

# SEX

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a special edition of The Gazette

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# GAZETTE



# SEX. SEX. SEX.

for good measure, let's say it again...

# SEX.

This special issue of the Gazette on **SEX** has a message to convey - **sex is not dirty or bad**, and neither is participating in and enjoying it.

Modern Western culture embraces violence, gore and blood as part of our everyday experience. From Saturday morning cartoons, to the latest action flick - violence has been integrated as an ever-present thread in the tapestry of modern life. However, when events such as the Columbine shootings occur, we ignorantly **question** their roots. There are many sex-related crimes and abuses, but sex itself is not, and should not be represented as a **crime**.

For a culture that often celebrates violence, how can sex still be considered such a 'behind closed doors' issue?

We decided to compile this issue to **explore**, from our own point of view, the importance of sex in society. We want to **educate, inform and entertain**. Sex should not hold the negative connotations that it presently has in all aspects of our daily life.

Sex is in **advertising, television, magazines**. . . in other words, all forms of modern media. But they don't talk about it in a positive light, they use it to sell and appeal to the more physical, brute side of sex.

Whether motivated by **love, lust, or curiosity**, sex is important, and can be fun, passionate and intimate. Give it the **positive recognition** it deserves.

This is our **kick at the media** can.

by **Johneen Manning**

**special edition editor**

## THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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## SEX

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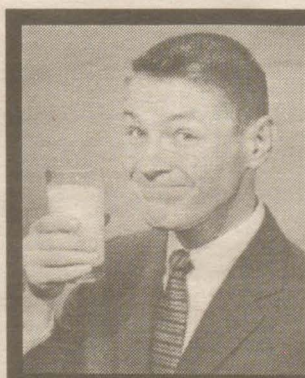


2K



"There is no remedy for love but more love."

— Henry David Thoreau



THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY FIVE CALORIES IN A LEVEL TEASPOON OF SEMEN. AND LOTS OF PROTEIN. ALSO, THE TASTE OF MEN'S SPERM CHANGES WITH WHAT THEY EAT - YUM YUM.

SEX



# SEX SURVEY

## MALES SURVEYED



♥♥ 17 males were surveyed, seven of whom were 18 years old, four were 19 years old, and four were between 20 and 25 years of age, while only one was above the age of 30.

♥♥ The sexual preference of most males was female — only two wrote that their preference was both male and female.

♥♥ Nine of the guys surveyed said that they were still virgins (yeah, right!). There are virgins at DAL?!

♥♥ Most guys (3) lost their virginity under the age of 16. the remaining ranged in age from 16 to 18.

♥♥ The most common number of sexual partners was over 13 (braggin' it up again boys?!). two of the guys have had 2 partners, one had 4, and one had only one sexual partner (good to keep it monogamous!).

♥♥ Five guys have had a one-night stand, the rest obviously don't know where The Palace is!!

♥♥ Only one of the guys has had the pleasure of experiencing a threesome (maybe the rest of you should visit the dalendar editor, she's into group action!!).

♥♥ Five guys have admitted to having sex in a public place while the rest can only wish!! The places mentioned were; public gardens, and parking lots (citadel hill was not mentioned). Don't you think you could be a tad bit more creative?

♥♥ Three of these gentlemen have actually had sex on campus (go guys!!), two in the library (do you call that studying?, must be anatomy class!) and one in an office(you earn your grades your way, but I'll stick to studying, no matter how noisy the library might get).

♥♥ When asked where people would like to have sex on campus the answers we got were; Dean's office (racking up 4 votes), a pool table (2), in a classroom (2) and in the pool at Dalplex (1) and in a library (1). Talk to a few of these guys — maybe they can offer tips on how to not get caught!!

♥♥ Seven guys claim to have less than 40 sexual thoughts a day (LIARS!!), while ten say they have too many to count (that's more like it boys!!).

♥♥ I guess the guys like booty, because five of them mentioned it as the sexiest part of a woman's body. The face was the next most popular feature, with a total of 4 votes. Lips, chest and genitals (yes, you read that right) got 1 vote each.

♥♥ Only two guys have a fetish, the rest just don't know it yet. These guys' fetishes were sweat gear (huh?) and school girl outfits.

♥♥ Only one guy preferred oral sex to the good ol' mattress mambol!

♥♥ As for the importance of sex, on a scale of 1-10, most guys answered 9 being how important sex is to them. Only one guy gave it a 10 (probably the guy who answered genitals as the sexiest part).

## FEMALES SURVEYED



♥♥ There was a grand total of 12 women surveyed, ages ranging from 17 to 37.

♥♥ Only two of the girls were virgins, which is somewhat surprising since nine of the guys were.

♥♥ Only one of the women's sexual preference was both men and women — maybe she should work something out with the people who have never had a threesome.

♥♥ The youngest person to lose their virginity was at the tender age of 14 (geez, they're getting younger all the time aren't they?!) most were "deflowered" at the age of 17.

♥♥ As I am sure you know from reading about the guys, we asked how many sexual partners each has had. I believe the most colourful answer was "too old to remember" (hope that wasn't the 17 year old) while the most common were 3-5 sexual partners.

♥♥ Eight of the girls have had an one-night stand (they obviously do know where The Palace is) and three have had a threesome.

♥♥ Half of the girls have had sex in public place — it's starting to sound like the girls are a little more creative isn't it?! The places listed were cars (being the most popular), a hockey game (go DAL Tigers!!), national park, beach (isn't the sand annoying?), the library, and a train bridge — now, what would she have done if a train had come along?! Die happily?

♥♥ Only one girl has had sex on campus, but withheld the place...

♥♥ Once again the girls got more creative when asked where they would like to have sex at DAL three longed for the pool, and one each for the dean's desk, a roof, a guys bathroom, the Cohn stage, the Green Room and a conference room in the SUB

♥♥ The most common answer for the number of sexual thoughts a day was 1-20, once again, you MUST be joking — I've had 50 just typing this!!

♥♥ Seven girls seem to think that the sexiest part of a guy's body is his eyes, which are usually staring at the girls a\$\$\$. A not-so-close second was the back, with only 3 votes.

♥♥ Only one girl liked a guy's smile — that chick doesn't know what a mouth is for does she?

♥♥ Two girls admitted to having a fetish: being public places and trying new things — do you like schoolgirl outfits?!

♥♥ Six girls seem to like oral sex to sex, only one girl said "GOD, NO!", probably the girl who likes the smile.

♥♥ Surprisingly, the girls found sex an 8 on a scale of importance with 7 coming in a close second.

♥♥ It seems like the guys we surveyed aren't having any steamy sessions with the ladies we talked to, because it seems like the ladies we are a little more adventurous than the guys. Just a little reminder to all of you, remember, no love without a glove!! If you don't know what that means, you shouldn't be having sex, anyway.

# Top 10 places on campus to have SEX

**10.** Study rooms in the basement of the Business Building — Take a break from balancing the books, and try balancing in fun positions with your partner.

**9.** Room 214 of the Life Science Building — It's open 24 hours, so if you can cram for exams and work off some stress at the same time.

**8.** Geology Lounge, 8th Floor of the Life Science Building — There's just something about rocks and the view from up there that screams "whoopie!"

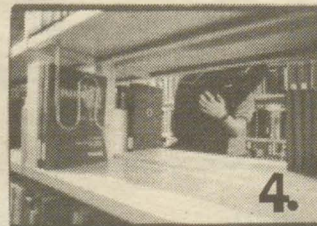
**7.** Third-floor bathrooms in the Student Union Building — Think of it as a service of your DSU

**6.** Computer cubicles in the Killam's basement — Add more ram to your byte.

**Alternate.** Killam's elevators for maximum rise, and those handy railings. Be quick.



**5.** The private, non-smoking lounge in the Grad House — Burn off the calories of those beers in the private extra-pleasure room.



**4.** In between the stacks of the Killam — It's dark, quiet, and smells musty anyway

**3.** The spray & glue room in the Architecture Building — The perfect place to check out your partners curves after an intoxicating episode of Liquid Lounge. Watch out for the glue, though, it can lead for an extra-sticky situation.

**2.** Plants in the Law Building — Play Tarzan and Jane in the jungle of future sharks.

**1.** Be the first to consummate the new FASS Building.

photo by sabrina thurlow



# Playing it safe

## Having an active sex life in the age of AIDS

by jonathan dieli colburn

In 1981, the public had its first exposure to the beginnings of an AIDS epidemic. It was thought to be restricted exclusively to white gay men, which was partially true. It's not true anymore. Once it was understood that HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) could be transmitted to any sexual partner, homosexual or otherwise, prevention campaigns sprang up around the continent.

Unprotected sex can obviously greatly increase the risk of infection, but even if a person thinks that they are in perfect health, doctors are now recommending blood tests for any sexually active patients. HIV can have a long latency period, and it tends to hit people the hardest during the period of prime parenting years. The

vast majority of world-wide AIDS patients are not aware of their infection. The World Health Organization reported that 30 million people were infected last year, while 27 million of them were not aware of their HIV status.

It is not only poorer areas of the world that are faced with patients who are completely ignorant as to their infection. In Canada and the US, high-school dropouts, former inmates and the homeless are untouched by prevention campaigns and pushes for testing.

While 20 years of research has served to teach us much more about the disease than we first assumed, being an AIDS patient or a homosexual can still carry a social stigma, especially among minorities. Immigrants are of particular concern, because many of them are not aware of confidentiality laws, or are not legal citizens, said Sara Riney, a spokeswoman for AID Atlanta to the Associated Press. This came after an announcement by the US Surgeon General, who reported that Blacks and Hispanics accounted for nearly 70 per cent of new US HIV infections for the first half of this year.

In most of North America, incidences of AIDS are falling, while the transmission of HIV is still rising. This is likely due to new drug treatment programs, which postpone the development of AIDS and prolong the lives of people living with HIV.

According to Dr. Joshua Schechtel of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies in San Francisco, it is not impossible for HIV infected

people to continue to have sexual relations.

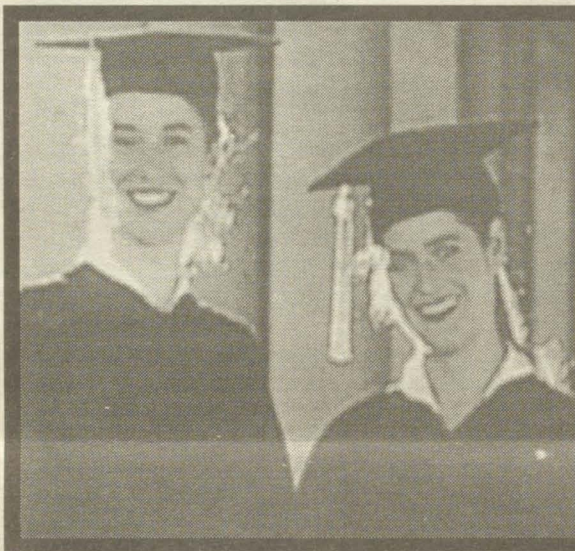
"People with HIV often find themselves cast in the role of educator," he said in a report written for the Center. "This is particularly true in the case of HIV positive individuals and their sexual partners."

This is not an unreasonable fear, considering that most cases of HIV transmission come from sexual contact. The most important step for people in this situation, says Dr. Schechtel, is to talk about the fears that each person has before beginning a sexual relationship. Uninfected partners are naturally apprehensive about catching the virus, while infected partners are naturally nervous about spreading the disease.

He also cites studies that have shown condoms to be virtually 100 per cent effective in blocking HIV transmission when they are used properly. The chances that a condom will fail in preventing pregnancy are much higher than the chance of transmitting HIV. Using spermicide with condoms can make sex even safer — it has been shown to kill all of the HIV in tested condoms.

When it comes down to it, almost any form of sexual contact can pose a risk of disease transmission, and responsible behaviour for those with and without with HIV is paramount, even if a partner does not seem to insist upon safety.

Life is precious — protect it.



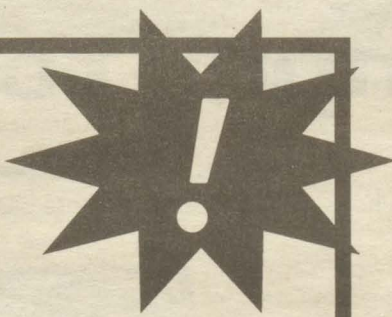
WOMEN WHO GO TO COLLEGE ENJOY GIVING AND RECEIVING ORAL SEX MORE THAN HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS. ALSO, WOMEN WITH A PH.D. ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED IN A ONE-NIGHT STAND THAN THOSE WITH ONLY A BACHELOR'S DEGREE. LESSON? NOT ONLY ARE WE GETTING SCREWED OVER BY TUITION, WE'RE LEARNING TO LIKE IT, TOO!



*"Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind; and therefore is winged Cupid painted blind."*

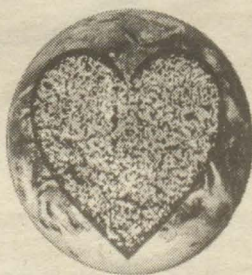
— William Shakespeare

WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO CONCEIVE IF THEY HAVE AN ORGASM. THE SEMEN COLLECTS IN A POOL JUST BELOW THE CERVIX, AND WHEN WOMEN ORGASM, THEIR CERVIX DIP DOWN INTO THIS SPERM POOL.



*"Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."*

— Franklin P. Jones

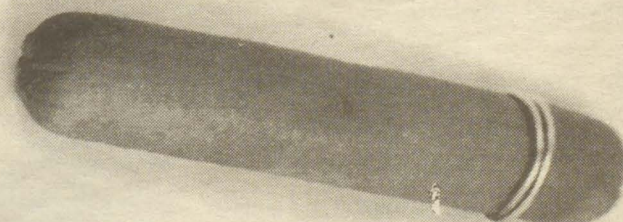


# cOck rings

Cock rings fit around the base of the penis and the scrotum, blocking the flow of blood from departing the penis. The resulting pressure can be very pleasurable and can heighten sensation in the penis, not to mention the testicles. Since cock rings constrict the veins that would allow blood to drain out of an erect pecker, some men find that wearing cock rings prolongs their erections, or if you're lucky, even makes their erections firmer, a side effect that can improve sex for all parties involved.

Cock rings come in three varieties: metal, latex, or leather. The only way to don the solid metal or latex variety is to put them on before you're erect. Metal cock rings should really only be used by men who have considerable experience playing with penis related toys. After all, once you've got it on, it's constricting the flow of blood out of your erection. Orgasm will be the only pleasant way to make your erection subside. If your metal cock ring begins to feel tight, and you want to remove it, you have two options: Ice... or boltcutters. Latex cock rings are slightly less problematic, as you can cut these off as necessary in the privacy of your own home without resorting to power tools.

When all's said and done, you're better off with the leather strap variety. These fasten with either snaps or Velcro, and the moment you begin to experience any discomfort, you can unfasten them, and release the pressure. Leather cock-and-ball toys are also available in a delightful array of styles, colors and flavors: Some have straps that stretch the testicles downwards; some are fitted with D-rings, so you can attach a leash to them; and some are decoratively studded. Leather cock-and-ball toys provide bonuses for anyone on the giving or receiving end.





# DIFFERENT STROKES

## FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

by caitlin kealey  
and jodi magliaro

the gazette

In Sweden, dildos and other types of sex toys are sold in department stores. So where in Halifax are these things sold? Walmart? I don't think so. The Flea Market? Nope, wrong again. There's Venus Envy on Barrington, Excitement Video on Quinpool and Sister Sarah's also on Quinpool Road and Night Magic on Sackville Street.

Our intrepid explorers left the safe confines of the *Gazette* office and ventured into the world of sex, its toys and its employees.

The newest store, Venus Envy was the first stop. Storeowner, Shelly Taylor opened the store back in 1998 as "a place for women and those who love them to go." At first it was a very small store where mainly women went and men were intimidated by, but eventually the word got around that it was an open, friendly and welcoming place for straight couples as well as gay couples, explains Taylor.

Taylor estimated that the ratio of women to men that frequent her store is now about 60/40 with a wide variety of ages. "In the first few weeks of opening I noticed the customer base was diverse, but then someone walked in who looked like she could be my grandmother and it was really surprising, but I've gotten used to it," says Taylor. She describes the men that go to her store as "excellent, positive and supportive kind of guys, a lot of men are tired of the male aimed-stores."

Maggie Haywood works for Taylor and says that they saw a need for a store like that in Halifax.

"It's a place to shop for toys in a supportive environment because some toy stores are geared towards men and tend to be sleazy places

where women don't feel comfortable. Our goal is to promote the idea that sex is good — sex toys are good. To get away from the hush-hush idea that sex is something to do behind close doors with the lights off," says Haywood.

In comparison to the 60/40 at Venus Envy, Arnold Hubley, an employee of Excitement Video, estimates that the women to men split is 20/80 with an age spread of 25 to 50.

The two stores have a very different approach to their customers. Excitement video clerk, Craig Bundy says that when someone comes into the store unless they specifically ask for help they will not inquire into their customer's wishes. "We usually don't ask anybody it's quite personal."

On the other hand, at Venus Envy each customer is greeted and asked if they require any help.

"Absolutely, we give advice. It's one of the reasons we are here — to provide as much info as we can, that goes for toys and books. If there are questions we can't answer we direct people to doctors or Planned Parenthood," says Haywood.

The employees at Venus Envy have even taken it a step further and now offer a workshop series: topics covered include bondage, the G-spot, anal play, and of course sex toys. They are open to anyone who wants to learn with certain restrictions depending on the topic.

Certain stigmas are attached to sex toys and stores.

"There is this misconception, or there was, that if you 'had to' use a toy there was something wrong. Vibrators were called marital aids," says Haywood.

"I think it's hard to except it [liberal sex]. With all the TV shows like Sex with Sue,

which show all the available products, it makes it a little more acceptable but people still see it as a negative impact for society. A lot of people think its wrong. I mean I hate porno. It's disrespectful to society and women. It's all negative to me. I take sex a lot more seriously than a lot of people," says Hubley.

There also exists a common misconception about the kind of people that work at these stores, but then again he may not qualify as the norm.

"I wait six or seven months before I have sex in a relationship. I wait because I need the physical and emotional sides before doing it. I take it seriously," says Hubley.

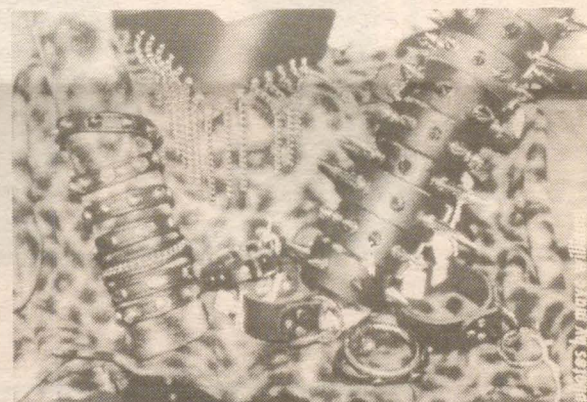
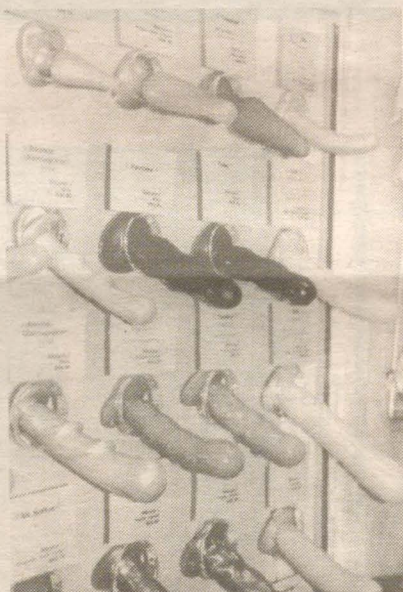
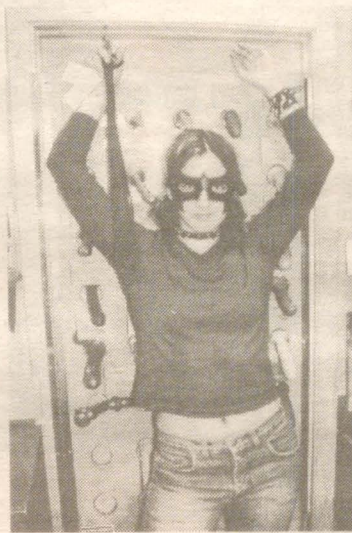
Hubley seems to focus on the positive aspects to sex, he finds it easy to talk about sex and has no problem working at the store but he feels sex is taken less seriously than it should be. He also disagrees with the way the employees are treated.

"Some of the public like us being here but they don't give the store respect; especially not the employees," says Hubley. He's had a few run-ins with customers.

Hubley told a story about a woman who came into the store and inquired about the price of a chocolate penis. She asked how much it was and when he responded \$11.95 she said 'I'm not talking about the one on the shelf, I'm talking about the one in your pants.' Hubley was embarrassed and asked her to leave the store. He has no problems kicking people out of the store.

Another incident was when an American man came into the store to buy a porn mag. He dropped \$20 USD on the counter and asked if there was anywhere he could look at the magazine in the store. Hubley said no, but the man was insistent and kept dropping more and more money on the counter all the while asking the same question. At the end count there was \$560 USD on the counter and then asked if he could meet Hubley after the store closed. Hubley declined and when the guy left the store he left Hubley a \$60 tip.

Whether you prefer the graphic porn of Excitement Video, or the nice selection of dildos at Venus Envy, your sexual needs are covered in Halifax fairly well, male or female. It depends on if you like some professional help or you like to do it by yourself.



## 12 steps to steamy sex

1. Anticipate the Sexual Encounter— Many people find that if they spend some time fantasizing about an upcoming sexual encounter, they can use their imagination to "turn themselves on" physically, as well as emotionally. It also helps for people to learn to identify what turns them on in their environment (i.e., romantic or erotic stories, love songs, videos, etc.) and use this in anticipation of a sexual encounter.

2. Relax— Most people require a period of "down time" in order to be opened-up to receiving sexual pleasure. This is because emotional tension negatively interferes with sexual stimulation. So, listen to music, take a hot bath, read a book, do "whatever works" to get relaxed.

3. Eliminate Distractions— Identifying one's distractions and then eliminating them before sex can help people to focus on their bodies and feelings so that orgasm is easier to achieve. Distractions of any kind usually sabotage the sexual focus needed for most women and men to reach orgasm.

4. Get Comfortable with Your Body and Its Uniqueness— Learning to appreciate and accept one's body is key to good sexual responsiveness. Obsessing over body imperfections—how it looks, feels, smells, or tastes, etc., may sabotage sexual response and certainly can interfere with orgasm. Remember that the kind of partner you want is one who is more turned on by an interested and interesting partner rather than by a perfect body.

5. Respect Yourself and Your Partner— Real intimacy comes from trusting that your partner respects and cares about what you think and feel.

6. Think Erotica— This requires putting the mind in an erotic mode so that you can boost physical arousal. It may require imagery of an erotic or romantic scene or fantasy that is a turn on.

7. Be Imaginative—There are many other ways of achieving orgasm besides intercourse. The majority of women orgasm most effectively with clitoral stimulation or vaginal stimulation assisted by clitoral stimulation, not by vaginal stimulation alone, and that is okay and fine!

8. Make Time For Play—Particularly FOREPLAY. Remember that foreplay begins before you even step into the bedroom. People frequently leave lovemaking for very late hours, when bodies just need sleep. If people would "make time for play", protect that time and not wait for spontaneous encounters, they would be more assured of good sex.

9. Mix It Up—Surprise your partner, and experiment with fun positions, roles, and games.

10. Know Yourself—Both women and men should become experts at what is exciting for them—this will assure that you and your partner can guide each other through a pleasurable experience.

11. Communicate Openly—Open communication is essential for sexual satisfaction because people are not mind readers. Spoken communication is clearest, but may be awkward during a steamy moment—guiding your partner's hand or prearranged cues may work as well. Open communication about sex takes honesty, trust, respect and the ability to take risks.

12. Be Sure Your Partner is "On the Mark"— If your partner is off target when stimulating your body, you won't ever reach orgasm. So, make sure you convey where you need to be touched as well as what you like best.



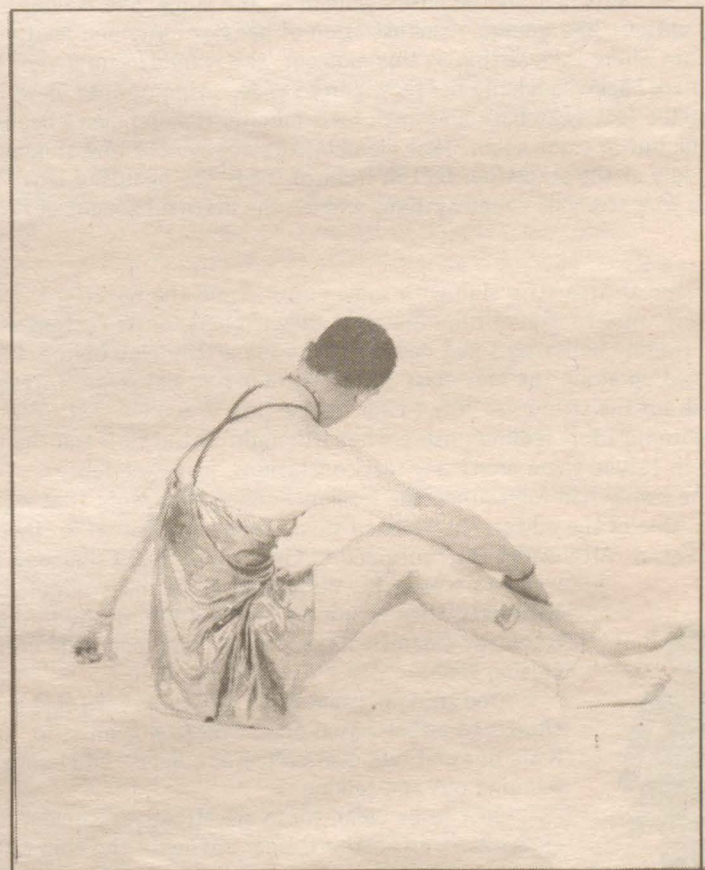
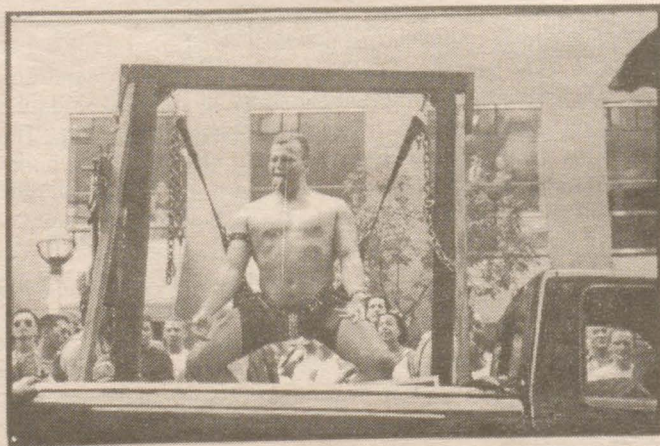
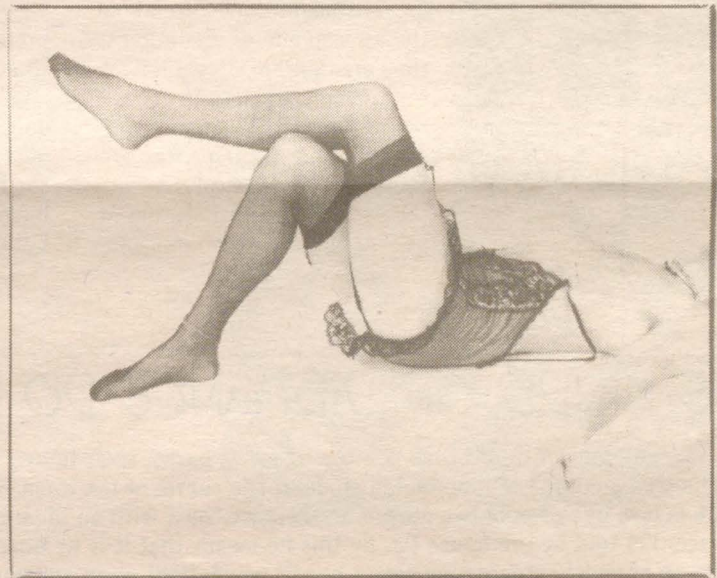
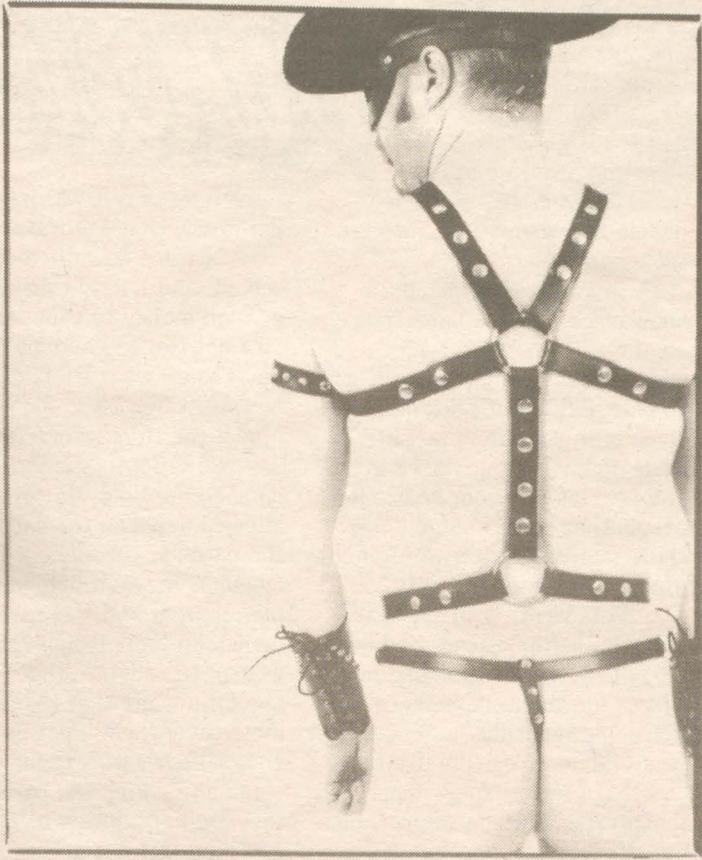
# FETISH

ANGELA CARLSEN



SEX



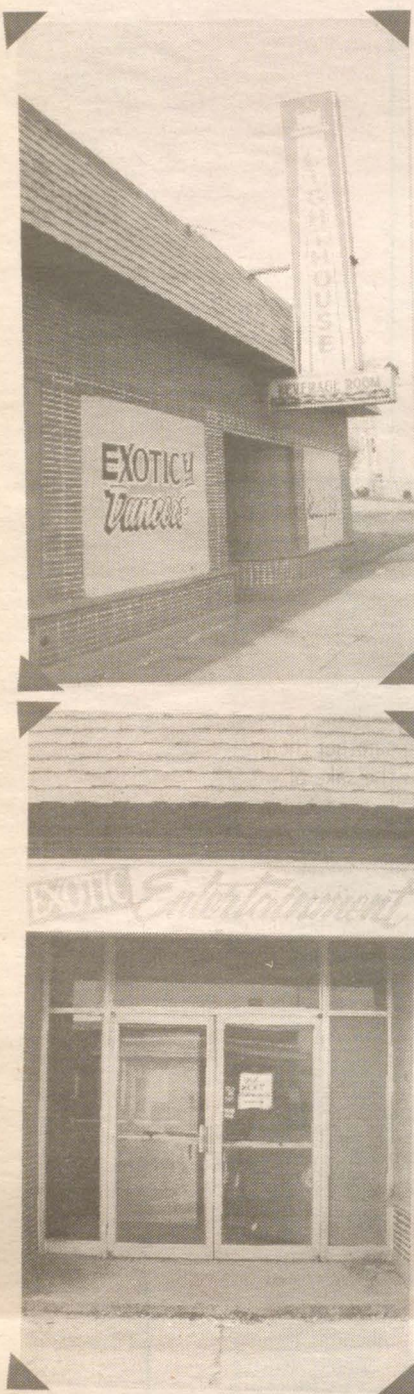




# Exploring The World of

# EXOTIC Dancers

by vanessa owen



Paige, Tiara and Bridgett are three attractive, intelligent and spirited ladies who have been making their livings in the industry of exotic dancing.

The women supply the nightly entertainment at The Lighthouse Tavern in Halifax. The Tavern is famous for its exotic dancers, one of only two bars in the Halifax region offering this service, and also for its stage, whose floor is illuminated with multi-colored lights.

They each have their own stories and reasons for their employment choices, but in the end it came down to money. In this industry it is possible for women to make as much as \$3000 dollars a week to take off of their clothes. No previous dance experience or educational requirements are necessary. For some, this is incentive enough, considering the minimum wage in this province is \$5.60 an hour.

Paige is a 25 year-old single mother of 4, and she says that were it not for the money she gets from dancing, she wouldn't be able to feed her children. "I have four kids and I simply can't afford to quit dancing. My kids need to eat."

The bar itself is old, with worn carpets and questionable bathroom facilities, but the patrons that visit the establishment don't care about the atmosphere or washrooms, they are here for only one thing: the stripping.

"Most of the people that come in here are regulars. Everyday the same guys sit at the same tables just staring at us," says Tiara, a 24-year-old

university student, who has been working as a dancer for 3 years. She says she got into the industry after working as a waitress at The Lighthouse.

"I started off waitressing, and then I got fired," she laughs. "About 3 months later, I really needed cash, so I put in my resume here for dancing and got hired right away." Tiara says that the monetary return for her services is quite lucrative, and she would be unable to make as much money doing a 'normal' job.

"I make anywhere from about \$2000-\$3000 dollars a week with tips. I couldn't make that much money doing anything else." But Paige says that estimate is way too high.

"I don't think that is right. I make about \$1500 a week. I mean, of course there are better weeks than others, but I've been dancing for 4 years and I have never made \$3000 dollars here. Now if you go to Ontario, that is another story. It is pretty easy to make that much."

They all agree that stepping up on stage for the first time is nerve-racking.

"I got drunk the first time I went up on stage," recalls Briget. "I was so scared. But you get used to it. Now I think it is fun." They say that most of the people they dance for are nice and when the occasional rude comment is belted out from the audience it is easy to ignore. But as with any profession, sometimes it is hard to stay motivated.

"People hardly ever talk to you while you are dancing. Sometimes someone will say something stupid, but you just have to go on and not let it bother you," Tiara says. "But

there are times when it gets so bad that we hide in the dressing room and only come out in time to do our shows."

They say that dancing is only something they do at work, and they feel shy when people they know come into see them perform.

"I hate it when people I know come into the bar," Tiara begins, "It's not like I am embarrassed about what I do, but you are a different person up on stage than you are in real life." Paige agrees, "Being naked is nothing, it's just your body. The people that come in here don't know anything about who I am or what I am like as a person."

Tiara went on to say that although her boyfriend used to be a DJ at The Lighthouse, she never dances for him at home because she would feel silly.

"He doesn't really like the fact that I am a dancer here. Even though this is where we met, he wants me to do something else. But I won't quit just because he says. This is what I do and he will have to deal with it."

The women work for a week straight at one bar, doing five to seven shows a day and then book themselves in for another week at another bar. They usually don't work more than one week out of every six at the same bar. Paige says that traveling around to places like New Brunswick and Newfoundland is necessary if you want to stay working.

"I travel a bit, because there are only 2 bars here that you can dance in. The people don't want to keep seeing the same strippers everyday. They need a variety."

Tiara says it was hard to tell her family that she was a dancer.

"I came down here to go to school, and I wasn't making enough money to support myself. So I got this job and my Dad kinda knew what I was doing, but he was okay with it. My Mom is a prude, she thinks I'm a hooker."

Nova Scotia's laws regarding dancing are rigid. No contact is allowed between the dancers and the patrons. The audience members must sit behind a plexiglass barrier and leave their tip money on brass ledges for the women to collect. Other regulations are that the women must cover themselves up at the end of their shows to leave the stage and during the performance they are not allowed to insert anything into themselves. But these rules will vary from province to province.

"In Ontario lap-dancing is huge. That is how we make our money up there. \$25 for a one song lap-dance. That is how you are able to walk away with \$500-600 dollars a night," Paige explains. "You can't do stuff like that here."

In the end, the women say that they are proud of what they do and find it to be a fun and rewarding business. "I am only doing this so I can pay for my education," Tiara comments, "It is not the horrible business that most people think it is. I like it, or I wouldn't be doing it."

## SOME KINDS OF DISTANCE DO NOT MAKE THE HEART GROW FONDER ♥

by will roberts

Twenty feet in front of me is a row of men's backs, their forms silhouetted against the illuminated stage at the centre of the room. The stage is low, one of only two stages on the East Coast with an illuminated surface, I'm told by the house DJ. By this he means that it is lit from below, made up of multi-coloured plexiglass panels which light up in apparently random patterns.

The men sit quietly, only occasionally talking, laughing once in a while. Their attention is held by the naked woman on the stage. She is engaged in a fairly athletic and graphic demonstration of her flexibility and anatomy.

From where I am sitting at this moment, she is hidden from view by the row of dark backs. Suddenly her legs, parted wide, swing up into view. Her high-heeled feet sway back and forth for a minute, framing men's heads, then sink out of sight again. That moment; the anonymous row of quiet men staring idly at the stage four feet in front of them, the beautiful legs swaying to a screechy sound system, seemed the eternal moment of this strip club.

I went to this strip club with some editors from The Gazette. I wasn't really sure what to expect from the club, the strippers, or its customers. The DJ had trouble believing I had never been inside a strip club before. Like the guys lined up along the plexiglass barrier surrounding the stage, I went to this club for the strippers. Only I hadn't gone just to see them strip. In the early morning I left feeling unsure what I thought of the club and the life around it. Maybe there aren't any real conclusions, just experiences.

The owner had forewarned the women working that night that we were coming. One of the editors interviewed them while they waited for the first show to start. Afterwards, we continued talking in the smoky dimness, the women occasionally disappearing for thirty minutes to do their acts, then returning. We worked our way through too many cigarettes and a lot of hard lemonade until closing time.

One thing became very clear to me; if I had to choose to either watch one of these women strip, or just hang out and talk over coffee or a beer - I'd choose hanging out and talking.

Just to be clear, these are attractive women, my choice isn't an aesthetic one. Sitting in the club talking, then watching these women strip — watching their bodies — I realized that if there was any sort of pleasure to be found in that place, I found it in meeting these

women as people, however briefly. Maybe its just hard to look at a body as nothing more than that after you know someone even a little. It's not a lack of male appreciation for women's bodies, or any argument with the idea that the human form can be seen as beautiful in a way that transcends lust (and don't waste my time saying that strip club stages are about transcending lust). It's the uncrossable distance that is measured by the thickness of the plexiglass barrier around the stage that turned me off.

Lust, desire, erotic pleasure, just flirting, are not bad things, but what makes them more than mere perversion is a personal investment in the experience. At the end of the day I find it more rewarding as a man to have even just a few real moments or hours of conversation with a woman than watching across a plexiglass barrier. Maybe what I end up with is a good conversation, maybe, if the chemistry is good, something more. But it's personal, and that is what makes the experience real and valuable, and in some sense, sexier, no matter what the interaction is.

The inevitable "objectification of the female body," and the attendant "male gaze," were discussed, although without the feminist-speak terminology. There's no getting around the reality of women's bodies as objects, that is to say, bodies taken out of the context of the whole person, in a strip show. But I was intrigued by the objectification of the audience. In some sense they were reducing themselves to less than whole people as well, forced by the physical and social architecture of the club to offer only a generic "male gaze," or lustful staring, devoid of their identities. As a man, I remain at a loss to explain why a man would want to present himself to a woman in such a fragmentary way.

During the time I spent at the club there was no interaction between the audience and the strippers, other than the occasional hoot or spoken comment. In fact I was surprised at the lack of audience response, at least of a visible nature, so to speak. One man exchanged a couple of very banal words with one of the women as he left, but nothing that could be taken as more than the passing exchange of two strangers who perhaps recognize each other but know nothing of each other, like someone you see on the bus so often you may nod "good morning" to them. According to the women it was a very quiet Friday that week, and the audience less responsive than some nights. They said that having some cheering and enthusiastic feedback from the crowd definitely made doing a show easier. But what I became aware of was the absence of any attempt at interaction from the

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# The Sex and Gender Mix and Match

by johneen manning

Have you ever had to fill out a form, which asked you to state your gender? Did you have trouble deciding whether to check "M" or "F"?

In case you didn't know, when it comes to gender, "M" stands for masculine, and "F" stands for feminine. In our society, masculinity is typically associated with strength, bravery, and power. You know, the typical characteristics personified by wild cowboys, warriors, and courageous and valiant knights in modern films. Femininity is generally associated with being gentle, soft, pretty and delicate. These behavioural concepts are obviously greatly expanded in their everyday use as gender roles, and are the product of historical beliefs and classifications, which may or may not possess merit.

"Male" and "female" are terms that refer to the sex of an individual only. When it comes to checking a box on a form, most people unquestioningly assume that if you're anatomically male you check "M" for masculine, and if you're anatomically female you check "F" for feminine. That's the message we receive from every movie, book, magazine, class, fashion ad, and television show—to name a few. From the day we're born we're taught — both explicitly and subtly— that boys (as determined by the presence of a penis) are supposed to be masculine, and girls (as determined by the presence of a vagina) are supposed to be feminine. How much of the way we behave is determined by what is expected of and imposed on us throughout our lives?

The fact is, these terms are roles that have been produced and imposed on us by society. Roles, which may or may not accurately describe our personalities as women and men. As humans, we are far too complex to be realistically categorized and described by our genitals. At the same time, it is quite interesting to discern the historical origins and evolution of the concept of gender as it relates to sex, and the implications these correlations had and still have on women and men.

Femininity. Masculinity. What exactly do these terms mean? Both the definitions of these terms and the subjects who assume them as roles are changing as our society does.

Why, in present-day society, is gender always correlated with sex? While the present-day definitions and correlations of gender with sex are fairly stable, the historical transformation and evolution of the understanding of gender is fascinating, particularly that of a period in which sex difference was understood as a manifestation of gender difference. Our current understanding of gender as a consequence of sex has not always been the accepted norm, in fact

the exact opposite was assumed to be correct in ancient times and well into the era of the modern world.

Our present two-sex model of sex difference would have seemed just as ludicrous to those of the ancient world as the one-sex model seems to us.

Gender is an absolutely essential component to the one-sex theory of sex difference. In fact, sex difference was believed to arise from gender difference—not the other way around, as we commonly believe.

We usually think of sex as a binary difference of reproductive function, as physically defined by one or the other type of genitals. In the one-sex model, instead of a difference in kind, sex was a difference in degree.

Even what we would call "primary" sex differences of the two-sex model (male penis / female vagina) were measured on a continuum, and were not considered binary in nature. Extreme male characteristics were at one end of the continuum, while extreme female characteristics were at the other. Make no mistake, this was not a level playing field—the hierarchy was clearly defined. Male characteristics were considered superior to female characteristics — female bodies were explained as deficient, underdeveloped versions of male bodies as a consequence of their intrinsic and fundamental inferiority defined as femininity. A person who was masculine manifested this perfection and superiority in what we would recognize as a typically male body.

There was considered to be an overlap in all characteristics. In this respect— despite its blatant, and might I say disgusting theories about the fundamental nature of women— the one-sex model seemed to consider the broad range physical and sexual diversity between and among women and men. It even accounted for hermaphrodites— people with both male and female genitals—placing them in the middle of the continuum of the sex. The two-sex model has no real place for hermaphrodites, and in many ways considers them abnormal.

The physiological foundation of the one-sex model was the concept of humours. The body was believed to consist of four contraries—hot, cold, moist, and dry—which combined to form the humours. The four humours were sanguine (hot/moist), choleric (hot/dry), phlegmatic (cold/moist), and melancholic (cold/dry), and were considered to be bodily fluids and had significant effects on the mood of an individual. Sanguine types were perfect males: aggressive, but controlled. Choleric types were uncontrolledly aggressive. Phlegmatic types were inhibited, but controlled. Finally, melancholic types were naturally predisposed to depression or reduced to such a state by stress. Women, in their femininity,

were considered characteristically melancholic.

A person's physical sex characteristics were a result of the humours, which dominated in their body; this in turn was believed to be determined by the physical and environmental conditions of their conception. Heat, in particular, was considered necessary to produce "perfect" conception, according to the ancients. A conception which occurred in conditions that were too cold or dry were thought likely to produce an "imperfect" foetus—a female, that is. One in which the cold and moist humours were not in balance.

Yes, this method of defining sex difference and gender relations seems quite foolish and repulsive to those enlightened by modern science and human rights, but our means of determining gender as a consequence of reproductive function is just as inaccurate, and perpetuates dangerous stereotypes.

Both ancient and modern definitions of masculine and feminine gender roles in society have and continue to suppress women, and also create unrealistic expectations for both men and women, causing them to smother their true personalities for the sake of what is considered socially expected and acceptable behaviour.

So what's the verdict on masculinity and femininity? The terms are obsolete, although the concepts are very much a part of our culture. The fact is, there are masculine women, and feminine men. And both. We don't reflect what we project as our ideals—and that's a good thing.

People behave differently at different times and in different situations. Also, as they stand today, the terms "masculine" and "feminine" themselves implicitly impose a social hierarchy that originated in the past and continues, perhaps in part due to these terms, into the present.

Why try to pigeonhole people into roles that cause them to feel uncomfortable with who they are, and constantly strive for some quintessential role that doesn't exist? Let people be who they are, regardless of whether or not they have a vagina or a penis, or both.

So what's the verdict on masculinity and femininity? The terms are obsolete.

## queer as haligonian folks: being young and gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered in halifax

by donna lee

Not very long ago, you couldn't talk about being gay without getting ridiculed or harassed by others. But while movies and sitcoms have made homosexuality more acceptable and even somewhat *trendy*, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered population still gets ignored or disrespected in mainstream media.

But in an "institution of higher learning" like Dalhousie, is it easier to come out and be accepted? Some queer students contend that it is.

"University is a much more open place to come out," said Katie Hindmarch-Watson, a Dalhousie student and member of The Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association at Dalhousie (BGLAD). Dal, for Hindmarch-Watson, has been generally gay-friendly.

"From my own experience, I

would say it is queer friendly, but as they say, 'perception is reality,' and everyone has different perspectives...but I am comfortable here," added Charles Laverie, a BGLAD facilitator and third-year Dal student.

Both agree that the university is accommodating in regards to things from safety on campus to equality among students and staff. And the Dalhousie Student Union works with societies like BGLAD to ensure that students' concerns are addressed. Finally, there is BGLAD itself, which for many years has supported queer students.

Since the early 1970s, BGLAD has been supporting and advocating for queer students in Halifax's post-secondary schools. While the society has been previously known for politically advocating gay rights, its current mandate is to provide a safe and fun social environment.

BGLAD offers resource materials in their offices, holds meetings every other week, and hosts queer-focused activities during the school year. This year, the group organized a board games night, invited lawyers for a presentation on legal issues, and met with a group of parents with gay children. Most recently they invited Dalhousie's chaplains for a discussion about homosexuality and spirituality.

"We cover a really, really broad range of groups," said Heather Ferrier, another BGLAD member, "we try to cover the whole gamut of life."

Society events, most importantly, are a place where gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students can meet new friends and openly express their feelings. At the same time, it recognizes that some people are not yet ready to "come out" to everyone.

"We are comfortable with the fact that many people are not comfortable with their sexuality," said Katie Hindmarch-Watson, which explains why BGLAD's correspondence with people is confidential. The society also hosts an anonymous e-mail listserve that notifies members of upcoming events.

Although some queer students have declared Dal queer-friendly, it's still difficult to come out on campus. Homophobia remains an issue, from derogatory slurs thrown by students to other students, to professors who deny the existence of homosexuality in their field. Residences have also been known to foster homophobic or heterosexist attitudes. Regardless, some, like Hindmarch-Watson, manage to deal with such challenges.

"When I first came to Dal, I made an effort to be out from the bat, and if anyone had a problem

with it, then it's too bad," said Hindmarch-Watson, "I was really lucky...everyone was very supportive and my best friends were from residence."

"People come up to me and are curious - not derogatory, just very curious - and it was great to talk about being gay," she added.

But even in cases like Hindmarch-Watson's, homophobia still exists in residence. Most of the time, instances of prejudice are subtle.

"It's definitely there, but it's more covert," she added. Common expressions like "that's so gay," while not totally meant to be derogatory, can still hurt.

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# The Jewel in the Lotus

by graham simms

Here in the West sex has tended to be condemned or exploited. To those who have learned to be ashamed of their bodies in a culture that uses sex to sell beer and cars, the idea of sex as a spiritual health practice must seem revolutionary.

In the last twenty years the unhealthy, confusing and selfish sexual attitudes and practices of this culture have started to change from the influx of the balanced and healing Taoist and Tantric teachings of the East.

Tantric Yoga is an esoteric form of yoga, a mystical part of the Vajrayana Buddhist tradition that is predicated on the belief that he who realizes the truth of the body can then come to know the truth of the universe. Ancient Tantra is a spiritual system in which sexual love is a sacrament and sexual energy is a bridge between the physical and the spiritual. Sexual energy is acknowledged as life force.

Tantric philosophy is part of what is referred to as the left-handed path to the divine—versus the right hand path which would be lifting the soul by divine grace through austere measures like prayer, fasting, meditation. The Tantric path is not one of gluttony of the corporeal, rather one guided toward salvation and cultivation of the mind.

For men, separating orgasm from ejaculation to become multi-orgasmic is at the core of Tantric Sex. By experiencing the pleasurable muscle contractions that is an orgasm but without ejaculating and "coming", energy

rises to a higher frequency and consciousness is raised. This also amplifies the emotional experience often experienced during regular sex.

Tantric Yoga goes back to the seventh century in Buddhist tradition, and much earlier in the Hindu, Sanskrit and Taoist traditions. Taoism is Chinese medicine — it views sexuality and spirituality as inseparable. The Chinese have known for thousands of years that men can have multiple orgasms by suspending ejaculation, and they documented this knowledge for future generations of sexual and spiritual seekers. Taoist sexuality developed as a branch of medicine and teaches people how to stay healthy while engaging in sexual activity. Boys are taught to circulate sexual energy to revitalize the body and they also develop ejaculatory control and avoid excessive ejaculation and the sapping of energy and the motivation that comes with it.

Without this knowledge and techniques for intercourse instruction, men in the West have known little of these abilities until recently. Sex in the West mistakenly focuses on hysterically humping as fast as possible quickly followed by the overrated crescendo and crash of momentarily "getting off", grunting and collapsing. "Western" sex generally not typified as a slow process of lovemaking with full body orgasms that generate energy and pleasure that lasts, fulfilling both partners sexual and emotional health.

ALL ORGASMS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL

Separate parts of the nervous system activate the different physical functions of orgasm and ejaculation. Prolonged and multiple orgasms without ejaculating do not leave the man tired, depleted and spent. By maintaining both a state of excitement and relaxation, dimensions of ecstasy with pleasurable orgasmic peaks can be sustained without spilling over the edge into ejaculatory stupor. By decreasing stimulation and flexing specific sex muscles in the lower pelvic area as the orgasm approaches and pumping sexual energy away from the genitals up through the spine, orgasm may be experienced without ejaculating.

Whole-body orgasms follow the same process as non-ejaculatory multiple orgasms but the sexual energy is drawn from the pelvis area up the spine, into the brain and expanded throughout the entire body. This is one of the main secrets of the Tao. The orgasm can leave your body with a feeling of lightness, vibrating like a ringing bell, seeing sparks and feeling rushes up the back of the neck, radiating warmth and energy, tingling sensations and waves of orgasmic energy flowing from head to toe — yet the body is relaxed.

## SEX MUSCLES

Sexual energy is the root, a low form of a higher frequency of consciousness that is capable of being used as a bridge between the physical and spiritual. Another foundation of Tantra is Kundalini. Kundalini is the divine creative energy coiled like a serpent at the base of everyone's spine. When it is activated

properly the energy goes up the spine through the seven chakra energy centers and brings about a mystical re-integration with the essence of self.

The Pubococcygeus <PC> muscle is a group of pelvic muscles between the public bone in your abdomen and the tailbone in your back. The PC muscle is the one you contract to stop yourself from urinating. It is also initiates the contractions of orgasm and surrounds the prostate. It is necessary to have the pelvic muscles squeeze the prostate as the orgasm builds from here. Strengthening of the PC muscle is necessary to separate orgasm and ejaculation and become multiply orgasmic. Women who have fortified PC muscles can hold a man's penis in their vagina more tightly.

The Perinium is the area (on a male) in front of the anus behind the testicles. This is a key area to experiencing Tantric sex. Ejaculation can be delayed and orgasm prolonged by pressing your three middle fingers here if you can't flex them.

PC pull-ups are exercises which "pump-up" a person's PC-muscles for optimum Tantric pleasure. The steps are fairly easy: Inhale, focusing on your prostrate and perineum (if you're male), and anus. Exhale, tightening your PC muscle around the prostate and anus while squeezing the muscles around your mouth and eyes. Inhale, releasing PC, mouth and eye muscles. These exercises for men are similar to Kegel-contractions, which help women have stronger orgasms.

What most people call getting "horny" the Taoists would think of as generating sexual energy. This energy must be under control and able to flow freely. The bio-electric energy needs to be drawn from the genitals and circulated throughout the body to achieve whole body or multiple orgasms.

## BREATHE

As in martial arts and meditation controlling your breathing is the gate to controlling the body. In Tantra, breathing is used to control sexual energy. Couples breathe together, face to face, in simple rhythms of in-breaths and out-breaths. Coordinating breathing is necessary to exchange sexual energy. Learning to strengthen and deepen your breathing is important — this is done through breathing from the belly.

Gazing into each others eyes, kissing with the tongue and verbal communication also help to deepen the intimacy and energetic communication between lovers. Mirrors are used to keep power flowing through eye contact available at all times and speaking as well as moaning (etc) helps to further facilitate communication.

Positions and postures are a principal part of the advanced eastern art of screwing. There are many books that detail different positions and their individual advantages. The Kamia Sutra is an old Indian text that contains many interesting and essential positions. Some of them have names like 'Donkeys in the third moon of spring' and 'The Wheel-barrel'. This position is one of the best for stimulating a female's G-spot. She is upside down with her

head resting in her crossed arms, or in a pillow. She can also be leaning over the side of a bed. The man enters from behind and she lifts one leg up to be held by her partner. She can also lift both legs to be held by the man —like one would hold a wheel-barrel.

Tantric sex can bring about a divine union of opposites where seemingly polar principles are revealed to be one. The power of the body — sexuality — is used to transcend the physical body and bring the realization of oneness. This sexual union of yourself and another person, or yourself and the universe can result in a transformation of consciousness. As sexual energy rises during prolonged lovemaking we can experience a communion of the divine within ourselves and our partners. During orgasm people may experience timelessness and a total dissolution of the ego, accompanied by a subjective sensation of being totally absorbed by their partner.

Tantric sex provides greater benefits over time like an increased capacity for pleasure and an intensified and balanced overall energy.

To fully experience Tantric sex the psyche must be free of negative attitudes toward sex. It also helps if you have a positive self image and are able to fully express emotion and give selflessly. Experience in meditation and yoga are also an asset.

Emotional baggage can block energy from flowing. Sexual problems with impotency, ejaculation control, fear of intimacy, molestation, even emotional tension and body stress blockages can be released to take people out of their head and into their bodies to free the female or male orgasm.

There are very few Tantric Sex and Healing Taoist teachers in the West but there are many opportunities to learn its components and foundations. Tai Chi, different Yogas and meditations are the best place to start. There are books and instructional videos on the sexual secrets and specific techniques available. One of the best is "The Multi-Orgasmic Man" by Mantak Chia and Douglas Abrams Arava.

There are some Certified Tantra Educators and Sex Surrogates educated in the art/science of sexual healing who can be hired to teach Tantra. These "higher sex educators" are sometimes called contemporary Dakinis or Dakas and can also help overcome sexual dis-functions in men and women — like fear of intimacy, ejaculatory control as well as enhancing love skills, and exploring clients' potential as integrated spiritual, sensual and sexual beings. These priestesses of pleasure and passion call themselves "attendants to the Goddess". They worship the Divine and use everything from Trance Dance to Tantra and Taoism and, in the end, intercourse, to help get their clients where they want to be. Not surprisingly, they tend to live in places like West L.A. and Arizona (and Vancouver) and are available for up to \$1000 a day.

The idea behind Tantric sex is not to indulge in the senses, but to attain enlightenment and liberation

## SOME KINDS OF DISTANCE DO NOT MAKE THE HEART GROW FONDER

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audience even after the women were back in the bar, sitting around talking. Perhaps it was because we were in a group, apparently having a good time, and it is intimidating to walk into a group where you don't know the dynamics and just join in. But really, some of those guys had been hanging out at that club for weeks, months, maybe years. In a sense they were more familiar with these women, and familiar to them, than we were.

I find it ultimately difficult to believe that any man would argue that women find soul-less gawking an attractive primary quality in a man. Christ knows we're guilty of it, as are many women I could name, but either way, nobody (well, very few people) is primarily defined as a person by basic knee-jerk actions. At some point, everyone likes to be looked at and seen as sexy (cute, beautiful, handsome, hottie; pick your words). But most of us assume that there is more to our selves, and to whoever is looking, than that limited exchange. In fact we crave personality in our lovers and friends. The nature of the strip club is to remove that essential element, to deny any depth to either participant. To remove the humanity.

A shrink might argue that the club provides an environment where men can indulge that knee-jerk instinct without the burden of the complicated social rituals involved in communicating with women. It's not a news scoop that men tend to be much worse at dealing with inter-personal communication than women. If things get too challenging to comprehend, we tend to just want to cut to the bottom line, dodge the exhausting emotional exertion of all that yakking in between. Women find more value and reward in that in-between stuff. That's all generalization of course. And because it's general, I don't find it quite convincing here. If these men are looking for safe distance, how do they find it looking at a real woman. Avoidance usually means getting away from the source of the issue, not facing it.

Some would argue its about domination. Having a woman presented in a controlled way, like a trained animal, to perform some tricks, and be dismissed out of sight, out of mind. A non-challenging woman. But I noticed that many of the watching men squirmed uncomfortably when a stripper focused her attention on him, embarrassed briefly. These are attractive women, the sort many men might be nervous to walk up to in a bar without some alcoholic courage to prop up their nerve. Putting them in a plexiglass cage doesn't make them seem any more approachable to a doubtful man. I didn't really get any sense that watching a strip show provided any reassurance about dominance. More likely it would be depressing, a display of what you'll never touch, physically or emotionally.

Really I don't know what it's all about. On some vague levels I can speculate, but as I said, maybe there are no conclusions here, just experiences. I can easily imagine hanging out in a bar or a party with the women we met, having a beer and a laugh. But I doubt I'll be back to see them strip. If I do, god help me if the best I can do is sit silently sipping a beer. On stage or off I have to acknowledge them as women, not just buff bodies. Without the person inside, it's not enough.





# In Pursuit of "The Glory Hole"

by Lemmy Caution

It first came to my attention while riding on the bus. I was on my way downtown, but little did I know this bus-ride would eventually lead to me straight to heaven. I usually try to avoid listening to others conversations whilst partaking in mass transit, but two words penetrated my usually infallible mental blockade, "Glory Hole". The words were spoken with such sincere tenderness that it immediately and deeply piqued my curiosity. Gone was the script for "Friends"



sidetracked as my search for the "Glory Hole" was replaced by a burning desire to learn how to tap dance. This desire to tap was born after sleeping through most of a Shirley Temple movie marathon held in the lobby of my apartment building by the night custodian Pete. I felt bad for falling asleep during an event that Pete had obviously put so much effort into, but probably not as bad as the other tenants who didn't even show up.

I arrived at the dance studio bright and early the next morning, several hours before it opened. I spent the time waiting practicing my tap moves in front of the studio, and earning an impressive \$3.27. With the extra money I had earned, I decided that I could spare the expense, and hire a private instructor. Serge was worth the extra money, as he was firm yet fair in his teaching style, and I felt at ease tapping around the room in his presence. To celebrate my

amazing progress Serge invited me out with his fellow dance instructors to their favorite nightspot.

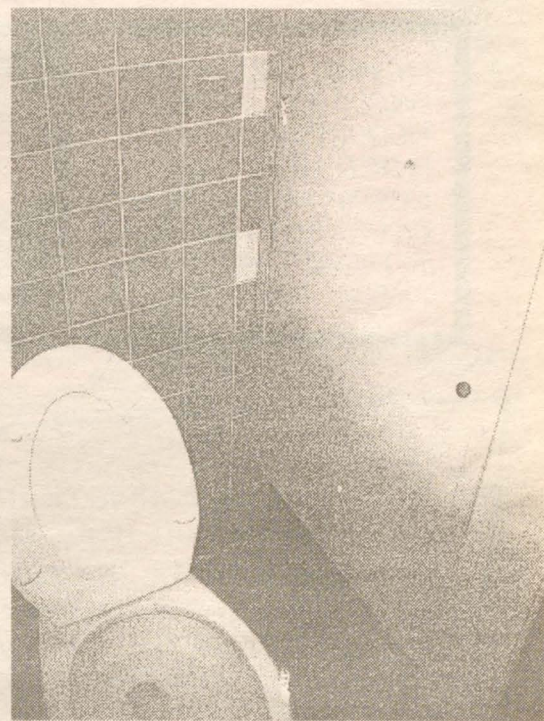
The bar looked like it was straight out of a fairytale; there were wonderful lights and rainbow flags that were almost as colorful as the bar's patrons. Sailors danced with cowboys and everyone was having a great time. The women were beautiful with their fabulous hair, make up and clothing that just reeked of class. My legs quickly got tired from all the dancing and I seated myself at the bar. After downing a round of shooters purchased for me by some lovely ladies, I made my way to the restroom to relieve my troubled bladder. I was a little nervous to see some women fixing their make up in the men's room mirror, but then realized the ladies room must be out of order. I was too shy to use a urinal with all the women around, so I slipped into a stall and sat down. As I perused the graffiti five words written above a hole in the side of the stall grabbed my attention, "All Hail the Glory Hole". Nearby were drawings of male genitalia saluting the glory hole. I slowly ran my finger along the edge of the hole, and then carefully slipped it into the great unknown. Nothing. I stepped back in horror, could the glory hole be some sort of joke, could my long harrowing search be for naught. I looked once again at the saluting genitals and knew what I had to do. I lowered my suspenders and unfastened my pants, slid my Chip N' Pepper boxer shorts to my knees and eased myself into the glory hole. The only way I can describe the unbelievable pleasure I felt at the hands of the Glory Hole, and I hate to be so blunt, is that it is like the zenith, the pinnacle of blowjobs. The Glory Hole is like the blowjobs the Pope must get. I stumbled home in sheer ecstasy and vowed to return the following

night.

Upon my return I was disheartened to find that the stall I had used last night was occupied, as was the stall beside it. I decided to wait until the stall was vacated and have another go at the glory hole. After 20 minutes of waiting I was no longer concerned with the glory hole, but finding a stall with which to relieve myself. Finally the lesser of the two stalls opened and a man with a very satisfied expression on his face stumbled out. I entered the stall expecting to see the machine that had given me such pleasure the previous night, but instead was disgusted to see the other side of the glory hole. I couldn't believe it; the machine must have broken down. I sat down and then noticed a penis enter through the hole into my stall. Poor guy must not have realized that the glory hole machine was in for repair. I quickly banged on the side of the stall and hollered "out of service!" I finished my business and left, promising to return when the machine was repaired. I was too embarrassed to ask the bar staff when the glory hole machine would be back, so I kept checking on a weekly basis with no success. I finally decided that I would purchase a glory hole machine for myself.

I was too shy to go to any pornographic stores, and decided that my best bet would be to purchase it online. None of the internet sex stores carried them,

and the only result yielded by my web search was a link to a Norwegian heavy metal band called "Glory Hole Machine". I decided I might as well download a song, and read their bio. I was astounded by how they described their sound "Glory Hole Machine sounds like Kyuss meets Slayer in an Industrial Era Norwegian



bordello." They also bragged of being the only band in the world entirely banned from performing in their home country, which I believe to be quite an accomplishment. Their songs were like music to my ears, and luckily they were kicking off a North American tour in a month's time. I decided that I would be able to appreciate them where their home country couldn't and I would follow them on their North American tour. The tour life changing, and in the end, I'm sure that these angry Norwegian boys will turn out to be the only Glory Hole Machine I will ever need. But that's another story altogether.

which I had been mentally writing, and now my fancy was tickled by thoughts of the "Glory Hole". What could it be? Why was such delicate care taken at its utterance?

I had visions of one day visiting the "Glory Hole" on the beaches of Normandy. The legendary fox hole where allied soldiers valiantly defeated nazi forces during WWII. Perhaps the "Glory Hole" was the small opening in the forests of Montana where a young Henry Ford found the pot of gold, which he then used to build his empire. Or maybe it was the gutter that Oscar Wilde fell into in London where he wrote that famous line about looking at the sky from inside of holes. Could the movie "Daylight", where Sylvester Stallone bravely fights his way out of a collapsed tunnel using his boxing, arm wrestling and rock climbing skills, have originally been titled "Glory Hole"? That or the "Glory Hole" is in reference to the well that a four year old Macaulay Culkin spent three weeks trapped inside before a Hollywood casting agent saw the media coverage and cast him in "Uncle Buck". Wait, it's probably that chasm in Saskatchewan where John Candy is buried. Whatever it was, I was determined to find out.

Unfortunately, I became

## queer as folks:

continued on page 9

Meanwhile, the greater Halifax gay community offers further support and resources for queer students off-campus. It's a small city, but Halifax is a hub for the gay community. It has two bars, several retail outlets, some gay friendly businesses and a variety of groups that cater to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

"I find that...Halifax is a place where people who are gay from the Atlantic provinces come," said Eric Bussieres, a Dalhousie student who is part of BGLAD.

A hub it may be, but the city also has a limited queer population. The "six-or-less degrees" of separation applies as much to gay Haligonians as it does to everyone else. And media outlets that provide information for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people are limited in Halifax.

Wil Murray provides one of the city's few sources of gay information. He hosts the Queer News, an hour-long news program on CKDU 97.5 FM. In the past, he also contributed to *Wayves*, which is the city's only magazine for the queer

community.

"I think I'm the only queer show that is out-and-out," Murray contended.

And for youth 25 years and under who require counselling and support, they are pointed to the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Project, which operates on Brunswick Street. Coordinator and counsellor Leanne Whichman works with youth and those who care about them, like parents, peers and teachers.

Last year, the LGBYP was accessed by over 100 first-time youth members, many of whom were high school students. Whichman reported that high school is the toughest place for someone to find one's sexuality - especially if one discovers he or she is gay.

"Despite the lengths that we've gone in high schools, they are a very, very unsafe place for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth - there's a lot of homophobia. The only difference now is there is more support for them, but the name-calling and harrasment is still there."

"A lot of youth report that it's easier to come out in university because it's bigger...but in residence, it's different," she said.

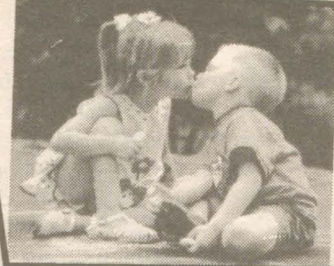
## growing up gay

While it would make sense, in a populated nation like Canada, to have many figures covering this country's queer population. But as it turns out, GLBT groups usually refer to statistics from American sources - much more research is conducted in the United States than in Canada. "We do use a lot of U.S. figures," said Leanne Wichman of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Project, "because as much as we don't want to think that we do have similar figures. We don't have as many murders [as the U.S.], but the harrasment and name-calling are the same." These statistics can be found at the LGBYP's offices.

- The average age at which lesbian and gay youth become aware that their feelings of difference are linked to sexual orientation is 13.
- 80% of lesbian, gay and bisexual youth report severe isolation problems including having no one to talk to, feeling distanced from peers and family, and the lack of access to good information about gay, lesbian and bisexual issues.
- 97% of students in high school report regularly hearing homophobic remarks from their peers and 53% report hearing them from staff.
- Gay male youth in Canada are 13.9 times more likely to attempt suicide than straight male youth.

Sources: 1.) Treadway, L. & Yookum, J. (1992). *Creating a safer school environment for the lesbian and gay student*. *Journal of School Health*, 2.) Hetrick, E. & Martin, A. (1987). "Developmental issues and their resolution for gay and lesbian adolescents." *Journal of homosexuality*, 14(1-2), 25-43. 3.) Massachusetts Governor's Commission (1993). *Making Schools Safe for Gay and Lesbian Youth*. 4.) Bagley, L. & Tremblay, P. (1997). *Suicidality problems of gay and bisexual males: Evidence from a random community survey of 750 aged 18-27*. In L. Bagley & R. Ramsey (ed.) *Suicidal Behaviours in Adolescents and Adults: Taxonomy, understanding and prevention*. Vermont: Avebury.



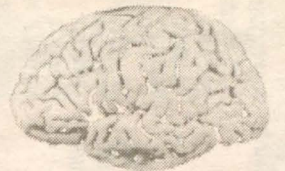


*"Love is a game that two can play and both win."*

— Eva Gabor

*"Love is a grave mental disease."*

— Plato



WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO DRESS SEDUCTIVELY AND MORE LIKELY TO CHEAT WHEN THEY'RE OVULATING — ABOUT 14 DAYS AFTER THEIR PERIOD.



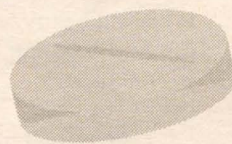
MALE ERECTIONS ARE CAUSED BY THE PARASYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM — THAT IS, HE'S RELAXED. MALE ORGASMS ARE CAUSED BY THE SYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM — THAT IS, HE'S STRESSED. THIS IS WHY MIDDLE-AGED WORKAHOLIC MEN SOMETIMES HAVE TROUBLE GETTING THE GUN COCKED AND NOT FIRING RIGHT AWAY.

*"Experience seems to convince us that only fools trust, that only fools believe and accept all things. If this is true, than love is most foolish, for if it is not founded on trust, belief and acceptance, it's not love."*

— Leo Buscaglia



THE PILL NOT ONLY MAKES WOMEN STOP OVULATING, BUT IT ALSO CHANGES THE CONSISTENCY OF HER MUCUS TO MAKE AN INHOSPITABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR SPERM. HALF THE TIME THEY DON'T MAKE IT PAST THE CERVIX.



*"Love is the irresistible desire to be desired irresistibly."*

— Louis Ginsberg



MEN HAVE FIGHTER SPERMIES AND BLOCKER SPERMIES. IN FACT, LESS THAN 10% OF THE SPERM OUT THERE IS ACTUALLY DEDICATED TO FERTILIZING THE EGG. THE FIGHTERS ATTACK OTHER MEN'S SPERM WHILE THE BLOCKERS JUST HAMPER THE OTHER GUY'S MOVEMENT.



**SEX**

photo by sabrina hurlow