

1-800-HOTLINEBLING

by Rachel Melancon

Many New Trier students have ditched the idea of dating, replacing it with a less formal hook up relationship-- a booty call.

According to one senior, a booty call is when you text a boy or girl late at night to hookup. A person may have one booty call they always text or some have numerous contacts to choose from. Many of these interactions happen after parties.

Although dating and one-time hookups are still prominent among the student body, booty calls have become increasingly popular. They are informal and less exclusive relationships that strictly revolve around hooking up with one another.

"I liked [having a booty call] because I got a fun and exciting hookup," a senior said. "There were no strings attached."

Initiating one is a simple task, one senior shared. "It is established when someone asks to hang out after 11:00 pm, usually with no intention of actually getting to know the person. Hooking up is usually just implied."

This "friends with benefits" relationship greatly differs from dating or being in a thing since it's anything but exclusive. The person that booty called you last night may hook up with your friend the next day. "It's something you really only do when it's late at night and you're bored after a party," said a senior. "It's absolutely not exclusive."

The lack of closure within the relationship can lead to problems and can be anything but free and easy. "Booty calls set people up to make unhealthy relationships later in life by making a person feel used which isn't great for their self esteem. Both dating friends with benefits a person seems more unstable and emotionally detached,"

senior Emma Alter said.

Many students are left broken hearted due to the miscommunication involved. One senior witnessed a couple fighting about their status, as one believed they were exclusive and the other person did not.

"I rarely see couples define their relationship," the senior said. "People are always misunderstanding each other and that leads to a lot of messy endings. Everyone in it gets hurt."

"Booty calls create unrealistic dating standards," an anonymous junior said. "Students believe that it's good to just hook up with someone and toy with their feelings. It's become a disrespectful practice. I witness my friends being taken advantage of whenever they are in one."

With the rise of hookup culture, a boy no longer needs to take a girl on a date in order to constantly hook up. "It's really de-personalized the way we interact, especially in romantic relationships. Dating is supposed to be just as much emotional as it is physical," Alter said.

In the past, teenagers would go on dates regularly with their love interest. Whether it was a one time date or it grew into something more, there was rarely a hookup without a date first. "I think booty calls have almost eliminated the concept of dating that our parents knew for the majority of their teens," Alter said.

Supporters argue that it frees busy students from the pressures of dating someone. "Having a booty call is a good idea if you are okay with not wanting to be in a relationship," said one senior. "It's just nice to have someone with whom to hook up without consequences or pressure to be something more. It's just for fun."

"There's nothing wrong with a booty call relationship as long as both people involved are on the same page," junior Carlyne Newman said. "Relationships can be exhausting and booty calls are convenient and easy."

Another senior added, "If you're looking for just hooking up with someone with no connection, and only for pleasure, then the concept makes sense. If that's what you want then have a booty call, but if it's not, then you definitely should not do it nor respond to one."

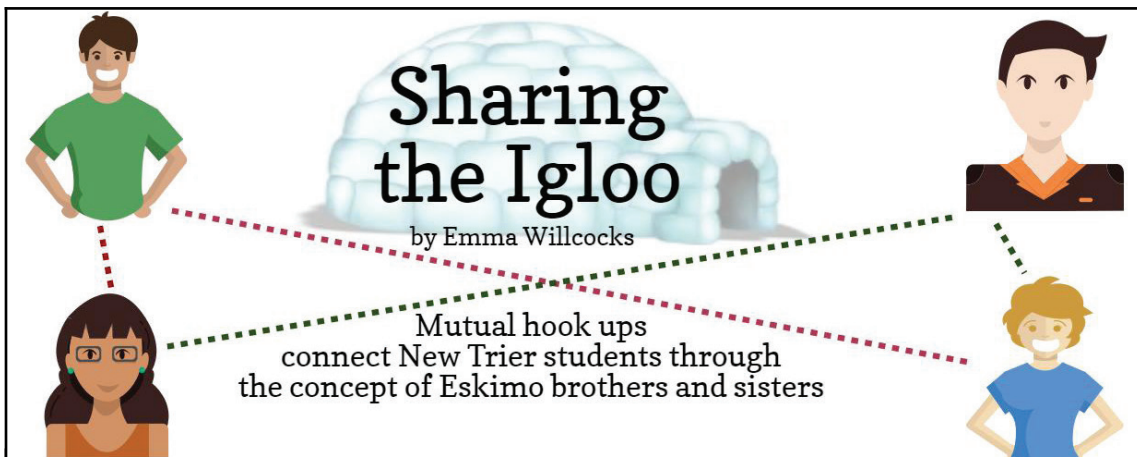
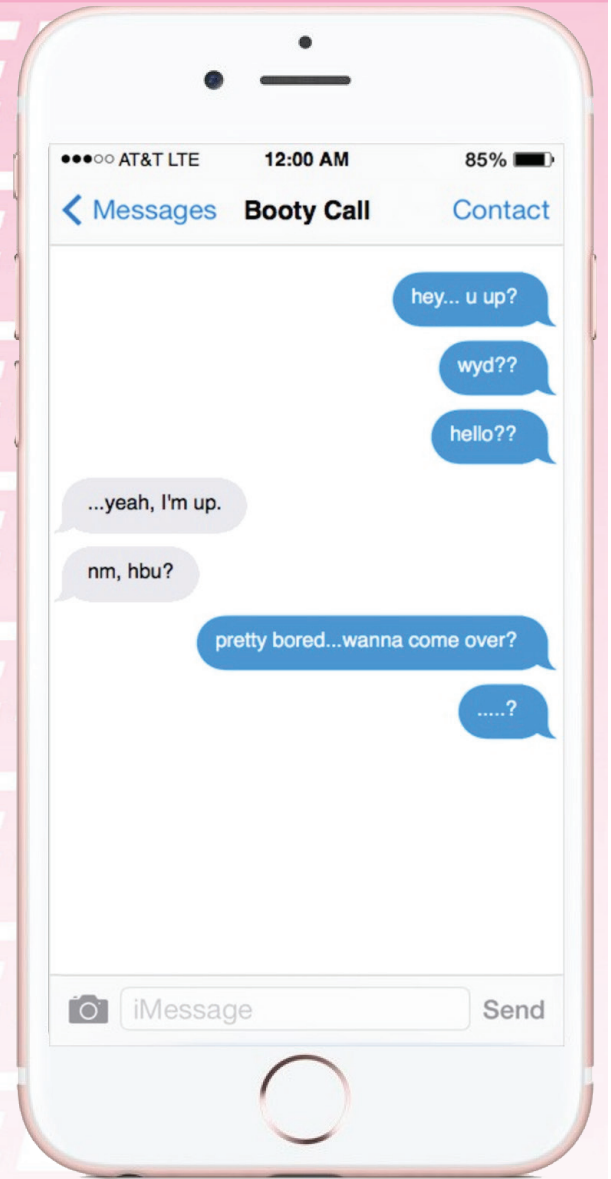
A junior shared that many people are left broken hearted by the miscommunication that can occur with having a booty call. Their feelings are hurt when their booty call hooks up with another person or simply stops responding.

A senior said that boys are generally more interested in hooking up with a girl or boy for fun, while girls are more in it for the emotional aspect.

"F***boy is the term for a guy who will only text you after 11:00 pm to hook up with no strings attached," senior Tommy Agase said.

Another senior shared how their feelings can be hurt after being used as a booty call. Many boys and girls can gain a reputation of being easy if they constantly hook up with the people that have booty called them.

"I can name 25 people off the top of my head who have booty called me, and there's probably some I'm forgetting," they said. "I used to react with shock and maybe even flattery, but now I'm more [upset]. Sometimes it can be a letdown if a guy I genuinely like booty calls me, because it shows he isn't really interested in me as a person. This happens quite often."



The concept of Eskimo brothers/sisters is not regarded consistently by the New Trier student body. While some consider it to be a gross and unnecessary acknowledgment of past hookups, other students find it an amusing and lighthearted source of connections.

Urban Dictionary defines Eskimo brothers as "when two males acknowledge having been intimate with the same female and remain on good terms. The men are now bonded by having shared the same igloo at one time or another."

Because this is high school, the term is used more generously to refer to simply mutual hookups, not necessarily sex. The correlating definition is true for Eskimo sisters.

The phrase "Eskimo brothers" was supposedly first introduced by the sitcom, "The League." However, the phrase itself references the belief that Inuit men historically "lent" their wives to guests as a sign of hospitality, though the accurateness of this statement is greatly disputed.

Contrary to the Urban Dictionary definition, not everyone feels an immediate bond with their Eskimo brother/sister or even wants to acknowledge the concept.

"It is kind of a weird thing, being like, 'Hey I made out with that guy too' and suddenly having this bond with a girl," a junior girl said, "especially if you don't really know her well."

"When I'm talking to a guy and we know we're Eskimo brothers, it can be awkward," a sophomore guy said. "Depending on the guy and the situation, sometimes it feels a bit competitive about who went further."

This competitive aspect is a prevalent concern. "It's easy to get caught up on figuring out who else a guy has hooked up with and wondering where you rank compared to them," a senior girl said.

"Most people are past the point where it's their first hookup, but drawing attention to past hookups seems uncomfortable."

However, not all find the concept to be strange and unneeded. For some, being Eskimo brothers or sisters is a source of friendship.

A sophomore girl got talking to a KW classmate about her weekend, and the two discovered that they had hooked up with the same guy within a couple of weeks. "We started talking about the weird things he did and how awkward he was afterwards," she said. "We laughed so hard and now we're friends."

"A guy and I hooked up with the same girl one night at a party," a junior guy said. "We fist bumped and said 'spect to each other. We had a moment."

With groups of friends, often all the guys will end up hooking up with all the girls in the group within some point in time.

"My guy friends have hooked up

with mainly the same girls I have, because we are always together so are always with the same girls," a senior guy said.

"Friend-cest is funny, because when you're hanging out with your group, you can look around and know almost everyone has hooked up with each other," a junior girl said. "We're like a big family. But not in a weird way."

However, some think that Eskimo brothers/sisters go too far. "I think it's gross. Yes, people have hooked up with each other before, but drawing attention to it makes things uncomfortable, especially if things didn't end well," a senior girl said. "I don't want to hear about everyone's personal life."

One senior girl argues that Eskimo sisters are important when making decisions. "When I hook up with a guy who has hooked up with lots of popular girls, I am considered more popular. But if I would become Eskimo sisters with lots of weird girls, then I won't hook up with the guy. Knowing who your sisters would be is good for deciding whether the hook up is worth it," she said.

Overall, those who do choose to acknowledge the concept of Eskimo brothers/sisters believe it is just for fun, with no harm done. A junior guy said, "At the end of the day, I don't think anyone really cares about who their Eskimo brothers or sisters are. It's mainly just for joking around."

- Single
- Taken
- It's complicated

by Will D'Angelo

One of my most vivid breakups occurred a few years ago, when a girl told me that she was ending things with me because she "wanted to have fun."

From that moment on, my perspective on relationships has warped and changed, and as a second semester senior, I feel confident that I can say that high school relationships aren't (always) worth it.

I've gone through my fair share of breakups and some of them have been relatively ugly. At the same time, I have come to understand the pros of being single and ready to mingle.

The majority of my best friends have girlfriends, and have had girlfriends, for most of high school. Friday and Saturday nights, they hang out with their significant others, making memories while at restaurants or while watching Netflix.

At the end of the day they have beautiful relationships with beautiful people, and I respect the commitment that they have shown over the past couple of years.

From all this time spent around about a dozen couples, I've come to ask myself, where is the fun in being tied down in high school? Why sacrifice up to four years of self-exploration and maturation to someone you may never speak to again after graduation, unless you attempt to start a long-distance, cross-college relationship that too often fails?

There are a lot of advantages to being with somebody for an extended period of time: the constant companionship, (for some couples) the guaranteed affection, and always having someone to lean on through joyful or tough times.

I have consistently maintained, however, that when we return for our big high school reunion, we will be hanging out with our high school best friends, not with our 12th grade girlfriends.

As a result of all of these things,

you don't need to be in a relationship. You don't even have to want one. Being lonely and grasping for some semblance of the perfect, high school "love story relationship" can easily translate into a total disaster.

Because of my time spent in relationships and also on the market, I've come to realize something. Being single has allowed me to make the memories now, as opposed to regretting missing out on moments later. A few friends and I have bonded over being single, and we have made many, many memories meeting all of the fish in the so-called sea.

It's not just about the hook-ups either. Everyone knows that college will make everyone feel special, no matter their status in high school.

Being single helps you form relationships with new people, and become successful in your passions. If you get dumped and you find yourself absolutely heartbroken, remember that you're a teenager and that you have your entire dating life ahead of you.

So here's my advice: focus on yourself in high school, and have as much fun as possible- which may or may not include dating.

If you take the time to realize what you really want, then you'll find yourself much happier and more independent. I'm not arguing in favor of purely hook-ups as opposed to long-term relationships, because only you can decide what you want. If this means you stay in your relationship, so be it.

But don't settle for someone who will hurt your high school experience. If you are constantly bothered by your significant other, maybe it's time for a change.

In my experience, going with the flow is the best solution to every situation, because life will work itself out in the end. So even if you end up single and down in the dumps, aim high and keep being yourself.