

He Said • She Said

Summer lovin' in the 509 is hecka fine



ETHAN HVAL
Mt. Spokane

Summer is a time when teenagers like myself tend to let everything go. There's no more schoolwork, no more unnecessary stress. Things are simpler.

Instead of sweating over final exams we'll be sweating because it's so damn hot. And as the temperature rises I feel the need to wear less.

If you're anything like me (and if you are I feel sorry for your parents) you have big plans for the summer. A road trip, or extended camping excursion, or just hanging out at the lake with friends may be your only plans. But what about a little summer loving?

Summer is the season of love (or at least it should be). I feel that it's necessary this time of year to involve yourself in some sort of wild summer fling.

It's a grand and noble tradition. Anyone who's seen the film *Grease* will tell you how wonderful a summer fling can be, or at least how interesting one can be.

Guys, this is the perfect opportunity for you. What could be more satisfying than a summer fling?

I suggest that you start making your way to the nearest beach. Here, you will find your bathing beauty just waiting for you to come sweep her off her feet. She's just dying for you to take her for a swim. Show off a little. Show her how manly you are. If things go your way you could be making out under the dock in no time!

But there is an art to all of this. If you do in-

deed meet a girl and the proverbial sparks do fly you need to learn the art of over-exaggeration.

You want to impress your friends with erotic stories of getting friendly down in the sand. You want to make the stories you tell your friends to be big, wild and outrageous. The whole goal of the fling is to make your lonely, single friends jealous, right?

Only a real man can take something as simple as holding hands and exaggerating it to include - well, holding other body parts. As I said it's an art. I suggest you learn it quickly if you want to get a head start on your summer loving.

And girls, for you, learn the art of under-exaggeration. If you stay out late much later than you normally would, tone it down a bit when you repeat the story to your girlfriends. Everything has to be underplayed as if the time you spent with your new "friend" didn't really mean that thing.

I'm sure you've already mastered this. It comes naturally to girls. Whenever girls are in a bad relationship they seem to downplay how unhappy they really are or how cruel their a-hole boyfriend is. You can downplay the good memories as well by making them too cutesy.

We all know that there is nothing cutesy about a summer fling. They only last as long as the summer. But hey, with all of this free time what else do you expect us to do?

So guys get out there and find that special girl, take her out for a while and when it's all over - cross your fingers and hope you don't see her at school.

Summer fling don't mean a thing. But uh-oh those summer nights!



KRISTEN LINDSAY
Lewis and Clark

What is it about summer flings that are so appetizing? Is it the heat? Is it the new sense of freedom you feel after being released from long days spent at school? Or is it that sense of urgency and excitement because you only have the hot, summer months until school starts again?

Flings are expected to end, which is why they work so well. The short months of summer give the feeling of a summer fling almost a "rushed

intimacy" which never passes that certain "honeymoon stage," so the passion of the physical aspect is always there.

We have moved from our stressed schedules and long hours slaying over homework, to precious time where we are allowed to be lazy, loosen up and spend endless hours with our partner.

It is almost like a miniature vacation from yourself and your everyday life. Out of town summer flings are fun because you get to show your new lovebird who you want to be, not what everybody sees you as and expects you to be the rest of the year.

Almost a perfect example is the movie "Grease" and the summer love that blossomed carelessly between Sandy and Danny.

But Sandy and Danny aside, summer flings are to build memories and leave you starting a new school year with a summer you'll never forget.

June starts the summer with a shriveled desire to be in a long-term relationship, and is replaced with the sweet, short summer fling. But how do you maneuver through this almost more complicated "relationship" supposedly free of emotional-baggage?

Have the talk with your new summer partner. Sometimes one might be looking for long term love, while the other would rather have a no strings-attached fling.

Keep in mind that you should not put too much commitment into your summer fling. Don't walk down that easy path and go for the person who has been staring at you since the fifth grade; they probably won't take the end of August too well.

Summer flings are to be convenient and stress-free like a summer should

be. I recommend not going after someone who has put an ad in the newspaper, or has a profile on the web. Shady sources can easily turn into possibly scary situations.

But all in all, the summer fling is your summer fling. These are just suggestions to keep it low-key and easy. Sometimes a long-term "thing" can spring out of those meant-to-be-short summer flings.

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America needs to become multi-lingual



JOSHUA BOSSHARDT
Lewis and Clark

People often take language for granted; as is the case with the cars in our drive-ways and other frequently accessed amenities, the ubiquity of language renders

it an object whose power and worth we often do not acknowledge or attend to. However, various groups of people in the United States have evinced disregard for the value of language by joining the mob demanding that we make English a formal national language.

New political developments, such as the introduction of the "National Language Act" to Congress on March 6 have demonstrated that this issue has gained momentum in its recent phase, especially considering that a poll by Rasmussen Reports in 2006 suggests that up to 85 percent of the American population believes we should make English the official language.

Such initiatives would probably have little impact on the practical state of things. People of different languages will continue to speak those languages with their families and other co-speakers when appropriate, and they will mind to learn English proficiently enough to have an active role in society lest

they find themselves trapped in a net of helpless poverty. Likewise, businesses will continue to implement multilingual features and signs as an obvious way to maximize profits, especially in intensely multilingual areas.

The problem of the English-only movement is then not a practical one but rather a matter of psychology and philosophy, and thus by challenging the premises of the initiative we can learn the unwarranted motivations for our mistakes as well as examine the power of language. I thus do not advocate policy but rather suggest a change in attitude.

In today's world, one can find a number of sources for the discomfort of many Americans. Considering the vigorous rise of other countries' economies within the last decade, the latent threat of terrorism, the death of the United States' international popularity, the recent dwindling strength of the dollar and the decay of the education system, people feel threatened by a possible eclipsing of their country by new and powerful forces.

Now that comfort zones have been violated, people react by strictly defining a psychologically constructed "in-group" to assuage these fears, for people, as social animals infatuated with conformity, quite often feel the need to amalgamate when so challenged.

However, this natural tendency to fortify the imagi-

nary borders of the herd has itself lost potency and clarity due to certain developments in recent American history. The flooding of America's southern states with Mexican immigrants has made Spanish an ever-buzzing presence within California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to the extent that some demographers predict that California will have a Hispanic majority by the year 2020.

Considering this development and the long history America has already had as a diverse country, how can we begin to define "American" so exclusively? While to some "American" still might confer a delusion of pastoral images of dusty American flags blowing on rancher houses and insular Anglo-Saxon rural communities, others have found ethnic diversity integral to the definition of America thanks to the influences others have had on American culture and demographics, especially considering the burgeoning Hispanic population in the southwest in recent years. Thus, people feel compounded threats when they realize that the very imaginary borders they invented to bolster the mob feel begin to fade into obscure and blatantly contrived distinctions.

In the big picture, one can see that the attack against other languages and cultures has its roots in xenophobia and perhaps a tinge of racism. I advocate that instead of reverting to

primitive psychological panic measures, we should embrace what these new cultures and their perspectives have to offer for us, particularly their languages.

One can witness the power of language by analyzing the close relationship between language and thought itself. For example, people obviously think to themselves in their native languages, rendering language a communal and personal medium of idea expression. Because different languages gradually develop from a mixing pot of culture, history, social norms and other ways people view themselves and others, each language serves as a cumulative repository of the philosophical and psychological understandings of other groups of people. By tapping into other languages we tap into a power that changes our perspectives of who we are and how we should view ourselves in the world.

By ignoring our primal instincts and embracing the concept of "the foreign," we can become better individuals enlightened by the ideas of others, enabling us to challenge our assumptions, such as the historical progressivism of Western society and science. We have (hopefully) long passed the era of fiery nationalism and now deserve to treat ourselves to the benefits of a new relatively globalized and cosmopolitan world.

Proposed cell phone ban should be rejected

The Coeur d'Alene school district is currently considering a proposal to ban the use of cell phones by students during the school day - including during breaks, lunch and passing periods.

This policy, while well-intentioned, is ultimately unfair and unsafe for students and the school environment as a whole.

It is completely understandable and justified to ban the use of cell phones during class time, when students ought to focus on their studies and their teachers. However, breaks and lunches are not the school's time; they are the students' time. As such, students should have the right to use their cell phones during these periods.

Today's high school students are overbooked and overworked like no other generation before them, due to factors such as the highly competitive nature of college admissions or the increasing level of difficulty of coursework. Cell phones provide an invaluable resource for students in maintaining these difficult lifestyles.

Students' lives are made infinitely easier by being able to text parents about an unforeseen sports practice this afternoon, or to call their boss

to arrange different hours to accommodate research time for an AP class paper.

It is simply unnecessary and unfair for schools to further compound students' abilities to manage their complex schedules by limiting their means of doing so. High schoolers deserve to be able to use cell phones during their free time at school - it's their time, not the teachers'.

Additionally, in an age when parents and students alike are increasingly concerned about the safety of students on-campus, one of the greatest assets a student can have is a cell phone. It offers an instant connection with emergency services, or can provide a link between parents and students during a crisis.

Banning the use of cell phones during the school day may discourage students from carrying them at all, which would be to the ultimate disadvantage of students and parents during an emergency situation.

Cell phones should only be banned in environments where they will distract students from their studies; to ban them entirely unfairly complicates students' lives and ultimately jeopardizes the safety of the entire campus.

Editorial

Graduation walking is a meaningless tradition



MEGAN BROWNLEE
Mt. Spokane

For the young adults who walk across the infamous stage every year, shake hands with school officials who have most likely reprimanded them multiple times in the four years prior and then receive their cherished diploma, graduating and walking with their class is either:

a) of monumental symbolic importance, serving as a metaphor for walking out of the insipid and

asinine high school phase and into the "real world," or

b) completely meaningless.

While graduating with one's class essentially serves as an inadvertent milestone in life, it shouldn't.

I am not saying that persisting with 12 years of education is not congratulatory or even admirable, I am saying that graduation has transcended into an insignificant part of leaving childhood.

For all the families and friends in the audience who cheer and use those irritating little blow horns, this is a special occasion.

Mothers shed tears at the thought of their babies moving on in life and people close to the person graduating feel a sense of unqualified pride.

What is wrong with this scenario is that one day and one event cannot transform a teen into an adult, nor should it reap the unwarranted appre-

ciation of all those close to the grad.

All of these sentiments, if sincere, should have been present long before some Saturday in June.

It should not take a specific event to acknowledge yourself as a mature citizen and it definitely should not take an event to make the people who love you proud of you. These feelings should be felt and expressed unconditionally.

When you walk across the stage to receive your diploma you should not feel as though you are leaving childhood behind and growing into your own self motivating agent. You cannot be forced to grow.

Life is a journey. Life means constantly discovering new facets of yourself.

You should not recognize all these in an instant due to your required attire consisting of a cap

and gown.

If you identify graduation as taking a step into the real world then you will be depending on sociologically recognized events for personal growth your entire life.

You should have grown into your adulthood, you should have entered the real world the moment you were born and you should have learned more about yourself each and every day.

Walking across a stage in ill-fitting, awkward clothing in front of thousands of people is not going to catapult you into a different person.

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Seniors have earned a skip day



MARIA NACCARATO
Central Valley

It is a well known fact that the Friday prior to senior prom is the designated "Senior Skip Day." It is so well known, in fact, that teachers and administrators have begun to catch on to the idea.

Not in favor of groups of students organizing themselves to cut class, they overcompensate to insure that as many students as possible show up for school. Tests and pop quizzes are often announced by teachers to convince their senior students of the importance of being in school on that day.

Then there are AP tests which fall during the first two weeks in May.

Heavy preparation for the

tests take place right around prom time, so skipping valuable study time is out of the question.

With so many seniors trapped in the jaws of the domineering education system and unable to enjoy their well earned skip day, I propose that every senior take a day's leave of absence from school on any day they choose. Call it a senior skip day and have your parents

call you in sick. First off, I feel obligated to say that there is no reason for seniors to declare every day in May and June senior skip days. This sounds like a lot of fun, but defeats the point of taking one special

day off. So please, show some restraint and limit yourself to no more than one day a week.

Choose a day when you know that there is nothing major planned in any of your classes. This will minimize the amount of make up work you will have to do as homework the next day. There is no sense in creating more work for yourself than you have to.

As a disgruntled senior who missed senior skip day, I took matters into my own hands and created my own special day.

Call it rebelling against rebellion because organized skip days just don't work. If small groups of students skip quietly without a big fuss, then everyone wins.

The administration thinks they are depriving you of your senior year fun and students still get to miss class. It is a win-win situation.

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The Vox
999 W Riverside Ave.
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E-mail:
spokanevox@gmail.com
Questions: 509-459-5456
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