#MeToo movement finds its voice on campuses

By Maria Ramos & Griffin Jones
Senior Reporters

A Mercer student, who wished only to be called L, told The VOICE. “I had psychology class last spring and there was a guy in my class that never spoke to me or in the class, but he was always staring at me, and sometimes I would see him in the hall and he would just look at me without saying anything.”

She continued, “He kept following me after class, and I thought it was maybe just my imagination, so I took a different way and I went around the Communications building and then to the cafeteria, and he did the same...When I was in the parking lot he was there too, he parked his car in front of mine and looked at me and said ‘Do you wanna go out for dinner?’ I told him I was married and not interested and to please leave me alone.”

L’s story is just one of many that have come to light in recent months as part of the spread of the #MeToo phenomenon.

The social media hashtag was created to bring awareness to the commonplace nature of sexual assault and sexual harassment faced by women today. Actress and activist Alyssa Milano popularized the tag following accusations of sexual assault against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

The concept behind the #metoo hashtag was that if every woman who had suffered some form of sexual assault shared the hashtag, then the scope of the problem could be realized.

With the focus on sexual assault, renewed interest has been shown in the high rates of sexual assault on college campuses.

A 2016 survey by the United States Department of Justice showed that roughly 21 percent of women in four-year colleges had experienced sexual assault since enrolling.

There has been evidence to show that community colleges are just as vulnerable to sexual assault and harassment as their four-year counterparts, although the nature of the incidents differ in the non-residential setting.

In a VOICE survey of Mercer students including 30 men and 30 women the results showed 57 percent of female students would not feel comfortable alerting the college administration if they were assaulted or harassed.

Dorothy Gasparro, Mercer’s licensed counselor told The VOICE, “I have no idea what is making [students] uncomfortable or with whom or why they are afraid to speak. That is certainly an area that deserves more attention and investigation. I, for one, would like to hear more about the reasons and the fears.”

She continued, “I know too many women, myself included, who can say #MeToo.”

Survey respondents were invited to share their perspectives.

One female student wrote: “I’m happy about the #metoo movement. [Sexual assault] is something that happens often but no one says anything, out of embarrassment.”

L told The VOICE why she didn’t notify the school, “I don’t feel safe at Mercer, I don’t think they would have done anything if I had told them this. I still feel very scared at night when I need to walk on my own to the parking lot.”

L is not alone in her stalking experience, two thirds of female respondents said they had been stalked, and 27 percent said they had been stalked by someone they had met at Mercer.

John Simone, the college’s Director of Athletics and also the Title IX coordinator, who is responsible for filing student sexual assault and harassment complaints, said “We may have received six complaints (about stalking) in the last three years. All have been investigated and the situation has been mitigated or sanctions have been implemented.”

The #MeToo movement, however, has offered hope to some students.

Patrick Ramsey, a Criminal Justice major, said, “I believe this movement shows a lot of courage and may inspire others who have been negatively affected.”

The #MeToo movement connects back to earlier eras when women’s allegations of sexual harassment were often not only ignored but those who spoke out were made to seem like they were in the wrong for saying anything. One prominent example of this is Anita Hill, now Senior Advisor to the Provost and Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women’s Studies at Brandeis University. She is most well known for her testimony against Justice Clarence Thomas during his confirmation process. This was one of the first times that the public began an active conversation about sexual harassment in the workplace, but Thomas still received the confirmation.

Hill, who is a considered a hero to many in the #MeToo movement to speak at Mercer in 2012. She described her the reasoning behind her coming forward with her testimony against Clarence Thomas in 1991.

Maybe it is time for Hill to be invited to speak again. At present Mercer has no special events or activities planned that relate to these issues and how they impact students and education.
Faculty hope admins will seek input before making changes

By Davis Lee
Reporter

As the spring semester starts things Professor of Mathematics Kyle Anderson is relieved that all his classes ended up in rooms that make sense for what he teaches and none were changed at the last minute.

“Last fall I initially had BS208A assigned as the room for my Honors Calculus II class. But then, sometime towards the end of pre-class week, which is just a few days before the semester starts, my room suddenly got changed to AD234A,” he told THE VOICE.

Professor Anderson explained that AD234A, which is typically used as a conference room because it is adjacent to the administrative offices, did have enough room for his Honors students, but that the whiteboard was too small to fit complex calculations higher level mathematics demands.

Professor Anderson says he requested that an additional whiteboard be installed in the classroom but his request was denied.

When asked for a comment, Jim Gardner, Mercer’s Director of Communications told THE VOICE, "While a few classrooms do meet in the room, that is not its primary purpose, the room is already equipped with a whiteboard, so the installation of a second board was deemed unnecessary and not a prudent use of college financial resources.”

When THE VOICE asked College President Dr. Jianping Wang about the issue she said, “I don’t know the specifics of it because I am not aware of those things. But if it is really true, then I think something should change. It should be corrected and there should be consultations.”

She added that that's the purpose of her having open office hours. “I am a firm believer in open communication because if I didn’t want consultations and I want to make decisions [alone], I wouldn’t hold open office hours,” said Dr. Wang.

It’s possible that more faculty members will start going to the president’s open office hours more often, as many echoed Professor Anderson by describing a variety of problems cropping up that they primarily attributed to rapid changes in the college’s top leadership positions leaving gaps in institutional memory.

In the last two years the college got a new President and two out of three college deans were new as were the Chief Financial Officer, most of the IT department, the Registrar, the person who assigns classrooms, and a number of other key administrators.

One faculty member who requested to remain anonymous explained that making even the smallest or relatively simple requests are such time-consuming processes because each of the requests have to go through so much paperwork and red tape that, even when someone is trying to help them, it takes them much longer than they should.

As a new Vice President, the sixth in five years, arrives in March, they say they are hoping that having the position filled will help bring more consistency and that the President and Vice President will be able to work together to smooth out these bumps.

One professor who also asked to remain anonymous said: “Maybe the new administrators can start to see the value to the students in slowing down, not rushing every new idea and policy, taking time to study what needs to be done, proactively seeking feedback from students and faculty before making changes. It could save everyone a lot of headaches like with the student email transition, and the change to the academic calendar. These were good things in many ways, but the plans were rushed out.”

The same faculty member added: “A lot of problems could be avoided if everyone wasn’t always acting like the house is on fire. Hopefully the new VP will bring a fire extinguisher.”

DJ Chaz Bear, aka Toro Y Moi, plays Coda in Philly

By Trevion Anglin
Reporter

Tucked back in the cluster of buildings that line Walnut Street in Philadelphia is a night club concert venue called Coda. Known for hosting DJ sets among other types of shows, electronic artist Toro Y Moi—aka Chaz Bear, but whose real name is Chadwick Bundick—played on Saturday, Jan. 27.

Toro is a 31 year old singer-songwriter and record producer who is known for his role in promoting the chillwave sound which features escapist lyrics and dreamy, hypnotic slow beats. Chillwave is a micro-genre that sprang up in 2009 and is one of the first of its kind to have originally been established on the Internet.

Toro is biracial with a black mother and Filipino father. He grew up in South Carolina and got his start with indie rock bands including The Heist. He has six studio albums—one of which made it to 123 on the Billboard 200—and three compilation albums and is known for pushing boundaries and experimenting with new sounds.

Toro’s opener was Gilligan Moss, an electronic duo. They took to the small stage which allows artists to be seen no matter the viewers’ location in the crowd. After about an hour and a half of mesmerizing rhythms and psychedelic visuals, Toro came and took the stage.

For a couple hours Toro played some beats, and little more. This was unusual as he is primarily known for his more structured indie rock/electronic music. Despite some fun flows here and there the overall performance was monotonous.

Gilligan Moss had set up mainly original beats and ended their set with a performance of some of their songs. This suggested Toro would do the same, but instead went down a more basic path. While fans embraced this, they also wondered if the show would have been more successful with a more traditional style.

“Although his DJ set definitely incorporated a lot of his fast tempo type of beats from his songs very well, I’ll always resonate more with a concert where the artist is performing his classics instead of beats,” Dom Ferreren, a University of Arts student, told THE VOICE after the show.

He added, “Regardless, Toro is equally talented in both fields and melds them both together excellently.”

Philadelphia resident Bianca Distephanos had a similar impression. She said, “I enjoyed his set but was somewhat disappointed by the lack of an actual performance.” She added, “I was excited to finally hear him play his songs that I’ve listened to for so long. I think he would have been better at that.”

COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

[LEFT] Chadwick Bundick, aka Chaz Bear. [ABOVE] Toro Y Moi, known for including psychedelic lights show playing Coda in Philadelphia on Saturday Jan. 27.

PHOTO | TREVION ANGLIN

[RIGHT] Prof. Kyle Anderson teaching Honors Calculus II in AD234A during fall 2017 semester.

PHOTO | DAVIS LEE

CAMPUS & LOCAL

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By Jasmine Santalla
Senior Reporter

Shaunice Palms wasn’t a pro basketball player. She hadn’t even played before high school, when she decided to join Nottingham’s girls’ basketball team as a freshman, but that didn’t affect her new interest in the sport she go on to play four years later at college.

“I loved it immediately. I didn’t even know how to play when I first walked on. I just knew that you throw it in the hoop and that’s it,” Palms told The VOICE in a recent interview.

Shaunice Palms, fourth semester student studying exercise science, is co-captain of the Vikings women’s basketball team. She’s approaching the end of her basketball career here at Mercer. Over time, Palms says she’s grown to be a better leader.

“I think I’ve improved most in leadership. I was very shy [in high school] and as a guard you need to take leadership and communicate well on the court.”

While Palms was used to being a forward in high school, she told The VOICE that she understood that it was necessary to step it up in order to fill the slot the team needed. She talked about the countless practices she’d show up early to so she could practice her dribbling and shooting drills, skills specific to guards. Palms says it’s all for the benefit of the team.

“My teammates motivate me the most. Right now, we are the underdogs and we all have a part to play and we need to constantly be thinking about the bigger picture. It’s about [all of us], not any singular person.”

Outside of basketball, Palms is motivated by a specific person, her twin sister Shaune who is a criminal justice major at Mercer also the women’s basketball team manager.

“We were brought up based on church and my mother made sure we were involved in a lot such as helping out the community, running nursery in the church...We do a lot. We like to be involved in things and be as active as possible,” Shaunie Palms said.

Shaune who has been beside her sister for every move describes the changes she has seen since Shaunice took up basketball.

“As a person she expresses herself a lot more now and I’ve seen her become more aware with the way she presents herself as [both] a player and as a person.”

Teammate, Shaniec Barnes, sees something similar. She has been playing with Palms since last season and says of her teammate: “On the court we both know how each other play and we know each other’s strengths and preferences. Off the court I know that she’s someone who I can talk to about anything. She’d give her honest opinion. Then we’d laugh about something silly that’s happened.”

Another teammate who says she can count on Palms is Haylee Kieffer. “On the court I know that she will work her butt off for everyone on the team and if something needs to get done, she’s the person to be told because she makes sure that she does it exactly as needed. Off the court she pretty much the same way,” Kieffer says.

While Palms says the motivation her team gives her pushes her beyond her limits, she attributes a great deal of her success as an athlete and a student, to coach Mike Tenaglia. She says coach Tenaglia approached her at her All-Star game her senior year of high school and recruited her. Palms says he has increased her “basketball IQ.”

“Oh my goodness. [Coach Mike] truly taught me everything about basketball from the fundamental aspect and beyond. He’s helped me figure out how basketball is just as much a mental game as it is a physical one.”

After Mercer, Palms’s basketball career will be coming to a close. She’s looking into the physical therapy program at Drexel University. When she was a junior in high school she experienced a severe ankle sprain and was only brought back to the court after intense physical therapy. She was inspired from others on to support other athletes in the same way. Palms mentioned, “It just feels like it’s time to rest my body. Playing a sport puts a lot of physical strain on your body, so I think it’s time to hang it up after Mercer.”

Her teammates say Palms will not be forgotten when she moves on.

Shanice Barnes said, “She taught me not to give up, give it your all in anything you do. Even though I’m still learning how to do it.”

Men’s Basketball: Vikings hit the road in February playoff push

By Jackson Thompson
Sports Reporter

With last season’s two wins campaign now a distant memory, head coach Howard Levy and his young men’s basketball team head into the final months of the regular season on the cusp of a playoff berth. According to Athletic Director John Simone, all the Vikings need to do is finish .500 or better to clinch a spot in the NICAA Region 19 tournament.

“There will be as many as five or six teams that will qualify meaning they have a .500 record, or a .500 regional record,” Simone said, adding, “Anybody with a .500 record within the region or overall makes it in.”

A successful January put Mercer in good standing to achieve their goal. After winning three straight games to start the month, a lopsided 66-111 home loss to Harcum on Thursday Jan. 25 ended their streak. Two days later freshman shooting guard Donovan Guess led his team back into the win column against Valley Forge with a 34 point shooting performance.

Mercer got the sweep over Valley Forge after defeating them back in November, as they just edged out their opponent 70-68 in a back and forth shootout. With that win Mercer finishes January at 4-1 which puts them at 11-10 overall for the season.

According to freshman point guard John Evans, it was ultimately the how the Vikings finished defensively that yielded them the win.

“At first it was a little sloppy I can admit, but at the end we decided to come together and play defense as a whole and not play selfish,” Evans said. He added, “We can beat anyone on our team.”

Mercer also had the luxury of playing their fourth straight home game in the win, something that seldom happens in the final month as they finish with five of their last six games on the road.

“Whoever we’re going to play against at their home, they always got the advantage because the crowd and everything is at their house, and they know how to play on their courts. They don’t know how to shoot on our courts and every thing, but I also got confidence in our team that we’ll be fine,” said Evans. At 11-10 the team has very little room for error. They also have the challenge of opening this road trip against undefeated Brookdale who is 28-0 on the season.

After that they will still face a high degree of competition as they travel to Rowan, Manor and Raritan who have a combined record of 36-22. They play their final home game against Lackawanna who are 17-3 and who the Vikings already lost to earlier the season. Then they will travel all the way to Delaware to finish the season against Del Tech Stantoon.

In their last twelve games Mercer is 8-4, but will be tested in what might be their toughest stretch of games all year, especially considering nearly all of them will be on the road. Forward Tory Whiting, who is one of only two sophomores on the roster, believes the team is well equipped to handle the challenge and can adjust when the time calls for it.

“Since the start of the semester we’ve been jelling really well. We switched up our defense and our offense a little bit and we made a couple little changes and it’s actually helped us a lot. We look like we’re getting a little bit more engaged,” Whiting said.
These days, young adults communicate not only by text but with multiple apps at the same time, such as Snapchat, Facebook Messenger, Instagram, What’s App and many others on a daily basis. This has changed the game of dating. With one tap you can meet someone with whom you could spend the night or the rest of your life.

This is what happened to a nursing student at Mercer who asked to be identified only as J.

When The VOICE asked her what she thought about online dating services she started to laugh and look around, then said, “Well I met my fiancé on Tinder and then got in contact with him on Instagram.”

Tinder has become one of the most famous apps for online dating. Users make a profile including interests and can add a location or another social media account in order to find singles nearby.

On Tinder you get a catalog of the other people who “match” your interests, and if you like the person you swipe to the right and if not, to the left. Then boom, you can talk to that person that you swipe right with.

According to a survey of 30 Mercer students conducted by The VOICE, 60 percent said they have tried online dating apps. Tinder leads as the most popular, followed by OkCupid. In third place among Mercer students was Hot or Not.

J continued her fiancé story saying, “You know, I followed him on Instagram, started to like his photos and eventually he sent me a message on Instagram and later we exchanged phone numbers and started to going out for dates. He really never ask me how did I find him out on Instagram and we never talked about it until after a year of dating. I told him I saw on his Tinder profile his Instagram user and just add him. He thought I was crazy but didn’t care.”

According to datingsitesreviews.com there are 46 million users on the Tinder app from all around the world. Tinder offers the online service in more than 20 countries.

As things change in our world, the ways we see, experience and look for love have changed radically. This is modern love, where a text with an emoji can mean many things. A simple smiling emoji with eyes in the shape of hearts or blowing a kiss can make you feel something or wonder what the other person means by sending you that specific emoji.

Yet, despite the popularity of dating apps, people are still skeptical. In the Mercer student survey 52 percent of students said that people is more fake online.

According to an article from Forbes.com in the year 2016 there were approximately 15,000 reports of “romance scams.” Still, that’s a small percent of the 46 million users on Tinder alone.

Modern love has opened a new door to the way people interact and love each other. While sending hand written love letters may be a thing of the past, that doesn’t mean that love for young adults is gone. It just has different tools and social rules.

One rule? Quit when you’re ahead.

J told The VOICE, “This past Christmas we [my fiancé and I] got engaged and I am very happy. I will never regret of what I did, but of course now my Tinder and Instagram accounts are gone.”

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200,000 at NYC Women’s March

By Drew Mumich
Senior Reporter

PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES

Orland Gil (right), a Dreamer, responded to vocal anti-immigrant criticism from Trump supporters who attended the 2018 Women’s March in New York City on January 20, 2018.

At the 2018 Women’s March in New York, Phillip Richman and his 97 year old mother came to voice their dissent...again...having protested before against George W. Bush 13 years ago.

Over 200,000 men, women and children flooded New York City on the day after the one year anniversary of President Trump’s inauguration, and New York wasn’t alone in this. Millions marched in cities across the nation and around the globe.

Trump’s election with combination of the hyper partisan politics that have occurred, it has inspired people to take to the streets in numbers the founders of the country wouldn’t dream of in their wildest dreams when they wrote the First Amendment which guarantees the right to “peaceably assemble.”

The New York March was smaller than ones in Los Angeles and other cities, but it still included almost a quarter of a million participants who came from everywhere, from New Jersey to Spain to protest at the Big Apple.

Starting early in the morning people carrying signs and wearing the now iconic pink pussy hats began packing into any subway car that would let them in, though that was easier said than done. With every subway car being filled with signs, marchers, packed in like you vacation suitcase before your honeymoon heading to Columbus and 52nd street. Although Columbus Circle, which is right next to the Trump International Hotel, was the official starting point for the march route, many participants were unable to get close.

Marchers were lined up for over two miles up Central Park West into the 90s. Police who were omnipresent, organized and generally upbeat had to cordon off Columbus Avenue as well to hold the overflow participants.

A surge of marchers filled the space every direction. Although this was the “Women’s March,” protesters were vocal about more than just women’s rights. There were signs taking up every progressive cause: immigration, LGBTQ and minority equality, the #MeToo movement, and many more.

One protester who wished to remain anonymous

At the rallying point in Columbus Circle, women took the lead, set the tone for the day to come at New York’s Women’s March.
At New York City’s 2018 Women’s March on January 20, 2018 participants carried signs and banners representing a broad range of progressive political causes.

At the rallying point in Columbus Circle, women took the lead, starting chants and setting the tone for the day to come at New York’s Women’s March.

Drum corps and marching bands provided the rhythm of the Women’s March, the primary tone of which was defiance, outrage and determination to effect change.

At New York City’s 2018 Women’s March on January 20, 2018, 200,000 people join millions worldwide.

PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES

I, starting chants and setting the tone for the day to

told The VOICE, “I am marching because I am a victim of sexual assault and rape, and this is a great way to show our faces, that we are bigger than anyone else can imagine.”

Another participant, Julina Tatlock, who was marching with her daughter, told The VOICE, “I’m marching with my daughter to defend women’s rights, human rights and make sure our voices are heard.”

As the crowd was passing by the Trump International Hotel and Tower participants became more vocal. Hundreds chanted in call and response: “Show me what democracy looks like!” followed by “This is what democracy looks like!”

Drum corps and bands brought a high energy pulse to the event that kept people moving forward—albeit slowly—on the unseasonably warm afternoon.

One key goal that separated this year’s march from last years was the upcoming election cycle. Many came out to encourage people to register people to vote and participate in this coming midterms elections, to hold the government accountable.

The march was not without its adversaries. Trump supporters stood at the fringes holding signs, wearing “Make America Great Again” hats and cheering (and heckling) in support of the President. Though there was screaming from both sides, the aggression remained vocal and did not become physical.

Towards the end of the march the crowd was split up into two separate groups, one leading down to Time Square and the other leading up to Bryant Park where a rally was being held.

“In fact, when we got to the end, policemen with bull horns were saying ‘Okay, the march is over,’ and people were obviously ready to keep going,” said Philip Richman, a resident from New York who was marching with his 97 year old mother.

Many dispersed to other rallies and gatherings. Some said they expected to march again in a year’s time.
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The Value of Family

* National Public Radio, September 2015
I thought I wanted to study law but then, while doing an internship for an online newspaper and radio station in my hometown of Chihuahua, Mexico, I fell in love with journalism.

As with most places, when you’re an intern your job is to make copies, get coffee and do whatever people ask you to get done. I used to stay late and try to learn as much as I could, but there weren’t many things I could do. I wasn’t reporting, just proofreading notes, until one day my luck changed.

It was a regular day five years ago. There were no reporters in the newsroom. Everyone was out on the streets chasing stories. Suddenly, a photographer came to the office screaming. I told my mom about what happened, and why I was looking at me and said, “Journalism? Oh no, tu estas loca. You are not taking that path. You don’t see how risky it is to be a journalist here in Mexico.”

Of course I didn’t listen to my mom. I kept going to my internship, though now I was reporting as well as fetching coffee. I started covering all kinds of stories, though I began to focus more on crime news. Chihuahua’s reputation as an unsafe state for journalists has only grown since 2013. Of course it’s fine for sports and entertainment writers, but not for hard news and especially investigative reporters. This is not only because of the constant wars going on between the drug cartels, but also because of governmental corruption.

Nevertheless, I was convinced that investigative journalism was the right choice for me. But then I began hearing a couple of stories from my colleagues about death threats. Did I really want to work as a journalist in Chihuahua?

Between 2000 and 2017, 22 journalists have been killed in Chihuahua and more than 100 in Mexico overall. Ten were murdered in 2017 alone. Last April The New York Times reported on the problem in depth. They said: “On the list of the world’s deadliest places to be a reporter, Mexico falls between the war-torn nation of Afghanistan and the failed state of Somalia.” Things have not improved.

One of my former colleagues, Valentín Hierro, a crime correspondent for several print and online newspapers in Mexico who has worked in the field for more than twenty years, told me, “The death threats mostly come from the government. Of course they don’t come directly from a public figure but from the police or other people in charge. They tell you you can’t cover this news because there is nothing to cover ever even though in front of you there is a body with multiple bullet wounds.”

But Hierro acknowledges the government is less of a problem than the cartels. He says, “When the drug dealers want to send a message they do it. They don’t just play around with you as the government does. They don’t just threaten you.”

While the First Amendment to the US Constitution has a corollary in the 7th Article of the Mexican Constitution, the US has historically seen freedom of speech and press as core values. They are less respected in Mexico where journalists have frequently faced governmental censorship.

When I reached out to David Varela, a reporter who has worked for 9 years at El Heraldo de Chihuahua, the region’s oldest paper, he told me, “I feel like the censorship that comes from the government is the worst, since from the narco cartels you expected them to do this kind of things, but from the government it’s an offense to our Constitution and to our rights but more important to the freedom of speech.”

When I came to the US to study and practice journalism I felt safe, free to write about what I wanted and about what interested me, to do investigative journalism, to inform the people the truth and to not be afraid of digging until I find answers. Sometimes people ask me, “Are you going back to Mexico to be a journalist there?”

When they say that, I think about the very famous journalist from Chihuahua who was killed on March 23, last year, Miroslava Breach Velducea. She was known for being a tough journalist who was always digging to find the clear answers. Her last investigation led her to her mysterious murder that was linked with investigations into abuse of power, human trafficking and money laundering.

My friend Varela said to me, “Knowing that a very strong and important women like Breach was killed because of her investigations, sent us a message to all the journalists in Chihuahua and the country that one, the reality of how fragile journalism is and how much it matters…”

I feel a combination of anxiety, sadness, frustration and fear. I would love to work in my country, to report in my language, to my people, to help my economy, to contribute in a meaningful way to my home community. But then the fear hits and I think twice.

NOTE: All interviews translated from Spanish to English by the author.
Pornography is killing us

Jasmine Santalla

Pornography. A topic usually brought up amongst close friends, when alone in your bedroom or between you and your hand in the dark depths of the night.

I’m sorry to be the one to tell you that pornography is not the outlet to explore your sexuality, it does not give women one more step toward a feminist future, and it is sure as hell not healthy.

Before I explain, you should know I am not some raging religious and conserva-
tive freak with an agenda to stop exploitation through casual sex.

When I think of pornography, I think of dramatic booth jobs, emotionless sex, and categories alluding to violence against women and literally illeg- 
legal things like “Underage teen gangbang.”

We all know that the average female isn’t a triple D, with a beard and shaved genitals just like the average male isn’t ripped with a 12 inch penis.

So, why do we enjoy watching a depiction of what is supposed to be real life sex? For entertainment and easy pleasure, sure. But what does that do to our minds when those ex-

pectations are never met?

In a survey of 40 stu-
dents conducted by The VOICE, the average age of pornographic exposure was between ages 10 and 13 which reflects a national average statistic of age 10 pre-

sented to The New York Times in 2013 by the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. With hardcore pornography at the disposal of anybody, chil-
dren may be shaping the way they interact in their future re-

lationships.

Pornography perceives sex to be this big production every time with no mistakes, no body hair, no love and a lot of aggression. Your laptop doesn’t say what happens when your partner does? You get angry, you want a refund, you want to smash it like they’re some toy. You disregard any sort of compassion for your partner and either take it and live dissatisfied, belittle them for not satisfying you, cheat on them or leave them.

Pornography also in-
creases desensitization and de-
creases our respect for women but this affects both men and women which makes the view-

ing of pornography a safety is-
ick issue in relationships, according to Dr. Jill Manning, a licensed marriage and family thera-
pist. In an interview with Truth About Porn, an organization educating viewers on the harm of pornography, Dr. Manning says a survey showed 70 percent of women who came to learn how pornography had been af-

fecting them and leading them to objectify themselves met the criteria of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Don’t even get me started about all of that crap about pornography helping you “explore your sexuality.” It’s bullshit. Exploration requires real human experience. Just be-

cause you see something on the screen that someone appears to enjoy does not mean that you will enjoy it too.

As one anonymous source told The VOICE, “I don’t watch much porn anymore but I remember watching some pretty intense/weird things that are not actual things I would like to explore in my sex life.”

The more you do it, the more your body and mind feel that you need it. In your brain’s reward center you have the like and want systems. You continu-

ue to want to view pornography more and more, but you end up liking it less and less each time.

Your tolerance in-
creases at an unbelievable rate that eventually could leave men with erectile dysfunction and make it more difficult for both partners to reach an or-
gasm because your mind wants something it has seen before, therefore it feels pos-
sible but in fact, you never seem to get it.

I’ve received an end-
less amount of responses from college students who say it helps them explore their sexual-

ity and it’s a good, natural stress reliever but it’s simply not true. It is masturbation, not porn, that allows you to explore your sexuality and relieve stress.

Masturbation has be-
come attached to the act of watching porn. You do not need porn to get off and if you do that’s the way your porn has rewired your brain. Yes, if you can’t get off without porn then you are a victim of pornography’s negative and addictive effects.

You’re not alone. I’m in there with you. It’s awful.

Touch yourself, but without the porn. Make your-
self feel good. Make it genuine. Do it for each other. Understand every nook and cranny of the person you’re choosing to love. And I mean, if it’s just casual sex, power to you! Just be respectful and be safe.
Dear PittyPat,

- PittyPat LaRue

should I do?

antidepressants. “What

mean she said “It means

hashtag on it and when

a shirt with the #metoo

came to dinner wearing

movement is all about.

I’m worried not everyone

Dear Voice,

Help is

we get enough credits to

I hear from now on when

Dear Hot for Parkour,

Suggestions?

that are falling down.

Yup. That’s the plan. You
don’t have to do anything

Dear Really,

Verizon. Is this normal?

one of those mailers from

they will automatically

graduate us and just

complete an associates

they will automatically

he/She just saying it in her

way. Dealing with

this crap for eight or nine

decades will cause you

to need antidepressants.

Give the lady a hug.

NOTE: THIS FEATURE IS

FOR ENTERTAINMENT

PURPOSES ONLY. ANY

RESEMBLANCE TO

PURPOSE ONLY. ANY

FOR ENTERTAINMENT

NOTE

JUST 4 FUN

JUST 4 FUN

JUST 4 FUN

JUST 4 FUN

JUST 4 FUN

JUST 4 FUN

The Winter Goddess is

feeling whimsical. With

the moon currently in

the house of Cancer, you

should seek out someone

with that sign and begin

a new friendship.

This month you

find your

2X DILBERT AND GET FUZZY

I M HERE TO BE YOUR ROLE MODEL.

MY ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN MY WORDS. JUST DRINK ME IN.

I THINK YOURE DOING YOUR PART WRONG.

DOGBEAT THE SECURITY CONSULTANT

ANYONE WITHOUT AN I.D. BADGE IS ASKED TO BE AN ENEMY. COMBATANT.

PONCE ON THE INTRUDER AND SHAME HIM UNTIL HIS FITTINGS FALL OUT.

HOW MUCH DID WE PAY FOR THAT ADVICE?

IT’S FREE. WE DONT WORK THE ACROSS THE STREET.

JUST CHECKING IN... SAME OLD CHILLOUT. YOU MUST BE WORKING ON TV TODAY...

I RESERVE THIS DISH. IS THERE A FRONT VIOLATION APRON IN MY MOUTH? I WILL STRIKE HIM IN THE ARMS, IF I EXPECTS ME TO...

BEAR OF THE RUBBER STAMP. WAIT! YOU’RE THE ONLY ONE...

NO, THAT IS JUST A LITTLE UNDER THE BEAR...

BLOW IT. IT WOULDNT DO TO INJURE THEMSELF.

NO, CTI DONT. IF THEY DONT...

THE WINTER GODDESS IS THE ON... DAME.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SNEAK IN?

ARE YOU TRYING TO SIX A RELAX AND A GASOLINE?

MY PLAN... IT JUST A HINT OFF WHAT COMES...

BROOK, THATS NOT A BUNCH OF BUNCH!

READ A LIST BEFORE YOU FILL IN THE BLANKS.

ALL I NEED IS JUST A HINT OFF WHAT COMES...

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS.

WHY WOULD ANYONE THINK...