

CRACCUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND STUDENT MAGAZINE

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SEX

TRIVIA NIGHT
RANDOM
RADNESS
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The People to Blame

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WINNER OF \$50 SHADS VOUCHER

PAGE 28

TE AO MĀORI EDITOR

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Pussy Pain

Since Brian is away building bridges or something, let me tell you about why I got botox in my vagina.

The first memories of my vulva and vagina equated to pain. Much too late in my life, I learned that I had something called vulvodynia, vaginismus, and endometriosis—the triple threat causing extremely debilitating pain to anything within a 30cm radius to my witch-cursed uterus.

Since then, my body has been an institutionally medicalised body. Shoving up steroid creams, hormone creams, anaesthetics, dilators and needles up your vagina really doesn't make you feel sexy. Surgeries to remove my endometriosis and paralyse my pelvic floor muscles with botox have given me a lot of relief, but the idea of penetration makes me want to sink into the earth and never see the sun again.

Psychosexual therapy taught me one particularly piece of useful advice called *sensate focus*. I was prescribed sessions of 'nice touching' with my partner, but as a rule, genitally focused sex was off the table. For once, sex felt safe and present. Genital stimulation was masturbatory, but not necessarily intimate. Hence, I am a huge advocate for queering your sex: moving the definition of sex away from heteronormative ritualistic penis/vagina penetration.

Sexual health is often seen as less important and medically valued than other health issues. Sexual aids, toys and lubricants are seen as luxuries, even though for disabled bodies, they are a necessity. During my

journey to tame my pussy pain, none of the medical necessities I needed were publicly funded or subsidised. It's an added barrier when there is already plenty of fear and perceived stigma around getting help for sexual health. Sexual ill health is debilitating physically and mentally, and with no doubt, affects your relationships. Our institutions of care have the responsibility to honour sexual health with compassion and safety because everyone deserves to have good health and good sex.

Navigating sexual health care can be pretty testing, and for some sad reason, bringing my white male partner to my appointments makes physicians take me a whole lot more seriously. Last year, a piece of my vagina was excised in hospital and I had requested that it be returned to me because I wanted final ownership over it. The hospital ended up losing it and it took me a whole year to file a complaint about it. Part of me felt that it was just a piece of tissue, but a bigger part of me was grieving that a piece of my body had been mishandled by an institution that knew more about me and had more control over me than I did. My report was taken very seriously, but I wish I hadn't waited that long to say something. It's always hard to bite the hand that is supposed to heal you.

By no means should you avoid getting support for your sexual health. I recognise

that it is challenging and can put you in compromised positions, but while you are doing so, make sure someone else is there to support you.

Yours painfully,

Eda Tang (she/her)
Co-Editor of Craccum 2021

CW: This issue mentions sexual assault and violence. If this brings up any big feelings, please talk to a professional or someone you trust. You can get help here:

1737 - offers free 24/7 call and text services for immediate crisis support from a trained counsellor, or referral to the appropriate service.

AUSA Advocacy - offers free, confidential and professional support and advice, independent from the University: <http://www.ausa.org.nz/support/advocacy/>

Te Papa Manaaki - Campus Care is a safe, confidential, free and optionally anonymous service that can help you with mental health issues, family violence, sexual harassment, bullying and harrasment, and financial issues: <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/student-support/te-papa-manaaki-campus-care.html>

HELP - offers private and confidential sexual violence support services. You can call them 24/7 on 09 623 1700. <https://www.helpauckland.org.nz/>

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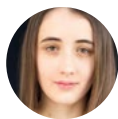
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Advocates Call for Independent Review of Universities Response to Sexual Violence



JESSICA HOPKINS

CW: MENTIONS SEXUAL ASSAULT

Stop Sexual Harassment on Campus Aotearoa (SSHOC) is campaigning for an independent body to monitor New Zealand Universities' handling of sexual violence issues. The group of students and academic staff from New Zealand's eight Universities are leading calls for proactive change to the current institutional response to reports of sexual harassment on campus.

This comes after public criticism of several universities for their response to reports of sexual misconduct. In their report, SSHOC highlighted the University of Auckland's former head of the School of Music accused of inappropriate conduct as a high-profile case of sexual violence on campus in recent years. Students and staff have also reported negative experiences seeking support from

the University after experiencing harassment. "These instances have generated significant public backlash, reputational damage to the university sector, and most importantly, harm to those affected by sexual violence."

This is not the first time a call for independent oversight of sexual misconduct procedures has been made. The New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) previously proposed for a national body to objectively monitor how universities in Aotearoa are implementing their sexual harassment policies.

The report by SSHOC states that several students and staff accused of sexual violence have been able to continue their careers at another institution without consequences.

"Our proposed independent body is a step towards ensuring that alleged perpetrators cannot move Universities to avoid investigation and discipline in cases of sexual violence on campus."

The group is proposing that each university in Aotearoa should be audited every three to four years on the way they are following their own processes and policies for responding to sexual violence. "Universities across the world and in Aotearoa New Zealand have issues of sexual violence on campus. New Zealand Universities have the opportunity to lead positive change in this sector."

SSHOC has launched a petition calling for students and staff to support their proposal.

UoA's Mentoring Programme: SOCYOUTH 300



KARANAMA RURU NGĀTI RAUKAWA/NGĀTI MANIAPOTO

The University of Auckland's youth mentoring course, named SOCYOUTH 300, aims to provide students and youth with a fresh mentoring experience.

The course is a part of the Faculty of Education and Social Work, as well as part of the wider Campus Connections Aotearoa organisation, and provides students with the opportunity to enhance and develop their respective mentoring skills by working with at-risk youths across Tamaki Makaurau. Course coordinators state that the programme intends to develop important engagement skills. "students enrolled in SOCYOUTH 300 will develop therapeutic communication and relationship building skills with youth participants, and engage in pro-social activities as part of their hands-on learning experience".

The programme intends to have a larger focus on one-on-one engagement and communication. Because of this, focus on course readings and the written component

will be reduced, opting rather for an increased practical approach that will be undertaken significantly during class time. The course states that lecture topics include adolescent development, effective mentoring relationships, communication and counselling, ethical youth practice, and risk assessment.

The course runs every Thursday over six hours, from 9:00am to 3:00pm in Semesters One and Two. Applications are now open to UoA students for semesters one and two, 2022. The course is open to BSW, BSporthPE or BA students as an elective. Places are also open to BCom or BSc students as part of the 30 points that may be taken from other programmes. BA students may also take SOCYOUTH 300 as part of a Community Service in Youth Development Module.

Campus Connections Aotearoa is an organisation dedicated to providing therapeutic mentoring by students to youths between 13-16 years old. While operating from the University of Auckland Epsom Campus, the programme

works alongside other alternative education organisations and groups across Aotearoa. The group emphasises that both students and young people have the opportunity to connect, interact and grow in a safe and inclusive environment, while mentors are able to gain and grow important engagement skills should they wish to pursue a career in social work or not.

Within the SOCYOUTH 300 programme, youths are able to engage with their mentors individually and in larger groups in numerous activities, such as introductions to the University campuses, art, music, sports and educational opportunities as well as shared meals within groups. The course also provides opportunities for reflection and debrief for mentors, allowing for group discussion, evaluation and feedback/forward with industry professionals and peers.

Applications for the SOCYOUTH 300 course in Semester One and Two, 2022 can be found here.

UoA Launches Plan to Create a Culture of Consent on Campus



SOPHIE STEEL

CW: MENTIONS SEXUAL ASSAULT

The University of Auckland has revealed its new action plan to prevent and respond to harmful sexual behaviour on campus. Through this plan, the University says they aim to create a culture of consent and respect.

Following criticism for its response to multiple sexual assault claims against a former head of school, the UoA has announced its "Creating Cultures of Consent and Respect Action Plan." This plan outlines steps the University will take to prevent and respond to forms of sexual harm on campus, and acknowledges why it is important to have an action plan for when sexual harm occurs.

According to the Ministry of Justice (2019),

94% of sexual assault cases are not reported. After revelations that former Head of Music, James Tibbles groomed and sexually exploited students for decades, *Stuff's* Alison Mau reported that students and staff claimed they were silenced by the University. Additionally, *Stuff* reported that affected students said it took "weeks, if not months to get support" from University Health and Counselling, although the University has denied this claim.

In a video statement, AUSA Women's Rights Officer Vivien Whyte supported the University's commitment to improving its response and support protocols to sexual misconduct. "On campus students and staff have the right to feel safe within the University community as well as supported when speaking out about sexual harm." Vice-Chancellor Professor Dawn Freshwater stated that the University has done worthwhile work in this area, particularly through the implementation of a sexual harassment code of conduct. The University has also committed to ongoing funding for Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Awareness Workshops in collaboration with Rape Prevention Education.

The University has recognised that there are further improvements to be made both on campus and within the wider community. The plan highlights the University's next steps to create an environment that supports victims while also preventing any form of sexual harassment or misconduct. Whyte added that all members of the University community have a role to play in making our campus a safe space. "We need to normalise accountability and respect. This means speaking out, speaking with your mates, and being an active bystander."

The plan also acknowledges it must consider members of all communities, including, but not limited to, the LGBTQITakatāpui+, refugee, disabled and international student communities. There is also a focus on people

who are most likely to experience sexual violence. "Research shows young people, especially non-binary and trans people are disproportionately affected by sexual harm."

Currently, the UoA is underway in producing an online training module on the topics of consent and respect. It has also been indicated that in the foreseeable future there are plans to initiate annual training for all health, counselling, mental health and disability services, and HR advisory staff. However, as noted on the terminology page of the plan, the University is yet to determine suitable definitions for terms such as sexual violence and sexual misconduct, which will help form further progress and growth in these particular areas.

As stated on the University's website, their action plan is in progress, and will be consistently reviewed. Although there is no timeline available to address when updates and progress are to occur, support from staff and student leaders suggests the University is taking adequate steps to address the issue at hand.

You can view the action plan [here](#).

The plan also acknowledges it must consider members of all communities, including, but not limited to, the LGBTQITakatāpui+, refugee, disabled and international student communities.





Ia e teine lelei. Be a good girl.

A glimpse into how Pacific understandings of sex and female virginity have been impacted by colonisation and Christianity.



ASHLEY VAOTUUA AFEGA MATATUFU, FASITOOTAI AND VAILUUTAI, SAMOA

CW: REFERENCES TO RAPE, MURDER, AND ABUSE.

Applying coconut oil to the skin is an important part of Pacific cultural practices, particularly for dance. It glistens, illuminates, and accentuates her grace and beauty as the audience watches on with awe. If her skin causes the oil to dry up, she is not a virgin. She is impure. She's brought shame to her family name. *Ia e teine lelei. Be a good girl.*

For Pacific communities, sex is regarded as tapu, and as a taboo subject; it is hidden within a culture of whispers. If one were to talk about these taboo subjects in the Pacific context, they would whisper with guilt and shame.

I've been on a journey of unpacking these feelings as both a Samoan and Catholic young woman. While many say that the taboo nature of sex within my community is a 'Pacific' thing,

it would be unfair to say this without taking into account the effects of colonisation and the Christianisation of the Pacific. The ideas inflicted by missionaries in the early days became so deeply intertwined with culture that it became 'indigenised.' As a result, we don't even entertain the thought that perhaps our forebears had purpose, meaning, and beauty in their own religious beliefs.

Sex itself was colonised, and we have an everlasting reminder of that through the missionary position

I refuse to believe that these feelings of guilt and shame are rooted in true indigenous Pacific culture. Our ancestors were free, sexual beings that celebrated and honoured sex as a sacred act. The arrival of colonists and missionaries over 200 years ago meant that the beauty in nakedness and sexiness were cast to the dark period. They brought ideas of morality, modesty, and purity making us ashamed of the stories and situations that make us who we are.

Sex itself was colonised, and we have an everlasting reminder of that through the missionary position. When the missionaries arrived in the new colonies, they were disgusted with how indigenous people were having sex in doggy-like positions. As a quick fix, they taught people how to

have sex "properly" with the male-superior position. If you want to understand the extent of colonisation in this sense, then the fact that missionary is the most 'preferred' and practised position to this day speaks volumes. But you know, go off or whatever.

Pre-Christian beliefs were centered on our divine connection with the spiritual realm, having directly descended from the god, Tagaloa. This allowed our ancestors to establish genealogical links between themselves, land, seas and sky, and the seen and unseen spaces. This nurtured their reciprocal relationships with all aspects of life. Sex was a sacred act that was encouraged and celebrated because it had the power to create new life and honoured this human divinity with Tagaloa. They were not afraid or ashamed of their bodies and of sex. They saw no wrong because they were simply honouring their god and using these sacred gifts. Until one day some people convinced them that everything they had ever known was wrong, sinful, and a threat to the Christian Atua.

In ancient Samoa, *poula* was an event that flaunted the beauty and sexuality of the body, including public displays of the genitals. Knowledge custodian, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Tāisi Efi details how these formal sacred rituals would go. The *saē* included anyone willing to join except children and was a dance with the desired outcome of sexual intercourse taking place at the end. Women would expose themselves through sensual dance movements and sexually explicit chants through which men responded. These relationships were consensual as they all had a mutual understanding of the sacredness of sex. It was designed to provoke a sexual reaction ultimately as a reminder for the divinity shared with Tagaloa in being able to create life.

Breasts were exposed, and they were comfortable with nakedness (hot gal energy). Preparing the body for sex was of utmost importance to give both sexual pleasure and procreate successfully. Family members would educate their youth with open conversations about understanding one's own sexuality and being comfortable with the idea of sex. Interestingly, girls were taught about erotic sensations of the body through playful and serious conversations with older women. Yes, open conversations about what feels good. For women. By women.

Unfortunately, along with many other things, these practices and beliefs were stopped by missionaries. Undermined and forgotten... so they had hoped. We often hear of these conversions and how the Pacific people welcomed the missionaries and explorers with open arms. We read about the successful transition from being primitive societies to civilised communities. But we aren't taught about the force that drove these movements and the horrific consequences they had on women. To demonstrate the significance of modesty, some women with marks of mana had their skin removed because the Bible stated that tattooing was a sin. Other stories detail the abuse, killing, and raping of women by missionaries and colonisers. So perhaps the issue isn't that our ancestors were taught to be ashamed of their sexuality and bodies, but as a result of colonisation, they were genuinely fearful of it.

Throughout the Pacific, the ramifications are embedded in cultural practices and frame how we understand sex. The notorious wedding-night white sheet ceremony is a ritual practised in some Tongan and I-Kiribati communities. This requires women to have sex on a white sheet and bleed as proof of their virginity. If there is blood, then this shows the wife's virtue as she symbolises the purity of her family. However, if an unstained cloth is returned, then this brings great shame to her family and, in some cases, ends in divorce or disownment.

This is problematic because not all women bleed the first time or at all. The surveillance of a woman's virginity contributes to the narrative that a woman's body, even in a sexual sense, is made only for her husband. Ah, the patriarchy bro. A woman has to bleed to prove she's been keeping her legs closed while the husband's body count isn't even considered? No words.

Similarly, in the Samoan context, the *taupou* embodies the purity and status of her aiga and village. This was associated with linking families and villages throughout Samoa. Thereby, girls were closely watched and supervised from their first period. It is a collective duty for the family to protect the sexuality of unmarried Samoan women through *feagaiga*.

When you think about how everything has played out, it's actually quite sad. The surveillance of virginity is used as a mechanism of control against our women.

Our women are constantly told to keep their legs closed until after marriage, or else they'll lose their purity. Our women are told to cover up and keep their bodies hidden. Our women are uncomfortable talking about their periods. Our women are subject to abuse because men think they own their bodies. Our women carry the heavy burden of doing the most to not bring shame or dishonour to their families.

Our women are tired of being told to be good girls when in all our talk of what's good, we forget what makes us human. We cannot be telling our women that their entire worth is tied to their virginity. When we do this, we're saying that they're not worthy of love and respect and control over their own bodies. We owe it to our ancestors to find meaning and purpose in their beliefs which means we cannot continue this cycle of silence. They would want us to whisper with awe and not with guilt. *Ia e teine lelei. Be a good girl.*

We cannot be telling our women that their entire worth is tied to their virginity. When we do this, we're saying that they're not worthy of love and respect and control over their own bodies.

The Misogynistic Underbelly of Sex-Positive Feminism

Is this 'freedom to fuck' actually liberating?



LILY CHEN (SHE/HER)

You are just a hole! Dump him and double your body count! Refer to yourself as a "slut who loves sex" and watch men drool over your very existence. Is there anything kinkier than being sexually liberated from the shackles of the patriarchy? The sex positivity movement within feminism centres on the concept that sexual liberation is a goal in the feminist agenda. To be truly free, women must fight sexual repression rooted in patriarchal power structures and finally gain our prerogative to sexual pleasure. But is sex positivity just a scheme cooked up by men to craft female sexuality within the constraints of male desires?

Sex-positive feminism can be traced back to the second wave, which recognises the importance of allowing women to reclaim their sexual agency in order to achieve female empowerment. Sex is a vehicle for reimagining power, and by challenging the cultural norms surrounding sex, especially the concept that non-procreative or unmarried sex is shameful, women are empowered to embrace their bodily autonomy. Sexual liberation is necessarily politicised to dismantle the patriarchal control over sexuality. Feminists advocated against the status quo of sexual repression by promoting increased access to reproductive healthcare, comprehensive sex education, safer sexual practices, and most importantly, consent. As a pluralistic phenomenon, feminism also encompassed critique against sex positivity within the heterosexual matrix, due to the belief that male sexual dominance creates the conditions for female sexual submission, and subsequently, sexual violence. Despite the conflict between the various ideological facets, there was a mutual understanding between feminists that sexuality is not a private issue; sexuality is a structural problem shaped by patriarchy, capitalism, and white supremacy.

With the shift of sex positivity into the mainstream feminist sphere, female sexuality

slowly lost its stigma, thus destabilising the social norms of kink- and slut-shaming. In the process of stripping sex-positive feminism to the bone in order to satiate the hunger for sexual liberation, the movement misplaced the core components of consent, agency, health, and safety. Essentially, a gap was left when removing the void of sexual repression, which was filled by male fantasies and patriarchal notions of what sex should look like. Think about it, isn't it convenient that "the sexually liberated modern woman turns out to resemble—what do you know!—the pneumatic, take-me-now-big-boy fuck-puppet of male fantasy after all." These representations of empowerment under the banner of sex positivity actually are oppressive stereotypes recast as a personal choice. Apparently, for women to be equally liberated, she has to like it rough, refrain from emotional intimacy with her partner, and be open-minded enough to welcome new parties into the bedroom. This misconception (often preached by podcasts like *Call Her Daddy*) that sexual liberation is synonymous with meeting men at their level is extremely harmful, as women are encouraged to participate in a shallow repackaging of the patriarchy that does not necessarily serve their best interests.

Call me a prude, but I do not want to be choked on the first date. Nor do I want to take away young girls' autonomy to explore their bodies and be sexual. My criticisms of sex positivity are based on my own bad experiences of sexual experimentation as a teenage feminist and being pushed beyond my comfort zones to be considered 'cool.' Now, I'm very cynical about the progressive doctrines of sex-positive feminism, because I feel fucked over. Due to my exposure to sex positivity, I ingrained the idea that I should be completely comfortable with having meaningless sex and completely overlooked how this mentality caters to the patriarchy. While hook-up culture can be enjoyable, I personally did not find my encounters

rewarding but failed to articulate my grievances because doing so is considered to be 'anti-feminist.' I spent my life trying to conform to the male fantasy that is reframed as my own decision. By falling short of unrealistic and unachievable patriarchal expectations in spite of having the perfect performance, I ultimately ended up feeling exquisitely shitty about myself.

Being empowered to say yes does not cloud the right to say no. To quote bell hooks, female sexual liberation should not be misconstrued as "free pussy, with no strings attached." Sex-positive feminism cannot exist without examining the nuances of sex positivity within the intersectional framework of gender-based violence and how patriarchal power relations function in society. Feminist sexual agency can be equally about spreading your legs while swiping through a storm of Tinder matches or refusing to touch men. As long as you draw boundaries that safeguard your comfort and be cognisant that your consent may be contaminated by potentially reactionary rhetorics of sex positivity, the world is your oyster.

I spent my life trying to conform to the male fantasy that is reframed as my own decision.



Why I Wish I Had The Sex Talk

GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH

It's Sunday afternoon, and I am preparing myself for another strenuous week at intermediate by settling in with a bowl of iced animals and a few episodes of *The Lion Man*. Little did I know that a glimpse of lion porn would catalyse my comprehension of the driver of human evolution: sex.

You might think that NZ's very own Joe Exotic, Craig Busch's, AKA the Lion Man, explanation of lion sex would have been enough for me to connect the dots. But, at 12 years old, I still thought holding hands was a viable means of fertilisation. It was my friend, who, upon the whispered recount of Simba's conception, enlightened me to the fact that that was indeed how humans did 'it' too. How was I supposed to look my parents in the eyes, let alone enjoy an iced animal now?

I know I am lucky to have grown up in an open-minded and supportive family. However, the openness only extended so far. Not once did we have a conversation about sex, and I wish we did. Perhaps, I should be grateful to have been spared that awkward, avoid eye contact at all costs scenario, but in reality, the Lion Man left me with more

questions than answers. Granted, my parents probably had no idea what to say or, if they did, no idea how to say it. But I feel that any explanation would have been better than nothing. In not talking about sex, my family shut the door to broader discussions about sexuality and relationships. The message I took from the silence was that sex is taboo and, to some extent, unnatural.

It has taken many episodes of *The Guilty Feminist* and a gen-ed on Learning Sexualities to unlearn the notion that desire is a source of shame and accept that pleasure is healthy and essential to our wellbeing. Of course, my family did not create these ideas. Instead, they are a means by which the patriarchy and broader society can reproduce unrealistic, prejudiced norms. But by saying nothing, I thought any conversation about sex was off-limits. There was no opportunity to dispel the myths and criticise society's problematic ideals.

It is just dumb luck that my sources of information have been reliable. My expectations and ideas could have just as easily been based upon *Fifty Shades of*

Grey. *CSI* taught eight-year-old Ron*, an interviewee, that sex was something done only by criminals. Francesca* came to a similar conclusion—that sex was 'naughty' after googling sex when she was a child and stumbling upon a porn site.

Without our families, who can we rely upon to relay positive messages about sex? School certainly is no guarantee. I'm sure the lenses of my high school vice-principal's glasses could electronically detect when students were within 30 centimetres of each other. Moreover, the extent of our sex education was line diagrams of anatomy and pictures of genital herpes. In my opinion, all this did was medicalise the body and make sex intimidating. Although, that was probably the point.

Families surely cannot expect us to learn about sex from our friends. Bless their 14-year-old virgin hearts, were so consumed with acing year 10 that the closest we got to talking about sex was revising said line diagrams. It was not until year 11 that Ron realised 'normal' or unmarried people, i.e., his peers had sex. Even then, he felt that whether

he had sex or not, revealed his sexuality or not, people would perceive him negatively. Of course, accepting and genuine friends are invaluable supports that can help us make sense of the world. But you probably wouldn't ask your B.A. friend for help on an engineering assignment. Therefore, parents probably shouldn't let high school students be their childrens' go-to sex education resource.

I'm not saying I needed a family trip to Peaches and Cream to feel that sex was something I could talk to my parents about. Perhaps a simple rundown of what happens during puberty might have established an environment where candid discussions about sex, relationships, and wellbeing could occur. Francesca, in our interview, said that her mum was and continues to be essential to her progressive view of sex. When she was growing up, her mum never disregarded her questions or conflated having sex with some life-changing event. When she first started having sex, Francesca said that her mum was the only person she felt she could talk to or laugh with about her experiences.

As awkward as conversations about sex may be, there are benefits to having them with your parents. A meta-analysis of 52 studies showed that young people who had

discussions with their parents regarding sex were more likely to practise safer sex (Widman et al., 2016). Other studies show that people were more likely to enjoy their first sexual experience and view sex and sexual diversity positively when they heard positive messages about sex from their parents (e.g., Smiler et al., 2005).

Perhaps I am putting too much pressure on parents to be some sort of sex JSTOR. Monica*, a Chinese national, pointed out that the mere mention of anything sexual turns her dad into an ice cube. Many cultural, educational and social factors impact parental-adolescent relationships and thus the nature and content of our familial conversations. Maybe what young people with questions about sex need is an inclusive, evidence-based online resource... any coders out there? If anything, this might prevent future Francescas' first impression of sex being porn.

My parents are not entirely to blame for me equating sex with the Elephant Graveyard in *The Lion King*; that was mostly Craig Busch. But someone has to be responsible for ensuring positive, holistic and safe information about sex is available to young people when they need it. Whether it is delivered by parents, a fit-for-purpose



website, or other resource, tweens and teens should not be left in the dark about their bodies and feelings. At the very least, a big-cat-free introduction to sex will reduce internal conflict and promote sexual wellbeing.

*a pseudonym

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“The Re-Sexualisation of Asian Men”

Dating Preference, or Stereotype?



CHANTAL DALEBROUX

From the character of Long Duk Dong in cult classic *Sixteen Candles*, to the yellowface of Keith David in 2012's *Cloud Atlas*, even to Mickey Rooney's uncomfortable Mr. Yunioshi in 1961's *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, I think we can all unequivocally say: Asian men have not been treated the best by Western media. From Asian characters played by white actors (hi Scarlett Johansson!), to reducing characters down to a single attribute, the portrayal of Asians in the West has long been damaging. But how is this affecting today's young

Asians? Has representation got any better in recent times? And what does this have to do with the dating scene for young Asians in the Anglosphere?

Before the rise of film and media, Asian men were considered to be a threat to white men—white women were attracted to the bachelor communities of Chinese workers, leading Asian men to be labelled as “predatory”. In the 19th and 20th centuries, amidst economic

immigration and restructuring between China and the West (and stemming from the effects of the two world wars), Asian men started to be portrayed derogatorily, and as a group to be [feared](#).

Interestingly, the rise of K-pop and various “new” media in the Western consciousness has begun to represent Asian men as attractive, again. The crackdown on the rise of “小鲜肉” or “small fresh meat” in China proves that effeminate-



looking Asian men still feel threatening when placed in nationalistic contexts, though this 'type' of man, partially as a result of Kpop, is becoming more openly attractive elsewhere. "Small fresh meat" consists of androgynous men with features that make them appear young, enticing, and almost seeming fluid in gender.

Western media seems to love the idea of portraying Asian men as either exotic martial arts masters, or effeminate (think, Bruce Lee and the Gaysians), and this may partially be due to the history surrounding comparisons between young White and Asian men that society has seen in the past. In effect, this creates a sort of divide surrounding gender portrayals and allows for the two nationalities to be distinct from each other without the idea of Asian men once again becoming a threat.



However, the rise of "effeminate" Asian idols hasn't stopped the insidious climb of racial sexualisation. Mara* notes that even as a devout Kpop fan, the way fans sexualise their "idols" becomes "creepy", arguably crossing a moral line when fans start making claims on the idol's behalf, particularly regarding assumptions around members' perceived sexualities.

Additionally, both Jasper* and Leo* mentioned that the media predominantly focuses on stereotypes, a consequence perhaps of America's domination in the film industry. Jasper described the representations as a "strong gender binary" where the women are painted as exotic and mysterious, and the men are "not very masculine." Pandering to such stereotypes seems to please white audiences while not considering more than one or two specific Asian cultures. Even in more recent, more positive depictions such as *Crazy Rich Asians*, we still have the echoes of harmful stereotypes. Take Astrid Leong's husband. When confronted about an affair, he doesn't stand up to her, therefore embodying to an extent the 'weaker' Asian male stereotype. While this is somewhat of a reach, it's something I noted after a couple of watches when considering the framing for this piece.

[The Atlantic](#) notes that the palatability of the Asian characters to white audiences is still paramount in the 21st century—perhaps it's no surprise then that the Asian diaspora of the Anglosphere are still subject to these insidious, and often sexualised, stereotypes.

Of course, representation of any kind is something to be celebrated, especially when it caters to groups that are usually more marginalised within mainstream culture; however, when this media comes with inbuilt stereotypes, it affects the biases and mindsets of viewers. Leo and Jasper both noted that while they hadn't experienced overt discrimination, they'd experienced plenty of microaggressions—a common theme amongst the experiences of Asian diaspora in the Anglosphere.

The fact that we live in an age of dating apps and social media further complicates matters—especially considering the West's long history of fetishising Asian women, and now with the rise of the sexualised "effeminate" Asian man.

Maybe one day, ethnic minorities won't have to feel the consequences of sub-par representations in their everyday lives.

That's not to say dating preferences are inherently harmful—for example, someone might prefer a partner to have similar interests or hobbies to them if considering a serious relationship—and that's fine! But much of the research done recently points to how dating preferences can hide implicit racism.

One of the clearest examples comes from Grindr. The prominent dating app has come under public scrutiny for its implementation of ethnicity 'filters' which allow users to select a certain type of nationality to hook up with or date. Some have embraced this, but it also perpetuates much of the sexualised racism and discrimination that seems to follow Asians. Statements such as 'Race A/B/C only' or 'No Asians/No Latinos' create an uncomfortable and potentially unsafe space for other users, who become fetishised or targeted. Whether this comes from a personal attitude or the media, it's clear to see why these might be considered problematic.

And these attitudes affect individuals on a personal level, too. Leo notes that his dating experience has become more uncomfortable, as people have "internalised the stereotypes" surrounding his ethnicity, and don't see who he actually is when it comes to romantically centered interactions. If you're an Asian woman, this testimony sounds all too familiar, no?

Ultimately, the media has a long way to go, and it's worth asking what more can be done to create further realistic portrayals. Maybe one day, ethnic minorities won't have to feel the consequences of sub-par representations in their everyday lives.

*names have been changed for privacy.

The “Tumblr-Porn Gap”

How Tumblr Porn helped students discover their emerging sexuality.

DEVIKA BONNY

It's 2015. You're absentmindedly scrolling on Tumblr, and reblogging the pictures or gifs that fit well on your blog. You stumble across something R-rated and quickly scroll past. *What was that?* It's lodged into your mind now, and you know that you want to check it out again.

This was my experience with Tumblr porn, and it's reflected in the many other users of the site from our generation. Tumblr was a gateway to porn for many of us—and it's left a gap since adult content was banned in 2018.

Initially, I was shocked at seeing pornographic content on Tumblr. I hadn't seen anything so explicit before, and it felt like something I wasn't meant to see. But it interested me, and I was curious to see more.

Beth* had the same experience, coming across “random soft porn sprinkled through Tumblr,” and she found these were artistic and tasteful. Some were in black and white,

which added their erotic appeal. Similarly, Jennifer's* first exploration of digital sexuality was through Tumblr. Her girlfriend at the time ran an arts account where she would post tasteful nudes. “In my mind, I wasn't thinking porn, just pretty pictures,” said Jennifer. But in terms of pornographic content she says, “I would be on my dashboard and see porn. I wouldn't want to see it and it would be a bit of a shock if I did.”

In comparison, Heath* said he wanted to reblog the porn content rather than just see it to prove his sexual maturity. “Because I was still young,” said Heath, “it felt like a mature thing to see and have on your blog.” Tumblr was my first taste of porn and it changed my views of porn as only being accessible to men and being ‘hard-core.’ Instead, Tumblr had a range of pictures and gifs from soft and sensual, to artistic ones that didn't give much away. It wasn't in your face and it was easy to scroll away from something you didn't like as much. Even for Heath, Pornhub was shocking as he was a young boy watching fully grown men and women. When he found Tumblr, Heath said that he preferred it by a mile. “[The content] was more professionally done and the style was like a really well-done movie. It was the epitome of sexy and seemed passionate.” Heath said this made him feel more connected to the content. “It showed me that [sex] comes down to intimacy. Pornhub gives unrealistic expectations of sex

“Tumblr instead seemed like it empowered women to post images and gifs themselves. I could enjoy it more knowing they posted it.”

and how to treat your partner.”

Jennifer also preferred Tumblr to Pornhub because of the morals. She noted that “Tumblr instead seemed like it empowered women to post images and gifs themselves. I could enjoy it more knowing they posted it.” I felt the same as Jennifer and seeing the empowered content allowed me to enjoy my own body in the process. I liked that the content wasn't glorifying certain body types or being male-centric. Beth agreed, noting “I liked things more sensuous. I didn't want to see something that looked fake or intense. Tumblr was the first time I saw a penis!”

Personally, I preferred Tumblr porn as I also felt safer using it and the fact that pornographic content was just coming up on my feed made me feel better about seeing

Tumblr was a gateway to porn for many of us—and it's left a gap since adult content was banned in 2018.



it. Beth agrees; she'd never been on a porn website. "I would never even follow any porn blogs on Tumblr, but I used to search [them]." For Beth, Tumblr allowed her to control what she could see to an extent. "It was on a safe platform and not something I could get viruses or ads on." Like me, Beth was paranoid about getting caught on a porn website so we both avoided them.

Although the pornographic content on Tumblr appealed to me, I struggled to understand masturbation. I saw it as something wrong and indecent. The first few times I masturbated I felt guilty and shameful afterward. Jennifer and Beth also felt ashamed about masturbating and porn. Beth states "masturbation made me kind of uncomfortable. I found the Tumblr content sexy but the thought of masturbating to it felt voyeuristic almost. I knew logically that there was nothing wrong about it, but I felt so wrong doing it." This is a feeling I relate to, and it was a common theme amongst other female interviewees.

Although Beth also feels less shame now, she wishes female masturbation was explained in health class in high school. "I thought from mainstream media, porn and books that girls masturbated by just fingering. I remember the first time I tried to finger myself and I thought: *this is awful. Why does this not feel good?*"

So, what now? Tumblr's ban on explicit content leaves a gap for young people exploring their sexuality, and others that weren't catered for with mainstream porn. Heath believes "there needs to be more porn that is about connection rather than what [producers] think males enjoy. Women

deserve to have pleasure." He stated that he still uses Pornhub, but goes to the amateur category as it has real people enjoying themselves.

Jennifer now uses Pornhub but not that often, because of "the ethics of it, aye." She tried Wattpad fanfiction of an actor she found hot, and also considered getting an Only-Fans subscription as it is similar to Tumblr's self-made content. She found the ethics of OF better, but ultimately there was a price barrier. "[Tumblr was a good space] for when you are young and exploring your sexuality," she said, "Though I think kids nowadays use Snapchat to follow pornstars and other porn creators."

Conversely, Beth doesn't watch porn at all anymore. "Tumblr was the one place I looked at porn and the only place I would. I think it's because of the stigma around porn, it felt more acceptable on Tumblr." At one point she watched anime soft porn. "I felt better about it because it was animated, these aren't real people. It can feel voyeuristic watching people" she says, and that's why she doesn't enjoy mainstream porn. "I can't sit through [porn videos] and I don't find myself aroused by it. I am just watching two people fucking!"

Personally, I use Bellesa now—a comment that perked all the interviewees up when I mentioned they should try it. It's a porn site I like to use, as it is women-centred porn that covers all categories from sensual to rough to threesomes. It's not as sensual as Tumblr porn, but it's worth a shot!

The loss of Tumblr porn was felt by all our interviewees, and it was nostalgic for all of us to reflect. Heath sums it up eloquently. "Tumblr was a way to express ourselves

and that included our sexuality with porn. I could express my sexuality when reblogging passionate scenes." Today there's still a gap for something like Tumblr porn, especially for young people—and it's worth considering the implications. Personally, without my experience with Tumblr porn, I would not feel the way I do now about porn and masturbation.

“[Tumblr was a good space] for when you are young and exploring your sexuality,” she said, “Though I think kids nowadays use Snapchat to follow pornstars and other porn creators.”





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HOW IT WORKS

TIMELINE:

SEP 1ST – OCT 24TH

APPLICATION & COMMUNITY SHOUT-OUTS

Brainstorm your idea and describe it in a max. 60-second video. Then upload the video on the website. A team can consist of one or two people. Make sure that everyone is at least 18, an enrolled student and able to speak English. The public can then give your idea a shout-out, so make sure to show that the world needs this idea, and get support from your friends, family and others around you.

OCT 26TH – NOV 1ST

SELECTION

A panel of local judges will select the finalists based on the criteria of feasibility, impact, creativity and community shout-outs.

NOV 2ND – DEC 9TH

DEVELOPMENT

This phase is all about bringing your idea to life! Each Finalist team, one from each participating country, will get access to a workspace, 1on1 sessions with international mentors in relevant fields, and a global network of innovators.

DEC 13TH – DEC 15TH

GLOBAL FINAL

This is it: three immersive days in Istanbul, Turkey with workshops, mentorship sessions and much more, culminating in the big Final Pitch. One idea will be declared Global Winner 2021, but everyone goes home with sharpened skills, fresh insights and an expanded network. Where will their ideas take them next?

MEET LAST YEAR'S WINNERS LAVA AQUA X FROM THE UK

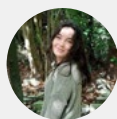


The UK team with the top idea of 2020 created a revolutionary clothes-washing machine that recycles shower water: Lava Aqua X. The product uses a third of the water a regular washing machine uses and is faster. As reference, if every student in London were to use the Aqua X, we could save enough water to fill 700 Olympic-sized swimming pools a year!



Waiting For Sex

Why students are abstaining from sex



MAIA BROWN

CW: MENTIONS SEXUAL ASSAULT

At uni it can feel like every other person is doing the dirty apart from you. Hundreds of UoA confessions about sex, the constant talk about it, and endless offers from ACCTG 101 dudes make it feel like it's something we HAVE to do—a rite of passage of sorts.

Not having sex at uni seems outrageous to some (let alone doing it intentionally). Yet at UoA, I have come across dozens of students who have made the personal decision to wait for sex. Some are waiting for someone they trust, some for love, and some for marriage. They have all sorts of reasons including faith, cultural expectations, or their own method of self-worth. This week, I dived into the world of uni students who have made the decision to not have sex. I tracked some of them down to ask them questions we all secretly want to know.

Do you feel pressure at Uni to have sex?

Absolutely. Abstinence in my experience was challenged explicitly by many of my peers, some of whom were disrespectful of my beliefs and others of whom respected my decision.

PGDip Computer Science

I feel the pressure not for the sake of having sex, but for the sake of fitting in.

BA/BCom Economics/Psychology 2nd Year

Interestingly, I've never felt pressured to have sex, but I've often felt pressured to not talk about why I don't have sex. In my experience, people often feel judged even though I'm speaking about it as my personal decision.

MHSc Nutrition

What are misconceptions about people who wait for sex?

One misconception I think is that we don't ever think about sex. This is not true. How can we not? It simply is harder to stick to convictions and beliefs.

PGDip Computer Science

I've been told that if I save sex for marriage, I will be disappointed when it finally comes. After all, nothing can live up to a two-and-

What is your experience of waiting to have sex?

My mum used to tell me to not have sex with anyone I wouldn't be willing to have a baby with. I think this is great advice because there is that risk. I think sex as well should be treated more highly than it is. People are valuable, and we devalue others and ourselves when we make sex more important than them as people. I see so many relationships fail because people are having sex from the start, overlooking all the parts of

their partner that they do not like.

**BA Philosophy/
Linguistics 1st Year**

I am waiting for the one person to whom I can wholeheartedly commit the rest of my life to. I hope that he will be the only person I ever marry—the person who understands me the most, who sees all my weaknesses and imperfections, and is still the one person on this planet who loves me the most. They will be the person I choose every day, and who chooses

me every day. There is something so precious about that exclusivity.

MHSc Nutrition

I decided at 12 that I wanted to wait as that would strengthen my relationship with God and also protect me from the risk of dating boys who only wanted sex. Unfortunately, at the age of 14, I had my choice to wait taken away from me by someone I trusted. It was a dark time for a long time. I felt like I had betrayed God—like I had done something wrong to let that happen. However, as I got older and realised that it wasn't my fault I started to get angry with God. I couldn't



a-half decade wait! But I know the heavens won't open on my first time. I just look forward to learning with my wife and laughing at our mistakes.

BA English/Media 3rd Year

There are more people out there than you imagine. You can have a highly fulfilling life without sex. We don't think sex is gross or wrong. There's nothing wrong with choosing to wait, even if you have already had sex.

BA Philosophy/Linguistics 1st Year

believe that that was his plan for me, that when I had put faith in him and trusted in his path for me, he had let this happen. I got a boyfriend at the age of 15 and decided that it wasn't worth continuing to wait almost out of spite, I had sex with him and when our relationship ended two years later, I started sleeping around.

BA History/Geography 2nd year

That obsession with virginity in Christian circles is the root of a lot of oppressive doctrines, especially for women. I think that saving oneself for marriage is beautiful, but elevating it to a pedestal is nothing less than pharisaical.

BA English/Media 3rd Year

If you have recommitted to waiting, why?

I found that the more I leaned into the narrative regarding sex, the more I desired sex, and the more I felt that what I did get was not enough. The narrative of the normalcy of pornography, the sexualisation in media, the constant conversation which involved talking about the other sex objectively greatly impacted the way I thought and acted negatively towards women. It brought me to make unwise relationship decisions.

PGDip Computer Science

When I met my current boyfriend, it felt like a new beginning; he was waiting until marriage and I had to face my fears and decide if it was something I could recommit myself to doing again. I was scared to put myself back in a position where something that meant a lot to me could be taken from me and so I had a lot of internal conflict about whether dating this boy would be worth the mental stress or not. I eventually came to the decision that while recommitting to waiting was too scary for me, I was happy to wait until he felt ready to have sex.

BA History/Geography 2nd year

My only experience with sex was people using me. The first guy cheated on me. The next guy took advantage of me. Then I tried out the idea of waiting, and when I started putting my foot down, the douchebags gave up and the genuinely great guys were willing to go after my personality and not just my body.

BA/BCom Psychology/Economics 2nd Year

Do you ever consider changing your decision?

A 'what if' occasionally flits over my mind, but I think a life based on what-ifs isn't a healthy one. There are times where I wish I had sought help instead of drawing my own conclusions on the assault, I think it would have given me a healthier outlook on sex as a teenager, but everything I have been through has taught me important life lessons that I can now use to help other people.

BA History/Geography 2nd year

I'm very stubborn and I rarely change my mind once I've decided something, so no. There are moments where I imagine what it would be like if I did change my mind, but whenever I do think about it, it only reminds me of why I decided to wait in the first place.

MHSc Nutrition

I have sexual thoughts often. I would quite like to have sex often. But these desires don't make me doubt my decision, there are lots of types of feelings that we shouldn't act on.

BA Philosophy/Linguistics 1st Year

Are you missing out?

No. I genuinely believe that life is so much more rewarding without sex being a hugely influential drive of my everyday decisions. Sex was implanted as an extremely appetising thing, but it by no means lived up to what it promised. Don't get me wrong, it was enjoyable, but it was not worth the extra mess.

PGDip Computer Science

No. Of course, at times it can be frustrating. But sex isn't the most important thing in life. We don't need it like we do oxygen, water, good relationships, meaning, and love. Having had sexual experiences, I know it will be worth waiting.

BA Philosophy/Linguistics 1st Year

Of course. Sex is a God-given gift, so it's probably pretty great.

BA English/Media 3rd Year

How do other students react when you tell them?

People are often surprised. Some people think it would turn you into a psychopathic killer, driven mad by chastity. Thankfully, I can say this isn't true. My friends generally understand and are very supportive!

BA Philosophy/Linguistics 1st Year

I've had off-hand remarks that I was oppressing myself by not having sex, comments of "I could not do that," and other friends who said things such as "Geez! I would totally have gone to church if I had known the girls/guys were hot."

PGDip Computer Science

How have romantic partners reacted?

Unfortunately, the no-sex-before-marriage conversation is one that needs to happen early in a relationship. A few weeks into my current relationship, I told my non-Christian girlfriend, "We need to talk about something serious." She stiffened, as though she knew what I would say, and that it would hurt. When I told her, she sighed, relieved, and said, "Oh, thank God. That's fine. I thought you were going to say that you have another girlfriend."

BA English/Media 3rd Year

I don't want to be with someone who doesn't share my values, so it's never an issue within a relationship.

BA Philosophy/Linguistics 1st Year

My first long-term relationship ended as I recommitted to becoming a Christian. I did not communicate with her clearly about this and for a while there was so much confusion and bitterness between us. I felt like an absolute pest for putting her through it all. We were able to reconcile a few months later with understanding and even with forgiveness.

PGDip Computer Science

What made you ready if you have now had sex?

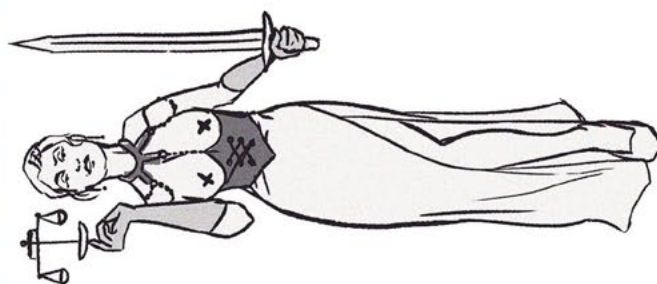
A few months into our relationship, my boyfriend and I started to have conversations surrounding sex. He was conflicted as to whether or not he wanted to keep waiting and I wanted to make sure that whatever decision he came to was one he was completely comfortable with as I had nothing but respect for his choice to wait. After many discussions, he came to the conclusion that he was ready and that is not a decision that either of us regret.

BA History/Geography 2nd year

Sorry ACCTG 101, better luck next time. All jokes aside, you can choose to wait, and it's perfectly normal if you're not doing it. There are other people out there and you can let go of some of the pressure. Sex doesn't have a rule of when is the right time to start, so discover what you think is right for you, and stick to your convictions.



THE HIGH PRIESTESS.



JUSTICE.



THE EMPRESS.

TAROT OF THE SEX



THE EMPEROR.



TEMPERANCE.

GLUE SOME CARD ONTO THE BACK OF THIS CENT
BACK AT OUR FUTURE ISSUE FOR THE OTHER HA



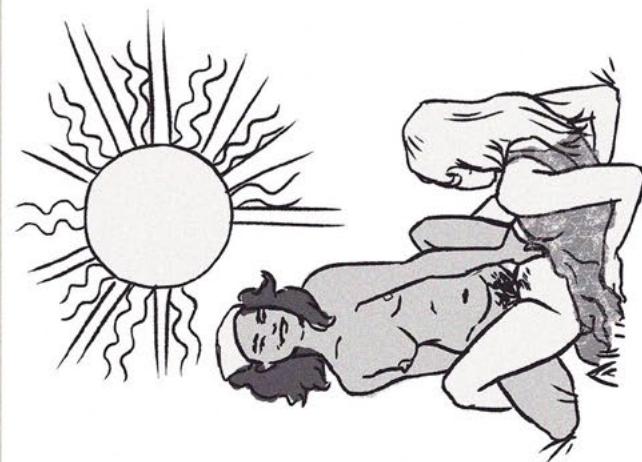
THE HERMIT.



THE WORLD.



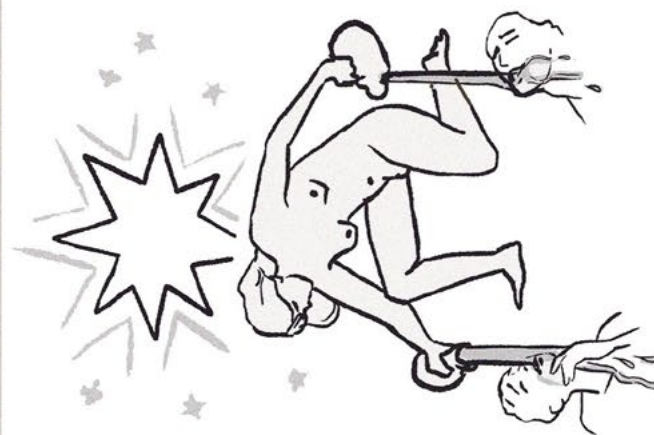
THE HANGED MAN.



THE SUN.



THE MOON.



THE STAR.

PREFOLD PAGE AND CUT ALONG EACH CARD. LOOK
 UP OF YOUR OWN SET OF MAJOR ARCANA CARDS

Reviews.



FILM **THE FIRST TIME** DIR. JON KASDAN

GABBIE DE BARON

Ah yes. **Dylan O'-fucking-Brien**. So, just news, he bleached his hair for a role earlier this August. There's a TikTok about it, and I highly recommend you watch it. FROTHING. But anyway, let's get down to it: *The First Time*. Released in 2012 and written by **Jon Kasdan** tells the tale of raging teenage hormones and how car rides can escalate into a steamy, first-time-having-sex experience. Honestly, as much as I love this movie, because of the quirky comedy and O'-fucking-Brien, it's just so painstakingly straight. The idea that penetrative sex, is the 'main' kind of sex is just SO heteronormative. Sex is sex, whether it's oral or by hand, and I guess movies like this just build up on a less progressive side, but sure, let's forgive it for being made nine years ago.

Though, I do have to agree, that there is a certain amount of wit and dry humour that does satisfy... and the entertainment and drama of it all is super fun. I wouldn't scale it towards the cringey side of film, but neither the 'indie' side. It's just a film for the sake of being entertained. Though the way they depict a first time is just too sexy, rather than it just being a purely new experience. Aside from that, the heroine was obviously written by a male who wanted to depict a female lead who is 'not like other girls'; with her 'pick me' personality it's hard to distinguish whether or not she was made based on a specific character or to perpetuate a specific character.

"It's just so painstakingly straight."



MUSIC **WAP** CARDI B FEAT. MEGAN THEE STALLION

GABBIE DE BARON

In terms of kinky language, *WAP* hits the nail on the head. If ya catch my meaning. I mean, obviously, two Black women rapping about hot, wet sex was gonna catch some buzz in the mainstream media. Even if rap is notorious for spitting about sex and just filled with innuendos, there's something very opposing about the female standpoint of *WAP*. As Jennifer Higgie puts it, "the feminine signifies a force in society which opposes it," and, in this case, sex isn't even described in the stereotypical feminine way (e.g. soft or intimate), but in a more progressive view: for fun, for pleasure.

Initially, I started listening to the song ironically, since the TikTok dance craze, but now no lies here, I fucking love it. For starters, **Cardi B** and **Megan Thee Stallion** are absolute rap powerhouses, and they just rap with so much confidence, finesse, and power! Secondly, it's a danceable anthem, no cap. The heavy beats are so good – which are linear to dropping it low, if ya catch my meaning. Thirdly, the actual presence and lyrics of the song are just fun. The way that they use everyday language, but also 'sex-slang' has a kink to it. My favourite line has to be "I want you to park that big Mack truck right in this little garage." Big lols, fucking genius. Though, in terms of musical-sexual-awakening, I still have a strong inclination to *ctrl* by **SZA**, but for rap singles I would definitely say it is an absolute bop.

"*Anaconda* walked so that *WAP* could run. Period."



CRACCUM STAFF PICK **LIVE NUDE GIRLS UNITE!** (2000) DIR. VICKY FUNARI AND JULIA QUERY

MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY

The controversies surrounding OnlyFans have been covered by the most mainstream of news outlets over the last year or so, bringing further attention to issues of discrimination within the sex work industries. However, there are various grassroots movements that have snowballed to create this space for this advocacy. Over 20 years ago, dancers at The Lusty Lady, a peep show venue in San Francisco, became the first successfully unionised workforce at a sex business in North America. *Live Nude Girls UNITE!* is a documentary that provides a valuable perspective of this formative frontline fight for labour rights.

Julia Query, one of the film's directors, narrates the intimate documentary. She explains the various issues that pushed the workers to fight for the right to unionise: **Siobhan Brooks** spoke out about discriminatory race-based wage policies and other forms of racism at the establishment, workers were being filmed by customers, and there were no paid sick-days or holidays. The workers undergo hours of negotiation and discuss the emotional tolls of their fight. The main thesis of the film is that sex work is real work, and that sex workers deserve safe and fair working conditions in workplaces that profit from their labour. Watching *Live Nude Girls UNITE!* today serves as a bit of a rude awakening. The discussion from these workers is all still relevant to our discourses about sex work today, and we're still working to overcome taboos surrounding sex work in 2021. However, it's also an encouraging watch, highlighting the power of the people and the good that organisation can do.

"If you liked *Hustlers*, this is 100% up your street."



PORN
**SPONGEKNOB
SQUARENUTS**
DIR. LEE ROY MYERS

MR KRABS

Spongeknob Squarenuts is a raunchy live-action parody of the kids' cartoon *Spongebob Squarepants*. The theme song was probably the highlight of the episode, but beyond that, it was pure nightmare fuel. The way the oversized Spongebob costume dwarfed the actor's face more closely resembled the Man in the Moon than Spongebob. I was never attracted to Spongebob in the first place, but this was a huge turn-off for me. However, they nailed the voice and the iconic laughter. Although entertaining, purely for the comical aspect, the plot was fairly basic. Spongeknob tries to impregnate Sandy Cheeks so that he can continue the Sponge population. The porn scenes themselves feature a lot of close-ups of Spongeknob's uncanny facial expressions, enough to shiver anyone's timbers. We also don't get to see any other of our favourite bikini bottom characters which is possibly a good thing. While the episode itself contains 12 whole minutes of nautical naughtiness, there are also plenty of other scenes that make this show a multi-genre gem, such as when Sandy alludes to eating her offspring, creating an element of potential horror. The fact that she is a squirrel and eating her children is supposed to be normal is deeply disturbing. Spongeknob doesn't mind though, since being indigestible runs in his family. From what I have seen, I would classify SpongeKnob Squarenuts as an erotic comedy-horror as it somehow managed to make me laugh and absolutely terrify me at the same time.

"Are ye legally aged adults ready to watch some porn?"



PORN
**FAT GIRL PLAYS WITH
HER DIRTY DIAPER DO
YOU WANT TO SEE?**
DIR. NICOLETTA EMBASSI

MELISSA JOAN HART

One day, the travelling fair entered town. It was one of those small-knit operations with only the staples: the performing animals, trickster game operators, deep-fried goodness, and so on. But in the corner of the grounds was a shabby little tent, with no one paying attention to the purple fibreglass eye on its entrance, all others too concerned with the bright lights and such. But I noticed it.

When I entered this forgotten abode, there was a small woman, no taller than the chair she was sitting on, who beckoned forward with an index finger missing the top portion of the bone. She asked me to peer into her cataract-ridden eyes, and tell her what I saw within them. I couldn't handle the visions, the colours of a sickly being. The fluids were endless. The knowledge was not mine to know. I stumbled back, the woman cackling, and I ran. I didn't stop running until I got home.

Years later, when asked to review some porn for *Craccum*, I jumped at the opportunity. I'm a liberated woman. But when I opened up Pornhub to select some content we could all enjoy, the colour drained from my face. I heard the cackling all over again, rising endlessly, the shivers of a memory long thought dead rising from its rocky grave. The vision I had all those years ago... it was staring right at me.

'Fat girl plays with her dirty diaper do you want to see?' But I had. Oh God, I already had.



WEEKLY TOP TEN

- 1. GOOEY**
Leaping Tiger
- 2. SIX-OUT-OF-TEN FRIEND**
Lunavela
- 3. FINE DINE**
Lb
- 4. DRAG FEAT. JADE LEWIS**
Reuben Hudson
- 5. BEFORE**
No Romance
- 6. SHE'S STRONG**
The Biscuits
- 7. COREFLUTE**
Goya
- 8. EL ALAMO**
Jang
- 9. ÌHENGÀ**
Alien Weaponry
- 10. GREEN**
Mā

ILLUSTRATION BY NIRVANA HALDAR

Which Moordale Student Are You?



LUCKY MINGE & HAIRY BUTTCHEEKS





1. Adam

Haha you meathead. We had to put Adam in the science section, but honestly he is shit at school. And if you think Adam is a stool instead of a spinny chair you just need to watch Season 3. You have a heart of gold and some serious daddy issues. It will all get better soon.



2. Ola

Little and fiery. Great character, and a personal favourite. She is smart, strong, and kind. And we are assuming she has quiet and stinky farts.



3. Viv

Where Maeve is edgy, raw talent bright, Viv is driven and hardworking bright. Your motivation leaves little time for other people—unless you are end of Season 3 Viv, in which case you have achieved a very nice balance and have all of your shit sorted.



4. Otis

Congratulations, you are the main character! But only because your shitty decisions slightly outweigh your good ones and make for really good television.



5. Ruby

You make most people dribble when you walk past. And we find out that in fact you do have a soul. So, that's nice. I wonder if Netflix is trying to get some sort of deeper message across about us all being human with our own issues and feelings. Ruby says some funny shit as well.



6. Maeve

Clever, like Excellence Level 3 Unfamiliar Text clever. And badass. Shitty upbringing which makes your achievements all the more impressive.



7. Rahim

Poetry, love, douching, French accent, throwing shit out windows; Rahim has it all. Seems like a bit of a loner, but loyal to the friends you have.



8. Jackson

Ctrl+C Troy from *High School Musical*. With more depth.



9. Anwar

People don't make eye contact with you because you are mean. But alas, you are still human, with human problems, and at the end of the day you do care. Deep, deep down.



10. Lily

A little bit nuts, but fun nuts. The world would be a better place if we had more Lily. You were probably the kid that used to pretend to be a horse at primary school and that's why people don't make eye contact with you now.



11. Aimee

Aimee to Maeve, is what Eric is to Otis. You are the class clown and a fiercely loyal friend. Her bus side-story made our flat collectively cry, but she just keeps pushing through. 4 out of 5 people will agree that Aimee is the best.



12. Eric

Everyone needs a friend like Eric. You are proud of who you are but you do seem to think with your penis quite a lot. You do still have to work out where your sexuality aligns with your culture, but I mean we can't have complete character development because then no Season 4.

How to Pop Your Popcorn ;)

Five noteworthy sexy movies, ranked (with minor spoilers).



JAY ALEXANDER

Sex. We all know it; we all love it. But with back-to-back assignments, exams, and everything life throws at us (ahem, COVID), lone riders and distant couples lack a good 'catch-up.' Sure, there's porn and all the other internet goodies, but how about something more thematically fulfilling? Something that is sexy, steamy, yet intellectually stimulating, and even worth your emotional time. These movies will be rated with everything you need to know: Are they cringey? Are they safe to watch with the folks? Are they meaningful to the rest of the movie's story? And most importantly, are they at all sexy?



Sausage Party

Dir. Conrad Vernon/Greg Tiernan

I think starting with this will make a lot of you uncomfortable. There's nothing quite like anthropomorphic food stuffs making dirty joke after joke for a whole 90 minutes. Sure, the imagination can only go so far with walking sausages, twinkies and buns, but I will be damned if they don't milk the damn things. The most memorable point of the movie, of course, is the abomination that is the ending orgy. A messy, Mickey Mouse handed horror show of beet-jobs, hot sauce motor-boating and perhaps one of the most disgusting nut goggling acts I've ever seen (**Edward Norton**, how could you?). The three minutes feel agonising and none of it is remotely connected to any steamy thoughts, yet it does admittedly carry on the rest of the movie's over-the-top feel. But yeah, I'd like to move on from this (and forget). I definitely feel bad for parents that meant well for their kids.

Cringe value: 10/10

Family value: 1/10

Story value: 6/10

Sexiness: 2/10

The Handmaiden

Dir. Park Chan-Wook

I will be brief with this, as the less you know for this movie, the better, but hot damn if this is a top contender for this list. This movie's lengthy scenes of action are highly engaging through their handling of relationships. You're seeing two people bloom from this experience rather than a sex-for-no-reason kind of deal and it presses the complex story forward continually. That's quite the feat for what are, essentially, really intimate scenes between the female leads. They really do every position known to humankind, frequently in really long scenes within the epic runtime. Additionally, the behind-the-scenes are very interesting to look at. **Park Chan-Wook** ensured that women made up the crew on set while filming these

scenes, to make sure both actresses were as comfortable as possible while filming these scenes. This produces a natural aura of intimacy between the actresses, but never once does it feel gratuitous or unnecessary allowing for a possible parental viewing experience with the emotionally impacting story.

Cringe value: 2/10

Family value: 5/10

Story value: 8/10

Sexiness: 10/10

Brokeback Mountain

Dir. Ang Lee

Probably the most popular pick on the list, this legend of a movie was not only a major step for mainstream LGBTQ+ cinema at the time, but a highly steamy flick. **Ledger** and **Gyllenhaal** are impeccable in their roles and equally amazing with their chemistry-filled action (I mean, who else can break a nose by kissing too hard?). The romance is totally heated and you really feel for every bit of the plights and melodramatic pulls. Of course, **Michelle Williams** and **Anne Hathaway** share some sex scenes of their own. But what we're really here for are the two cowboys and the scenes between them that complement the overarching story of love, loss, and the mundanity of life getting in the way. The relationship feels so realistic and it tugs at the heartstrings to watch them interact throughout the years. You so genuinely feel everything they feel and so much of that gives you a warm comforting buzz. This leaves a pretty steamy movie worthy of watching with the folks.

Cringe value: 2/10

Family value: 8/10

Story value: 10/10

Sexiness: 7/10

Y Tu Mamá También

Dir. Alfonso Cuarón

More than just a film that makes you feel bad that you don't have time for a roadie, **Alfonso Cuarón's** fourth major hit is a movie that explores everything about relationships we have, physically and emotionally. The two main men (played by the smoking hot **Diego Luna** and **Gael García Bernal**) are at a crossroads with Luisa (the beautiful **Maribel Verdú**). Their scheme to have sex with her through the trip is tangled with emotional plunges and moments of fatigue that solidify what they mean to each other. All three face their problems beside each other, and the journey is high strung and purposeful towards understanding pure love. The sex scenes in this movie emulate that passion, by being totally raw and realistic. The camera steadies these scenes with maximum coverage, and you really do see more than what most bargain for in the standard Hollywood sexual encounter. The best aspect is how simple they are with single long takes and actors fully committing to the sometimes awkward nature of sex. There's an aura of intimacy displayed that is all too real, with the emotions around the action being vital to note. Sure, no one should watch this with their folks, but it makes total sense to the story. Oh, and this movie has some of the most sexually heated conversations I've ever heard (lollipops and clits anyone?).

Cringe Value: 3/10

Family Value: 3/10

Story Value: 10/10

Sexiness: 9/10

Love

Dir. Gaspar Noé

From the first shot alone, *Love* puts literally nothing out of the realm of possibility. Threesomes, domination, eating out, spooning. Literally everyone is horny, driven, and fronting their sex drives through the two hours of this movie, and honestly, it can be extremely hard to keep up with at times. These unsimulated (yes, unsimulated) scenes between the actors are long, explicit and taken in some of the most visually striking frames I've seen. Once you think it can't get more insane with the amount of sex—boom, you're thrown into a mass orgy. These shots are stupidly high definition and have a mix of visceral and sexy sounds littered throughout. In essence, it's one big-budget step away

from the normal porn video, and the "story" doesn't do much of anything to disprove that. These are terrible characters who are acted in this disjointed improvised script that actually loses a bit of sexiness due to how cringe-worthy they are. The main character especially is a douche and you just don't feel all that hot seeing him get at it, hard. Keep this away from the folks, and unless you want stunning HD quality, just go on the hub.

Cringe Value: 8/10

Family Value: 0/10

Story Value: 2/10

Sexiness: 8/10



BDSM: It's not all Leather Daddies and Yes Mistress

Did you know Rita Ora was in Fifty Shades? Lol.



ZACHARY WALKER

SHADOWS
BAR & EATERY
CONTRIBUTOR OF THE WEEK

What is BDSM? *It's the knowing use of psychological dominance and submission, and/or physical bondage, and/or pain, and/or related practices in a safe, legal, consensual manner in order for the participants to experience erotic arousal and/or for personal growth.*

Thanks to the release of the *Fifty Shades of Grey* franchise, the field of BDSM launched into the mainstream. As is common for most subcultures becoming suddenly exposed to the masses, this has resulted in BDSM becoming oversimplified and the mainstream adoption of a lot of incorrect BDSM misconceptions and myths. So, let's clear up some of these myths, shall we?

Myth 1: BDSM is a thing only for freaks and most people aren't interested in it

Like most myths, this one does come from a nugget of truth that has then been exaggerated and misinterpreted, as is

the norm! In this case, the nugget of truth is that BDSM is only practised by a low number of individuals. A 2002 study in Australia that interviewed 19,000 Australians via phone had 1.8% of the sexually active participants admit to being involved in BDSM within the previous year. It's pretty straightforward then; BDSM is pretty rare, right?

Well actually....

This study only counted those who had engaged in BDSM within the past year, meaning those who hadn't engaged previously or had lacked a partner in the last year weren't included in these results. The study didn't include people who only enjoy specific BDSM elements like blindfolds and bondage. If you include these people, it's way more common!

In fact, rough estimates put it that:

- 64% of women and 53% of men fantasise about being dominated sexually;
- 46% of women and 59% of men fantasise about dominating someone else; and,
- 52% of women and 46% of men fantasise about being tied up by someone.

I'd say it's pretty clear that BDSM is interesting to a lot of people. So, that myth is busted!

The idea that those who engage in restraints, tend to be the ones with the less restrained mental states is rather amusing. Funky, right?

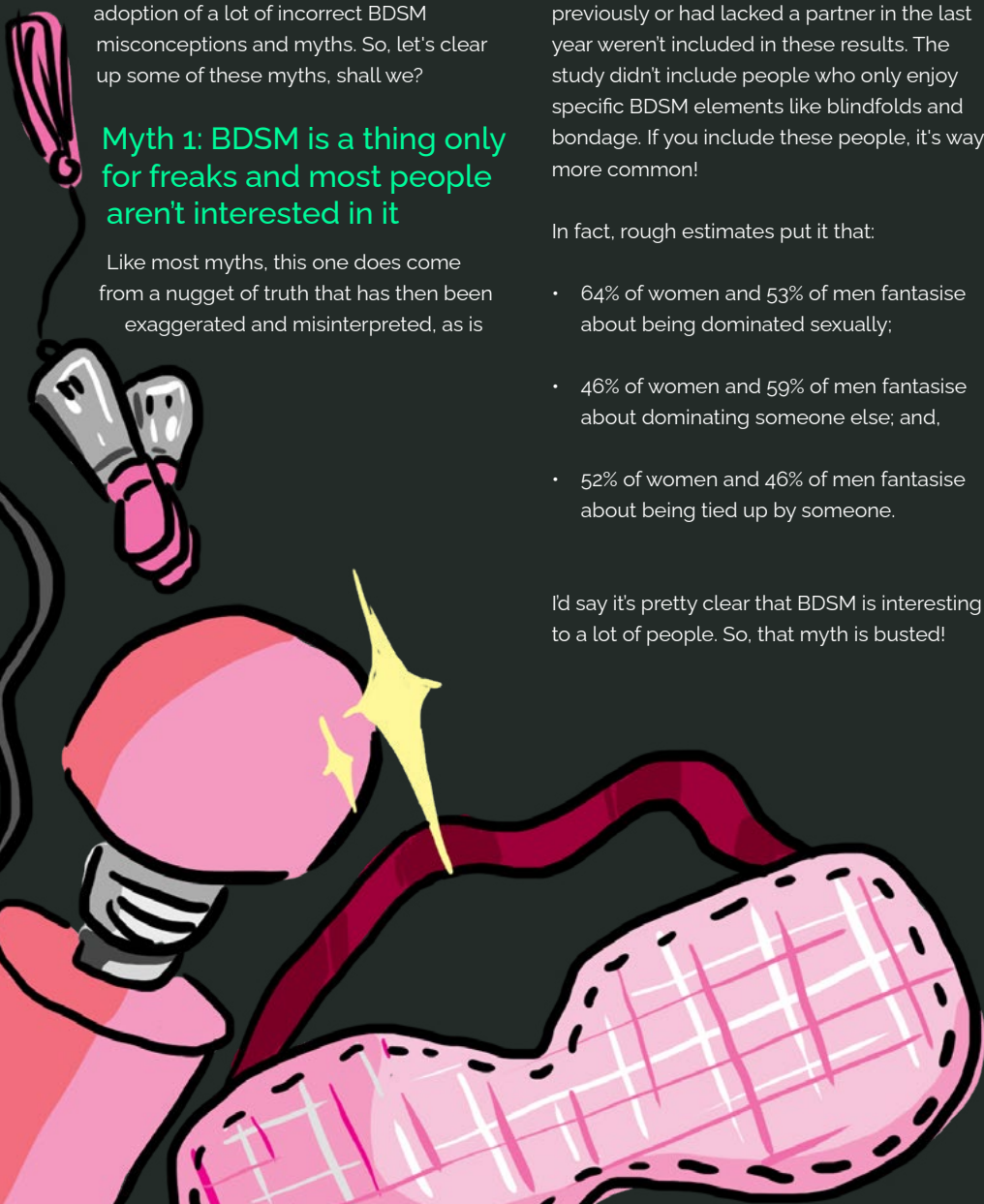
Myth 2: BDSM Practitioners are mentally unsettled

Most people tend to think that BDSM is only practised by individuals suffering from some form of mental illness and often refer to BDSM practitioners as freaks. In fact, before 2013, participating in BDSM was considered a sign of mental illness. Thankfully, that's changed and these days BDSM is only considered a disorder when it stops someone from living a functional life.

Still, most people think those that practise BDSM are missing a couple of screws. But guess what? Turns out getting screwed means that BDSM practitioners might actually be more sound than the rest of us. Studies show that compared to the average Joe, BDSM practitioners are:

- Less neurotic;
- More extroverted;
- More open to new experiences;
- Less sensitive to rejection;
- Less likely to experience depression, paranoia, or anxiety; and,
- More healthy in their well-being.

The idea that those who engage in restraints,



tend to be the ones with the less restrained mental states is rather amusing. Funky, right?

Myth 3: BDSM is only about sex

When defining BDSM, I made sure to specifically stress that the practice of BDSM is not inherently sexual; this is because of our third myth. While there is an undeniable sexual motivation for BDSM, there are several non-sexual motivations for BDSM practitioners. One of these is the idea of rescripting trauma.

So, how can one practise BDSM to rescript trauma?

Now for the academic shit. Strap in (or strap on). There is this theory called 'escape from self.' When people experience anxiety or discomfort from the pressures of responsibility and maintaining a favourable public image, the stress from these experiences can cause individuals to foster a desire to escape from the strict constraints placed upon themselves by engaging in something that they do not have to control, such as watching TV, extreme sports or consumption of drugs. Many elements of BDSM such as non-permanent pain and bondage also facilitate individuals to escape from themselves, by using the altered states of consciousness achieved during BDSM to divert distress away from the individual's concerns.

This plays into something called transient hypofrontality, which refers to a state when the focused, thought-processing part of the brain has been turned off. Individuals experiencing transient hypofrontality will feel like they are in a sort of dreamlike state with feeling unburdened by social constraints, experiencing a reduction of pain and removal from the mess of their thoughts by being pulled into the here and now. Once an individual is using BDSM to deliberately work through their trauma, they are partaking in something known as trauma play.

Trauma play is the act of repeatedly reenacting one's trauma due to the human drive to seek understanding and coherence of an originally confusing event that was not obtainable during the original event. This repeated reenactment allows the individual to not only gain a better understanding of their trauma, but also by bringing the trauma to the surface of the brain, the individuals are given a chance to rescript the trauma, which

is first done by allowing the individual to express unspoken feelings and thoughts. This process can also be clinically referred to as "growth." It can easily be seen by the increase in the individual's range and freedom of psychological exploration and their quality of life outside of BDSM—such as experiencing less anxiety and stress. Yes ma'am!

By deconstructing these three major BDSM myths, I hope you now know just how bad a representation of BDSM in the *Fifty Shades* series is. The writing quality sucks, but we've all *been* aware of that. There's an entire world out there, and if you're interested in trying out things yourself, I hope your experience is far healthier than anything depicted there.

(Lifestyle editor's note: *Try out Belle de Jour for a more interesting entry-level movie with these themes*)

We edited out Zachary's sources for the sake of room, but please message us @ Craccum if you have any questions, as we'd be happy to provide the bibliography that went into this piece.

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Ask a Sexologist

Craccum's own Dolly Doctor



EDA TANG

Chantelle Otten is Lovehoney's resident psychosexologist who is passionate about empowering people to feel great about their sexual health, self-esteem, communication and education.

Having spent time living, studying and working in Holland, Chantelle grew up with the European mindset that talking about sex, pleasure and relationships does not have to be shameful or taboo. A natural born communicator, she enjoys creating a setting where her clients can feel relaxed and free to talk about their sexual health in a safe, judgement-free environment.

With numerous awards, accolades and published medical journal articles, Chantelle is not only an internationally acclaimed psychosexologist, but also a caring and empowering sex educator. With a background in scientific research, sexual medicine, and counselling, she believes that sexuality and self-esteem are an integral part of life that everyone is entitled to. Good sexual health should always be enjoyable, pain free and without prejudice.

This week, Chantelle answers the questions you sent to *Craccum* about sex, sexuality and pleasure.

How do students living in shared apartments have sex when flatmates are around?

A house full of flatmates can make it challenging to have sex, but it's definitely not impossible. If you're conscious of your roomies listening in, then why not schedule a playlist to pop on while you're doing the deed. The music will mask all of your moans and groans and provide a beat you can get down to. It's also best to stick to positions that require a little less athleticism, particularly if you have a squeaky bed on your hands. The sexy spoon is a great position thanks to the limited thrusting required, and if you happen to be unlucky enough to get busted in on

during your alone time, you can just pretend you're having a cheeky cuddle.

Quiet sex toys are another great option for sharehouse sex and there are a huge range available. My favourite would have to be the Womanizer Premium Smart Silence Clitoral Stimulator. This one features an innovative smart silence function which only activates once it comes into contact with your body. You can enjoy the mind-blowing sensations that this oral-style toys deliver without all of the noise.

What are some ways of having sex when you experience pain or immobility?

A lot of people experience pain during

intercourse for many reasons, but the good news is there are way around this so you can enhance your sex life. First thing's first: it's a good idea to go see your doctor to find out why there is pain. If you don't get an answer, get an assessment from a sexologist. Sex shouldn't be painful, so if it is an ongoing pain, we need to find out why!

Next, regardless if you're already wet, you can always stand to be wetter. Lube acts as a buffer, helping with sexual pain caused by friction, water-based lubricant is typically the safest for sensitive skin. Additionally, sex toys are literally designed to increase arousal and the more turned on you are, the less likely you are to experience pain. If clitoral stimulation doesn't hurt, embrace clitoral vibrators. If you're really wanting to go with penetrative, inserting a cool or warm



stainless steel dildo can help reduce pain. Experiment with your body and discover what your pleasure is. Don't rush and if something arouses you, focus on that and go with it!

What ideologies do you think are most damaging towards our sense of positive sexuality?

Sex is often portrayed as some kind of 'performance' when depicted in movies and on television, which gives people a false sense of reality. We actually need to focus on pleasure in the bedroom. Because when you think about it, sex is so individual. It's messy, it's sweaty, and it's unique. It's not always pretty and we should never try and be something or someone that we're not. Additionally, we need to remember that sex is an umbrella term, and it does not just mean penetration and orgasm: it's everything that's on the sexual menu. It's important for people to explore their unique sexual menu, try different options, and experiment with different spices and cuisines in the bedroom.

Who should/when should I see a sexologist?

You should see a sexologist if you are experiencing any issues that are impacting your sex life. I see individuals and couples for sex advice, therapy, and empowerment. Common questions I hear include:

- My partner wants to have sex more often than I do
- Our desires are different as a couple
- We would like to get more out of our relationship
- Sex is difficult! I have a sexual problem or my partner has a sexual problem
- My partner and I are growing apart
- I don't have an intimate relationship
- I have issues or problems that interfere with sex and relationships
- My illness is affecting my sex life or my relationship

Is it okay to be scared of your first time?

It's completely normal to be scared about having sex for the first time. It's okay to be nervous or anxious, because it's unlike anything you've ever done before. But to make the experience less intimidating, I would suggest getting familiar with your own body and taking some time to explore what you like and dislike. Whether that's indulging in a little self pleasure, or simply admiring your body in the mirror, getting familiar with your body will help you to feel more comfortable and confident when it comes to sex. You'll also be able to better communicate your desires to your partner, which will make the overall experience so much better.

Can some people just be born unable to cum? I haven't been able to ever :(

Some people will not be able to orgasm.. but there are many, many ways to experiment and try. I believe that if you are trying too hard to orgasm, it's going to be difficult. The most important thing to do is aim for pleasure, enjoy the sensation and have fun. I would recommend a sexology appointment if you are distressed about it!

I used to enjoy sex but recently I haven't wanted to do it at all (as in the last year). What's wrong with me?

Nothing! There will always be stages in our lives where sex is high on the priority list, and sometimes it will be low. It really depends on what has been going on in your life, psychologically, socially, and physically. To be honest, many people are struggling with COVID-19 and sexuality. I have a sexual self esteem guide that might help you get your confidence in this area back. Or go to a sexology appointment. Don't be hard on yourself; sex drive takes work!

Is it possible to orgasm without touching your genitals? If so, how?

Yes, whilst most orgasms are achieved by stimulating the genitals, there are many ways to stimulate other parts of your body and reach orgasm. The lesser known erogenous zones such as the ears, the neck, the scalp,

and even the feet can stimulate feelings of pleasure that can lead to orgasm. If you really want to turn up the heat, try experimenting with sensory play products such as a feather tickler, or a scented massage candle.

Did you learn something new too? For more tips, you can follow Chantelle on social media at @chantelle_otten_sexologist

Sex is often portrayed as some kind of 'performance' when depicted in movies and on television, which gives people a false sense of reality. We actually need to focus on pleasure in the bedroom.



Debunking the Myths Against Consensual Non-Monogamy

Carrie Bradshaw, eat your heart out.



FLORA XIE

A classic Hollywood rom-com ending is where the protagonist lives 'happily ever after' with The One after they realise that they should stop sleeping around with other people and commit to just one person. But why? What's wrong with the main character consensually having several different partners? Is it bad to love more than one person, romantically? Is it wrong to want to sleep with more than one person?

Monogamy is the societal norm. How many of us have pined after or idealised being in a relationship with someone who was just completely devoted to only you? It's ingrained in us that we're only supposed to only have one partner, and that non-monogamous lifestyles are abnormal and taboo. In fact, when I first heard about it as a thing, I never even considered the possibility of practising it, only that you're meant to commit to one person, and one person only. Just so we're clear, I'm talking about consensual, and ethical, non-monogamy. This is when everyone in the various relationship arrangements willingly consents to seeing other people and having multiple different sexual or romantic partners. Non-monogamous relationships take many different forms: open relationships, polyamory, monogamish, and more casual arrangements like friends with benefits. So, let me clear the air on people's psychological assumptions of consensual non-monogamous (CNM) relationships.

An important thing to clarify here is that commitment does not equal monogamy. Monogamy is just having one romantic/sexual partner. How committed you are to

your relationship with your partner is just your intention to maintain the relationship in the long-term. Just because someone is in several different relationships, it doesn't mean that they can't be committed to maintaining all of them. You can love your partner, and you can also love someone else romantically, too. That's probably a reason why monogamy isn't always that well-practised—we all know someone who's been cheated on or someone who has cheated on someone, or maybe it's even crossed your own mind. CNM presents a healthier alternative because cheating has been found to be associated with less use of sexual protection, STI testing, and discussion of sexual health with new partners. But cheating can actually still happen in CNM relationships. It just looks a little different and involves things like breaking the boundaries of what was agreed to between the partners.

Whenever I bring up CNM to people, there's always at least one person who says that while it sounds great, it could never work because people will get jealous. It's actually not true that people in CNM relationships experience more jealousy of their partners. In fact, jealousy is more manageable in these relationships compared to monogamous relationships because in monogamous relationships, people may be more sexually jealous. Think about all those people who've worried about their partner cheating on them because of certain interactions their partner had with other people—I'm not going to lie and tell you that I haven't been one of those people, because it's a totally common occurrence. In CNM relationships, studies conducted with couples who swing showed that any jealousy that couples did

have, diminished over time. In polyamorous relationships, partners experienced positive feelings and more happiness when their partners got into a new relationship.

People also assume that being in a CNM relationship will result in less happiness in their relationships, but that's also not true. CNM taps into two things that are key to staying satisfied in bed and in your relationships: novelty and communication. Trying new things with your partner (whether in bed or just in your daily life) has been shown to boost satisfaction. Moreover, the more willing you are to try new things with one partner and meet their sexual needs not only boost your satisfaction with them, but also your satisfaction with other partners. And as you have more experiences with different partners, you'd likely discuss things such as what you like and dislike, safe sex practices, how you feel about the relationships, and so on. These discussions help to improve satisfaction in your relationships and sex lives and is important for sexual satisfaction and wellbeing.

Admittedly, the CNM lifestyle is not for everyone. I used to be that person who'd think they couldn't practise it because they'd get jealous, so it's understandable why most people do enjoy having just one person to commit to romantically and sexually. For some, that's the dream—albeit not necessarily a sustainable one. However, the stigma that exists around CNM relationships is unjustified. There can be a Hollywood 'happily ever after' ending where the protagonist ends up with multiple lovers, because love isn't finite. It's totally fine to want to be with more than one person—as long as you do it consensually.

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Disciplinary Action

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CRACCUM

CRACCUM CONTRIBUTORS

"You've been a very bad boy," he said, looking over his Alex Perry spectacles. He walks behind you and closes the door, flicking the lock. He traces his fingers along the bookshelf and stops on Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*. He turns suddenly. "What makes you think you can submit your quiz late *every* time?"

"C-C-Canvas was under maintenance s-sir," you plead. But you know it's got nothing to do with the education dashboard, and everything to do with being trapped in his office again. And this time, he's got a curious grin behind those eyes. He opens his drawer and lays out six extra assignments and you're going to do them.



Head Master Double Texture Blow Job Stroker

Ironhide

Transformers make the best porn names. Not gonna lie, this was probably my first actual sex toy. Having had a previous sexual partner who liked handcuffs and ribbons, made me think, "are those really sex toys, or are those just things you can get from Looksharp?" As someone who enjoys giving head, adding a stroker to it honestly makes it harder, and apparently too overwhelming for the receiving end.

Partner-play? Hot foreplay. The super light and squishy material makes it seem like a sexy stressball, but once ready, it hardly stretches. Especially with the lube on, it took half of twenty minutes just to get it on without worrying about pinching; not too uncircumcised-penis-friendly. I loved that when I got it, the packaging made it look like a valve part from Bunnings. Honestly so fucking bet for a hot, dripping wank. Like a vagina in a tube, especially when you're tired of your own hand... but the material itself requires a lot of the lube—you can just spit on it, but it dries out too quickly—which kinda makes wanking more expenny than you'd want. But most probably, I would use this over my hand forever.



Turn Me On Clitoral Vibrator Kit (6 Piece)

Seri

I had the pleasure (no pun intended) of getting to play around with Lovehoney's 'Turn Me On Clitoral Vibrator Kit (6 Piece)'. I own quite a collection of sex toys but have never owned a kit that was targeted specifically at clitoral stimulation, so this was a new experience. The wired vibrator was perfect for anal play; a little bit of prep time before we got to the big ol' butt plugs, and during sex, my boyfriend could feel the vibration through the walls, which scores a 5/5 from both of us. That was probably the only good thing about this kit. It came with a larger version of a classic bullet, and girl, I did not feel a single good feeling with her. It honestly got too painful once the bullet was in me with the attachment.



Fifty Shades of Grey Take It Slow Gift Set (4 Piece)

Anne Elbeds

This kit came with an anal douche, anal beads, a butt-plug, and a vibrating butt-plug. I've done anal once before, but only for a one-night stand who was so sexually unsatisfactory that I agreed to anal just so I could get him to use some goddamn lube. It was, as you could tell, a very mediocre experience, and consequently, I was excited to try again with this kit.

Unfortunately, I can't tell you whether or not I enjoy anal because I only got as far as trying to douche. Somehow I wasn't able to get *that* much water into the bulb in the shower, and once I'd successfully shot water up my ass, my brain told me that there was a solid shit on the way. Of course, I knew *logically* it was water, but I still ran naked and dripping wet through my flat to get to the toilet, only to pass what felt like 0.5 seconds of really bad diarrhoea.

But my own hang-ups with anal aside, the toys themselves feel well made from soft, sturdy, sleek, matte-black silicone and they aren't terrifying. The anal beads start off the size of a pea and gradually progress to the size of a Halkidiki olive. The non-vibrating butt plug is only slightly wider. The vibrating butt-plug does kind of look like a dagger, and is bigger as well as less forgiving as it's not solid silicone like the other toys; however, I am the most excited to feel like there's a hive of bees in my bum.



Black Beauty Classic Vibrator

Tokyo Banana

As a complete newcomer to the world of sex toys, the name Black Beauty stirs up connotations of mysterious, strong, and alluring. Unfortunately, the experience itself didn't quite live up to its porn star name, but perhaps I set my expectations too high. Firstly, the toy was sleek, and... black and inconspicuous, nothing like the prank dildos you gave to your friends on their 16th birthday. My first qualm about the toy was that it needed batteries, which weren't included. Because of the sleek design of the toy, internal stimulation was a pretty uniform experience: not bad, but not great either. External stimulation was better, and with the addition of the right pressure, it performed well. But considering Black Beauty has been sitting in my drawer untouched for a few weeks, I guess it was good, but not memorable.



Advanced Unisex Strap-On Harness Kit (3 Piece)

Hot MILF Near You!

This isn't my first toy, but my partner and I are always on the lookout for the next new thing to spice up a date night. Being in a long-term relationship, we've tried out (and enjoyed) a lot of toys and even own a few ourselves, but this was *my* very first strap. The kit came with two different sized dildos, with a smaller pegging size and a larger 7-inch one. The dildo was held in place very poorly and the straps were uncomfortable so I wouldn't recommend them for a long session. But I totally have penis envy now, and I get it. While the straps were a bit confusing to put on and it was kinda unsexy fiddling with the things, once it was on, I was away. It was a fun experiment. I would probably invest in a harness next time...



Seduce Me 10 Function Vibrating Suspender Thong

Eyes Emoji

Admittedly, I expected this was going to be an interesting experience and it definitely was. While this isn't a realm I've ventured into before, it's definitely fun to use in a public place if you know you have somewhere to be directly after. I would rate it, except I'm not a massive fan of thongs. I would also note for anyone who is considering buying that it took me a while to sort the backing to insert batteries, as some mechanism appeared to be stuck, but when it got sorted it was very, very satisfying! Doesn't last too long but really... does it need to? It is most effective when used in short intervals, as personally, I like being able to focus on both what's happening and also conversation (it got used over dinner). Not the best toy I've had, but also not the worst, and a straightforward sexy introduction to couples toys for anyone looking!



DO YOU NEED TO BE PUNISHED?

Our pimps at Lovehoney have four bullet vibrators to give out to our biggest *Craccum* sluts. Share any *Craccum* article on Facebook or Instagram and tag *Craccum* to be in the draw to win. Share multiple articles for more entries. The winner is drawn Monday 11 October 9am.

You can check out lovehoney.co.nz for more goodies.



WHO ASKED YOU?

Sex Edition

Welcome to *Craccum*, where we put the "agony" in "agony aunt." We're not qualified to deal with your problems, but neither are you.

How do I dominate in the bedroom? Everytime I try she hates it because I'm apparently too nice of a guy. What the fuck does that even mean and am I just not man enough, or is she the problem?

You're definitely the problem. You sound like a weak little baby who can't handle being in charge. What's wrong sweetie? Are you feeling afraid? Toughen up or shut up, kiddo, or your girl will find herself someone with an actual spine.

(See how hard I just dominated you? It's really not that difficult to be a mean bastard. Just take all the rage that the series finale of *Sherlock* gave you and direct it at the person you love. Nothing could be simpler.)

(Alternatively, send your girlfriend my way. I'm so mean that *Craccum* gave me a whole column to make fun of people's problems. I'll show her a good time.)

How do I make my man last longer?

Store him in the freezer.

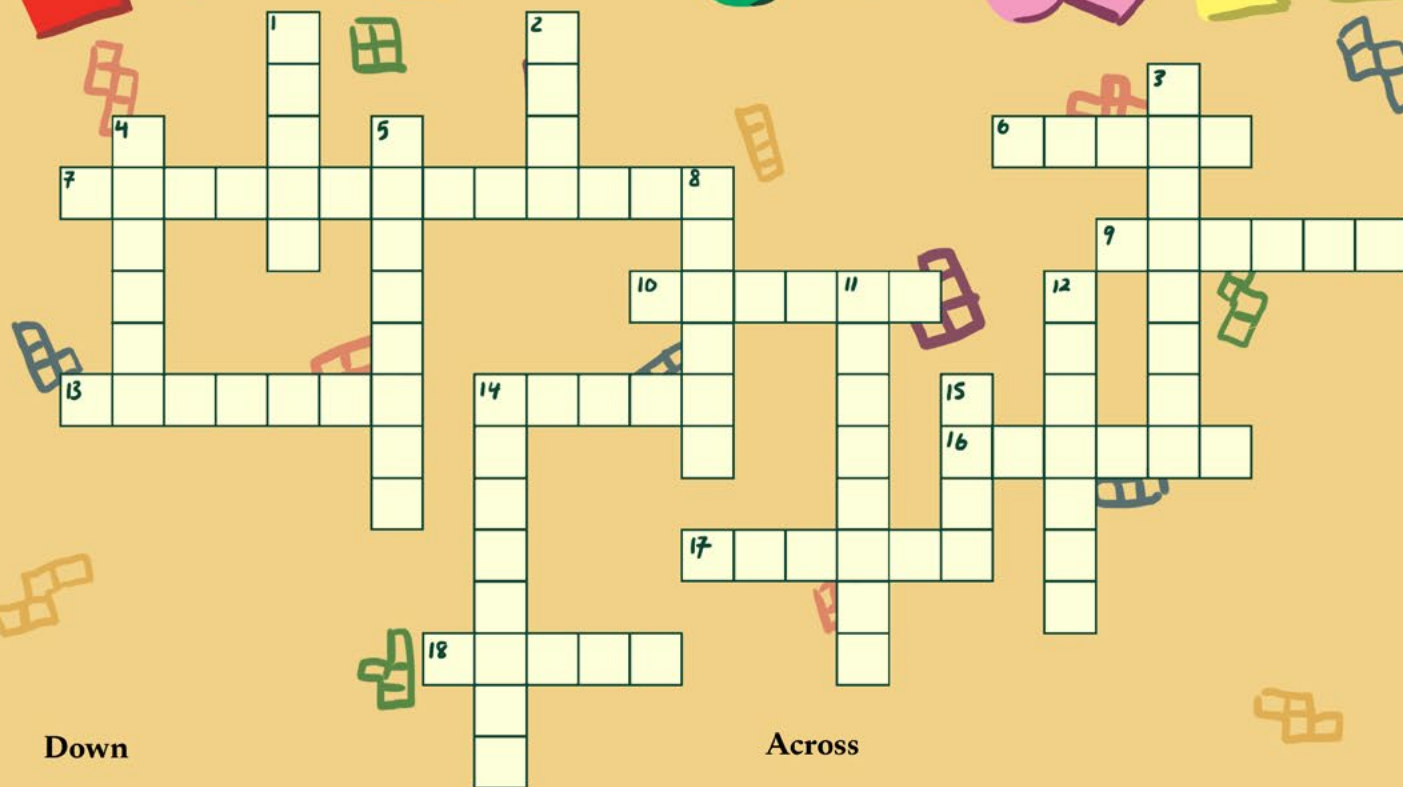
I've just started a relationship with a guy who is a virgin. I am very much 'not a virgin'. Any tips on how to make his first time enjoyable?

- Depending on his preferences, dress up as either Black Widow or Captain America.
- Look him in the eye and say, "All aboard the Sex Express to Fuck-Town."
- Quote the entire *Bee Movie* throughout (no pausing allowed).
- When he takes his pants off, laugh like Peter Griffin.
- Ask him if he smells what The Rock is cooking. Then hit him with the People's Elbow right on the dick.
- Nunchucks. You decide how they come into play.

I wanna have a hook-up, but I get so shy? Any tips on gaining confidence, particularly for lesbians?

I have never met a group so simultaneously hot and insecure as lesbians. Literally, every lesbian is gorgeous and perfect and utterly convinced that women find her repulsive. You know what's never creepy? A girl going up to another girl. If you think a girl is hot, just walk up to her and start talking. If she wants you to go away, you'll get the vibe, and you can cut your losses, but you won't have creeped her out at all. I've never been scared of a woman in my life (except Judith Collins—I completely believe that if I ever met her in person, she would punch me in the face on sight, and you know what? I respect that).

PUZZLES



Down

1. The poor fruit that Arnie Hammer ate out (5)
2. Means vagina/space/womb in Sanskrit (4)
3. Noted hottie Aubrey Plaza identifies as this (8)
4. Sex worker reform came in under this govt in 2003 (7)
5. Recently caused a stir by pretending to ban porn on its platform (7)
8. George Michael (RIP) had public sex in this public location (6)
11. (Blank) lesbian, a term used to describe more femme women (8)
12. When the anus protrudes outside the body (7)
14. NZ celebrates Pride in this month (8)
15. Louisa (blank), submitted same-sex legalisation bill (4)

Across

6. The 'lips' on & in the vagina (5)
7. 1992 movie where Sharon Stone flashes her hole to cops (5, 8)
9. Pubic wig (6)
10. Janet Jackson displayed this at the Superbowl (6)
13. Classic Madonna album, begins with E (7)
14. This one time at band camp I stuck a (blank) in my pussy (5)
16. Coloured skin around the nipple (6)
17. When semen is ejaculated onto the face (6)
18. Pee is stored in the (5)

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HOROSCOPES

As **Delma Vinkley** gears up for their yearly *Showgirls* watch, sex is on the brain. It should be on yours too! Get eaten out or whatever.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) *Glass Dildo*

You're so transparent when you want to fuck someone over. Your intentions rise to the surface and we can dodge your negative intent with ease. That's good for us, because wow, in this recent period of stress... you are not, as Jacinda says, being kind. Lucky numbers are 31 and 45.



Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) *Chastity Cage*

This week is one of restraint. You've been locked up for a long time, but you've somehow indulged all your bad habits anyway. No more. This week, you need to lock away your most ingrained indulgences and teach yourself a lesson for letting the bad times get to your head. Lucky numbers are 77 and 85.



Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20) *Pocket Pussy*

The pocket pussy is a mystery, like many of the things that stimulate you. How deep does the pocket pussy go? Only one way to find out. Your curiosity will take advantage of you this week, be sure to let that feeling wash over you and you will find magical things, or some great fake pussy. Both work! Lucky numbers are 44 and 49.



Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22) *Blindfolds*

You don't want to see the future, which is smart. That's you: always so practical. Who wants to know what they can't change? But oh, I know you just want to take a little peek, to see if your new relationship is worth it...? I'd hate for your emotions to be so wasted on an undeserving figure. Lucky numbers are 12 and 20.



Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22) *DMM Rose Smart Heated Vibrator*

As a Leo (or am I? I'll never tell), you can get a little hot under the collar when remotely challenged about your direction in life. I know this. But you have to keep calm when asked about your plans for next year. Maybe they're not the wisest thing you have going for you right now. Lucky numbers are 3 and 14.



Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22) *Chastity Belt*

A nice belt goes with anything! A belt is even better if it teaches you to keep yourself cautious, and that's what you need this week. As the cabin fever reaches peak levels, you need to keep yourself grounded, otherwise, you might jump into an irrational moment that no one will be able to stop you from having. Lucky numbers are 34 and 43.



Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 23) *Pink Fuzzy Handcuffs*

Sometimes, you have got to put your faith in other people. You're too self-assured, arrogant. Let them put the handcuffs on you, and tie you to the bed of life. Let them be the one to guide you, while you get the pleasure of knowing that you're trying something a little bit new. Just hope you pick the right partner! Lucky numbers are 87 and 100.



Scorpio (Oct 24 – Nov 21) *Anal Beads*

The point of an anal bead is to feel the asshole opening and closing over and over, savouring the experience. You are the anal bead of people: you savour closing yourself off to others, only to reap in the attention when you open yourself up to them, the pleasure of being the centre of focus overwhelming you. Nice! Lucky numbers are 18 & 21.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) *Whip*

Time to get back into shape, and you need someone else to motivate you. What's something that can stimulate you? Give control of it to a willing partner. If you fail, they will let your punishment take place. No more lazing around, wasting your talents. Giddy up. Lucky numbers are 8 & 9.



Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) *Spanking Paddles*

It takes two to get the most out of these paddles. You don't want to do it all alone, do you? That's your advice for this week. If you're wanting to really get the most out of life, you have to find someone to (metaphorically) spank you and perk you right up. Good luck! Lucky numbers are 79 and 80.



Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18) *A Bucket of Piss*

Yeah, to be honest, a big part of this one was so I could make the Craccum artists draw a bucket of piss. But it is an accurate representation of how you approach sex: not a fetish, but you're more than a wet blanket. You're so not fun that you're a bucket of piss. Lucky numbers are 78 and 89.



Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20) *Cock Rings*

The cock ring allows pleasure to go on for a long time. And as a Pisces, that's a big part of your whole deal, the neverending pursuit for the neverending pleasure. What can be the cock ring of your life? What can you bring into your daily world to extend the tingling (or ravishing) joy of life? Think hard. Lucky numbers are 27 and 72.





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