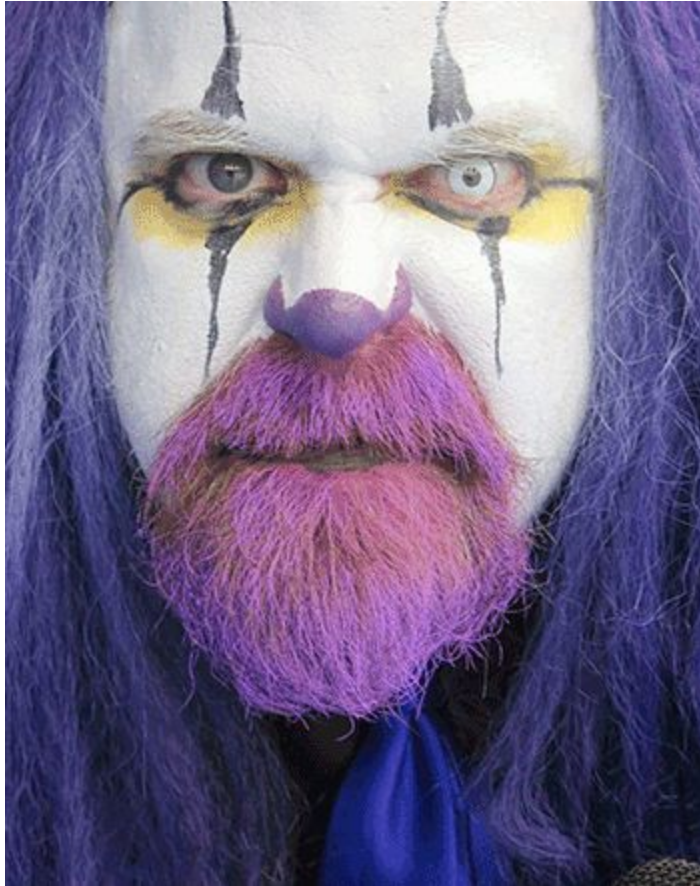


What do I Know? I'm just a Clown : May / June 2015
"Ask the Clown" : an advice column by Martin "the Clown" Barry



Dear Clown,

My parents have asked me to move in with them due to my father needing extra care following a recent accident. I am currently employed full time, have a place of my own and I live in an area close to their house. If this has a negative impact on my career, I will be disappointed. What is your best advice here?

Sincerely, Cares for Dad

Dear Cares,

I can see where this move would introduce changes in your current lifestyle. Your parents altered their lifestyle for you most of your life. It seems to me that you have no question of a sense of duty, dedication, or love here. You simply fear impact to your career. Check with your HR department and immediate supervisor to see if they have schedule adjustments or added time off that will accommodate the needs of your family. Your performance will assure your retention.

Signed, the Clown

Dear Clown,

Is this serious? Your advice seems sound and often funny, but I would like to know if you actually wear the makeup while you respond to letters. I would also like to meet you.
Sincerely, Clown Fan

Dear Clown Fan,

This is indeed serious. I have always wanted to write an advice column and I have been delighted with this opportunity. As for the makeup, The Clown is actually who I am and I put on faces to serve functions of community and gainful employment. Meeting me is easy. Just attend a www.CharlotteRollerGirls.com bout!

Signed, the Clown

Dear Clown,

I caught my boyfriend in a lie which led to the discovery of more lies and an affair that he has been having for the past three weeks. We have been together for five years. I had envisioned us building a life together and maybe a family. Now I don't know if I see any future at all. Help?

Sincerely, Shattered

Dear Shattered,

Winston Churchill once said, "If you are going through hell, keep going." This quote was my first thought after reading your letter. This situation is always so ugly and painful. I truly hope that you recover fabulously from this, but remember that mistakes are part of life. If your initial choice is a mistake, then try again. I would advise a new start for you. Be rid of what has happened, be rid of him and what was inflicted upon you.

Signed, the Clown

Do you have a question for The Clown? Write him at martin.barry@yahoo.com