

The Crave - Vulnerable and Distraction Seeking?

TORIE CRAVEN sex columnist

In a moment's notice, your life can be completely turned upside down by a major event. Whether that event be a death in the family, a failing grade, or a recent break up, everyone deals with pain differently.

So, here is where my question arises: when you aren't in a relationship, is it acceptable to participate in sexual activities during an emotional time in someone else's life? Some people may think of asking a

person for sex when they are mentally unstable as taking advantage of them, and I'd have to agree in certain situations.

For example, is it acceptable to sexually approach a girl when she has recently broken up with her boyfriend? We have all seen the movie scenes when guys describe the ultimate time to "pounce" on a girl is when she is weak and vulnerable. How cruel can you be to see another human being in emotional pain and decide to use the situation to your advantage in order to get laid?

What happens if the tables are turned and the emotionally wrecked person comes onto you? What now? You can't help that you just happened to be in the right place at the right time, when someone else decided to distract themselves from their heartache with some sex, right? That's where it gets iffy. There's a thin line between going with the flow and intentionally ignoring the right thing to do. I don't think you can truly tell with an emotional person whether their intentions are

purely inspired by attraction or rather by an urge to distract themselves from reality with a few moments of sexual pleasure. The best thing to do may be to avoid any sort of sexual situations with someone who may not be in the correct state of mind to make such a decision. Personally, I view emotional vulnerability parallel to excessive drunkenness. Even if they are the one to suggest the two of you get intimate, be mature enough to recognize that it is not the correct time to partake in such acts

and may be better to offer a nice dinner instead. Offering words of comfort rather than a roll around in the sack may be just what this person may need. And who knows...maybe your kindness will eventually lead to some sex - when the time is right.

PS: I want to hear from you!! Anything specific you as the readers want to see in the next article? Something you're too afraid to let your roommates catch you researching? Let me know!!

Additionally, fellas, I'm curious - what do you find most

physically attractive about a girl? Face? Body? If the latter, what part?

Send me an e-mail at thecravepsb@gmail.com with your preference and maybe a little bit of why you prefer that specific potion of the female body! Please and Thanks!!



-Torie

The Sexual State of Things: It is not a Game

CHRISTINA BEONDY copy editor

"Absence diminishes mediocre passions and increases great ones, as the wind extinguishes candles and fans fires."

-Francois de La Rochefoucauld

But how does one continue to fuel a fire? How can one keep their passions strong with out constant contact? If sex is the epitome of passion, then why is the advent of sex in a relationship its only downfall?

It takes strength to open up ones heart to another and

a greater amount of self-control to close off the body. So if one opens up their heart and body simultaneously, why do these kinds of relationships seem to fail so readily?

My answers to these questions only come out of personal experience; my own many personal failures to find love in sex and to not lose it. Love at the end of the day is the only great universal communicator, so sex as it applies to love is the only taboo topic.

I took a trip out to Cleveland to visit a friend - we will call him Kidrobot - and though finding sex was not a priority, finding love was. If there was anything that I had learned over the years it

was this; finding a substantial physical connection is not one in a million, though finding a substantial emotional connection is. The qualities and attributes that give way to a feeling of "like" or "want" differ from individual to individual, and yes, physical attraction always plays a role.

Kidrobot made me laugh; feel wanted and cared about. He was as upbeat as I am and as spontaneous and quirky. He was a musician, a chef, and an adult. His worries no longer resided in the realm of college drama; he was everything I looked for.

Though, after leaving I found myself forgetting the very reasons that led me to

my travel. There was never a moment during my trip that I questioned my motives, till I left. Once I was away, all I found myself doing was questioning and feeling insecure about where I stood in his eyes and in my own.

I myself am impulsive and spontaneous, caring and frank, though I find myself being none of these things when my heart is on the line.

The opportunity for sex is unavoidable at times, but regardless of avoiding or actually engaging, the hope for love is also unavoidable. But what I find now is that sex as it applies to ones overall emotional actualizations will always be ambiguous. Sex is

the expression of the inexpressible. One can easily get lost in it and throw caution to the wind because it just feels so damn good.

When sex becomes involved, the lines between the emotional, as it applies to the physical - and vice versa - blur. Contemplating this very phenomenon generates more questions then it actually answers.

I can only take everything in stride. There's no point in trying to steer any relationship in a certain direction, any attempt to do such will always result in failure. Sex cannot be allowed to dictate emotions, as much as emotions cannot be allowed to dictate

sexual experiences. By allowing sex or emotions to dictate anything, is to allow skewed perception to impact your life and psychological stability as it applies to the two. Sex and emotions can stand independently from each other; it is getting the two to live harmoniously that creates confusion and anxiety.

The only thing that I have gathered that makes any sense is that love as an emotion, as a feeling, is devoid of actual logic or rationale. The true beauty of sex as it plays on the emotions is the uncertainty. It teaches us that we have to let go and let it - whatever it may be - steer itself.

Put thought into gifts

ASHLEA INNISS staff writer

It's almost Christmas and that means a good amount of money is going to be thrown away on meaningless gifts. People don't put thoughts into gifts anymore. You buy somebody a new iPod because it's the new thing - well, take it a step further, especially if you're already shelling out \$200 or more on a new iPod.

Buy them a new iPod loaded with a play list. A play list where you took the time to think about the person, who they are, what you want to tell them, or just anything to personalize it and make it a special gift from you.

You shouldn't even have to spend that much money. I don't believe any Christmas gift should cost more than twenty dollars. There are exceptions, like buying a gift

for your significant other or your child, and I'm not saying substitute quality just to save money. I'm saying spend more time thinking up a gift that isn't purely material and has a deeper meaning. I mean, come on! Wouldn't it be a lot more fun if everybody made their friends gifts for Christmas instead of going out and buying them that oh-so-classic lotion set or the super spectacular gift card that can be spent anywhere?

The possibilities are endless! Do you like to paint? Paint your friend a picture! Do you enjoy writing? Buy special stationary and write your friend a letter! Do you like to sew? Make your friend a quilt; it would come in handy on the cold Erie nights. The bottom line is you don't have to go out and spend a ridiculous amount of money on something for your friends instead spend a ridiculous amount of time creating something they will cherish and remember for the rest of their lives.

Children ruin shopping

TALIA FINOTTI staff writer

As a woman, I enjoy shopping. I like all types of shopping: grocery shopping, clothes shopping, Christmas shopping, and it goes on and on, but there is one thing that ruins a shopping excursion - screaming, spoiled children. I don't hate kids - they may weird me out - but that's a different conversation. It's not hard to notice these children, they are literally heard from a mile away and they get into all sorts of crap at the stores. They are running around and most likely you can hear their mother hollering at them from three aisles away. Are you effing serious?! Get your kid under control -- perhaps try calf-wrangling.

Children who run around the store like they are on speed and screaming how they can't have the newest num num's that are in the candy aisle or at the cash register put your shopping ad-

ventures at a screeching halt. They scream, stomp, and holler, wanting the newest chocolate goodness or the newest Barbie or action figure, and what do the parents do? No, they don't wrangle them, that's for damn sure, though that's what they should do! No, they give them the friggin thing they are going ballistic over! WHY! Tell me WHY?! Why on God's green Earth would you reward your child for such horrible, non-rewarding behavior?!

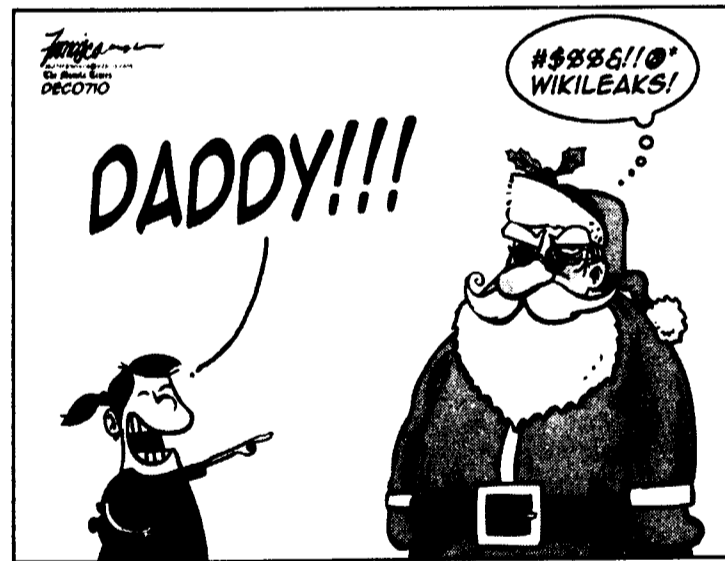
They are embarrassing you as you are getting the death glare from many bystanders, and you know this look whether you have gotten it or you've given the look. It looks a little something like the stink eye, but we can call it the "shut-your-kid-up-before-I-point-my-death-rays-out-of-my-eyes-at-you-and-your-brat!"

I don't have kids of my own, but wouldn't it make sense to not give the object to them? I know it's an out there

idea! Wouldn't it be teaching them a lesson? So, learn the methods of calf wrangling or invest in a lease that in general makes you look like a bigger tool than to begin with, but, hey, people will thank you for having a screaming horrible child.



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A letter from the Editor - last issue's Opinion Page

BRANDON BOYD opinion editor

I would like to take just a moment about the sex column, and while the content of this article may not be as entertaining as "The Crave," it is something that needs to be addressed.

There has been a mixed reaction from readers concerning the sex column, as while some enjoy it, some people also feel it is too much. The sex column is not meant to get cheap readership by using shocking material - sex is a legitimate topic for college students.

Torie Craven, our sex columnist, plans to discuss sex and issues concerning sex and college students, in a way that is acceptable for a newspaper and won't go over the line. Her column is developing itself, and as long as all goes as planned, it will continue during the spring semester.

Still, even when discussing sex, there is a line, and the last opinion page crossed that line, specifically with the "text from last night."

I will not get into how the "text from last night" got into the paper, but I can say that

it was a last minute decision. It is something that is regrettable and if I could, I would take it back. As editor-in-chief Connor Sattely put it: "it was the worst thing in the paper this week." I completely agree with Connor - it should not have run, bottom line.

When something like this happens, there are three options an editor can take: ignore it, blame it on someone else, or take the blame. The inappropriate content is not something to be ignored, and I'm not going to put the blame on someone else when I'm the one putting the content on to the page. This is a job I take se-

riously, and I have a certain responsibility to provide you, the reader, with what I feel are great opinion articles, while presenting them in a pleasing way. What was put into the paper during the last edition did not accomplish this, and for that, I apologize.

I look forward to the spring semester, and providing the Behrend campus with more opinions from Behrend students. I aim to improve and ensure that inappropriate material like the "text from last night" does not run on my page again.

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