

The FAMUAN

The Student Voice of Florida A&M University

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

TheFamuanOnline.com

What's
love
got to do
with it

FAMU EDITION



Charge it to the game: new age dating

The FAMUAN

STAFF

Editor-In-Chief

KYLA HUBBARD

Managing Editor

PAM RENTZ

Lead Lifestyles Editor

CYDNEY ROBINSON

Asst. Lifestyles Editor

KENDALL WILLIAMS

Lead News Editor

DEVANI ALLEN

Asst. ws Editor

DAMARA MONROE

Lead Sports Editor

BRECHÉ DAVALT

Asst. Sports Editor

ZOE HIGHTOWER

Lead Opinions Editor

LEBARON FIELDS

Asst. Opinions Editor

KAILA PRIESTER

Online Editor

MYAH CANDIDATE

Online Editor

CHELSE ROSS-GRIGSBY

Online Editor

CAYLA GOFF

Online Editor

MICAH BARKLEY

Layout Specialist

DERRICK TAYLOR

Layout Specialist

MCKENZIE FAIR

Layout Specialist

ZANTAE COPELAND

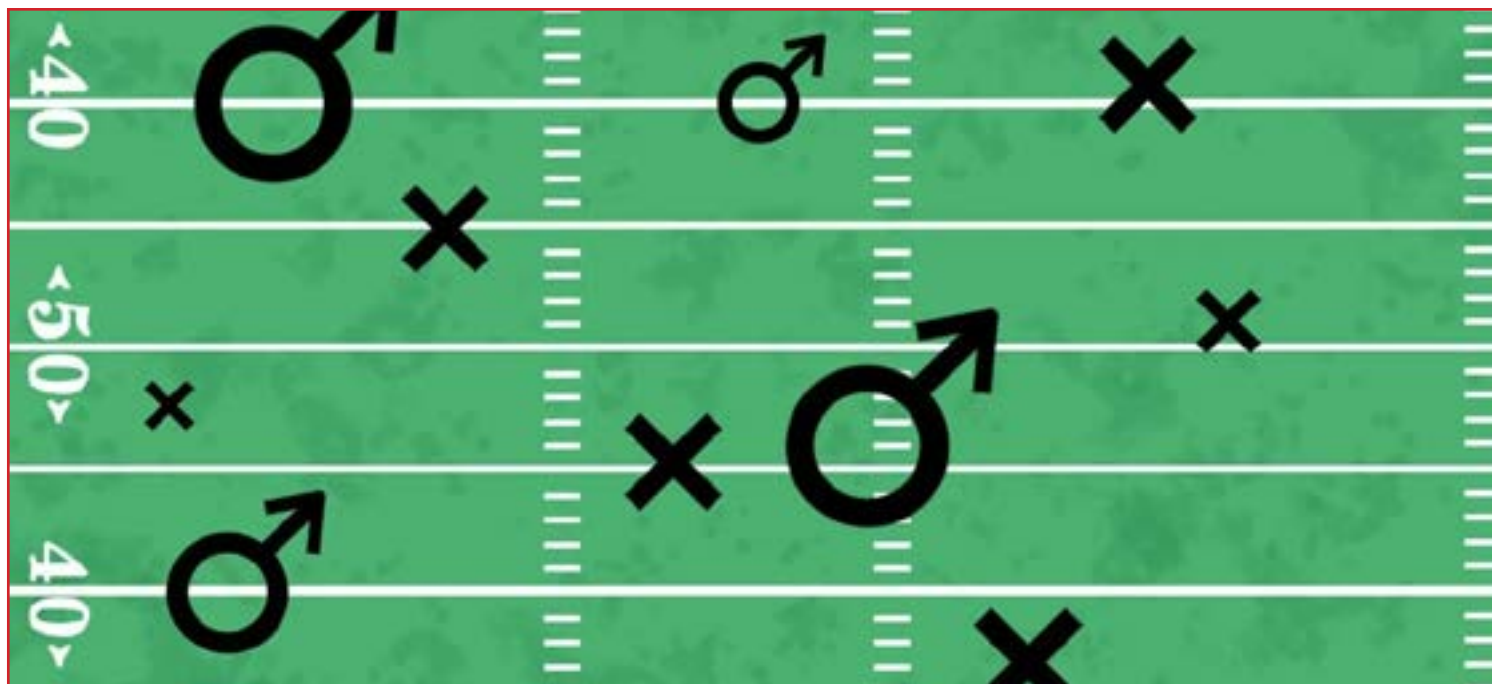


Photo courtesy of the Daily Nebraskan Roster style dating has taken over the dating realm.

Pam Rentz
Managing Editor

In 2023, what are the odds you're on a date with someone exclusively pursuing you and only you? Social media exposes an overwhelming number of beautiful people the world has to offer and dating apps provide the satisfaction of denying people outside of our preference while validating our ego with users that make advancements; it's no wonder the dating scene has drastically changed.

Merely 20 years ago, you would have had to memorize your crush's number and hope that they were near the phone when you dialed them.

Within the Gen Z and Millennial dating culture, members refer to this dating style as "keeping a roster". The act of acquiring a number of individuals that satisfy some romantic or intimate need without solidifying an exclusive relationship with any of them.

The "players" of a roster may vary depending on what the "coach" prioritizes in a partner or what they currently lack in their personal life.

Someone's love language may be tokens of appreciation which would lead them to have a roster of people that don't mind spending money on them. A student-athlete who has a packed schedule may seek players who don't desire to sit on the phone all night but rather someone who can boost their ego and massage their muscles after a game.

While there's a companion for physical intimacy and a partner for late-night chats and reassurance, and maybe even an ex that is working up the currency for a second chance all on the starting lineup, where does that leave the coach in determining who is a single player that makes it to significant another status? Most Valuable Player (MVP), if you will.

Options upon options of gorgeous people from social media are registered by our brains as potential

lovers when they are merely people that are next to a figment of the digital world. Still, these are just beautiful humans with whom we may never cross paths. Moreover, it alters how we view the people we know personally because we've expanded the spectrum available to singles.

Has roster dating diminished genuine monogamous romantic relationships? Of course, there's no harm in avoiding putting all your eggs into one basket, but it's safe to say that having a roster is equivalent to designating each egg's basket.

A significant flaw in this dating style is that the players on said roster are only sometimes aware that they are not the only star players in their life. Of course, it is the coach's responsibility to be as truthful as possible with their intentions with each player, but sometimes the truth seems to slip people's minds.

Some people become so invested in the benefit of having multiple people providing them

with love and affection that they have completely moved away from committing to a single person.

Occasionally, they may become enthralled with one person, but the urgency to assign a label to the relationship is weary because they are comfortable with the option to escape from the connection anytime for whatever reason.

How are people supposed to wholeheartedly commit to someone when they internally have one foot out the door?

There's been a surge in reality dating shows in the last ten years. At first, the main two dating shows were the Bachelor and the Bachelorette. But now, there's Love is Blind, Too Hot to Handle, The Circle, Married at First Sight, and 90 Day Fiancé, to name a few.

The shows' purposes vary from people choosing someone based on similarities without viewing their physical form, building a romantic relationship without being able to

Click link to continue <http://www.thefamuanon->

He posts me, he posts me not

Kaila Priester
Assistant Opinions Editor

With the age of technology growing, there seems to be relationship rules and regulations for Instagram and other social media platforms. Issues arise from relationships, usually going back to social media usage. These problems typically stem from liking inappropriate pictures of the opposite sex, not posting your partner as frequently as they would like and the slew of DMs from people worldwide.

The concept of privacy is one of the reasons why couples do not publish photos of each other on social media. Often, your significant other is not interested in being posted regularly, just to be recognized occasionally. But how can one remain private when everything is published on social media?

Damari Massey, a fourth-year bio premed major, believes that posting on social media is unnecessary if the relationship is healthy.

"Being in a relationship and posting your partner on social media is not important." Massey said. "If they

have a good relationship in person, then everything else is additional. Privacy is peace in today's world."

According to Wandi Jama, a journalist at News24.com, a study published in the Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, demonstrates that refusing to upload images of your relationship indicates that you usually disconnect and retreat from them.

"An active unwillingness to post pictures of your partner may be a sign that you have an avoidant attachment style," Jama said. "Meaning that you typically withdraw and disengage from your partner regularly, as opposed to giving them the attention they might want."

This may appear to some as a contradictory statement. Privacy in a relationship does not always imply that your partner is attempting to keep you hidden from the rest of the world. You should not seek affirmation from your partner through social network posts. It's better to focus on your real-life connection than on

how it seems online.

These days, every relationship goes through a "double-tapping inappropriate photographs" period. Some couples feel the urge to like indecent photographs of the other sex which usually leaves the other person in the relationship with uneasiness and self-doubt.

Donte Bush, a fourth-year business administration major, understands the ramifications of liking an inappropriate photo of someone who is not his girlfriend. Still, he feels there is no problem because of how social media functions.

"I feel like liking pictures is okay because it's social media," Bush said. "Unless it's a person you have messed with before, I feel like it's okay to like the pictures. However, if my girlfriend said she didn't like it, by all means, I would stop. Only if she lives by the same standard."

Accepting and entertaining DMs might lead to a relationship's demise. There is an art to dealing with an improper DM



Photo Courtesy of Pinterest The debate of posting or not posting your partner can have extreme effects on love.

from someone who is not a part of your relationship. The best course of action is to simply ignore it. Therefore, giving your

Click link to continue: <http://www.thefamuanon->



Tie the knot, not that knot

Kiara Scott
Staff Writer

The concept of having a soul tie with someone has become a recurring topic on social media. Women and men take to the timeline to vent about their deep connection with their significant other and how this tie is hard to break.

According to brides.com, a soul tie is an intense spiritual connection between two people resulting in a mutual learning experience. This fierce connection typically develops after two people become intimate or romantically involved.

The evolution of soul ties stems from having a soulmate or a twin flame. These mystical connections are rooted in the theory that we are all spiritually connected and our energies are transferable.

Maurice Morten, a fourth-year business administration student, explains that a soul tie is an instant connection between two people.

“I feel like soul ties in a relationship; you know that the person is right for you

from the beginning,” Morten said. “You two naturally click through things you have in common and similar goals.”

Although having this magical connection with a person sounds beautiful and fulfilling, it can also cause people to be blinded by love and stay in relationships that no longer serve them. The dark side of a soul tie can result in people returning to toxic relationships despite knowing that the relationship is tainted.

Tristen Clark, a third-year social work student, describes her experience of having a soul tie with a person as a deep physical attachment that was hard to break.

“I don’t want to say it made me crazy, but it was like a form of attachment,” Clark said. “I want to be in their presence and always want to be in conversation with them. Things that they’re doing or that other people are doing to them affect me even when they shouldn’t.”

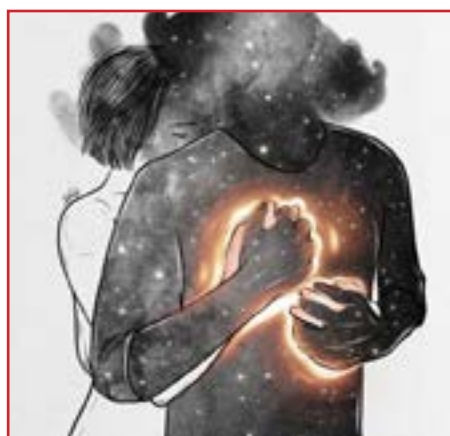


Photo courtesy of @muhammedsalah on Instagram
Soul ties can make or break a relationship.

There are many theories on how to break a soul tie. Some say you have to do spiritual rituals or a tarot card reading; others believe you have enough willpower to distance yourself from that person gradually.

Clark believes that the best way to heal from this deep connection is to detach from the individual completely, “It”’s a mental thing; you must think of mind

over matter. You have to now that you don’t want any parts of this situation and distance yourself from the person.”

With any theory, there are believers and nonbelievers. The skeptics can’t seem to wrap their heads around two souls colliding and forming a bond over sex or intimate acts.

Brandon Love, a first-year MBA candidate, said he is apprehensive about the concept of having a soul tie.

“I don’t see how sex ties two souls together,” Love said. “Are your souls solely based on sex? Because if that is the case, then I guess your soul wasn’t doing much before you had sex.”

Whether good or bad, a soul tie is a learning experience for both parties. It is essential to keep in mind that every relationship is not meant to last forever. By maintaining that mindset, you can better

[Click link to continue: http://www.thefamuanon-](http://www.thefamuanon-)

The experience of not experiencing love

Kelis Scott
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Kelis Scott
There is a large percentage of single people who haven’t experienced love.

The aroma of chocolates in heart-shaped boxes and rose petals that have fallen from their stems flows through one’s nose, signifying that love is truly in the air.

But, what is love? Is it emotional? Is it physical? To those who have experienced it, the answers vary from heart to heart. But what about those who haven’t experienced that heart flutter or butterflies swarming in their stomach?

For those who haven’t, it makes one feel empty, leaving them with nothing but a craving, a hole that wants to be filled with the feeling of being the apple of someone’s eye, the center of someone’s universe.

A hole that sits in the middle of my own heart. One that I can’t fill with all the laughter and snacks in the world.

In high school, I thought I wasn’t seen as someone “loveable” to guys at my school because of how I presented myself with my appearance. But then again, high school kids were only looking to make out and get the right to say that they have a significant other. So it wasn’t as heavy on my mind as it was when I got to college.

In college, I saw people dating long-term and even some getting engaged a few months to a year after graduating. That’s when it started to bother me that I hadn’t experienced this feeling of adoration and love for someone else and someone vice versa for me.

That feeling from high school started to resurface, the feeling of invisibility. While this may be a cool power to have for some, this isn’t a comic book and I’m not a superhero.

Seeing couples walking across campus together, taking cute pictures on social media together, made the longing in my heart worse and worse. There were so many questions that swarmed my mind: Was I not attractive? Did I not have a personality that made someone attracted to me?

Whenever I tried to solve these questions, it was always the same answer of “you need to put yourself out there” or “maybe you just haven’t found the one yet,” but at the same time, how else could you put yourself out there on a college campus?

What if trial and error is the only way that I find “the one?”

I may not have all the answers now and [Click link to continue: http://www.thefamuanon-](http://www.thefamuanon-)



- ♥ Determine a time for your date ♥
- ♥ Stop by the beauty calendar and pick up a new lipstick ♥
- ♥ Plan ahead your outfit ♥
- ♥ Create a card or pick up a thoughtful one ♥
- ♥ Cook his favorite meal & bake his favorite dessert ♥
- ♥ Set the mood with lighting candles everywhere ♥
- ♥ Write your 10 favorite things about him and share with him ♥
- ♥ Exchange gifts or chocolates ♥
- ♥ Play a board game to switch up your nightly routine! ♥
- ♥ End the night telling him how much he means to you and with a kiss! ♥



This woman’s work

Devani Allen
Lead News Editor

Who comes to mind when you think of unconditional love? For me, it’s my mom and grandma. Growing up with an absent father, my mother and grandmother worked twice as hard to make sure I never lacked or wanted for anything. These two women are some of the most selfless individuals that I know and I’m sure there are countless other Black women who play this role for others.

All Black mothers, biological or not, deserve their flowers this Valentine’s Day, and every day after that.

I distinctly remember waking up in bed with my grandmother every morning, while my older sister and brother got ready for school. When they left with my mom, it was just the two of us for the rest of the day. Not only did my grandma watch me all day, but she quit her job as

a nurse to make sure I was properly cared for and didn’t have to go to a babysitter.

It is because of my grandma that I became an avid reader at such a young age. By the time I was two, I was reading books to my grandma and was more than prepared for preschool. Every day, my grandma made sure I watched Barney and learned about being kind to others and Arthur and his friends while eating whatever she made for lunch. This routine became so comfortable that when it was time for my first day of school, I cried uncontrollably because I didn’t want to leave the comfort of my home.

While my grandma watched me at home, my mom was at work creating wealth for our family. When I got older and began to visit my mom’s job, I realized what an impact she was making not only

in my life, but in the lives of others as she was serving her city and implementing plans to make the Black community stronger. Even to this day, my mom eats, breathes and sleeps work, and although it can be frustrating at times, one of the things I admire most is her dedication to making our community better one day at a time.

Like any other relationship, things aren’t always perfect. I sometimes disagree with the things my parents want for my life, but I listen because they only want what’s best for me. Starting college was difficult for me, because the life I had imagined for myself since I was 13 wasn’t happening, and for the first year of

[Click link to continue: http://www.thefamuanon-](http://www.thefamuanon-)



Photo courtesy of Devani Allen
A lifetime of maternal love shines bright on Valentine’s Day.

No sex, just chocolates; celibacy in 2023

Kendall Williams
Assistant Lifestyle Editor

With Valentine’s Day approaching, sex becomes an even bigger topic of conversation and on the campus of Florida A&M University, hook-up culture is on the rise. The idea of being a virgin or actively practicing celibacy is often a short-lived topic. Many look to the upcoming holiday as a day of love, gifts and glorified sexual obligations. To some FAMU students, more is valued than intimacy and there are other ways to celebrate the ones you love.

In today’s society, especially on a college campus, you can get a sexual partner at the same speed as a delivery service, whether that be with someone you’re in a relationship with or a ‘sneaky link.’ Having a sexual partner and sometimes even multiple is second nature to many.

Despite sliding in the DM’s or “shooting your shot,” more and more students are not having sex for a variety of reasons.

Kobe Buggs, a second-year political science student, states there is no specific reason he chooses not to have sex. He believes in true connection and doesn’t let outside pressure from others stir his core beliefs.



Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock
FAMU students find new ways to celebrate February 14th

“I don’t feel the urge to have sex. I like to have an emotional and mental connection with my significant other or anyone before taking that huge step which I deem is something valuable,” Buggs said. “I believe in soul ties and that intimacy could in fact create a healthy or toxic relationship. I used to feel pressure from society as a black man, but some guys never think of what they’re doing to their partners outside of just intimacy.”

While others practice celibacy for protection against soul ties, some partake with aspirations of personal development and happiness, another FAMU student found that celibacy led her to a new height of self-discovery.

“Once you share your body with

someone, they become a priority to you whether you like it or not. Not having sex makes it much easier to make yourself your own priority and create a more intimate connection with yourself and others,” a FAMU student said. “After my last relationship, I discovered myself outside of being sexual and found a love for my own emotional intelligence. I gained more discipline, which led me to become more productive overall.”

It’s no surprise that men often expect sex from women and Valentine’s Day makes this no different. Students who are celibate have found other creative ways to enjoy the holiday and make those around

[Click link to continue: http://www.thefamuanon-](http://www.thefamuanon-)

The 14th is for men too

Kandon Fears
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock
Woman gives her significant other a gift

Since the dawn of time men have been looked down upon for showing emotional vulnerability. They have been scolded for expressing their feelings and many are taught at a young age that it is a sign of weakness.

Even with all the progression modern day society has made the world continues

to equate emotionally forthcoming men with femininity. Nowadays it is mainly done by women on popular social media apps such as twitter and it is typically disguised in trendy terms such as “sassy” and “zesty”. It is done to make men feel less than, but young adult men are pushing back and one way they are doing it is through Valentine’s Day.

18 year old Myles Anothony Johnson of Claflin University feels as if society has done a disservice to men by desensitizing them from the festivities of February 14th. In an interview he passionately explains how he feels as a society we are taught “only the women deserve love, only the women deserve gifts” on holidays such as valentines day. Myles believes love should extend both ways. He goes as far as saying that he wants to be taken out

and splurged on.

When asked if men have been neglected on Valentine’s day in specific he hastily responded “ABSOLUTELY!” He went on to list a slew of examples backing his answer , he says advertisements and websites “cater to women” and push a “for her” agenda.

Although Myles’s point of view is becoming increasingly popular as the years progress, not all men are 100% in agreement. When Jared Holiday of Florida A&M University was asked if he believed men should be pampered on Valentines Day he unenthusiastically explained how he’s “not really looking for anything” and inadvertently gives support to Myles claim when shared that in his environment growing up it was never about the man being “pampered” but more so the

woman.

In any topic of discussion there will always be moderates such as 18 year old Jeremiah Coleman-Smith who is currently in a relationship at Florida A&M University. When asked the same question as Jared he simply says “it should mutual”, but proceeds to add to his claim stating that “as a man, I’m going to go above and beyond,” further asserting gender roles into the love based holiday.

The overall consensus is that all men want some form of appreciation or acknowledgment this Tuesday, some just a bit more than others.

Love me every day like it’s valentine’s day

Cydney Robinson
Staff Writer

Valentine’s Day, the glorified holiday with romance and big gestures is vastly approaching. Greeting card companies profit i ncredibly off this one day, while some relationships are put on the line in a test of love. Even though there are 364 other days in the year, love languages for many are only shown and received on February 14.

Millennials have their traditions to get a hotel room, leave roses on a heart-shaped bed, set out a galore of candles, and buy lots of expensive gifts. This ideal scenario has been pushed into what is mainstream. It’s a commonality for some to go over and beyond regardless of what they are used to in their relationships on any regular day.

The pressures of Valentine’s day are tied to money, status, and nowadays, the

Internet. The day has turned into a media fiasco as people post what their significant other is doing for them.

Imani Johnson, a romantic at heart, is single, but talking to someone. She has a good understanding of financial responsibility when it comes to gift gifting and believes every day is “love day,” including this special day.

“Why are you waiting for a holiday to show your person love and appreciation. Many people feel a certain obligation to do these expensive lavish showings and people look to the Internet for validation.”

“If you can’t give it to your significant other, then why expect it in return. People need to be realistic as far as what they can afford and expectations for gifts,” said Johnson.

Some people don’t expect as much and

often refer to the saying, “it’s the little things that mean the most.”

Mich’aela Wells, a junior, is single and ready to mingle. Her love language is words of affirmation and she appreciates hearing how much someone cares for her, not just on February 14, but all the time.

“Whatever you are doing on Valentine’s Day, you could do it on a regular day. When it comes to Valentine’s Day I don’t really do much.”

“If I was in a relationship, I would want my person to acknowledge the fact that it’s Valentine’s Day with a call,” said Wells.

Showing your partner admiration only on Valentine’s Day is very common with some people. Love is essential in relationships and can be shown every day. Simple gratification is romance in itself.



Photo courtesy of Getty images
A sea of hearts showing the symbol of love.

Without a roadmap

Lebaron Fields
Staff Writer

Diversity and representation are prevalent topics within the media today. There is a yearning for characters from many different walks of life in the narratives shown on screen. Trailblazing shows like Orange is the New Black and The L Word seemed to revitalize conversations about what queer relationships could look like.

Growing up, oftentimes, members of the LGBTQ+ community never saw themselves in the media, let alone out in public. The lack of role models and information available for young queer people reflects society’s stance on the acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community.

During adolescence, many teenagers experience many new journeys in life. This period is a very odd time, especially for members of the LGBTQ+ community. Figuring out who you are as an individual is such a complicated process of deciphering feelings.

A student who identifies as lesbian stated, “It was a challenge trying to get comfortable with myself. Just making that transition was hard, people weren’t doing that at that time. I came out at 15 or 16 and even still I wasn’t dressing how I wanted, talking like I wanted, stuff like that.”

For many members of the LGBTQ+ community, seeing themselves reflected in the media they consume is a powerful form of validation and recognition. It can also help to challenge harmful stereotypes and promote greater understanding and acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals and issues.

An alumna who identifies as lesbian states, “Existing and dating as a queer person without seeing myself reflected in relationships in the media makes me feel invisible and sometimes insecure. It feels like I’m under extreme speculation and judgment in heteronormative spaces but seen and understood in queer spaces.”

Historically, even when seldomly shown on screen, LGBTQ+ representation in the media has been stereotypical and often offensive. LGBTQ+ characters were often depicted as deviant or as comedic caricatures rather than as complex and r people of color and the Black community, who

already don’t often see themselves reflected on screen. All people from different walks of life should be able to see themselves reflected in stories as full characters who experience real-life situations.

A student who identifies as a bisexual man stated, “Growing up you never really saw queer sex on TV, you may have seen queer people kissing each other but that’s it. In more recent times you see really romantic scenes of queer people but never sex scenes, but when it comes to straight people you’ll see both.”

An additional consequence of the LGBTQ+ community lacking societal representation is the inadequate preparation for healthy relationships. Comprehensive sexual education should also include instruction on healthy relationships and consent, which are essential for promoting respect, communication, and healthy sexual experiences. Without this education, individuals may engage in harmful and abusive behaviors.

Hookup culture is very big in the queer community due to the acceptance of the internet. Due to the difficulty of finding and meeting other people in-person, many young adults, straight and queer, rely solely on internet dating sites and apps as their method of initiating dating and, more often, finding sexual partners.

An alum who identifies as a gay man stated, “Because of the hook up culture in the gay community. No one wants to stick around after to get to know the other person and see them outside of the bedroom.”

Misinformation and myths about sex persist in many young adults’ lives due to the lack of education and shared knowledge. In the absence of accurate information, young adults may believe and spread false information about sex and sexuality, leading to confusion and stigma. In the quest for knowledge and understanding, many turn to the inter



Photo courtesy of Netflix
Photo shows characters of Netflix’s show “Orange is the New Black”

4 TIPS FOR A HEALTHY Valentine's DAY

- DON'T SPREAD GERMS, SPREAD LOVE**
Protect yourself and loved ones from colds and flu by washing your hands often, and getting your flu shot.
- EAT HEALTHY**
Have a healthy Valentine's Day meal that includes healthy options; foods low in salt and saturated fat, and limit the sweets.
- PLAN AN ACTIVITY**
Keep your heart pumping by adding in at least 30 minutes of exercise to your day to help reduce your risk of heart disease.
- BE HEART-HEALTHY**
Check in on your heart by knowing your blood pressure and planning a date with your doctor to talk about your heart health.