

Opinions

Editorial

LGBTQ on Hawk Hill

We would like to commend the university for being the leading Jesuit university for the LGBTQ community. We are one of the few Jesuit schools that are ahead of the rest when it comes to incorporating the LGBTQ community. We have had the GSA for three years now, and Unity week this year had the biggest turnout ever. It is incredible that we have such a welcoming safe community for the LGBTQ. It is commendable that we are so open to a conversation about the LGBTQ identity at a Jesuit school. While we have to abide by the Catholic church's rules, it is great that we can think of how we can

“Because we are Jesuits we are radical in our ideas about what is acceptable and should take full advantage of this opportunity.”

continue to incorporate their community in ours. We need to take full advantage of accepting nature of mass at Saint Joseph's University. Because we are Jesuits we are radical in our ideas about what is acceptable, we should take full advantage of this opportunity. We have hope for the LGBTQ Community in the Catholic Church and on Saint Joseph's University. We hope that everyone takes full advantage of the conversation we are able to hold on campus.

The Hawk Staff

#commprobs

As tuition-paying students, we expect our university to pursue academic excellence as its highest priority. In addition to increasing the faculty, course offerings, and resources of our academic departments, we should continue to develop new majors, minors, and other programs of study to further improve the educational experience for students at Saint Joseph's University. Unfortunately, it does not appear that the university's recent actions align with its stated goal of academic expansion. While it is clear that the faculty of our school is entirely dedicated to ensuring the highest level of professionalism and academic integrity, several missteps taken by administrators have weakened plans for academic improvement. The handling of the expansion of the communication studies department is a perfect example of this situation. Over the past several years, the program has expanded from offering only a minor, to including a major as well, and is now home to over 150 majors and 90 minors, not including students who have a second major. However, with only three tenure-track faculty members and no additional adjunct professors, the program is woefully understaffed and struggling to meet the demands of incoming students. This situation has reached a point that the major has been closed to juniors and seniors, as many students are forced to wait until their junior year to enroll in the core requirements. It is unclear why this program was not developed to better foster gradual growth while still meeting the high demand that such a popular major would attract. As the staff of the student newspaper,

“Unfortunately, it does not appear that the university's recent actions align with its stated goal of academic expansion.”

we wonder whether the expansion of the communication studies program was based around the academic needs of students, or whether the university was preoccupied with the popularity and recognition that such a program would gain from prospective students and outside observers. Either way, an immediate solution to this situation must be formulated in conjunction with the faculty and students of the department. On a larger scale, it appears that the mission of 'academic expansion' has been almost forgotten around Hawk Hill. As part of the long-term strategic plan, the faculty and students of our university were promised that after the physical expansion of the early 2000's, this decade would be devoted to rigorous academic expansion. However, with the recent eight million dollar budget shortfall, the increase on caps for certain courses, and the aforementioned problems in the communication studies department, it does not appear that this promise is being kept. On behalf of the students of St. Joe's, we demand a higher level of action on the promises of academic improvement. In order to remain competitive, we must take seriously our urgent need to focus all of our energy and resources on academic improvement. We hope that with the leadership of our new president and the cooperation of the faculty and students, we will be successful in this mission and truly strive to 'live greater.'

The Hawk Staff

LGBTQ fast facts

1. According to the American Psychological Association, homosexuality is not a mental disorder. Most of the problems LGBT members have with coming out are due to a feeling of alienation in an unwelcoming environment.
2. 1 million gays and lesbians are military veterans.
3. Currently, 1 million American children are being raised by same-sex couples.
4. Same-sex couples live in all states and 99.3% of counties within the U.S.
5. 61% of Americans believe that transgender individuals should be legally protected from discrimination.
6. According to a national poll, 80% of Catholics do not think it is their place to judge an same-sex couples' love or commitment to one another.
7. More than half of all Fortune 500 companies offer health benefits for their employees' same-sex partners.
8. Up to 1% of the U.S. population has been confirmed as transsexual.
9. The LGBT population is not only concentrated in big coastal cities. Some of nation's largest percentage of same-sex couples by county live in Colorado, Missouri, and New Mexico.
10. Nationally, 10% of men and 10% of women 18-44 consider themselves to be something other than heterosexual.
11. There are currently over 700 LGBT clubs and groups on college campuses nationwide.

All information from: <http://www.dosomething.org/tipsandtools/11-facts-about-lgbtq-life-america>

Correction

On behalf of "The Hawk" student newspaper, we would like to apologize for the "Overheard" that mentioned Anne Frank which ran in the December 5, 2012 issue. It was not our intention to offend anyone on campus, and we are sorry for the insensitivity this remark displayed. This was an unacceptable oversight, and we will do our best to avoid this in the future. Please know we remain dedicated to promoting and valuing religious diversity on campus.



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Opinions

Love on Hawk Hill

A series about what it takes to make a relationship work on a college campus



Kathleen Young '13
Opinions Editor

Relationships are hard work, especially in college. The “committed” are faced with temptation almost every time they turn around. Relationships can be even harder when you stay together over long distances, and you can’t see the person you love every day. That’s why, if you’re in a relationship, long distance or no distance at all, you need to remain 100 percent committed.

I cannot speak for everyone when I say this, but I know I have definitely run into situations where I’ve met a guy at bar, we hit it off, and I found out after the fact that he had a girlfriend. However, I don’t feel that it is my responsibility to check before I interact with a guy if he has a girlfriend. As is true of most guys, if he starts the conversation or the dancing, then I am going to take it as a sign that he is available and interested. To all the couples out there that cheat on their significant others, you need to reevaluate your priorities. It’s not just guys that cheat; girls are just as guilty as their male counterparts. This happened to me as recently as this semester. One night I was out, and met a

guy on the dance floor at a bar. He was cute, tall, and seemed friendly enough. We ended up having a really PG-rated make out session on the dance floor, and we both went our separate ways. That weekend, I was in “The Hawk” office swapping stories about the weekend. I shared my funny dance floor story, and when I told my friends his name, they stared at me in disbelief. They asked me if I was sure that was his

“And I believe that if you make that commitment to become exclusive with someone and call him or her your boyfriend or girlfriend, you damn well better stick to your word.”

I confirmed I was positive, but asked why everyone was so surprised. Then they said the words no one ever wants to hear: “He has a girlfriend.” I had never met this guy before, so I stared right back at them in disbelief. I was so mad! I did not persue him, as I would never do that to someone’s boyfriend. I was really angry at first, because for starters, I was lied to. Then I was mad because I, yet again, picked a guy who had issues with commitment. This time, however, I was on the other end. Then I was mad because I put myself in his girlfriend’s shoes. How would I feel if I had a boyfriend and he went behind my back and cheated on me? I would be mad at the girl, and even madder at

my boyfriend for breaking my trust. As I told this story, we all unanimously agreed that this would be this week’s column. So many people have been in this position before, and everyone can simply agree that it sucks. I was embarrassed that I didn’t know the truth. What if his friends saw and then told his girlfriend? I felt dumb that I had no idea about his relationship status, but then asked myself: how was I sup-

posed to know he had a girlfriend when he was the one that sought me out? I’m writing this to all the readers who have unknowingly been the “other person.” We know how it feels, that sinking feeling in the stomach when you find out the other party lied. You’re mad at yourself for not knowing that this person was in a committed relationship. But mostly, you’re mad at yourself for being tricked. To the people that have been duped: don’t dwell on it. You didn’t know that you were dealing with a liar. And now that you know, you can understand that you wouldn’t want anything to do with that person anyway. You need to

learn from your experience and be cautious. It’s not your job to interview every person you meet as to whether he or she has a boyfriend or girlfriend, but if you have a suspicion they might be trying to two-time, then go with your gut. People take issue with the phrase “once a cheater, always a cheater.” But I always have to ask: If he or she cheated on their boyfriend or girlfriend with you, what makes you think they won’t turn around and treat you the same way?

I’ve been blessed with wonderful parents who have been in a loving, committed marriage for almost 23 years. Their relationship is the kind of love that I hope to find one day. And because of them, I believe in commitment. And I believe that if you make that commitment to become exclusive with someone and call him or her your boyfriend or girlfriend, you damn well better stick to your word. If you want to cheat, then you’re probably not as happy as you think you are in the relationship. I hope that in some way, shape, or form, these columns have made you laugh, or relate to my stories in some way. I hope that none of you give up hope if you’re looking for love. But mostly, I hope you all came away with the idea that love can be great and amazing, you just have to weed your way through the losers that aren’t worth your time. Look for more stories and advice to come as I tackle my final semester at Saint Joseph’s University.

A Response to “Time of the month time of care”

Bianca Facchinei '13
Hawk Staff

John Corrigan, a student at Temple University, wrote a column last week offering advice to males everywhere on how to deal with their girlfriends’ menstrual cycles, titled, “Time of the month is a time of care.” I was immediately stunned that any guy other than a male gynecologist would choose to write about this (unless John has a vagina). I’m going to assume that he doesn’t have a female reproductive system, which means he has a very narrowed idea of what it’s actually like to menstruate. I understand that a majority of

this article was intended to be funny, not to be a submission to the American Journal of Public Health. But despite whatever Corrigan’s intent was, there happened to be too many things wrong with his column. Corrigan successfully enforced the stupid theory that women become Satan incarnate once every month. Although he gave the proper definition of menstruation cited by the National Institutes of Health, he couldn’t help himself from saying things like, “Conversing with your girlfriend

while Aunt Flo is visiting is like navigating through a minefield – anything can set her off.” One: Using the term “Aunt Flo” probably made the read-

“When people are in physical pain, their hopes aren’t generally high, but feeling sore is not the road to irrational Hell.”

ers more uncomfortable than any other aspect of the article. Two: Yes, menstruating can be difficult to deal with, because it’s a matter of biology, but young women learn

to live with it at an early age and go on normally with their lives. The wild, exaggerated interpretation Corrigan suggested is only seen on sitcoms. Corrigan claims that his girlfriend often has bizarre food cravings and appreciates “anything that makes her feel special” during her “time of the month.” What Corrigan hasn’t seemed to ponder is the possibility that his girlfriend is taking advantage of him and strategically uses her period as an excuse, since he clear-

ly knows nothing about it. As Corrigan said in his article, it isn’t proven that the meanness of women increases during menstruation. It hasn’t been proven because it’s not true. When people are in physical pain, their hopes aren’t generally high, but feeling sore is not the road to irrational Hell. Instead of avoiding your girlfriend to prevent irritating her while she’s menstruating, I would suggest acting like an adult as an alternative. Perhaps if you do, she will no longer attack you for simply having a Y chromosome.

Opinions

Second semester senior year check in

Jess Olenik '13
Editor in Chief

As we go to our last classes, study (maybe even cram) for our last finals, send in our last papers, and pack up to leave for the holidays, seniors, such as myself are coming to the realization that our time on Hawk Hill is very limited. School has become a routine process for us, so much so that for well over a decade, we have been boarding school buses, walking to classes, sitting through meetings, and writing countless essays, for most of us; it’s all that we know. Before we came to college many of us were told that these would be the best four years of our

lives but we couldn’t understand it until it’s almost over. The reality is setting in that soon we will need to find jobs, new places to live, and figure out how to live outside of Hawk Hill. At this point, with only five months to go, it’s becoming clearer that we need to take advantage of every last opportunity we have because before we know it, we will be walking to receive our diplomas. This time is a time to cherish what memories we’ve made in these past three and a half years, to continue to strengthen relationships that have helped shape who we are. Next semester, be

sure that you crash in Drexel apartments at least once, play the person you see staring back at you in the mirror. What is the most important lesson you’ve learned during your time at Saint Joe’s? For me, I’ve found things don’t just fall into place; you have to work for them. Make the best of the time that you have left here to truly find your passion and the person that you want to become. As Tom Petty once said, “You have four years to be irresponsible here. Relax. Work is for people with jobs. You’ll never remember class time, but you’ll remember time you wasted hanging out with your friends. So, stay out late. Go out on a Tuesday with your friends when you have a paper due Wednesday. Spend money you don’t have. Drink ‘til sunrise. The work never ends, but college does...” Tom Petty

Letter to the Editor: Alumni is outraged at SJU parody accounts

When I graduated Saint Joseph’s University this past May, I wasn’t just excited for my future; I was also sad about the home I’d be leaving behind. When most people talk about how proud they are of their alma mater, it tends to come off as nothing more than treacly sentiment. But I can truly say with full confidence that I had always been proud to be a Hawk. Until recently, that is. I’ve always been aware of the various college humor oriented sub-Tucker Max style Twitter accounts, and I’ve always found them to be uniformly unfunny at best, and seriously problem-

atic at worst. After graduation, many St. Joe’s oriented “joke” accounts began to pop up on my Twitter feed. “To the people behind these accounts, I’d like to ask that you check your privilege and think before you tweet,”

Joe’s is overwhelmingly white, middle-to-upper middle class, and Catholic. Further, a college campus is, unfortunately, an institution that has to deal regularly with sexual assault, and the ways campus life contributes to a rape culture that normalizes sexual violence against women. It stands to reason then that the people behind these accounts (and many others) occupy that demographic. To the people behind these accounts, I’d like to ask that

you check your privilege and think before you tweet. I also have some advice: when you exercise your right to make “jokes” from a position of privilege that push down on the marginalized, don’t get indignant when they feel empowered to exercise their right to push back. I don’t think I can speak for all St. Joe’s alumni, but I can say with certainty that, for the very first time, I’m embarrassed and ashamed to be a Hawk.

Frank McDevitt '12

Voice your opinion to the Hawk

Email: hawk.editorial@gmail.com | Website: www.hawkhillnews.com