

## Student suggests communication as method of avoiding 'sexile' problems with roommate



If you have ever lived in a residence hall with a roommate, you are aware of the type of conflicts that can arise. From deciding who's buying the milk this week to playing music loudly while you're trying to study, disagreements are inevitable. But when the topic of sex comes up, things can start to get a little messy.

Let me paint a picture for you. You are in your room and are just doing some simple, everyday activity like watching TV or working on some homework. Then, all of a sudden, your roommate tells you his/her boyfriend or girlfriend is coming over. Of course, you don't want to have to leave your room, especially if you're in the middle of doing homework. So what are you to do when the two of them start mak-

ing out and repeatedly giving you hints to leave?

If you leave, you risk being temporarily displaced for hours and hours on end. But, if you stay, you risk upsetting your roommate and causing more tension in an already tense living environment. And no matter what decision you end up making, you always look like the bad guy.

Toward the beginning of the semester, I found myself in a similar position. As a transfer student, I had not had the chance to make any new friends or get involved in any student activities. So I spent the majority of my time working on assignments for class.

My roommate, however, had his girlfriend of three years with him. As I would be working on things, such as homework, yoga or even just listening to music, I was forced to overhear upsetting noises in the background. As school progressed, the situation grew worse and worse each week. And no matter how hard I tried to nonchalantly express how uncomfortable I was, the point did not seem to get across.

Finally, I became tired of the situation

and started using the library as a means to do my homework and socialize with my friends. I had officially been sexiled from my own room.

I kept telling myself the situation was not as bad as I thought it was, but before I knew it, I found myself staying out until almost 2 in the morning. It was then I knew what I had to do. I had the awkward conversation with my roommate about how uncomfortable he and his girlfriend were making me.

Even though the conversation was a very strange one, I am glad I did it. My roommate began to respect my boundaries and we developed a system of communication for when they do want to be alone.

The bottom line is, regardless of the situation, you are not the one at fault. A roommate should have enough respect for you to control their sexual urges while you are in the room. And if it starts to bother you as bad as it bothered me, just talk to them. And, no matter what, never sentence your roommate to sexile.

### >Letters to the editor

## Kentucky needs to come together to support veterans

Dear Editor,

We all have the utmost respect for those who serve in our armed forces and for those who serve overseas in harm's way. They deserve special respect and benefits since they are the only ones who stand between us and those who wish to do us harm. Now, in addition to Veterans Day this month, we also have another unique opportunity to act and put our words into action.

We possibly have three times as many service personnel and support people out of the country in the last few years. From 200,000 deployed for almost eight years from the 1990s and early 2000s to maybe up to 600,000. But judging from recent pronouncements by the president and the mood of the country, there seems to be a new development. They are coming home. That, I think, most would also agree is the good news. But to really honor our service people who have survived and sacrificed, we are the ones that now need to do them a service. We need to help them with the many problems that have been plaguing

our veterans on their return.

Unemployment for veterans is at least two percent higher than for nonveterans. Twenty percent of returning veterans have symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and PTSD raises the risk of domestic abuse. Prescription drug abuse has soared, and suicide deaths have outnumbered combat deaths in the last two years. Even one-third of children who have parents deployed in a war zone are at higher risk for psychological problems, a new study says. Violence is more common among kids of combat veterans. And that includes the daughters.

It seems clear that not one group or institution could handle these problems all by itself. We are now all going to have to pitch in to make sure they have a soft landing. I cannot think of many adjustments bigger than coming from an environment where there is violence to one where there isn't. We can never know what they went through, and I'm sure they don't want us to go through it and find out. And those of us in the South may have even a bigger

burden of helping veterans since the tradition of military service in the South has continued since 2001. In my home state of Kentucky, we alone might have upward to more than 10,000 service people deployed.

If we want America and its forces to continue to be strong, and we want America to continue to become more peaceful, then I think it is time for all of us to do our service personnel a service and now give them the special attention and consideration they deserve in areas big and small. This goes not only for the ones who will be returning, but for the ones who already have. This would not elevate them above the rest of us, but only ensure that they can enjoy a normal life like the rest of us. This is probably the biggest gift we can give them: That despite their sacrifices, they are still an equal member of the American Family and the American Dream.

Douglas A. Wain

## Student launches 'crusade' for anal sex awareness

Trends come and go, and when they come, trends dominate social realms. For those of us not a part of those trends, the constant barrage at every turn can be as annoying as an Ohioan towing his/her boat at 60 mph on I-75 in the fast lane. These trends can be anything from an overused word such as epic, a mythical creature such as a unicorn or the trend of homosexuality. Please note I am as liberal as one can be and have no problem with unicorns, certain words or those who practice homosexuality. I just have a problem with being constantly overexposed to these topics no matter how I try to elude them.

Current news sources—Progress included—television and daily life cannot be lived without being bombarded by articles, shows or individuals promoting homosexuality, their habits, their rights, dress, preferences and on and on. Homosexuals will make the claim that they are just seeking equal rights and repre-

sentation and oppositely are surrounded by heterosexual opinion. I beg to differ, which is why I wrote a rather informal note to the Progress challenging the editor to publish an editorial of opposite yet similar subject matter: Seeking to bring awareness to a topic of heterosexuality often deemed taboo and risqué.

Homosexuality between men often involves the act of anal intercourse, and mainstream media has no hesitancy in the promotion of homosexuality and thus this practice. When is the last time you saw any major news source running articles about making love anally among heterosexual couples? The economy is in ruins, the population has topped 7 billion, college students are \$1 trillion in debt, scientific studies increasingly prove that certain forms of birth control are dangerous and, after reading last week's Progress, I was informed that Student Health Services would soon cease to provide free condoms to students. What solution remains

for an overpopulated planet full of cash-strapped, non-pill-taking and condomless college students?

In my opinion, it's time for us heterosexuals to follow in the footsteps of the homosexuals and start making love rectally (i.e. anal sex). Homosexuals have inspired me, and I am on a personal crusade to bring this subject out of the realms of taboo and non-speak to the world of equality and mass acceptance. Be ever thankful we are all in a place and time where one can go on a crusade for anal intercourse and that we have a paper, the Progress, which does not shy away from equally representing the taboos of heterosexuality as they have homosexuality and willingly accepts a challenge to promote issues not accepted by the mainstream.

Covie Schmidt  
Student

## 24/7 visitation seen as discriminatory toward others

Dear Editor,

Allowing students at Sullivan Hall to have 24/7 visitation is unfair and discriminatory. First, we must note that not all honors students live at Sullivan Hall, so not all honors students would receive the same benefit of being able to "study and work on projects."

Second, 24/7 visitation was originally established based on being an upperclassman. As far as I know, underclassmen live at Sullivan as well. If the university has the audacity to deny students who have rightfully earned 24/7 visitation to and hand it

to those who have not, many others and myself will be appalled.

My argument does not stop here. We must also take into consideration students who have earned the right to 24/7 visitation, but cannot afford them. Check out the housing website. All 24/7 dorms are at least \$200 to \$300 more expensive each semester than basic dorms. This means the university unintentionally discriminates against upperclassmen who are eligible for 24/7 visitation conceptually, but not financially.

I offer this information to everyone be-

cause I tried to make this argument in a meeting with an individual in the housing department my sophomore year. The promised "mention of my argument" in faculty meetings has clearly made no progress, unless you are honors. Let us work together to fight for the right for all upperclassmen to have 24/7 visitation, regardless of where we live on campus because at the end of the day, we are all ECU students, honors or not.

Courteney Rogers  
Student

## Suggesting students will have sex cheapens their dignity

Dear Editor,

I reject the idea that a public university should be providing free condoms, but I reject even more strongly the idea implied in last week's editorial that college students are dominated by their sexual appetites. The statement "College students are going to have sex" suggests that sex is somehow foreordained for our students. That idea is repugnant to any view of human beings as moral free agents who, en-

joying the gifts of freedom and rationality, employ wisdom to evaluate various options and then make informed decisions. As Donna Freitas made clear in her Chattanooga lecture in September, most college students are fed up with the hookup culture. Many students, including students of the new student group Love & Truth, of which I am the faculty adviser, have turned away from sexual experimentation to embrace virginity and chastity as glori-

ous expressions of human freedom. They see sex as a great good, but one reserved for marriage. Human beings possess great inherent dignity; let's not cheapen that dignity by depicting students as prisoners of their sexual desires.

Todd Hartz  
Associate Professor

## CAMPUS COMMENTS

### "Daniel Boone's Lucky Toe"

All Campus Comments are anonymous.

■ The only experience I have ever had is watching one of the rugby players rub it walking home from a party. They won a game the next day, so there must be something to it.

■ I think it's a way better myth than "one of the buildings used to be a hospital, and there's a ghost" or something like that.

■ I always wondered who was the first person to say that.

■ I don't think it's true, but I'm not superstitious.

■ The toe is a different color just because it's been rubbed so much. If that many people do it, there must be some truth in it.

■ I told my mom about that, and she told me to go rub it before every exam.

■ It's an Eastern thing. Just don't question it.

■ If nothing else, you get the placebo effect, same as a wishbone, I believe.

■ I had no idea that existed. I'll have to try it out sometime.

■ Before I knew about that, I had to rub my friends' toes for good luck. The statue is way less awkward to rub.

■ I wish I knew who was the first person to do that. Probably Gandhi or President Obama.

■ This place has all kinds of crazy myths I've never heard before in my life.

■ Have you ever seen *The Butterfly Effect*, man? There's something to it.

■ I like to think that it really does bring good luck. I rub his toe pretty much every time I walk that way.

■ If you rub it while you're drunk, it has the reverse effect.

■ Something about that statue creeps me out.

■ I have such bad luck, I feel like the statue would crumble if I ever tried.

■ Whether it does or not, I'm glad this campus has some mythology behind it. It brings the community together, whether it actually works or not.

■ I eat Lucky Charms every morning for breakfast. I'm not worried about rubbing Daniel Boone's toe.

■ I had no idea that people believed that. I'm going to go rub his toe, then spend all my money on lottery tickets.

■ People have been saying that since I started here five years ago. I have no reason to believe it, but who knows?

Compiled by Travis Witt

Submit your topic ideas and comments via email to [progress@ecu.edu](mailto:progress@ecu.edu)