

Girls apathetic towards senior sacks

by Michael Pruchnicki

It's the time of year when seniors break out their inner third grader. That's right, it's senior sack time.

This tradition is a senior's form of expressing that they do not care about school anymore.

Senior sacks have traditionally been worn by male students, but in the past years there has been a push by senior girls to join in.

The original drawstring backpacks have now evolved into child backpacks with the likes of Mario and Luigi or Lightning McQueen logos.

Senior Sylvia Williams said, "I want to get a senior sack. I think it would be a fun way to ring in the reality of being a second semester senior and almost graduating."

Senior Zoe Linares also likes the idea of sporting a sack, "Many of my friends have senior sacks, and I plan

on getting one sometime soon."

This male dominated tradition may have formed because, for the most part, boys are more willing to flaunt their apathy. It can be part of the senior boy persona.

Nate Friefeld explained, "Senior boys wear senior sacks more because no one wants to carry as much stuff. Also it is the epitome of Senioritis."

Boys don't seem to have a problem accepting girls who wear what has traditionally been a trend for boys.

"I've got a neutral state with this. Anyone can go to Walgreens and buy one so anyone should be able to wear one. Senior sacks have no barriers for me, we're all out of here in a few months, so why not have fun now," said senior Justin Truong.

Senior Corey Nagel agrees, "You don't see girls wearing senior sacks that much because traditionally it hasn't been for them. But if I did see it, that would be pretty cool."

Senior Christain Koules would



(From left to right): Jonathan Jaggard, Sam Boyd, and Steven Childs have chosen to display their senior status with alternative backpacks | Scherer

admire girls for wearing one, "I would probably complement their senior sack. I've got no negative opinions; anyone can and should be able to wear one."

Senior Jose Rodriguez thinks that girls' sacks can often be funnier, "Actually of all the senior sacks you see, the ones that the girls have are usually the funniest, so with that said,

I do not mind if girls wear senior sacks."

If many New Trier students claim that they don't mind senior girls donning senior sacks, then why do senior girls not wear them as much as boys do?

Senior Griffin Powell said, "Most girls have purses and speciality bags anyway, as opposed to guys who

usually wear conventional backpacks, so there is no need for them to wear a senior sack, because their personality is shown every day."

Rodriguez agrees, "Girls already carry around designer bags (most notably Lululemon, purses, and stylish bags to put school materials in), so they have no need to carry around a senior sack come second semester. Their personality is already shown with the other bags they use."

The aspect of showing your personality is also a major factor of wearing a senior sack.

Friefeld said, "My favorite part about the senior sacks is that they show personality of the person wearing them. They are so much more telling about a personality than just a regular backpack."

Senior Bea Maloney appreciates the idea of a senior sack, but does not think that they are practical. She explained, "I think they're hysterical, but I could never carry one. I like having a lot of stuff with me."

Facebook go to method for roommate search

by Liz Byrne

"The internet is forever."

That's the mantra that kids are now told with the rising popularity and integration of social media.

Facebook, from its creation, has been targeted towards college campuses and as the acceptance letters begin to arrive, so does the popularity of college class Facebook groups.

As soon as the early action letters were sent out on Dec 15, the frenzy of college acceptance hit at full force. Posts of congratulations and declarations of acceptance into ivy leagues littered news feeds and will continue to do so until the fast-approaching May 1 acceptance deadline. The statuses have died down for now though, and have instead moved into private class groups.

These groups are closed to the public and usually titled with the university name and year of graduation with member numbers ranging from 500 to 8,000 students.

These groups aren't exclusive and some students use them to get an inside look at the personalities of possible students attending.

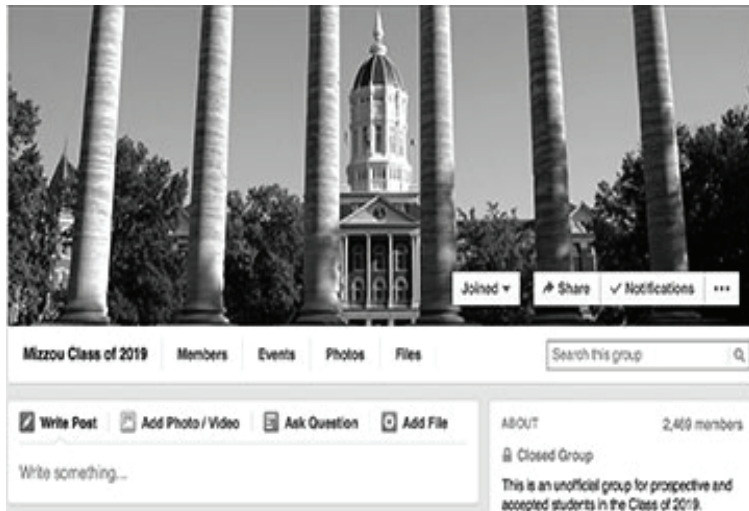
"I would read through all the roommate posts and think about if I wanted to be on campus with these people, and anyone who I think I could get along with," said Annabel Edwards, a senior at Northwestern University.

Edwards committed to Northwestern and, after, went through all the roommate responses and eventually added her own in an effort to find the perfect match.

"I answered it because I was curious to see what would happen and if anybody would message me."

Edwards received several requests for roommates, and accepted one girl she had been messaging for several months and someone she thought she could get along with.

"In the end it worked out. It's easy to think that you can select your roommate based on the qualities they appear to have when answering a



Facebook groups, such as this one for the University of Missouri, offer future students a convenient and easy way to find a roommate for college | Facebook

survey in person. But in reality what makes people good roommates are qualities that cannot be measured over the internet," said Edwards.

Using social media to find a roommate is continually discouraged due to the nature of social networks. Bob Zigmund, a post-high school counselor at New Trier and former member of college admissions, advises kids against basing their roommate solely on an online profile.

"It's a double-edged sword in some ways because it's a curiosity and convenience factor. But if you think of anyone's online profile, they only put their best stuff out their best picture, the most clever status and it's not the really you out there" said Zigmund.

Posting in these groups leads to a sort of infamy around campus. According to many students, there will always be that one person who posts often and randomly in the group.

Jessie Geoffrey, a senior at Northwestern still recalls the girl who posted the most in her college Facebook group.

"I can't remember her name but even now I see and recognize her all the time around campus. Freshman year, during our orientation, people would take pictures with her because of how well she was known through

Facebook," said Geoffrey.

Most colleges and universities allow the option to request roommates, but some colleges will forgo the survey altogether and use a randomizer to pair roommates.

Other colleges have incoming freshman answer a multiple-choice survey with questions ranging from: "Are you a morning or night person?" to "Do you smoke?" They then sort through the surveys and pick pairs based on the answers.

"They have roughly the same success rate after figuring out all the roommate switches and complaints so sometimes the survey doesn't always work" said Zigmund.

There are also benefits to knowing a roommate previously before walking into the dorm. There's a built-in best friend for the hard first two weeks.

"It was definitely nice having friends before that could help me get through the hard first two weeks. It's a scary time being away from your family," said Edwards.

In the end, college Facebook groups provide a way for high school seniors to ease their anxiety and help with the transition. It depends on the person.

"It's a hard thing to avoid because of the curiosity and it's a nice glimpse at the great unknown of going off to college," said Zigmund.

"High Maintenance" offers blunt outlook

by Carly Travis

We typically think of someone who is "high maintenance" as a person who is needy and prone to complaining. Urban Dictionary says he or she probably acts this way to gain attention.

What if we think of this phrase in a more obscure way? Take the word "high", a sensation one experiences while on narcotics. The word "maintenance" meaning someone who provides the service of fixing something. This play on words has brought the internet the next big thing not on television, according to Nylon magazine.

High Maintenance is a web series that recently released its second season on Vimeo.

A web series is different from a television show or personal YouTube channel in the sense that the cast is interchangeable with the exception of one character. Occasionally, characters and their daily lives intertwine, as well.

A web series may be scripted or staged, to a certain extent, yet relationships between characters feel real and authentic. Even the apartments or set of the show is filmed in a real life home, giving a personal experience.

I discovered High Maintenance the same way I discovered another beloved web series, Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee with Jerry Seinfeld. While clicking through my favorite mom blog, Cup of Jo, I happened upon High Maintenance and was ultimately hooked.

After binge watching the entire first cycle, I felt like I was exposed to another kind of drug related show. I've seen *Weeds* and *Breaking Bad*, both funny and well-written, but High Maintenance is different.

The series is filmed throughout New York following "The Guy" (the weed dealer) played by Ben Sinclair, one of the creators alongside his wife Katja Blichfeld, a former casting director on *30 Rock*.

Essentially, the basis of the show explores the neuroses of a variety of New Yorkers. What ties them together is that they all have

the same weed delivery guy. Clever, right?

Whether they're dealing with family, work, or the foreign *AirBnb* guest they're hosting, the diverse "cast" explores realms of life that ultimately result in the need to "maintain" through smoking pot.

The show bares this underlying charm due to the range of scenarios: a mouse in the apartment, unknowingly dating a homeless girl, or even cancer. The light behind all of these vignettes is the weed delivery guy.

Sinclair is portrayed as any other man in his early thirties who looks like he works at Uncle Dan's. Traveling by bike and always arriving 40 minutes late (for obvious reasons), Sinclair is typically outfitted in an Urban-Outfitters-Brooklyn-flea-market-esque look.

Adorned with a scruffy beard and a wedding ring, the dealer is seemingly trusting. In fact, most vignettes result in Sinclair smoking or chatting intimately with whomever he's serving. At the end, there is always this enlightening, profound truth or awakening the characters experience. This is even translated to the viewer watching.

High Maintenance takes daily rituals, funny experiences, and relationships and connects them thoughtfully.

The show isn't a "stoner show". There is no one person or group of people Ben Sinclair and Katja Blichfeld are associating with the drug, exploiting the ideal that people who smoke may be some of the most successful and creative people.

This way, by having a multitudinous, well-rounded cast, the stereotypes of smoking is gone. The reason their smoking pot has a deeper meaning than "just because" and the creators explore that in a realistic way.

You can watch the first four cycles for free at helpingyoumaintain.com and once you become fully addicted and need to start cycle five, head over to Vimeo.com and rent one episode for \$1.99 or the entire season for \$7.99.