

# Wanted: Tall, dark, and dead



JOY SANTIAGO / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

SONYA KHANNA  
SILHOUETTE STAFF

With the popular HBO show *True Blood* hitting mainstream society by storm, and the current obsession with the *Twilight* saga maintaining a steadfast hold on tweens worldwide, many might be wondering if society's devoted fixation with vampires is purely cyclical or if the vampire phenomenon has secured a permanent place in the hearts of the public.

Although some may have just hopped on the vampire bandwagon given the recent *Twilight* craze, the recurring fascination with vampires is hardly a recent phenomenon. But why the fascination with vampires? If society can find sex appeal in an undead, blood

drenched, flesh-obsessed creature there must be some attraction towards zombies, right? But there's just something about vampires that makes them appealing to a diverse set of individuals, ranging from tweens to fanatical moms, closeted vampire geeks, and everything in between.

For centuries, vampires have appealed to a mass demographic of individuals aching for a release from the day-to-day stresses of life. Through the troublesome times of modern society the concept of eternal youthfulness and timeless knowledge is very alluring. The vampire pop culture boom can also be attributed to Hollywood's portrayal of vampires as the ultimate sex symbol: a powerful, brawny and seemingly untouchable creature

of the night.

I was never too keen on the whole *Twilight* craze. Something about the gushy love-infested soap operasque content didn't appeal to me. I say this as diplomatically as I possibly can with the hope that hoards of enraged Edward Cullen devotees won't harass me with death threats. But having been the ultimate *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* fan growing up, I did find *True Blood* to be quite fascinating. There is something profoundly alluring in the common themes of sex and death saturated in vampire mythology. It evokes a deep lust and triggers a rush of dark, forbidden passion. Vampires embody pent up fantasies society keeps buried in their subconscious.

Vampires have held vari-

ous cultural associations throughout the centuries. They once were epitomized as evil-doers feared for their parasitic, flesh-obsessed nature. According to Delia Konzett, associate professor of English and Cinema studies at the University of New Hampshire, these eternal narcissists can attribute an overwhelming resurgence of popularity to "the commodity driven, urban, competitive, and youth-obsessed culture we live in today." In modern day society, vampires are depicted as highly cosmopolitan creatures.

A correlation can be made linking society's obsession with youthfulness and the cultural fascination with vampires. These bloodsuckers represent a mosaic of unique, unattainable traits that have been highly regarded in various cul-

tures through the ages.

The "fountain of youth" concept is highly glamorized by modern society and has become increasingly popular in recent years through the emergence of botox, plastic surgery, and anti-aging cosmetics. So why is there such a staunch fixation on youthfulness? Delia Konzett states that, "Those lucky to have been converted [to a vampire] will remain young forever at that age, a real asset in today's culture, which prizes the appearance of youth, beauty and stamina."

Vampires represent an exclusive group immune from the inevitable threat of aging. Preserving youthfulness with the intent of postponing death and aging is quite popular in society.

Fourth year molecular biology student Deepa Rana explained, "there's a stigma towards growing old. People feel like they have more energy being young and falsely believe growing old means that you can't do much. Our fascination with vampires stems in part from the desire to stay young forever."

Perhaps society's lure towards the unknown is responsible for our fascination with vampires. Our secret fetish for the undead derives from an inclination towards a mysterious, brooding pent up fear towards evil. The vampire phenomenon embodies cultural beliefs that many hold strong; their eternal existence, wisdom, sex appeal, power and experience symbolize traits that appeal to a wide demographic.

Whether the current cultural fascination with vampires is a temporary fad or an endless fixation, with movies and popular TV shows infiltrating mass media, vampires have continued to maintain a fiercely loyal following, quenching society's thirst for the unknown.

## Booze can hurt your chances of getting lucky

LAUREN JEWETT  
SILHOUETTE STAFF

University brings an overwhelming sense of freedom, especially to those who choose to go in alone and leave the nest.

Such independence can lead to reckless behaviour and a lot of mornings asking yourself "Where am I?" and "Who are you?" Another common product of a wild university night is going upstairs to your roommate and starting your sentences with "Last night I was so high..."

Socializing at university often means going out to bars and clubs. When Thursday rolls around, most people are trying to figure out their plans for the weekend, which more often than not involves some

extra substance to make you party harder.

It's clear that many use alcohol, among other things, to raise their self-confidence and find the words to ask someone to the dance floor, or even back to their house.

But after a night of drinking, how ready for sex can you really be? Many girls can barely walk in heels let alone be lucid enough to get on their knees after a night on Hess Street. Many guys find themselves hugging toilets all night. Cleaning up vomit is hardly the way to get that lucky lady in the mood.

In order to be on your best game, one would think you would need to be sober. At least sober enough to hold a flirty yet intelligent conversation, and stand on

your own two feet.

It is no surprise that alcohol impairs your judgment, and this goes far beyond driving. No one ever says, "I was so sober last night that I hooked up with this fugly guy."

It just doesn't happen. If so many people know that the chance of them having great sex with someone they find attractive is severely lowered by binge drinking then why do so many of us do it?

Another common substance people feel will enhance sexual pleasure is marijuana. But a drug that is famous for creating extreme apathy and hunger doesn't seem as if it would create the energy and focus needed for good sex.

Smoking up will have you reaching for cheetos instead of condoms.

Those looking for a more

intense experience often turn to ecstasy or MDMA. This drug works to heighten your serotonin levels, which causes pleasurable sensations. This may at first glance seem like the ideal drug for the bedroom, but be warned that high levels of serotonin can cause you to become addicted and leave you wanting more. You don't want to put yourself in the position of having to ask that girl to wait while you go pop a pill.

From a physiological standpoint, alcohol is one of the worst poisons you can put into your body if you're planning to get lucky. Alcohol can leave you very dehydrated rendering you extremely tired, and in my opinion, useless.

Large quantities of alcohol may be what you need to finally ask for that phone number, but it will stimulate the production of glucose, lowering your blood sugar, which is why so many of us lose balance, and sometimes consciousness.

If your plan for the night is to go and have a great time with the guys, then drink as you please. But, if you are looking for some company for the night, you might want to skip that next beer.

No lady is going to want to have to hold you up from the cab to your house, or even worse, be disappointed when you can't keep the Sergeant at attention.

Sober sex produces enough natural chemicals to make you feel excited, happy, and then relaxed when it's all said and done.

### ThreadCount

Sufian Odeh

Fourth Year Life Science

**Shirt:** Banana Republic - \$30

**Long-sleeve shirt:** Club Monaco - \$40

**Knitted sweater:** Tommy Hilfiger - \$130

**Jeans:** American Eagle - \$50

**Desert boots:** Cafeina - \$125

**Scarf:** H&M - \$15

**Sunglasses:** Brooks Brothers - \$125

**Watch:** Raketa (vintage Russian) - gift from grandfather

**Describe your style:** Ever-changing!

**Favourite artist:** Phoebe Philo

**Favourite quote:** "Shit man!"  
- Hedyeh Ziai

**What are you looking for in a significant other?:**

One that fits the Good Gene Theory!



Presented by Christopher Chang

