

THE ELLE WORD
SHARE YOURSELF, BUT DON'T GO OVERBOARD
BY DANIELLE KUEHNEL

My friend announced a few days ago, over her MySpace, that she is pregnant. It was one of those times that definitely took me off guard, but was followed immediately by elation for her and her boyfriend. She said, in words so simple, that it was “happy news,” and that she wanted all of her friends to know, but couldn’t call everyone because she was too busy with work.

I excitedly messaged her back, asking for all the details, including the date and time of the baby shower.

As I was thinking about her, I also began to think about how most other people in similar circumstances act. We all know a person like this: they can’t stop talking about one thing.

Too many times, I find myself sitting in class and, suddenly, I have the urge to throw a pen at the person who shamelessly flaunts what they have. I like to think of myself as a strong and independent woman, and many of my friends feel the same way. But when someone in class, or even in the workplace, goes out of their way to twist a conversation to somehow include either their gem-laden finger or the words “fiancé” or “boyfriend,” it is germane and unnecessary.

“It’s OK if it’s a good friend,” says Liz McGarry, a junior English major, “but during classes, randomly bringing up their love lives is out of place.”

McGarry is among the recorded 43 percent of this nation’s single women. She said that she doesn’t like being single, but doesn’t hate it, either. However, when people bring up their status during class, it’s clear that “they want attention.”

“It’s just annoying,” she said. “Part of the reason people hate Tom Cruise so much is because he’s all over. You can be in love—there’s nothing wrong with that—but don’t flaunt it.”

But as I pondered my friend’s situation, I realized that I was truly happy for her. It wasn’t because she’s pregnant or because she’s going to be a wonderful mother. It’s the fact that it happened to *her*, this young and humble woman—to someone who shares her joys, but doesn’t flaunt them.