

Implications of sex can be less than casual

Many risks surround the thrills of a casual sexual escapade that some students prefer over an intimate relationship

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Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

The jungle juice drool of a snoozing stranger oozes onto your sheets. Your pounding hangover explains the ripped condom package on the bedside table and the slimy love glove stuck to headboard. You marvel at the magic of beer goggles as you show your not-so-pretty bedmate to the door, hoping this one won't hold on for dear life. No name, no number, no attachment, no problem — for those who thrive on the temporary thrills of the infamous one-night stand.

But reality hits, and those with a vice for short-lived sex are usually hiding from something — intimacy.

"Eventually, they build a wall around their emotions to the point where it doesn't matter who anymore," University Health Educator Ramah Leith said.

Considering the risks associated with one-night stands — everything from increased risk of contracting infections to emotional guilt — Leith said sex should not be taken lightly.

"Good communication about past sexual histories, contraceptive

methods and the relationship in general are very important to have a fulfilling and safe sex life," Leith said. "As a health educator, I find it hard to find positive reasons for any person to have a one-night stand."

Yet, many students do partake in a little "wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am" — or sir.

"I don't know a girl who hasn't had a one-night stand," said Rachel, a junior at the University. Rachel said she's kept such good tabs on her sexual partner pool that one time, she decided to inform No. 24 of his status on her list — immediately after committing the act.

Leith said partner-counting is definitely more of an intimacy issue than a hobby, even if the participants are in denial. She added that a majority of individuals who count are male.

She noted that the partying and living situations in college offer more opportunities for unplanned sex, but individual maturity levels sometimes helps those with a vice for one-night stands to eventually wise up.

When it comes to freshmen girls, University senior Brian, who wished to be identified only by his first name, said one-night stands for men of his stature are like shooting fish in a barrel. Of the 30 one-night experiences he has had over the past three years, Brian said probably 23 of them would ignore him in public.



Photo illustration by Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Casual sex with no attachment can be a thrill, but it doesn't come without some risks.

And although he thinks one-night stand seduction is a two-way street, he said females get obsessed and attached while men ask themselves, "If she's ready and willing, where has she been?"

Joey, a junior, said his definition of a one-night stand doesn't necessarily involve sex, and even "heavy petting" could leave someone

feeling ashamed and regretful in the morning.

Freshman Rick said he once took a girl out to breakfast after a one-night stand that didn't go further than oral sex. However, his graciousness backfired when she assumed the meal meant they were "together" and when she decided to have sex with him a week later, he broke

up with her.

"I was just trying to be nice," he said. "I didn't want a relationship."

After her first one-night stand during her freshman year, Haley, now a junior, said she expected "couplesdom" the next morning, only to get a cold response from her hangover bedmate.

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Enjoy casual sex, or any casual needs — just be honest

Love is a good thing. Society tells itself all sorts of fantasy stories about love — about the real thing, Mr. or Ms. Right, the one and only. These stories tell us how amazing it is to find that perfect mate.

But that's not what I'm here to talk about, at least not directly. I'm here in defense of casual sex, and this isn't a casual argument. My argument isn't borne of loneliness or the desire to rationalize cheap hedonism. It comes from experience.

A lot of people in our culture denigrate casual sex. If you need proof, take a look at the covers of countless magazines, all of which trumpet bet-

ter ways to find that perfect person.

They say casual sex is unfulfilling and can only cause problems for those who engage in it.

The reason people have such a problem with casual sex, though, is that they were told a fiction that goes something like this: The only real happi-



Michael J. Kleckner

The editor's office

ness comes from finding that one person who can fulfill all your needs.

Now, having one person to fulfill all my physical and emotional needs sounds great on paper, and I'm looking forward to the time when that happens. But real life is more complicated than this picture.

Most people have a variety of different needs: romantic, domestic, friendly and sexual, to name just a few. And it can be difficult to fulfill all those needs in one person — that can be asking a lot of one fallible human being.

So until the time comes when this one utterly fantastic person comes


along with the magical ability to do everything, I have enough respect for myself and enough personal integrity to recognize that I do have these various needs. I have enough sense to realize that with a little care, I can have these needs fulfilled from a variety of people — and that in so doing, I might become a better-rounded individual who will be more attractive to that one special person.

The key, though, and the only thing that can make casual sex work — or casual romantic fulfillment, or any other need fulfillment — is honesty. You need to be honest with yourself, to know what you really

want from the other person, and you need to be honest with that person, to tell them what you really want and what you're willing to give.

My experience shows that honesty works. I've had roommates that fulfilled the domestic needs, and dates that fulfilled the romantic needs, and "friends with benefits" that fulfilled the sexual needs. I've had relationships where more than one type of need was fulfilled at a time by the same person, and those were great. But honesty was necessary in all these cases so that no one

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