

THE SEX ISSUE



PRESENTED BY THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

MAKE SEX FUN AGAIN

» ALEXANDRA YETTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As a child, I learned what rape was before I had a coherent understanding of what sex was. And even when I learned about sex, it was taught to me by my family, my friends and my educators through the male gaze.

For the majority of my life, I believed sex and my body were only meant to be this way—a means of pleasure for men and stigmatized no matter the context. I thought about whether the sleeves of my clothes were too revealing of my shoulders before I thought about whether I remembered to pack my chemistry textbook; I tucked tampons into the sleeve of my sweaters shamefully in between classes, more concerned with someone catching sight in the hallway than vomiting from pain; I avoided wearing clothes or saying things that might deem me promiscuous in the eyes of society rather than focusing on enjoying my life.

As a result, I spent most of my life not wanting to talk or even think about sex. To me, it was shameful, an elephant in every room of my life. When sex was portrayed by actors onscreen, my face felt hot; when my mother explained to me what ejaculation was, my teeth gritted; when I bought tampons and Midol from the grocery store, I hid them under trashy magazines and chocolatey candy bars; and whenever I heard of girls at my high school hooking up with people, I thought un-feminist things.

Slowly as I grew older, more independent and more desensitized to shame, no longer confined to the boundaries of a small, conservative town in the countryside of Illinois, I grew out of this way of thinking. I bought lingerie not for the visual pleasure of my partners but for my own enjoyment; I came into my sexuality by my own merit, not for the societal categorization; I stopped tucking tampons into my shirt on the way to the restroom as if I were carrying a nuclear arsenal through enemy terrain; I dress in the morning based on my own creativity rather than being worried how “slutty” I may look; I even stopped taking birth control medication, which had not only robbed me of my



personality and emotion but had perpetuated the painful symptoms for which I sought out the medication in the first place. What’s more, I didn’t avoid the cultural discussion of sex anymore—it no longer felt shameful to me the more I accepted it into my life on my own terms. Playing Cards Against Humanity with my teenage siblings and older relatives, I didn’t blush at the mention of “clitoris” or “oral sex” like my counterparts did.

Sex isn’t shameful, it’s just framed that way for women and nonbinary people in society so the male gaze can dictate our actions.

Sex is full of potential—and it isn’t just limited to intercourse between a man and a woman. As you will read in the pages of the Chronicle’s annual Sex Issue—themed entirely around the destigmatization of sex—it can be about threesomes or asexual masturbation or orgasmic climax. Sex can also be deeper than physical pleasure; it also encompasses consent in public and in private spaces; it begs action when that consent is broken; and it defines the very fabric of society, seen even in how menstruation impacts people’s work or student commitments.

Sex is also diverse and should never have been viewed strictly through a white, heteronormative lens. Not only are there several sexual orientations represented in the pages of this issue, but there is also a rainbow of body types, races, genders and abilities; everyone can share in the spoils of the bedroom.

Sex is a choose-your-own-adventure and continuing to stigmatize it only dampens those beautiful possibilities.

ayetter@columbiachronicle.com

» staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

MANAGING EDITORS

SENIOR VIDEO EDITOR

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

NEWS EDITOR

OPINIONS EDITOR

REPORTERS

COPY EDITORS

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

PHOTOJOURNALISTS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

MEDIA SALES REPS

GENERAL MANAGER
FACULTY ADVISER

MANAGEMENT

Alexandra Yetter

Mike Rundle

Mari Devereaux
Kendall Polidori

Ignacio Calderon

Shane Tolentino

REPORTERS

Paige Barnes

Margaret Smith

Isaiah Colbert
Dyana Daniels
Nick Forsythe
Lauren Leazenby
Myer Lee
Mateusz Janik
June Keating
Valeria Mancera-Saavedra
Jonah Ocuto
Ryan Rosenberger

COPY

Summer Hoagland-Abernathy
Brooklyn Kiosow
Ella Watylyk

GRAPHICS

Jen Chavez
Wesley Enriquez
John Sammis
Lucas Smith

MULTIMEDIA

Justin Anderson
Zac Clingenpeel
Camilla Forte
Mengshin Lin
Jacqueline Luttrell
Steven Nunez

Blaise Mesa

ADVERTISING/ MARKETING

Cale Holder
Sunjoy Walls
Katie Williams

SENIOR STAFF

Travis Truitt
Curtis Lawrence



Main Line: (312) 369-8977
Editor-in-Chief: (312) 369-8834
Director of Photography: (312) 369-8961
Managing Editors: (312) 369-8963
(312) 369-8960
Senior Video Editor: (312) 369-8959
Senior Graphic Designer: (312) 369-8995
News Editor: (312) 369-8956
Opinions Editor: (312) 369-8925
General Manager: (312) 369-8955
Faculty Adviser: (312) 369-8905

The Columbia Chronicle is a student-produced publication of Columbia College Chicago and does not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, the views of college administrators, faculty or students.

All text, photos and graphics are the property of The Columbia Chronicle and may not be reproduced or published without written permission.

Editorials are the opinions of the Editorial Board of The Columbia Chronicle. Columns are the opinions of the author(s).

Views expressed in this publication are those of the writer and are not the opinions of The Columbia Chronicle, Columbia’s Communication Department or Columbia College Chicago.

Letters to the editor must include full name, year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their job title. Alumni should include year of graduation, or attendance, and major. Other readers should note their city of residence and occupation or employer, if related to the letter’s subject matter.

All letters are edited for grammar and may be cut due to a limit of space.

The Columbia Chronicle holds the right to limit any one person’s submissions to three per semester.



Letters can be emailed to
Chronicle@colum.edu
or mailed to:

The Columbia Chronicle
600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605

Close-knit queer DIY music scene serves as experimental space

» KENDALL POLIDORI
MANAGING EDITOR

MANAE HAMMOND SOFTLY kissed Indigo Finamore's shoulder, sitting inches away, gazing and smiling as she intently listened to Finamore describe the couple's dynamic, not only in their relationship but as bandmates—the essence of the Chicago-based power duo Oux.

Hammond and Finamore are but two members of Chicago's niche queer DIY music scene.

The DIY music community is made up of different factions, said Finamore, a

senior music composition major. Within the overarching DIY sector, queer artists often get their start in the music realm by taking the dive into “doing it themselves,” Finamore said.

Characterized by house shows, self-produced music and creative freedom mixed with the ability to reach listeners on a more personal level, the queer DIY music community is an experimental artist's haven, yet it is often overlooked.

In short, DIY music is any work made

independent of a record label. A DIY band or musician produces, manages and promotes themselves. As for the queer DIY community, it is a space for artists and musicians who identify as queer to create and perform in their own way. In the music industry, if an artist belongs to a label, they often have to abide by the guidelines and vision of their financial backers. And that especially goes for queer artists, who often feel pressured to embody a certain image.

Oux's appearance is important to the duo. Finamore said they do not want to appear heterosexual and make sure to convey a “queer energy,” without overdoing it because it can get exhausting to have to uphold the image of queer artists.

“Being queer is either very loud or very quiet,” Finamore said.

For Oux, the DIY scene is where the band was born, and it is the home where they remain.

After meeting at Whittier College near Los Angeles and connecting instantly over their love of music, it was natural for Finamore and Hammond, a guitarist and sophomore music composition major at Columbia, to make music together and transition into a romantic relationship, Hammond said.

While some might think working closely with their partner would make creating music difficult, for Oux, it makes them stronger. That close-knit connection bleeds into every inch of their sound, aesthetic and energy.

“Our arguments are usually normal couple arguments,” Finamore said. “But sometimes it'll just be about music, like ‘Did you mix that track?’”

Finamore said while DIY bands often lean toward a more pop-punk sound, recently they have noticed a celebration of experimental music, which Oux sees as progress within the community because it is catering to more artists. Finamore and Hammond said they started out as punk musicians but are now creating more experimental pop and electronic synth-infused hip-hop.

On top of everything else, the DIY community is defined by two leading factors: safety and having fun. House shows in the DIY community are often dedicated to being sober-friendly because many fans are underaged, Finamore said. It is also so everyone in attendance can enjoy themselves freely without worrying about their well-being.

DIY house shows often sound more raw and uncut due to the lack of professional sound equipment. Although not as polished as Oux would like their performance to sound, they never stray from performing house shows due to how close it brings them to the audience—which is oftentimes right up in peoples' faces, cramped in a small living room packed from wall-to-wall.

Finamore said one cannot know the essence of a queer DIY show without experiencing it.

Being an artist immersed in the world of DIY is not all glitz and glamour. Just like any other music scene, there is infighting among other artists, which can include arguments about what DIY means, Finamore said. It is also taxing to do all of the work without the help of labels, unlike signed artists.

Despite this, Hammond said they enjoy producing their own work and being in control. Even when artists who got their start in the DIY scene are signed to a label that allows them to be themselves, she said those artists are often still seen as DIY because the community is so close-knit.

“You can take the musician out of the DIY, but you can't take the DIY out of the musician,” Hammond said.



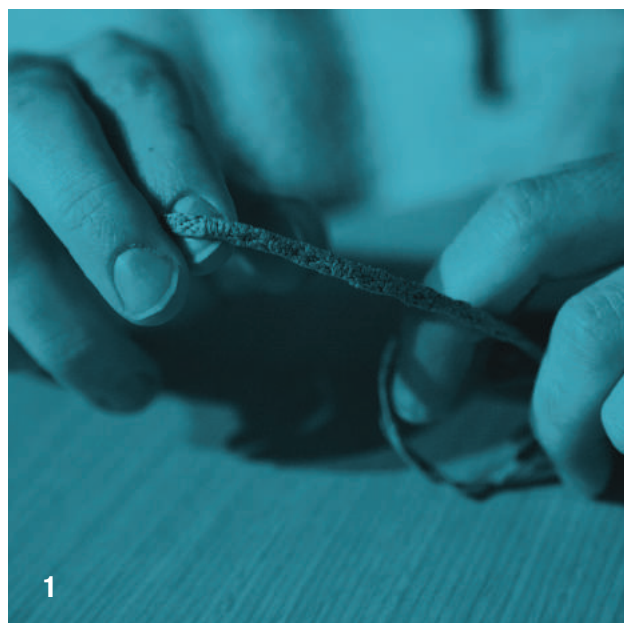
Indigo Finamore (left) and Manae Hammond (right) found love through their passion of music and creation of the Chicago-based power duo Oux.

kpolidori@columbiachronicle.com

The tokens they carry:

Stories behind the items that matter most to Columbia students

» JUSTIN ANDERSON
PHOTOJOURNALIST



1



2

WE ALL HAVE items close to our hearts, whether they are old stuffed animals we've had since we were children, necklaces given to us by significant others or old mixtapes from long-lost loves. Here are just five of Columbia students' most treasured tokens:

OWEN CLARKE, friendship bracelet

Owen Clarke, a freshman film major, received a friendship bracelet from a high school classmate, and soon after the pair became good friends.

"Give people a chance," Clarke said. "If you do something nice for someone, it can have a really long-lasting impact, and if someone does something nice for you, make sure that you are able to recognize this."

Clarke wore the bracelet around his ankle for nearly two years before it snapped off. Rather than disposing of it, he has kept it to remind him of the friendship it helped create.

"Lasting friendships can really come out of nowhere," Clarke said. "It can start with the smallest things and follow you for years."

KATIE FIORANI, Dungeons & Dragons dice

After a falling out in August 2018, sophomore filmmaking major Katie Fiorani and her friend from home, Izzy Dinsmore, stopped seeing each other. Then, one day they started playing Dungeons & Dragons.

Not long after they began exploring the game together, Dinsmore gifted Fiorani a set of D&D dice, which brought their relationship closer to what it once was. A year later, Fiorani still holds onto the dice.

"It was just ... an outreach of friendship after we hadn't talked in a while," Fiorani said. "That was really sweet to me."

HANNAH FRICK, best friend plaque

Hannah Frick, a freshman filmmaking major, always wanted a plaque. Before leaving for college, Frick's wish came true.

Knowing her desire for a special keepsake, one of her friends, Ashlynn Ashmore, surprised Frick with a plaque officially naming her Ashmore's best friend.

"I never felt like I was anyone's best friend," Frick said. "So it was like we [had] this bond."

JAY'LA SIMS, picture frame

For as long as freshman comedy writing and performance major Jay'La Sims can remember, this "cute little picture frame" has been in her life. But for most of that time, it didn't belong to her.

The frame originally housed a photo of Sims' late aunt that Sims replaced with one of her and her parents after her mom gave her the frame before she went to college.

"It reminds me of home," Sims said.

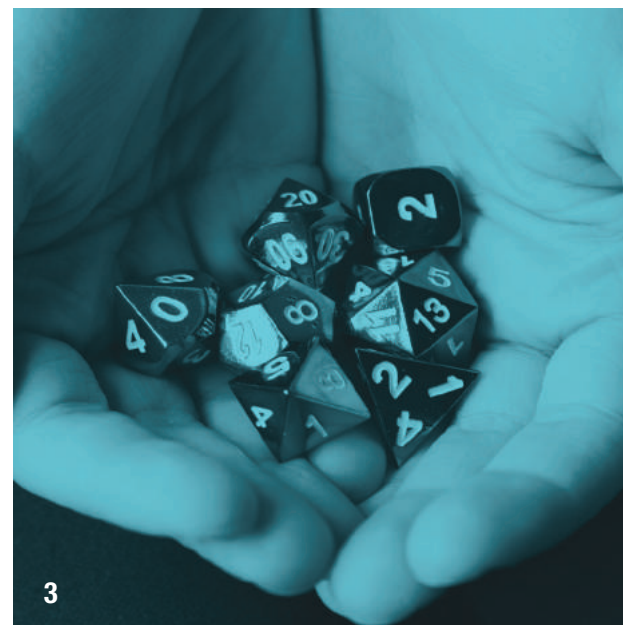
Sims believes the value found in tokens of affection comes from the memories attached to them. A gift from someone helps remind her of those she cares about, no matter how far away they may be.

TJ WALKER, metal necklace

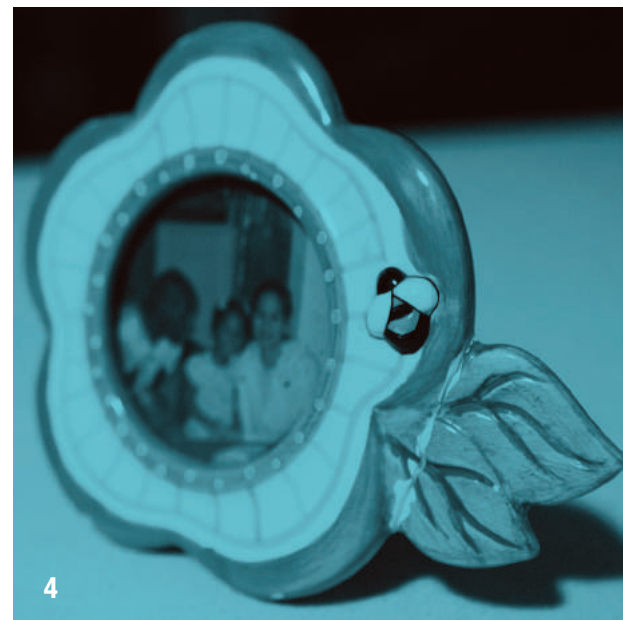
Two years ago, freshman photography major TJ Walker's godmother gave him a metal necklace, which he now wears to symbolize his family's bond.

"It has my name on it, it has my brother's name and it has my mom's name," Walker said. "My mom passed away two years ago."

Walker wears the metal necklace as a good luck charm. Although Walker's mother is gone, the necklace reminds him that, in some ways, she's still with him.



3



4



5

1. Owen Clarke, friendship bracelet. 2. Hannah Frick, best friend plaque. 3. Katie Fiorani, Dungeons & Dragons dice. 4. Jay'La Sims, picture frame. 5. TJ Walker, metal necklace.

» JUSTIN ANDERSON/CHRONICLE

janderson@columbiachronicle.com

» RYAN ROSENBERGER
STAFF REPORTER

WHEN KATHERINE YUNEK and Trevor McDonald met on the set of a theatre production during their junior year of high school, they had no idea their lives would one day intertwine romantically.

Yunek, who worked on the tech crew, said they were nothing more than acquaintances at first.

"I always say that I zoned him; I didn't even friend zone him," Yunek said. "I don't even think we were friends."

But during the summer of 2018, they grew closer. They began talking and hanging out more.

The two made it official in November 2018 when they were sophomores in college. Yunek was still living at home in Sycamore, Illinois, while at the time McDonald was two hours away attending Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Despite the distance, they dedicated themselves to making it work.

"He was only two hours away," Yunek said. "He would come [home] quite a bit to see his family, and I would see him. If we really missed each other, it would be like, 'Okay, let's meet halfway. It's an hour.'"

However, the distance increased substantially when Yunek moved to Idaho to attend Boise State University. She said keeping up with their relationship became more difficult because of a lack of communication.

"Since it was the beginning of our relationship, we were texting all the time and calling all the time," Yunek said. "Now, we've mellowed down, and we don't get to see each other all the time."

The couple said one of the hardest things about the distance is trying to communicate while going about their activities on a daily basis.

"Our relationship revolves around little tidbits of information about your day-to-day life," McDonald said.

Yunek and McDonald have been to-



(From left) Katherine Yunek and her boyfriend, Trevor McDonald.



(From left) Paul Whittaker and his girlfriend, Zoe Turner.

»COURTESY/KATHERINE YUNEK & PAUL WHITTAKER

Get over the distance: research shows long-distance couples just as successful

gether for more than a year now and have been long-distance nearly the entire time, constantly working on staying together despite the mileage.

In a 2015 study measuring the quality of 1,142 long-distance relationships, a team of researchers from Queen's University in Ontario, Canada, found long-distance couples achieved the same level of success as close-proximity couples in areas like satisfaction and intimacy.

All of the couples surveyed were in their 20s, with 30% of them being recent college graduates and 77% of heterosexual orientation.

Jill Coleman, an associate professor of psychology at Roosevelt University, said making sure a partner's basic needs are met is a primary factor in determining whether a long-distance relationship will be successful or not.

"The literature seems to suggest that it has to do with what people call relationship maintenance behaviors," Coleman said. "Those are behaviors that involve putting energy into your relationship, checking in with your partner, trying to meet their emotional needs, [doing] things that are good and fun for them. Those are really

the same whether you're in a long-distance relationship or a geographically close relationship."

While communication is key to the success of any relationship, it is especially vital for couples who are long-distance. Coleman said technology has made it easier for couples to communicate due to the different options they have at their disposal.

Although communication is easier today, the lack of in-person contact is still a large hurdle for some.

Senior contemporary, urban and popular music major Janet Henriques said "untimely circumstances" and lack of face-to-face communication were hardships she faced in her own long-distance relationship.

"There really is something about a bond you make in-person with someone that is so much different than you could ever try to do over the phone," Henriques said.

Henriques also said she loved being able to focus on her passions during the day and being able to catch up with her partner at night.

"The dynamic of having someone who was there at the end of the day, but being busy and passionate during the day, it just felt right," Henriques said.

Successful long-distance relationships

also require a high level of dedication from both partners.

Sophomore music business major Paul Whittaker said he was committed from the very beginning, but seeing the same level of loyalty from his girlfriend reaffirmed his faith in their relationship. He said being long distance has only strengthened ties between them.

"Our relationship [has gotten] ten times stronger based on being long distance because of the challenges it brings when you're not together," Whittaker said. "You can't just drive over or walk over to her house."

Along with loyalty, being aware of the hardships both partners face also helps.

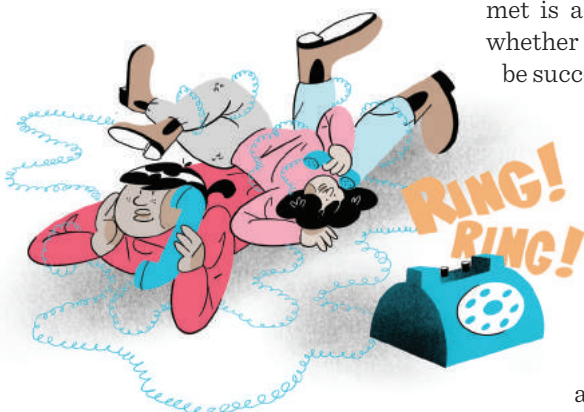
"[We] are going through the same thing," Yunek said. "I don't get to see him everyday, he doesn't get to see me everyday. You have to acknowledge the fact that you both go through hard times."

McDonald said it helps him to keep the short term in mind while also looking toward the future.

"I go day-to-day," McDonald said. "[I'm] just trying to make sure that I do the best I can for the relationship ... while also looking forward to the future when we can actually get together."

»rosenberger@columbiachronicle.com

» JOHN SAMMIS/CHRONICLE



312.517.2109

820Michigan.com

practice safe leasing

Waive the \$250 Move-In Fee at
820 South Michigan when you use code

HOUSINGFAIR2020

820
SOUTH
MICHIGAN



Erotic audio content helps followers find their sweet spot without a partner on site

» DYANA DANIELS &
LAUREN LEAZENBY
STAFF REPORTERS

FOR NEARLY 30 minutes, the sound of fingers clacking away on a computer keyboard plays on a recording. Every once in a while, a soft male voice comes in, breathing erotically or sometimes offering quiet conversation, all in an attempt to lull the listener to sleep or into an elevated state of relaxation.

Cardlin, known on YouTube and Reddit as Cardlin Audios, creates listening experiences like these to “push the ideal person.” He began his audio career in 2015, and after listening to some erotic audio on the website Imgur, he was inspired to “find a community of people making audios.”

Cardlin wanted to find a way to do what he loved while also helping people. So he went on to produce audio “sleep aids” to help his listeners fall asleep to erotic audio, where the voice actor engages in sex with the listener, with prices ranging from \$3 to \$10 a month. Cardlin’s character on the clips is made to be the “ideal” person. The goal is to sell a fantasy to listeners, Cardlin said.

In reaction to such stimuli, some people experience a pleasurable tingling sensation, a complex emotional state known as ASMR, or the autonomous sensory meridian response, said Giulia Poerio, a lecturer in psychology at the University of Essex in England.

Poerio, who researches ASMR, said there is a difference between ASMR as a physiological response and how it is known culturally—as a category of YouTube videos where someone on-screen whispers softly or engineers other subtle sounds such as chewing, breathing or the rustling of papers.

Scientifically, ASMR is the feeling elicited by that content—not the name for the content itself.

The sensation, Poerio said, can also be triggered by stimuli experienced

in everyday life, such as physical touch and close personal attention.

Because of its niche online following, ASMR content is widely thought of as “fetish content” or sexual in nature—but that misconception discounts the feeling of relaxation that is ASMR, Poerio said.

“Quite a lot of people forget that ASMR existed before YouTube,” Poerio said.

While videos and audio with whispers and soft sounds may arouse some, ASMR is ultimately a sensation of relaxation, said Craig Richard, an ASMR researcher and founder of ASMR University, a website dedicated to all things ASMR.

“If you add in sexual imagery, sexual sounds [and] sexual references, then that person can feel relaxed and aroused at the same time,” Richard said.

Eve Elliot was trained as a radio journalist before becoming an erotic performer, writer and producer. Known as “Eve’s Garden” by listeners, she was first introduced to ASMR when she listened to an audiobook

and found the narrator’s voice “sexy.”

By August 2019, Eve had created a new project called Vanilla Audio where she and other performers promote the destigmatization of sex.

“I don’t allow words like slut, whore, dirty, nasty and a lot of the people that I work with actually agree,” she said. “We are starting a bit of a movement here with people saying, ‘You know what? This is our experience of sexuality.’”

Currently in Ireland and funding Vanilla Audio out of pocket, Elliot said every bit of money that is made goes right back to the creators.

Jim Nova, a Chicagoan, recently quit his day job in the finance industry to become a full-time erotic actor. Two days before he quit his job, he told his co-workers why he quit.

“Regular, decent people can be kinky and make porn, too,” Nova said.

chronicle@colum.edu



» SHANE TOLENTINO/CHRONICLE

THE BIG

LA PETITE MORT.

Ezra shodan. Konchayu. Orgasm. The sought-after peak of sexual activity. Or, as defined by Merriam-Webster, “the rapid pleasurable release of neuromuscular tensions at the height of sexual arousal.”

Every experience is different, and in this case, every face is different. To highlight this lustrous diversity, the Chronicle collected a series of photos documenting the “O-face” of what some may call Columbia’s bravest students.

When creating this series, the Chronicle asked participants questions about funny sex stories, their deepest desires and how much pressure sex may bring to their lives. Answers varied widely, giving us all the more reason to bring their individual experiences

to the forefront.

Some had never faked an orgasm until they walked into our studio, some were nostalgic about their first time and one couldn’t wait to play with knives.

“Knife play,” said freshman journalism major Emily Corzo when asked what she wants to try in the bedroom. “Basically, you’re tied up and they take an edge of a knife and pull it down your body.”

Some, though, had a point to prove.

“Even though I don’t need anybody else involved, that doesn’t necessarily mean that my interest in [masturbation] negates me identifying as asexual,” said junior music business major Rachel Rotter. “The only person who has never left me disappointed in the bedroom is me.”

» MIKE RUNDLE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

mrundle@columbiachronicle.com



Alex Underwood, she/they/he

What is something you haven't tried in the bedroom yet that you want to?

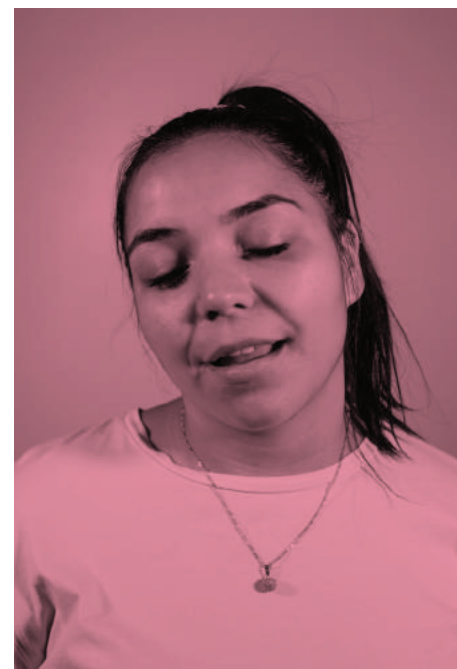
"Most of the people that [say] 'Oh yeah, I do bondage' are like 'I have a pair of shoelaces in my bookbag.' Are you f--- kidding me? A lot of people don't understand what you mean when you say bondage. I'm a grown woman."



Joshua Ross, he/him/his

Was your first time having sex a positive or negative experience?

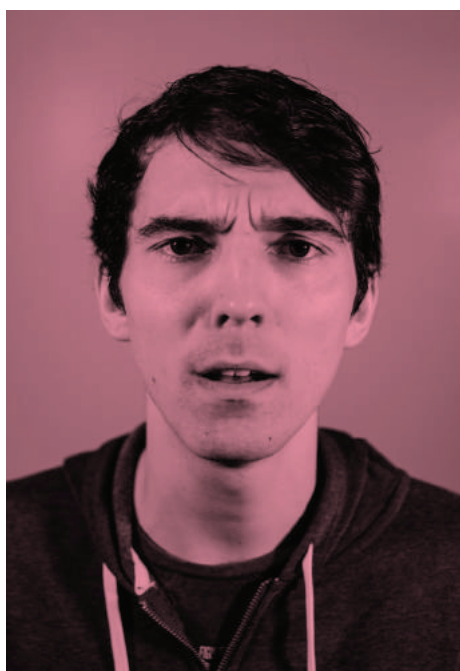
"Positive. Anything that you're doing for the first time, you're inevitably going to learn [more] about, so it doesn't really matter. You're going to learn regardless."



Lupita Valenzuela, she/her/hers

What is something you haven't tried in the bedroom yet that you want to?

"So many things. I've always wanted to try [getting tied up with] rope, like Christian Grey, but not the fake Christian Grey. I like it rough."



Scott Taylor, he/him/his

Do you ever feel any societal pressure around sex?

"The bubble that I live in is a gay, polyamorous, very sex-positive environment, so I don't see that [pressure] in my community now, but it's obvious that we're living something different."



Emily Corzo, she/her/hers

Have you ever faked an orgasm?

"Yes. It was during my first time; we didn't know what was happening, so maybe it was a confidence boost. But now, if nothing's happening, we're going to play the silent treatment."



Rachel Rotter, she/her/hers

Do you ever feel any societal pressure around sex?

"What I like about Columbia is that it's very inclusive, so I've never felt pressured into it at all. I'm aromantic; I did try the relationship thing and I realized that it wasn't for me, so I'm never in social situations where sex comes up."



Michael Stone, he/him/his

Do you have any funny sex stories?

"[Once], the angle that the person was on top of me was weird, and our thighs clapped together, and it made a farting sound. We just laughed and kept going. It was pretty funny."

A guide to sex for environmental nuts (pun intended)

» **ALEXANDRA YETTER**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SHOWER SEX, FOOD play and leather toys may all make for an exciting way to spice up your sex life, but they are also killing the planet.

When you really stop to think about it, there are a lot of ways intercourse is contributing to the climate crisis—from condom pollution to mass cattle production for leather and latex to creating infants. So, in a world increasingly fixated on individuals combating the effects of the climate crisis, the Chronicle has compiled ways to make sex as fun for the planet as it should be for you.

TIP No. 1: CONSERVE RESOURCES

On average, showers waste two to five gallons of water every minute depending on your showerhead, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. So as you and your partner are fumbling around the bathtub, gallons of water are being wasted as droughts ravage natural resources in places

from California to the Sahara Desert.

Instead, try fooling around on the kitchen floor, or in a small closet—a bonus being your chances of getting a concussion decrease dramatically.

Another way to conserve resources is to have sex with the lights off or with eco-friendly candles for ambiance. Plus, it'll save you money when that electric bill comes.

TIP No. 2: GO VEGAN

Vegans like to spice things up in bed, too, but that doesn't mean they have to contribute to the global carbon footprint. When it comes to food play, plenty of aphrodisiacs are already vegan, such as nutmeg, pomegranates and asparagus. You can also stop by your local Trader Joe's or Whole Foods Market to pick up some vegan dark chocolate, red wine and almond milk whip cream

before getting frisky.

Don't forget veganism when it comes to toys, either. Many vibrators, lubricants, condoms and leather-based BDSM items are not vegan. For instance, vibrators and BDSM gear are often made from cowhides for leather, while lubricants and condoms usually contain dairy enzymes, animal fat or honey—which many do not

consider vegan.

Want all of the fun with none of the guilt? There are plenty of sustainable alternatives, such as biodegradable vibrators, faux-leather BDSM wear, plant-based lubricants and eco-friendly condoms.

TIP No. 3: CONSIDER REPRODUCTION CAREFULLY

Booming population growth across the globe is a significant factor in the climate crisis, with one Swedish study finding that families who have one less child can save nearly 60 tons of carbon every year. In comparison, not having a car would save 2.4 tons of carbon. This is because the increasing human population requires a growing amount of food, resources, shelter and consumerist goods, all collectively contributing to global warming and the collapse of our planet.

So, next time you're considering skipping protection, think of the possible climatic consequences of reproduction.

Plant a tree, save a life; use a biodegradable rubber, save a planet.

ayetter@columbiachronicle.com

» JOHN SAMMIS/CHRONICLE



early to bed
5044 N Clark St, Chicago
773.271.1219 early2bed.com

**Sex toys for all bodies
10% off for students**

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT?

Apply to be a Voter Registration Genius!

Geniuses will be trained to help students register to vote, on campus or back home, and to request absentee ballots if they need them.

Some hours will be in classrooms; others at the Student Center.

Full job description is on Handshake.

Work is part-time, pay is \$13/hour and attendance at a Feb. 25 training session is required.

**QUESTIONS?
CONTACT SHARON
BLOYD-PESHKIN
AT SPESHKIN@COLUM.EDU**

THE HUNT FOR THE UNICORN: A SEARCH FOR SATISFACTION

» JACQUELINE LUTTRELL
PHOTOJOURNALIST

NICK COOPER, a freshman acting major, said his girlfriend wanted to go unicorn hunting to set up a threesome, which led to their dive into the internet world of hookups in search of someone who was the right fit.

"We started looking across Tinder and Grindr because we swing both ways and ... from there we did it often since we enjoyed the whole experience," Cooper said.

For those browsing various dating apps and websites, unicorns are more than a fairytale creature.

With relationships and casual hookups easily accessible at people's fingertips with services like Tinder, Feeld, Grindr and Fetlife, the search for the more culturally "taboo" types of sex are easier to find than ever.

Among the more popular forms of sex involving fetishes are three-

somes; BDSM, or bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism; and the mythical unicorn.

"Unicorn" is a word used to describe



» JEN CHAVEZ/CHRONICLE

a person who wants to have sex with a couple without the emotional attachment involved. Often, couples using dating apps will put a unicorn emoji on their profile to attract those looking to be the third party in a threesome.

As with any meet-ups on dating apps and websites, this type of sexual relationship comes with safety risks. But for some Columbia students, it has led to satisfying their sexual exploration without the shame.

Shoana Hunt, a junior acting major, is involved in a polyamorous relationship with two other people who were introduced to the concept of polyamory, the practice of engaging in multiple sexual relationships with the consent of all the people involved, through Tinder and other dating apps.

"I would go on and see couples using the same account to look for unicorns, and they are considered unicorn hunters," Hunt said. "I'm not a unicorn, and I did not go to Tinder specifically

for threesomes, but that is where I ran into it."

Hunt said because there is a social stigma toward couples looking for threesomes, it is often considered a "predatory" act. They said the stigma stems from certain couples who look for a third person to strictly have sex with and nothing else.

"When my partners asked me out, they specifically said, 'We are not unicorn hunters,' because there is an idea of when you do that, it becomes an 'us and them' type of thing," Hunt said. "The couple and the single person ... are coming together briefly, and [my partners] wanted to make it clear they were not doing this just for sex, they were interested in me as a person."

Elizabeth Davis-Berg, a professor in the Science and Mathematics Department who specializes in the evolution of sex in animals, said the conversation surrounding sexual activity is pivotal.

"If people are talking about the fact that not everybody wants the same thing in a sexual relationship, that is good," Davis-Berg said. "Communication is important no matter what kind of relationship someone is having."

jltuttrell@columbiachronicle.com

KINGSTON MINES

chicago's number one blues club

ain't nothing but
the blues!

voted "best blues club" 10 years in a row

**2 BANDS 2 STAGES CONTINUOUS MUSIC
UNTIL 4AM SUN.-FRI. & 5AM ON SAT.**

MONDAY — THURSDAY DOOR OPENS AT 7:30P.M. SHOWTIME 8:00P.M.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY DOOR OPENS AT 7P.M., SHOWTIME 7:30P.M.

SUNDAY BLUES JAM, DOOR OPENS & JAM STARTS AT 6P.M.

(NO COVER FROM 6P.M.— 8:30P.M.) OPEN TO ALL
PROFESSIONAL/AMATEUR MUSICIANS & PUBLIC

STUDENTS & FACULTY: NO COVER CHARGE SUNDAY-THURSDAY
\$10.00 ADMISSION FRIDAY & SATURDAY WITH VALID SCHOOL ID

AT DOC'S RIB JOINT, WE SERVE THE WORLD'S BEST BBQ RIBS
CHICKEN WINGS, FRIED OR BLACKENED CATFISH & BURGERS,
THIS SIDE OF LOUISIANA!

WANT TO HAVE A PARTY? CALL LAURA AT 773-544-5442

2548 N. HALSTEAD ST. CHICAGO IL 60614

773-477-4647



kingstonmines.com

Music Center at Columbia College Chicago 1014 S. Michigan Avenue

Music Department Events

Wednesday Feb. 12

Fusion Ensemble at the Student Center 7:00 PM
for CAA Reception

Student Piano and String Recital #1 7:00 PM
1312 S. Michigan

Thursday Feb. 13

SGA Open Mic Night in the lobby 5:00 PM

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Menstruation can cramp performance in academia and the workplace

» VALERIA MANCERA-SAAVEDRA
STAFF REPORTER

MORE THAN 800 million people menstruate everyday, but the word “menstruation” is often still spoken about through whispers.

“There’s definitely a stigma. I never felt comfortable, especially telling male teachers menstrual-related things,” said Connor Hagen, a junior creative writing major.

Hagen said although he stopped menstruating in May 2019, he used to have severe symptoms during his menstrual cycle that led him to miss a number of classes, prompting a discussion with his professors.

Beverly Anderson, associate dean of Student Health and Support at Columbia, said students often visit the Student Health Center with menstruation-related issues and said students tell her they feel “weird” when they have to ask for permission to leave class.

Kevin Cooper, associate professor in the Cinema and Television Arts Department, said he has had similar experiences involving students and menstruation.

“It’s really important that faculty and staff deal with that reality with compassion and understanding,” he said. “[We have to] make sure that the environment they go to learn in is positive and supportive.”

This issue does not just interrupt day-to-day schoolwork—it expands to the workplace, as well.

Two years ago, Margarita Marquez was at work managing the Congress Plaza Hotel when she began to lose balance while walking to the bathroom.

“I almost passed out. I was so weak and disoriented,” Marquez said.

Marquez said she had her period for six consecutive months, but she did not give it the necessary attention, so she did not take days off from work.

Later, she explained to her boss what was going on, and he responded positively, encouraging her to go to the hospital. There, she had a blood transfusion and learned she had lost 50% of her blood because of endometriosis—a chronic, painful condition caused by abnormal tissue in the uterus.

“I didn’t keep it a secret. I know a lot of women feel embarrassed because they have a male boss,” Marquez said. “It’s a natural thing. It’s nothing out of this world. Guys know what it is, so why hide it?”

Menstrual leave from the workplace is recognized in only six countries, including Taiwan, Indonesia, South

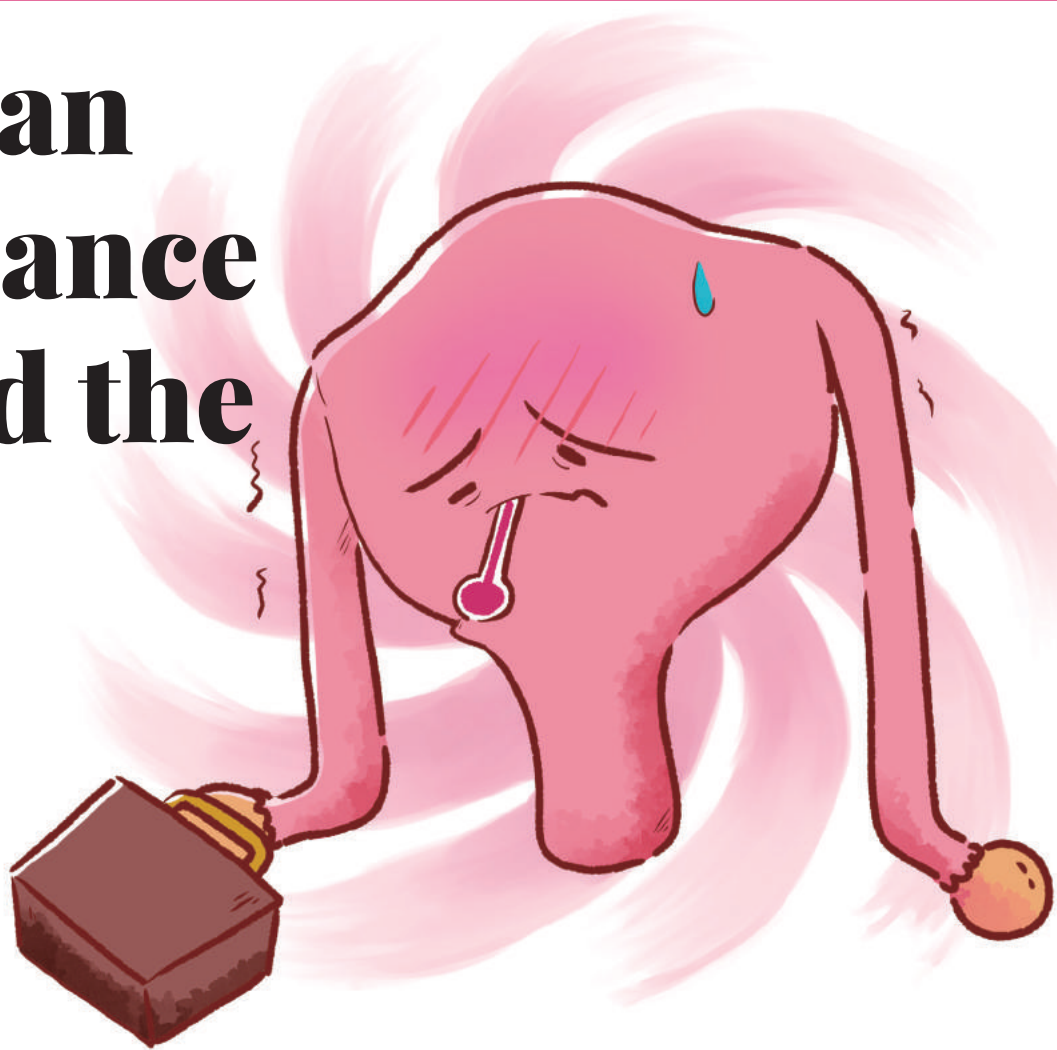
Korea, Japan, India and Zambia.

Zöe Chamberlain, service director at the PERIOD Menstrual Movement—a Portland, Oregon-based non-profit organization focused on ending period poverty by providing those in need with menstrual products—said there is a lack of resources to support those who experience severe period pain. This issue goes hand-in-hand with a stigma that suggests those who menstruate are often seen as being “less fit” for the workplace, especially when it comes to people who are transgender, she said.

“Menstruators who have to approach a cis-male boss with the truth that they are experiencing severe cramps and can’t work today are often looked at as if they can’t function normally on their period, which translates their under-supported, debilitating pain into a character flaw,” Chamberlain said. “And while yes, this pain can be so severe that you can’t function at your same usual level, the controversial aspect is saying that people are less capable because of their period, rather than because of the severe pain triggered by it.”

Because menstrual symptoms may vary from person to person, employers should not assume all people will be unable to work everyday of the month, said Emily Martin, vice president for education and workplace justice at the National Women’s Law Center, based in Washington, D.C.

Martin said these assumptions are false and create stereotypes that harm women. It is important for workplace and public policy to accommodate the range of experiences among workers and ensure taking time off of work for physical needs will not threaten job positions, she said.



“Guys know what it is, so why hide it?”
– Margarita Marquez

Speak out, come forward.

Students encouraged to take control in Title IX reporting

» KENDALL POLIDORI
MANAGING EDITOR

GRAPHIC BY LUCAS SMITH

IN THE MIDST of #MeToo, an evolving discussion of gender and sexuality and conversations about what consent actually means, it's more important than ever for students to know their rights under Title IX, the federal civil rights law that protects people from sexual harassment and discrimination in education.

When it comes to victims of sexual assault or harassment coming forward, a fear of not being believed often influences that choice. For some Columbia students, that is no different.

Arden Short, a senior interior architecture major, said for her to feel safe reporting a violation to Columbia's Title IX staff, she would need to be confident that she would be believed.

"For most people, especially if you are at a college where [the perpetrator] has a position of power, it is very uncomfortable to think they might be believed over you," said Short, who said she would go to faculty before going to the Title IX office, especially since she does not know where the office is located.

All Columbia faculty and staff are required to report all alleged Title IX violations to the Title IX staff, according to the college's website. Confidential advisers will listen to students who believe they might have been a victim of a Title IX violation, but are not required to report the incident.

Awareness of resources on campus varies. Brandon Tillery, a freshman graphic design major, said he was not aware there was a place on campus he could go to report Title IX violations, but said he would be more willing to go there if there was someone "at the age of understanding," whom he could talk to.

Tillery said it would depend on the situation for him to determine if he would make a report to the Title IX office, with staff located in the 623 S. Wabash building. For instance, he said if he knew the other person involved personally, he would not report the crime.

"It can be humiliating and somewhat embarrassing," Tillery said. "Nobody wants to be known for that."

In order to make students feel more comfortable reporting sexual harassment or assault, Verron Fisher, a Title IX investigator and deputy coordinator at Columbia, said students can change their mind about an investigation or hearing at any point.

"We allow the students to dictate how they want to move forward," Fisher said. "We never take away the students' control. We are very open with the process and we know it can be very stressful for students, so we try to ease their concerns."

If there are two or more students involved in a situation where the office needs to determine if there was a policy violation, Columbia will hold hearings, said Janely Rivera, director of Equity Issues and Title IX coordinator.

In those situations, the students individually meet with Fisher to obtain all necessary information. Rivera then reviews the case. If the student or students coming forward want a determination on whether a policy was violated, it then goes to a hearing where three faculty and staff members—who are part of a "hearing panel pool" of nearly 18 people—act as jury members who determine if there was a violation. If there is a violation, the case proceeds to the dean of students for official approval of an action.

The college also has a Sexual Assault Awareness Committee, which provides a space for students, faculty and staff to voice what they want on campus, which can include workshops, trainings, fairs, campaigns and projects. Additional resources from Columbia's Title IX office

include sexual assault awareness training, information on how to report issues and contact information for confidential advising. *For more information, search colum.edu for Title IX.*



How do you navigate the gray area of consent?

In crafting the Chronicle's Sex Issue, it was pivotal to have a conversation on an issue that cannot be separated from the subject of sex. Thus, every Chronicle staffer was asked to anonymously respond to questions regarding one all-important topic: consent.

More than half of our staff members responded to a series of questions that ranged from “What do you consider consent?” to “How can one vocalize non-consent?”

The results showed none of the respondents had an egregious misunderstanding of consent when it comes to intercourse. However, when it was pointed out that consent may be needed in situations that occur outside the bedroom, participants stopped to consider where in our daily lives consent plays a role.

Suddenly, the conversation moved from the black and white—"yes" and "no"—to navigating the gray area.

“People smoke on the sidewalk,
and passersby breathe the smoke

in,” said one staffer. “They didn’t ask to smoke today, but someone blew the smoke out as they passed by.”

So, where do we draw the line between our public and our personal consent? By walking out the door and into the world, are you consenting to someone possibly blowing smoke in your face? And if so, when you walk through the door to someone's house and into their bedroom, are you consenting for them to have sex with you?

The answer to the latter is a definite no, but when we are out in the world it may be more difficult to voice our discomfort or resistance when something is done to us that we cannot directly address—such events include catcalling, being touched in a friendly manner or someone publicly exposing themselves.

To prevent events like these from progressing any further, it is crucial we set boundaries with ourselves and with others. If this is in public and cannot be done person-to-person, you have

the opportunity to remove yourself from the situation—switch train cars, leave the room or cross the street.

Joe Biden, former vice president and 2020 Democratic presidential candidate, for instance, was brought into this exact conversation for putting his hands on visibly uncomfortable women.

It's easy for us as members of the public to spot these kinds of indiscretions. In fact, when asked, "How often do you experience or witness nonconsensual events?" 88.2% of Chronicle staffers answered "occasionally," whether it was around campus, on public transportation or in their own homes.

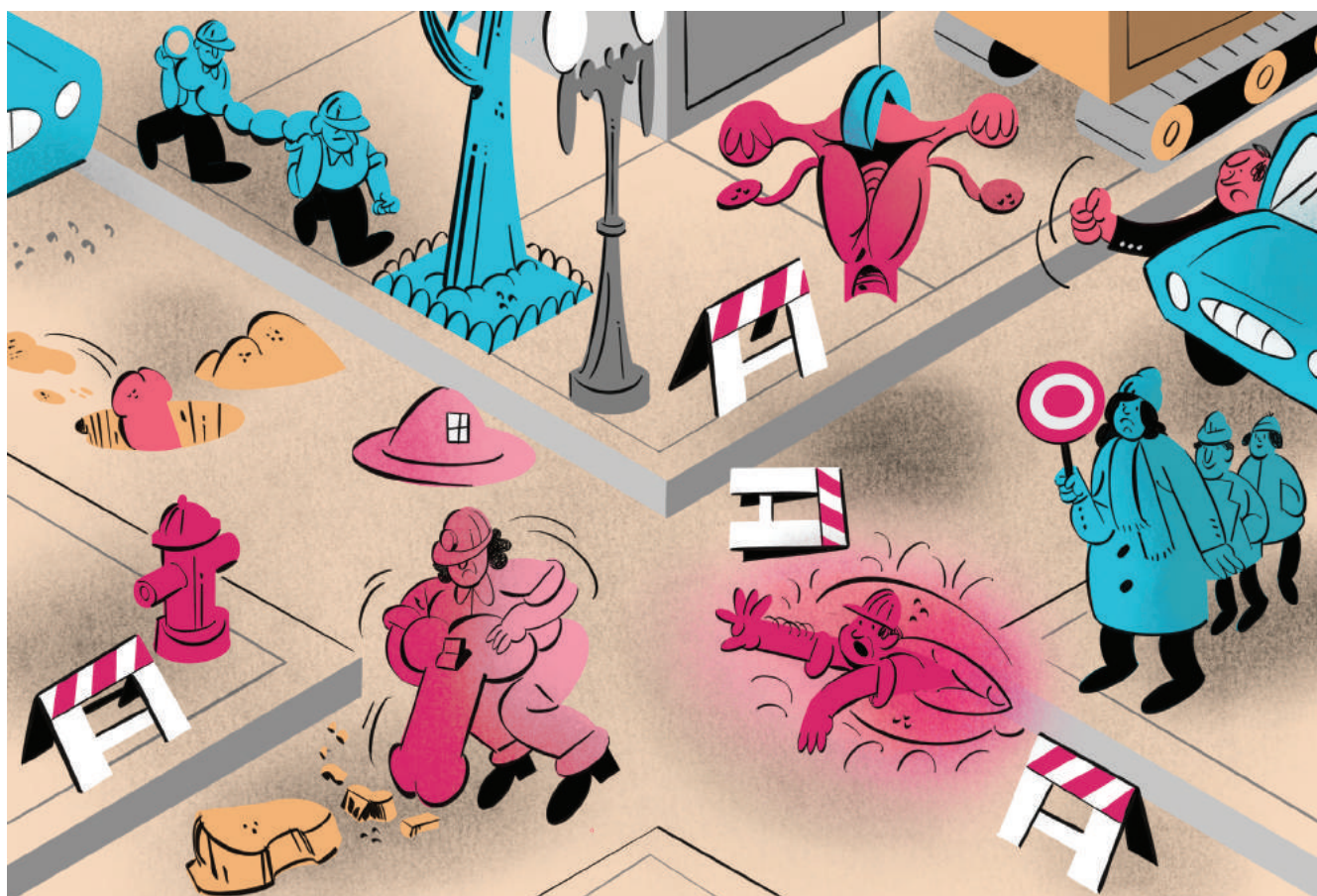
Body language and physical cues are not enough to equate consent, but they can be used to tell if someone is uncomfortable. As the saying goes, “Read the room.” If you are with someone who cannot read the cues, you can advocate for yourself by simply saying “No” in the moment, and then explaining specifically why it makes you uncomfortable or feel unsafe. Additionally, part of reading the room is taking action when you see others’ consent being broken, whether that be a seemingly innocent hug or shoulder rub from a co-worker. After all, silence does not equal consent.

» **LUCAS SMITH/CHRONICLE**

Communication is at the core of consent, though. Vocalizing your trepidations, as well as your agreements, is the only surefire way to ensure all parties involved are on the same page.

If you find yourself troubled by how to voice consent, or how to break away from someone who does not value your consent, talk to friends, trusted family members or seek out experts—such as Title IX officers—who can support you on your mission to get the feeling of safety you deserve.

chronicle@colum.edu



» JOHN SAMMIS/CHRONICLE

COMIC

Sex workers on the job



OPINION

Support the DDD-cup: End the stigma of large breasts

» SUMMER HOAGLAND-ABERNATHY
COPY EDITOR

Small breasts are not sexy, right? With an A-cup, there is nothing to look at, nothing to hold. Large breasts are where the sex appeal is, right? That is why, in 2018, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons reported 313,735 breast augmentations in the U.S. in a plastic surgery statistics study, right?

Even though these opinions are remnants of internalized misogyny, propelled by the male gaze, they have a flip side—small breasts are chic and trendy, while large breasts are considered overtly sexual and even slutty.

People with small breasts can wear a deep cut or sheer shirt to work, school or anywhere and catch little flack for it, while people with large breasts must cover up or otherwise be considered unprofessional or too sexual.

Throughout our daily lives and in our media—movies, art, TMZ—examples abound, showing how breast sizes sit on a line graph, one side starting at “chic” with A-cups and bralettes, and the other side ending with DDD-cups or higher that reads “slut.”

As someone with a B-cup, even in a high school with strict dress codes, I recall only once being asked to put a jacket over a sleeveless shirt. This occurred in a gym class in a brick building on a 90-degree day. However,

my friends with larger cup sizes were sent to their lockers to put on gym uniforms on multiple occasions because their shirts were deemed too low-cut.

I suppose the school employees who told them to change cared more about how sexual these teenage children looked than about their education or health on hot days.

But the sexualization of large breasts is not only found in our everyday lives, it is also in the entertainment media we use for escapism.

“Who Framed Roger Rabbit,” the 1988 ground-breaking animation that meshed cartoons with live-action film, features a scene with Betty Boop and Jessica Rabbit, both female cartoons known for their skimpy outfits and sex appeal. In Rabbit’s case, she has bigger everything—legs, hair, heels and breasts—so she is the sexy, provocative songstress who is accused of cheating on her husband, while Boop is the friendly waitress.

Rabbit becomes the star for her looks, but at the same time, she is demonized.

Children watching this may internalize this demonization and grow up thinking that because someone might have features that attract the male gaze—like large breasts—they are allowed to be mistreated because they

could “have anyone they want” and use these features to get them, which is how the other characters see Rabbit.

In real life, people with large breasts cannot wear a supportive bra in public without either getting catcalled or told to cover up because of the sexualized stigma that comes with that body type.

It is worth noting some people love how sexy their breasts make them feel.

However, that is a decision for them to make. If they want someone to compliment them on their sequin push-up bra, they should feel empowered to let that person know through words or actions—“Isn’t this the sexiest thing you’ve ever seen?” Otherwise, their breasts are their business.

Breasts are not just boobs or titties or chichis or tatas or jugs. They are the chest of a person and underneath are the organs they use to breathe and pump blood through their body. The time to stop stigmatizing large breasts is now.

After all, breasts are only a small part of the person they belong to.

shoagland-abernathy@columbiachronicle.com



» JEN CHAVEZ/CHRONICLE

try something new on

Valentines WEEKEND

COUPLES GET:

♥ **ADMISSION, FREE DRINK & VIP SEATING** ♥

\$30 A COUPLE | THUR, FRI & SAT NIGHT

ADMIRAL

★★ THEATRE ★★

WWW.ADMIRALX.COM

OFFER ENDS AT MIDNIGHT 2/15/2020. COUPLES ADMITTED UPON MANAGERS DISCRETION.

HOUSING FAIR

THE COLUMBIA
CHRONICLE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH
STUDENT CENTER
5TH FLOOR | 12-4 P.M.

HOUSING GUIDE ON NEWSSTANDS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

GIVEAWAYS | FREE FOOD | SPECIAL DISCOUNTS | STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF WELCOME