

Girls don't need shotgun-wielding fathers to safeguard their virginity



ELIZABETH
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“What disturbs me most is the age of the girls participating in these balls. While some are as old as 25, some of these daughter-brides are as young as four. A four-year-old girl shouldn't know what a penis is, much less where one shouldn't be going outside the sanctity of marriage.”

People, particularly the religious types, have been taking extraordinary measures lately to promote abstinence in these increasingly sexual times. Symbols like abstinence rings and signed contracts of chastity have been popping up around young men and women who have decided to withhold losing their virginity until their wedding night. Which is all well and good, if that's your thing.

But now they've got balls. I don't mean balls in the technical term—although at least half of the participants in these things do possess testicles—and I'm not talking metaphorically about extraordinary courage either, although these people certainly must have some sort of it since they're making this public. And I don't mean it in the way the kids say it either, as in: “Bette Midler is the balls for her performance in *Beaches*.”

No, I'm talking about Purity Balls. Evangelical groups have started holding ceremonies where girls and young women get dressed up, exchange rings and vows with men, and finish off the evening with a classy dinner and dance. This all might sound like a relatively harmless mass wedding—that is, until

you realize that the men they're exchanging vows with are *their own fathers*.

For Purity Balls, girls take their fathers' rings and vow their virginity to their dad until their wedding day, and fathers take their daughters' rings and promise to defend their purity until the day arrives when they exchange vows with someone they don't share common chromosomes with.

Putting your reproductive rights into the hands of your father? How original! That totally isn't a regression to the days when rape was prosecuted as a theft of a father's property rather than an assault against a woman's body. And dressing the ceremony up as a wedding is also a fantastic idea, because now that these girls know what a proper wedding should look like, they'll never make the mistake of accidentally having premarital sex before they throw the bouquet.

Putting my disgust at the pseudoincestuous practice aside, why is this only being performed between fathers and daughters? Why aren't sons promising to remain faithful to their mothers? Oh yeah, because that would mean that a boy's sexual activity would be decided by a

woman. I guess I forgot that all women need direct parental supervision to ensure that they lay off the cock, while their brothers are just out there sowing their wild oats for good times' sake, just like Mother Nature intended.

What disturbs me most is the age of the girls participating in these balls. While some are as old as 25, some of these daughter-brides are as young as four. A four-year-old girl shouldn't know what a penis is, much less where one shouldn't be going outside the sanctity of marriage. Of course, the dad-grooms don't see it as a disturbing, misogynistic form of birth control—they see it as an excellent, Christian way to bond with their daughters, because nothing brings families together like a good old-fashioned cockblock.

I consider myself an observant Catholic, so I'm actually for abstinence until marriage. However, I think we've all arrived at the point where a woman is responsible for her own virginity. Dads, we love you and thank you for loving us, taking care of us, and protecting us, but that doesn't mean we're going to tattoo “Property of Dad: *hands off*” on our bodies.

New wireless system better, faster, stronger

Get out your laptops: surfing the Web around campus is now much easier and more accessible thanks to the University's new and improved wireless service



LUCAS
WAGNER

In case you haven't been by SUB lately—either because you've been holed up in Cameron studying for midterms or you've replaced RATT with Dewey's as your watering hole of choice—crews from Academic Information and Communication Technologies (AICT) have been working for the past few weeks stringing up wires with pretty colours for the creation of the University's new wireless internet service known simply as the University Wireless Service (UWS).

Regular SUB laptopers know how flaky the regular “ualberta wireless” network can be, so any upgrade will be appreciated greatly—but just how much better are these new intertubes? In the interest of research, I found a couch, sat down, and began to surf the 'Net for several hours.

When I first connected, I was greeted by a web page introducing me to UWS, which provided both detailed instructions on how to properly connect and, alternatively, an installer application that would automatically configure everything for me.

I'm a lazy kind of guy, so I chose

to download the app and let it work its magic, and after entering my CCID and password, I was automatically connected. This is already a great improvement over the previous system—not having to keep a Terminal window open is a huge bonus. The installer also only needs to be run once, and then the settings are saved for subsequent connections.

If the old system's speed could be described as a fat kid chasing after a doughnut, then the new one can be described as that same fat kid slimming down a bit, catching the doughnut, and then getting a sugar high.

On the Windows side, the luxury of the installer is unavailable, and users need to follow a series of steps equivalent to retrieving the Ark of the Covenant if they use XP, or a somewhat simpler process for Vista.

At this point, you may be saying, “Quit your jibberjabber—how fast does it go?” If the old system's speed could be described as a fat kid chasing after a doughnut, then the new one can be described as that same

fat kid slimming down a bit, catching the doughnut, and then getting a sugar high. While the previous system used the 802.11b wireless networking standard (with a top speed of 11 megabits per second), UWS is based on the new 802.11g standard (with a sweet top speed of 54 MBPS).

These are, of course, ideal numbers, so I ran some tests by downloading a three-megabyte file. On UWS, the file downloaded in about two seconds; on the old ualberta wireless (which I tested in CAB, as it kept giving me “service too busy” errors in SUB), the same file downloaded in around half a minute. Now, I'm no math major, but it's quite obvious that the new service is way faster than the old one. It's also noticeably faster for casual browsing: images load quicker, pages appear instantly, and even my friends' Facebook profiles (which are packed to the brim with useless applications) loaded at a reasonable pace.

The new UWS is several orders of magnitude better on the awesome scale than the previous wireless network. It's currently only available in SUB, Lister Centre, and a handful of other locations, but service is currently being added to CAB & Chem East, and should be available in Education North by the end of November. So expect to see more and more students browsing Facebook on their laptops as AICT continues to bring UWS to more and more locations across campus.

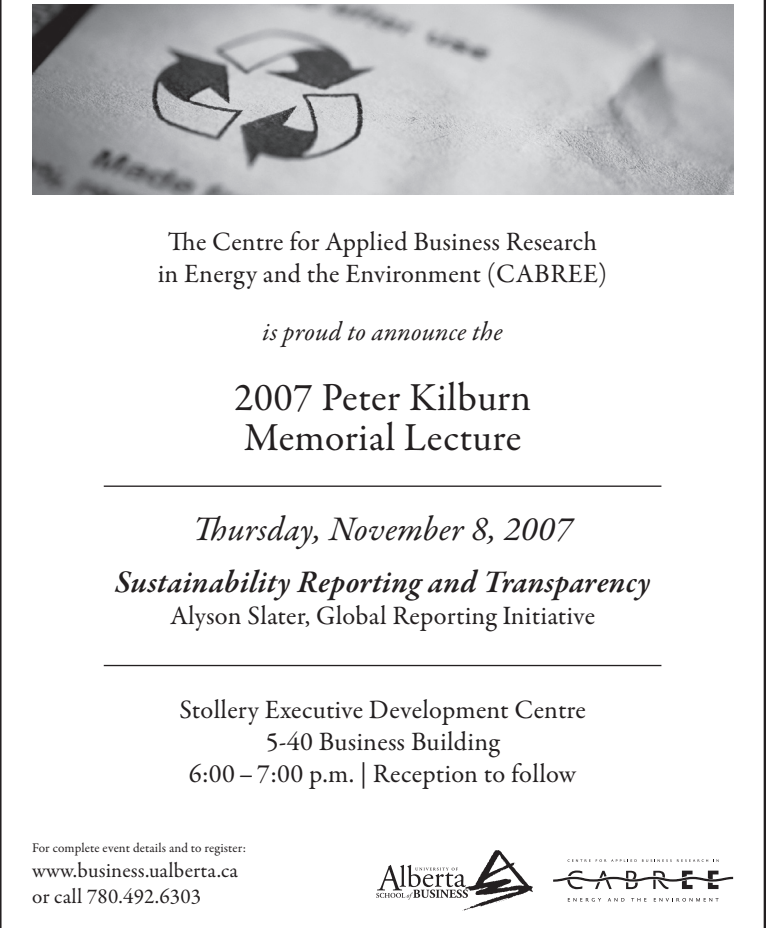


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