

# Before she was silenced, Michelle told it like it was

During high school, I learned about girls from three places:

■ **My Dad** — One weekend afternoon in 11th grade, on the day after I had hung out with a girl, Dad and I were at a department store. At one point, I reached up to grab a hat on a shelf, revealing the hickey on my neck.

At first, I didn't think my father saw the hickey, the leading indicator of teenage sexual behavior.

But I was wrong. Dad waited until we were in the car. He waited until the doors were locked, the engine was started and the

Matt  
Katz  
Date  
Line



wheels were rolling.

And thus began the age-old "father-son talk."

■ **Health class** — I remember health class as a place where we were lectured about stuff we shouldn't do, like drugs and sex. However, in the process, teachers ended up giving us a lot of information about how to do both.

■ **Dr. Judy Kuriansky** — *Love Phones* was a late-night radio show about dating and sex on New York pop station Z-100. Ignoring the boredom of the calculus and Latin textbooks on my bedroom floor, for two hours each weekday night I laid on my bed staring at the ceiling, listening to Dr. Judy's every word.

There was a whole world out there I had yet to experience and this female voice was telling me all about it, women and men and every dirty thing in between.

What made Dr. Judy

particularly appealing was the fact she had a mildly flirtatious relationship with the co-host, a man. The guy was essentially a stand-in for every guy in the listening audience who wanted to talk to Dr. Judy at midnight in a dark radio studio.

I contacted Dr. Judy recently for a column I was working on. She didn't call me back. C'mon, Dr. Judy! I thought we had something!

Oh, well. Time to shop for a new favorite late-night love and sex authority. I ultimately found a great one, but, unfortu-

nately, in the process I might have derailed her career.

*Jersey All Night* is a show on Jersey 101.5 FM. Well, it was a show on 101.5. We'll get to that in a minute.

Radio personality Michelle Jerson, 26, a Long Island native who now lives in Mount Laurel, is similar to Dr. Judy in that both are candid and flirtatious on the air.

Michelle's format is solo. But for one night last month, she allowed me to be the guy in the studio,



MATT KATZ/Courier-Post

Michelle Jerson spends time recently behind the microphone.

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the one who stands in for every guy in the listening audience.

For the topic, "Is Kissing Cheating?" Michelle started us off. She imagined a situation if she had a boyfriend. "If I were to be kissing Matt Katz right now, would that be OK?" she asked.

At that point, every guy in radioland replaced his name with "Matt Katz." Michelle turned on the microphone in front of me and I said it would *not* be cheating if she kissed me. Then, I delivered a defense of kissing as a non-cheating act.

I don't know if I actually agree with that, but I was trying to say what every guy out in radioland wanted me to say.

Michelle and I bantered back and forth for a bit. Then she cut my mic, allowing me to sit there in the studio, watching her work. It was much better than listening to Dr. Judy and staring at the ceiling at my parents' house.

Plus, I got to hear from New Jersey's best and brightest love philosophers.

"Everything is cheating and nothing is cheating," said John, 28.

Huh?

Carl, 30, of Mendham, said he gets turned down all the time: "I feel like the Salvation Army," he said.

What?

Of course, the randomness of callers is part of the allure of late-night radio. In the meantime, Michelle delivered sound advice and insight.

She mixed in words like *shuup* (Yiddish for "having sex") with FCC-approved street lingo. She stood up at her mic (she claims she gets more callers that way), and drove home points with a wave of her arms.

"I just draw a lot from personal experience and really get into people's lives," Michelle said. Devoted listeners remember the night last winter after she broke up with a guy and talked about it on-air.

Michelle tells it like it is — a Dr. Judy for a new generation.

That is, she *was* the Dr. Judy for a new generation until I visited the studio. Two weeks later,

NJ 101.5 made a programming change. Michelle's show is no more.

I'd like to take this time to formally apologize to Michelle. According to the program director, I wasn't responsible for the cancellation. But my presence certainly was not a good omen.

I'd also like to take this time to tell radio producers around the country to pick up this woman. Everywhere in America, boys are sitting in their rooms ignoring their textbooks, dying to hear about sex and relationships from someone other than their fathers or health teachers.

And, besides, Michelle needs another job so I can clear my conscience for possibly messing up her career.

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ENTERTAINMENT