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# PERSPECTIVES

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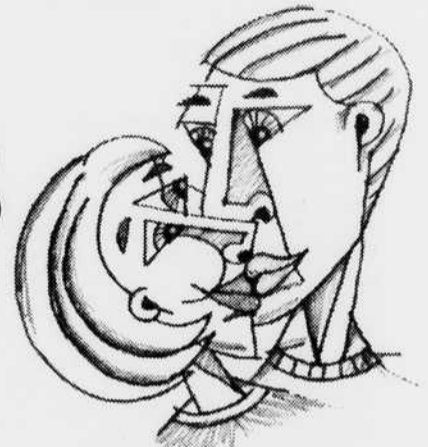
Okay, we admit it, we're bitter. It's always best to be honest at the beginning, so no one can accuse you of hiding your motives. With that confession out of the way, we still think we have some very good ideas on how to reform interpersonal relations at the University and in the world. After all, we have a pretty good idea of what shouldn't happen between two people; now we just need to establish what should occur.

Thus, we present...

## The Rules:

# SETTING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUPLES

*A brief exploration of what things would be like if Mike and Laura ran the world*

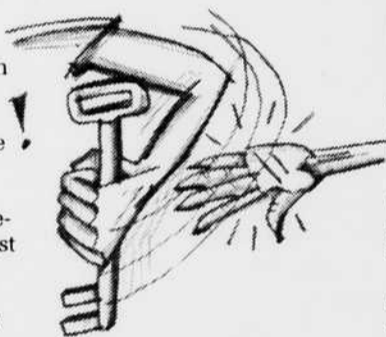
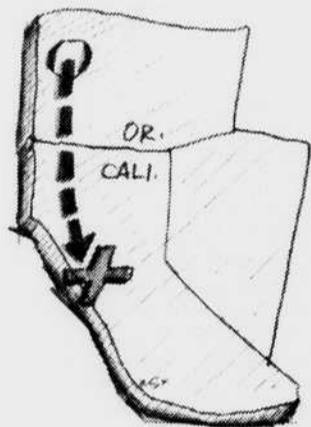


### Ban 'exes'

Too often, we find ourselves in the same social setting as an ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend. Or worse, we're forced to humor the ex of our significant other. Frankly, it makes us ill.

So, we propose that, when a relationship ends, the dumper must relocate to a different area code than the dumpee. In return, the dumpee is not allowed to follow the dumper to the new location.

Of course, defining "significant other" can be complicated — some people seem a little keen to use that term. So, we define significant other as anyone whom you have seen naked in an explicitly sexual context.



### Reclaim virginity

They say virginity is coming back into style, and we all know that nothing is more important than style. More to the point, there are some things we just don't want to admit.

Accordingly, we think people should be able to reclaim their virginity. Such a thing should not be handled lightly, however. You shouldn't be able to take it back if you are simply bitter and recently dumped. Nor should you be able to reclaim it if you have had sex with multiple partners.

If you were a virgin prior to your last partner, however, or at least a "reclaimed" virgin, then after a reasonable waiting period a single person should be able to take back his or her virginity. We suggest that point comes when you no longer fantasize about your former partner.

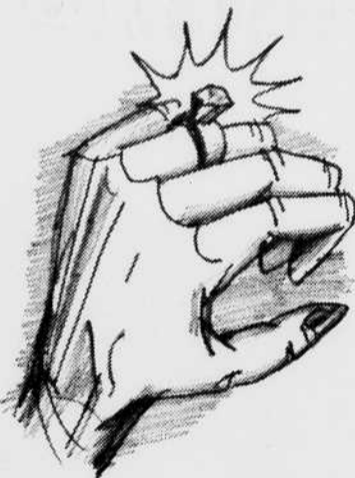
### No marriage

No, we don't mean you can never get married. Just don't get married until you're no longer sitting next to us in class.

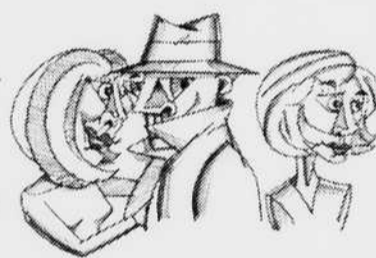
Too-cute couples are bad enough, but too-cute couples with rings on their fingers are downright disturbing.

At our age, we shouldn't have to sit through a wedding ceremony unless it's our parents'. The only bells we want to hear are the electronic ones in the EMU.

Don't even get engaged. That's a reminder of marriage, which in turn is a reminder of our mortality.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY:  
CHRIS HUTCHINSON



### Seeing others

There are enough ethically "shaky" people out there that standards need to be set on when a relationship is exclusive — in other words, when you can't "see other people."

For most of us, this isn't a difficult issue. A certain sense of class and propriety prevails, and we don't "cheat" on our partners. Or, if we're a little on the slow side, we have one of those ground-establishing "talks."

On the other hand, mistakes are made. Some people seem so afraid of the term "commitment" that they deny its existence. For them, we have a simple guide: If you have possessions at the residence of your partner, you aren't allowed to see anyone else.

For example, if you ever say, "I'll have to buy a toothbrush on the way to your place because I keep my spare at Sue's," you are misbehaving.

### Public affection

This issue has come up before in the Emerald, but we think it is important enough to repeat. On this point, anyway, the dichotomy between the public and private spheres must be maintained. Physical contact between lovers is part of that private sphere.

Above all else, the sanctity of the classroom setting must be maintained. We're there to learn or perhaps to nap. We aren't there to watch other people rummage around under each other's clothes.

In the classroom, there should be no physical contact. Hands may not be held; bodies may not be caressed; lips may not be pressed together.

Outside of class, the rules are looser. Holding hands, embracing or even exchanging a quick kiss (no tongue) are okay. Any point at which both pairs of hands are not fully visible while a couple are in public view is not acceptable.

These are certainly not all the restrictions we would impose upon behavior among current and former couples at the University. By implementing these policies, however, the school could take an important first step on the road to a less nauseating educational experience.

*Mike Schmierbach is the editorial editor and Laura Cadiz is the higher education editor for the Emerald. Their views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.*

READERS' VOICES

What role do you think drugs and alcohol play in students' lives?



"To relax and socialize."  
Sarah Harpole



"For some students, it plays a very active role. Some of them know how to use drugs and alcohol to a moderate, small amount, and it doesn't run their lives. But unfortunately for some students, it does take over their lives and becomes a big problem."  
Lauren Sivley



"I think a lot of students use it as a relief from all the stress."  
Shana Pennington



"It doesn't play that much of a role. I just think that because it's an issue and it's in the papers, it only gets in issues when bad things happen. I just saw in the paper yesterday about statistics showing how many people actually drink, and it's kind of surprising."  
Ben Kossick



"I think alcohol has a pretty big effect. It's a way to bring everyone together and have people get to know each other. As far as drugs go, I don't really know. For some people it's a gathering point, like with smoking pot, but other drugs don't have a real big effect around here."  
Lindsey Brown



"A huge part because of the way our society is so centered on drugs and alcohol. They play a major part... People are looking for escape and acceptance, and that's how they're taught to do it."  
Lesley Shollmier



Heather Austin

### Quoted

"If you always wanted to attend Harvard, Yale or Princeton, The Teaching Company offers Ivy League entry without the tedious application process, the astronomical fees, the undesired required courses or the pressure of final exams."

The International Herald Tribune, quoted in a direct mail advertisement for The Teaching Company. What's left, exactly?