

# SEX and the STEEL CITY

## Delineating the double standard

**Katherine George**  
The Silhouette

Almost every relationship includes some version of a double standard. It happens when one person in a relationship enforces a rule on the other, but if the roles reverse, the rule would not apply.

The double standard is not gender specific; the imposer of this rule can be either the male or female. For example, if women have numerous or frequent sexual partners, it generates a bad reputation that can be difficult for her to shake.

The double standard comes into play when men punish women harshly for sleeping with multiple men, such as, deeming her promiscuous or “easy”.

Ashley Sloane, a fourth year Commerce student at McMaster, explains, “it does not matter if the guy has slept with one or ten girls, but if the girl sleeps with one, she will not be fully trusted in a future relationship.”

Conversely, men in a similar situation excuse their behaviour as fulfilling the typical mould of a man. Being a man entails an overload of testosterone and a libido strong enough to override one’s own self-control.

Therefore, men justify promiscuous behaviour as the inevitable nature of a man to follow his instincts and spread his “seed” every time the opportunity rises.

It is not a far stretch to say that this specific example of a double standard is deeply embedded within our society today. In some ways, men are even rewarded for this type of behaviour and obtain the title of being a “player”.

This undoubtedly boosts a man’s ego and, in some cases, their perceived level of attractiveness.

Jamie Bowman, a fourth year Humanities student, gives an alternative perspective from a male point of view: “the double standard about sex numbers is very true, I totally judge girls by it. I know it’s wrong and very hypocritical of me to do it but I still can’t help but feel that way towards girls.”



RICARDO PADILLA / ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

It is near impossible to escape the double standard, no matter if you are male or female.

It is unfair that females are forced to turn a blind eye to the numerous sexual partners that their current or potential boyfriends have had and that, if the situation reverses, the man would consider the female unsuitable as a potential girlfriend. The double standard not only creates victims out of the females, but also men.

For example, at some point in every person’s life there will be the unfortunate experience where things get awkward and uncomfortable in bed.

Most commonly, these moments

consist of a man’s difficulties “getting it up”. The burden of problems in the bedroom often falls on the shoulders of the man.

Women will be quick to judge that there is something wrong with him should he not satisfy her sexual needs and desires, of which, of course, he is assumed to already have knowledge.

She will jump to the conclusion that he most likely suffers from erectile dysfunction or some other problem that does not include any fault of her own.

On the other hand, if the problem

arose as a result of the woman, and it was her who was struggling to climax during sex, the blame will almost certainly be given to the man again. Unlike in the first example, this double standard favours women over men.

There are multiple other situations where the double standard arises within any given relationship, but clearly, when deciphering this inevitable rule, neither gender is more favourable than the other.

Perhaps the cliché “judged and be judged” is well-suited in describing the double standard.

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## The dance to fame



JUNGHO NAM / THE SILHOUETTE

Here, Eshe is photographed in traditional belly dance wear.

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however. Rather, Eshe experienced financial strife as the cost of higher education weighed heavily on her.

“I was two years into my sociology degree at McMaster when I ran out of money,” Eshe explains. “I’d been working two part-time jobs to make ends meet but wasn’t financially able to continue.”

In search for a job opportunity, Eshe explains that she was able to take advantage of Japan’s working holiday visa where she taught English.

It was here, in the Land of the Rising Sun, that Eshe first found the opportunity to pursue what would become her lifelong passion and endeavour.

Once Eshe settled into her new home, miles away from where she once lived and a woman grown, she was at last able to take belly dance classes.

“It was [in] a tiny, old school Japanese apartment ... complete with incense, nature tapestries and koi. The first class was very difficult ... the next day I could barely walk!”

But Eshe’s unyielding drive helped her to pursue belly dance despite the physical pain, and after only three months her teach-

er asked her to join in Japan’s largest belly dance festival.

Today, Eshe explains that although she faced, and still faces, numerous challenges in her career, she is not one to submit to defeat

“I’m happy to jump through whatever hoops I have to [in order to] do what I love for a living. I live with the comfort of knowing I always put myself out there 100% and follow my heart.”

As an individual who has found success in her life’s passion, Eshe suggests to all who share in her love for belly dance, but also those who feel equally fervent about anything else, to take advantage of social networking sites Facebook and Youtube as a potential outlet for knowledge and success.

Most importantly, Eshe says that becoming an artist takes both time and practice, so be patient and, most of all, enjoy it.

“Use everything around you as inspiration, not only something directly within your genre but also all of your daily experiences.”

It is no doubt this sort of attitude that has propelled Eshe to fame—and perhaps as young and hopeful adults it is this same attitude we can use every now and again to see us through in whatever we may pursue.