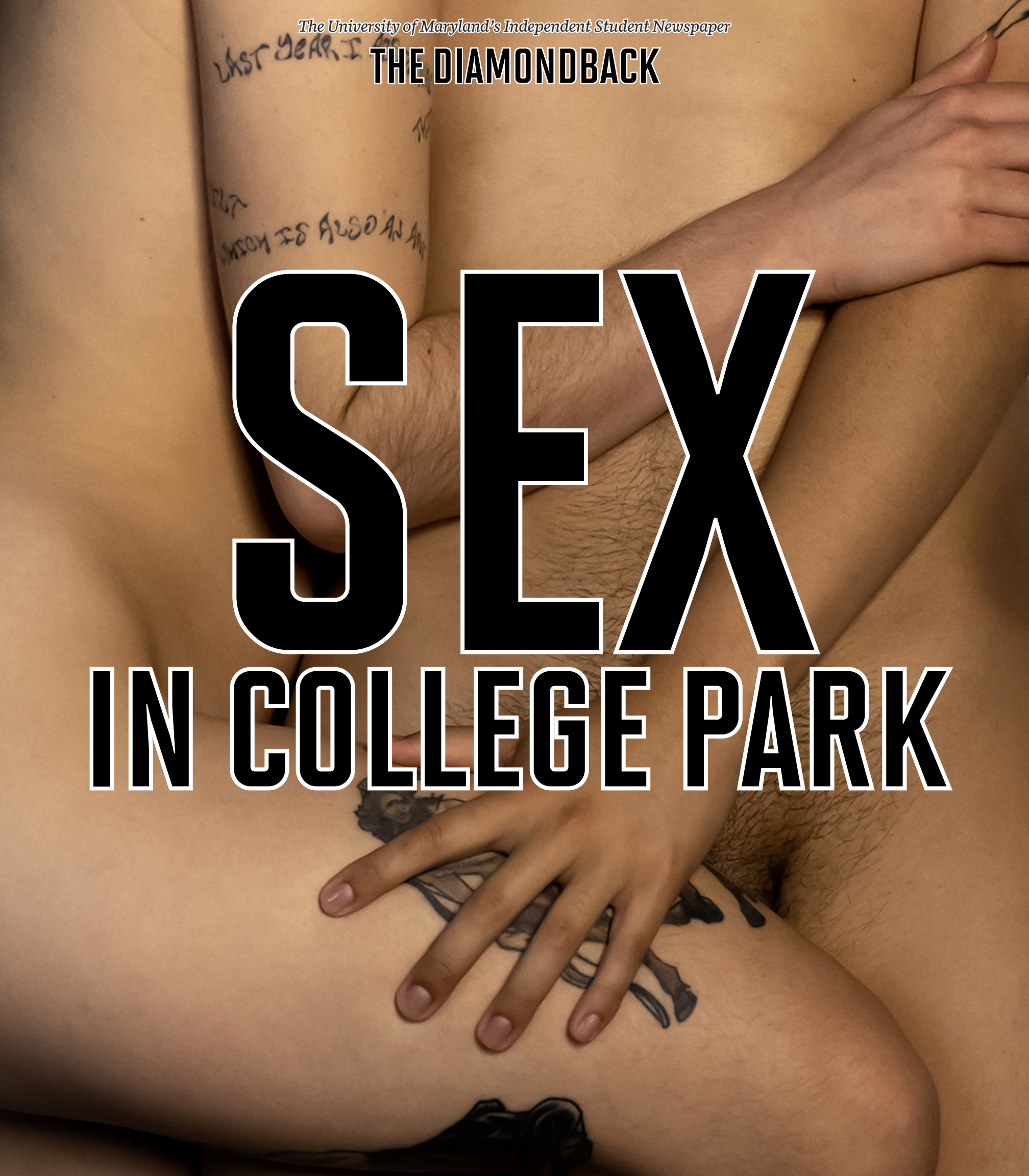


**THE DIAMONDBACK**

LAST YEAR I  
...  
...  
... IS ALSO AN ...

# SEX

# IN COLLEGE PARK





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# EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READER,

Thanks for checking us out ;) Living in isolation in the beginning of the pandemic gave us a lot of time to think about our identities, our preferences and how we express ourselves. We wanted to let some of it out here. We appreciate the volunteers and staff members who lent their bodies, minds and experiences to this issue. It's important to note there are body types that are not represented in this issue and this is not representative of the entire University of Maryland community. Our goal was to display as much representation as we could while also creating an inclusive environment for all those who wanted to be a part of this fun, informative edition.

The Diamondback's 2016 print sex edition inspired us, and it was certainly the blueprint when we wanted produce a sex guide this year. We also want to express our thanks to the alum who paved the way for this issue.

Ella Sherman, Managing Editor  
Zoe Pierce, Editor in Chief

### THE DIAMONDBACK

Founded 1910,  
independent  
since 1971.

**ZOE PIERCE**  
Editor in chief

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# POLLS: UMD STUDENTS RESPONSES ON SEX AND RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONS

We asked, you answered — here are the top results of The Diamondback's Instagram sex polls.

By Devon Milley and Kyle Russo | @Devon\_Milley and @kylerussos | Engagement editors

### TOP FIVE BEST DATES SPOTS IN COLLEGE PARK

1. The Hall CP
2. Board and Brew
3. Taqueria Habanero
4. The Spot Mini
5. McKeldin Mall

### TOP FIVE PLACES TO MEET A POTENTIAL S/O

1. Bars
2. Class
3. Clubs
4. Mutual friends
5. Dating apps

### TOP THREE SEX POSITIONS

1. Doggy style
2. Missionary
3. Cowgirl

### TOP FOUR BEST MAJORS TO DATE

1. Computer science
2. Criminology and criminal justice
3. Government and politics
4. Information systems

## SOME OF THE WORST THINGS PEOPLE HAVE SAID DURING SEX

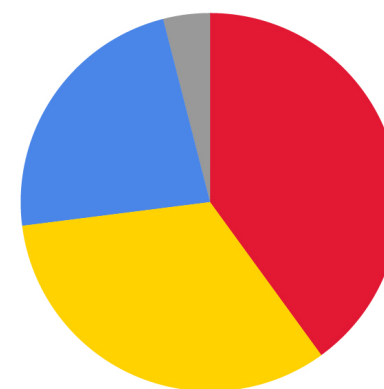
- Asked how the sex compared to his fraternity brother who I got with the previous semester
- I love you
- Their ex's name
- You have really nice pecs, thighs, and forearms, but your upper arms need some work
- Is it in?
- Can I check the score of the Ravens game real quick?
- High five

## SOME OF THE WORST PICKUP LINES

- Can you help me study for my anatomy exam? It's on chapters 9 through 12: female anatomy
- Are you from Mississippi? Because you're the only piss I would sip
- I need help! I have all of these forks but no little spoon
- What's your favorite superhero? Because I can be YourMan
- Can I be the Jack to your Jill? (said to a person named Jill)
- Can you help me find something? Your number
- If you were a booger, I'd pick you
- I can't help but notice you look a lot like my next girlfriend

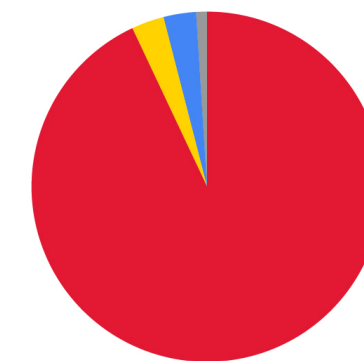
### THE BEST DATING APP

• Tinder (40%) • Hinge (33%) • Bumble (23%) • Grindr (4%)



### THE BEST WAY TO BREAK UP WITH SOMEONE

• In person (83%) • Text (3%) • Phone call (3%) • Letter/email (1%)



### WHEN YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR S/O YOU LOVE THEM

• Less than a month (6%) • 1-3 months (40%) • 3-6 months (42%) • 6+ months (12%)

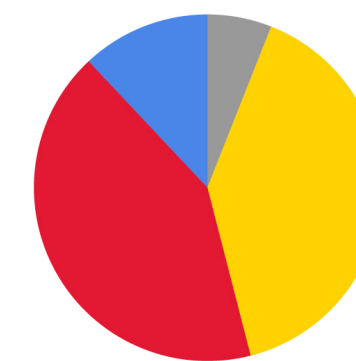






PHOTO VIA PEXELS

One in four college students has a sexually transmitted illness, according to [Hartford Healthcare](#), and the Guttmacher Institute [reported](#) unplanned pregnancies are more frequent in those ages 18 to 24 than in any other age group. However, it has been proven that these numbers could decrease if more students had access to education and resources regarding safe sex.

The University of Maryland is one of many universities that offers a sexual health program at the University Health Center as well as many other sexual health resources — here is a guide on how YOU can take advantage of them.

#### You can obtain FREE sexual health supplies.

The university offers a variety of supplies for preventing STI transmission and unplanned pregnancy that can be picked up at the health center, including:

**External condoms** — a thin rubber sheath worn on a penis during sexual activity

**Internal condoms** — a soft, loose-fitting pouch that's inserted into the vagina before sexual activity

**Dental dams** — latex or polyurethane sheets used between the mouth and vagina or anus during oral sex

**Lubricant** — a gel that reduces friction between intimate body parts during sexual activity

**Safer-sex kit** — Baggies of condoms, lubricant, etc. provided to TerpZone and the Student Organization Resource Center (SORC)

**Abstinence kit** — A selection of educational guides on how to experience healthy, non-sexual relationships with others as well as a variety of small objects that symbolize key aspects of abstinence (example: a Dum Dum lollipop because STIs suck)

Free condoms can also be picked up at the LGBTQ+ Equity Center in Marie Mount Hall, and condoms, dental dams, lubricant and more are available for free from the Help Center located above South Campus Dining Hall. Also, bulk packs of safer sex supplies are provided by the health center once a month to RAs, Greek life leaders, and other student organization leaders.

#### You can explore and obtain birth control.

In addition to pregnancy-preventing supplies, students may work with the health center to look into other options of birth control, which include:

More than 20 different types of **birth control pills** — a daily pill that contains hormones to change the way the body works and prevent pregnancy

**NuvaRing** — a small, flexible piece of plastic that's inserted into the vagina for three weeks and taken out during the fourth week to provide birth control

The **contraceptive patch** — a thin, beige piece of plastic that you wear on the skin of your stomach, upper outer arm, rear, or upper torso — only needs to be changed once a week.

**Diaphragm** — a dome-shaped, silicone cup that's

inserted in the vagina before sex to prevent pregnancy — needs to be used with spermicide

**Depo Provera shot** — an injection that typically suppresses ovulation, keeping your ovaries from releasing an egg — received every three months

**Nexplanon implant** — a small rod inserted under the skin of a woman's upper arm to provide birth control — invisible and prevents pregnancy for up to four years

Hormonal and non-hormonal **intrauterine devices (IUDs)** — a small, t-shaped piece of plastic inserted into the uterus to provide birth control

To figure out which kind of birth control is right for them, students may attend a free consultation with the sexual health and wellness coordinator. This can be done through the student's MyUHC portal under "Schedule Appointment."

#### You can obtain FREE emergency contraception.

Levonorgestrel emergency contraception pills, commonly known as the morning-after pill or Plan B, are also available for free from the health center pharmacy. **The brand of emergency contraception pill currently available for free from the health center pharmacy is Plan B One-Step.**

Those who wish to pick up EC at the health center do not need a prescription to do so and people of any gender and/or age can pick it up for themselves or others. Morning-after pills are meant to be taken within 72

hours of having unprotected sex, but they can be taken up to five days after. This type of pill is more effective the sooner it is used.

**Ella**, the most effective type of morning-after pill, according to Planned Parenthood, is also available from the pharmacy but requires an office visit and prescription.

**Plan B One-Step** and similar brands are less effective for people who weigh 155 pounds or more, according to the health center. Ella is less effective for people who weigh 195 pounds or more.

Emergency contraceptive pills are also sold at campus convenience stores for \$15, which is typically cheaper than when they're purchased off-campus.

#### You can obtain a pregnancy test.

Pregnancy tests may be scheduled with a health center provider by calling **301-314-8190**. The provider can offer results, referrals and information regarding available support services. Also, the UHC offers walk-in urine testing at the lab and over-the-counter home pregnancy tests at the pharmacy.

In addition, the health center provides some free urine test kits to the HELP Center, and some on-campus convenience stores sell these.

Pregnancy tests work by detecting the presence of human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG), a hormone produced during pregnancy, in urine or blood.

#### You can obtain STI testing.

One way students can be tested for sexually transmitted illnesses is through a free self-test kit provided by the health center. This test kit is only for those NOT exhibiting symptoms. It includes HIV, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia testing. Students may choose to pay for a rapid HIV test (\$51) that provides next-day results or additional Gonorrhea and Chlamydia testing sites (\$28). Testing sites for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia include urine, throat or rectal.

Asymptomatic students may also schedule an appointment to get tested with a health care provider by calling **301-314-8184** and explaining they are not exhibiting symptoms. If a student is exhibiting symptoms, it is recommended they schedule an appointment to be seen by a health care provider at the health center through the MyUHC portal. STIs that the health center can test for include:

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhea
- Herpes
- HPV (genital warts)
- Syphilis
- Hepatitis B & C
- HIV

If a student has any questions regarding STI testing or is unsure which testing option is right for them, free STI testing consultations are available with the health center.

#### You can get the HPV vaccine.

An appointment to receive this injection can be made through the MyUHC portal.hi



PHOTO VIA PEXELS



# ASEXUAL STUDENTS AT UMD ENCOURAGE SEXUALITY DISCUSSION

By Jamie Oberg | @jamiemadea | General assignments editor

Members of the asexual community at the University of Maryland want people to understand more about their identity.

For one, graduate student Janel Niska said she wishes more people knew asexuality exists.

“And I wish they knew that it was OK,” the mechanical engineering major said.

Asexual refers to people who do not experience sexual attraction.

Though estimates are limited, the most widely cited figure according to the Asexual Visibility and Education Network the indicates that asexual people account for about 1 percent of the population. The Williams Institute estimated 1.7 percent of the sexual minority population as of 2019 identified as asexual.

The asexuality spectrum spans from asexual people who never have sex to those who often have sex, and everything in between. This includes asexual people who do not engage in any sexual activity, like sex-averse and sex-repulsed asexuals, and sex-favorable asexuals who enjoy having sex for any number of reasons but don’t feel sexual attraction. Sex-neutral asexuals are indifferent about sex. While they

don’t feel sexual attraction, sex itself is neither overwhelmingly positive nor negative.

“In that same vein, aromantic people do not experience romantic attraction,” senior Sara Riso said. “That can vary in levels in the same way that asexuality does.”

Senior Danae Rupp is sex-favorable asexual and grayromantic, meaning they only feel romantic attraction in certain situations. They are also pansexual.

“But I just say queer because it’s easier,” Rupp said.

Riso is sex-averse asexual. They are also biromantic, meaning they feel romantic attraction to people of multiple genders.

“I feel like every time I come out to someone, I have to give them a vocabulary lesson,” Riso, a linguistics major, said. “I have to be a walking dictionary.”

Having a place where Riso can talk openly about their sexuality without worrying about what others do and don’t know about the identity is why they joined Ace Space.

The discussion group is a place University of Maryland students on the asexual and aromantic spectrums can



SARA RISO, a senior Linguistics major, on McKeldin Mall on March 1, 2022. JORDYN SALOW/THE DIAMONDBACK

share experiences and get to know the university’s ace community. This year, it’s facilitated by Riso and Rupp.

For freshman Heather Cragg, the group helps with feelings of exclusion.

“Often, you do feel left out because you’re not on the same page with being sexually active like other college students are,” the psychology major said.

The hookup culture prevalent on college campuses can affect multiple kinds of relationships, Cragg said. During her first year at this university, she experienced many platonic relationships where romantic interest eventually blossomed.

“It drives me away from trying to make any kind of relationship,” she said. For Rupp, hookup culture is a benefit. “There’s more room to decide what level of commitment you want,” they said.

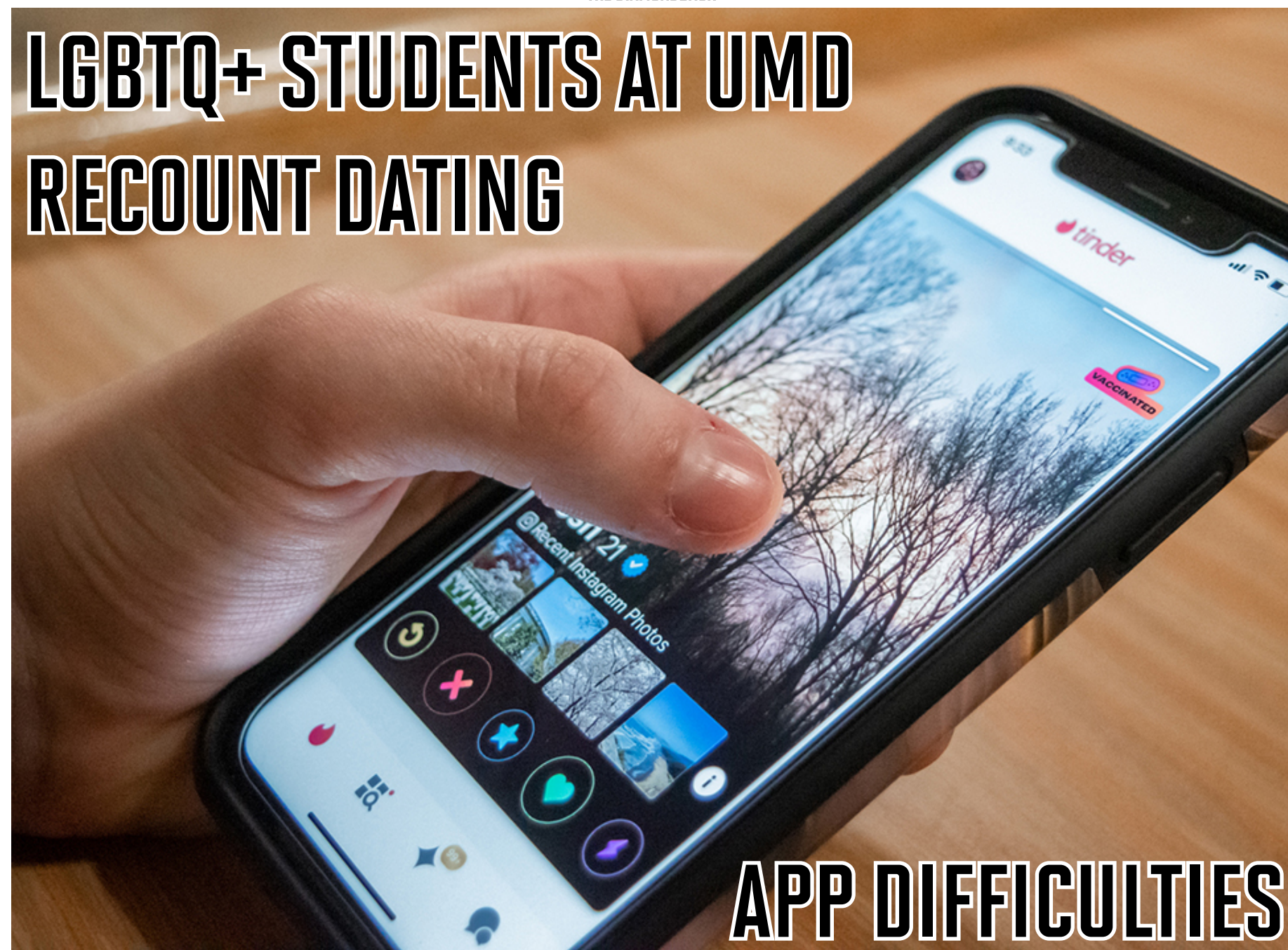
While Riso and Niska didn’t have personal experience with hookup culture, they both found their pursuit of romantic relationships affected by their asexuality.

“[Dating] doesn’t feel worth it.” Riso said. “I don’t want to go into a potentially romantic situation knowing that I may have to give the other person a TED talk about my sexuality.”



HEATHER CRAGG, a freshman Psychology major, on McKeldin Mall on February 28, 2022. JORDYN SALOW/THE DIAMONDBACK

# LGBTQ+ STUDENTS AT UMD RECOUNT DATING



A STUDENT scrolls through Tinder profiles. AUTUMN HENGEN/THE DIAMONDBACK

By Jenna Bloom | @jennabloom | Staff writer

For LGBTQ+ individuals, approaching other queer people on the University of Maryland’s campus can be intimidating, leading many to turn to apps such as Tinder, Bumble or Grindr in pursuit of a relationship or hook-up.

Following the installation of these apps, students have mixed feelings about the success of their experiences.

“It’s definitely been difficult,” Grace Milliman said regarding their dating app usage.

They explained the struggle of escaping the classic ‘you’re so pretty’ cycle that occurs in wlv, or woman-loving-woman, interactions, where two users will compliment one another but then never speak again.

“I feel like a lot of queer people are just very scared of being awkward, saying the wrong thing,” the sopho-

more family science major explained. “So instead, they just don’t, they just don’t do anything at all. And I get it, I do the same thing, but we need to trust ourselves.”

Despite the desire to use online methods of meeting people, sometimes the most meaningful relationships are still formed face-to-face. Milliman echoed this sentiment, recounting a recent experience that happened in one of their classes.

“This girl just approached me in lecture and now we’re hanging out. I didn’t expect that to happen,” Milliman said, adding it worked better for them to simply exist on the campus than seek out a relationship online.

Other students feel as if dating apps have served as an appropriate substitute for in-person methods, noting the

difficulty of meeting other queer students in public places.

“CP bars aren’t the greatest place to find other queer people and especially express interest [in them],” senior Joey Ward said.

The international business and operations management and business analytics major added to this, explaining an experience he had freshman year.

“There had been times where I had approached other guys at the bar and one time ... everybody had something to say walking past us,” Ward said. “And this was freshman year, that’s very foundational to how I feel about approaching people in bars.”

Ward said he feels that “a greater portion of their connections that [queer students have] made romantic

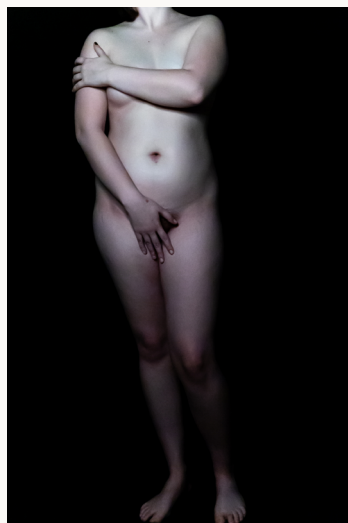
or sexually have been made through dating apps,” while “straight people kind of have a little bit more privilege in being able to go into a lot of public places and be able to make those connections.”

Although there are resources on the campus for queer students to interact, “not a lot of people go to them,” freshman Abigail Hawtof said.

They noted her go-to method of meeting people is through mutual friends, adding that dating apps are difficult to keep up with.

“People aren’t super responsive even after you match,” the psychology major said. “It’s also kind of difficult to tell other people’s intentions even if you make your own clear.”





"Your body's always beautiful, everybody's body always has been."



"I'm very comfortable with my body and I'm very thankful that I've been able to find that."



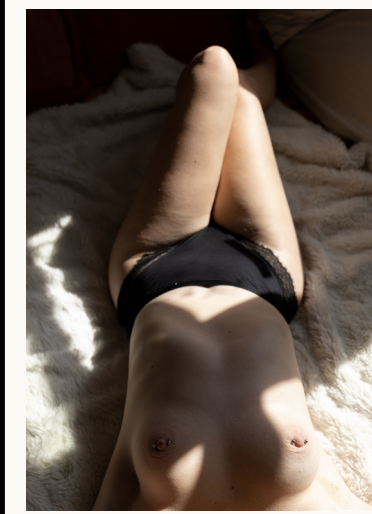
"Nothing about me is white-passing. Things like body hair. Mine is dark, it's black, you can see it, it's not invisible like a lot of white women's body hair, has been a huge sticking point for myself for a long time."



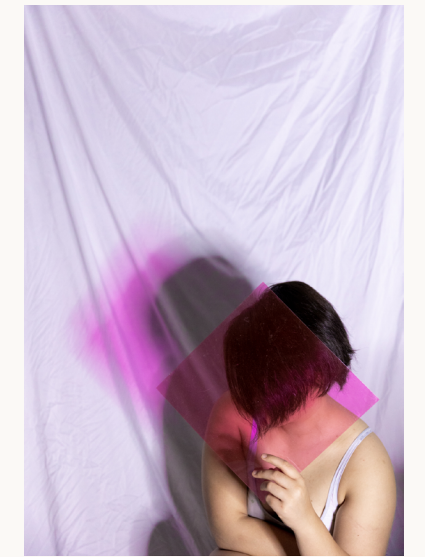
"Before my breast reduction I was a DDD before that and I am like a pretty short person... I was always really bothered by how I looked because I didn't really think I looked proportional and because a lot of people liked to use me for how my boobs were and didn't really like me as a person. So that kind of changed the way I look at sex, specifically with men."



"There will be somebody sexually compatible with you somewhere on this campus."



"Be who you are because you're a baddy."



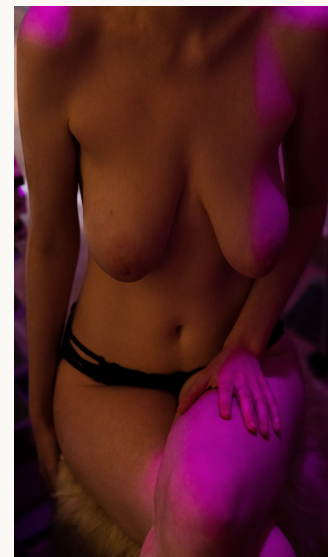
"Sometimes I'm a bit uncomfortable because I know I'm overweight."



"Desire: that just feels like a very primal feeling to me. I don't think there's really much logic to it."



"It's been a challenge to accept my body."



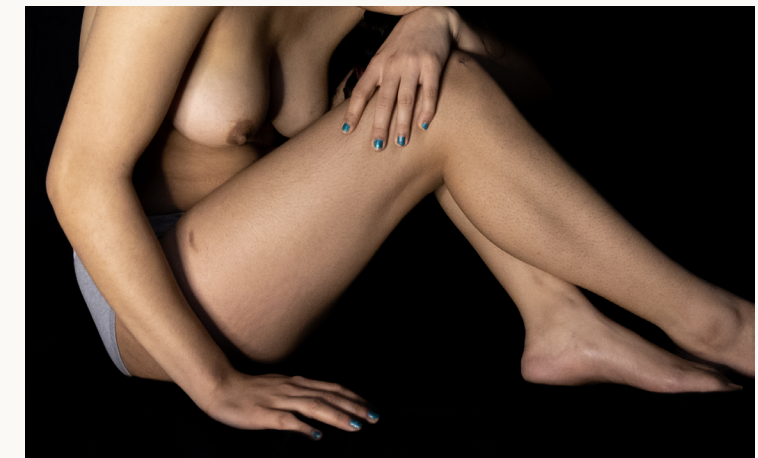
"Try to take a step back and look at your body for what it is and not for the things people tell you it should be."

# IN THE NUDE

Photography by Julia  
Nikhinson (@julianikhinson)  
Assisted by Rosa Pyo  
(@RosaPyo)



"I don't mind changing in front of people."



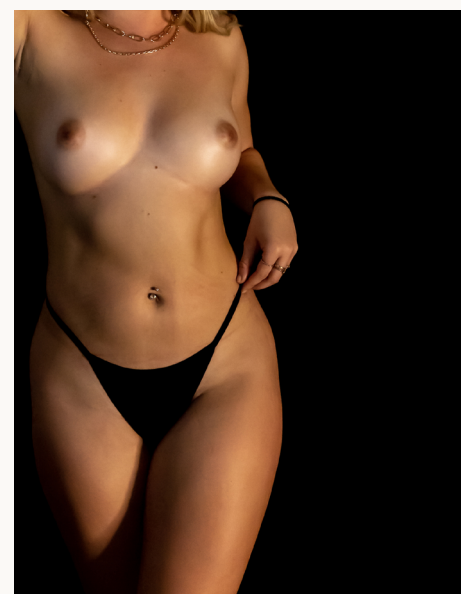
"When I was younger, I think nudity was more taboo for me, because of the social fact of it, but as I grew up it stopped making too much sense why it should be taboo."



"Use a condom."



"For most of my life I've had a struggle with body image. I was involved with dance a lot so it was a lot of looking at your own body and getting dressed and undressed around other people."



"I'm very comfortable with my body and I'm very thankful that I've been able to find that."



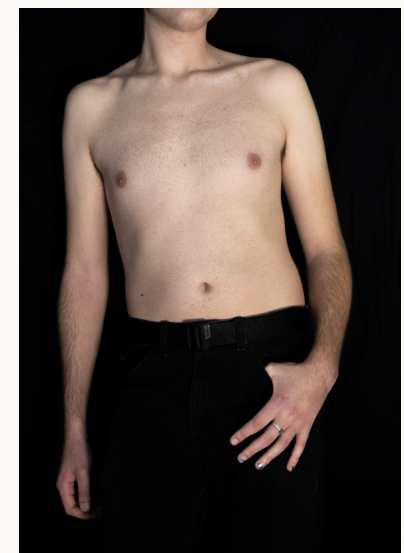
"For a while in my life, I didn't feel connected to my body and that was mainly because, being trans, I kinda grew up into 'you had to be a woman' type of thing and that was very tough."



"Don't think too much about it, don't worry too much about it, most of your insecurities are in your head."



"For me, sex is more mental than physical. For me it's important to be able to connect with somebody."



"I'm a trans woman, so that kinda right away complicates by relationship with my body and sex, but I also feel kinda lucky that I am pretty comfortable with my body."



# TIPS FOR TAKING NUDES

How to get creative while taking suggestive selfies.

By Julia Nikhinson | @julianikhinson | Photo editor

Taking nudes can be intimidating, especially if you've never done it before. So here are seven easy tips to help you get started:

## 1. Choose a space you are comfortable in

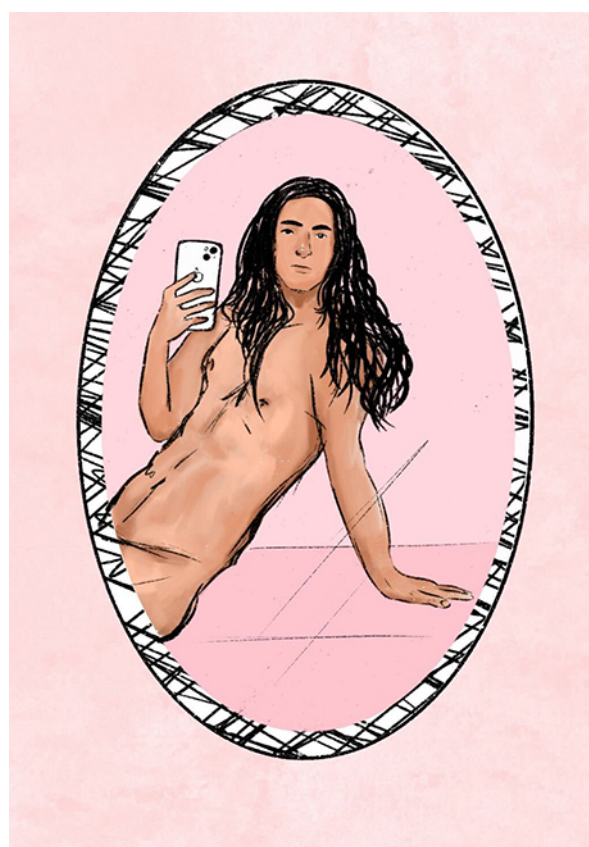
Chances are, unless you're used to taking nudes, you'll feel a little out of your element at first. This is why choosing a space you are comfortable with is key. I personally like my bathroom since there's plenty of mirrors, light, places to sit and walls to lean on.

## 2. Lighting is everything

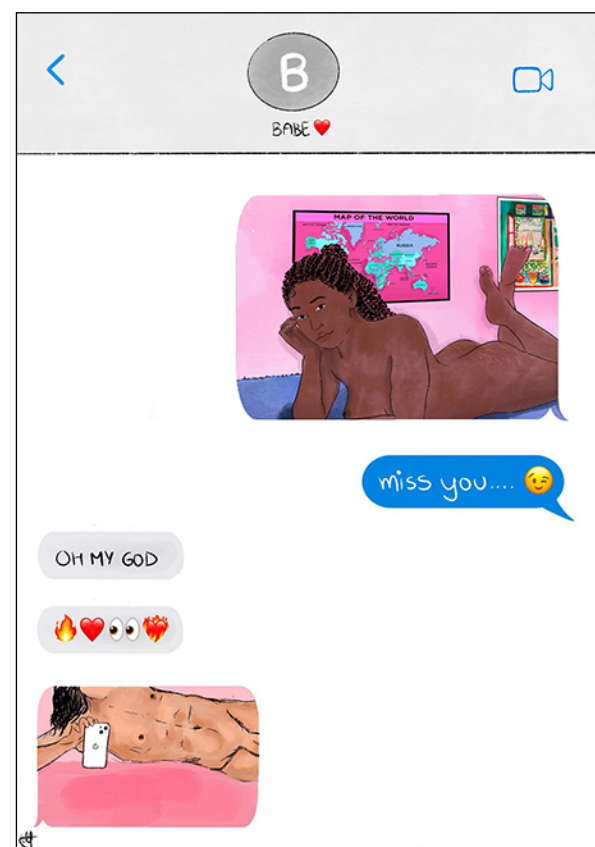
You'll quickly find out that good lighting can make or break a nude. There's no need to get fancy here, since I'm assuming most people don't have ring lights and oodles of lighting devices on hand. I prefer natural light coming in from the side, but experimenting with how light hits your body is important. Of course, you'll often find yourself taking nudes when natural lighting isn't available. In this case I would try to make your space as bright as possible. Using your phone's flash is OK too.

## 3. A mirror (or multiple) is your best friend

For most full body shots, you'll want to use a mirror because, you know, full body shots. I like using a full length mirror that I can move around. My bathroom also has several mirrors above the sinks, which allow for many options when it comes to angles. With mirrors, you can get the traditional full front shots, lean on the sink counter and get above the hips shots, as well as getting some photos of your back-side reflecting in the mirror.



CLARA LONGO DE FREITAS/THE DIAMONDBACK



CLARA LONGO DE FREITAS/THE DIAMONDBACK

## 4. Experiment with different positions

Just because it's not the "traditional" photo, doesn't mean you shouldn't go for it. Don't feel like you have to stay standing — try sitting on the floor (make sure it's clean and warm) or on a counter or bathtub ledge. Try touching parts of your body. Basically, experiment.

## 5. Don't be afraid to crop

Not all nudes have to be of your entire body. Feel free to zoom in on certain parts you want to highlight or crop.

## 6. You don't have to be completely naked

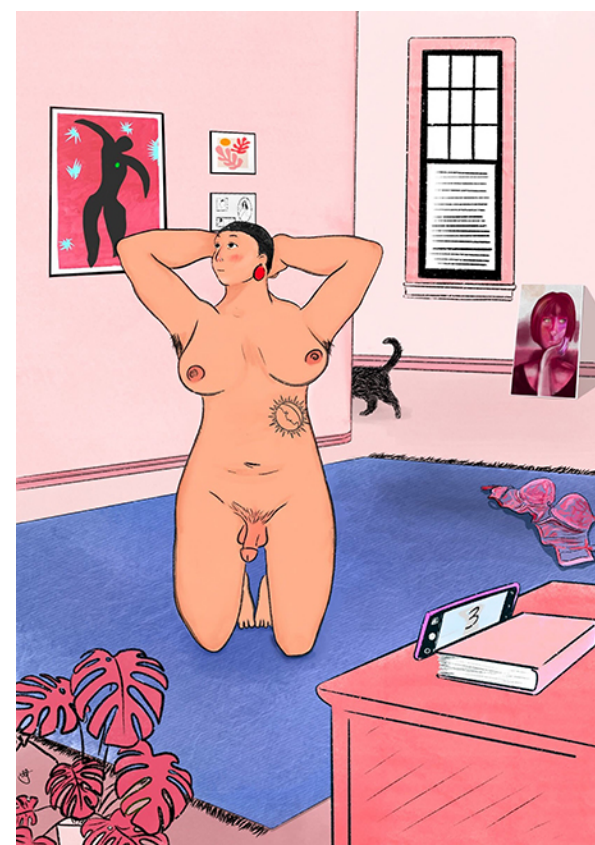
Yes, I know this is a guide on how to take nudes, but these are your nudes and if you don't want to be completely nude, you don't have to be. Try experimenting with different lingerie and undergarments. Try wearing bottoms and no top (or the other way around).

## 7. Having fun and practicing is key

As with anything, practice makes perfect. It will take time to figure out what works best for you and your body. Most importantly, don't take this too seriously and have fun. Finally, remember that nudes don't have to be for anyone other than yourself. Just because you felt good about your body and wanted to take some photos, doesn't mean you're obligated to send them.



CLARA LONGO DE FREITAS/THE DIAMONDBACK



CLARA LONGO DE FREITAS/THE DIAMONDBACK



TANEEN MOMONI/THE DIAMONDBACK

Whether in a long-distance relationship or engaging in COVID isolation, here are a few tips on how to keep sexting sexy.

By Clara Niel | @clarasniel | News editor

NOTE: only engage in this activity with people you trust.

Ah, sexting...

It is the modern love poem. It is Jack sketching Rose's nude body in Titanic but on a phone and not on a boat, unless you want it to be.

Sexting has taken the world by storm and for good reason. It's sexy — if done right — especially if you want to maintain a little bit of spice in a long distance relationship.

Sexting can be broken down into two categories: nudes and the written word. Sometimes, you can even have some fun and combine the two.

When it comes to writing out a spicy text, people might be nervous about what to say. They don't want to sound dumb or say the wrong thing. But as it is in everything, confidence is also what is key.

Sexting should come rather naturally. You don't want to jump from 0 to 100 in a conversation. Instead, you want to start of slow and let the other person know that you're thinking

of them in a sexual context. Assuming you know this person also thinks of you in the same way, things should naturally progress from there.

As things get more intense, don't be afraid to get specific. Tell them what you want to do to them or what you want them to do to you. Play off each other and let them know when they say something that gets you excited. Communication is obviously key here, and sexting can also be a great way to express what you want in the bedroom without actually asking for it.

But you can also use surprise to your advantage. As your lover is going about their day, you can send them a text, as spicy as you want, out of nowhere. Just make sure they aren't screensharing their presentation on Zoom.

On that same token, be somewhat cautious when you engage in these activities. Surprising your person with a sultry text can be great, but you don't want to send it to the wrong person. Also, be aware of the people around you, because you don't want them to see what you might be writing or receiving.

All of these apply when you start dabbling in the visuals as well — but there are some more stakes when it comes to taking and sending nudes.

We live in a day and age where nudes can be sent anywhere on any app. Snapchat is usually a fan-favorite since photographs or videos disappear after you send them. However, your partner may ask if they can screenshot and keep the photo or want to screen record something you send.

So, set your boundaries. If you do not feel comfortable with another person having an intimate content of you, do not feel bad saying so. If you don't mind, or are okay with them keeping certain things, they should respect those decisions. Additionally, make sure that the person you are sending photos to is someone you trust and that they consent to receiving pictures or videos from you.

When it comes to taking nudes, there are truly no rules. Figure out your body and maybe even take some time to experiment yourself. Take pictures of yourself and try different

angles. Try putting on something that makes you feel sexy.

Try taking pictures in the mirror and use the phone to hide your face or show only a little of it. You can also use flash — that way, it hides your face for more mystery but accentuates everything else. For full body pictures, you can try using a timer so you can also see what you look like and pose the right way.

You also don't have to show everything in the nude to make it sexy. Something can always be conveniently placed, such as a towel or even an emoji you can paste on top, to hide the area that the other person might really want to see. Don't be afraid to tease and build that sexual tension.

Like with written nudes, if you have a back-and-forth in the works, try asking for what you want to see and hype the other person up. People should feel good when they're being physically vulnerable and know that they're sexy.

As always, have consent, feel confident and don't sext and drive.



# THE SEXY TIME SOUNDTRACK

By Ella Sherman | @ellajsherman | Managing editor

Here's the 54 minute soundtrack for making love, getting lucky, the horizontal mamba or whatever you call the deed — available on Spotify.

1. **Ivy** - Frank Ocean
2. **Flow** - Sade
3. **Ugotme** - Omar Apollo
4. **Make Out in My Car** - Moses Sumney, Sufjan Stevens
5. **Girl (Feat. KAYTRANADA)** - The Internet, KAYTRANADA
6. **Violet** - Daniel Caesar
7. **Show Me How** - Men I Trust
8. **LSD** - A\$AP Rocky
9. **Skin** - Dijon
10. **When You're Smiling And Astride Me** - Father John Misty
11. **Baby** - Tei Shi
12. **Computer Luv (Feat. Stev Lacy)** - Ravyn Lenae, Steve Lacy
13. **In Your Eyes** - BADBADNOTGOOD, Charlotte Day Wilson
14. **Texas Sun** - Khruangbin, Leon Bridges

# FROM THE 'WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE' TO 'YIKES,' HERE ARE YOUR ANONYMOUS SEX STORIES

Edited By Daryl Perry and Harper Lawson  
Illustrations By Taneen Momeni and Clara Longo de Freitas

"My first time, the guy was wearing a CAPE. Not only before; during. That's the story."



"THE GUY WAS WEARING A CAPE"

"I uh... had sex with a mask on. #covidsafe"



"# COVIDSAFE"

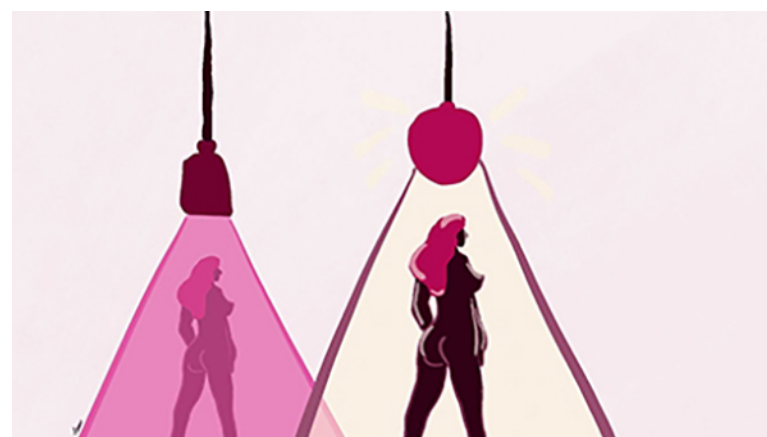


"Dude put on Scary Story 3."

"I can confirm that, at least from my own experience, the 'people having sex in McKeldin Library' thing is not just a rumor."

"I have sex with my hand all the time, it's lonely out here."

"One time I was making out with this dude when my nose started bleeding all over his face while I'm on top of him. For some reason, I didn't see that as a sign that I should put my shirt back on and go home. He said he wanted to put on some music, played my ex-girlfriend's terrible indie music. [He] said my head game brought him closer to God. When he saw I was upset afterward he gave me a Pez dispenser then I went home and realized I'm a lesbian."

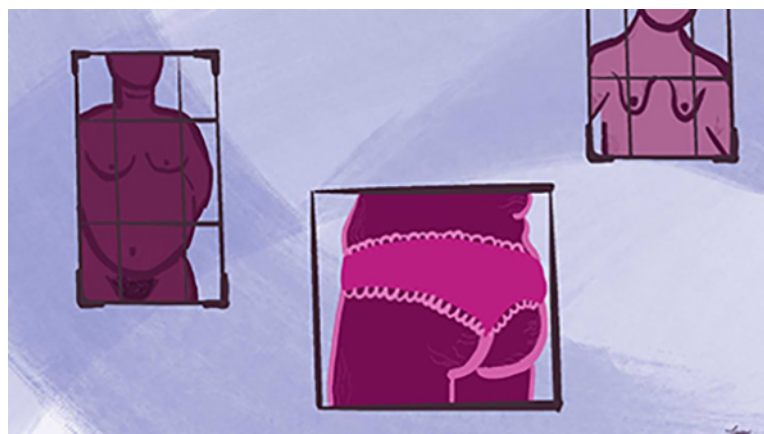


"Proud virgin."

"All I will say about it is this: the in-public-bar-scene-make-outs have ALWAYS been better than what happens once we make it back to the bedroom."

"F\*ck twin beds."

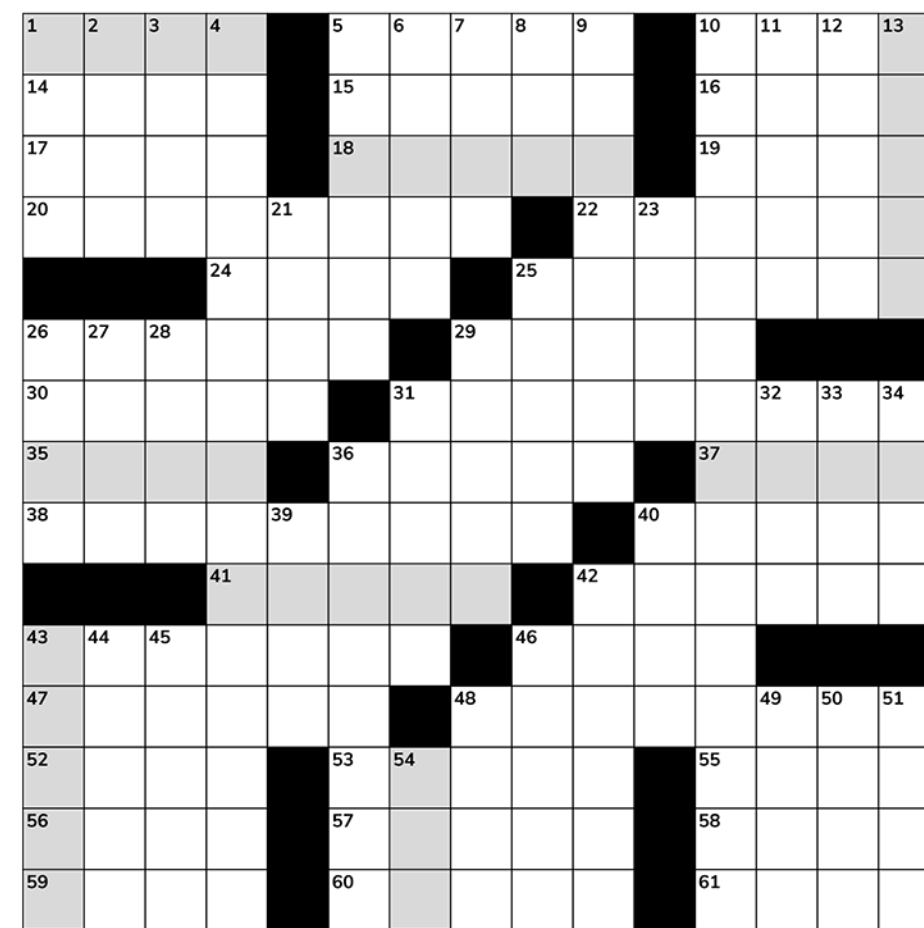
"I got a minor concussion from being rode and having my head repeatedly slammed against the wall."



## Do It Another Way

By Khushboo Rathore | @kboorath | Staff writer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Loud noise
  - 5 Fox of "Transformers"
  - 10 Groups of rels.
  - 14 Potatoes, on Indian menus
  - 15 Adult insect
  - 16 Slanted type: Abbr.
  - 17 Caramel candy brand
  - 18 Threaded fastener
  - 19 Speed contest
  - 20 Wraps like a baby
  - 22 African tree
  - 24 Canadian Indian
  - 25 Prepare to pounce
  - 26 Clobbered
  - 29 Consumer advocate Ralph
  - 30 Give permission
  - 31 Opposite of eternally
  - 35 Execute perfectly
  - 36 Copier supply
  - 37 Carpet type
  - 38 Pitched horizontally
  - 40 Hindu deity
  - 41 Break into pieces
  - 42 Most likely
  - 43 Self-\_\_\_ turkey
  - 46 Move large loads of
  - 47 Deed holders
  - 48 Gas \_\_\_\_\_
  - 52 Composer Stravinsky
  - 53 Humanitarian agency created by JFK
  - 55 What may go on kitchen floor
  - 56 Infamous Roman emperor
  - 57 Singer Reese
  - 58 Dutch cheese
  - 59 Boat's backbone
  - 60 Where a .xlsx file may open
  - 61 Depend (on)
- DOWN**
- 1 Taverns
  - 2 Keep \_\_\_ profile
  - 3 The Big Easy
  - 4 HDL, familiarly
  - 5 Fooled
  - 6 Game show presenter
  - 7 Needlefish
  - 8 Grow
  - 9 "Hardly a surprise"
  - 10 Things worn at a gun range
  - 11 Sharp as \_\_\_
  - 12 \_\_\_ Picchu
  - 13 Catch some Z's
  - 21 picked
  - 23 Drink at 1 Down
  - 25 ctrl+s
  - 26 Prohibits
  - 27 Jai \_\_\_
  - 28 Used a firehouse pole
  - 29 Singer Cherry
  - 31 Chinese menu phrase
  - 32 Buckeye
  - 33 Character from Jessie
  - 34 Actor Richard
  - 36 Bleed
  - 39 Mideast bigwig
  - 40 Feng \_\_\_
  - 42 Birkenstock
  - 43 Rubbery sound effect
  - 44 "Shucks!"
  - 45 May annoy a partner out of bed
  - 46 Selassie of Ethiopia
  - 48 Math subj.
  - 49 Ebbs and flows
  - 50 Israeli airline
  - 51 His name isn't Ratatouille
  - 54 What the highlighted squares are all euphemisms for



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# UMD STUDENTS TURN TO DATING APPS TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS AMID PANDEMIC

Almost two years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, students turn to dating apps to meet new people on campus

By Michelle Larkin | @michelleginju | Staff writer



TANEEN MOMENI/THE DIAMONDBACK

After feeling isolated and unable to socialize on the University of Maryland's campus due to COVID-19, Richard Nguyen turned to Tinder to connect with other students.

Nguyen, a sophomore marketing major, got admitted to this university while COVID-19 was a fairly new concern. He said his loneliness and inability to connect with anyone on the campus led him to use Tinder, even if it ran the risk of connecting with someone who had COVID-19 or was unvaccinated.

"I was very lonely for an entire year," he said. "I was willing to take that risk."

He met another student, sophomore information science major Brooke Morgan, on Tinder last January. They talked for a couple of days online before having their first in-person date at Nguyen's house, but said they had to establish mutual trust and be on the same page when it came to

COVID-19 before anything happened.

"We both knew that this pandemic was a really serious thing and people are getting sick, and people are dying," Nguyen said. "We did everything in our power to stay safe, and so at that point we were willing to take that risk to meet each other."

The university recently announced that students, staff and faculty must wear KN95 masks in classrooms, and some events are still taking place online. But these safety precautions do not diminish the loneliness among students, Morgan said.

"College-aged kids especially need a lot of social interactions," Morgan said. "We're so used to interacting with people that everyone just wanted to find someone to hang out with."

Nguyen said he noticed a lot of users were not looking for anything serious — instead, they were looking for friends. Some were trying to form casual online friendships

because they were quarantining alone.

Shortly after their first date, Nguyen believed he came in contact with COVID-19 from his sister. He said it was a false positive test, but he still chose to quarantine away from Morgan "out of safety" before meeting up again.

While there is a risk of meeting someone who has COVID-19, some students do not see it as a major concern.

Sebastian Langan, a senior biomedical engineering major, said he met about nine people through Bumble and was never scared of interacting with someone who may have COVID-19. He would've used Bumble regardless if there wasn't a pandemic because it's an easier way to meet others, he said.

"I knew that there was a risk of somebody having it, but I just didn't really feel like the risk of me facing serious health effects was high enough," Langan said.

Tinder emphasizes safety and transparency on its app through specialized profile stickers members can use to advocate for getting vaccinated. These include "Vaccinated," "Vaxing Soon," "Immunity Together" and "Vaccines Save Lives."

While dating applications try to advocate for vaccinations with their users, some students say they can do more and be more adamant about it.

Langan said the best dating apps can do is require users to upload their vaccination cards. Some places, such as this university, already mandate this.

"I can't imagine where I would meet someone [who's] unvaccinated because I only ever talked to people in college," Morgan said. She implied that because most of this university's population is vaccinated, there's less worry when it comes to meeting someone unvaccinated or with COVID-19.

# THE UNOFFICIAL JUSTICE OF PSA UMD

Preventing Sexual Assault addresses the issue of sexual misconduct at the University of Maryland.

By Zoe Pierce | @zoehpierce | Editor in chief



HUNDREDS OF UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND STUDENTS gathered for Preventing Sexual Assault's annual Slut Walk on Oct. 22, 2021. JULIA NIKHINSON/THE DIAMONDBACK

**Content Warning:** This story discusses sexual misconduct.

Stories of sexual misconduct often travel through muted whispers and online gossip in a community. But Preventing Sexual Assault at the University of Maryland isn't satisfied with that — it wants to bring these conversations, which are often about Greek life, to the table.

"More or less every [Greek life] chapter on this campus has something — and it's all shoved under the rug," PSA co-President Rachel Salem said. "And that's something that we really, as an organization, try to prevent from continuing to happen."

The senior management major joined PSA freshman year, around the same time co-President Hailey Chaikin joined. Together, Salem and Chaikin have been working with their team to support sexual assault survivors, organize activist events and hold the university accountable.

In a Sept. 8, 2021, letter posted on PSA's Instagram and addressed to the university's Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Chaikin and Salem wrote about a "lack of accountability that Greek Life chapters have gotten away with time and time again in the context of sexual assault." The letter was a response to accusations of sexual misconduct in this university's Pi Kappa Alpha chapter.

The post went viral in the university community and as a result, Chaikin and Salem received unexpected responses — including threats of legal action against PSA, Chaikin said.

"We were able to navigate all of the unanticipated things that came into our direction, but it certainly

was scary to have written something that was really vulnerable, and be met with getting grief and anger and retaliation," Salem said.

Salem and Chaikin said the letter helped them gain more recognition in the university community and made the university administration take them more seriously but as far as concrete policy changes, Salem feels it's lacking.

"As terms of what has happened since, I'm disappointed to say not a lot," Salem said. "[The recognition is] really important ... But at the same time, no next steps or action items or follow through. And that's really upsetting to me, because what's the point of having these conversations if we're not going to do anything about it?"

Salem believes the number of sexual assaults and rapes at this university are underreported, based on her experience with PSA and considering national statistics on underreporting, which show only 20 percent of sexual assaults of college-age female students are reported.

"I think sentiments like the ones that President Pines disseminated last semester also speak to that and create a really dangerous narrative, honestly," Salem said about this university's President Darryll Pines' previous comments to The Diamondback. "Because when the president of the university doesn't see an issue, it's going to be difficult for other people to take things like swift action on a problem."

In a statement to The Diamondback, Pines said, "Let there be no mistake about how I feel about sexual misconduct. I value every effort we make to create a campus that is free from sexual misconduct. We invest

in this work, and we care deeply about prevention."

Since PSA began in 2015 — after founder and alum McLaine Rich was assaulted her junior year and said then-President Wallace Loh refused to meet with her about campus resources — it has grown to now holding over 15 leadership positions, providing support to countless survivors on this campus. This support comes in different forms, and it varies based on what a survivor needs.

"Obviously there are constraints in terms of how much we really can offer them support, but we also try and get what I would kind of coin 'unofficial justice,' either by offering if they'd like to speak at one of our events or even just attend," Salem said.

PSA does events each semester, including Slut Walk in the fall semester and Occupy Mckeldin in the spring, which will be on April 22 this year. For sophomore criminology and criminal justice major Damiana Colley, her experience at Slut Walk was empowering.

"Even people who weren't survivors or victims of sexual assault were there to support survivors and victims, and they were there to listen to stories, prevention and response tactics," Colley said. "I think it did draw attention, mostly in a good way, which is kind of what the aim of that was."

Colley held a sign during Slut Walk that read, "Don't tell us how to dress, Tell men not to rape." She said the posting of the sign on social media sparked backlash, but also kept the conversation going.

"I feel like exemplified the problem that we were trying to discuss," Colley said. "I felt like that created almost positive discourse because, not only people at UMD but people on my Instagram page, were able to see the effect that this was having."

PSA is working to provide fraternity chapters at this university guidelines on how to prevent and handle instances of sexual assault and misconduct. They also hope to implement education on consent and confidentiality, as well as incentives to attend sexual assault prevention events and fundraisers.

In a statement to The Diamondback, the university said, "[DFSL] and the Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct recently met with fraternity and sorority leaders to discuss and identify ways to foster a culture of respect and one free of sexual misconduct. These conversations are collaborative, action-oriented and ongoing."

Chaikin expressed that while there are limits to what they can do as activists, PSA has played an important role to the ongoing campus conversation on sexual assault on the campus.

"Overall, the university is very reactionary with this stuff," Chaikin said. "And so we're just trying to be as proactive as possible, because it seems like nobody else is."



