

FORNICATION

exercises that will improve your sexual performance

effect of the workout. Elliptical. Rapid repetitive motions can leave anyone prematurely winded. An inability to perform that activity can be disappointing for both yourself and your teammate(s). To remedy this, you need to improve your cardiovascular endurance. Most people would hop on the nearest treadmill, but the up and down punishment of traditional running can do unnecessary damage to our knees, a vital joint in any relationship (see: wall).

Instead, choose the elliptical, a machine designed to eliminate the impact of treadmill running. Individual foot pedals that follow your elliptical motion does a pain-free elliptical exercise, the settings on the machine can also be adjusted to keep your heart rate at your target zone.

violently shaking during this exercise, which is the entertaining part of my workout.

buildings

Hall: I'm a little because I spend a lot of time in this building. If you had a campus with a lot of buildings, it would be a lot more interesting.



NUDE

and worst sex scene

you feeling pretty happy as opposed to just plain uncomfortable the way some other scenes might. As you get to know the sex and their story, you'll be satisfied with the way it ended.

more rare are LGBTQIA sex scenes between two monogamous women in a loving relationship. But that's just what the seven (yes, seven) minute sex scene in French film Blue is the Warmest Color. Don't let the 'arth and bare-ass' scare you—the women

STUDENT LOVE

A guy's guide to oral sex

According to a recent study funded by Church and Dwight Co., the maker of Trojan products, women are more likely to orgasm when oral sex or cunnilingus is included in foreplay. 70% of women between 20-24 reported having oral sex during sex—so guys, if you're not going down on your girl, you're not measuring up to the majority of women's sexual experiences.

1. Start slow

Keep her wanting more by starting with slow, deliberate movements. She'll love the anticipation—and it will certainly pay off in the end. Women like to be teased, so make sure to not get carried away and keep it light and playful to start. Try running your tongue along the inside of her upper thigh right next to the vaginal area, without actually touching it. It will make her crave more action.

2. Play with pressure

Not only is the tongue the strongest muscle in the human body, but guys—you also have a lot more control over your tongue than you do over your penis, allowing you to apply direct pressure to specific parts of the vagina. It's crucial to

vary the pressure of your tongue once you finally move towards your target. Use a broad flat tongue to fully cover the vagina—this will apply gentle titillating pressure and will help lube up the area with saliva. For more intense pressure of specific arousal spots, like the clitoris, use a firm pointed tongue to circle and flick.

3. The clitoris is key

One mistake many guys make time and time again is that they often assume oral sex is virtually the same thing as standard intercourse. DO NOT simply thrust your tongue in and out of the vagina as you would with your penis. The tongue does not provide enough friction, nor is it long or thick enough to make this pleasurable. In general, stick to areas that are easier to access—like the clitoris. The clitoris is a woman's most sensitive erogenous zone and, when stimulated correctly, leads to mind-blowing orgasms. Tease her for a while by lightly circling it with your tongue. Then try taking it into your mouth and gently sucking on it while softly flicking your tongue over the area—almost like a French kiss.

4. Get handsy

Don't ignore your hands while going down on your girl—always keep them moving. A variety of textures and pressures is



important, and there's only so much your tongue can do on its own. Since we've already established that it's not your tongue's job to do any penetration during

oral sex, try saving this task for your fingers. While performing the above techniques on her clitoris, use your hands to either apply pressure to her inner thighs in a

massaging motion, which helps hold her legs apart, or thrust a few fingers into the vagina, providing more complete stimulation.



sex? Go for it

I'm sure a lot of you have seen the episode of "Family Guy" that involves Meg having "ear sex." That's right—an expression of love involving the insertion of the male sex organ into his partner's ear. This episode was particularly hilarious, since it addressed the issues couples face when they decide why, when and how to have sexual relationships.

Of course, people can have sex (or ear sex, or oral sex or abstinent relationships) for many reasons. Clearly it's important to consider not only your own but also your partner's personal desires, moral

a marriage. (That's obviously.)

If you get the connection or sex, that's great. What floats your boat? Lose your ear?

Short-and relationships thought, discussion; there are countless express devotional and non-religious notes up and waiting to be played in by a friend.

NUTS

ON THE COVER



JORDAN CHOW | STUDENT LIFE

Cover models Olivia Emanuel (left) and Katy Hutson strived to promote body positivity and inspire others to be comfortable in their own skin.

‘The Vagina Monologues’ celebrates intersectional feminism in Holmes Lounge performances



JORDAN CHOW | STUDENT LIFE

The “Vagina Monologues” cast performs an original song by sophomore Taylor Emerson titled “It’s All on You.” The Eve Ensler-penned play was performed Feb. 9 and 10 in Holmes Lounge.

ELENA QUINONES NEWS EDITOR

Eve Ensler’s play “The Vagina Monologues” was performed by Washington University students to sold-out audiences in Holmes Lounge Feb. 9 and 10.

The show was first performed in 1996 and has been staged internationally ever since. The play is a piece of political theater that takes form as a series of monologues, which address topics like body image, reproduction, sexuality, sexual violence, transgender experiences and more.

The show was directed by junior Sabrina Odigie and produced by junior Sara Arfania.

“The show, to me, symbolizes getting into Wash. U. and transforming myself into a better feminist, and then when I was in [“Vagina Monologues”], it was about being more inclusive and understanding about all the different ways we can be women, and this year, it was important because I wanted to share it with people and make it as powerful as possible,” Odigie said.

The piece was based on Ensler’s interviews with 200 different women about sex, body image, relationships and violence against women. The play began as a celebration of vaginas and femininity and evolved into a movement against gender-based violence.

Ensler launched the global non-profit organization V-Day as part of turning “Vagina Monologues” into a movement combating violence against women. In the spirit of service and philanthropy for women, Washington University’s “Vagina Monologues”

chose its own beneficiary: Immigrant and Refugee Women’s Program (IRWP), a St. Louis community non-profit.

IRWP’s mission is to serve immigrant and refugee women of the St. Louis area by providing them with English language instruction in hopes of increasing their independence and reducing isolation. In 2017, IRWP worked with 350 students from 49 different nations, logging 13,208 hours of one-on-one instruction, while assisting 20 women in earning their U.S. citizenship. All proceeds from “Vagina Monologues” this past weekend went to benefit IRWP.

The show, as a representation of the female experience, is meant to be performed by a group of women who represent diverse feminine identities, with an emphasis on the role of intersectionality in feminism.

“We believe that there is no single view, narrative or image of womanhood. Further, having a vagina and womanhood are not mutually exclusive,” the show program reads.

In this past weekend’s performance, students presented 16 of Ensler’s original monologues as well as three original student pieces. The show opened with sophomore Monica Unzueta’s piece titled “My Feminism,” featured sophomore Taylor Emerson’s original song “It’s All on You” and closed with sophomore Madison Lee’s original monologue “My Immature Vagina.”

Out of Ensler’s 16 monologues performed, 15 were original components of the show. “They Beat the Girl out of My Boy...Or so They Tried” was written in 2004 to address the experiences of

transgender women. Ensler introduces a new monologue into the series each year as a way to recognize current and changing experiences for women. This particular monologue was originally portrayed by a cast of all transgender women.

“It’s a poem; it’s a story of a trans woman as she’s moving through her life and transitioning from being a man to a woman and struggling with her own body issues and identity,” freshman performer Auriann Sehi said.

For Sehi, performing “They Beat the Girl out of my Boy...Or so They Tried” helped her recognize her cisgender privilege.

“There’s a part when she’s talking about how she can wake up in the morning and put her hair in a ponytail. And I think about my own life—how it is being a cisgender woman—and how I do that thing several times a day and not even think about it,” Sehi said.

According to sophomore Sarah James, being a cast member of “The Vagina Monologues” was an empowering experience. She performed “My Short Skirt,” a commentary on rape culture and claiming femininity.

“It was just so empowering to be a part of it because we all have so many insecurities, and so just to be around other women supporting each other is so important,” James said.

The performance was well-received by those in attendance.

“I thought it was a really powerful experience, and they talked about really important issues and the strength of the woman’s body, not just how we experience weaknesses as women,” freshman Taylor Hurst said.

ENCOUNCIL



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COPULATION

‘Teenage Dream’ remains the love song of our generation

JOSH ZUCKER
STAFF WRITER

“You think I’m pretty/ without any makeup on/ you think I’m funny/ when I tell the punchline wrong.” These lyrics set up a song about pure, young love. “Teenage Dream” by Katy Perry is the perfect combination of love-filled and sexy, and its themes of love, acceptance and intimacy are vital to any true love song. I would even go so far as to say that it is the most

iconic, most beautiful and most passionate love song written in our generation. “Teenage Dream” is all about spending time with the person you love; it’s about the youthful spirit of living as a teenager. The song weaves a story of a perfect day followed by a night of passion. The way it frames sex is not vulgar or crude like “Peacock,” for example, but it’s an act of love above all else. Katy and her lover, with an emphasis on the “love”

in “lover,” find acceptance with each other, and their love is unconditional. From the song you get the sense of a deep connection. When, after their intimate day together, Katy Perry finally decides to go all the way with her lover, they do so together and with full hearts. “No regrets, just love.” While the choice isn’t one taken lightly, as in a teenage relationship sex is an incredibly big step to take, they decide to “take a chance and don’t

ever look back.” The passion in this song isn’t about a one night stand or a temporary fling: This song is about true love. Perry has long-term plans with her lover. When she sings, “now every February, you’ll be my Valentine,” she shows that she has no intentions of giving up on this relationship. Katy Perry’s use of melody and prose builds up a both fun and emotional song. You can tell from her use of story within it

that the song was drawn from her personal experiences. “Teenage Dream” is incredibly sincere and builds a world full of young love and adventure. In the song, when Perry sings “my heart stops/ when you look at me/ just one touch/ now, baby, I believe,” she is singing about being overcome with love, a strong love that manifests itself into every fiber of her body. The song is a beautiful combination of romance

and seductiveness. It is about true love and young love. Perry takes risks and finds herself closer than ever to her lover. With all these aspects, “Teenage Dream” becomes the—yes, the—love song of our generation. In 2010, Perry released this masterpiece of a love song, and since then, in my opinion, no other artist has managed to take “Teenage Dream’s” spot as the most iconic and passionate love song of our time.

These are NOT bangers: Songs about sex you definitely shouldn’t listen to during sex

By Elena Quinones, Staff Writer

It’s the age-old question: To listen or not to listen to music while getting it on? Many artists have inserted their voices into this debate with a firm “YES” by writing these sex-themed songs, but they’re so bad that they made me think sex music just might not even be worth it. Most listed songs find their flaws in trashy lyricism, while others just can’t be hot because they were popular during middle school. This collection was the result of me venturing to compile the least sexy sex playlist ever. Every song was written to be sexy time music, but every song failed at that purpose in a unique way. Please, please don’t bang to these songs.

SWALLA by Jason Derulo

UNSEXY LYRIC: “ALL YOU GIRLS IN HERE, IF YOU’RE FEELING THIRSTY / COME AND TAKE A SIP ‘CAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT I’M SERVIN’”

In these lyrics, Derulo suggests that his semen is a thirst-quencher, which is both scientifically incorrect and shows an unfortunate lack of sex education.

GRIND WITH ME by Pretty Ricky

UNSEXY LYRIC: “SEX BE MY DAY JOB”

On its own, this song is pretty bad. Combine its poor lyricism and execution with the terrible Vine trend in which half-naked adolescents humped the ground for seven seconds, to achieve this true sex song disaster.

ANYTHING WRITTEN BY R KELLY

UNSEXY LYRICS: “LIKE JURASSIC PARK EXCEPT I’M YOUR SEX-A-SAURUS, BABY”, “TURN YOUR BODY AROUND AND BEAT THE SKINS LIKE IT’S A BONGO”

Beyond being an atrocious lyricist, R. Kelly is an awful person. Don’t support his music, not even “Ignition” (I’m talking to you, frat stars who create the darty playlists).

BEDROCK by Young Money

UNSEXY LYRICS: “CALL ME MR. FLINTSTONE, I CAN MAKE YOUR BED ROCK”

You know when Lil Wayne said, “I hate to see her go, but I love to watch her leave”? I felt that. But really, this song is too much of a throwback jam to listen to while doing the horizontal mambo.

LOLLIPOP by Lil Wayne

UNSEXY LYRICS: “AND WHEN I’M AT THE BOTTOM, SHE HILLARY RODHAM”

The fact that the song is annoyingly repetitive would be a lazy observation. This failed double entendre is hilarious and way too overlooked. There’s the implication of Hillary as an independent female icon; so, the woman is taking over in sex...but the funnier part is that Wayne is using Rodham here as a play on “ride him,” which is somehow both ineffectual and brilliant.



MERRY SUN | STUDENT LIFE



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Student Life

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you talked dirty to us, let's talk dirty to you...

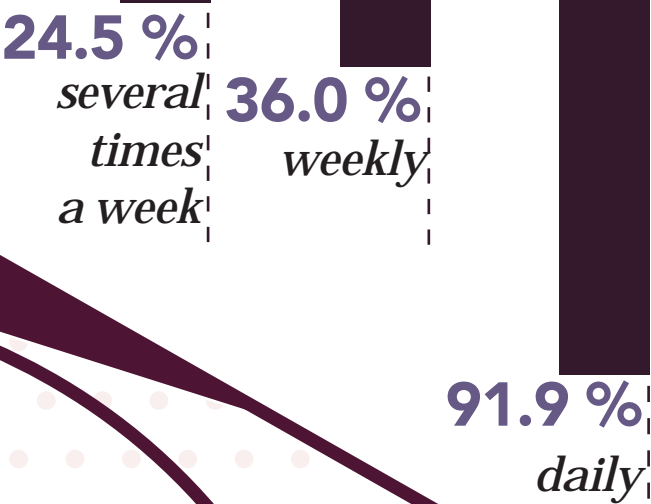
75.0 %

of Wash. U. students have had sex.

- 62.17 % of freshmen
- 74.11 % of sophomores
- 79.97 % of juniors
- 82.51 % of seniors
- 74.07 % of Sam Fox
- 74.86 % of Arts & Sciences
- 73.28 % of B-school
- 76.33 % of Engineering

84.8 %

of students masturbate.
96.82 % of men
78.35 % of women
78.52 % of gender non-conforming students



67.4 %

of students watch porn.

- 52.7 % of women do
- 91.1 % of men do
- 68.0 % of GNC students do



A nice post-'exercise' snack
Your favorite foods for after you finish
Pizza
Half and Half
Chocolate
Ice Cream
Cheese

I make money moves (your go-to moves)

- "Ask for a picture of your partner's father. Maintain eye contact with picture throughout the encounter."
- "Right as he's about to finish, lean in and gently whisper 'wheat thins' in his ear."
- "Watch 'Bee Movie' and ask if they like jazz."
- "Cook her dinner. People love hand-crafted food because it shows actual effort and that they mean something to you. Unless you set the kitchen on fire. Try not to do that."
- "Being respectful and not being a dick. That's how I get more use out of my dick."

About this survey

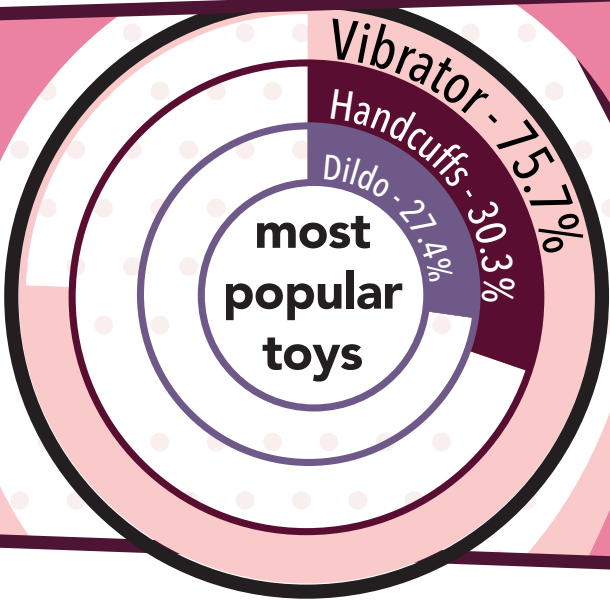
- Freshmen - 279
- Sophomore- 325
- Juniors - 263
- Seniors - 265
- Other Students - 56
- Men - 397
- Women - 757
- GNC Students - 34

chained to the rhythm

Top artists to set the tune to get your groove on.

-  The Weeknd
-  Rihanna
-  Frank Ocean
-  Young the Giant

34.0 % of students own sex toys.



24.7 % of men
37.8 % of women
67.7 % of gender non-conforming students

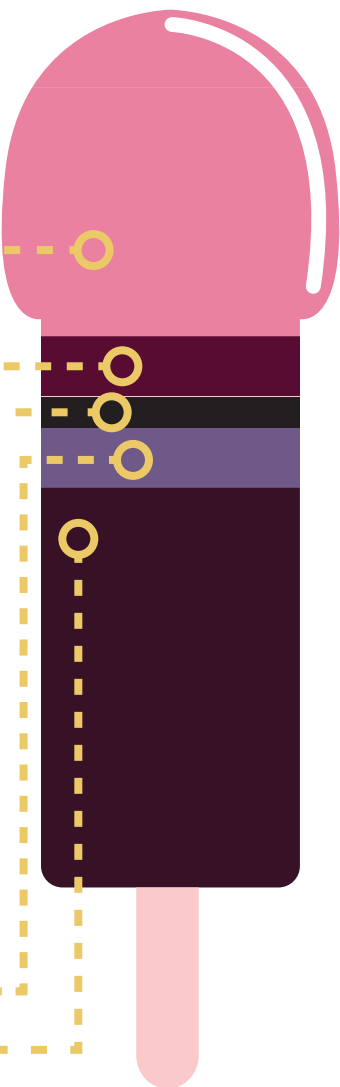
better safe than sorry contraception used by WU students and their partners

- 76.12% of students use condoms
- 58.30% use the pill
- 58.30% use IUDs
- 21.86% 'pull out'
- 6.39% don't use protection

sometimes school is a little hard

Average penis lengths from Wash. U. Schools

- 6.60" Sam Fox
- 6.19" B-School
- 6.11" Engineering
- 6.08" Average
- 6.00" Arts & Sciences



you up?

- 53.3 % of students have used dating apps
- that is
- 82.93 % of gay students
- 82.86 % of bisexual students
- 47.35 % of straight students
- 47.06 % of pansexual students
- of those
- 92.3 % use Tinder
- 47.3 % use Bumble
- 20.0 % use Snapchat

bears who bare it all

62.8 % of students have sent and/or recieved nude photos
60.3 % of students have sexted

yikes (your interesting, kinky, eccentric stories)

"My ex used to really enjoy dirty talk, but I was never good at it. Once he asked me to dirty talk in Chinese instead, so I ended up panicking and whispering random words that I know like 'lawyer' and 'sheep.' He had no idea what I was saying and hopefully will never know!"

"While I was losing my virginity, I was walked in on by my girlfriend's dad, who had come home from work early because, as he put it, 'God had told me I had to go home RIGHT NOW'"

"My boyfriend got hot sauce in my vagina. Twice."

"I was having sex with a guy for the first time and I had my sex playlist on. I thought I had taken all the weird/funny songs off of it, but apparently I missed one, because right as he finished, 'I Just Had Sex' by The Lonely Island started playing."

One time a guy said to me as he took off his shirt, "These are my abs. Girls like them."

Dan Flavin doesn't care about your relationship status.



Dan Flavin (American, 1933–1996), *Untitled*, from the portfolio *The New York Collection for Stockholm*, 1973. Screen print, 48 / 300, 12 x 9". Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University in St. Louis. Gift of Arthur and Sheila Prensky, 2004.

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Fornication

STAFF EDITORIAL

Here we go again: ‘Student Love’ is back for another year

Why do we keep publishing the Sex Issue every year? Well, the simplest reason is that it is our most read issue. And after sustaining jokes about how “no one reads Student Life” the rest of the year, it’s nice to put together something that people will actually see.

But the real reason we keep doing this is because of the sex survey, which reveals a whole bunch of fascinating information about the sexual lives of our fellow Washington University students. For any of you who were concerned (or embarrassed) that you had a weirdly bloody sexual encounter, fear not—it seems that many of your peers have been in the same boat. And for whoever answered “this survey” for your most embarrassing sexual moment, you could have come up with a better joke, at the very least.

The survey also reveals some useful sexual advice, ranging from very specific moves during oral sex to just generally going to Wild Country. Overwhelmingly though, respondents wanted you to know that the best thing you can do during sex is communicate how you’re feeling and what you want. So, maybe take that piece of wisdom into account.

On a more serious note, the sex survey lets us look at some statistics and trends that are actually very important to the Wash. U. student body. Not that we didn’t know this before the survey, but dating apps are a huge part of life at Wash. U. Interestingly though, most students are not using apps like Tinder to date or even to hook up. The two most popular reasons that Wash. U. students use dating apps are as a confidence boost (70.6 percent) or just to look at pictures of attractive people (50.93 percent). More of you are using Tinder just to talk people, rather than using it to find serious romantic partners—so, keep that in mind before you boldly send that first message.

The survey also shows some (at least slightly reassuring) trends. Last year, 25 percent of respondents were using the “pull out” method to prevent pregnancy, while this year that number dropped to 22.3 percent. However, more Wash. U. students are pulling out than are using IUDs, and IUD usage remained essentially flat, dropping slightly from 18.5 percent to 18.34 percent. It appears that Wash. U. students are not taking advantage of the recent expansion of IUD availability at Student Health Services.

In short, we keep doing the Sex Issue because it is both fun and informative. It lets us talk about sex on campus—something we all care and think about, whether we admit it or not—while also becoming maybe a little concerned about the fact that 21 of you have had sex in the Danforth University Center showers. As long as sex remains a part of life in college, it will be important to talk about it candidly—and with a little bit of humor.

So, did you guys hookup?

KYA VAUGHN
STAFF WRITER

College, a word that screams “education” but also secretly (not really) promises the golden dream of midnight hang-outs, constant Postmates orders and the infamous frat party. The latter can lead to some pretty interesting stories—and embedded in them is the truth of the inevitability of painstakingly awkward moments. With dark lighting and music, it’s easy to get caught up in the moment, and in this moment, the possibility of a hookup somehow makes a grand appearance into the room. The question then becomes, what actually is a hookup? With its notorious usage amongst college students, you would think this phrase would have a clear-cut definition—that when people say hookup, we all have the same thought in mind. But if you’re among this population of those who think this term is well-defined, I hate to tell you, but you’re wrong. The phrase has a different meaning to everyone—so much so that one Urban Dictionary user wrote as the definition for the term, “I have absolutely no idea anymore.” In other words, it truly is dependent on the person.

I was always under the impression that a hookup directly translated to no-strings-attached sex, like the kind that happens in

almost every rom-com before they “accidentally” end up running into each other again at the coffee shop (aka the entire plot-). Basically, to me a hookup was the equivalent of an—attempted—one-night stand. With this definition in mind, when friends tell me about their hookup experiences, I always incite questions implying that they did indeed have sex, and these questions are frequently met with dazed expressions, followed by another definition. To this group, hookup is defined more as “making out,” occasionally including oral sex (depending on the person) but lacking any form of penetrative sex. Now, it was my turn to be surprised. How could our definitions be so vastly different? But it isn’t the difference that’s important, but rather how this difference affects us.

A lot of us are familiar with the “just want to hook up, nothing serious” text. Some accept this with open arms, while others reject it completely and without hesitation, both of which are appropriate responses. But for those who choose to accept, the problem follows suit: Whose definition of a hookup? If one is thinking sex, and the other is thinking a make out session, it’s pretty clear that a problem is undoubtedly on the horizon. The snowball effect of miscommunication barrel rolling into an awkward moment—just imagine the possibilities—is something

that can easily be avoided through redirecting your communication.

As terrible as it may seem, it’s simple, really, and imperative to the outcome of your hookup experience. When engaging in a dialogue about the situation, be confident in your convictions and say what you want. Knowing that the phrase is variably defined, make sure you have a talk with the person you’re hooking up with before it actually happens. It’s important for them to not only know your comfort levels, but for you to know theirs, too. This way, the experience can be generally enjoyable for the both of you and allow you to (mostly) avoid any awkward or uncomfortable contact that may ensue. It may not fix everything, but at the very least you can rest assured that your partner will know exactly what you’re up for and what you’re not, evading any possible miscommunication that may arise in claiming to want to just hook up.

It’s safe to say that the true definition of a hookup will forever remain a societal enigma and frustratingly so. But although it is mystery may never be solved talking it through with your partner will help. Communication is essential in every relationship, and hookups are no exception. So, communicate what you actually want to enable you and your partner to enjoy your experience to the fullest.

This is why I have mace

LAUREN ALLEY
STAFF WRITER

I seem to have the opposite of resting bitch face. I don’t look angry all the time; I just look constantly terrified. Like, I may take off running or drop into the fetal position and cry if faced with any confrontation whatsoever. This has caused a range of problems; but the biggest of all is that it makes it fun (and easy) for people to sexually harass me. And in spite of the revulsion and terror, I have some interesting stories.

Over fall break, I made the terrible decision of eating pizza while standing on the sidewalk at 1 a.m., which apparently marked me as a prostitute to the average creepy man. A man approached me and let me know he was representing his group of friends behind him. He asked me to accompany the whole lot of them to their hotel room so “the real party can start.” I informed him that I was rather committed to my pizza and was

noticed a man watching me in the airport security line. I assumed it was because I was actively sobbing in public after saying goodbye to my boyfriend, but this was not the case. The man and I were assigned seats next to each other on the flight. He asked why I was crying, and I explained the situation to him. I assumed he was like a concerned dad (he was 40-ish years old, after all). Once he learned I was a psychology major, he told me I could be a millionaire if I worked with damaged women. He said he does not date anyone over 25 because they have all “been damaged too thoroughly.” He proceeded to show me pictures of women who are his “friends,” telling me how each one is pretty, but they are all too “messed up” from domestic abuse (how he thought this made him likable is really beyond me). He then repeatedly asked me to sleep at his place and to party with him. He told me I was too young to be in a committed relationship. He put his headphones in my ear to make me listen to his electronic music (I assume he’s chasing after his long-past youth with it). He spent the trip leaning against me and openly staring at me as I tried to look away. He asked if it was true that “All women from Missouri are beautiful.” I informed him that this was not a stereotype, but last I heard, St. Louis was number two in the nation for STIs. He asked how I kept myself clean, and I told him I used the tactic of being in a two-year committed relationship. I have never gotten such strong “Lovely Bones” vibes from a man in my life.

Speaking of middle aged men who tried to wear my skin as a suit, I was mildly stalked by two men when I was in high school. One would come to the Toys R Us where I worked at least once a week (he had no children) just to see me. He told me I was “a beautiful flower that bloomed.” Which was nice and all,

but maybe if you’re in your 40s you shouldn’t spend so much time stalking a 17-year-old. Another man, who cut the grass at my dad’s house and happened to live near my mom (30 minutes from my dad), had been inappropriate with me a few times at my dad’s. But I didn’t realize he was the same person until he waited outside my car late one night, grabbed me in the parking lot and told me he had been watching me and knew where I live. He then proceeded to describe both of my homes to me (I nearly peed my pants).

Finally, I would like to give some advice to the men of Washington University: Dear frat guys, a girl who agrees to play a game of beer pong with you is not also agreeing to have sexual intercourse. Maybe she just likes to play beer pong. This does not mean you get to grab her butt or hold her hand. She really just wants two feet of space—and some beer. Please. Stop. It. Also, to the guys at Welcome Week events (or in any other club scene), please ask permission before grinding on a girl. You are approaching her from behind; she cannot see you or even prevent you touching her unless you ask first. Especially if you know her from somewhere else, please ask first, for the love of God. Eye contact earlier in the night is not consent; it is not even expressing interest. The girl may just be looking around the room or having some (completely nonsexual) thought about you. There is nothing charming about a guy from your floor sneaking up behind you and rubbing his penis against you in a crowded room (let’s be real, that’s what grinding is). If it goes poorly and she rejects you (as she should, you creepy, penis man) you will now have to spend the rest of the year avoiding eye contact as you walk past each other in the halls or try to do laundry. So, please, just keep your penis to yourself, unless told otherwise.

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SEMIEN

Let’s talk about sex, baby: XMag broadens the conversation with art and articles about sexual health, sex positivity

HANUSIA HIGGINS
SENIOR SCENE EDITOR

It’s no secret that college students love to talk about sex. And here to fulfill that need is XMag, a year-old student publication devoted to discussing, through art and writing, topics that range from STI prevention to porn and everything in between.

For senior Eden Diamond, XMag’s founder and executive director, expanding the breadth of conversations about sex on campus was one of the key goals that drove her to create the publication. To Diamond, even the name “XMag” exemplifies this goal of growth.

“One thing I thought [the title] represented is this gap in communication because there’s so much censorship and so much taboo,” Diamond says. “People are talking a lot about sex on campus but only with their close friends. And I think the ‘X’—in a certain way— represents all that censorship and the gap that it’s created, and that’s where we come in: trying to bridge that gap.”

The idea clicked for Diamond last spring, when she came across an old copy of “X-Magazine,” a Washington University publication put out by the now-defunct Student Forum on Sexuality, in a Washington University professor’s library collections. Although the current iteration of XMag is quite different from the previous one, its essence remains the same: Sharing

students’ perspectives about sexuality.

“I created it with the intent of creating a platform for conversations about sex and sexuality in a positive light,” Diamond explains. “I realized that there are a lot of resources on campus that revolve around everything that can go wrong with sex, and there’s nothing talking about what goes right. Not to say that XMag is only about positive things with regards to sexuality, but it’s more of a proactive stance instead of damage control. Its mission is more about creating communication and improving the dialogue so that miscommunications, and issues that happen after the fact, are less likely to happen.”

Ensuring that XMag represents a wide range of voices has been one of the group’s largest challenges so far. As of now, the majority of contributors identify as women, and Diamond embraces the challenge to branch out.

“My worry is that it becomes an echo chamber within itself of mostly feminist ideology—which I love; I love feminist ideology, and I think it’s an intrinsically feminist publication—but for it to become a bunch of [Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies] majors talking about sex with each other is not the point. So, my hope is that it diversifies,” Diamond says.

With this goal in mind, Diamond invites people of all identities to contribute to XMag—in fact, this diversity is key to its message. She hopes to

break down misconceptions about who can and should contribute—it’s not just personal narrative, and there’s a place for everyone’s voice in the magazine. Not long ago, the group held a “bring a friend” meeting, encouraging each member to bring along someone new.

“Getting rid of that misconception and getting more contributors would be the ideal because I know so many people have so much to say about sex. It’s not like people don’t have anything to say; people are just scared to say it,” Diamond says.

Contributors to XMag don’t only express themselves through words. Art is just as important a part of the publication, from paintings to poetry to photography. XMag Art Director Katie Ehrlich, who has been with the project since the beginning, explains that the artistic dimension of the magazine adds perspectives that might otherwise go unheard. Ehrlich, a Communication Design major, has been integral in getting Sam Fox students involved with the project.

“In the art school, there’s a lot of artists that are dealing with this idea of sexuality, especially because we’re college students, and it’s a time period where a lot of people are exploring that for themselves,” Ehrlich explains. “Getting to highlight the viewpoints and talents of a different range of Wash. U. students who might not want to write or might not be very good at expressing their sexuality



GRACE BRUTON | STUDENT LIFE

through writing...that’s a very cool outlet for a different type of Wash. U. student.”

XMag has published two issues thus far (one per semester) with another one on the way for spring 2018. This semester, the group aims to have a print-format publication with a magazine-style layout, in addition to the website format they’ve used so far. Diamond hopes that this step will help them secure Student Union recognition, and eventually funding, in the future, so that they can produce a physical magazine.

“We hope to one day have a magazine, just so it’s more tangible for people—so that it gets in the hands of people who wouldn’t otherwise see it. But for now, the online form has actually been super helpful for us: We’ve reached thousands of people, and there’s no paper waste, which is great for somebody who

cares about the planet. But we are looking to publish—to get a few copies out there would be super helpful, especially in [Student Health Services] areas,” Diamond says.

Diamond and Ehrlich are both seniors, so accomplishing these goals will largely depend on whoever succeeds them in their directorial roles. Both emphasized their hope that students with a passion for the topic will carry on the work once they graduate this spring.

“Eden and I both started this out of a passion for the topic and a passion for spreading education about sexuality and sex positivity, and I really hope that the people who come after us—not just next year, but in the coming years—will share that passion and continue to grow the magazine and improve it and have an even more diverse topic range. I’d just love to see it grow into something even bigger and even

more widespread on campus,” Ehrlich says.

Ultimately, Diamond hopes that any Wash. U. student who comes into contact with XMag feels that their own voice could have a place in it, too.

“XMag is for everyone. It’s not just for people who love sex or people who are having sex. It’s for everyone because the politics surrounding sex and the social dynamics surrounding sex affect everyone on our campus,” Diamond declares. “Whether you are having sex a lot, whether you’ve never had sex, whether you don’t know what sex even means to you or whether you are the most experienced human and you think of yourself of a sex god—whoever you are, wherever you are in this campus, you have something to say about this topic, and we want to hear it.”

Editor’s Note: Katie Ehrlich is a staff photographer for Student Life.

Sex is great, but have you heard of...

SCENE STAFF

It’s a sexy season this time of year, but have you ever asked yourself, what is better than sex? I know there are strong supporters of sex, and people with positive and amazing sex lives, but for argument’s sake what is better? Why does sex have to be the end all be all? Check out our meme-inspired list of things better than sex.

Sex is great, but have you heard of turning in WebWork at 11:59 p.m. for full credit? That rush I got when I clicked submit on my disgustingly confusing WebWork was better than any hypothetical high. Why have intercourse when you can procrastinate homework until the night its due, then fall asleep surrounded by chip bags and Diet Coke, happy. If I could bottle that feeling I would—so, I don’t have to live through the first part of that mess, but I think that’s what narcotics are. It’s the small things that matter: academic success and blinding luck. —*Katy Hutson, Senior Scene Editor*

Sex is great, but have you ever heard of a chocolate chip scone? During my freshman year, I got one almost every day, but now I’ve weaned myself off of them, so I’m

down to one or two every couple of weeks. I’m kind of picky when it comes to pastries, but the Washington University chocolate chip scones are a perfect balance between chocolate and dough and icing—truly a mind-blowing experience. —*Aidan Strassmann, Senior Editor*

Sex is great, but have you heard of going to the Subway in Mallinckrodt Center at a weird time between popular class periods so that the line is really short? You just walk right up to the counter, order whatever you want and have your sandwich without waiting on the 200-person line that usually stretches practically into the bookstore. It is really amazing, and I would highly recommend it next time you get a chance. —*Jon Lewis, Senior Editor*

Sex is great, but have you heard of getting accidentally Venmo’d by someone? You didn’t request money from them, they didn’t even mean to send it to you. ...You must just have one of those oddly common names, and they clicked on the wrong user. Must be nice to be you. I wish I had such an oddly common name that people accidentally sent me stacks on the regular. That would be better than sex. —*Elena Quinones, Staff Writer*



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SPANKS

The Kardashian Kurse: A (very serious) examination of the family’s romantic history with athletes and the effect on their careers

By Jon Lewis, Senior Sports Editor

The so-called “Kardashian Curse” is a well-documented urban legend. It goes something like this: A male athlete becomes romantically involved with a member of the Kardashian-Jenner crew, and all of a sudden, things start going wrong for him. People have also applied the curse to other celebrity Kardashian relationships as well, arguing, for example, that Kim is the reason Kanye West has been going crazy over the past five years, while ignoring that he’s been kind of nuts his whole career. But have the sisters actually ruined the careers of athletes? Let’s find out.

REGGIE BUSH



COURTESY OF KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

Let me just say this first: Reggie Bush was one of the greatest running backs in college football history, and it’s an absolute travesty that he was stripped of his Heisman trophy. With that out of the way, Reggie Bush famously dated Kim Kardashian from 2007 to 2009, encompassing Bush’s second through fourth seasons in the NFL. If you’re

arguing for the curse, you could point to the fact that Bush had almost 400 yards less from scrimmage the year he started dating Kim. However, he had his most efficient season in 2009—a year in which he and Kim split and then got back together—with 5.6 yards per carry. And he also won the Super Bowl while they were dating.

THE VERDICT: NO CURSE

KRIS HUMPHRIES



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Kris Humphries also dated Kim Kardashian and was married to her in a definitely-completely-real-and-not-a-publicity-stunt way for a grand total of 72 days. All in all, their entire relationship lasted just a little past the 2010-2011

NBA season. Humphries, defying the apparent witchcraft that comes with dating a Kardashian, had a great year while they were together, averaging 10 points and 10.4 rebounds—the second best statistical season of his career.

THE VERDICT: NO CURSE

LAMAR ODOM



COURTESY OF MAX FAULKNER/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

This is the most serious (and sad) instance of the curse. Odom married Khloe in 2009, just as he was approaching the apex of his NBA career. While he was not quite the dominant scorer he’d been when he entered the league in the early 2000s, Odom was a valuable role player for the Los Angeles Lakers, and his marriage to Khloe was exactly in the middle of the two consecutive championships he won in

LA. He also won NBA Sixth Man the next year—but things unraveled from there. The stress of starring in his very own Kardashian spin-off (and generally living the celebrity lifestyle) weighed too heavy on Odom, whose life began to spiral post-2013. It’s not necessarily Khloe’s fault that Odom’s life went the way it did, but it certainly seems like his life was ripped apart by the Kardashian whirlwind.

THE VERDICT: CURSE

BLAKE GRIFFIN



COURTESY OF GARY CORONADO/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Griffin is an NBA superstar and was a borderline MVP candidate a few years ago. He’s also an aspiring stand-up comedian. He is also in a casual, on-again-off-again relationship with Kendall Jenner. Did Griffin’s relationship with Jenner cause his recent trade to the Detroit Pistons, a major

blow to his celebrity ambitions? Will Jenner break up with Griffin because he is no longer living in Hollywood? How do we interpret Jenner wearing a Pistons hoodie on her Snapchat? It’s too early to tell, but whatever happens next in Griffin’s career will (probably) be Jenner’s fault.

THE VERDICT: STILL UNDECIDED

TRISTAN THOMPSON



COURTESY OF LEAH KLAFCZYNSKI/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/TNS

Thompson, the former fourth overall NBA draft pick, began dating Khloe Kardashian in the summer of 2016. They apparently debuted as a couple at Flo Rida’s birthday party (this is pretty neat). Anyway, Thompson was a key player in the Cleveland Cavaliers’ 2016 title run, and statistically, he kept up that performance even after getting involved with Khloe.

This season, however, he has been pretty bad—averaging just 2.1 offensive rebounds per game, which isn’t that good for a player whose primary skill is supposedly his offensive rebounding. Is this due to his relationship with the now-pregnant Khloe or simply due to the general 2017 Cavs disfunction? There’s no way to know for sure.

THE VERDICT: UNCLEAR

JORDAN CLARKSON



COURTESY OF GINA FERRAZZI/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Like Griffin, Jordan Clarkson is an NBA player who lived in Los Angeles, was for a time dating Kendall Jenner and was recently traded to the frigid Midwest. However, Clarkson was traded to the Cavaliers, meaning he went from playing with

Julius Randle to playing with LeBron James—a pretty clear career upgrade. If dating Jenner really does cause trades, this one seems to have worked out pretty well for Clarkson, who will now more than likely play for an NBA title in June.

THE VERDICT: NO CURSE



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