

# IMPROBABLE SEX

*Improbable, stimulating investigations*

compiled by Marc Abrahams, *Improbable Research staff*

## Effects of Coitus on Nasal Temperature

“Effects of Coitus on Nasal Temperature,” N.D. Fabricant, *Fertility and Sterility*, vol. 11, March 1960, pp. 195–19.

## His Orgasms Led to Blindness

“Postcoital Visual Loss Due to Valsalva Retinopathy,” Michaels, Luke, Naing Latt Tint, and Philip Alexander, *BMJ Case Reports*, epub October 23, 2014. The authors, at University Hospital Southampton, and Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion, Edinburgh, U.K., report:

A 29-year-old male patient presented to eye emergency clinic after noticing a left paracentral scotoma on waking. On direct questioning the patient revealed an episode of vigorous sexual intercourse the preceding evening. During orgasm the valsalva manoeuvre can produce a sudden increase in retinal venous pressure resulting in vessel rupture and haemorrhagic retinopathy. Valsalva retinopathy is managed conservatively and the patient’s symptoms resolved spontaneously without intervention. This case report highlights the importance of focused history taking of patients which can thereby obviate the need for further investigations. This case also emphasises the importance of considering sexual activity as a cause of stress-induced pathology.

## Regret Versus Quality

“Feelings of Regret Following Uncommitted Sexual Encounters in Canadian University Students,” Maryanne L. Fisher, Kerry Worth, Justin R. Garcia, and Tami Meredith, *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2012, pp. 45–57. The authors, at Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, the University of Ottawa, and Indiana University, explain:

In this study we explored the prevalence of regret following uncommitted sexual encounters (i.e., casual sex that occurs with someone once and only once or with someone known for less than 24 hours) among 138 female and 62 male Canadian university students, who were approximately 21 years of age.... Regret was also influenced by the quality of the sex: high-quality sex rarely led to regret, while the reverse was true for poor-quality sex. In keeping with past studies, intoxication by alcohol and/or drugs was often listed as a source of regret by both men and women.

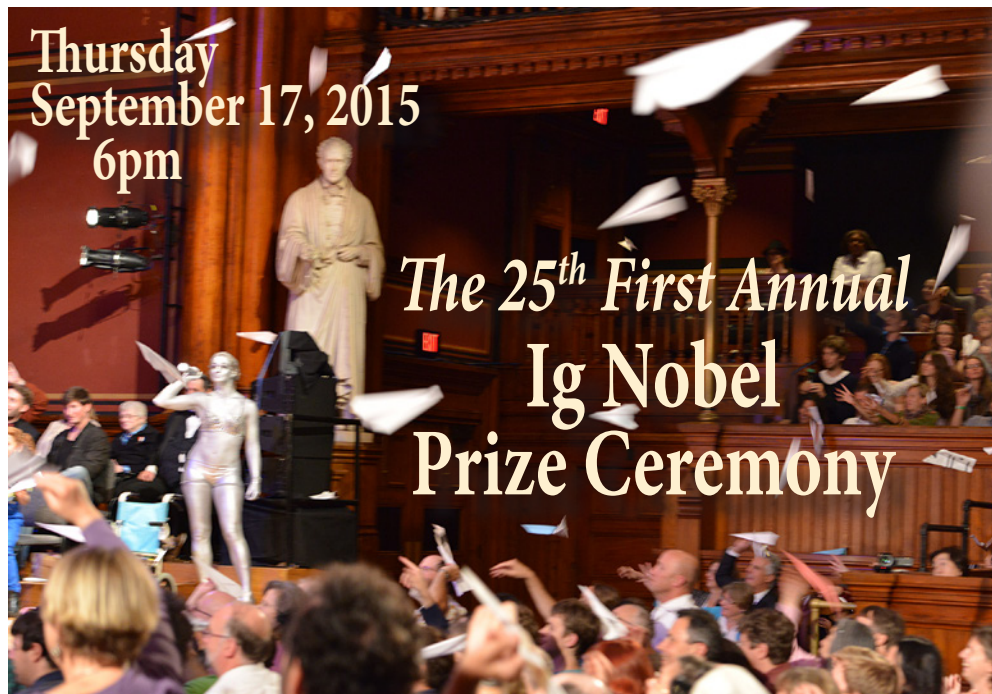
Feelings of regret following uncommitted sexual encounters in Canadian university students

Maryanne L. Fisher<sup>a\*</sup>, Kerry Worth<sup>b</sup>, Justin R. Garcia<sup>c</sup> and Tami Meredith<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Psychology, Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, Canada; <sup>b</sup>Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada; <sup>c</sup>The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, Indiana University, Bloomington, USA; <sup>d</sup>Department of Computing Science and Mathematics, Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, Canada

(Received 4 March 2011; final version received 30 August 2011)

In this study we explored the prevalence of regret following uncommitted sexual encounters (i.e., casual sex that occurs with someone once and only once or with someone known for less than 24 hours) among 138 female and 62 male Canadian university students, who were approximately 21 years of age. The majority of participants self-reported that they had experienced feelings of regret after an uncommitted sexual encounter. We found women reported feeling significantly more regret than men. However, men’s regret was more closely tied to physical attributes than women’s regrets.



*Celebrating research  
that makes  
people LAUGH and  
then THINK*

Sanders Theatre  
Harvard University

Live webcast

[www.improbable.com](http://www.improbable.com)