

Frankly Speaking

Students derogatory remarks show lack of education



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Bloomington High school is filled with a diverse group of individuals. Whether they are African American, Caucasian, Mexican-American, tall, short, big, small, gay or straight, we are all humans and deserve to be respected.

I have heard friends of mine say, "What if one of our friends is a lesbian, and we don't know it?" My response to this is, So what if they are gay? I have also heard female friends say they would be uncomfortable if one of their friends were a lesbian, but why? Is it because they think they will get "hit on" or do they have a fear of someone "checking them out" ?

Also, I have witnessed students say, "Oh, he's gay?" or "She's a lesbian? I hope she doesn't hit on me." Students who says things like this must have a very high confidence level. Let me ask this. Are all males attracted to all females? No. So, why would every lesbian feel attracted to every girl?

The majority of our school fits students who are gay into a certain stereotype. But, the reality is, anyone could be gay; a fellow football player, someone you pass everyday in the hall, or your best friend.

Students who may not be educated on homosexuality or who are just being disrespectful tend to use derogatory terms that refer to the lesbian and gay population.

Words such as "faggot" or "queer" are extremely hurtful to someone who is gay. A friend of mine was offended after hearing this word used in class one day. Because he saw the effect it had on the people that were being called "faggots" my friend realized the issues that exist at BHS.

This kind of behavior only demonstrates a very uneducated and misguided view point. Students who think it is okay to call a gay or lesbian a "faggot" don't realize the effect it can have on someone.

Parents Family Friends of Lesbians and Gays is an organization dedicated to helping and supporting the gay community with everything from making schools safer to providing support systems for them and their families. According to the PFLAG website, a 2005 survey reported that two-thirds of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students reported being verbally harassed because of their sexual orientation.

One may think homosexual slurs do not affect these individuals, but it is a fact that such harassment leads to a greater incidence of dropping out of school, depression and suicide. According to lamda.org, gay and lesbian youth suicides occur every five hours and 48 minutes.

Students who disrespect individuals of different sexual orientations should step back and take a look at them selves. Hurting somebody and making them feel less of a person should not make anyone feel proud. Calling someone a "faggot" may make some friends laugh at lunch, but in the long run, what kind of person does that make you?

Ringin in the holidays with crazy relatives



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Holidays are supposed to be a time of relaxing and spending time with those who are close to you. But for some reason whenever you bring the entire family together, it seems to bring out the worst in people, instead of the best.

I do not think I have made it through a single Thanksgiving or Christmas without over-hearing my aunts yelling in the kitchen about how long to cook the turkey or my uncles shouting at the football players through the television. But, that is just the pre-dinner entertainment.

Once everyone is gathered around the table, the real battle begins, and it all starts when the turkey is brought to the table. I have never seen a group of men gather around something so fast. They stand over the turkey arguing about who will have the honor of carving it, which often results in them resorting to childhood antics of name-calling.

When we finally get to start eating everyone is nice and polite, for the first 15 minutes, raving about how delicious everything is and making small talk, but it does not take too long to drop that charade. Not even half way through dinner everyone is fighting about politics, religion, which sports team is better, and telling embarrassing childhood stories about their siblings. And while it is fun and entertaining to watch to gets a bit uncomfortable after a while.

But, to top it off all this joyous spectacle of a family gathering all takes place on one side of the family; meaning, I still have to do go back and do it all over again the next day with the other half.

But the "family" part of the family dinner is not too bad compared to how neurotic people get about

actual "dinner" part.

People become so obsessed and self-conscious about what they are eating and how many calories are in it. They try to roughly guess how many calories are in what they are eating, usually with gross error. I do not know how many times my cousin has come up to me rambling, "Well the turkey is probably like 75 calories and the pumpkin pie is probably around like 200, so this whole dinner should only be around 700 calories." To which I can only reply "Yeah, sure... right". It has gotten easier just to nod my head and lie because if I tell her the truth it will end up causing her more stress than it will when she finds out that her pants do not quite fit the next day.

While the whole "calorie-counting" thing can get a bit annoying, it is not nearly as aggravating as when people are self-conscious about how much they are eating. They come sit down at the table and say "Yeah, I'm really going to focus on not overeating this holiday season", granted no one is really even listening to them because they are too busy arguing or shoveling food into their own mouths. So while everyone else is eating they just sit their and watch everyone else and then later that night they sneak down stairs and eat whatever is left over.

Seriously, everyone overeats at holiday dinners, the people you are eating with are not going to honestly assume that you eat your weight in turkey and mashed potatoes on a regular basis.

Do not get me wrong, I really do love my family, even though they are slightly insane parts, but while the hilarity of the dysfunctional family dinner is entertaining to watch in the movies it is not nearly as funny when it is your actual family causing the embarrassing fights.

Everyone has that one member, or multiple members of their family that words cannot describe. But, they are your family you have to love them crazy parts and all.



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