

One drunken encounter does not a loving relationship make



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"Instead of entering into a self-absorbed quest for gratification, why not try celebrating a good time with friends? A considerable amount of cursing and crying could be avoided if people stopped viewing nights out as a competition, or worse, a way to prove their own attractiveness."

It's a tale as old as time. Girls meet tequila. Boys meet Bud. Girl get drunk. Boy gets drunk. They mingle. She's enchanting, he's charming. They fall in love and live happily ever after. Right? Wrong.

On any given night at many different establishments across this city, friends meet and enjoy each other's company. Men and women overcome awkward memories of junior-high dances by downing drinks only dreamed of at age 13. Hair gets tossed, eyebrows raise and eyes droop seductively. But chances are, if you're looking for romance, you're not in the right place.

We've all been there: suddenly the person who sat behind you in Bio class takes on a new light between highball numbers three and five. Maybe their shirt brings out their eyes—or maybe the dim lighting blurs their otherwise unattractive features. At drink six the small talk evolves into an unprecedented amount in common between the two of you—though this may or not be aided by the fact that you can only hear half the conversation. By the time you feel a hand on your arm, you're smitten by this new life-partner.

Did I say life partner? Try night

partner. While you may feel like you have an amazing connection with the person you're gyrating with to Justin Timberlake, in reality this is probably because neither of you can balance on your own.

Some people can hit the streets looking for love and find what they're looking for. Congratulations, happy couples: have fun telling that story to your 2.5 children.

The rest of the world needs a level-headed approach to socializing that includes realizing their 2am love may not like walks on the beach and just wants to get laid. This is fine if you're up for it, but you won't wake up to breakfast in bed.

For all you hopeless romantics in this world, don't expect to find your plus-one in bars, and if you do find them, lay some serious foundations before you paint castles in the sky. Don't be deluded: while you may not find statistics taped to bathroom doors about the frequency of post-bar relationship sustainability, I assure you that morning-after hangovers are far more common.

Post-bar follow-ups are rare because people are hesitant to get in touch with someone whose name they

might forget. Don't underestimate the paralyzing power of embarrassment either: it will put the breaks on any budding romance brewed with the intoxicating effect of liquid lube.

We centre much of our socializing around kicking back and letting go of inhibitions faster than we close our books at the mention of margaritas. Instead of entering into a self-absorbed quest for gratification, why not try celebrating a good time with friends? A considerable amount of cursing and crying could be avoided if people stopped viewing nights out as a competition, or worse, a way to prove their own attractiveness.

Before you start a year of mind-blowing bar-hopping adventures, take those beer goggles off, brush up on your personal limits, and enter the playing field knowing the rules of the game.

Be safe and have fun. If you're lucky enough to find that special someone, make sure you go out for pizza first; there, under the harsh light of fluorescent reality, you can carefully measure your compatibility.

And remember, before you go out looking for Mr or Ms Right, wear the right shoes—it could be a long, uncomfortable walk in the morning.

Just go with your lobe

When it comes to finding the love of your life, a little bit of common sense will go a long way



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practicality of such things. And while it would be wonderful if your emotions led you straight towards the perfect person, more often than not your hormones will lead you towards that good-looking bitch or asshole (depending on your preference).

As bad as getting into a relationship with a tool is, that's nothing compared to the person who can't bring themselves to leave a crappy relationship because "they're in love." Over and over, these people ignore the opinions of every single person who sees their terrible relationship for what it is because they've over-romanticized the situation, never once stopping to examine it with some semblance of logic and simply fooling themselves instead. People will stay with someone far after the relationship has run its course, clinging to the love that was, never bringing a rational cell in their body to bear on the situation because it's considered a heartless way to approach this sensation of twitterpation.

I'm not saying stop listening to your heart—just use the brain in coordination with it. Chances are, you'll still find that head-over-heels love that makes you skip, prance, dance, and generally grin like you're mentally disturbed all day long. This way, at the end of the day, when someone asks what's so great about this thing you're sharing with your partner, you'll be able to tell of the laughs, discussions, thoughts, emotions, sex and respect that's shared. Don't be an idiot and just say, "We're so in love!"

Just trust your heart? What a croc. How many times have we been subjected to this insulting cliché when watching a movie or TV show, or been so unfortunate as to have a friend tell you as much in a diatribe of useless advice? Chances are, the answer is too many, but for some reason this notion seems to persist in modern romance. Logic has a rightful place within love, and it's high time society accepts it.

This is in no way a slight against romance or love. The pursuit of these goals in life is one of the loftiest journeys one can undertake. The issue here is with love without any thought—blind love. Cupid isn't blind, justice is, and even she weighs things out carefully. If cupid started shooting off arrows eyes shut, it wouldn't turn out funny—it would be an ugly spot.

The biggest problem with the notion that your emotions alone should decide your romantic future is that using logical thought is suddenly considered a heartless way to go about it. Would it make any more sense to decide on your job future through your emotions? There would be a hell of a lot more video game testers out there if this were the case, but obviously people need to look into the

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