



**SEX,
LOVE &
ROMANCE**

CONFESSIONS

OF

SOCIALLY-CONSTRUCTED,
SEXUALLY RADICAL,

LOVE-BASED,

SCRIPT-SENSITIVE,

GENDER-BENDING,

LABEL-QUESTIONING,

RACE-RESPECTFUL,

STEREOTYPE-CHALLENGING,

HISTORICALLY AWARE YET

MODERN-THINKING

HONORS
STUDENTS.

A ZINE CREATED BY THE STUDENTS OF PROFESSOR LEILA RUPP'S FEMINIST STUDIES 150 HONORS
SECTION

SPRING 2013

A SPECIAL THANKS TO PHOEBE FOR HER UNWAVERING ATTENDANCE, PATIENCE AND OVERALL PLEASANTNESS – MAY IT INSPIRE HORDES OF UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS FOR YEARS TO COME

10 Short Poems From Isla Vista

Kelty Dennis Kauffman

1. My best friend came to visit on Saint Patrick's Day.
You threw a beer can at us from your roof and yelled that I had
a fat ass.

I was the one that was embarrassed for some reason.
Why was I the one that was embarrassed?

2. We were so drunk that you hugged and made out with me,
even though you are a straight girl.
We were only on El Colegio. El Colegio.
Some adult drove by and yelled "whores" at us
but we laughed about it the next morning and did not mind.

3. Upon hearing my snide remark
you said
"No, no, my frat is a good one, we don't even date rape girls."
You make me sick.

4. An Ode To Female Masturbation

"Girls don't watch porn. Or masturbate."
That is just simply not true.
"Well maybe, you know, those girls do."
Why must we obtain orgasms only from sexual intercourse (and
usually barely then)?
Are girls allowed to have sexual desire without a man present?
By those girls, do you mean healthy, sexual beings who are
complete humans even without a man present to tell them when
they should be horny?
(Reject the social scripts telling you to be afraid of your own
body)
(practice radical self love)
(you'll have more orgasms)

5. My TA won't use the word
V A G I N A.
({ô})

6. Two Haikus About What I Am Thinking When You Comment on My or
Anyone Else's Body:

Stop telling me how
I should feel in my own skin
I like how I look

Your opinion is
totally irrelevant
go fuck yourself, please

7. When I kiss a boy it's romantic
when I kiss a girl it's sexy
when I kiss a boy it's for enjoyment
when I kiss a girl it's for attention
when I kiss a boy it's an expression
when I kiss a girl it's out of confusion
when I kiss a girl I am desperate
when I kiss a girl I need validation
when I kiss a girl it is a performance

8. Adventures As A Safer Sex Peer:

"No, only use flavored lube for oral sex. The sugar can cause
yeast infections."

"There is absolutely no reason why you shouldn't use a condom"

"You're probably not pregnant. I can go with you to get a test
to check, if you want."

"NO you should NOT USE TWO CONDOMS AT ONCE."

"Do you have your Gardasil shots?"

"No, you have to use a new condom every single time. Condoms are
SINGLE use only."

"Don't flush them down the toilet, you'll fuck up the plumbing."

"Try masturbating, you'll figure out what you like."

"It was probably just whiskey dick."

"I gave away my last Safer Sex Peer condom...here just take one
of mine."

"Lube! Just trust me."

9. When I was in eighth grade
my EX best friend called me a
slut!

And I knew she was mad because I had a boyfriend and she did
not.

And I was thrilled.

So now when I hear a girl viciously slut
shaming/bashing/destroying

I imagine the girl she is describing, out in Isla Vista, just
living her life

and making this childish girl
furious with jealousy at her freedom.

10. I know drunk people can fall off the cliff
but if we build a fence

I won't get kissed sitting on the edge of the continent again.

rotip #1415
lies, guys are sick of
aring you ask where
of the "nice guys" are.
ey're in the friend zone.
here you left them

I LOVE YOU

BUT I AM NOT IN LOVE WITH
YOU

you dont love me like i love you. hard
knowing i could treat you better than
anyone else. hard seeing you all the
time. hard watching you get hurt. hard
hearing about your broken heart and
not being able to fix it. hard not to kiss
you when you look so cute. hard

cepting that you're not mine. but do
u know what would be the hardest?

dest would be losing you

I'll stay your friend,

you to see me like i

t in my



JUST TELL ME
HOW YOU FEEL
CAUSE I CAN HANDLE
BEING "JUST FRIENDS"
BUT I CAN'T HANDLE
YOU LEADING ME ON

Let's just
stay
friends.. = Never
talk
again.

Just friends?

Miriam O'Donnell

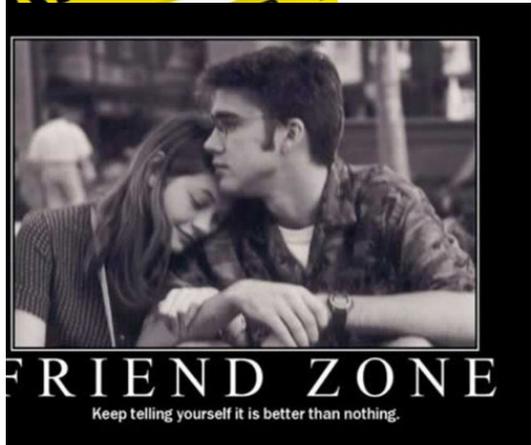
"Sex makes everything more
complicated.
Even *not having* it, because the
not having it...
makes it *complicated.*"
- "The Holiday"



TEXTING:
heyyyyyy

FRIENDS | I THINK I LIKE YOU | TAKE THE HINT, DUMBASS | LET'S FUCK | I'M DRUNK

hi
friendzoned



Asian Men are Lovers Too!

By Taylor Sam



We all have heard the stereotypes of Asian men. There is not even a single ounce of romantic aura within them, because they are emotionless robots. They are not very masculine nor attractive. They also have tiny penises. Well friends, I am here to tell you that all these things are just plain stereotypes. I am an Asian man. I love to play the guitar and sing to the ladies. I enjoy working out like the rest of the other men and I do give care to my looks. As far as penis size goes, all men varies and its not tied down to race! So ladies, forget about what you heard about us and give us Asian men a chance, because we can be great lovers.

Sexual Horror Stories: How My Parents Found out I Wasn't a Virgin

Alex Berkmen

Parents are often the last people teens and young adults want to inform about their virginity loss. As a result, many parents find out their children are sexually active in ways that are awkward and shocking to both the parent and child. Below are accounts from UCSB students about the mortifying experiences that led their parents to discover they were no longer virgins:

"My boyfriend and I were having sex for the first time while my parents were out of the house. Once we were done my boyfriend decided to flush the condom down the toilet. The next day my dog had somehow gotten ahold of the used condom and actually carried it over to my parents, dropping it at their feet. They were upset to say the least once they realized what Baxter's new chew toy really was."

"After my boyfriend and I had sex while my mom was out, he went out behind the garage to throw the condom away in a trashcan no one would look in. Right after he threw it out and was walking back into the garage my mom pulled up in her car, catching him wearing nothing but his underwear. She immediately knew and I was immediately in trouble."

"One time my friend was trying anal for the first time and the guy pulled out too fast and she pooped all over her bed. They both started yelling and so her dad came into her room to see if everything was ok and saw everything. She couldn't look at him for a month."

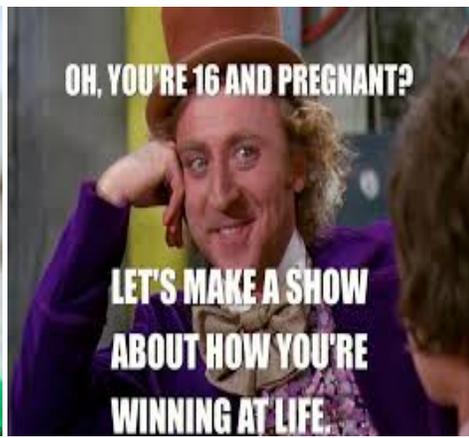
"My girlfriend bled all over my blanket the first time we had sex, so after we were done I threw it in the washer with a ton of soap and thought it would come out. Well apparently when my mom went to do the laundry she found my blanket still covered in blood and asked me what had happened. I guess my facial expression gave it away. She never left us alone after that."

"I was having sex one time and my parents came home early. So I decide to do what I've seen in a plethora of teen movies and tell the guy to hide in the closet while I threw clothes on. Then my mom coincidentally came into my room to grab the hamper out of my closet. Before I could say anything, she opened the closet door and screamed for dear life when she saw a naked man inside."

"I was having sex with my girlfriend in the back of my car in an empty parking lot. All of a sudden a car pulls into the lot, up next to my car, and then speeds away. Apparently it was a family friend who noticed my (very distinct) license plate after pulling into the lot and took a closer look to see what I was doing there. I know this because she told my parents exactly what I was doing there the next day."

"A girl I know missed her period and took a pregnancy test to make sure that wasn't the reason. Her parents found it when they were taking out the trash. The worst part is that it was positive."

-Anonymous UCSB Students



Teen Pregnancy in The 90s



Teen Pregnancy Today



Teenage Pregnancy in Popular Culture

Danielle Freedman

Popular culture is all around us: TV, radio, movies, magazines, and more. It is hard to escape the messages these media try to convey, especially by audiences who are passively watching, listening, or reading. After a close study of TV shows directed at young audiences, I came to find that young audiences were specifically being harmed by TV shows such as “16 and Pregnant” and “The Secret Life of the American Teenager”.

Romance is often represented idealistically in Hollywood TV shows. The distraught lovers almost always find their way back together after a great climax has left them torn apart. In TV shows like “16 and Pregnant” and “The Secret Life of the American Teenager”, a new topic is brought to the forefront of American media: teenage pregnancy. These shows attempt to show that romance and love between teenagers is real, illustrating that against all odds, the “lovers” can prevail. In reality, however, it is tough to succeed as a teenage family. Sometimes love isn’t enough, as there are many other responsibility issues that are only lightly touched upon in these shows.

This leads to a distorted view among teenagers regarding romance, love, and teenage pregnancy. Many young people today believe they can overcome the hurdles of being teenage parents through a rare love connection. They hope for the fairytale ending similar to that of their favorite stars on TV. Sometimes, young people even become excited about the thought of teenage pregnancy because they believe they might become famous stars like characters on these shows. This is dangerous for the teenage psyche as it creates a twisted sense of reality.

The media is a powerful tool, as it has the ability to affect impressionable teenagers. The minds of young viewers are being contaminated by popular culture TV shows like “16 and Pregnant” and “The Secret Life of the American Teenager.” Only once the passive viewers transform into active participants can they realize and critique the unrealistic and false images that popular culture TV shows produce regarding teenage pregnancy.

Is being called “Hot” and “Bad Bitch” what you really want?

Maricela Rodriguez

Do you really want to be the “sexiest” or “baddest bitch?” In reality, you are feeding into the culture norms, sexual scripts, and double standards that limit who you can be, except they now sound more appealing. Men can go out and have one night stands and hook up with whomever they want and as much as they want, but when girls do it, they are “hoes.” Why? Who said we can’t be sexually active? And more importantly, who said we can’t have sexual relationships without feelings? These double standards prevent us, as a society, from fully expressing ourselves as women. Sexual scripts like the “good girl” and “bad girl” prevent women from being who they want to be because of the fear of being judged or cast out. It’s about time we take a stand and reclaim our full independence over ourselves as women here in the U.S. We live in a free country so it’s about time we live up to that title! Ladies, be yourselves and don’t let anyone influence your decisions and what you want to be!

The social construction of love and romantic relationships in modern society

Nam Nguyen

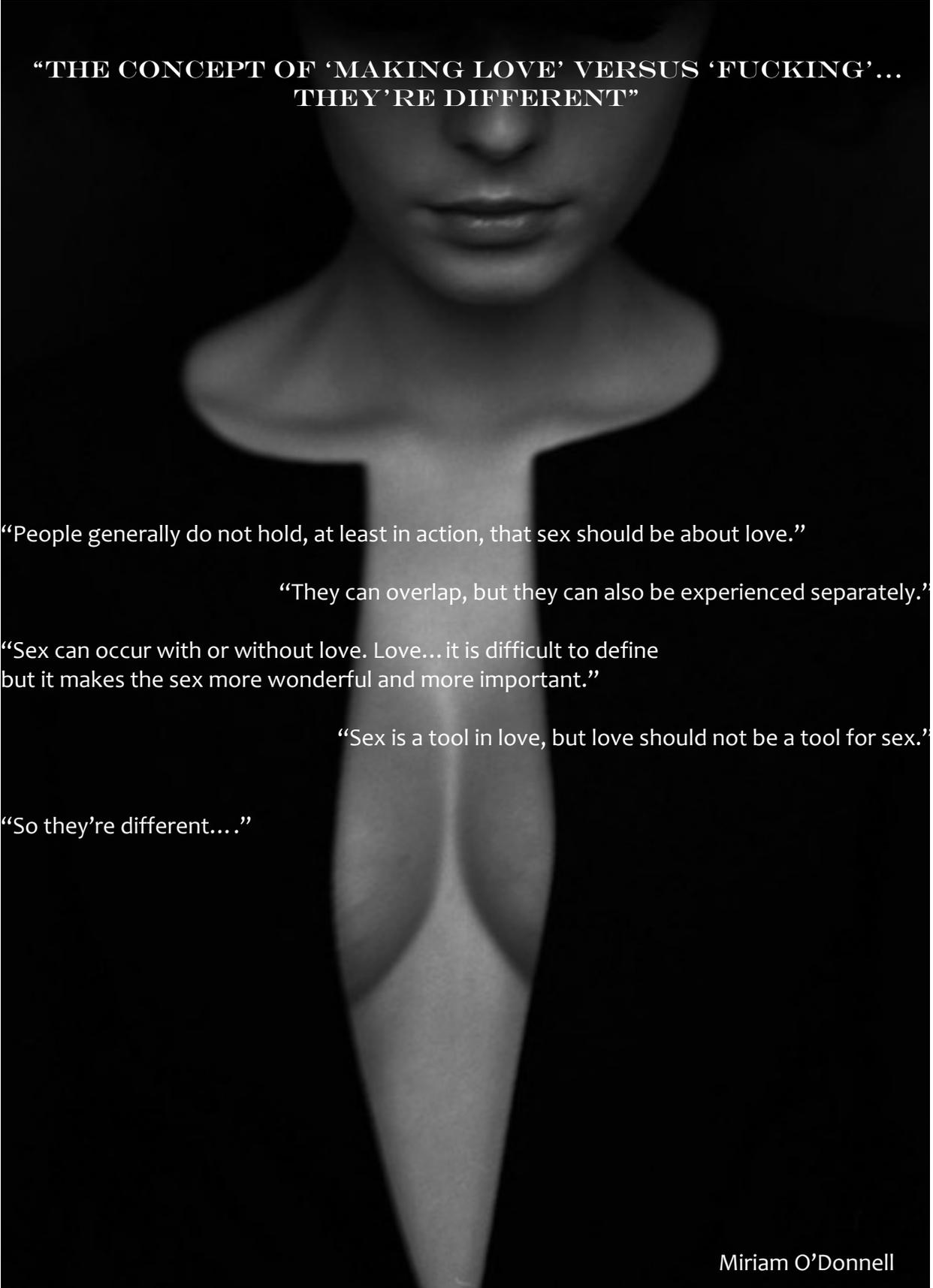
How many times do we have to hear a love song in order to understand our relationships? Perhaps, many times. When I look at my friends' song playlists, most of the songs I hear are about falling in love, finding romance, breaking up, or the aftermath of a relationship. Love songs are always in high demand, and the music industry seems to know well what the audience is looking for in a song. We are constantly exposed to socially constructed notions of love and relationships. We understand love and relationships through love songs as well as other media, like movies, TV shows, magazines, etc. These forces are so strong and prevalent that we unconsciously take them for granted and perform the plot in our own relationships. For example, "Just The Way You Are", a song by Bruno Mars, depicts the admiration a guy has towards his girlfriend's beauty in a very poetic and romantic way. This song suggests how an individual should feel toward his or her partner. It reinforces the notion of beauty appreciation, which is a sign of love and attraction. I have seen some friends of mine sing this song to their girlfriends. Interestingly, we are prone to behave like the couple in the song.

Another obvious example is "Love You Like A Love Song" by Selena Gomez. The title of the song practically assumes the general idea of a "love song," which could be about beauty, attraction, unobtainable love, and anything else. Of course we know every love song is different; however, we do not really know what kind of "love song" Selena Gomez is referring to. The lyrics explain only how the singer loves someone like a "love song". Yet, we know what "love song" Selena Gomez is talking about because we understand the basic components of a love song.

It is almost impossible to look at our own relationships outside of a love song context. Love and emotional attraction are abstract. The simplest way to make sense of love and relationships is by interpreting a love song that illustrates our own love life. Listening to "Someone Like You" by Adele after a breakup is one of the best examples of this behavior. The song is very sad and depressing. It expresses the feelings you have after a breakup. The song gained popularity quickly because it related to many relationships. Love songs seem to dictate our love life in terms of how we function and behave according to the scripts set by these songs. This is what I called the "Priming Effect." It is a term in psychology that occurs when someone is repeatedly exposed to a certain idea that he or she tends to obey. We obey these rules and follow them. We fall in love, we feel sad after a breakup, we feel happy only when we are together with the person we love, and relationships always go bad. However, it is not true for everyone. My past relationships are relatively outside of the norm suggested by mainstream love songs.



A few years ago I broke up with my boyfriend, with whom I still currently live. There are no dramas and problems with us living together in the same apartment although some friends of mine are shocked that he is my housemate. It is socially constructed that a couple must live far apart after a breakup. In my other love interest, I was dating a guy two years ago at UCSB. I was a sophomore and he was a graduating senior. We did not have much time to spend together, and he was about to graduate. He left UCSB and pursued a Master's degree in San Francisco. He finally found a new boyfriend while he was attending school there. What is interesting about us is that we still have feelings for each other but I am not moving up from there because he already has a boyfriend. I still talk to him and met him a few times when I visited him in San Francisco. Instead of feeling jealous and sad, I am rather happy to see that he is happy with his current boyfriend. Happiness does not necessarily come with an actual relationship with someone you love. For me, it comes in many forms. If someone you love is happy, why should you not feel happy for them? You should not feel happy because that person is not together with you? Perhaps the latter is only socially constructed too.



**“THE CONCEPT OF ‘MAKING LOVE’ VERSUS ‘FUCKING’...
THEY’RE DIFFERENT”**

“People generally do not hold, at least in action, that sex should be about love.”

“They can overlap, but they can also be experienced separately.”

“Sex can occur with or without love. Love... it is difficult to define but it makes the sex more wonderful and more important.”

“Sex is a tool in love, but love should not be a tool for sex.”

“So they’re different...”

Miriam O’Donnell

Sólo mujeres
Betty Marquez

"Sin
Verguenza"



"No seas
una de
ESAS"

"No tienes
DIGNIDAD"

"Calladita
te ves mas
BONITA"

El poderosa realidad de esta imagen trascienden generaciones y países. Mujeres de etnicidades sub-representadas históricamente han vivido un estándar doble – somos forzadas a asumir el rol de santas y el de putas. Lo que la sociedad suele olvidar es que somos mujeres; ser humanas con objetivos, experiencias, y sueños por realizar. En veces pienso que no hay mas allá de el sexo, el amor, y el romance porque parece que a la gente se le olvida que no soy un objeto para fetichizar. La mujer debe ser valorada mas allá de su cuerpo.

EL VALORAR A UNA MUJER ES VALORAR A LA VIDA

VALUING A WOMYN IS VALUING LIFE.

The powerful reality of this image transcends generations and countries. Womyn of Color have historically lived a double standard – we are forced to assume the role of both the pure and the whore. Society tends to forget that we are womyn; humyn beings with objectives, experiences, and dreams yet to be realized. There are times when I think there is nothing more than sex, love, and romance because it seems that people forget that I am not an item and I may not be fetishized. Womyn should be valued for more than her body.

Alumni Anamneses
Augie Schott

Year One

Excitement and fear
Overwhelm my lustful groin.
Insecurities
Strengthen roots through betrayal.
Pain shadowed in confidence.

Year Two

Optimism leads
Acceleration ensues.
Lies, love, confusion.
The greatest dawn followed by
The darkest fall and true hate.

Year Three

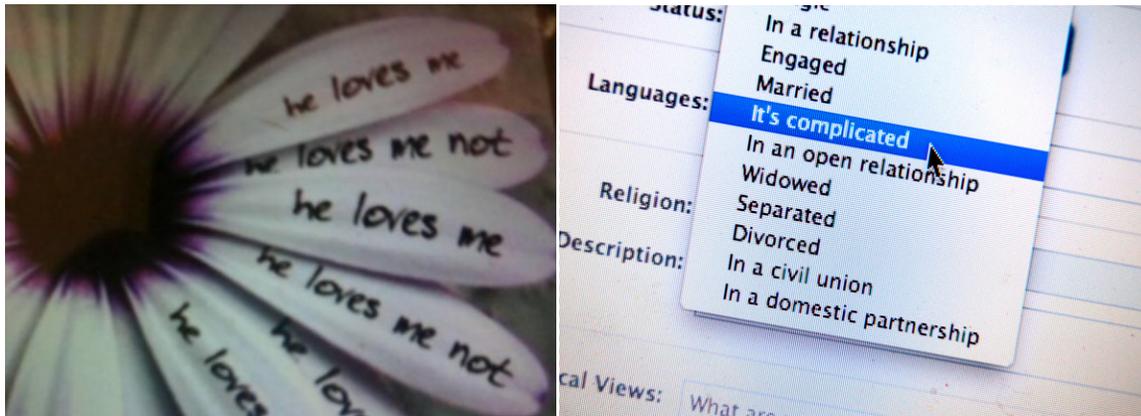
Denial fueled through
The frenzy of alcohol.
Consequences lurk,
And strike with deft precision.
Dirty feelings permeate.

Year Four

The benefits of
Breaking and slowing blossom.
Forgiveness feeds calm.
Bold passion and love emerge,
Coursing truth and honesty.

The Single Girl Rant

Sarah McClanahan



He loves me; he loves me not. The internal debate over the answer to this innocent children's game plagues women well into adulthood.

Why are girls raised to believe we need a romantic partner to feel complete? Why is remaining single past a certain age something we are taught to be ashamed of?

From when we are young, we are bombarded with fairytales that stress the same message. Women are portrayed as powerless damsels in distress who need their Prince Charmings to swoop in and save the day.

This logic is flawed and extremely damaging. It insinuates that if you haven't found Mr. Right, you are somehow deficient or incomplete. Girls run off and cling to the nearest Tom, Dick, or Harry because they believe he will fill the void in their life and erase all of their insecurities. However, being comfortable in your own skin is a pre-requisite to truly loving someone else and accepting love in return.

Being alone does not necessarily mean you feel lonely. It all depends on your mindset. If you mope at home ruminating on failed romances and missed chances, you will be miserable. Remember- it is far better to be alone than with someone who will only hold you back.

Don't get me wrong. Being in a relationship has its perks, like physical and emotional intimacy and continuous support through life's ups and downs.

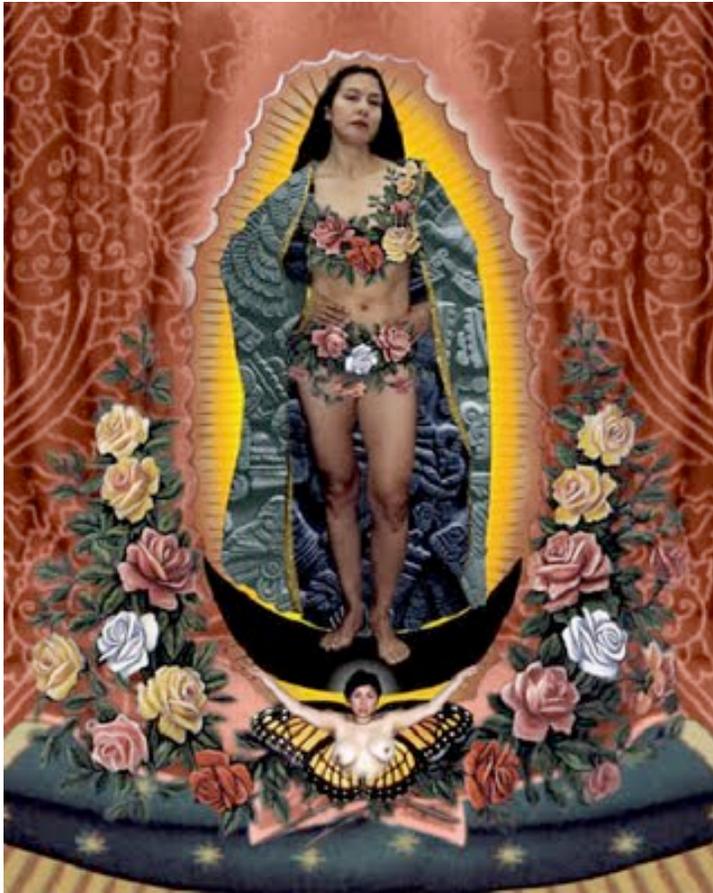
But you cannot let your relationship status determine your self-worth or how meaningful you perceive your life to be.

Being single should not be stigmatized. It is liberating not to have to answer to anyone and to know you are your number one priority.

Enjoy the freedom you have while being unattached. Make time for yourself to travel, pursue your passions, settle into your career, and be the best person you can be.

I am single and proud. And I certainly don't need to be rescued by a man. Although if he would like to hold the door open for me, I wouldn't be opposed. Just saying.

Latino Queer Art



Abigail Salazar

“Our Lady”

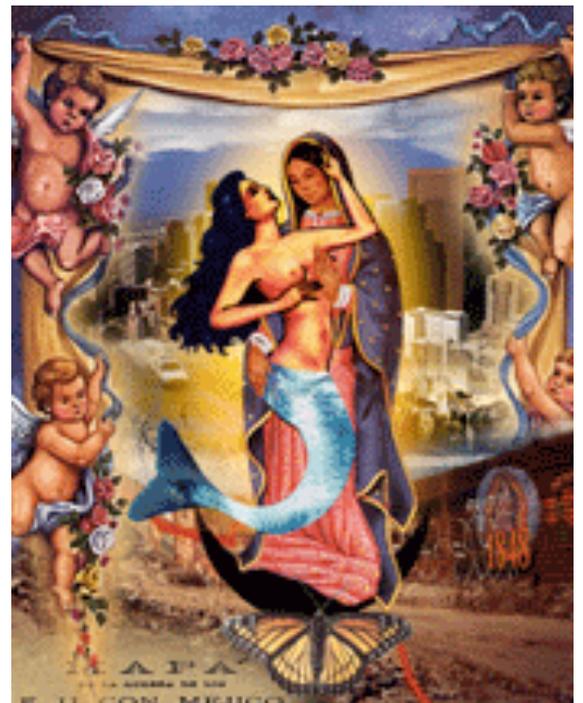
Artist: Alma Lopez

Alma Lopez , a Chicana artist and activist, was inspired to portray a queer, strong, and nonconforming “Virgen de Guadalupe,” enabling the sexual and spiritual empowerment of Latino queer people by disrupting the notion of heteronormativity within the religious sector of the Latino Culture and allowing Latino queer people to connect their culture, and religion, with their sexuality.

“Lupe and Sirena in love”

Artist: Alma Lopez

Another painting by Alma Lopez that represents a queer Virgin de Guadalupe with a mermaid, which enforces a space for queer sexuality in Latino culture.





“Virginia Guadalupe”

Artist: Jim Ru

Jim Ru’s painting portrays a bearded drag queen version of Virgin de Guadalupe, which is part of his exhibition “Transcendent Faith: Gay, Lesbian and Transgendered Saints” and shines light on Transgendered Latino people. “Jesus In love” Blog states: If the Virgin Mary could appear to an Aztec as an Aztec, then why not show up to a queer as a queer?

“Mary Magdalene and Virgen de Guadalupe”

Artist: Alex Donis

Alex Donis’ painting is part of his “My Cathedral” series that is mainly composed of people with opposite ideologies in same-sex pairs. This particular painting portrays the Virgin Mary kissing the Virgen de Guadalupe. It remains a potent, beautiful expression of the union of sexuality and spirituality.

Virgen de Guadalupe is an extremely important figure in Latino culture. She signifies hope, prosperity, and forgiveness, but mainstream popular culture of the Virgin enforces the notion of heterosexuality, which reflects Latino culture’s exclusion of its queer people. These artists have challenged these oppressive notions that separate our community and created a place for queer people to be comfortable with their sexuality and spirituality by challenging the idea that Latino queer people could not possibly believe in this figure because they were disrupting the norm. Through queer art, we begin to see the true equality among people and the love that is portrayed, bringing a sense of unity and resistance.

“The moment you can learn to deal with homosexuality in art, it’s quite an exciting moment, just as in a sense when people ‘come out’ it’s quite an exciting moment. It means they become aware of their desires, and can deal with them in a remarkably honest way.” -DAVID HOCKNEY



I am the Other

Timothy Yeh

I always promised myself I would never end up like this. Looking around and wishing I could stifle out the emotions I have within myself for him. Constantly being the second...the one that has to live with the shame and pain of being part of a taboo relationship. Living my life with the guilt that comes with being **the other**.

For I am the one he cheats with...the home wrecker, the slut, the whore, the despicable one that society's sexual scripts condemn. Yet all I feel when I am with him are feelings of intimacy, love and hope... until I wake up and realize that it's all a façade.

He doesn't love *me*... he loves *the convenience* of me.

A text or phone call away and he can have the physical and emotional intimacy he craves. Yet all that remains is society condemning me for something I **despise yet love**.

So in two weeks time when he begins his life with you I want you to know that I will be wishing for the best for you two.

Because **I** love him and I love that **he loves you**.

He talks about you and although you might not feel it, I know that you two are **perfect** for each other. Because, he might look at me with the same eyes that he looks at you with but **never** with the same look or because he may kiss me with the same lips that he kisses you with but it is **never** the same. But most of all because you are the one he **truly loves**, you are the one he wants to spend the rest of his life with.

And I am just a passerby...

Therefore...I write this to declare my sins.

I am the one he has sex with but never the one he sleeps with

I am the one that he shares secrets with but never dreams with.

I am the one he desires but not the one he loves

.... I am the other.

Sex Is Like...

Jake Picker

Improvability, UCSB's premier comedy improv troupe, performs Friday nights weekly. Once each quarter, we put on a "Naughty" show. These puns are from an improv game called "Sex Is Like..." In our shows we get suggestions from the audience and make up puns on the spot. Below are a few of the best puns.

Sex is like a potato

...yu-kon do it!

...better in the morning...like at 8 a-yam

...better when you're baked

Sex is like a yo-yo

...there's always strings attached

...better in walk the doggy style

Sex is like brushing your teeth

...better not swallow!

...you're encouraged to do it twice daily

...I don't do it as often as recommended

...using an electric device increases effectiveness

...be sure to rinse after!

Sex is like going to the beach

...you get wet

...watch out for crabs!

...sand makes it uncomfortable

...you may want to put a towel down

...really convenient in Isla Vista

...it can be a little fishy

Sex is like hiking

...don't stop until you reach the peak

...the view is great from up top

...hard.

...I'll go down eventually

...it can make you really sore

...it's part of nature

...you can come home with a rash

...I just want to go to sleep after I pitch a tent

“Hooking Up” with Public Ridicule, Sexism and Homophobia: The UCSB Hook-Ups Page and its Effects on the Student Population

Molly Nugent

“Dear mysterious black girl, sorry I can’t remember your name, but all I can say is wow! You are the first black chick I have ever been with and I can honestly say I think I caught jungle fever. Hit me up if you wanna have a good time again.” Created on February 5, 2013, the UCSB Hook-Ups page boasts close to five hundred anonymous wall postings and almost ten thousand followers. The goal of the Facebook page is to **“write your hookup story”** and the moderators will **“keep everything anonymous until [they] find a match.”** The concept of submitting UCSB’s **“dirty little secrets”** without giving one’s name rapidly attracted thousands of participants — along with scores of sexual stories, shout-outs, and detailed memories of unsatisfactory experiences. Although the Facebook page was widely praised by many as an accurate and **“true”** depiction of the sexual lives of UCSB students, several of the anonymous postings alarmed students. Confessions of sexual assault and rape, the consistent denunciation of female students’ **“slutty”** habits, and blatant homophobia appeared more harmful than liberating to many university students. While the UCSB Hook-Ups page claims to offer an anonymous space to express and celebrate students’ sexuality, the page ultimately perpetuates racial and ethnic stereotypes, slut-shaming, heteronormative relationships and rape culture in the UCSB community.

When short accounts of bad hookups and embarrassing sexual stories began flooding students’ newsfeeds in February, many rushed to **“Like”** the page — some stories accumulated up to two hundred comments in the span of an hour. Students seemed to respond to the message that they could freely express their sexual stories without fear of judgement. The moderators then choose from the confessions and post the ones they find entertaining or appropriate. Some simply shout-out to lost connections: **“my buddy and I met you 2 at deltopia..just wanted to let you girls know you are sexy as fuck and we had a blast with you girls! I got your number but broke my phone..”** (Confession 421). Others detail **“successful”** hookup stories: **“thanks for making me wet like Niagara falls, I would love to bounce on that again ;)”** (Confession 393). Mark, a 23 year-old graduate of UCSB, claimed that the stories he read were expressions of being young and having fun. When asked about his opinion of the whole page, he said he thought it was liberating — anyone could post cringeworthy experiences for everyone to hear, **“it was all in good fun.”** Mark proceeded to say **“anyone who finds these stories damaging is too sensitive and needs to take a joke.”** Though some of the page’s sexual confessions seemed to sincerely recount consensual experiences between one or more UCSB students, the page quickly began accumulating confessions that smeared individual students and perpetuated racial and ethnic stereotypes.

The **“mysterious black girl”** mentioned above was introduced to the UCSB Hook-Ups page on April 8. **“Ben,”** who outs himself with his first name in an attempt to find his past hookup, compliments her **“amazing ass, boobs and sex,”** then adds **“you are the first black chick I have ever been with...and surprisingly you actually knew how to have a conversation!”** In response, a Facebook user commented, **“did she taint your wiener?”** (Confession 411). While many users commented in defense of the **“mysterious black**

girl," stating that his comments were "racist" and "sexist," others claimed he was "just trying to get some" and that everyone was "too quick to jump on the race issue." In this case, the original poster (OP) and the commenters describe the woman as an overly-sexualized animal; any arousal from the experience could be equated with "jungle fever." African American women, in this particular case, are constructed as exotic, hypersexual women who "Ben," or any other white male reader, can fantasize about.

Another confession recounts an experience with a "japanese guy" who had a "triple ballsack, no joke...I nearly asked him where his dick was but decided against it knowing how self conscious asian guys are with their dicks...sorry bout it" (Confession 255). In this example, the OP claims that his or her sexual partner reinforced the stereotype that Asian men have small penises and complained about the experience. His penis size was blamed on his ethnicity, thus equating a certain ethnic group with a physical trait the OP found worthy of criticism. In response, a Facebook user commented "I've seen the smallest dick and he was black. I'm Japanese and my nickname is mr.tripod." Other white students poked fun in the comments that followed, implying that the Japanese man that he was weird and jealous. The comments of white students making fun of the Japanese student are reminiscent of colonial discourses which "pit people of color against one another" in an attempt to uphold white virtuousness and purity (Lipsitz, 12). The Japanese student defers the ethnic stereotype onto African American men in his defense of Japanese men, while white students laugh and make racial slurs. Though the OP "freely expressed" his or her opinion about the Japanese partner in the account, the story impresses upon viewers the same racial and ethnic stereotypes that have been perpetuated by discourses that favor white virtue and denounce the sexuality of people of color.

The most consistent theme found on the UCSB Hook-Ups page is the denunciation of "sluts" and "whores," or females who share "kinky" sexual confessions. In one confession, the OP, who is assumed to be female by the commenters, claims "to the entire frat of SAE, I somehow hooked up with 1/5 of you at a party. Not sure if you guys noticed I spent 3 mins max before moving on to the next guy...." (Confession 100). The commenters responded by calling her a "sloot" (another version of "slut"), saying "your family must be proud," "they must be very handsome men, or this girl is crazy," and a sarcastic jab, "did you finally feel like a beautiful and empowered, sexually-liberated 21st century women?" One commenter even asks "did it make up for the fact that you have a terrible relationship with your father?" In this manner, the OP's sexual experience is constructed by viewers as a product of her own insecurity. This reflects the assumptions that underlie female sexual scripts — because women are constructed as less desirous of sex than men, any behavior that deviates from the "norm" must signify a lack of confidence or a bad family experience (Lecture, "Good Girls Bad Girls," April 5). In "Thinking Sex," Gayle Rubin illustrates how "battles" are "waged" over "just how much shame, distress, and punishment should be incurred by sexual activity" (Rubin, 302). As evidenced by the UCSB Hook-Ups page, viewers claim women should feel a remarkable amount of shame for "slutty" sexual activity.

After viewing a barrage of sexual confessions and comments that shame UCSB females for revealing their experiences, one female OP expresses her distaste for the sexual double standard. On May 8, 2013, she wrote:

"I don't think it's fair how guys can fuck as much as they want and not get called a hoe, when girls have sex with someone they don't really know she automatically becomes a huge whore...the fuck?...All i'm trying to do is have some fun safe sex! ...Girls need to pipe the fuck down." (Confession 428).

Her confession expresses two sentiments. First, she criticizes the double standard of "slut-shaming," claiming that men can sleep with strangers and be praised for it, while women are judged as promiscuous whores. Second, she blames the perpetual criticism of women on women themselves. The comments are even more revealing. While some students support the OP, claiming "men and women should be sexual equals," another says slyly, "if a key can open many locks then it's a master key, but if a lock can be opened by many keys...well, that's a pretty shitty lock if you ask me" — to which he received 108 "likes" from the public. The "slut-shaming" aspect of the original post reveals the common double standard that commends masculine promiscuity but condemns female sexual expression outside of monogamous relationships. This phenomenon, covered by Leora Tanenbaum in *Slut!*, pressures women to feel guilty about their sexual experiences. Even further, girls criticize each other as a means to determine "good girls" and "bad girls" — a societal phenomenon that occurs across time and culture (Lecture, April 5).

In addition to the censure of female sexual expression, homosexual and bisexual confessions receive a barrage of criticism from public viewers. A series of anonymous posts in February came from OP's claiming to be fraternity brothers from PhiSig who were secretly gay. On February 12, the OP confessed he was a male in PhiSig who "gets so much female ass every weekend..but little does everyone know, i hate it...the only ass I want is a male ass..yes i am gay" (Confession 263). The public immediately began tagging fraternity brothers in the comments to identify the OP. In response, some of the tagged individuals wrote "fuck u faggot," "ouch," and "this is a big joke." Another post on February 13 mirrored the previous confession. Many commenters suspected "foul play," joking that there's "no way more than one PhiSig brother is gay." While some supported the OPs and encouraged them to come out, many commenters appeared grossed out and treated the confessions as jokes. Some even felt that it was just "one experience," like some of the men described in Jane Ward's "Dude-Sex: White Masculinities and 'Authentic' Heterosexuality Among Dudes Who Have Sex with Dudes." Ward asserts that "str8 dudes draw on the imagery of male bonding" — like that of a fraternity — to explain the "violent expression of heterosexual masculinity and heterosexual culture" (Ward, 421). The commenters who refused to accept the sexual confessions of the PhiSig brothers assumed they were simply reinforcing a heterosexual masculinity that yearns to experiment sexually.

The UCSB Hook-Ups page operates under the impression that airing UCSB's "dirty little secrets" is a healthy expression of sexuality. In reality, however, the page sends messages to UCSB students that women's bodies, sexuality and perspectives are unworthy of expression. Additionally, sexual behavior that deviates from heterosexual relations justifies judgement and public censure. While the moderators have made a considerable attempt to filter out the "raunchiest" of sexual confessions, the page still demonstrates to the public that our "liberal" university is riddled with sexism, racism, homophobia and highly-regulated sexual scripts.

PERFECT?



Miriam
O'Donnell



Feminist Studies 150: Sex, Love, and Romance Zine