

The Daily Tar Heel

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Distribution: Triangle Circulation Services.

Dating Without Boundaries

By JESSICA JOYE
Staff Writer

Several UNC students have found their experiences dating outside their own race to be enriching and meaningful experiences.

Three different relationships provided three different experiences, but each exemplified colorblindness at its best.

To these UNC students, race does not define dating boundaries or limit potential partners.

"You can't put boundaries on who would date. It's not fair to sit back and say, 'Oh, I would never date him because he's black or white or Japanese or whatever,'" said senior Alexis Richardson. "You have to be willing to at least give someone a chance."

Richardson has been dating her white boyfriend for four months. They met by chance at He's Not Here and the relationship blossomed from there.

She said they never thought about the race issue until someone asked them about it. "It really never entered either of our minds, we're just two people who, together, make each other happy," she said.

Richardson emphasized that interracial relationships allow those involved to experience different cultures.

Her boyfriend is Jewish, and his religion has broadened her horizons and influenced her to become involved in the Jewish community.

"I've always been interested in Jewish culture, and Adam has given me great insight into it."

Richardson said the one thing she has worried about is the potential of marriage and starting a family. "I do worry about raising kids. You have to take into account their identity and the way people will treat them," Richardson said.

Ken Varner and Neela Rajendra have been together for close to two years, and have never identified race as a problem within their relationship.

Varner said Rajendra's Asian background has never been an issue with him. "When I'm around her, I totally forget she's Asian and simply enjoy her company," he said.

The couple has enjoyed constant support from their friends and family. "Our families and friends are above bickering about what color people are," he said.

Varner said he viewed their cultural differences as a positive and fun part of their relationship.

"We come from such different backgrounds and we have so much to learn from each other," he said. "It's fun to discover all the stuff I wasn't around for."

Rajendra said they have much to teach each other. "It's a constant learning process," she said.

Freshman Carmen Watley, who is black, dated a white male for 10 months during her senior year and said the race factor was never an issue for them.

She said they would often get strange looks from people when they were out in public, but it never bothered them. "I've never been the type to care what people thought about me," she said.

Watley said she had dated within her own race, and while people were more accepting of those relationships, other's opinions had nothing to do with who she chose to date.

To skeptics, Watley has one thing to say, "Don't knock it till you've tried it."

While the future might hold unanswered questions, Richardson said that for now, she and Adam choose not to focus on race, but rather on the time they spend together.

"He's Adam, I'm Alexis. We're just two people who like being together."

The editorials are approved by the majority of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor, editorial page editor, assistant editorial page editor and eight editorial writers.
The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Publishing Corp., a nonprofit North Carolina corporation, Monday-Friday, according to the University calendar.
Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should call 962-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245.



ISSN #10709436

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Your projectile roomy spews last night's trash can punch and what looks to be a peas and carrots medley into your bathroom sink. To unclog the drain, you should:

- A Douse it with boric acid and plunge like crazy.
- B Charm it with a drain snake.
- C Wait till it dries and chisel it out.
- D NONE OF ABOVE.*



DRINKING
QUIZ
#13
IN A SERIES

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Binge drinking blows.

A MESSAGE FROM
THE CENTER FOR
SCIENCE IN THE
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