

Opinions

small TALK

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Uh oh, I'm pregnant. What now?

A question of pregnancy during a relationship in two parts: her side and his side



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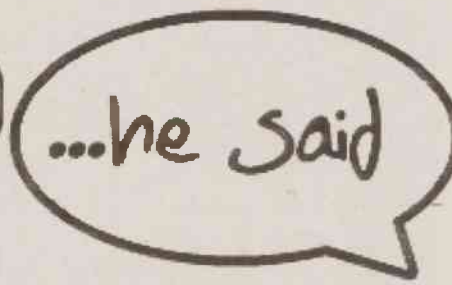
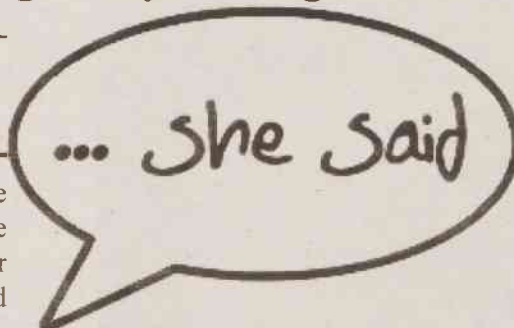
Pregnancy is a real issue for people who choose to have sex and if you're not ready for a child it can definitely be hard to deal with. This is a tough question for me since I have never been in this situation before, but perhaps those that are sexually active should have a plan in place if a pregnancy does occur.

There are several options to consider when faced with a pregnancy; abortion, adoption or raising your child. It is important not to make a rash decision in order to avoid regrets.

If I became pregnant at this point in my life, I'm not quite sure what I would do. But I do know that time is not an option, and I would have to make a decision soon after finding out. My first step would include speaking with the father to weigh the pros and cons of each choice. Secondly, deciding which option would be best for us and the future of the child.

For me, adoption would be the best option. I am not financially stable at this point in my life, and raising a child takes a lot of money. I want the best for my child so giving them up would provide them with the best chance to have a good life.

With adoption, comes the option of an open or closed adoption. An open adoption is when you have the ability to help choose who your child's future parents are. In a closed adoption your name and the future parents' names are concealed from



Midnight feedings and little teeny babies to care for can be hard on any couple that is prepared or not. Photo by Malia Kalua.

each other. For me, the best decision would be an open adoption because I would want the comfort of knowing my child is placed in a good home. I'm not saying this is the best decision for anyone else but for me this option seems the most logical.

If you are faced with the issue of pregnancy and want more information, Sandy Combs in the Health Services office or Darlene Hopkins in the counseling center are close resources, and a good place to start research on a decision that is right for you. □



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another scenario that isn't as traditional but defiantly becoming common.

You are at a night club meet a girl and have a one night stand. Being the good citizen you are, you leave your contact information and go on your way. Classes are going great and you're the key link to a championship caliber college athletic team. After winning a tough game on Saturday against a conference rival your phone rings. The one night stand is on the other end of the phone and she tells you she is pregnant and keeping the baby. What do you do?

This is a tough situation to deal with or to even discuss. I personally can't give the advice of being a man and doing what is ethically right because I am not sure of what I would do. Logically, I would insure the blood work was done to determine if the child is mine. If indeed the child is mine I would get to know the mother of the child because you are linked to this person for the rest of your life. This is something that no man or woman should put their self in and safe sex or no sex can rid you of the stressful possibilities of unwanted pregnancy.

The next time you are involved in sexual intercourse make sure you understand all of the possibilities that come with sex. It isn't fair to bring a child into this world when the child is already at a disadvantage from the time it is conceived. Let's be real with ourselves men, if you slip up and you're put in any situation in which a child is brought into this world and carries your genes, you need to be responsible. If not for anyone at least be responsible for your son or daughter. They need you the most. □

It's the beginning of your college career and you're ready to take on the challenges. You have big plans and a bright future. You and your girl are having a one year anniversary and she gives you some news. She is pregnant. The life that was so bright just got a rude awakening and you have big decisions to make. It is obvious that you have to man up and take care of the child and support any decisions your girl may make. Be a man and take responsibility for your actions and remember things happen for a reason. Maybe this was supposed to happen and it will determine a brighter future down the road. But let's think of