

## Risky Sex Teachings Continue at Brown University While Students Face HIV Crisis

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At least four students attending universities in Rhode Island have contracted acute HIV infections within recent months. Brown University health officials have publicly expressed concern about this sudden increase in reported HIV cases.<sup>1</sup> The names of the students and their universities have not been identified.

The Brown University AIDS Program (BRUNAP) and Brown University Health Services physicians ran an informational session on November 1, 2010 for students to warn them about this recent outbreak.<sup>2</sup> According to Ed Wheeler, Director of Brown University Health Services, "Symptoms of acute HIV occur within 2 to 4 weeks of infection and often resemble the flu." Victims are highly infectious during the acute phase, indicating this virus could be potentially spreading to other college students at this time.

Two Brown medical students wrote an editorial in the *Brown Daily Herald* a few days later to further alert the community about the HIV infections. They stated "We must acknowledge that it is gay and bisexual men who are affected by the recent significant number of new HIV infections at Rhode Island campuses...The relatively thin layer of cells in the rectum is highly susceptible to viral penetration, making unprotected anal intercourse a substantial risk for HIV infection. We are facing a public health crisis among college-aged MSM in Rhode Island."<sup>3</sup>

In light of the crisis, Brown University moved up the spring starting date for a free HIV testing program to make these services available to students immediately last November. However, diagnosing and treating students who have already contracted HIV is not enough. Universities

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<sup>1</sup> The *Brown Daily Herald* initially reported 3 students newly diagnosed with HIV in the past 6 months; a subsequent story by NPR's WNRI reported the number as 4. See "R.I. HIV Cases See Sudden Rise," by Nicole Boucher, *Brown Daily Herald*, November 1, 2010 <http://www.browndailyherald.com/r-i-hiv-cases-see-sudden-rise-1.2388297> and "Increase in HIV Among RI College Students," by Megan Hall, *WNRI, RI's NPR*, November 1, 2010 <http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wrni/news.newsmain/article/0/0/1719992/WNRI.News/Increase.in.HIV.among.RI.college.students>

<sup>2</sup> *Brown University Event Calendar*, <http://events.brown.edu/events/cal/CAL-00149399-2bde5f2c-012b-f31315fd-000000bdevents@brown.edu/> accessed January 26, 2011

<sup>3</sup> "A Place for HIV in Queer Dialogue" by Andrea Lach Dean MD '11 and Rory Merritt '09 and M.D. '13, *Brown Daily Herald*, November 5, 2010 <http://www.browndailyherald.com/andrea-lach-dean-md-11-and-rory-merritt-09-md-13-a-place-for-hiv-in-queer-dialogue-1.2395013> MSM means men who have sex with men.

must examine what they have done, and are doing, to prevent the spread of HIV and to minimize their students' risks of contracting the deadly disease.

It appears that Brown and some other prominent universities have fallen short in this regard by allowing their undergraduate student organizations to bring in prostitutes, porn producers and performers, and sex toy sales representatives under the guise of "sex education." These sex presentations seem to be a slick combination of marketing, entertainment, and politics. Because the focus is primarily on pleasure and risky, taboo and even violent practices, these events often fail to provide medically-sound information about safer sex practices that would help students minimize their risk of contracting HIV and other STI's.

CAT Bulletins from earlier this year and a number of Brown alumni letters on the Foundation for Intellectual Diversity web site expressed serious concerns about sex events that have previously taken place at Brown University. See especially the March 20, 2010 CAT Bulletin "Events for Kinky Sex & SadoMasochists Open to Children," the April 20 CAT Bulletin "Sexual Abuse of Animals: Crime and Fantasy" and the March 30 "Open Letter to President Simmons."<sup>4</sup> In each of the referenced cases, outside sex speakers gained access to Brown University resources and spaces through a relatively new Brown student organization, Sexual Health Education and Empowerment Council (SHEEC) that was formed about two years ago.

The Bulletins described the immediate risks to students and the community from these events. The risks and harm have also extended beyond the actual event dates. For example, two KinkforAll organizers continued to communicate and meet with a female Brown undergraduate after the February 6, 2010 event. As recently as October, this student was reporting on Twitter that she had "pretty" bruises on her arms after meeting with two of them and that they had put painful clamps on her body.

It's not just Brown students who are at risk -- students from other local universities have been invited to Brown sex workshops and events too. Megan Andelloux, who runs the Center for Sexual Health and Pleasure in Pawtucket, invited Brandeis University students to attend the Brown University KinkforAll and a sleepover at the Kink Academy dungeon space in Somerville, MA the night before.<sup>5</sup> Andelloux is a "faculty" member at the Kink Academy. This website

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<sup>4</sup>Citizens Against Trafficking Bulletins [http://www.citizensagainsttrafficking.org/CAT\\_Bulletins.html](http://www.citizensagainsttrafficking.org/CAT_Bulletins.html) and Foundation for Intellectual Diversity web site, accessed January 26, 2011 <http://idiversity.org/category/sex-week>

<sup>5</sup> Brandeis University SSIS Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Student-Sexuality-Information-Service-SSIS/113164927514>, scroll to January 28, 2010; Kink Academy web site faculty listing accessed January 26, 2011 <http://www.kinkacademy.com/home/faculty/> It is unclear how many Brandeis students attended these events because registration was not required and most of the 90 attendees remained anonymous.

features sexually explicit BDSM training videos using live models. See a sample of the Kink Academy training video photos below.<sup>6</sup>



Clearly BDSM training videos like these that advocate hog-tying women and using needles (that can spill blood) do not contribute to a safe sex campus environment.



At Brown's Sex Week in March 2010, copies of Tristan Taormino's video on the G-spot and fellatio were handed out.<sup>7</sup> Taormino's DVDs are sold on AdultDVDEmpire.com, which is owned by Right Ascension. Federal prosecutors raided Right Ascension's offices on obscenity charges last year. The company paid a fine of \$75,000 and was placed on 2 years probation.<sup>8</sup> Taormino is an "exclusive director" for Vivid Entertainment, which suspended operations in October after a porn actor contracted HIV after engaging in unsafe sex.<sup>9</sup> This month, Oregon State University wisely decided not to use

<sup>6</sup> Three photos are from the Kink Academy online video catalog, all accessed November 22, 2010, "Tie Em Up and Fuck Em" October 23, 2010 <http://www.kinkacademy.com/home/recent-videos/page/2/>, "Needle Removal Techniques" October 8, 2010 <http://www.kinkacademy.com/home/recent-videos/page/4/>, and "Hogtie" August 10, 2009 <http://www.kinkacademy.com/home/recent-videos/page/39/>

<sup>7</sup> Sexual Health and Empowerment web site, <http://brownsheec.wordpress.com/> accessed November 13, 2010 and <http://brownsheec.wordpress.com/sponsors/sponsors-sex-week-2010/> accessed January 26, 2011

<sup>8</sup> "HotMovies Raided; Company Sites Are Down," by Rhett Pardon, October 27, 2010, <http://www.xbiznewswire.com/view.php?id=126774>

<sup>9</sup> "U.S. Porn Movie Shutdown After HIV Scare," Inquirer.net, October 15, 2010 <http://showbizandstyle.inquirer.net/breakingnews/breakingnews/view/20101015-297856/US-porn-movie-shutdown-grows-after-HIV-scare>

state funds to hire Tristan Taormino as a keynote speaker because she is a pornographer, as shown on her resume and puckerup.com web site.<sup>10</sup>

Shanna Katz, also known as EssinEm, presented at Brown Sex Week 2010 on topics including polyamory, “feminist” pornography, and sex for people with disabilities. Polyamory refers to multiple sex partners. Promoting polyamory on a college campus could increase students’ chances of contracting HIV.

Like Taormino, Katz directs pornographic movies. She currently works at a Fascinations Fun toy store in Phoenix, and prior to that she worked as a sex blogger for HotMoviesforHer. At the NYC Sex Blogger 2011 Calendar Release Party, the HotMovies interviewer stated: **Not only is Shanna rockin’ the sexy education world, she’s back into the porno underbelly**, this time behind the camera as a director and videographer.”<sup>11</sup> The HotMovies warehouse in Philadelphia was raided by more than 100 FBI and other agents on October 27-28, 2010. The news story reports that prostitution may be being investigated in this case.<sup>12</sup>

“Sequoia Redd” is another recent Brown sex education speaker. She advertises herself online in Miami as an “intimate companion.” Her rates start at \$500 for two hours, and she requires her “dates” to pay in cash, up front, in an unmarked envelope. Redd has performed in pornographic movies such as Slutty Campus Teen.



She is a phone and web cam sex worker, and she maintains her own pornographic web site.<sup>13</sup>

Redd was hired in November 2010 to give a presentation at Brown University on the topic of “Sexual Energy.” The next day, she gave two more presentations on pornography, sex work, and activism. Ironically, Redd’s first presentation took place at the exact same day and time as the BRUNAP HIV crisis meeting.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>10</sup> “Too Sexy for Oregon State,” Gazette Times, January 21, 2011, [http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/article\\_69acf57e-2532-11e0-9f1c-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/article_69acf57e-2532-11e0-9f1c-001cc4c03286.html)

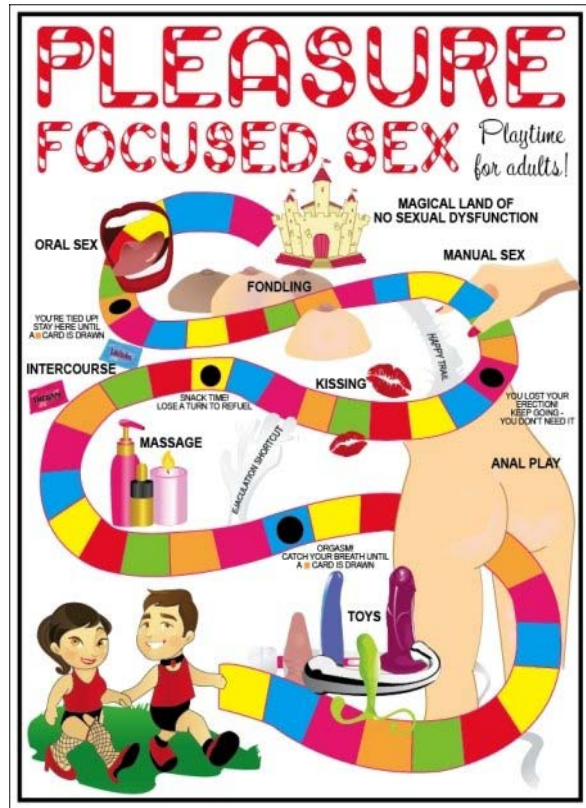
<sup>11</sup> “Video Interview with Shanna Katz” by J.D. Hot Movies for Her, web page accessed January 26, 2011 <http://www.hotmoviesforher.com/blog/video-interview-with-shanna-katz.html>

<sup>12</sup> Porn Center Offices Raided in Center City, October 28, 2010, Philadelphia Daily News [http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news\\_update/105986368.html?cmpid=15585797](http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/105986368.html?cmpid=15585797)

<sup>13</sup> Sequoia Redd’s pornographic and Miami “intimate companion” escort web sites are [www.sequoiaredd.com](http://www.sequoiaredd.com) and <http://www.meetsequoia.com/consideration.html>, accessed January 26, 2011

<sup>14</sup> “Sexual Energy 101,” Sequoia Redd: What Would Lileth Do? Accessed January 26, 2011 <http://sequoiaredd.com/blog/2010/11/sexual-energy-101/>

Megan Andelloux is a frequent presenter at Brown and other universities. Her approach to college sex education is illustrated on the Candyland-style poster “Pleasure Focused Sex: Playtime for Adults,” which she displays on her Facebook page.<sup>15</sup> Observe what this poster does not say. It does not contain any recommendations that the partners be tested before starting down the path to sexual activity. There are no warnings about taking steps to avoid HIV or other STI’s, such as using condoms on the sex toys. The only hint of safety in the entire poster is a tiny pink square marked Trojan near Intercourse. As shown, this pleasure-focused approach to sex education does not appear to provide college students with sufficient information or awareness they need to make healthy sexual choices and to engage in safer sex practices.



Last fall, Andelloux began marketing her schedule of college sex toy workshop visits as a “Study Sex College Tour.” Her Tour sponsors are JeJeue, Spareparts, Jenga, OhMiBod, Nexus, and Empowered Products. She promised a total of \$2,000 worth of sex toy prizes to the two “winning” colleges she tours,<sup>16</sup> as well as two free “kick butt” products to every workshop attendee. She is offering a similar Tour this spring.



Apparently large numbers of college students have been attending Andelloux’s workshops. She reported in October that over 400 students attended her Tufts University workshop. The photo below is shown on Andelloux’s Study Sex Tour page.<sup>17</sup>

In addition, Andelloux reaches many more

<sup>15</sup>Megan Andelloux’s Facebook Photo page, Fun Advertisements, accessed January 26, 2011 <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=70243330347&set=a.70238435347.96137.69666420347>

<sup>16</sup>The Study Sex College Tour, Megan Andelloux, <http://ohmegan.com/the-study-sex-college-tour/>, accessed January 26, 2011

<sup>17</sup> The Study Sex College Tour, Megan Andelloux, <http://ohmegan.com/the-study-sex-college-tour/>, accessed January 26, 2011

students through the 23 Study Sex College Tour videos that she created and posted on YouTube last fall.<sup>18</sup>

When a sex educator has access to so many eager students, one would expect this to be a great opportunity to provide them with accurate sexual health and safety information. Yet none of Andelloux's 23 Study Sex College Tour videos advise young adults about how they can reduce their chances of contracting STI's by limiting the number of sexual partners or by avoiding known high-HIV-risk sexual activities. None of her videos advise people to be tested before engaging in sexual activity.

In fact, Andelloux does not specifically mention HIV, or the ways people can avoid catching and spreading HIV, in any of her Study Sex College Tour videos.<sup>19</sup> In response to the question, "Can Vegans Swallow?" Andelloux answers yes. She does not warn students about the HIV dangers of exchanging bodily fluids or the need for prior STI testing.

Four of Andelloux's 23 videos relate to anal sex, and three of these are about male-to-female anal intercourse. The only one of these anal videos that even references condoms, "Butt to Vag," advises men to use a condom **or** just **wash up** before being "good to go" from anal to vaginal intercourse. However, simple "washing up" is unlikely to remove all viruses and bacteria from the genitals, especially when students have limited wash facilities and privacy in a college dormitory setting.

In these anal-themed instructional videos, Andelloux openly encourages college women to explore anal sex and see what feels right to them. She gives advice about how they can position themselves and use lube to reduce the pain. Yet she consistently fails to warn women that if they engage in unprotected anal sex, especially with multiple casual or bisexual partners, then they too will be at higher risk of contracting HIV.<sup>20</sup>

"Sex educators" like Andelloux, Redd, and Katz have been gaining access to audiences on college campuses through student organizations. This is no accident. Within the past year, sex radicals have been actively strategizing about how to reach and recruit college students.



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<sup>18</sup>Sex College Tour YouTube Channel, <http://www.youtube.com/user/studysexcollegetour#p/a>, accessed January 26, 2011, Click on "Uploads (23)" to see all the videos.

<sup>19</sup> Study Sex College Tour YouTube Channel, <http://www.youtube.com/user/studysexcollegetour#p/a>, accessed January 26, 2011 See especially videos #4 Back Door Betties, #7 Butt to Vag, #10 Anal Sex Prostate Cancer, #18 Vegans Swallow, & #20 Anal Hurts.

<sup>20</sup>Megan Andelloux's Facebook Photo page, Fun Advertisements, accessed January 26, 2011, <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?pid=2232167&id=69666420347#!/photo.php?pid=2232164&id=69666420347&fbid=70239995347>

PhinLi<sup>21</sup> is a relatively new New York-based agency that books sex speakers on college campuses. They offer this booking advice on their web site: “**Get in cahoots with the students at the nearest college or university.** Universities have large budgets for what's called Student Activities...Most universities have some kind of a system by which a student who is keen can create a proposal and budget, gain cosponsors from across university departments and offices, and pull off a show...”

A July 2010 workshop held in Oakland, California advised sex educator attendees on how to book “paid gigs” at colleges and universities. Here’s some of their program description: “Join sex and relationship educators (and gig booking experts) Reid Mihalko and Megan Andelloux (who’ve booked hundreds of paid gigs combined) for 3-hours focusing on how you can take your workshops, teaching and public speaking to the next level: **Getting schools and organizations to pay you to show up and speak to rooms they fill for you! Face it, it’s hard organizing, promoting, hosting and running your own events. Why not get organizations to pay you to show up and share what you’re passionate about!**”<sup>22</sup>

Earlier this month, the Adult Video Network Novelty Expo held a session at its annual conference entitled **\$ex Ed**. The description read: “As the couples-friendly boutique continues to supplant the traditional adult book store, **education is one of the key elements in transforming both company image and the customer base into a more profitable model.** A panel of some of the leading designers and retailers who have pioneered in-store and online education for their staff and customers will provide an **in-depth formula for success through higher education** in this interactive workshop.”<sup>23</sup>

Clearly sex radicals are targeting universities and they are developing business models to gain entry to this market. When student groups are given funding and completely free rein in arranging speakers, then this bypasses the universities’ normal hiring process for employees and consultants, and it circumvents normal curriculum review processes as well. This “student affairs loophole” creates a strong incentive for outside sex interests to identify and befriend student group leaders in order to convince them to bring their representatives and products on campuses. The sex industry’s targeting of university students, both individually and at the campus level, is deeply troubling.

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<sup>21</sup> PhinLi web site, <http://www.phinli.com/fag>, accessed January 26, 2011

<sup>22</sup> “Booking U: How to Get Paid College and In-Store Sex Ed Teaching Gigs like Reid Mihalko and Megan Andelloux,” <http://reidaboutsex.com/booking-u-how-to-book-paid-college-and-in-store-teaching-gigs-like-reid-mihalko-and-megan-andeloux/>, accessed January 26, 2011

<sup>23</sup> “2011 AEE, AVN Novelty Expo Announce Seminars,” October 27, 2010, accessed January 26, 2011 <http://news.avn.com/articles/2011-AVN-Adult-Entertainment-Expo-AVN-Novelty-Expo-Announce-Seminars-416240.html>

If universities such as Brown are serious about halting the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and diseases on their campuses, then they must close this loophole and take control of university sexual education programming. In an August 2010 column for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, I wrote:

Many people claim to be "sex educators" nowadays, including porn stars, sex workers, and sex-toy representatives. They may not have sufficient training to present students with accurate information or be capable of leading sensitive discussions about sex in a respectful, safe, and inclusive manner... Strong measures are needed to preserve students' sexual health and safety, as well as colleges' integrity and reputations.<sup>24</sup>

The solution lies in requiring University Health Services to review all planned sex education speakers, curricula and events, including any videos and DVDs to be shown or distributed. If the proposed materials contain unsafe sexual behaviors or are too obscene for Health Services staff to review, then they should not be taught or distributed to students.

Furthermore, sexual health education should not be conflated with the marketing of sex products. Many sex toys are sold as novelties and have not been approved by the FDA for sexual uses.<sup>25</sup> Some are porous and can harbor bacteria and viruses, so they could be vectors for the transmission of HIV. Some other recommended product uses may be unsafe for students too. For instance, Andelloux teaches college students that Saran Wrap can be used as a barrier for oral-anal and oral-vaginal sex,<sup>26</sup> yet the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has not approved Saran Wrap to be used this way to prevent transmission of HIV.<sup>27</sup> Universities should not allow their students to be used as guinea pigs for untested products, especially when the use of those products poses the risk of transmitting a deadly disease.

The HIV crisis at Brown University is an alarming situation that calls for immediate action. The Brown University student group SHEEC has already started lining up speakers and sponsors for the March 13-19, 2011 Sex Week. CAT urges the public to contact President Ruth Simmons [president@brown.edu](mailto:president@brown.edu) and insist that Brown stop hiring prostitutes, pornographers, and sex toy sales reps to teach students "pleasure focused" sex education.

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<sup>24</sup> "Sex Week Should Arouse Caution Most of All," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, by Margaret Brooks, August 28, 2010 <http://chronicle.com/article/Sex-Week-Should-Arouse/124152/>

<sup>25</sup> "Sustainably Sexy: Smitten Kitten and the Coalition Against Toxic Toys" April 1, 2010, Examiner.com. Smitten Kitten sells the more expensive "safe" sex toys. While this company has a financial incentive to get people to give up cheaper jelly toys, their video nonetheless provides some information on the hazards of unregulated sex toys. <http://www.examiner.com/sex-relationships-in-national/sustainably-sexy-smitten-kitten-and-the-coalition-against-toxic-toys-catt>

<sup>26</sup> "Butt to Vag" <http://www.youtube.com/user/studysexcollegetour#p/u>, accessed January 26, 2011

<sup>27</sup> "Oral Sex and HIV Risk," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last sentence, accessed January 26, 2011 <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/oralsex.htm>



Campus programs that encourage students to have multiple sex partners and to engage in risky pleasure-seeking sex behaviors, while minimizing or failing to discuss the risks of HIV and other STI's, are highly dangerous to students' health. Above all, university sex education programs must be health-focused, consistent with CDC recommendations, and taught by trained medical professionals.

Otherwise, today's HIV crisis could become tomorrow's epidemic.