

Woman who sold virginity in online bid could have relationship problems in the future: UPEI prof

By Jillianne Hamilton

The 22-year-old California university student who attempted to sell her virginity to the highest bidder in an online auction to pay for her tuition may have relationship problems in the future, says a UPEI professor.

The young woman who goes by the pseudonym "Natalie Dylan" recently graduated from Sacramento State University with a degree in Women's Studies. She wants to continue her education and earn a master's in Psychology.

But instead of getting a summer job and a student loan like the average college student, Dylan is accepting bids for her virginity.

Dylan agreed to spend a night with the highest bidder at the Moonlite BunnyRanch in Nevada, a licensed brothel.

So far, Dylan said she's received over 10,000 bids with a current highest bid of \$3.7 million. Half of the profits of the winning bid will go to BunnyRanch owner Dennis Hof.

Peter Koritansky, a Religious Studies professor at UPEI, said what Dylan is doing doesn't come from a failure to see the value of virginity but from a failure to see the value of sexuality.

"There was a time when sex was understood to be something sacred, not necessarily in the religious sense. That is, something belonging to the very core of who

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we are as human beings and therefore not something to be taken lightly or treated as merely recreational."

The fact that Dylan has made her sexuality into a commodity is disturbing, Koritansky said.

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The story received international attention and spurred a debate on ethics and how something like this could be indicative of society's downfall, as well as questions regarding the omnipresent Internet

Koritansky said Dylan's actions may cause problems in any intimate sexual relationship, including marriage, she has in the future.

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More people are reporting that engaging in meaningless, recreational sex early in life seriously hinders one's ability to have a meaningful sexual relationship in the fu-



"Natalie Dylan" offered her virginity online, but a UPEI prof says it could have problems for future relationships. Photo: www.red-alerts.com

ture, said Koritansky. "That she's become a prostitute only makes matters worse."

Rose Michels, the financial secretary of the Women of Steel chapter at IMP Aerospace Components in Amherst, N.S., said Dylan was wrong to offer her virginity to the highest bidder.

"But we don't know about her situation. I know that is no way to show respect for your body or anyone else."

First year Holland College Culinary Arts student Caitlin Hueser said she understands the need for money but found Dylan's story very disappointing.

"Selling your body, I don't

know. It's... ew."

She went on to state that something as important as your body shouldn't be sold, and that includes to pay for school.

"That's something that's priceless."

Hamilton is a journalism student at Holland College

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