

NETFLIX AND CHILL

Browse Kids DVD

by Adam Sheffield

In recent years, Netflix has become not just a glorified time waster, but instead, a new relationship maker.

The phrase “Netflix and chill” was not used until a tweet in 2009 from the user NofaceNina, which said, “I’m about to log onto Netflix and chill for the rest of the night.”

Netflix and chill did not become a euphemism, however, until November 2014, when a photo began floating around Tumblr and Twitter whose caption read, “The Netflix and chill starter pack,” and featured pictures of comfortable clothes and a condom.

Netflix and chill is, according to fusion.net, defined as a code phrase for hooking up, whether between people in a relationship or simply as a booty call.

Despite the sexual connotation, Netflix hasn’t shied away from the phrase. In early February 2016, Net-

flix even conducted a survey about Netflix and chill for 1,008 people from ages 18-29.

According to the study, 72% of people say staying in and watching Netflix is one of their favorite casual date nights. In addition, 51% believed sharing a Netflix password means the relationship is serious, and 58% of people bond over Netflix.

As of late 2015, Netflix had around 69.2 million subscribers according to fool.com.

And if 58% of that number really do bond over Netflix, then that means that around 40 million people can bond over Netflix, which gives us a clue about how Netflix and chill has become so popular.

But is the phrase Netflix and chill actually ever used by students at New Trier? A senior girl who wished to remain anonymous didn’t believe it wasn’t used as anything more than

a joke.

“I had a guy ask me to come over to his house to watch a movie and chill, which I guess is the same thing, but he didn’t actually say Netflix and chill. I think when people say Netflix and chill it’s more of a joke than anything else,” she said.

Senior Ceejay Xiong agreed, saying that Netflix and chill is never actually used seriously.

“That’s a weird way to ask someone to hook up,” Xiong said. “Netflix and chill just sort of happens, you don’t really plan on it.”

Netflix and chill is mostly used as a euphemism because people might feel awkward about actually asking someone to straight up hookup, but according to senior Jamie Knippen, people are probably not shy about asking to hook up.

“I’m sure people do it a lot, 100%. It’s just another way to basically

booty call someone,” Knippen said.

As to why the phrase became popular, Xiong said it was only a matter of time before someone came up with a clever saying to describe what was happening.

“I know people that have been Netflix and chilling for years, and I think somebody finally put together a funny phrase to describe what is actually happening. It’s one of those things that if a few people start saying it, it becomes mainstream fairly easily,” Xiong said.

Despite Netflix and chill being a clean way to ask someone to hook-up, it has become more of a joke around New Trier than anything.

“It’s a funny phrase,” Xiong said. “But it can’t be taken too seriously.”

“If emulated in real life, [it] can result in emotional and psychological distress for (young girls)”

Sexually active teens on TV have real teens feeling inadequate

by Liz Byrne

The world of “Gossip Girl” is a supposed look behind-the-scenes of New York’s Elite.

Set on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, the characters spend their time attending a prestigious private school, shopping sprees at Barneys and partying the night away at exclusive nightclubs.

Oh, and pretty much everyone has sex with each other.

Some posters advertising the show embrace the increased sexuality, with scandalous close-ups of characters “in the heat of the moment.”

On the posters are varying testimonies from publications, such as “Every Parent’s Nightmare” or “Very Bad For You” as a stamp of approval and condoning the risqué behavior.

While the hookup scenes are by no means R-rated, the sheer amount in the series is startling.

And it’s all glamorized. There are almost no mentions of STDs or protection.

Carol Platt Liebau, the president of the Yankee Institute for Public Policy and conservative commenta-

tor said in an interview with Reuters that “Gossip Girl” creates a false reality of what sex is really like.

“(It) glamorizes and normalizes the kinds of behavior that may seem charmingly risqué and sophisticated when little girls see them on TV, but which, if emulated in real life, can result in emotional and psychological distress for them,” Liebau said.

Liebau’s argument is not unwarranted.

A 2004 study done by Rand Corporation found that teens who frequently watch TV with sexual content are more likely to initiate intercourse in the following year.

This could be due to a number of different reasons, but the most outstanding is the glamorization of sex on TV.

MTV’s “The Real World” is just one example of the many reality shows on air that promote casual sexuality, but unlike “Gossip Girl,” these shows claim to be ‘reality.’

The shows all start the same way. A dozen or so twenty-somethings are put into a house and are filmed non-stop.

The “guests” in the house are left to their own devices, so inevitably hookups occur.

Producers of the shows even admit to casting participants based on their diversity, including levels of sexual experience.

In almost every house, there is one “virgin” and one or more guests who have a boyfriend/girlfriend back home that is inevitably cheated on.

So what do these shows tell their audiences about sexual activity?

Nothing positive.

Casual sexuality, isn’t necessarily a bad thing at that age, but for younger viewers it creates this false idea that sex is something that can be without consequences.

At 16-18 years old, a large part of MTV’s demographic, sex is not something to be taken lightly and viewers see only the drama that unfolds from people hooking up.

Yet, people continue to tune in week after week to watch the drama unfold and see who is hooking up with who. It’s addictive. It’s the type of TV that turns everyone’s brain to mush.