

STUDENT LIFE

Sex Column: is serious better?

By Jennifer Haight
news editor/newseditor@psu.edu

My relationship with my boyfriend will reach its two-year anniversary on Thursday, and people are still asking me, "What are you doing? You're young, you're in college and you should be experiencing life on your own." Well, to those people I say that I am experiencing life; I'm having a great time. I have a great boyfriend who loves me to no end and who would do anything for me. There are ups and downs to having a serious relationship while you're in college, but through them all, I wouldn't want my relationship any other way.

Being in a serious relationship is work, but it is all worth it in the end even if it doesn't work out, because if nothing else, serious relationships teach you things about who you are, what you want and what you're looking for in a potential husband or wife.

Serious relationships require patience, commitment, responsibility and passion. You really have to want one to maintain one. However, the benefits are plentiful a serious relationship often means having someone there for you at all times, no matter the circumstances. In a committed relationship, there is unconditional love. You never need to question your boyfriend or girlfriend's love for you.

There's also a type of security that you don't get from just some random guy or girl or from your best friend. It's nice when you can cuddle up with someone in just a T-shirt and pajama pants with no make-up on without expecting there to be some awkward sexual tension. Also, those of you who are in relationships know exactly what I mean when I say

that you can just look at your boyfriend or girlfriend, give or get a certain look and know exactly what each other is thinking.

My cousin met her husband while she was in her second year here at Behrend. They dated until they graduated, then they got married and now have a daughter. They couldn't be happier. Who knows, we may very well meet our future husbands and wives here.

Also, if you think about it, it is very hard to meet people you might potentially spend the rest of your life with once you are out of college. Where are you supposed to meet them? Some bar? At work? I would rather not take my chances on meeting my future husband at a shady bar in the bad part of town. Dating in the workplace is not something that sounds very appealing either; that just gets weird and difficult.

There are cons to having a serious relationship in college as well. You don't have the freedom to date around and flirt with other guys or girls without feeling some sense of guilt. Having a serious relationship also takes up time, and I mean a LOT of time. Sacrifices need to be made from both sides. Then there's the whole jealousy thing. Boyfriends and girlfriends in serious relationships tend to get a little jealous when you befriend someone who is of the opposite sex.

I love my relationship and I wouldn't change it for anything in the world. I love the feelings that it gives me, and I wish everyone could feel as good as my boyfriend makes me feel. Until you all find your significant others who make you feel the way that I do, I wish you all happy hunting and good luck.

Tim Burton does it again

By Dominic Petrazio
movie columnist/dmp5021@psu.edu

This past weekend I had a chance to drive down to Tinseltown and check out Tim Burton's new flick "Corpse Bride." Where does this guy get his ideas?

Over the years, Tim Burton has compiled quite a list of successful films which he has directed, including this year's "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory." He has also directed movies such as (in chronological order) "Big Fish," "Planet of the Apes," "Mars Attacks" both "Batman" and "Batman Returns," "Edward Scissorhands," "Beetle Juice," and "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure." I had no idea that he directed so many of those movies, not to mention the fact that he produced nearly all of them. Most of us know him for his very popular twisted holiday film "The Nightmare before Christmas," which he wrote.

The movie "Corpse Bride" is similar in that it utilizes the same 'stop-motion' animation and bizarre story plot.

Here's the basic rundown of the movie. The main character Victor (voiced by Johnny Depp) is to wed a

complete stranger, a beautiful girl by the name of Victoria. The two of them are literally forced into this wedding by their parents, mostly because of Victor's parents' financial situation. As luck would have it, they instantly fall in love, not that it made a difference to their parents, but it sure makes marriage easier - or at least that's what I was raised to believe. Here comes the inevitable conflict. Following a peculiar series

of events, Victor inadvertently offers his hand in marriage to a corpse thereby legally binding him and this girl from the "Land of the Dead" in marriage. It sounds a bit morbid, I know, but this is Tim Burton after all. Well, now our main character, Victor, is in quite a bind. He must make sense of what he truly desires in life: to stay with his bride from the "Land of the

Dead" and never have to put up with his overprotective parents again, or to find a way out of this mess and lend his hand in marriage to his true love Victoria.

Although the plot was beyond far-fetched and unquestionably unique, due to the considerable amount of time and effort, as well as the exquisite attention to detail, the characters and their colorful personalities and atmosphere bring this charming stop-motion movie to life. Despite what the umpteen Disney flick previews before the movie may lead you to believe, this movie is equally attractive to the adult population. Similar to movies such as "Shrek" and "Finding Nemo," the "Corpse Bride" works on two levels. On the surface, the plot is fairly straightforward; therefore, enabling younger viewers are able to enjoy it without

becoming bored or lost. Deep into the characters and script, however, there is a clever humor aimed at adults. Even though the movie barely reaches 66 minutes in length, it's worth the price of admission. And if you don't like the thought of nine cents a minute, I still recommend that you make it to the matinee Showtime.



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Reference: Boyle, et al v. U-Haul International, Inc., et al., August Term 1998, No. 0340 (Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).

Asobi Seksu explodes on the scene

By Sean Mihlo
music columnist/smm480@psu.edu

In just three short years, Brooklyn's Asobi Seksu has risen to the top of New York City's underground scene playing intimate venues to packed crowds, topping the College Music Journal charts with its self-titled debut album, and even scoring a number one video on MTV's college channel, MTVU. For Asobi Seksu, which means "playful sex" in Japanese, the road has been long and winding since its humble beginnings.

"Three years ago, I started the band along with James Hanna, and Keith Hopkin," lead singer and keyboardist Yuki Chikudate said in a recent interview with the Beacon. Hanna, who plays guitar, and Hopkin, who plays drums, have been friends since childhood. Yuki, who's been playing the piano since she was five years old, met James when the two were attending college. Over the past year, however, the band has experienced a few line-up glitches. Original drummer Keith Hopkin was recently replaced by Bryan Greene after the band's last tour while bassist Dexter Wayne is the latest addition. "I can't keep track," said Chikudate in regard to the continuous substitutions.

After forming in 2002, the band promptly entered the studio to record tracks for their debut LP. Following its release, "Asobi Seksu" became an instant hit, with the first pressing quickly selling out. Riding on the success of their self-titled record, the band signed with Friendly Fire Recordings, which then re-pressed and redecorated the content of the album, allowing it to reach a new and exciting audience. As for the experience, it was eye-opening and enlightening, especially for a nervous Yuki. "It was my first real attempt at singing. I was so new to being in a band, and I learned a lot from Keith and James during the

writing and recording process." From the beginning, however, the band was sure of its musical direction. "We knew that vocals with swirling guitars would be one important element of our sound," said Yuki. And it definitely shows, with tracks like "Sooner" and "It's Too Late" incorporating the shoegazer sounds of "My Bloody Valentine" and Shibuya-Kei princess Kahimi Karie's breathy pop vocals. "We were very ambitious," Chikudate added.

Another impressive distinction of Asobi Seksu's music reveals its creative lyricism. "James and I thought it would be fun to try out a song or two in Japanese," explained Yuki. Songs like "Asobi Masho," saturated in noise and distortion, and "Taiyo," Japanese pop at its best with cocktail-shaker guitars and maracas, feature a charming, airy Japanese vocal delivery. In response to the lyrical experimentation, Yuki seems happy with the results: "I think it works." It does indeed.

After numerous re-pressings of the band's debut album, a few singing lessons for Yuki, and a recent performance at Montreal's Pop festival, Asobi Seksu is currently laying down tracks at Gigantic Studios in New York City for their sophomore disc, tentatively titled "Citrus." Although the band hasn't disappeared from the music scene (they've been touring consistently since the beginning), they're preparing to return with a new batch of dreamy, melodicly-subdued songs and a more developed sound. "This [album] should be a lot more cohesive than the first," she explains regarding "Citrus." "We were still in an experimental stage with the first record, but we're finally getting the chance to make a record that is representative of where we are as a band." And what will the listeners think of this change? "Hopefully people will like the direction that we've taken with the band," said Chikudate. "I know that we do!"



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