

Not finding love online

By Brenda Weigel
COPY EDITOR

Let's say for a moment that Dr. Phil, a proponent of Match.com, is right. What if you actually can find true love on the Internet? The fact that you can find out everything about a person without ever looking them in the eye may help push a relationship along more quickly than if it began face-to-face. But is that necessarily better? What is wrong with slowly getting to know someone and experiencing excitement when you realize how compatible you are?



Brenda Weigel

The Internet is perhaps one of the most unique mediums available. It is the one outlet in society that allows a person to create themselves as they have always wanted to be. People can love or hate you depending on the qualities you wished you displayed. Think about it for a moment. In a way, it's like college. It is a time to totally reinvent yourself, and forgive all the things you would love to hide. Except with the Internet, you never really have to change. It's the ultimate game of pretend, and you never have to take off the mask.

According to Britain's news Web site the Telegraph, there are at least 30 death row inmates with profiles on MySpace.com. Who is there to monitor that anyone is telling the truth at all? The person you "click" with may not be anyone you would ever want to know in reality. Sure, the Internet works great for people who are not as open when meeting new people; it allows them to slowly open up and not worry about constantly being judged. But what happens when the Internet becomes your world? What happens when your entire life is based on online communities, or when all your "friends" are simply strangers with a name?

Before the Internet came along, people still fell in love and found happiness, so who is to say the Internet is so necessary now? Because the Internet allows you to do everything from buying groceries to earning a college degree, people are slowly cutting themselves off from the physical world. What happened to the days of going to clubs and human interaction?

Meeting people used to require you to leave your home and try new experiences, but now all you need is a computer and an Internet connection. If we continue to restrict ourselves to online communities, we will fail to retain a vital part of our humanity.

People require human contact. We need to hear others speak and watch how they react to our behaviors. We need to share our thoughts with people who are sitting right in front of us. The Internet has opened many doors for society, but it has done so at a cost. It has closed the lines of communication that were once intrinsic to our nature.

Looking for Something Worth While to do this Summer?

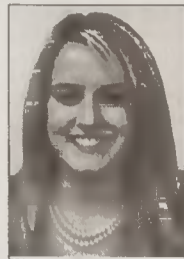
Come have a major impact on the life of many youth while having fun in the sun. We are currently hiring: Counselors, Waterfront Staff, Arts and Crafts, Music, Adventure Staff, and Environmental Educators. For more information visit www.donleecenter.org or come see us at the Job Fair on Tuesday, February 20 in Highsmith University Union Alumni Hall- HU 159



Don Lee Center is affiliated by faith to the United Methodist Church

Taking tests does not stop after class ends

By Emily Pomeranz
STAFF WRITER



Emily Pomeranz
Staff writer

College students face all kinds of responsibilities on a daily basis. Pressure from school, work and families take a toll on our daily lives, leaving us tired and with little time to pay attention to our own problems. We cannot afford to throw aside a problem that affects everyone. One in two sexually active individuals will get an STD before the age of 25, according to the American Social Health Association. While this fact may seem scary and hard to take in, it is vital we educate ourselves and each other on this desperate situation.

Choosing to be sexually active comes with other decisions that

“ ”

One in two sexually active individuals will get an STD before age 25.

EMILY POMERANZ
Staff Writer

can affect the rest of your life or the life of someone else. Ignoring the responsibility to be safe can result in you or your partner contracting an STD.

Less than 50 percent of Americans ages 18 to 44 have ever been tested for an STD other than HIV/AIDS, according to ASHA. That fact should scare most college students into celibacy. It should at least ignite a spark of curiosity and action. We all have a personal and social responsibility to get tested and also to encourage our partners to do the same.

We all know how hard it is to

think about these things once a great evening gets going and no one wants to come off as a downer. But what is more important, your health or your reputation?

Sex education in public schools leaves a lot to be desired. It is understandable that parents want their children to learn abstinence, and they have a right to voice that opinion. However, educators and parents alike have to be practical and open up the discussion to include safe sex practices and the importance of STD testing. We cannot stop people from having sex, but we can encourage safety and responsibility.

President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act stresses abstinence-only programs in public schools. Also, Bush appointed Dr. Eric Keroack, a widely known supporter of abstinence-only programs, as the deputy secretary of the department of Health and Human Services. How can we expect our children to be anything but naïve if the only thing they are being taught is pre-marital sex is wrong?

Now that we are done with mandatory sex education, it is up to each of us to be fully aware of the situation at hand. Get tested and encourage your friends to do

the same. Read up on more statistics if you really want to scare yourself to the doctor's office. It would be nice if everyone with an STD would walk around with a sign on their forehead, but we all know that is not the case. As college students we are probably the most vulnerable to STDs. One small lifestyle change could save your life, or someone else's.

So please, go get tested for STDs. Our Student Health Services offers testing at a reduced price. They also have free condoms in the office and encourage students to take advantage of that service.

STDs are not a joke, nor are they something to be ignored. We all have a responsibility to educate ourselves on these issues

“ ”

We cannot stop people from having sex, but we can encourage responsibility.

EMILY POMERANZ
Staff Writer

and spread the knowledge to others.

Next week the Student Government Association is putting on an entire week of educational events and forums on sexual and relationship health called Lovefest. The week includes a women's health fair, an HIV/AIDS forum, and other events on sexual and dating health. Also, condoms will be available throughout the entire week in all residence halls and at the SGA office in Highsmith. Please, take advantage of all these events and continue to educate yourselves.

FIRST ANNUAL LoveFest

2007

A WEEK OF LOVE, SEX, HEALTH AND FUN



Sunday Feb. 11th: 5:30p.m. Valentine's Day cards for women in prison

Monday Feb. 12th: 12:00-1:30: Condom Olympics and GSA kissing booth on Quad 12:00-1:30: ASIA Breast Cancer Society Benefit: Hershey Kiss roses

9:00pm: Movie and chocolate fountain- "Rent" HU Grotto 9:00-10:00: Recycled Valentine Card Station

Tuesday Feb. 13th: 12:00-1:30: Valentine's cards for a troop over seas or retirement home in front of Caf 11:00-2:00: Wear Red to School Day toward the fight against AIDS HU Grotto

12:30-1:30: Pizza n' Porn discussion group with Campus Crusade for Christ HSU 221

6:00 Myth Buster "HIV/AIDS in America" FREE PIZZA

Wednesday Feb. 14th Valentine's Day: 7:00 Men's Basketball Game vs. High Point in the Justice Center Raffle for a vibrator

Thursday Feb. 15th: 12:00-2:00 Women's Health Fair FREE "mock"tails

12:00 Osteopathic Medicine Forum, Laurel Forum

Friday Feb. 16th: Homecoming Game and Dance!

Parade 1:00 from Highsmith to Rocky, wear your Love Fest shirt and show your support



The feeling of being white on a white canvas

By Lisa Gillespie
MANAGING EDITOR

I am not black. I am not multiracial. If I have a drop of black blood in my history, I am not aware of it.

A young woman in high school thinking of attending UNC Asheville next fall recently contacted me via Facebook.

"I am multiracial, and I am trying to decide if I want to go to

“ ”

I assumed talking to minority students would relate to her experience more than talking to me.

LISA GILLESPIE
Managing Editor

UNC Asheville," she said. "I know that not many minorities go there, and I just wanted to know if you think I'll like it or be fine there, because I have never visited and I do not know anything about it. Can you help me?"

I messaged her back, asking her if she had contacted any

other minority students. I suggested this because I assumed that she felt herself closer to being black than white. My assumption went back to the one-drop rule, and though this is not institutionalized legally anymore, people still apply it to their own lives.

"Just because my mom is white and my dad is black, doesn't have anything to do with my likes or interests," she said in response to my e-mail.

If one is biracial or multiracial, they are commonly seen as black, even though they may have grown up in a "white" environment. I fell to this societal standard and assumed that talking to minority students would relate to her experience more than talking to me.

In my e-mail, I said, "I don't know if you're interested in race, but since you mentioned that you're multiracial, there is this new group called the Student Diversity Alliance, and they do amazing work trying to get administration and students to care about race issues."

With this statement, I erased the idea that being white is a



Lisa Gillespie
Managing editor

race. I do not think I would have included this if a white student e-mailed me asking for advice.

I would not have said, "Since you are white, you might be interested in SDA."

“ ”

If people are multiracial, they are commonly seen as black.

Lisa Gillespie
Managing Editor

Even though I am aware that "white" is a race, a box I check off, I see it as a neutral ideal, a ruler to which every other race

and history is measured against.

I do not stereotype as a way of discriminating against non-white people, but subconsciously as a way of making sense of the world. As a way of making sense of her identity without any knowledge of her background and sense of identity.

"I just think your opinion is insanely biased, and from all of the other people that I have spoken to, you have been the most critical," she said. "It seems that most of the people there do not have a problem with race. Maybe you just do."

She was right. I do have a problem with race. The fact I applied a racial identity to this biracial woman, lumping together a minority group and erasing the difference within her life that she may have, is a problem.

And I know I am not the only non-minority person to do this.

As European immigrants grew in wealth, they assimilated into the dominant group and left their minority status behind.

History has revolved around who is black, and who is not white, never what is white. Therefore, I do not think of

myself in negative terms, "I am not black." I think of myself as white. I am white. And this is where it gets problematic.

“ ”

We can give them back the power to name themselves.

LISA GILLESPIE
Managing Editor

Our society takes an essentialist perspective of one who is born black, white, Hispanic or American Indian. We do not think about the evolution of these terms.

This perspective erases anything that is outside the dichotomy and decreases the inclination to look at things that are different.

It erases the inclination to look at the person, and not put them into the box of black or white. Instead of looking at them as one identity because of our own tendency to stereotype, we can give them back the power to name themselves.

CLASSIFIED ADS

ARC REGISTERED XMAS TEA CUP YORKSHIRE TERRIER FOR SALE

ARC registered, home Raised adorable Yorkshire Terrier. Very lively, lovely, intelligent and well socialized baby. All her papers ready. email Jeff: akon_jf@yahoo.com

A gorgeous Female yorkie English Bulldog for sale.

Available For your Home Now For More info Kindly Contact Me fred_moore2006@hotmail.com Or# 908 453 8808

PERSONAL ASSISTANT FOR HIRE:

Help running errands, groceries, cooking, some occasional cleaning. Cooking is primary- employer is a meat eater who likes healthy, organic, natural foods. Schedule is flexible. Looking for around 4-6 hours a week, with days and times optional. Apply at www.unca.edu/career

Make plans to attend our Summer Jobs & Internship Fair

Tuesday, February 20th from 11am to 2pm in Alumni Hall. More information coming soon!

YOU can have better relationships!

We can help! Relationship Readings using The Cards of Destiny System with Joseph and Sarah Elizabeth Malinak. Student rate: \$75. Call today to schedule your one-hour session! 828-645-0999

PART-TIME NANNY NEEDED:

Seeking a part-time nanny for a 3 year old boy on Monday afternoons from 1:15 to 5:30. Must be willing to read, play and do light housework. This job is available through April. Apply at www.unca.edu/career

To post a CLASSIFIED or WANTED AD e-mail: banner@unca.edu