

Bathroom Sex

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waiting my turn — and there were eight stalls."

What happens in these bathrooms? Everything from voyeurism to anal sex. Sometimes men will have sex in a stall together, but Dave said, "That's dangerous." There are less risky and more subtle ways to have sex, he said.

First, there are "glory holes" drilled through stall walls. These are big enough for voyeurs to watch someone masturbating in the next stall while they themselves masturbate. The holes also are big enough for a man to insert his penis for anonymous oral or anal sex.

Smaller holes are drilled solely for voyeurs and men who want to pass notes to set up future dates. Sometimes no holes are necessary; the walls of the stall are high enough off the ground that two

men can have sex right underneath them. This is common in the first floor bathroom of UF's Music Building.

Although Dave speaks matter of factly about his past, he isn't proud of it. "I don't know anyone who finds it tasteful or aesthetically pleasing," he said. "I was just really screwed up at the time."

Being gay in this society is tough enough, Dave said. Being a freshman on a new campus is even tougher. Secret bathroom sex is easy compared to coming out of the closet and trying to establish a gay relationship in a not-very-tolerant straight world.

"A lot of it is freshmen — a lot of them think that's all there is," Dave said. "They want to have gay sex and then hang out with their straight friends."

That attitude makes many mature gays mad, said Jason, a bisexual who once worked for UF. Jason, in his early 30s, said he has never and never will engage in bathroom sex.

"That slutting out does no good at all for the gay community," he said. "No matter how lacking in outlets a small town is for gays, you've got to have your bottom line that you won't go below."

Jason has a personal crusade of sorts against bathroom sex. Last year, he tried to talk with some of the regulars he saw

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— Robert Gutekunst, UF Task Force on AIDS

walking around campus. It's easy for Jason to spot the regulars, and it's not just because he's gay. All it takes is some attention to detail. Why is a student reading the bulletin board outside the bath-

room for more than 10 minutes? How long does it take someone to wash his hands? What is someone doing strolling into Peabody Hall on a Saturday or Sunday?

Jason believes some of the sexually confused students who have bathroom sex would stop if they knew about the options. The problem, he said, is convincing them to forgo immediate gratification for the slower process of making gay friends.

What makes bathroom sex even more peculiar to the straight population is the age of the participants. Many times, a 17-year-old freshman will have anonymous sex with a 40- or 50-year-old man. Older men were a large part of Dave's bathroom-sex experiences.

Younger gays sneer at these older men. Dave calls them "toads." Jason calls them "trolls." Jason sees the trolls taking advantage of the confused freshmen who don't realize what they are getting themselves into. Then, there are students who know what they are into but don't know how to stop. Some are fraternity members. At the Northern university where Dave attended classes, Greeks made up a large part of the bathroom-sex circuit.

"Most of the people had Greek letters on," he said.

Jason has seen many fraternity members cruise Peabody and Library East. He said they are terrorized of being discovered. "You'd be amazed at the number of fraternity brothers who do it and then go back to the house and ride around in a van screaming 'Fags' on the streets," Jason said. "It's very hypocritical."

One 34-year-old Gainesville man who cruises campus said not much can be done to stop bathroom sex — and he's not sure much should.

"There's a lot of horny 17- and 18-year-olds," he said. "And it's possible to be safe. You know, not exchanging bodily fluids."

But Dave and Jason believe many gay students would avoid bathroom sex if they knew the options and if UF administrators were sensitive enough to provide even more options.

Both Dave and Jason said counseling and gay discussion groups can help sexually confused students. The problem is such groups are scarce.

The most aggressive solution would be for administrators to plug up the glory holes to discourage bathroom sex, Dave and Jason said.

Where Dave went to school, the most popular bathroom fell out of favor among gays when administrators "eventually took the doors off the stalls."

"There have been some problems on our campus in the past, but there have been problems on every campus I've been to," said Student Affairs Vice President Art Sandeen. "I'm not aware of anything recently."

Robert Gutekunst, chairman of UF's Task Force on AIDS, said his committee would deal with the problem of bathroom sex — if it could be proven it exists.

"I've been hearing these rumors, but no one has ever come forward to the committee," he said. "I'm waiting for someone to step forward with data and say this is what exists. I don't even know if anyone has that information."

But two UF employees with access to the Task Force's records said a list of popular gay bathrooms is on file. They said the Task Force has yet to approach the issue, possibly because of the sensitivity about AIDS.

Jason is convinced someone in the administration knows. Glory holes, he said, are hard to miss, especially to maintenance crews.

Dave agrees. "They know," he said. "They can't possibly not know."

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"Crossword Challenge"

ACROSS

- 1. Draft-beer component
- 5. Computer terminal, for short
- 8. Bashful
- 11. Feed the kitty
- 12. "Stop, horsey!"
- 13. "We ___ the World"
- 14. Folk concerts: 2 wds.
- 16. Where the buoys are
- 17. At the summit
- 18. One-on-one teacher
- 20. Network TV alternative
- 23. Frat members
- 24. College at Columbus: Abbr.
- 25. Geometry calculation
- 28. From Pisa: Abbr.
- 32. Sorority member with fraternity connec-
- tions: 2 words
- 35. At ___ (relaxed)
- 36. End-of-class indicator
- 37. Competitor of Zenith/Magnavox
- 38. Fitness center
- 40. Be real
- 42. Bathroom-sharing accommodation
- 45. Ship's landing place
- 47. Fall-semester month: Abbr.
- 48. Something to type on your Smith Corona: 2 Words
- 53. British brew
- 54. Summer-vacation activity
- 55. New Haven College
- 56. Lamb's daddy
- 57. November vegetable
- 58. Dove into second base

DOWN

- 1. Pet rocks, once
- 2. Top NCAA ranking
- 3. ___ loss for words: 2 wds.
- 4. Olympics award
- 5. Karate blow
- 6. Football-ticket info
- 7. Sample of food
- 8. Actors in the show
- 9. Billion-selling cookie
- 10. Two semesters, usually
- 12. Abbott and Costello's first baseman
- 15. Basketball maneuver
- 19. Curriculum section
- 20. Singer Natalie
- 21. Largest continent
- 22. "No ifs, ands, or ___"
- 23. Letters from home
- 26. Country singer McEntire
- 27. Compass point opposite WNW
- 29. Actress Garr
- 30. Curved lines
- 31. Would-be attorney's exam: Abbr.
- 33. Midterm, for instance
- 34. Rare activity before finals
- 39. Small-minded
- 41. Pictures of health?
- 42. Fly high
- 43. West Coast college: Abbr.
- 44. Shopping-list element
- 45. Stiffly proper
- 46. Little troublemaker
- 49. Historical period
- 50. Goody buddy
- 51. Actor Wallach
- 52. Rainbow hue

