

Opinion

Sex, religion and society

By SHAWN D. MANDERSON
Staff Writer

Arguably, sex and religion are two topics that we as people are in a constant struggle with. We are in a moral tug of war between the divine nature of religion and the instinctive desires of the flesh. According to most religions we are supposed to wait until after we marry someone special before engaging in that lustful, salacious, and passionate act. If there is one thing we've learned, it's that not everyone can suppress the inner beast of lust.

SIECUS (Sexuality Information and Education of the United States) took the largest study of adult sexual behavior and found that only 6.9 percent of men and 21 percent of women aged 18-59 had their first intercourse on their wedding night. SIECUS took another poll of teenagers from the ages of 13-17 and found that more than half of the teenagers in the U.S. are virgins until 17 years of age. SIECUS also reported that by the time they reach the age of twenty, 20% percent of boys and 24 percent of girls have not had sexual intercourse. This means that between 76-80 percent of twenty years olds are having sex before marriage. So what is it that make people forget about all that is right and wrong when it comes to sex?

Is it our human nature to find as many mates as possible (before we expire) and procreate? Why deny nature? Or should we control those inner urges of sex within us and be monogamous? It is hard for guys to resist looking at a "hot chick" in a sexual manner and the same applies for girls who see a really "hot guy." Well, we all certainly think about sex a lot, on an average day, the average male thinks about sex every 2 minutes, and the average female thinks about sex about every 3 and 1/2 minutes. Shouldn't we do what feels natural when it comes to sex?

Is sex before marriage wrong? Surprisingly 65 percent of teens between the age of 13-19, say sex before marriage is wrong, and their main influence is because of

religion. Also, most young people begin having sex in their mid-to-late teens have sex about 8 years before they marry, this is according to The Alan Guttmacher Institute which is an organization that report annual statistics on teen sex and pregnancy in the United States.

If sex is natural, and it feels good, then why is it frowned upon if it is committed before marriage? Sex is more accepted today in our society then it was (twenty, thirty, or even forty) years ago. Even though people today are more comfortable when the topic of sex is brought up; it still seems that the morals of the past are still with us. The Alan Guttmacher Institute says that sex before marriage is rare among very young teenagers, about 8 in 10 girls and 7 in 10 boys are sexually inexperienced at age 15, but it becomes more common in the later teenage years and early adulthood.

There is a definite rise in sexual activity after the age of 18, and this can be because of two things. One, at the age of 18 most the teenagers in the United States have either graduated high school and are attending college and or are working and living on their own, and possibly the pressure from their parents is not felt as much when it comes to sex. Two, maybe the fear factor of religion and the ideals that were instilled in us from our parents are not as strong because we are allowed to make our own decisions. But here is an interesting fact about 1 in 5 young people do not have intercourse while they are teenagers. I could go on forever with this topic, but let's see what our people poll said.

Statistics provide by:

1. Alan Guttmacher Institute, Sex and America's Teenagers (New York: The Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1994), p. 19.
2. Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), Fact Sheets, <http://www.siecus.org/pubs/fact> (New York: SIECUS 1996)

Was President Bush's visit an honor or a catastrophe?

BY SHAWN PETTIT
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Editor's Note: This commentary does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Lion's Eye staff.

Before I start my usual rant, I'd like to say that the President's visit to our campus was...special. I can't say it was an honor because the only time I saw him was when he felt like he had to be gracious and wave to the people standing outside the Main Building. That's not an honor. It's a disgrace.

I know it's not every day that a U.S. president, current or former, visits a small campus like ours. However, for the majority of Penn State Delco students, Tuesday, April 2, was a horrible mess of figuring out where to park and trying to get to their classes. It's bad enough on a normal day. It was one hundred times worse that day.

A total of not even one hundred people affiliated with Penn State were allowed to witness the speech that day. Out of all the people that did see the speech, only one sixth of the crowd were Penn Staters. This makes me sick. Not only are we tuition paying students, we are taxpayers and I'm sure a large amount of the students and faculty are registered members of the Republican Party. Yet we are not good enough to see the official that we voted into office.

What disgusts me even more is the fact that it

took a U.S. president to get the president of our university to set foot on our campus for the first time in a few years. Even if we had a serious problem on our campus (i.e. our recent bomb threats), Dr. Spanier seems like the type of guy that just wouldn't care. This visit was meant for publicity purposes only, and Spanier seemed to leap at the opportunity to get some airtime.

I stood outside, witnessing the reactions of the "unfortunate" students like myself that didn't get to see the speech, not only because they weren't invited, but because a certain TV news network (I won't mention any names) decided they needed our TV feed so we didn't even get to watch the speech on TV on the campus. No one was happy.

Many students referred to this visit as a disaster. It was unorganized and everything about it was poorly executed. I agree completely. The consideration of the faculty, staff, and students that didn't get to see the speech was not even looked upon. We were expected to smile and be cheerful that the President came to see our campus. How can we be cheerful when all it did for us is make things inconvenient? We can't.

As for President Bush, next time he decides to visit a college, he should at least make a real appearance for all the students, not just a select few. The rest of us might even vote Democrat in the next race because of the inconsiderate fashion of his visit. But hey, he's a politician. We can't expect him to make the right decision all the time. That would be foolish.

People Poll Question: How do you feel about sex before marriage and why?



"There is no problem, as long as you have feelings for her."
- Joseph Carozzo, freshman, Poly Sci.



"I think it's wrong...It's disrespectful to the partner."
- Demascus Kane, freshman, Agriculture



"I feel that it would be an essence that's not there anymore."
- Naaz Ahmed, soph. marketing management



"Absolutely! So long as it's with the right person."
- Danae McManus, junior, IST



"I am very religious. I've been taught that with sex before marriage, you can get pregnant, which is true."
- Dalesqui Bertier, freshman, psychology



"Before it used to mean alot but now everyone has it. You should save it - something to offer your wife."
- Andreau Napoles, sophomore, BA

People Poll

Thoughts on President Bush's speech:

- "His speech was relevant and meaningful to not only education students but all students who care about America's future- our youth"
-Jennifer Tallon, Sophomore

- "President Bush's speech was very interesting. You can tell that he really cared for what he was talking about."
-Mike Van Wyk, Sophomore

- "It is nice to see the focus start to shift away from international business and turn towards something which is very important - education."
-Rob Thorum, Sophomore

- "I though it was really good. He had a lot of insightful information."
-Tovi Nguyen, Sophomore

By SARAH GALLATIG
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Write for the Lion's Eye

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