

# THE DA

2022 Valentine's Day Edition

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# Cutout Valentines from the DA to you

to:  
from:

my love for you  
is as raw as  
wvu's food



to:  
from:

you're  
aDAroble



to:  
from:

gee mine



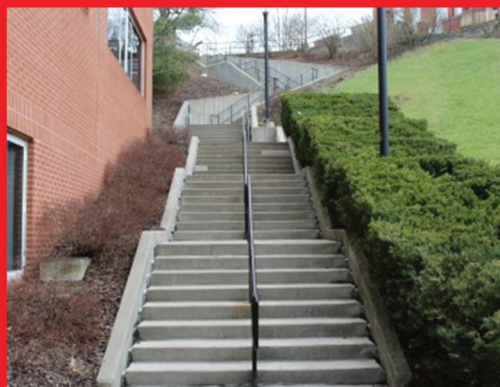
to:  
from:

will you marry  
me? <3  
(for fafsa money)



to:  
from:

you take my  
breath away



to:  
from:

you have the  
gee to my heart



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Morgantown, WV 26505  
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bakery in Morgantown!



# Q&A: Meet the 2022 DA Date Show spotlight single

BY JORDAN HOWES  
STAFF WRITER

*The Daily Athenaeum sat down with junior Riley Cullen, the 2022 DA Date Show contestant and current Miss Appalachian State, for an interview on Monday. Originally from Manchester, New Hampshire, Cullen is majoring in art therapy and minoring in human services at West Virginia University.*

*Editor's note: Cullen's comments have been lightly edited for clarity and length.*

**Daily Athenaeum:** How did you find out about the DA Date Show?

**Riley Cullen:** So it's kind of a funny story. I was actually looking on the DA Twitter for something completely different. I was going to look for the article on WVU's multiple health code violations and that happened to be the pin tweet — the application. And I was like, you know what, this looks really interesting. Let's see what happens. It was the day that the application closed, so I was like, "Okay, let's see what happens." And I signed up and then about three hours later, I got an email.

**DA:** Was there anything specific that prompted you to apply for the show?



**Cullen:** I think it was just a coincidence, 'cause I didn't even know that this was a thing. You know, I've always watched "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette," and I've always loved that kind of stuff. And I was like, this looks like a really fun and funky opportunity that I'll probably never have again. So why not? Like the worst that can happen is I don't get that.

**DA:** What are you most excited about with your experience on the DA Date Show?

**Cullen:** It's a toss-up between obviously meeting new people and then I really like to be on camera. That kind of thing really, really interests me. I did commercial acting for a couple of years, and I quit when I came to college. So obviously I kind of expected that life of mine to be in the rearview. So this is a really cool opportunity for me to combine like the dating scene and that kind of thing while also, you know, being in front of a



PHOTOS COURTESY RILEY CULLEN

camera. That's super fun, and I miss that.

**DA:** Is there anything you are nervous about or are not looking forward to with the DA Date Show experience?

**Cullen:** Actually, yeah, there's one thing. I was like, "Oh God, what happens if I already know someone that's on

in those areas, so I'm like, "Oh crap."

**DA:** What are you hoping to get out of your experience on the show?

**Cullen:** I'm not really looking for anything specific. Obviously, it would be really funny if a relationship came out of it. And I did talk to my mom. I know the things that I don't tell anyone if I had to tell my mom. And she was like, "It would be so funny if like you found your husband doing this." And I was like, "Okay, shut up." So obviously that would be super fun, but honestly, it's just getting a great experience and doing something that is way out of my comfort zone.

**DA:** Have you ever participated in anything similar to the DA Date Show?

**Cullen:** No, absolutely not, and that's what really intrigued me — doing something different, doing something pretty wild and out there. I think of myself as a spontaneous person, and this just kinda matches.

**DA:** Have you done anything to prepare for your experience on the DA Date Show?

**Cullen:** Yeah, I actually looked up past videos on Facebook, and I watched the one that was from last year just so I knew what I was getting myself into.

**DA:** What was your reaction to finding out you had been selected for the show?

**Cullen:** I freaked out. I live in my sorority house with my roommate who was also my little, and she was on the bunk below me. And I saw the email 'cause I was on my phone, and I went, "Oh my God. Oh my God. Oh my God." She was like, "What?" And I was like, "Okay, I can't tell you yet, but I promise that this is the coolest thing that ever happened to me."

**DA:** Okay these next two questions are relating to Valentine's Day. Have you ever had a Valentine, and what are your thoughts on Valentine's Day as a whole?

**Cullen:** No, I don't like this season at all. I've never had a relationship around Valentine's Day, which is why I was also kind of anxious to do this. I love pink hearts and girly stuff, so you'd think I would love Valentine's Day. But I really, really don't. So I'm hoping that this will change my mind about it.

**DA:** Do you have any fond Valentine's Day memories with family or friends?

**Cullen:** Well, the first thing that comes to mind actually, when I was like 13, my stepdad and I went grocery shopping the day before Valentine's Day. And there was this giant stuffed dog in the Valentine's section, and I really, really wanted it, and he bought it for me. I still use it as a pillow back home.

## Condom Caravan provides free condoms for students

BY KIAN MCCHESENEY  
CORRESPONDENT

Do you have plans for Valentine's day? Safer sex supplies will be offered by WELLWVU's Condom Caravan program throughout the spring semester.

The service is free, packaged discreetly and can be conveniently picked up after placing an order through the form on their website by the deadline.

All you need to provide on the form is your name, MIX email address and the quantity of each supply.

Every other Thursday with the exception of spring break, students can request up to five of each type of external and internal condom, dental dams,

and lube. It's a refreshing initiative to be inclusive for all folks by having more than just external condoms.

The Condom Caravan offers lube and a variety of flavored, ribbed, latex-free and multiple lengths of external condoms. The available lube is water-based which makes it easier to clean or less likely to stain or degrade condoms as much as oil-based products.

In addition, internal condoms and dental dams can be specially requested by emailing Chantelle Friend at [cjf0016@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:cjf0016@mix.wvu.edu).

While the best way to prevent an STI is abstaining from sexual activity, according to WELLWVU, the choice is personal.

The Condom Caravan is run

by Chantelle Friend, graduate assistant at WELLWVU, with the goal of educating and providing necessary materials for students to make informed decisions when it comes to safer sex, according to WELLWVU.

The service is also available for tablings at events, residence halls, and other campus locations by request.

To pick up your supplies, go to room 118 of the Health and Education building on Evansdale from 10am to 2pm on your pickup date. WELLWVU's next pickup date is on Feb. 17th, with orders due before noon on Feb. 15th.

For any questions about the Condom Caravan or to request a tabling, call 304-293-5054 or email [wellwvu@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:wellwvu@mail.wvu.edu).



STAFF PHOTO

An order is exchanged at the Condom Caravan on Oct. 5, 2020.

### Pickup Dates

**Thursday, Feb. 17**

(order by noon on Tuesday, Feb. 15)

**Thursday, March 3**

(order by noon on Tuesday, March 1)

**Thursday, March 31**

(order by noon on Tuesday, March 29)

**Thursday, April 14**

(order by noon on Tuesday, April 12)

**Thursday, April 28**

(order by noon on Tuesday, April 26)

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YOURSELF  
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We encourage all students to have yearly visits to establish care with a provider to plan for safe sexual activity, up-to-date immunizations, and planned contraception and pregnancy. **No appointment needed.** Walk-in today for an exam or to get tested.

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WVUMedicine



# 123 to host 'Galentine's Day' event with five female-fronted bands, decor and drink special

BY DUNCAN SLADE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*123 Pleasant Street will host a Galentine's Day show on Thursday, Feb. 17, featuring five bands, all fronted by women.*

*Maleri Tustin, a senior public relations student, is hosting the show and plays in two of the bands, Blasfemme and Rot.*

*The Daily Athenaeum sat down with Tustin for a conversation this week about the show. This interview has been lightly edited for clarity and length.*

**DA:** How did the idea for this show get started?

**Maleri Tustin:** I was talking with the booking guys at 123, just for some dates for one of my bands in February. Feb. 17 was one of the days they gave me, and I started thinking: what can we do to make this a little different?

I know that there definitely are going to be some Valentine's Day shows and I was like, "Oh, ladies show. Like we never have ladies' nights at 123." I'm in two bands, one of them being all females. I started thinking, "I have never seen an all-female lineup, or at least an all-female fronted lineup at 123 that wasn't for a Women's Day event." So, I just ran with that.

**DA:** What should people expect? What kind of music?

**Tustin:** Yeah, so we've got one band that's a two-piece drums and guitar. It's pretty indie style all the way to my band Rot which is closing out the night and they're pretty heavy. There's a few like indie bands as well as heavier grunge rock. Mostly just guitar heavy all night long. It should be a pretty cool spectrum.

**DA:** You're also releasing an EP soon for Rot, right?

**Tustin:** Yes, we're hoping to have it released by the show. It takes about a week to get things cleared copyright wise with Spotify and Apple Music and things like that, but we're finishing recording and Wednesday will be the day that

we master it. So hopefully it'll be out by the show!

**DA:** For Rot, what's your musical inspiration? What other bands do you look to and listen to and get inspiration from?

**Tustin:** I think that the thing that I love about Rot is that all of us have like an overlapping music taste, but we also are very into different things ourselves. I think together definitely some Black Sabbath. I would say even Tool or Alice in Chains as well. Kind of sludgy and then I love the band Fuzz. It's like a newer band, but they are one of my favorite bands of all time. And we all share the love for them. We take some of the things that they do as well. Our drummer Corey listens to a lot of really heavy stuff. I think that Max and I tend to stay pretty kind of light-hearted, guitar and bass and we like riffs and a lot of distortion pedals and then Corey is like, "I want to do with double bass and crazy drums on this song," and it tends to make it pretty heavy, but I really like it.

**DA:** This is the first show for Blasfemme, right?

**Tustin:** Yes, as a band. We're really excited about that because they're so much fun to play with and they're amazing musicians as well as just people in general. I think that as a woman in music, at least in the Morgantown/Pittsburgh music scene, it's hard to find other women in music that want to support you and are kind and encouraging of each other because there are so few. And those two girls, Megan and Taylor, are great musicians and they're great people and they just want to see other women do well.

**DA:** That's really cool. I'm looking forward to it. How did the idea for Blasfemme come together?

**Tustin:** I didn't really know Taylor very well but we both taught at PopShop at different times and knew all the same people. One of my coworkers had said that he knew this drummer that was a girl. She was really cool. She just graduated from WVU, was looking for a band and really wanted to play with other girls. And I



PHOTO COURTESY TANNER HENSON

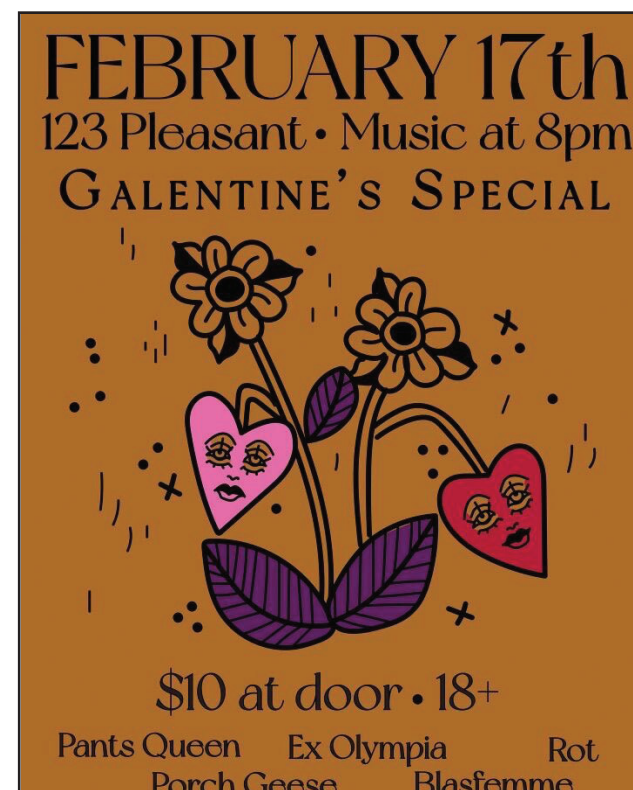
Maleri Tustin and Rot perform at 123.

was like, "Wow, that sounds awesome. I never meet female drummers." I reached out to her about jamming and we had gotten together, and we both immediately hit it off. I'd known Meg for a long time. She's a great artist but she also is a great musician, plays the bass and guitar in a band called Ex Olympia. I reached out to her, and she was like, "Oh my gosh, I would love to be a part of that." And we just started playing music in my garage and it went really well.

**DA:** Where did the Blasfemme name come from?

**Tustin:** When it came time to pick a band name, we were thinking stuff and honestly, it's kind of hard. It doesn't seem like it'd be hard but then suddenly, every idea you have is a bad idea that's not very good. And Taylor was like, "Well, I have an idea for a band name, and I've been sitting on it until I found someone and bandmates that I really liked. And it makes sense because we're all girls." And so she said Blasfemme and after that it was like, "Oh, that's our name. There's no question. That's our name."

**DA:** If somebody is on the fence about coming out to the Galentine's Day show, what



GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA GIANETTINO

would you say to them?

**Tustin:** I would say totally come out. I think that it doesn't matter what kind of music you like, live music is always fun and exciting to be around. It's going to be the first ladies' night at 123, and I've been playing there for about

six years now. There'll be red, pink, purple themes. There's a special drink of the night. I know the staff is really excited. And then all the bands, we're really excited to play and support each other and share some love for ladies.

## Three date ideas in Morgantown

BY LADIMIR GARCIA  
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

It's Valentine's and you have no idea what to do with your partner on the romantic holiday. Well hopefully our recommendations get you somewhere, and they might just help you set the mood.

### 1 Regal Morgantown and AMC

You can never go wrong with the classic movie theater. Maybe you or your partner has been wanting to watch a movie on the big screen. Well luckily Morgantown has two movie theaters of its own. Regal is located on 1001 Mountaineer Drive, and AMC is located inside of the Morgantown Mall on 9540 Mall Road.

### 2 Ogawa

Maybe you're looking for a quick bite to eat on Valentine's Day and just maybe you're also craving some Japanese cuisine. Well Ogawa is the place to go if you're looking for a cozy, intimate environment for Valentines. Ogawa serves sushi and various other Japanese dishes.

### 3 WVU Core Arboretum

You can never go wrong with a romantic nature walk on Valentine's Day. So take your partner out for a bit of exercise and enjoy the nature that the Core Arboretum has to offer.

#### Personal favorite:

*Flowers on Valentine's Day are probably the best thing you can do for your partner. But you're probably wondering, where can I get a single rose for my partner on the holiday? Well Zaccagnini's on 735 Chestnut Ridge Rd, is a great place to get flowers for someone you love*



For the best and freshest flowers in Morgantown, Galloway's Florist has exactly what you're looking for! Check out our wide selection of flower arrangements to make your next occasion memorable.

Galloway's Florist  
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# Morgantown's history in Bachelor Nation

BY LARA BONATESTA

CULTURE EDITOR

ABC's hit reality TV shows "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" are popular nationwide, but the show has more relevance for Morgantown than you might think.

Since The Bachelor's beginning in 2002 and The Bachelorette's beginning in 2003 there have only been a handful of contestants from West Virginia. Most of those cast from West Virginia have been on the show in recent years. Many have garnered significant on-line followings from their appearances on the show.

## Emily Maynard 2011-2012

Emily Maynard was among the first people from the

Mountain State to appear on the show.

Maynard, who was born and raised in Morgantown, first competed in 2011 on season 15 of The Bachelor starring Brad Womack.

Maynard was the winner of the season, which ended in a proposal. The couple broke up several months later, according to a 2011 People Magazine article.

Later Maynard became the star of season eight of The Bachelorette in 2012. At the close of her season, Maynard chose Jeffrey Holm and the pair was engaged. ABC News reported the couple's split in 2012.

Two years later in 2014 Maynard married her husband Tyler Johnson. Today she has 636k followers on her Ins-



PHOTO COURTESY FLICKR

Chocolates arranged in a heart are surrounded by rose petals for Valentine's Day.

tagram @emilygmaynard.

## Jacqueline Trumbull 2018

A few years later Jacqueline Trumbull, another Morgantown native, appeared in 2018 on season 22 of The Bachelor starring Arie Luyendyk Jr.

Trumbull left the show during week seven right before

hometown dates, unsure that the relationship would be able to survive her years in graduate school. Trumbull is now a clinical psychology Ph.D. student at Duke University.

Trumbull has 46.5K followers on her Instagram @trumbullina.

## Tyler Cottrill 2020

Another recent contestant from West Virginia was Tyler Cottrill. Cottrill is an attorney and a native of Gassaway, West Virginia.

Cottrill's time on the Bachelor was brief as he was eliminated on week one of season 16 of The Bachelorette by Bachelorette Claire Crawley in 2020.

Cottrill is also a West Virginia University alumni and a graduate of the WVU College of Law.

Recently, Cottrill was engaged to Taylor Broadwater, another West Virginia University alumni in October of 2021. The couple had their first child in July of 2021.

Cottrill has 15.4K followers on his Instagram @tkcowboy\_.

## Alicia Holloway 2021

Alicia Holloway, a professional dancer born in Morgantown, appeared on season 25 of the Bachelor starring Matt James in early 2021. Holloway was eliminated during the first week.

Holloway currently dances for the Dance Theatre of Harlem, but she trained at local Morgantown studios including the Morgantown Dance Studio and the Kate and Company Studio, according to her page on the Dance Theatre of Harlem's website.

Holloway was also the first runner up in the 2019 Miss West Virginia pageant.

Holloway has 24.2K followers on her Instagram @aliciaholloway\_.

# Single or taken, here is your Valentine's horoscope

DA STAFF

Happy Valentine's Day! The cosmos have a lot lined up for you this romantic holiday season, whether you have a boo, are still searching or plan to spend more time with your closest friends. The stars and planets are aligned when it comes not only to your sun sign, but Venus, Mars, the moon and the comet Chiron.

The moon has influence over your emotions, moods and feelings, so the moon entering fiery and feisty Leo on exactly February 14th means big romantic gestures and plenty of passion are in store for your Valentine's Day. Leo's love love, and more importantly they love attention and gifts. Don't be surprised if you feel extra sappy and generous, or if you receive love letters and gifts from your secret admirers. It's all about over the top, especially since this Leo moon will be out of sight of Saturn, the strict, responsible companion of the planets.

Leo's light shines so brightly that it will reach the comet Chiron, which influences our inner, deepest wounds and how we can overcome them. In the Leo moon's light, Chiron will bring about healing old wounds of love. Even if you hate the holiday, keep your heart open this Val-

entine's Day for a bit of healing and self love.

## ARIES

Get ready for a fun time, Aries! Whether single or in a relationship, it'd be a great time to plan a double date with some of your besties as you bring along your sweetheart. If looking for love, consider a friend you've always lusted after or try your hand at online dating. Love could blossom randomly at social events, too. Keep your mind open!

## TAURUS

Things are looking hot for you in the bedroom, Taurus, making this the perfect time to stay in. A candlelight dinner and sexy role-playing could be lots of fun tonight. If you're single, have your friends over for a night of sappy rom coms accompanied by a glass of rosé.

## GEMINI

Time to the star of the show, Gemini! In the month ahead, Mars is paying special attention to heat up your sex life and sense of intimacy. While committed Geminis will enjoy this energy a bit more, singles might be so fired up that they jump into bed with anyone who tickles their fancy! Travel could be quite engag-

ing for you during this time, even if it's just a quick step out of town with a lover.

## CANCER

This could be a Valentines day to remember, Cancer. You could be feeling great excitement as you make adventurous plans with your sweetheart for the years ahead. Single Cancers will be feeling the heat to find their perfect match, so dating will be extremely active and auspicious for them — but make sure you're looking for someone who wants commitment and not just a casual fling.

## LEO

You're super busy, but don't miss out on celebrating today—regardless of your relationship status. With the Moon in your sign, you're bound to be in your feels. Committed Leos will likely make some long-term promises and plans — perhaps even a surprise engagement or decision to move in! Single Leos will be eager for love and may even be tempted into an office or work-related romance.

## VIRGO

Tonight's vibe is looking incredible for you, Virgo. If you're single, it's YOUR night to go out and play the field.

If taken, why not reenact one of your very first dates? Committed Virgos will also feel that this Valentine's season is filled with magic, as you enjoy sweet kisses, fiery sex and the chance to reignite your connection quite deeply.

## LIBRA

With so much cosmic energy swirling in your favor, all Libras will enjoy the sexy and sweet vibes. Single Libras have an excellent opportunity to be dating around and crossing paths with a soulmate, especially through socializing, attending events or trying your hand at online dating. Committed Libras will have a dazzling chance to have memorable fun with their one-and-only and could even feel the zing of fiery, spontaneous passion that reminds you why you fell in love in the first place.

## SCORPIO

Love like it's an exhilarating rollercoaster and you're just about to hit the top, Scorpio! Some may decide to go on a quick trip with their partner or new flame, just to spice up their routine, while others will feel deeply drawn to nesting under candlelight with take-out at home. Singles will have plenty of chances at a busy dating life, but it's

quite likely one person who teaches you to think outside of the box will rise up to the top. This could be true love, Scorpio. Embrace it.

## SAGITTARIUS

Expand your horizons, Sagittarius. The Leo Moon asks you to do something unusual. Even if it's just a staycation at a nearby hotel, treat yourself and your lover to a spa day and raunchy romp after a bottle of champagne! Single Sagittarians will likely be feeling the heat in their heart and their loins for some TLC, and dating outside of their normal type will likely bring them greater luck at this time.

## CAPRICORN

With Venus, ruling beauty and attraction, and Mars, ruling passion and sex, igniting your zodiac sign, this could be your favorite Valentine's season ever, Capricorn! No matter if single or attached, you do not need to look far to find romance! Committed Capricorns will be eager to spice up their sex life and get scandalous, while also enjoying plenty of tenderness and affection. Singles have plenty of opportunities for dating, just make sure that you're the one taking the lead rather than waiting for it to come to you.

## AQUARIUS

This Valentine's season will have you craving sensuality, privacy and sweetness behind closed doors, Aquarius. With so much planetary energy encouraging you to lie low, cuddle and smooch at home, you'll enjoy a low-key time this month. But don't worry: that doesn't mean it has to be quiet or dull! Single Aquarians will be deeply focused on stepping into their power this season, so make sure as you're dating that you find someone who you respect and who respects you.

## PISCES

Romance shows up for you when you connect with like-minded people. If you're looking for love, an introduction could be in the stars. If committed, plan some magical evenings with your partner or even attend some sweet live experiences or events in town. Singles will fare quite well this season, especially by dating in their social network, meeting new people by socializing, or taking the initiative to ask out that cutie through online dating. Love will sparkle around you everywhere you go.

*Horoscopes courtesy of Cosmopolitan and New York Post.*

**HOTEL MORGAN**

**ANV1L + AX**

SUN - THURS | 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
FRI - SAT | 3 p.m. - 11 p.m.

127 High Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
304-292-8200



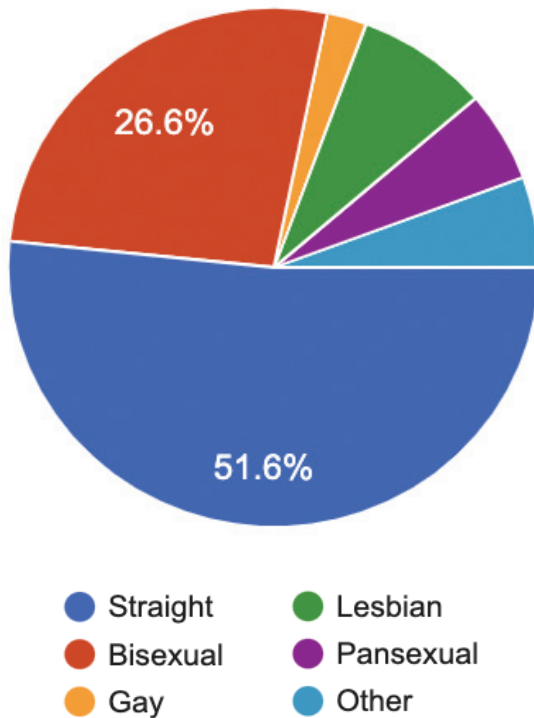
# DA Sex Survey 2022

The Daily Athenaeum sent out an anonymous sex survey for WVU students in our weekly newsletter. There were 124 total responses. The results are as follows:

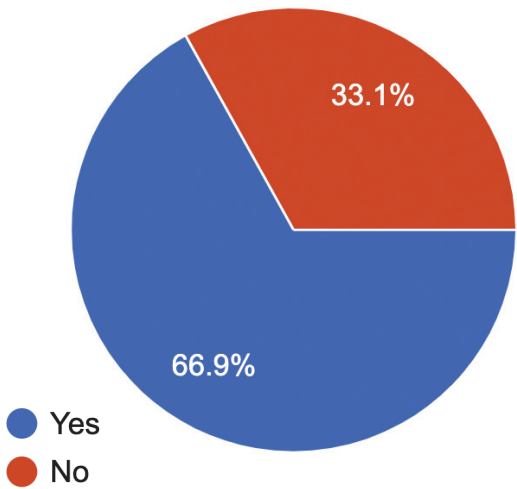
### Have you ever had public sex on campus? If so, where?

- “In a car in the Mountainlair garage”
- “Towers”
- “Parking garage, under the PRT, brooks hall...”
- “I just described what I would do with him later in Evansdale Crossing, nothing physical”
- “PRT”
- “PRT, Law School parking lot, school parking lot, Cooper’s Rock if that counts”
- “Colson Hall All gender Bathroom”
- “Yes. Towers Parking Lot”
- “Not yet...thinking about clark hall elevator tho.”
- “Locker room”
- “The prt, library study room, biology lab room, mountainlair upstairs bathroom.”
- “Parking lot”
- “Bathroom in Crossings”

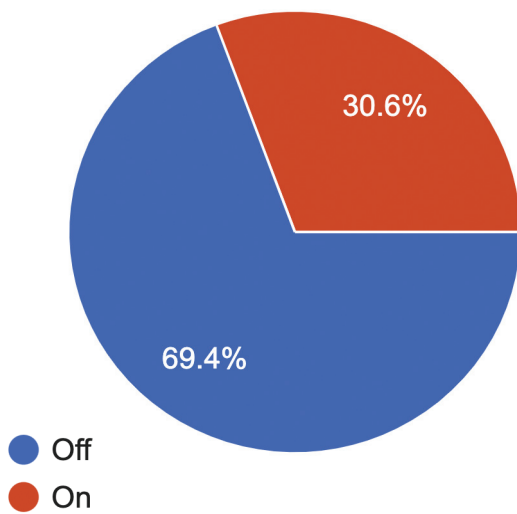
### What is your sexual orientation?



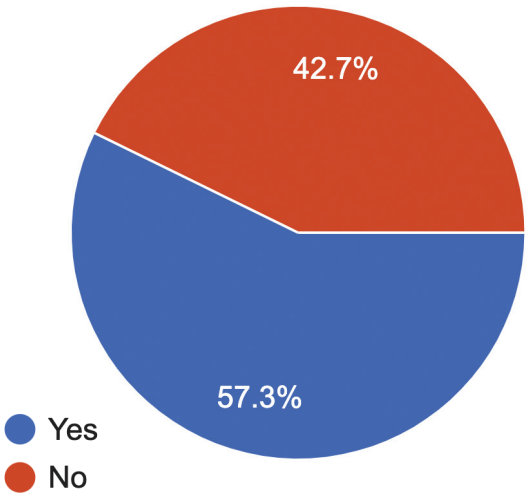
### Do you watch porn?



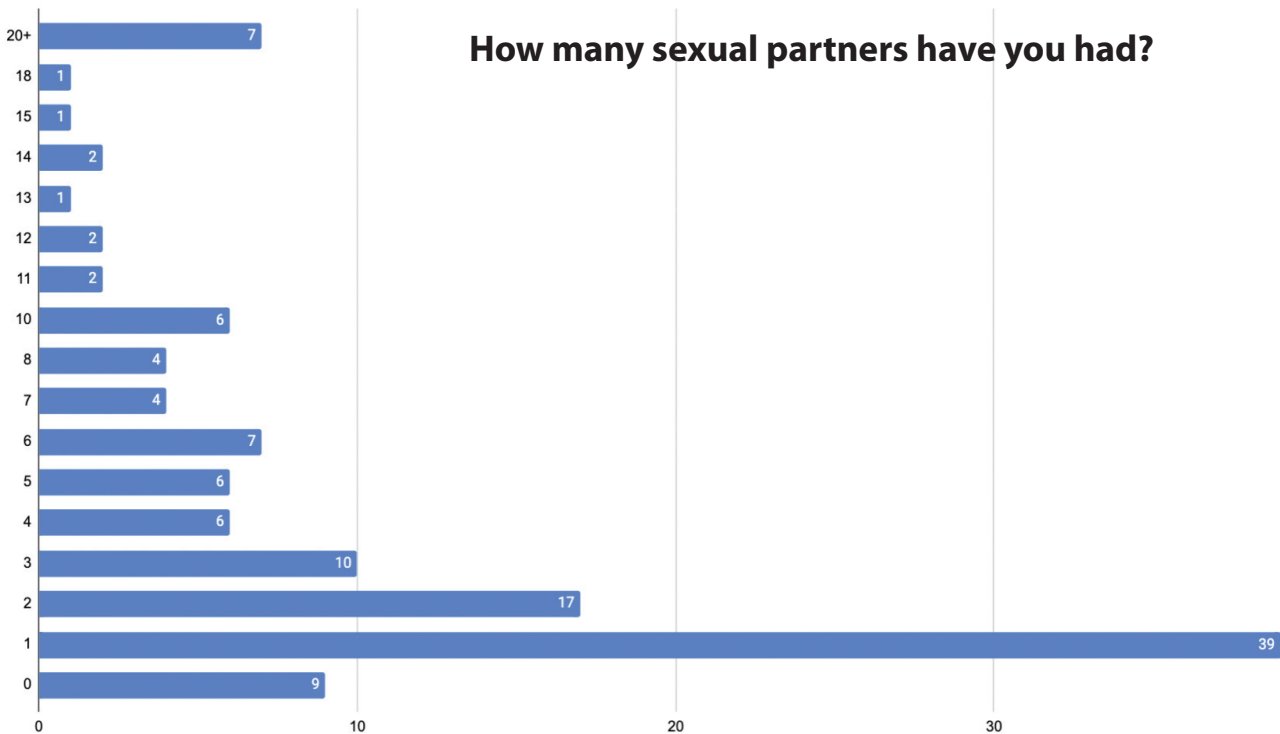
### Socks on or off during sex?



### Have you ever faked an orgasm?



### How many sexual partners have you had?



GRAPHICS BY LARA BONATESTA

NEED A GIFT FOR VALENTINES DAY ?!

HIS/HERS BUNDLE

10 VISIT RANGE PASS

30 MIN SIM-ROOM PASS

\$20 GIFT CARD TO SABRATON STATION

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DON'T HAVE A VALENTINE?

WHAT BETTER WAY TO MEND A BROKEN HEART THAN 2 FOR 1 FIREARM RENTALS & SOME RANGE THERAPY!



# Highlighting many of the WVU sports figures we love this Valentine's Day

BY THE DA SPORTS STAFF

For this Valentine's Day edition, our Daily Athenaeum Sports Staff has decided to celebrate the holiday by highlighting some of WVU's prominent sports figures and why we love them.

## Dante Stills - Football

By Camren Gandee, Assistant Sports Editor

WVU defensive lineman Dante Stills has been a much needed constant for Neal Brown and the Mountaineers football program in his four-year collegiate career, providing a dominant presence on the defensive front.

The senior grew up just 30 minutes down the road from Morgantown, in Fairmont, W. Va.

He had a performance worthy of stirring butterflies in any Mountaineer fan this past season, putting up a career-high seven sacks, 36 solo tackles, one forced fumble.

He even collected an interception in his efforts. Just like he intercepted the hearts of West Virginia natives when he announced his decision to use his fifth year of college eligibility to return to WVU in January.

As he enters his last collegiate season, Stills is more than deserving of all the adulation he receives from his home-state fans.

## Sean McNeil - Men's Basketball

By Zach Anderson, Sports Editor

The WVU men's basketball sharpshooter nicknamed "Hot Boy" is playing in his third season for the Mountaineers, with his highest scoring output of his career at 13.5 points and shooting 37% from beyond the arc in 2021-2022.

McNeil over his career averages 10.2 points per game

with a 40% field goal percentage, energizing this West Virginia squad and the hearts of all Mountaineers, with his circus shots and dagger three-pointers. McNeil is an important part of the team's system, and he will always be in WVU's heart.

## Nikki Izzo-Brown - Women's Soccer

By Liam Belan, Sports Writer

This past season was bittersweet for West Virginia women's soccer, as it broke a 21-year streak of making the NCAA Tournament.

As we know, good things cannot last forever. Yet, there is always reason for optimism when your program is led by a legend like head coach Nikki Izzo-Brown.

Izzo-Brown is still the only coach that has ever led the renowned and feared Mountaineers women's soccer program as she just concluded her 26th season with the team. The Rochester, N.Y. native has done everything in her power to etch herself into the fabric of Morgantown sports legend throughout her illustrious career.

Izzo-Brown has had an immeasurable impact on not only West Virginia women's soccer, but the soccer culture in this state that seems to be brewing by the day. For this, she deserves our love this holiday.

## Dan Stratford - Men's Soccer

By Wesley Shoemaker, Sports Writer

As Valentine's Day rolls around, what isn't better than a British accent? Head men's soccer coach Dan Stratford has the accent, the personality, and the record to show why he should be your valentine.

Stratford led the Mountaineers to a program's first Elite Eight this past season, and before coming to WVU,

Stratford won two National Championships at the University of Charleston(WV). Stratford hails from London, but Morgantown has always been home. The 36-year-old lad has the looks and the skill to be your perfect valentine. Stratford cares about his team and the people around him more than anything and has always been enthusiastic about success.

You don't have to look further than Stratford to find the perfect mix of love, affection, looks and personality. Stratford has the total package.

## Jacob Watters - Baseball

By Jonathan Hamilton, Sports Writer

Jacob Watters is the relief pitcher for the baseball team and what isn't there to love about Watters? In 2021 as a sophomore, Watters had a 4-1 record with a 3.33 ERA, as well as leading the WVU bullpen with 53 strikeouts.

He also was selected to the Academic All-Big 12 Team, so he gets the job done in the classroom and on the field. In his first 11 outings of the season, he only allowed two runs. He also made an appearance on the NCBWA Stopper of the Year Midseason Watch List. If that is not impressive, I'm not sure what is.

## Peyton Hall - Wrestling

By Matt Ross, Sports Writer

West Virginia wrestler Peyton Hall has been dominating on the mat and in WVU fans' hearts this season. Hall is currently a freshman wrestling at 165 pounds with a career record of 36-8. Last year Hall finished the season 16-6 with a fourth place at the Big 12 Championships, and was also a 2021 national qualifier. This year Hall's record is 20-2 and currently ranked No. 17 in the country at 165 pounds with 2 matches left in the regular season.

I chose Peyton Hall as my valentine because of the suc-

cess he's had early in his collegiate career for West Virginia. Hall is an important leader and has played a key role in the Mountaineers wins this season.

## Abbie Pierson - Gymnastics

By Haley Kish, Sports Writer

Abbie Pierson is an all-around junior on the West Virginia gymnastics team. This season, Pierson has broken two personal records on the vault, scoring 9.950 points at Iowa State, and the uneven bars, scoring 9.750 points at Pitt. During her sophomore season, Pierson was ranked fourth on the team based on her overall season's points with 350.275 points.

Pierson is my valentine because when I go to the meets and watch her perform, I can tell she is passionate about what she is doing. The execution with her routines and always sticking the landing makes it even more interesting to watch.

## Jon Hammond - Rifle

By Jake Howard, Sports Writer

Jon Hammond is the coach of the West Virginia Mountaineers rifle team. In his time as head coach since 2006, Hammond has led the Moun-



PHOTO COURTESY WVU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

West Virginia guard Sean McNeil soars to the basket against Kansas State at the WVU Coliseum on Feb. 27, 2021.

taineers to six NCAA championships, and 11 consecutive GARC championships.

Hammond also competed for the Mountaineers in 2003. He has been a part of the program that is historically the most successful NCAA rifle program. Without his leadership they could not be winning all these championships, so that is Hammond why is my choice this Valentine's Day.

## Tim Flynn - Wrestling

By David Roe, Sports Writer

Coach Flynn is in his fourth season directing the WVU Wrestling squad and has shown success in the time

he has been head coach of the Mountaineers. He came over from Edinboro University in Pa. after a career where he cemented the Fighting Scots into a powerhouse and earned himself school Hall of Fame honors for his time there. He has turned West Virginia into an equally competitive wrestling school, one that is not at the top of the NCAA, but will surely get to that point in no time.

Coach Flynn is a great valentine because there is potential for a better future. Not that the future is necessarily bad now, but with Coach Flynn, you know that the future is in good hands.

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