

**What do I Know? I'm just a Clown : November / December 2016**  
**"Ask the Clown" : an advice column by Martin "the Clown" Barry**



Dear Clown,

We are approaching the holiday season and I always seem to be at my lowest when this part of the year comes around. What would you suggest to beat the blues this year?

Sincerely,  
SAD

Dear SAD,

If this depressive feeling is mild and you have the energy to function through your normal day, I would suggest mixing things up a little. There is a lot of joy in giving. This year, make or buy small treats for the people outside of your family that make a difference to you. You get to pick it out, dress it up, and deliver some brightness that they may not have otherwise received this year. If this depressive feeling is overwhelming, please seek some counseling and try to work in some exercise along with your day. I want you to have some joy this time around and all through the year.

Cheers!

The Clown

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Dear Clown,

My friends and co-workers keep making fun of me for the car I am driving. They all insist that I drive something they have or something similar. I am quite fine with the vehicle I have. It is reliable, paid off, and low maintenance. What can I say to them to get them to back off?

Sincerely,  
Non-flashy Ride

Dear Non-flashy,

It seems to me that these people think that a certain status comes with a certain vehicle. The last time I checked, they all drive the same and they all end up in a junkyard when they wear out. My favorite joke about this sort of thing goes like this: What's the difference between a porcupine and a [whatever brand of pricey car]? They put the butthole on the OUTSIDE of a porcupine. That might help.

Roll on,  
The Clown

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Dear Clown,

The recent unrest in Charlotte brought a lot of issues to light. I, for one, am hoping that our community can make positive differences that help us eliminate current fears and negative feelings. We can do this together. What are your feelings on this matter?

Sincerely,  
Hungering for Change

Dear Hungering,

My feelings? I am just a clown and I have never experienced injustices due to something I cannot change. My ADVICE, though, is that we have an ongoing dialog open to everyone in our fair city without exclusion. Every voice should be heard. Along with our power to vote for people and laws that best represent us, we can engage in communication with our leaders, community members, and neighbors to make a positive change everywhere. There is a LOT of hurt to heal here. We need to stand together and chip away at it.

Let love rule,  
The Clown

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Dear Clown,

I have never seen you in person. I suspect that you are not always in makeup, so that makes finding you difficult. How would one go about meeting you?

Sincerely,  
Curious

Dear Curious,

If you really want that, you can just attend events where I will be. There is an opportunity if you attend the Clown Bar Crawl November 12th. Other than that, look for me at any shows put on by Mandyland Entertainment. I will even give you a sticker.

Please be unarmed...  
The Clown

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**Do you have a question for The Clown? Write him at [martin.barry@yahoo.com](mailto:martin.barry@yahoo.com)**