

also get hugs!! "Shouldn't we get in the hug line?" someone suggests. Agreed to, but paralysis has overcome us, and we begin to lose our faculty of speech. Never mind that such an act-a hug? un-thinkable! - violates crush rues.

The couple spots us : we avert our eyes, quickly. One of these women may be The Crush's aunt. She looks like The Crush's mother, who appears and casts us that look. Mothers have a knack for that look, but The Crush's mother is the best I've ever seen. She has quasi-gaydar: she knows that we are all crushed out on her daughter. The Crush ambles away from family, autograph seekers, us. We delay our own departure, try to regain our composure. The least crushed among us are ready to offer support to the most crushed-should we stumble. We glide colorfully past The Crush as she signs another autograph.

No one tripped. No one offered "nice game" either.

In the developing days of my crush, I said those very words to her as she climbed the bleachers to visit with her family. She actually slowed, faced me, and said "Thanks." She bumped my left elbow (Intentional! my mind screamed) as she went on. Maybe that's as close as I really want to get to The Crush. The more information one has, the less successful the crush. Take away the mystery and there's no possibility.

Having this current crush is safe. Close, but not too close. Shared with others. A worthy cause too, since we crushed-out dykes all purchased season tickets, joined Friends of UVM Women's Basketball, and buy 50-50 raffle tickets at home games. After all, we are devoted basketball fans. Our being crushed-out is innocent enough, unless one of these chest-tightening, mouth-drying moments is a heart attack in disguise-should The Crush ever acknowledge us. ▼

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