

Culture

Committed, married sex is sexy



By Curtis Powers @iowastatedaily.com

I like sex. I like old-fashioned, traditional, antiquated, married sex.

Many of you are probably thinking, "What? Why are you married, Curtis? You're only 23! Why just settle on one woman when you could have sampled a wonderful buffet of women?"

Or something like that. That seems to be the common theme today. Have sex with whoever you want, whenever you want, with or without protection — and whether you know them or not, to hell with the consequences.

Maybe that's not you. That's a pretty broad generalization, but it seems to a trend in our culture today.

And for the record, I'm not perfect. While I've never had sexual intercourse with anyone but my wife, I was less than sexually pure with one of my two high school girlfriends — they're only other women I've dated other than my wife.

But that's also why I'm writing here today. I can tell you that sex is good within the confines of marriage. Being with only one person for the rest of your life is not as boring or crappy as one might think.

Studies also point to that as well. An ABC poll reported that married/committed folks under that age of 30 are roughly 20 percent more satisfied and excited about their sex lives than single folks.

I think part of the problem with the way we view sex today is that we equate sex with love. If you love this person, you'll have sex with them.



Marriage is hard work, but the results are worth it, despite the modern trend of hooking up. Statistics show that married people report higher satisfaction with their sex lives than single people. Courtesy photo: Thinkstock

Love is really more along the lines of a definition I heard from a talk given by Biblical counselor Paul Tripp. He defines love as, "Willing sacrifice for the redemptive good of another that doesn't demand reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving."

Think about that. When you consider some of the best love stories you know, what comes to mind? How do those people love each other?

Is it a situation both people just take and use each other like Tucker Max? Or is it more like Forrest Gump?

I don't know about you, but I cried a bit watching Forrest continue to pursue Jenny throughout the movie even when she continued to run away. Especially at the end of the movie after they marry.

I'm crying right now just thinking about him taking care of her as she's dying and he's promising to take care of their child.

I think Tripp was also on to something when he states later, "I am persuaded by that much of what we call love isn't love... It's self-love masquerading as true love."

In other words, I love you because I love myself. You help me achieve some sort of dream I have in my life.

I mean, why do we date the way we date? It's kind of bizarre.

Why do guys, who hate to shop, go shopping with their girlfriends? And why do girls, who hate sports, spend an afternoon with their boyfriends watching football?

I think Tripp drives that home when he states the following, "Western culture dating, in my estimation, is just a step above used car sales. Because in this form, the last thing you really want is for this other person to get to know you because you're selling yourself to this person."

Maybe that's why we continue to have such problems

with divorce. We change into another person in order for someone to date us and after people marry, suddenly this new person shows up. Oops.

Sex also isn't like driving a car. It is to the extent that it

takes practice before you get good at it and can please the other person.

But it's not in the sense that you need a "test drive" to determine whether or not you should marry someone. After all, we don't need to keep objectifying women by comparing them to things like cars. They're people, not sex toys to be used like they're portrayed in pornographic videos.

And speaking of porn, I'd advise you to stay away from it because it re-wires your brain. Don't believe me, find the link in this article online or do a Google search.

Some are comparing its effects to cocaine addiction while others think it's more of a compulsive behavior. Whatever the case, there is a growing number of divorces

with porn as a contributing factor over the past decade, according to a 2004 Time article.

It makes sense to me. I looked at porn fairly regularly throughout my teenage years, and I must say that quitting porn has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. It almost gives you new eyes in which to see the world.

So be cognizant of what you're doing and understand the long-term effects things like sex and porn can have on your relationships. Realize that commitment and marriage may not be a bad thing, even if they take a lot of work.

Otherwise, you may be walking down a path to destruction. Sexually transmitted diseases, unplanned pregnancies and addictions are no laughing matter.

Politics

GOP health care vision skewed



By Rick Hanton @iowastatedaily.com

Listening to Eric Cantor, R-Va., talk to Katie Couric on Nov. 2, I was seriously afraid. He expressed to her his feeling that the majority of Americans want the health care bill repealed. Couric interjected that exit polls showed that 47 percent of voters agreed with the health care bill while 47 percent wanted a repeal of the health care legislation — basically a 50/50 Republican-Democrat split.

Cantor then proceeded to note that 87 percent of Republicans and about 50 percent of Independents are against the health care bill and this "majority" has given him the mandate to kill that legislation.

Now, I'm just an engineer, not a mathematician, but I don't think that discounting

Democrats in your political math makes any sense.

Mr. Cantor, are you saying that I'm a worthless nobody in your "minority" because I support the health care reform and generally vote with the Democrats? Maybe you just think I'm anti-American for supporting "Obamacare" and that's why I don't count as part of your math.

I hope that in coming years this political black vs. white extremism will fade into distant memory. Why can't these politicians work in shades of gray for the better good?

I felt a little better after a few more people noted to Couric that it will be extremely hard for a group of Republicans who have gained seats in Congress to stop the progress of the health care

legislation, as any measure they support can be vetoed by President Obama and they don't have enough votes to overrule his decision. This country needs health care reform, and the normal Republican party line, spewed again by Cantor about simply decreasing the cost of health care, simply will not work unless more people have health care insurance.

It's simple economics that if you want to drop costs, you get more people insured and you provide more regulation of this industry that never gives the consumer much of a say about how much they want to pay for a given operation or hospital stay. We'll see how it works out, but I'm hoping for the best, for all Americans' sake.

Letter

Student input needed

Campustown looks to future

The redevelopment of Campustown is one of the most exciting projects the city of Ames and Iowa State have seen in recent years. Students and non-students agree that the area is in serious need of a facelift and an economic boost. We have been presented with a fantastic opportunity to make much-needed changes in the upcoming year.

The city of Ames reached an agreement in the spring, naming LANE4 Property Group the master developer for the Campustown area, setting the stage for an infusion of new economic activity into the area. A vibrant, success-

Luke Roling is GSB president and a senior in chemical engineering.

ful Campustown can be an extremely valuable recruiting tool for our university and can truly enhance student life here at Iowa State.

I have been very impressed so far in working with LANE4 Property Group. They have been very receptive to the needs of students, community members, Iowa State and others who have interests in Campustown. They have pledged to maintain a focus on the small businesses we currently enjoy, and I believe they will stick to this pledge.

They recognize that students are the lifeblood of Campustown and are very in-

terested in keeping activities and services student-focused. Their plans at this point are very preliminary and remain open to thorough revision as feedback is gathered.

It is essential that we as students voice our opinions as plans for Campustown begin to take shape. LANE4 has made very clear that the project cannot reach its fullest potential without student input along the way. I would be happy to pass along any feedback to be sent to LANE4; please e-mail gbsb@iastate.edu with any questions or comments you'd like me to send.

I remain very optimistic about the future for Campustown and am looking forward to seeing plans progress in the upcoming weeks.

A note from the editor:

Salutations! I'm popping in to inform you of some new up coming columns. RJ Green will be starting an advice column, and Gabriel Stoffa will be starting column that plays off of bar culture. The utility of both of these columns will be to entertain and humor you. Taking RJ's advice seriously and doing exactly what he says might not be the best idea. He isn't trying

to advise you, he is trying to humor you. Likewise, Stoffa's column concerning bar life will also be entertaining.

I think the columns will be well accepted and appreciated for what they are, and I look forward to seeing them in the opinion section in the near future.

Jason Arment



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