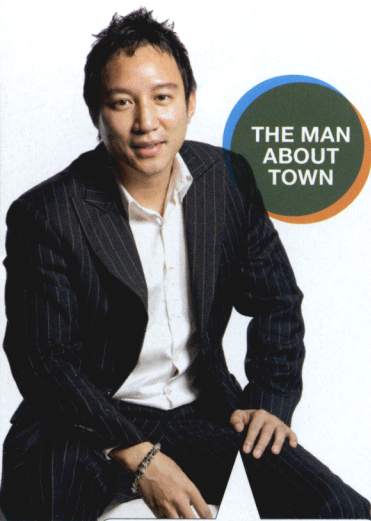


ask the manalysts



FINALLY – THE BIZARRE BEHAVIOUR OF MEN DECODED! OUR WORLDLY-WISE PANEL OF THREE GIVE THEIR OWN UNIQUE TAKE.

Q: My friends and I were having a debate about whether guys, especially conservative ones, can handle the fact that their girlfriends might be more sexually experienced than they are. How much should a woman reveal of her wild side without scaring him off?



THE MAN ABOUT TOWN

JEF LIM, 34

Occupation: Vice-president/executive producer, Mark Burnett Productions Asia.
Experience: Has dated and been dumped by a number of beautiful women, most of whom still talk to him.

→ The general wisdom is that most conservative people are either hiding or suppressing a wild side. This might be the perfect opportunity to unleash the tiger with a few well-placed suggestions. Now I'm not saying turn up one night in edible lingerie and cattle prod in one hand. A gentle introduction to a new position should do the trick, and if he asks, don't tell him... Show him. You may be surprised to find he has a few suggestions of his own. It would be appropriate to be with someone who shares the same values. If he doesn't, then it's better to find out now than later. Think of all the adventures you could be missing out on. Everyone has a history and the older we get, the longer that history becomes. As I grow older, I find experience as a personal quality sexier than ever. A real man shouldn't ask for something he can't handle. So I wouldn't worry too much about it, either he gets you, or he's history.

Need help finding out what's going on with your guy?
E-mail our Manalysts at magherworld@sph.com.sg.



THE GUY NEXT DOOR

CHAN TAU CHOU, 34

Occupation: TV producer-reporter.
Experience: Has met a few girls' mums, and is still trying to figure out why mothers always seem more impressed with him than their daughters are.

→ As far as I know, most guys wouldn't complain about an adventurous girlfriend. I think the key would be to pace yourselves, go with the flow and have a laugh. It should not matter if you've been more adventurous than he has, as long as you explore new adventures together. If he asks and you'd rather not lie, just say you don't want to go there; you're here with him now because he is better for you, and a notch over anyone else in the past. So test the waters and see how he responds. If he really is uncomfortable, perhaps you might want to temper your own expectations. At the end of the day, I don't think a woman's sexual past has any bearing on her moral values, as long as she doesn't take it to extremes, such as inflicting injury on you.



THE LOVE GURU

NORMAN LI, 42

Occupation: Singapore Management University lecturer and a "mating research specialist".
Experience: His research has found that attractive women are more likely to cheat, but he married one anyway.

→ Men may shy away from women who are very sexually experienced, as men infer (rightly or wrongly) that a woman's know-how may be due to sexual promiscuity, which is something they don't want in a long-term romantic partner. Introduce new ideas for bedroom fun slowly and gently – it'll seem like such a natural progression that he might not even think to ask, "Where'd you learn all that?" If he does ask, then gauge why. If it's from ecstatic amazement, then it's probably okay for you to be honest. However, if he's really asking "Who did you learn THAT from?" then you should still be truthful, but never disclose graphic details of other men. What's done is done. If he doesn't accept your past, it's better to know this now.