

THE SIREN

FEMINIST MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



THE SEX ISSUE

THE SIREN

SPRING 2013

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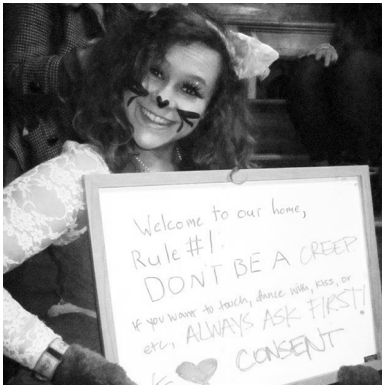
The Siren is published and produced by the ASUO Women's Center. We are the only student-led feminist publication on campus. It is our mission to cover contemporary feminist issues and act as an outlet for the creative and intellectual development of women. Our staff consists of an editorial board of Women's Center staff who solicit contributions from volunteer writers and artists.



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CONTRIBUTORS



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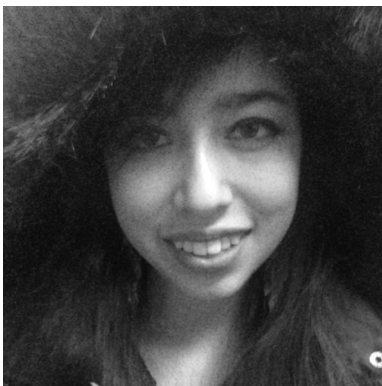
Carli (Charli) Barnum is a wueer womyn, social and environmental activist, and three year contributor to *The Siren*. When they aren't fighting patriarchy, Charli enjoys chai tea, long bike rides by the river, home-made hibiscus kombucha, naked tanning on the roof of the Campbell Club and embroidery. Cats make their world go round, and are the easiest way to start a conversation with them. Charli is training to be a family therapist with the Family and Human Services program, and is applying for the Peace Corps after graduation.



SICHE GREEN-MITCHELL

With articulate technique, Siche throws down hard-hitting rhymes that deal with politics, privilege, gender, sex, and much more. These exquisite stylings incorporate wit, sarcasm, and silly anecdotes with unique sounds to get up and groove to. A lively performer who enjoys getting the audience involved makes this a truly distinct and pleasurable experience.

Siche has performed from Portland to New York and Israel, and has had the honor of performing at the OUT/LOUD queer music festival alongside Andrea Gibson, Eugene and Portland Pride, Resisting Militarism Fashion Show, The Portland Poetry Slam and other various community events.



ELLEN ROJC

Ellen is a feminist-artist studying sociology, dance, and art at the University of Oregon. She is a student of the Clark Honors College as well as a board member of the Multi-ethnic Student Alliance. Ellen hopes to combine her love of dance, art, fashion, and sociology to empower women of all gender and ethnic identities worldwide.

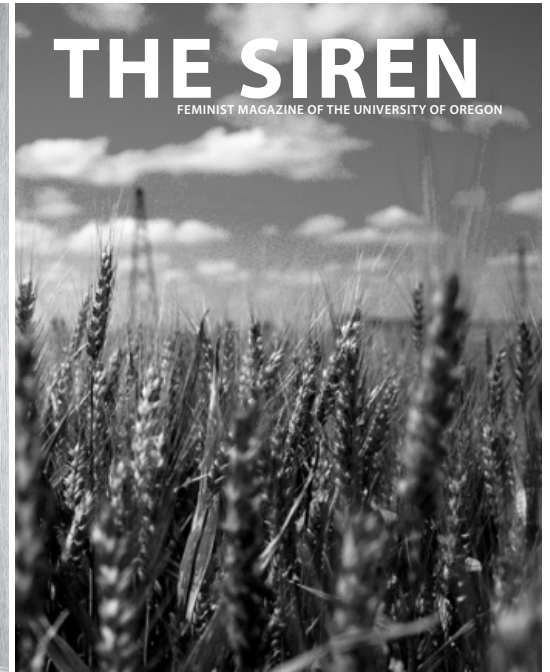
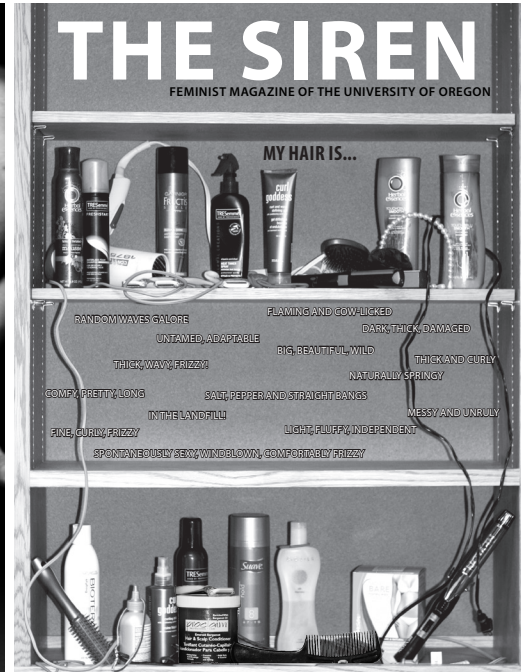
THE PARTY

THE SEX ISSUE RELEASE PARTY
IN HONOR OF THE LGBTQA'S SEX WEEK

Join *The Siren* staff and loyal feminist media enthusiasts to celebrate the release of our "Sex Issue", not to mention the brilliance of the act itself. There will be fun, dance, partying, and fundraising. We'll see you there!

KEEP UP WITH OUR TUMBLR FOR THE WHEN AND WHERE

MORE INFORMATION TO COME AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING TERM



don't think I need to start off clarifying that this was a fun issue.

I think every feminist magazine is always anticipating when they can finally get away with another sex issue.

Not that we don't always put our selves wholeheartedly into all of our issues, they're all important topics that we enjoy covering and doing the work on. But The Sex Issue is a way to finally let go, and cover something that we as feminists are often scoffed at for being open about. Why not cover a huge part of our lives? One of the most fun parts? With all of the hard, draining work we do as feminists, we should enjoy those moments where our self care reaches fun, even pleasure – pause for 'punny' moment.

Unfortunately, this is my last issue. Spring term I am headed off to Portland to be an intern for The Portland Tribune.

It will be weird not having The Siren constantly at the back of my mind; it has been my life for two years, give or take. But I have high hopes that whoever takes over for me will commit the same love and devotion that this magazine and our team of incredible volunteer staff deserve.

All I can say is thank you for reading and being a support for feminist media everywhere, as well as the amazing feminists who have helped to create The Siren.

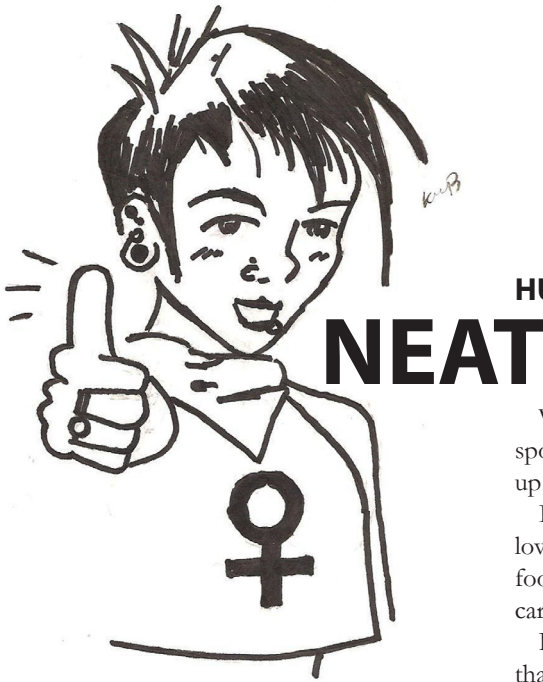
Keep reading. Keep smashing patriarchy.



THE POLITICAL ISSUE

- Kylie Wray

KYLIE WRAY, OUTGOING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



HURL: The University of "O"

WORDS BY KYLIE WRAY

NEAT

We've all seen it: a photo full of posing sports fans clothed in ducks gear and throwin' up the "O."

It's become a symbol of our school pride, love, and unending monetary support for our football team (despite how its popularity has carried over to other sporting events).

But what I don't think everyone realizes is that the UO did not invent the symbol that has become so synonymous with our school spirit. That's right, it existed before, and is in fact used for purposes other than attention in front of a camera. That symbol, which is so often seen made by college guys, is American Sign Language for vagina.

This fact is especially intriguing when the camera operator at a football or basketball game spans across the screaming crowd, each member vying for attention just so that they can be the one showing off their best "O" to thousands of viewers. (Not to mention to capitalist merchandise that goes along with it. You can buy shirts with an image of two hands making the "O;" and there are gloves and even a giant set of foam hands to make your "O" the best "O" out there.)

I, of course, see a stadium full of ignorance flashing me "vagina." Which means this is probably true for many users of American Sign Language as well.

I've yet to try out how someone in the throws of school spirited passion might react to me notifying them of their mistake, but I can only guess that it would be met with defensiveness and exclamations that it 'means something different.'

Not to those who use it for a reason rather than to further support of the problematic popularity of sporting culture at the U of O.

In conclusion, think twice before putting up the "O." Think about who you might be offending or oppressing by your new adaptation of their words.

NEAT/HURL: Sex Toys on Campus

WORDS BY LAETITIA BÉRAUD

After reading this you will probably think that French people have a one-track mind, but I need to tell you something, my dear American friends: when I see a plastic duck, I see a sex toy.

When I arrived at the University of Oregon, I knew that the mascot was The Duck. What I did not expect, was the American tendency to turn everything into a by-product. Imagine my surprise when I saw plastic ducks everywhere in the Duck Store and on campus.

During the International Students Orientation week, I was hanging out with my compatriots. You should have seen our faces, everytime we were offered plastic ducks during workshops.

One evening, I came back to my house and had THE talk with my American roommates. Embarrassed, I asked if a plastic duck had any sexual connotation in America. By the look on their faces, the answer was pretty obvious. No. But this weird question needed an explanation, so I had to tell them. I don't know why, but in France if you see a plastic duck in a bathroom it's probably not for a child. It's probably a vibrator.

So, now you're warned, if you ever go to France, and want to bring something from the University of Oregon, think twice about it.

HURL: Chivalry with strings

WORDS BY ANNA BIRD

You're at a party, it's late, and your friends seem to have all left. But this guy you've been talking to all night, who seems pretty cool, offers to walk you home. It's a pretty decent thing to do since rape culture prevents women from safely walking home alone at night. You might think to yourself, 'Okay, great, but if I let him walk me home, what is he going to expect in return?' But you accept because you don't want to assume this guy is going to expect sex from you as a result—because that would be an incredibly vile thing for anyone to expect. But alas, that is a very real possibility, and something that happens way too frequently in the college party scene. (Frequently meaning it happens at all).

It all goes back to our seething enemy—rape culture, patriarchy, the whole shebang. It is pretty commonly understood throughout society that nighttime is not a safe time for women, but it takes a particular brand of misogynous pig to use that to his advantage. If you consider the possibility of hooking up with anyone just because you walk them home, then you are no different than the rapists you're appearing to "protect" them from. If you can't manage to ignore those thoughts, help them find an alternate way home that doesn't involve your creepy expectations. And in the case your friend does let you walk them home, please don't mistake their trust for an invitation to have sex with them, you fucker.

HURL



COMPILED BY ANNA BIRD

“Hillary Clinton announces support for same-sex marriage.”

On March 14, the former Secretary of State voiced her support for marriage equality in a Human Rights Campaign video. This is the first time she has expressed full-fledged endorsement for same-sex marriage, saying, “gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights.” HILLARY 2016?!

“Ohio teenagers found guilty in Steubenville rape case.”

Two high school students were charged with raping a 16-year-old girl on March 18. The case gained a lot of media attention—both good and victim-blaming/rapist-sympathizing—mostly because the incident was brought to light with a social media firestorm. The only “good” thing to come of this incident is that it has a lot of people talking about rape culture, and what we can do to change societal notions about rape and masculinity.

“New Pope elected.”

Pope Francis was elected on March 14—a Jesuit from South America. But don’t get your hopes up, which I’m sure you won’t—he apparently thinks of the battle against gay marriage as a “war of God.” So...that’s shitty, and also completely predictable. While he is “admired” for his efforts in “impoverished communities,” he is yet another homophobic, anti-woman religious official chosen for the head position of a multi-billion dollar religious patriarchy. Same robe, different man.”

“South Dakota will allow staff to carry guns in school.”

In the aftermath of the Newton, Conn. shootings back in December, gun rights activists have been battling to maintain their centuries-old right to bear arms—because what in heavens name would we do without guns?! On March 11, South Dakota Governor passed a law that will allow school staff members to carry guns as a way to add security in the event of a school shooting. That’s the way to do! More guns will stop the violence! That’s been the answer all along! Way to go, guys!

More news in the War on Uteri (since Republicans adamantly refute the existence of a “War on Women”):

- Texas passes TRAP Bill: Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers
- North Dakota passes six week abortion ban
- South Dakota passes law extending waiting period for abortions
- Arkansas state legislature overrides Governor Beebe’s veto of the Human Heartbeat Protection Act

*Check out Mother Jones’ play-by-play of the worst states for anti-choice legislation in the last months, in their “Anti-Choice March Madness: The Worst State for Women.”

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2013/03/anti-woman-march-madness>

GAIN FOR TRANS COMMUNITY COMES WITH HOOPS

WORDS BY CARLI BARNUM

January 10, 2013 marked a victory for the Trans community in Oregon. The Values-based Benefits Subcommittee for the Oregon Health Plan confirmed that beginning October 1, 2014, OHP will cover the initial evaluation, medication, follow-up monitoring related to pubertal suppression. OHP will also cover mental health counseling for all Trans youth and adults. The pubescent suppression procedures are to be “initiated at the first physical changes of puberty”, and will help to drastically reduce the cost of medications which can add up to over 1,000\$ a month. I must admit, this is an amazing step toward Trans empowerment and justice. This is the first bill in Oregon granting Trans communities the basic human right of health care and insurance; however, I can’t

help but stare at the horrifying details that are so easily brushed by in the larger media. Before receiving services, youth seeking puberty suppression cost assistance from OHP must first undergo “comprehensive mental health evaluations” in order to be diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria, also known as Gender Identity Disorder, is recognized in the DSM as a mental illness. In the fine print and syntax of this supposedly Trans positive bill reside cis-normative standards that further marginalize and necessitate the degrading label of a psychological sickness. This is problematic on many levels. This requires people who are Transgender to admit there is ‘something wrong with them’ in order to receive basic services that should be free.

And on top of possibly taking up to a year to receive this diagnosis, Trans youth are then faced with the challenge of finding a doctor who is competent enough to help them working in a hospital in their area. There are so many hoops that the government requires people who identify as Transgender to jump through, that the original message of “TRANS LIBERATION, HEALTH CARE FOR ALL” is lost. While I am very ecstatic for the win of Trans inclusive healthcare in Oregon at all, it is necessary to look through all aspects of this bill to deem it Trans positive. It is clear that the struggle for Trans inclusive health insurance is far from over; hopefully this is just a foot in the ‘health care door’ for more leverage to open it all the way.

THE SEX WE DIDN'T HAVE

Power, Pleasure and Pragmatism in the Hook-Up Culture

WORDS BY ERIN MCGLADREY

There was one slide that etched its way into my memory from the first year students' sexual wellness orientation. This slide interrupted my deepest held ideas about college and more precisely this sexy liberal college. According to a UO Health Center study 77.8% of UO students reported that they had sexual intercourse at least once in their lives. What I remember was how many hadn't-- 22.2%, nearly a quarter.

It is easy to assume that these 22.2% are the waiting for marriage crowd, dry humping with the best of them but not having Biblical sex. Some might be gold star lesbians proudly never dipping toes into heterosexual waters and some might be people not excited by "intercourse" however they make sense of the word. The survey doesn't sort out if "intercourse" was wanted or coerced and a host of other issues related to normative heterosexual practices.

Before abstinence only advocates erupt into applause, I'd like to propose that something more complicated is happening—something that has nothing to do with the effectiveness of purity rings, virginity pledges and "True Love Waits" t-shirts. In this number we may find some of our queer, proud virgins and asexual friends, but I wager that we will also find some people who are secret "non-intercourse" havens—those who might desire it in the future, but who aren't pursuing it or who are actively avoiding it now. Their reasons are varied and complicated, as political as they are personal.

Jes concocted a highly scientific pregnancy prevention plan during her temporary foray into sex with men. First: Condoms! Condoms! (82-91% effective) Second: Spermicide (72-82% effective) Third: On the Pill (91-99% effective). Fourth: He must pull out before he ejaculates (unknown). Those were the rules, take it or leave it. Though she would fall into the 77.8% that have had intercourse in the survey I imagine her thinking was similar to some of those in the 22.2%.

No Room for Error: Strategies for Getting a Degree

Feminism often poses itself into sharp contradiction with the abstinence only

agenda, yet some straight feminists find themselves in tricky waters of being both sex positive and delaying intercourse as an informed strategy for career advancement, social freedom and owning their own power to choose with who and when and under what conditions.

Carmen's strategy is simple, clear and reliant on single male orgasm: blow jobs. She preempts discussions of intercourse by going down on her partner. Blow jobs enable her to get the guy off without him trying to get inside her vagina. Carmen is in graduate school and has career aspirations to become a college professor. She is proud and expressive of her sexuality. Her gender and sexuality classes made her aware that it is okay to have expectations of men she is sexual with, expectations that many of her friends don't share. A few of her friends from back home have children. She worked hard to get to college and won't take the gamble.

Leah's mom offered to get her on the pill when she was 16 and spending a lot of time with the neighbor boy. Her mom started but didn't finish college. Her grandmother is insistent Leah get a graduate degree, though Grandma only has a high school diploma herself. Leah recently figured out from the date on a wedding photo that her mother's pregnancy with her was the impetus for her parents' marriage. Her parents' divorce made her eligible for a Pell Grant and her mom is taking classes at the local community college. Leah sees how much getting pregnant before finishing college cost her mom—financially in the limited types of work that she can get and educationally in the confidence she lost in her own intellectual ability. Leah knows if she got pregnant her family would force her to marry the father. Leah gravitates towards gay men; men who she believes won't try to have sex with her. Her grandmother sends her money to "treat herself" and reminds her that "If men spend money on you they will think they own you." She dates some but never lets guys pay for anything since she doesn't feel self-confident enough not to feel obligated to them. Leah prides herself on being nice and would have a hard time "hurting his feelings" if her date expected sexual contact in return.

Tom is from a liberal, sex positive family. He watched his mother birth his siblings at home. Tom is a nanny in the summer to make money for college and knows the responsibility that kids bring. His best friend had a baby in high school and is going to their local community college so he knows how expensive kids are. Tom is a political organizer and wants to move to DC after he graduates. He is pragmatic about intercourse. Most of his friends are hooking up at parties and rallies, but he is content with dry humping, oral sex and masturbation until he gets a good job. He talks a big game to his friends about sex so only his girlfriends and ex's know his real sexual practices. His parents clearly taught him that STI's and contraception are his responsibility: equal to his partners. He doesn't feel it is ethically right take the risk when he can't afford to pay for an abortion, let alone a kid if his partner wanted to carry the pregnancy to term. The way he sees it, the financial support is the least he can do for his partner who would bear the physical costs of pregnancy.

Andrea has developed the superpower of ignoring. She is so beautiful that her friend tells a story about how a guy was riding a bike and crashed into a wall while watching her walk down the street. She gets a lot of attention from guys, but her singular focus is on her education. Education is a way out of poverty. Education creates stability. She knows herself and doesn't want to risk becoming distracted by a romantic attachment, compromising her career dreams for the intense feeling of new love. While some of her friends have sexual partners, she sees sexual relationships as something to work on after her career is in place. She makes out with guys at parties, but it ends there. Andrea's father left her mother to raise Andrea and her siblings when she was young--leaving her mother with the financial and emotional responsibility of childrearing while he built his now lucrative career and remarried. Andrea understands that marriage doesn't guarantee life-long financial stability. She is clear that she needs to rely on herself for

IT IS EASY TO ASSUME THAT THESE 22.2% ARE THE WAITING FOR MARRIAGE CROWD, DRY HUMPING WITH THE BEST OF THEM BUT NOT HAVING BIBLICAL SEX. SOME MIGHT BE GOLD STAR LESBIANS PROUDLY NEVER DIPPING TOES INTO HETEROSEXUAL WATERS AND SOME MIGHT BE PEOPLE NOT EXCITED BY "INTERCOURSE" HOWEVER THEY MAKE SENSE OF THE WORD.

income, not a husband or partner.

Calculated Pleasure

These strategies employed predominantly by straight women might at first glance seem to fit within the risk averse, fear-based and pleasure denying rhetoric of the abstinence only movement--that these people with access to comprehensive sexual education are trading their sexual desire for certainty that doesn't exist. These are smart, innovative and playful strategies cis-women who have intercourse with cis-men have been using to avoid pregnancy for generations. Women who have gotten the message loud and clear that earning potential and education are intricately linked to age at which they first become pregnant. Even with many safe and highly effective methods of contraception available to prevent unintended pregnancy, for cis-women who have intercourse with people with ejaculating penises there is no room for error. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says that condoms (the most easily accessible barrier and contraceptive method on college campuses) are 82-98% effective in preventing pregnancy. Some people don't want to imagine themselves in the 2-18% that becomes pregnant anyway. Pregnancy prevention becomes central.

In a college environment that assumes everyone is having sex and because people tend to assume that their friends are doing the same things they are, all of these people pass as the 77.8%. The ways they express their sexuality works for them for now, they know what they like and it's not going to interfere with their education.

Many Flavors of the Sexual Rainbow

The reasons for not having vaginal-penile intercourse are as varied as the reasons people do engage in that expression of sexuality. Some of the 22.2% might fall into categories not having intercourse for reasons of faith or personal preference, while others may have simply not had the opportunity.

Marcus joined Campus Crusade for Christ, though his family wasn't particularly religious. He craves having an ecstatic faith experience. It also gives him a place where no one will pressure him to have sex with

women. What his fellow Crusaders don't know is that he doesn't want to—with a woman. Marcus values the idea that delaying or abstaining from sexual intimacy early on allows communication to become the foundation of the attraction and helps to ensure that companionship and partnership will be what keeps the relationship together when the initial flames of lust subside. Finding a community that supports "waiting" buys Marcus time to figure out how and to whom to come out to as gay.

Kimara identifies as a sex-positive queer feminist and wants her sex life to match her politics. She has had a pansexual history, and is reinventing herself with an analysis of power in her sexual relations. She is interested in having vaginal intercourse with people with penises, but wants to be real about the kind of power that those who are the penetrators are ascribed. She knows that people will assume she is the being penetrated in the relationship and that it is loaded and marked as a position of submission, so she wants someone who is willing to be subversive by having her penetrate them first and for them to actively talk about this with their friends. She has found people with penises that are willing to be penetrated with a strap on, toys or fingers, but no one who would talk openly and casually about it to friends and acquaintances.

James is devoutly religious and believes that he should marry within his faith. James' girlfriend is of a different faith and wasn't willing to have a romantic but not sexual relationship. James' sexual expression begs the question "what body part being inside of what other body part constitutes intercourse?" His solution . . . "everything else" including anal sex. Logically this is puzzling but it is an idea that has taken root in conservative Christian traditions as it is often interpreted as sex that "isn't really sex." This view both invalidates queer sexuality (and those pegging/ anal sex loving heteros) and should be more accurately described sex that doesn't lead to pregnancy. James would say he is in the 22.2% because he isn't putting his penis into a vagina. In an effort to keep the v-card amidst religious pressure and limited accurate information about sexuality—some youth who are trying

so hard to be good in the eyes of their faith are getting STI's from this higher transmission risk sex, but they are not getting pregnant.

A Sexuality Wide Enough for Everyone

Just like any human reasoning system, you can find cracks in the logic, alternative ways of minimizing risk and different expressions of values. Even so, these stories complicate the ways of perceiving intercourse beyond the binary of "love can wait" and the hook-up culture. These people are choosing and not choosing intercourse on their terms, placing high value on independence and career goal, as well as internalizing the real histories of the women whose options were constrained by pregnancy. Queer feminist thought has opened the door for a wide range of personal sexual choices to be a political expression of power, pleasure and pragmatism. People are making sexual choices that align their values, ideals and practical understandings of the impacts of "intercourse" on their bodies, minds, and futures.

As anyone who comes from a strong missionary position background can attest, queering sexuality opens the imagination. Even the self-purported straightest people might be having (or not having) the most non-normative sexual experiences. Though there is a wide variety of non-intercourse sex, even within groups who hold intercourse on high, there are a myriad of reasons they are not engaging.

In an era of choice feminism, people find ways to live the life that works for them and say yes to the types of sexual expression that makes them happy. From pragmatism to political radicalism, sexual preferences to ethics, non-intercourse havers are everywhere.

* Statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Names and identifying details have been changed to protect their identity. They may or may not have participated in the UO Health Center study.

The Who's Who of Sexual Assault Activism

WORDS BY NADUAH WHEELER

In light of the upcoming sexual violence awareness month and Take Back the Night in April, there are many groups on campus and in the community working around sexual assault prevention in various ways. These include student organizations, those involving administrators, and ones working with the ASUO.

SWAT

SWAT, the sexual wellness advocacy team, is a student group on campus who does theatre-based, interactive workshops in the campus and community to begin discussions about sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. They create their own workshops and present them to groups around the campus and in the community who request them. Their workshops are based on dispelling rape myths through an interactive monologue and other activities that delve further into rape culture by demonstrating problematic portrayals of sex in the media. The goal of their workshops are to communicate with students to try to educate everyone about the rape culture in which we live and how to desocialize our thoughts to be more survivor-centered and less victim-blaming. They also do a special presentation in the summer for IntroDUCKtion as well as a presentation at TBTN each year.

SEA

I need to talk to a member of SEA to get more information because I'm not a part of it.

SVPTF

The Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force is a group created this year to work with the ASUO to create a report with suggestions for how to help prevent sexual assault on our campus and what administrative actions to take. The group has been compiled with a diverse group of students representing FSL, LGBTQA, ASUO, and other interests to give a comprehensive view of sexual assault from various standpoints. They have been working with survivors collecting testimonies, UOPD about the reporting process, statistics on campus, looking at other campuses and their sexual assault prevention techniques, and their own backgrounds in sexual assault prevention to create a proposal for the ASUO senate. Their report will be completed soon and the suggested actions will hopefully begin to be put into effect.

ASAP

The Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention is a group of students and administration that meets the first Wednesday of every month. They include representatives from the Office of the Dean of Students, the Women's Center, the Wesley Center as part of the community as well as interested students. Their projects vary depending on the month and have included various sexual assault prevention and education campaigns and work around the "Red Zone", the first month or so of fall term every year.

SASS

SASS, Sexual Assault Support Services, is a local group that works with supporting survivors. They are a survivor-centered, 100% confidential resource for survivors and those supporting survivors. Their services include support groups at their various offices, a 24 hour crisis line with translation abilities, and advocates who can accompany a survivor to medical or legal services if they would like. SASS participates in Take Back the Night both as survivor support and as "safety team", which is a group of volunteers both as part of SASS and other interested individuals who monitor the event and help de-escalate any situation and make sure everyone, especially survivors, remain safe and secure throughout the event.

OSATF

On a state level, the Oregon Sexual Assault Task force is a statewide, attorney general endorsed organization that involves people from all parts of Oregon and several different campuses. They have several subcommittees including the victim response, campus, criminal justice, medical forensic, prevention and education, offender management, men's engagement, and legislative and public policy. The group works on various levels based upon the subcommittee. There are some student chairs on each committee, as well as specific seats such as "counselling" or "public safety" that have more stringent qualifications. Their meetings vary based on subcommittee but more information about each committee and the other work the task force does can be found at <http://oregonsatf.org/>.

pre-show duds

Fashion is great. Sex is great. Fashion *and* sex...EVEN BETTER! Depending on you and your partner(s)'s preferences, it can be fun to dress up before you dress down. Many clothing and lingerie companies are devoted to helping you feel your sexiest whether that includes leather straps, buckles, ribbons, spikes, pearls or silk - or a lovely combination of all the above.

If you're interested in shopping local, Eugene has a few clothing and lingerie stores that fit a variety of tastes and budgets. Freudian Slip, Sweet Skins Organic Apparel and Slash N Burn are all local shops that can help you out with your sexy accessory and/or undergarment needs.



Freudian Slip

For the frilly, the silky, and the lacy - check out the Freudian Slip for fine lingerie and gifts.

870 Pearl Street

Slash N Burn

If you prefer more glam, (steam) punk, rock n' roll fashion head to Slash N Burn.

941 W 3rd Ave



Sweet Skins Organic Apparel

Sweet Skins offers the best quality organic and recycled material for their clothing, so you can rest easy in soft undies.

782 Blair Blvd



MAINSTREAM SEX ADVICE:

YEAH, RIGHT.

WORDS BY ERIN DOERNER

*Note: The magazine articles discussed below target stereotypical heterosexual, heteronormative sexual behaviors and relationships. Any mention or discussion of LGBTIQ or other forms of sex and sexuality is totally excluded from the published magazine articles sampled below.

How many of us can admit to buying a mainstream fashion/lifestyle “women’s interest magazine” at some point in our lives? You know the type: scantily clad, heavily airbrushed celebrity on the front, blaring hot-pink headlines about how to lose fifteen pounds in ten days, get rid of cellulite once and for all, change your life by changing your closet, and the ultimate “How to Have the BEST SEX OF YOUR LIFE - TONIGHT!” So if I read this magazine, I will become a thin, cellulite-free, fashionable sex goddess!?

Puh-lease.

Below is a critique of the messages women and men (at least those who read Glamour and MensHealth.com) are getting about what women and men want out of a heterosexual interaction. We know that these types of magazines are in the business to sell copies and make money, not enlighten everyone through a thoughtful discussion of sex and gender issues. Much of the “sex advice” content in these magazines is produced in order to catch our eye and catch our wallets, and we get a full dose of sexist stereotypes of women and men as soon as we open the pages. Real women and real men often do not embody the sex stereotypes that these magazines gorge themselves (and their sales) on. Why are we, especially those of us who identify as women, so susceptible to consume these mixed messages about sex and sexuality? Are these magazines really the

voices of today’s “sexually liberated woman?” Or are they doing a clever job of keeping women’s sexuality and sexual behavior fitting neatly into society’s little manageable boxes?

Sometimes, these articles offer good sex advice (read: have sex when you want to and make sure you enjoy it), but more often than we’d like, these same articles also promote “advice” that is biased to direct women to pleasure men. As a woman, these articles tell you to keep men interested in having sex with you based on what you can do for him sexually, rather than what he can do for you or what you can do together. In subtly calling out and criticizing women for their supposed sexual hang-ups, the damaging cycle continues of selling women mixed messages that continue to regulate and control sexual behavior and expression. What do these messages usually look like? For one, they are contradictory:

- Take control of your sexuality/sexual life but only in a way that doesn’t threaten your sex partner’s ego.

- Celebrate your body! Men like bodies! But make sure your male sex

partner doesn’t get the impression that your body makes any weird noises or smells, has (unwanted) hair, strange moles, or fat.

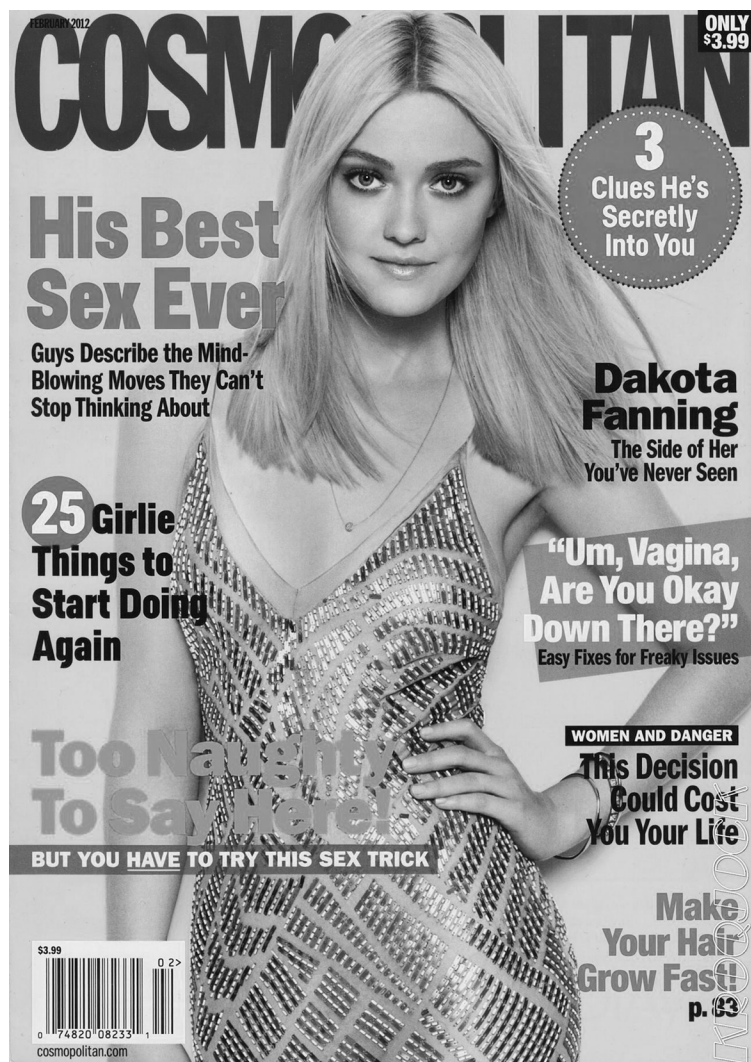
- Focus on your own pleasure to a degree but be constantly thinking of what you can do to keep your partner interested and pleased because otherwise...your loss. He’ll probably move on.

Let’s take a look at a few examples.

Glamour (January 2013 issue)

“How to Tell Him Exactly What You Want in Bed” -- Written by “Jake, a real single guy dating in New York City”

Jake’s article opens with a description of him going “down south” on a third date with this “smart, funny, gorgeous woman” that he’s been seeing. She’s not feeling it, and he worries that he’s about to get the dreaded “head tap” to call it quits. Instead,



"His Best Sex Ever"

Little Things Every Guy Wants in Bed **12**

Hetero-normative much?

Not to mention that which one of us wants advice on how to please guys from guys? These Magazines need some Siren Advice.

9 Naughtily Things Even Nice Guys Crave In Bed

75 Sex Moves Men Crave

"Men, Sex & You"

she gives him instructions of what she likes, and soon enough, he hears his name "with a giggle: 'Jake. Thank you!'" So he ends up thinking, "How cool was it that she could tell me what she wanted without any weirdness or embarrassment?" and is amazed that this doesn't happen "all the time". So being the amateur sex researcher that Jake is, he asks some female friends, "Why don't you tell men what to do during sex?" They gave him their answers, and he shares their responses ("debunked") and solves women's sexual hang-ups for eternity.

Woman says: "I might hurt the poor guy's feelings."

Jake says: "Yes, men like to assume we can master your body as quickly as Thor mastered his hammer. We are idiots (who like comic books). But there are ways to tweak your guy's handiwork that won't shatter

his ego. Just keep the feedback gentle and positive: 'That's great, but bigger circles. Here let me show you...'. No man alive will object to a demo."

Siren says: Nice work comparing pleasuring a woman to a comic book character using a weapon that has been described as "fearsome; having a pulverizing effect". According to Jake, don't get tricked into thinking about the feelings of your "poor guy", as all men are idiots who like comic books. Men can only handle sexual performance feedback that is gentle and positive, and women must be careful to balance telling their male partner what they actually want sexually so as to not shatter delicate egos. All men will respond positively to the visual of a woman touching herself.

Woman says: "I'll sound selfish."

Jake says: "News flash: Guys don't think that looking for sexual pleasure is selfish. It's what we've been doing 17 times a day since seventh grade. We blamed our hormones then, and today we're just happy to have company!"

Siren says: Jake manages to totally ignore the complexity within this woman's simple response here: that women are expected to be selfless sexually, that any pleasure that is solely for a woman is still often unexpected within a sexual encounter, and that the fear of "sounding selfish" often keeps requests and instructions silenced instead of shared with her partner. Instead, Jake takes this opportunity to only acknowledge men's apparent obsession with (self)-seeking sexual pleasure. This is blamed on hormones, rather than any drive to share a sexual experience with another person. Don't worry ladies, men are just happy to have someone in the room with him while he fulfills his sexual needs – don't worry about your own!

Woman says: "He should just know how to get me there, as part of our soul connection."

Jake says: "Edward and Bella. Christian and Anastasia. These couples had earth-shattering sex their first time together. Also, um, they're fictional. Good sex takes work, and even if you were a vampire who'd had a hundred years of practice, there would be

no guarantee you'd nail it on the first try. If a guy won't put in the effort, that's a problem. But if he fails your mindreading test, that's on you."

Siren says: Thank you, Jake, (seriously) for pointing out that whole thing about Edward/Bella/Christian/Anastasia being fictional characters instead of realistic models for what sexual relationships should automatically, instantly be. He's right, good sex does take work, and work on both partner's parts. If a guy won't put in the effort, that is a problem. And don't expect mindreading to work in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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50 MOST GLAM WOMEN of 2011

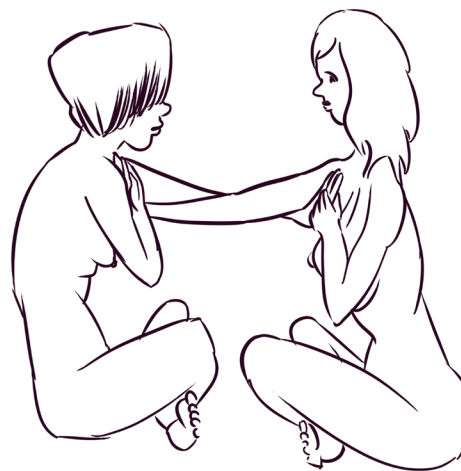
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Plus: How Two Sisters Pulled Off a Miracle in Haiti
The Reason to Live & Thrive Going East

Experience the *Art of Tantra* with YOUR PARTNER

WORDS BY CARLI BARNUM
ART BY JOSH WHITE



The art of Tantra originated in India over 6,000 years ago. It means to manifest, to expand, to show and to weave. This ancient form of lovemaking brings prana (life energy) and the higher consciousness into the bedroom, making the experience of sex more than a means to an end. In the dominant culture of the United States, orgasm is commonly thought of as the result of sex; however, in Tantra, there is no goal or end. If utilized correctly, Tantra can be a doorway to the divine through the passionate, deeply erotic activity of sex. Here I will describe a fun activity to do with your partner. During this exercise, remember to stay intensely present in the moment. Concentrate on your partner, and visualize the exchange of energy that is happening.

Before you start, it is important to make your sexual space comfortable. I like to dim the lights, set out some candles, and light some incense, but I suggest every individual do whatever makes them feel good in their space.

Step 1: In silence, get completely naked, and have each person stand at opposite ends of the room. Let the thoughts of the day melt away, and stare at your partner. Take in the beauty of their body. Feel the joy of their being and begin to pay close attention to your breathing. You and your partner, without verbally communicating, should take one step closer to each other when it feels right. This is the only way I can explain it, but in your practice, you'll see that the deep gaze and intense energy being built in the room will speak enough to let you know when to move. Continue to do this until you are both an arms-length away from each other.

Step 2: Once you are close enough to touch each other, take your right hand and place it over your partner's heart. Your partner should do the same. Now take your left hand, and place it over your partner's right hand, which is on your chest over your heart. Continue to gaze until it feels right to move on. Gaze deeply into each other's eyes, focusing on the movement of your belly as you in inhale and exhale.

Step 3: From here, you will kneel down. Touching knees, place your palms together in the center of your chest, and touch your foreheads together. This pose directly unites the third-eye chakra, which is the center for imagination, intuition, realization, awareness, fantasy and self-knowledge. Keep focusing on your breath, staying in the present moment. This is a powerful pose, uniting the sixth chakra of each partner.

Step 4: Now have one partner put their legs completely flat on the ground. The second partner moves their tailbone as close to their partner as they can, placing their legs over the thighs of the first partner. In this position, hug each other pressing your chests together. This unites the heart chakras and exchanges energy from the central energy point of the body. Pay particular attention to placement of your hands on the back of your partner; the opposite side of the heart chakra is the center for receiving love.

Step 5: Consensually have sex. Try focusing on the sensations your body is feeling at the present moment, and as always, pay attention to your breathing.

This activity can take anywhere from 20 minutes to two hours. As you linger longer, more energy will build up in the room, making the last step more intense and amazing.



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STRAWBERRIES

GINGER

Dinner Bowl:

- 2 cups black beans
- 1 cup rice
- 1 avocado
- ginger
- rosemary
- 1/4 cup loosely chopped basil
- 1 cup corn
- mole: (chocolate, chile, 2 tsp chili powder, 1 chopped chipotle pepper)

CHILES

LIBATIONS

AVOCADO

Dessert Bowl:

- #1
- 2 cups sliced strawberries
- melted chocolate (as much as desired)
- coffee ice cream
- #2 (could also double as an appetizer)
- 1 cup figs
- honey
- ginger (to taste)

COFFEE

OYSTERS

Suggested Beverage: Red Wine

BASIL

HONEY

EDIBLE FLOWERS

SAFFRON

SEAFOOD

FIGS

PINENUTS



POETRY

Damn it feels good to be a kinksta'

Damn it feels good to be a kinksta
A real kinky person likes to play
A real kinky person is well versed in consent
A real kinky person likes lipstick and lingerie
And swinging, switchin, spandex, ritual
Showin' all the folks they can whip 'em
But a real kinky person sets guidelines first
Cause a real kinky person can gag 'em
And everything is cool in the mind of a kinksta
'cause a real kinky person think deep
up three sixty five a year 24/7
cause real kinky people don't sleep

All I gotta say to you
Monogamy, poly, orgy, individual thinkers
when your fantasies come up what you gonna do
Damn it feels good to be a kinksta

Damn it feels good to be a kinksta
Actin on desires nothing been unsaid
Although you may be vanilla
Now you got ideas in your head
Damn it feels good to be a kinksta
I guarantee there are plenty that you know
Everyday folks livin' in the real world
It's not even all about sex or show
Now kinky people come in all shapes and colors
Turned on by the sensual
pain and role play others
lord lovin seekin heaven in eventual

Now all I gotta say to you
Monogamy, poly, orgy, individual thinkers
when your wants are taboo what you gonna do
Damn it feels good to be a kinksta

Damn it feels good to be a kinksta
A real kinky person has clamps and cuffs
Real kinky people strap it on, discipline, needle play
Ask a kinksta who wants to be whipped no bluff
Now folks think violence, humiliation, power play are bad
Cause they don't see healthy or consent
But kink can be well done, safe, fun, and a relief
Don't need to leave your passions unspent
'cause kinky people massage, worship, and fist
And it all can be done with a tongue
A kinky person has tats, sweat, hooks
And their partners in the family have threesomes
Real kinky people care for each other
Not always tryin to orgasm fast
But converse, laugh, cuddle, and enjoy a meal
for service or a plug made of glass
Not only in the bedroom or just penetration
Mucles, blindfolds, let the kinksta tease ya
Music, masturbation, wrestling, role play
Damn it feels good to be a kinksta

— *Siche Green-Mitchell*

Siche Green-Mitchell performed "Damn it feels good to be a kinksta" at The OUT/LOUD Queer Women's Music Festival last year. Come see him again this year at Kesey Square in Downtown Eugene on June 1st.

The REVolution in Sex Education

WORDS BY ANNA BIRD

Sex is everywhere—TV, music, books, advertisements, the Internet, THIS MAGAZINE. Young people are surrounded by sexual material from an early age, and they start developing ideas about sex from the information they are presented. While many aspects of sexuality are learned on a day-to-day basis, many parents avoid having “The Talk” with their kids until they are much older, or not at all. The hesitance to educate children about sexuality at an early age comes from the idea that the more knowledge kids have, the more curious and sexual they will become. In reality, studies have shown that the more sex education teenagers have, the lower the rates are of teen pregnancy and STIs.

There are many folks who think sex education includes crudity and language inappropriate for small ears. However, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States defines sexuality as encompassing “sexual development, sexual and reproductive health, interpersonal relationships, affection, intimacy, body image, and gender roles.” This certainly does not mean early forms of sex education require the go-to banana-condom demonstration, or any variation of birthing videos. It simply means the best forms of sexuality education begin at home, in everyday interactions and relationships.

As children grow up and issues we more

often associate with sexuality become relevant to their lives, parents are no longer the sole educators. It is the media and friends, teachers and community groups who help form young people’s ideas, beliefs and values regarding their sexuality.

That’s where school-based sex education comes in. Since 1940, public health services have advocated for sex-ed in public schools. The importance of such formal education proved too substantial to ignore. Following soon after (inevitably) came the conservative backlash in the 1960s. They argued sexuality education was inappropriate smut that would lead to an increase in risky, pre-marital sexual activities among teenagers. Year after year conservatives and religious groups came up with different strategies to staunch the sexual expression, exploration and knowledge of young people.

They continue the same rhetoric today,

“I am so floored by the dedication and energy of our students.”

fifty years later, but with a lot more financial support for their cause. Last year the Department of Health and Human Services gave \$5 million in federal grants to abstinence-only education programs. With an abundance of scientific research that supports sex

education, the majority of right-wingers stopped fighting the programs as a whole, and instead put their efforts toward distorting the information presented and limiting the information available to students.

Abstinence-only and fear-based sexual education programs vary in extremity and accuracy, but they all tend to leave out vital instruction on contraceptive-use; they are predominantly heteronormative and homophobic; and they instill shame-inducing ideas about pre-marital sexuality.

Sex positive and supportive health advocates like Planned Parenthood are fighting these harmful practices and ideas with comprehensive sex education programs and supportive health services. Fortunately Oregon is one of the most progressive states in the nation when it comes to sex education policy. The Oregon Department of Education requires that all k-12 schools

provide comprehensive sex education that includes information about abstinence as well as contraception.

Oregon’s policies allow Planned Parenthood to have a broad base education program in the schools and in the community. In 2005 a youth group

in Eugene started Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon’s youth action council—REVolution, or REV for short. They were motivated by the New 3Rs: Rights, Respect, Responsibility initiative—an organizing principle that is supported by a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



REV taking on the Spencer’s Butte Challenge Course for their annual retreat. Photo provided by PPSO Youth Action Council.

cases of “touch me here, kiss me there” and especially when you do not want to engage in a particular act or have sex at all. He doesn’t go that far, but pretty good advice this round, Jake.

Woman says: “I’m embarrassed.”

Jake says: “Reverse the roles. Would you ever think less of a guy for asking to give you a spank or to try reverse-cowgirl? No. So unless you’re going for crappy guys who aren’t worthy of you (I know you’d never), then the man you’re with should take it all in stride. Now, repeat after me in a nice, unabashed tone: “That feels amazing, but what really does it for me is indirect pressure”. Or, “That’s so good - just move it a little bit lower, like this.” Or, “Slow down a bit, cowboy. Yes, perfect.” There. Was that so hard?

Siren says: Well, you messed this one up Jake. Instead of asking the questions, “Why do women feel embarrassed when they take a directive, leadership role in a sexual encounter? What is it about being “in control” of sex that women are taught they are not supposed to enjoy or pursue?” Jake instead condescendingly throws out a lot of lines that women can say to men in a “nice, unabashed tone” that won’t hurt his feelings and still reassure him he’s awesome at sex, even if he’s not. He also assumes that women wouldn’t think less of a guy for directing sex, because women are just generally along for the ride, right Jake?

Lessons Learned, based on Assumptions “Jake” Makes:

- 1) Women are naturally meek and embarrassed about being sexually directive. They need a man to give them examples of moderated ways to give sexual instructions to men without damaging their femininity or the man’s feelings/ego.
- 2) Men are sexually selfish and need a woman to tell them what to do for her sexually, otherwise they will only be focused on themselves and/or will mess it up.
- 3) Are you even real, Jake? Or are you just another ploy by the writers at Glamour to manipulate women into sexist sex roles? What are men being told (sold) about having sex with women?

Men’s Health website, February 2013

“10 Ways to Get More Sex” -- No author listed.

The article opens with, “We got women to confess what makes a man irresistible. Follow these tips to become that guy.” So supposedly,

real women supplied the quoted advice on what men should do to get more sex from women. Here we go...

1. Play the Name Game: “Say my name, often. It makes me feel as though you’re totally focused on me.”

Siren says: It’s probably a good idea to know the name of the person you’re talking to/ dating/having sex with. However, there are other ways to cue in a person that you’re interested in them without saying their name every five seconds.

2. Pay Up: “Be generous when we’re on a date – offer to pay, tip well. It will make me think you’re just as giving in bed.”

Siren says: Because nothing says “I can fulfill your sexual needs” like tipping 15% and showing off that money clip your mom bought you.

3. Get Your Hands on Her: “Touch me on the arm while talking to me, on my shoulder if standing above me, on my hips if standing behind me, around my waist if walking beside me. It’s a subtle but effective way to let me know you’re genuinely interested.”

Siren says: Forget about personal space or physical boundaries, guys! Women want to be touched on your terms, where you want, when you want. And claiming your property by laying your hands on it has been a totally subtle method used by conquerors throughout history.

4. Ace a Classic Move: “On a cold night, wrap me up in your coat and kiss me on the forehead. It’s a movie-style move that makes me go weak in the knees.”

Siren says: Or it’s a move you put on a toy baby doll, not a grown-ass woman.

5. Excite Her Entire Body: “Sweep the hair away from the back of my neck and kiss me there. It sends sexy tingles everywhere.”

Siren says: If this turns on a particular woman, good for her for letting you know this turns her on. It might not work for everyone, and don’t think that it does.

6. Be a Gentle Man: “Be gentle when you’re touching my clitoris – I can always thrust towards you to show I need more pressure.”

Siren says: Again, good acknowledgement of what a particular woman might want and enjoy. However, this can be confusing – are you supposed to wait for her to thrust towards you before you apply more pressure? Should you ignore what she says and pay attention to what you think she’s doing? This implies that a woman isn’t going to vocally tell a man what she wants.

7. Speak Softly: “Whisper in my ear while we’re having sex. Tell me how amazing my skin feels, how sexy I am and how good it feels to be inside me.”

Siren says: Assumptions made here: a man’s perception of a woman’s skin is important to women, women don’t feel sexy until you tell them, sex involves vaginal penetration.

8. Get Rough with Her: “I love it when a guy is playfully rough in bed – a tender bite, a bit of hair-tugging – it makes sex feel even more passionate.”

Siren says: What’s the definition of “playfully rough”? Who defines it? Who decides what goes on and what doesn’t? Communication is key. Sex is a two-way street.

9. Be Her Alarm Clock: “Wake me up at 5 a.m. by heading down under. I may be half asleep, but I’ll soon be smiling all over.”

Siren says: You’re right to think this is alarming. Unless you’ve cleared it with your partner beforehand that this type of thing is a go-ahead, CONSENT IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH A PARTNER WHO IS ASLEEP. Or half-asleep.

10. Say Something: “Make contact the next day. This rule holds true forever.”

Siren says: Yeah, generally a good rule unless she used you for a one-night stand and could care less about dating you. Surprise!

Lessons Learned, Based on Assumptions in this article:

- 1) Men can take this advice and apply it to all women sex partners in all circumstances.
- 2) Men can manipulate women to having more sex with them based on these stereotyped, sexist and even sexually aggressive moves. It is more important to get sex from a woman by following these suggestions than sitting down with your partner and asking her what she actually likes.
- 3) Did real women even suggest these? Clearly, all men aren’t self-serving sex maniacs and all women aren’t naïve or sexually timid. So why do we buy into this crap? Rule of thumb: forget about what these magazines say and just do what feels right for you and your partner. Don’t let stupid non-existent Jake (or whatever “women” Men’s Health makes up) to influence your thinking on how you or your partner should act sexually. Learn about sex from resources that make you feel good about yourself, your body and your partner. Make sure you feel comfortable with what you want, which of course is an ongoing journey. Sorry, Jake, you’re not coming along for the ride.

REVIEW: DOES MY BRAIN HAVE A SEX?

WORDS BY LAETITIA BÉRAUD

“Men and women often have trouble getting along. The two sexes don’t seem to see the world in the same way.” That’s how the documentary “Does my brain have a sex,” by Laure Delesalle begins. In her 50 minutes long documentary, she takes you on a journey to explore biological and social determinism to try to make sense of our differences. Interviewing scientists from all over the world, Laure Delesalle attacks the idea of biological determinism with a unusual angle: science itself.

A quick overlook on history shows how science has always been a tool to try to explain the differences between men and women, shifting paradigms for the past few centuries if necessary. Bodies, genitals, in the 19th century scientists studied the size of the brain, then they considered hormones, chromosomes. Nowadays genetic is the new scientific paradigm for categorization. Chromosomes are at the origin of sexual differentiation, but they don’t differentiate our brains. With photographs and real brains in front of the camera, researchers show how unique the brain of a human is. There is no way to differentiate a male from a female brain.

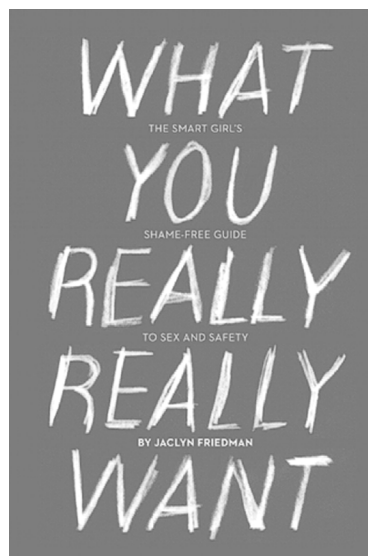
Hormones as the reason why brains turn male or female is also misleading. Delesalle takes you in Belgium, where a researcher found out that testosterone, the male hormone, is not responsible for the sexual comportment of quails, but estradiol is, the female hormone. Both male and female have what is identified as female and male hormone in their system, and testosterone turns into estradiol before “activating” a sexual comportment both in quails and mammals.

However, humans have unique brains, with ten times more cortex than a monkey, which “is why human escaped from determinism of hormones and genes,” Catherin Vidal says, a neurobiologist at Pasteur Institute in Paris.

Taking the example of Victor de l’Aveyron, a wild child found during the 18th century in France, François Ansermet, psychoanalyst in Geneva shows how humans lost “the user manual” of reproduction. If Victor experienced pulsions during puberty, he was unable to translate them into a sexual act. Baby humans need more time than any other species to learn and become adults. Pierre Magistretti, professor at the Federal Polytechnic school of Lausanne, Switzerland, talks about how experiences create a preferred path for the information transmission between neurons in our brain. “The brain is shaped by experience,” he says. When baby humans are born their brain is only 25% of what it will be at an adult age, leaving brain development to learning through experience. The social environment is therefor decisive in our brain formation.

With this scientific documentary Delesalle shows how scientists are pushed by society to produce a differentiation between men and women. If she answers the question whether or nor our brain has a sex, we are still left wondering “what does it mean to be a man or a woman?” But even if science could answer that clearly, to what extent would it help us? Delesalle leaves these questions open to social scientists.

To view the trailer for *Does My Brain Have a Sex?* with english subtitles, see our tumblr: sirenmag.tumblr.com



WORDS BY KYLIE WRAY

When I first got my copy of Jaclyn Friedman’s *What You Really Really Want: The Smart Girl’s Shame Free Guide to Sex*, I was stoked to get started (and not just because it was signed by Friedman herself accompanied by the inscription “Enjoy Exploring!”) Since I got it when Friedman visited our campus, just before winter break, I thought I would have plenty of time to read it while I was at home in Gresham, sitting around most of the day while my family went about their normal lives.

The first night that I sat down to read it, after the rest of my family was in bed, as I was snuggly tucked in with my cat on my chest, I was surprised to discover that it was not just a workbook, as I had thought, but a very motivating coach on self journaling.

Friedman instructs you to keep a personal sex journal, and that before even starting the book, you should write in your journal for 10 minutes, everyday for at least a week.

At first I was a little disappointed, I wanted to dive right in to Friedman’s work wholeheartedly and hear what she had to say rather than deal with what I had been working through. Needless to say, I did not start

REVIEW: WHAT YOU REALLY REALLY WANT

my journey that night, since I was hindered by the small but frequently in charge black kitten that was not getting off my chest anytime soon, I ended up watching Netflix and thinking through where I might have an unused journal.

The next night, I once again settled into bed with my sleeping buddy ready to start my journaling.

However, because of my shy nature, and my rather conservative family, I felt very awkward filling out this journal while I could hear my younger brother practicing his scales in the next room (while in bed, literally, he does this, I’ve had to knock on his door at 2 in the morning several times over the years to tell him that yes, I can hear him singing no matter how quite he thinks he’s being). I felt like I was in middle school again, armed with a flashlight, reading one of my mom’s discarded issues of *Cosmo* – I read it for the romantic fiction pieces ok? – except that I didn’t need a flashlight seeing as how my bed time has been pushed back a couple of hours since then.

I’m sorry to admit that after my first personal journal entry,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

number of programs and projects based on the philosophy of providing accessible and practical sexual health education for adolescents.

The students who started REV were inspired by the approach of the New 3Rs, and REV is focused on empowering young people to be informed about their sexual health and reproductive rights. Their goals are to Reach Every Viewpoint, Realize Every Vision and Respect Every Voice through education and community involvement. Each year 12-18 high school age students volunteer for REV, which includes weekly meetings, outreach, and event planning. This year, there are 17 youth participating in the program, and a variety of local high schools are represented—Sheldon High School, South Eugene High School, Art Academy Academics, Network Charter, Cottage Grove High School, and there is even a student from the University of Oregon.

Jenny Russell, Youth Advocacy Coordinator and Educator for Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon, is in charge of the youth action council, though she stresses that the group is guided by the youth. At each of their weekly meetings the students decide what kind of issues they want to learn about or discuss. It provides the opportunity for them to talk about real teen issues in a supportive environment. The students also decide what kind of events they want to put on for the community. Their most recent community event was a movie night for youth where they watched “Easy A.” Afterwards they discussed some of the issues brought up in the movie regarding sexuality and gender, and the stereotypes and double standards that surround sexuality for adolescents.

The students involved in REV hold a level of expertise when it comes to issues of sexual health, and they are encouraged to use their knowledge and experience as a way to provide normalcy to Planned Parenthood’s youth services.

“As soon as their peers find out they volunteer at Planned Parenthood they automatically become the sex experts, which creates different access points for that education,” Russell explains. She is continually impressed by the level of dedication shown by the youth for their efforts in coming to the weekly meetings and putting on community events. They work together to figure out

what issues are important, and put on events that empower other young people to become informed and take control of their sexuality and reproductive health.

One of their annual events is the SOAR concert, which stands for Sounds of a Revolution. It is a popular event in which local bands and musicians play for an audience of 300-500, and in between sets REV volunteers do sex-ed outreach. It’s a fun way for them to get community members aware and informed on matters of sexual health. They also put on annual retreats where they designate one important issue they want to educate the community on. Their latest retreat focused on educating folks about their reproductive rights.

“I am so floored by the dedication and energy of our students,” Russell says of the group.

With the support of Planned Parenthood’s resources and administration, REV is helping to ensure that youth are healthy and empowered members of our community. They know their own potential, as well as the potential of their peers to take control of their sexuality from a young age through inclusive and relevant education.



REV at the PPSO open house for the new Regional Health and Education Center. Photo provided by PPSO Youth Action Council.

my patience ran out, and I started working through the book despite my lack of personal knowledge. Once I got into the activities though, I really enjoyed the book. It was kind of like homework, but better, because it was homework about sex. Where can you go wrong with that?

I’m also a little ashamed of my second confession: I still haven’t finished it. It was not the quick read that I hoped it would be. It takes persistence and commitment to yourself to keep going (as well as a disinterest in any other books, as an avid reader, I usually have several books going at once, but in order to get through Friedman’s book, I think it will take a little more concentration from me.)

Even though it’s a difficult read for those that are impatient. What You Really Really Want is definitely a journey worth taking.

I will leave you with some words of advice before you start your own journey:

1. Be patient.

3. Start your journaling early so that you will not be disappointed when Friedman says you can’t jump in yet.

4. Be honest and open with yourself. There is no shame in this exploration. Celebrate that our feminist world allows us to take pride in finding our sexual selves.

5. Don’t write in silver gel pen if you plan on ever reading your journal entries again.

6. Don’t leave your journal around for your conservative family members to find. (Hopefully they’ll be distracted enough by your stack of back issues of Bitch, but just in case.)

7. And finally, if you can, a cat is great company while you’re journaling, that way you don’t feel alone like you’re hiding in shame for reading an issue of Cosmo – as shameful as that may be.

I definitely hope that someone with patience and little homework is able to get through this book and tell me how it goes. I really really believe it will be worth the effort. And then come find me and tell what the end is like.

Happy Exploring!

THE FEMINIST CROSSWORD
--By Mario Battaglia

**LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX
POSTIVITY!**
Difficulty: Seductively Simple with Some Tease

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12
13				14				15			16			
17			18					19						
		20					21							
22	23				24				25		26	27	28	
29				30					31		32			
33								34		35				
				36	37	38		39						
40	41	42	43						44		45	46	47	
48					49		50	51	52			53		
54				55		56					57			
				58		59				60				
61	62	63						64				65	66	
67								68				69		
70				71				72				73		

DOWN

1. *Modern Family* T.V network
2. Note a debt on paper, in short
3. Woman who assists in birth
4. Part of the hand
5. One of the seven dwarves
6. Poitier of *Stir Crazy*
7. Brazil's largest city
8. Bone in the forearm
9. To select by vote to an office
10. Another image file format
11. UO rival school
12. Book: "___ Means ___":
Visions of Female Sexual Power & A World Without Rape by Jaclyn Friedman
16. Landmark 1973 Supreme Court case on abortion
18. "Got it right on the ___"
21. Letters before -len or -pped
22. UO major common among campus feminists
23. Actress Rasmussen of *Human Zoo & Femme Fatal*
26. Nbs. on a driver's license
27. Web address
28. Lyric poem of exaltation
30. To cause disinterest
31. "Have your ducks in a ___"
35. *The ___ Hungry Caterpillar*
37. Period to disembark (abr.)
38. Cunnilingus's counterpart
40. Comedian Margaret
41. Suffix classifying people by their location, e.g. Chicago
42. Time zone of Denver, CO
43. Scientific prefix for minerals containing the chemical element symbolized as P
45. Garden sight in early spring
46. Inuit woman's knife
47. ___-liberal
50. A cut tree trunk
51. Battled
52. Improvisations, as in standup
55. ___! At The Disco
57. *The Killers* and *Mogambo* actress, Gardner
59. Small rodent: "field mouse"
60. Shape of an ellipse
61. 9 digits for U.S. citizens
62. ___ Town Ciderhouse
63. Ingredient in Ninkasi's Stout
65. *Glee* star ___ Michele Sarfati as lead Rachel Berry
66. Common deciduous tree

ACROSS

1. Indigenous activist org.
4. Short notes following the body of a letter
7. Silverstein/Cash song "A Boy Named ___"
10. Sex ___
13. Slang for young butch
14. Feminist singer-songwriter DiFranco
15. Words preceding a judge's entrance into the courtroom
17. Nestled; Snuggled
19. Track by Joan Osbourne "What if God was ___" (3 wds)
20. Eugene non-profit dedicated to ending domestic violence
22. Formal order issued by the courts
24. Actress Catherine ___ - Jones
25. The Gilmore Girls, for e.g.
29. Online image file format
30. "___ (2 wds) Side", track from CocoRosie's *La Maison de Mon Reve*
32. *The L-___*
33. "Fine then, I will ___ (2 wds) it myself!"
34. Likeable, except more so
36. Game official, abbr.
39. The amount outstanding, as in "the balance ___"
40. To engage in a contest
44. Showed again, as on t.v.
48. Slang term for a cannabis product: the compressed resin
49. "___ (2 wds) *And All of the Night*" 1964 Kinks hit
53. Spanish cheer used to applaud during sports
54. Sex position of one partner when the other is lying on their backside
56. OUT/___ Queer Women's Music Festival
57. Student government acronym, as in "___ Women's Center"
58. Nationally syndicated sex advice column found in the Eugene Weekly
61. "Arise, wake, and ___ until the goal is reached!" --Swami Vivekanada
64. Habitable
67. Language found in East Africa
68. Staple Nigerian food made from cassava
69. Suffix following Sam
70. "Food ___ Bombs"
71. Businesswomen Marissa Mayor holds this position for the company *Yahoo!*
72. Technology providing digital transfer
73. Dental ___

REAL TALK

Yes, No, Maybe: Fun Times Had By All

As Dan Savage of Savage Love says if you want to keep things hot, especially with a partner with different desires, you have to be G.G.G. good, giving and game. Basically, skilled, generous and up for anything under the right conditions. What excites you? What are your hell-no's? Which would you want to receive and which would you rather give? Here is a list to start up a good stay-cation.

For each category, think about:

1. Are you are interested? Yes, no, maybe?
2. Would want to give or get receive this or top/bottom(if it applies)?
3. Have you experienced this before?
4. What conditions would you have?

Write (Y)ES, (N)O, (M)AYBE by each one and put a date on your list so you can see how your tastes change and stay the same.

age play	exhibitionism	that covers their eyes	masturbating together
anal intercourse	extended orgasms	having a partner's mouth or	masturbating with a vibrator
anal play	external prostate stimulation	tongue on my breasts or chest	missionary position
ball spreading	eye gazing	having my movement restricted	morning sex
bathing with others	face sitting	hickies	mouth or tongue on a partner's
being woken up by sex	fantasizing	holding hands	breasts or chest
biting	felching	hot wax	multiple orgasms
blindfolds	fellatio with penis	hugging	music
body paint	fellatio with strap-on	ice cubes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• soft• loud
bondage	finger-fucking	invisibility/ignoring	negotiating sex
breast whipping	fisting, anal	kissing	nibbling ears and neck
breath control	fisting, vaginal	kissing or touching neck	nipple clamps or clothespins
caning	flirting	kissing, cheek or face	nipple pumping
caressing	flogging	kissing, closed-mouth	online sex
chest, breasts and/or nipples	food items	kissing, open-mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• in chat room• in IM• on cell phone
touched or rubbed	forced chastity	kneeling	oral sex (to anus)
circle jerks	frottage (dry humping/clothed	knife play	oral sex (to penis or strap-on)
clamps	body-to-body rubbing)	lacing up corset	oral sex (to testes)
clit pumping	gender play	lap dancing	oral sex (to vulva)
cock & ball torture	getting pornography/erotica from	leather, rubber, or latex	outdoor sex
cock rings	a partner(s)	licking feet	over-the-knee spanking
communicating sexual fantasies	getting sexual images of a	lingerie	packing a dildo in your 501s
to/with partner(s)	partner(s) in my email or on my	listening to sex	pain
cracking a whip	phone	loud sex	partner(s) reading or viewing
cross-dressing	giving pornography/erotica to a	making porn	pornography
crotch smelling	partner(s)	manual sex (hands or fingers on	paying for sex
cuddling	giving sexual images to a	testes)	penis pumping
cunnilingus	partner(s) in their email or on	manual sex (hands or fingers	piercings
cybersex	their phone	inside rectum)	pinching a partner (s) or using
delayed orgasm	glory holes	manual sex (hands or fingers on	any kind of clamp on them
digital cameras	golden showers	inside vagina)	during sex
dildos	group sex	manual sex (hands or fingers on	play parties
docking	hair pulling	or around anus)	playing with sex toys
doggie style	hand job	manual sex (hands or fingers on	polishing boots
dominance/submission	having a partner cross-dress	penis or strap-on)	poo action
double penetration	during sex	manual sex (hands or fingers on	punishment
dripping hot wax	having a partner ejaculate (cum)	vulva)	putting on a condom
ejaculating (coming) on or in a	on or in my body	massage	putting on makeup
partner's(s') body(ies)	Having a partner masturbate in	massage with sensual oils	
enemas/douche	front of/with me	masturbating in front of/with a	
erotic dancing	having a partner wear something	partner	

Trans & Womyn's Action Camp



This action camp is planned by and for folks who identify as women, transgender, transsexual, gender queer, and gender variant. There may be opportunities for cis-male allies to participate in support roles closer to July. We are dedicated to creating a space that is as accessible and inclusive as possible within the constraints of a backwoods setting. We are planning to set up child care, and may be offering travel stipends to both workshop presenters and participants from traditionally under-represented groups depending on funds.

We will start the search for fierce workshop presenters very soon. We will be looking for presenters especially on the topics of anti-racism, environmental justice, and trans liberation. If you would like to be an organizer, have any ideas of how we can make this space more accessible, or workshops you'd like to see please contact us! twac2013@riseup.net

**TAKE BACK
THE NIGHT**



**RECOBRAR
LA NOCHE**

When:

6 pm on April 25th 2013

Where:

**EMU Amphitheatre,
Moving along the Streets
of Eugene, and Ending at
Cosmic Pizza**

Sponsors:

**ASUO Women's Center and
Sexual Assault Support
Services (SASS)**

Take Back the Night is an international rally, march and speak out for survivors of sexual assault and their allies. Join us as we march through the streets of Eugene and Take Back the Night!

