

Sex: Why some say you should wait

JOEL SHERPERT
Feature Editor

Sex is infinitely valuable for capturing people's attention. It's working already. All I have to do is mention sex, and here you are reading.

Advertisers know this. They'd sell Coca-Cola with nude women if they could. Hollywood knows this. They can and do sell about anything they want with glistening, naked celebrity bodies. So, if for no other reason than to ensure that Clackamas students read at least one of my articles this year, I'd like to talk about sex.

First of all, please understand that I am not at all opposed to sex—I find the whole prospect terribly thrilling, and look forward to my first time. What I am opposed to is the twisting of the beauty of sex in our society. I believe that sex is designed by God to be the most intimate expression of love between a man and a woman on this earth.

By now, the reader will have noticed a certain spiritual tone to this article. You might even call it religious. Let me make this clear from the outset—yes, I am a Christian, and yes, my views on sex are based on the idea that there is a God who created us and knows how we should live.

The idea of marriage creates in many people's minds an impression of narrow-minded, restrictive legalism, along with visions of Dana Carvey's Church Lady chirping, "no sex before marriage" in a prudish tone. People tend to think of marriage as a formality, a piece of paper making "acceptable" their sexual union, and therefore incidental to sexuality—and somewhat removed from romantic love. I say that nothing could be further from the truth.

Marriage is not a confinement; it is a pledge. In an age when there is so much complaint of lack of commitment, it amazes me to witness how few couples respect the ceremony that consecrates that commitment. Marriage is the bond that elevates sex to true joy.

The Judeo-Christian school of thought actually has quite a lot to say about the joy of sex. Martin Luther was known to write of the ecstasy of his sex life in such vivid language

as would cause the Church Lady many a blush. In Rembrandt's *Danae*, we see the artist's nude wife waiting in bed for him. And King Solomon produced a book, the *Song of Songs*, which is one of the most passionate—and sexual—love songs ever written.

The core of Christian teaching on this is set forth from the beginning: "The two shall become one flesh," to which Christ adds, "Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate." How much more intimately connected can you be with another human being? Sex is what many commentators have taken to calling "total dynamic oneness."



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That's why I believe in waiting for sex until marriage. Sex is a gift I want to give to the love of my life—my soulmate. If I have sex with someone else, I have cheapened that gift.

Solomon, setting down advice for his son, wrote, "May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer—you may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress?"

As a hopeless romantic I can take comfort in the fact that God has such a healthy and robust view of sex, and that He has picked the person with whom I will spend the rest of my life. Sex with someone else before marriage is like cheating in advance. It is sharing with another what is meant for your husband or wife.

I have met many people that have slept with someone they did not love. Some have regretted it. Others see nothing wrong and continue to do it. Sex has ceased to be intimate love and has become a sport.

Solomon, in his quest for meaning in life, tried pleasure for pleasure's sake and reported, "I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. . . Yet when I

surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind."

Pleasure is temporary. It only leads to dissatisfaction between pleasures. But this is only part of the problem. The core of the whole difficulty of sexual purity is that people don't know how to love.

"Even the idea of chastity isn't strictly that you don't express yourself with sexual intimacy," the late Christian singer/songwriter Rich Mullins concluded after investigating the monastic vows of St. Francis of Assisi.

"The point is that when you love, you learn to love purely. You learn how not to be a user."

That is the essence of true love: you value another's needs more highly than your own.

St. Paul understood this when he recorded a blueprint for God's love in his first letter to the Corinthian church. *Love is patient*. It doesn't need instant gratification. *Love is kind*. It is sensitive and nurturing to others. *Love seeks not its own*. It is about giving; selfish concerns vanish. To this ideal our own, imperfect love should conform.

This is, of course, a monumental task—tremendous enough for me to ask it of myself. The ring I wear is a symbol of the purity which, by God's guidance, I will maintain. I hope one day to replace it with a wedding ring.

I'm not passing judgment on those who do not or have not upheld this commitment to love purely. There is no condemnation in Christ, and if there is anything to be learned from the Bible, it is that it's never too late to change. Purity is a state of mind. To religious hypocrites, Christ exclaimed, "You brood of vipers!" but to prostitutes and adulteresses He said, "Go and sin no more."

No one will be convinced of the immorality of premarital sex only because of this article. That is beyond my ability. I merely hope that the seed will be planted in some minds that there is a pure love to be found. Our society produces unfaithfulness, betrayal, heartbreak, and disappointment. Foolish use of a precious gift brings about long-term pain.

But as Paul said, *I show you a more excellent way.*

News Briefs

Volunteers are needed to tutor adults in reading and writing approximately two hours a week. Contact Joe VanZutphen at ext. 2724.

Qualified math tutors are wanted who have completed MTH 111, calculus, or precalculus. Starting rate is \$8.02 per hour. Stop by the Math Lab for an application.

The deadline for the writers' club contest is Feb. 18. Students may submit up to three poems, one essay, and one piece of fiction. Submit four copies of each entry along with the text on disk. Include a cover page for each. Specifically, manuscripts should be prepared as follows: cover page with the title, category, student's name, social security number, address and phone number. The first page of the story should only include the student's social security number and the title. Do not put your name on the first page of the entry. All entries will be considered for the literary magazine *Synesthesia*. Submit entries to Allen Widerburg in M233 or call ext. 2359.

The college would like to thank the two licensed massage therapists, Susan Powell and Danny White, who came and donated their time to give free massages in December during finals week. There was a constant flow of people, and many students asked if the therapists were coming back. ASG has already confirmed five therapists to come again next term.

The college is offering a free, one-day

workshop titled "Raising Cooperative Kids" from 6-8 p.m. today in Modular 7, room F106. Parenting instructor Pat Rust will lead the course, which will focus on learning techniques to handle children's difficult behavior. The workshop is sponsored by the AWACC Connections program. For additional information, contact the Family Resource Center at ext. 2526.

A free workshop titled "Women Making Connections on the Internet" will be held from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Thurs. Jan. 22, in Modular 1B by research librarian Doris Munson. The workshop is sponsored by Connections.

For information about the college's scholarship application process, join Sharlon Sample, Scholarship Coordinator, during January on Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. in B114.

Western Oregon University will have a representative on campus today, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Community Center Mall. Stop by the table and ask questions.

On Tues. Jan. 27 Career Resource Specialist Ethel Swanson will begin the first of a four-part series beginning with "Exploring Tomorrow's Careers." The four workshops are designed for students as well as the general public, in preparation for the Job Fair April 17. The workshops will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in CC127. Early registration is advised, but may be done at the class. Register for WKS 6-0; the cost is free.

Clubs On Campus

Get involved, join a club! Have an interest you'd like to express with others who share similar enthusiasms? Want to meet other people on campus? From the Writers' Club, to the Coyote Circle, to the Ski and Snowboarding Club, the college offers many opportunities to mingle with other students. But if none of the clubs on this list interest you and you would like to start a new club, contact ASG at ext. 2247.

Intramural Sports Club.....	Norm Berney.....	ext. 2250
Racquetball Club.....	Kathie Woods.....	ext. 2418
Rally Club (Cheerleading).....	Norm Berney.....	ext. 2250
Rodeo Club.....	Amy Lundy.....	ext. 2250
Ski and Snowboarding Club.....	Bob Misley.....	ext. 2376
Baptist Women's Clubs.....	Alan Jeffries.....	ext. 2541
Chrysalis (Women's Writer Club).....	Kate Gray.....	ext. 2371
Cat Colony Club (The Seven C's).....	Gary Nelson.....	ext. 2587
Circle K Club.....	Norm Berney.....	ext. 2250
German Club.....	Dick Stones.....	ext. 2392
Fellowship of Christian Athletes.....	Kathie Woods.....	ext. 2418
The Rainbow Club.....	Kate Gray.....	ext. 2371
H.E.E.L. (Environment Club).....	Jack Scrivener.....	ext. 2490
LDSSA.....	Dick Stones.....	ext. 2392
Coyote Circle.....	Jan Godfrey or Laney Fouse.....	ext. 2552
Ornamental Horticulture Club.....	Elizabeth Howley.....	ext. 2389
Phi Theta Kappa.....	Kate Gray.....	ext. 2371
Spanish Club.....	Carlota Holley.....	ext. 2381
Speech Club.....	Kelly Brennan.....	ext. 2726
Students for a Free Tibet.....	Bill Briare.....	ext. 2457
Tai Chi.....	Judy Himes or Wayne Keller.....	ext. 2848
Writers' Club.....	Allen Widerburg.....	ext. 2359

The Clackamas Print Staff

19600 S. Molalla Ave. Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 657-6958 ext. 2309 cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us

Co-Editors-in-Chief: Christina Mueller (ext. 2576)	Photo Editor: Mike Garcia	Advisor: Linda Vogt (ext. 2310)
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