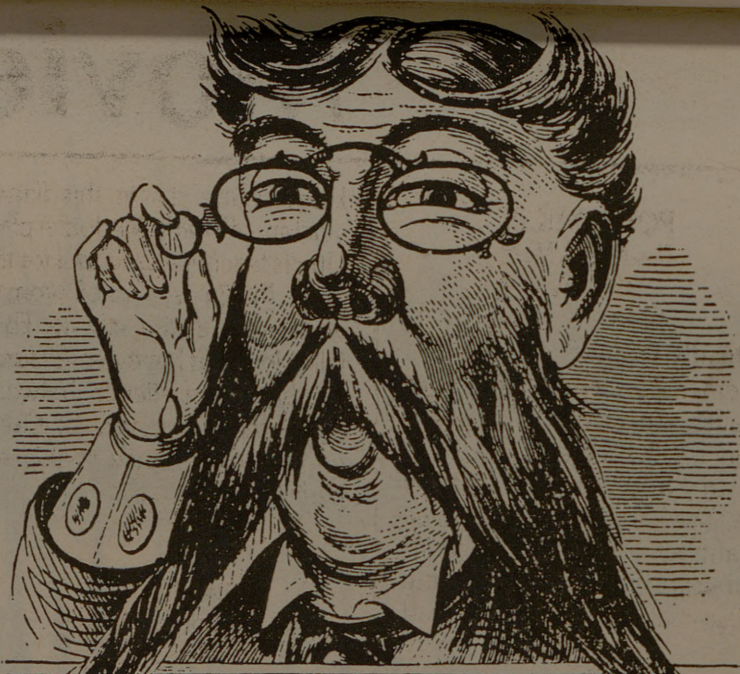
But for you, Oscar, she'd be the perfect one.

Get outta here. You're disgusting.

Dear Uncle Leonard,

I'm the coordinator for a Halloween party that my mom's throwing for all of the nice girls in my dorm (who can afford the \$25 cover charge) and I've got a problem.

The trouble is that I won't possibly be able to monitor the location of all of our freshman women at the party because



## Ask Uncle Leonard Advice to the Mindless

there's just too many of them and they'll all be wearing costumes.

As a senior, I feel it's my responsibility to see to it that none of the women in my dorm disappear with unsavory characters (my mother unwittingly invited the Motorcycle Dogs from Hell). How can I keep up with them?

Signed, Melanie

Dear Melody,

I'm glad that somebody out there is trying to save our more impressionable women from guys who walk around at Halloween parties with Snickers bars and say, "Hey girlie, want some candy?"

I suggest that to verify that all of your freshman are there at the party and safe, you use an old National Football League trick and devise a system of code grunts.

It sounds a bit primitive I know, but it will work.

Professional and college players have been using grunt coding on the field for decades to indicate their displeasure with opponents, referees and fans.

Simply gather your people together, decide on a dorm

grunt, practice it and then at predetermined times in the evening stroll around grunting and count up how many grunt responses you receive.

Your problem is solved.

Couldn't you have figured that out for yourself?

I think there's space for one more letter. Make it snappy.

Dear Uncle Leonard,

I can't think of a better day of the year to blow off a witch of a girlfriend than Halloween. What's a good seasonal line I could use?

Signed, Bart

Dear Barf,

How about:

"Trick-or-treat, smell my feet, used to think you were real neat.

Sink-or-swim, I know about him, I'm tired of being a second-thought whim.

Touch-and-go, winds will blow, find another Romeo."

That ought to hold her for a year or two.

Have yourself a great Halloween and look for Uncle Leonard at your Halloween party.

-- by Tony Cornett