

Senioritis: We'd fight for a cure if we weren't so lazy

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With second semester just beginning, many seniors are feeling the pressure of choosing what they are going to do for the next four years. This decision may be which college to attend or choosing between the other alternatives to a university, as well as possibly juggling a job. Somewhere along the way, students may begin to become focused on other things, leading them to experience what many call 'senioritis.'

Senioritis usually starts to set in around second semester when seniors have begun to wrap up what is entirely necessary for their future outside of high school. They care less about doing homework and more about enjoying the rest of their high school experience.

While everybody may want to enjoy that time, it still can be very detrimental to a student who chooses to slack off instead of sticking it out and doing the work that is required of them.

Senior Kaylah Mathis says she can find better ways to occupy her time other

than schoolwork. She would rather sleep, go out with friends, watch TV, or dance rather than finishing up her latest Economics worksheet packet.

But not all seniors feel this way. "Colleges still look at my grades up until the end of the year. Even though my second semester grades won't be as good, they still need to be strong enough to secure a place in my school for next year," Senior Katie Bayles said.

Colleges can revoke admissions from students when they notice a downfall in their performance towards the end of high school. This may seem harsh, but poor performance in high school often means poor performance at a college level as well, according to ecampustours.com.

Kaylah Mathis Senior One of the biggest problems many students know about, but do not believe will actually happen, is that colleges can and have taken away scholarships and incentives due to a student's obvious downfall in motivation towards the end of the year, according to Advanced Placement Psychology teacher Lauren Chasey.

Some symptoms of senioritis

include reduced attention to school and extracurricular activities, making up excuses to avoid class, sleeping during class, and being more focused on social life and partying than on school, according to ecampustours.com.

"I think senioritis is a myth that has been perpetuated throughout the years. It was around when I was a senior here, though not used as it is now. It didn't appear until fourth quarter back then," Chasey said.

Senioritis may lead to many effects outside of college. According to Chasey, senioritis is just an excuse that can be used to explain why a student is being lazy. This can lead to a trend in someone's life to always blame something for one's ineptitudes.

"I have senioritis because I have worked for four years and it is my time for a break, I've already been accepted to a college and I am ready to leave," Senior Kaylah Mathis said.

There are ways to avoid the symptoms of senioritis. Underclassmen can take advantage of the AP classes H-F offers in order to be educationally focused. It is important to stay active and focused throughout senior year in order to avoid carrying the same bad habits to college or another post-high school activity.

"Stop being lazy or looking for excuses. Stay focused on the here and now and stop looking at high school as no longer important. Everyone to



some extent wants out of high school at many points during their four year stay. Learn to enjoy the present instead of always looking at the future. These four years can be a lot of fun and a time to enjoy. So stop trying to grow up so fast. College and post-college plans can be great but they bring responsibilities too," Chasey said.

The best way to make it through senior year and try to avoid any signs of senioritis is to do the work but still remember to enjoy the year and have a good time. "Even when I feel like getting lazy I force myself to concentrate on my work and get it done as soon as possible so I can relax," Bayles said.

Because I Said So Sweet, but mediocre

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H-F students are used to interfering mothers, but everyone should be glad that Daphne, the obsessive mother Diane Keaton plays in *Because I Said So*, was just a Hollywood creation. She takes the act of meddling a step too far when she tries to find a "life partner" for her daughter Milly (Mandy Moore) by secretly creating a personal online dating ad.

Milly then "coincidentally" meets two men within the same week. One is a successful but uptight architect named Jason (Tom Everett Scott) whom her mother adores; the other, laid-back musician Johnny (Gabriel Macht) who lives with his dad and young son. Milly starts dating both of them, and then the real problems begin: Jason and Johnny find out she is seeing two men, and Milly finds out her mother set her up.

The plot is a nice idea, but the actual film is disappointing. The problems begin with the characters. Throughout the entire 102 minute film, a viewer never really gets to know any of the main characters' stories. Their personalities are two-dimensional; there is no background information for any of them, and therefore, too many important and unanswered questions. Why, for example, is a sophisticated architect searching for a soul mate on an online

dating service? Why does Milly feel bad about seeing two guys at once *only* after they both found out?

These unaddressed issues make parts of the story difficult to believe. For example, in most families, people tend to get very edgy when it comes to invasions on their personal lives, and fights are certain to erupt. However, when Milly is lectured about her love life, she just stares her mother in the eye defiantly as they talk, not yell, about whether Daphne should be so intrusive.

Nevertheless, the basic concept of the movie is a cute mother-daughter relationship story that puts a humorous twist on the changes that occur as children grow older and parents stay a little too involved. Many students can probably relate to this.

Moviegoers who are into chick flicks or who are just looking for a light film will probably enjoy it. Most guys probably will not—there were very few men in the audience during a recent show. It would be a good movie to see with Mom or with friends, but it is PG-13, so do not take younger siblings.

If nothing else, viewers can walk away from the movie with a good excuse lined up for the next time someone disagrees with them:

"Why do I have to wear this dress?" Milly asks as her mother picks out clothes for her first date.

"Because I said so," Daphne replies.

Like the movie, it is a nice idea, but it might not work in real life.



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