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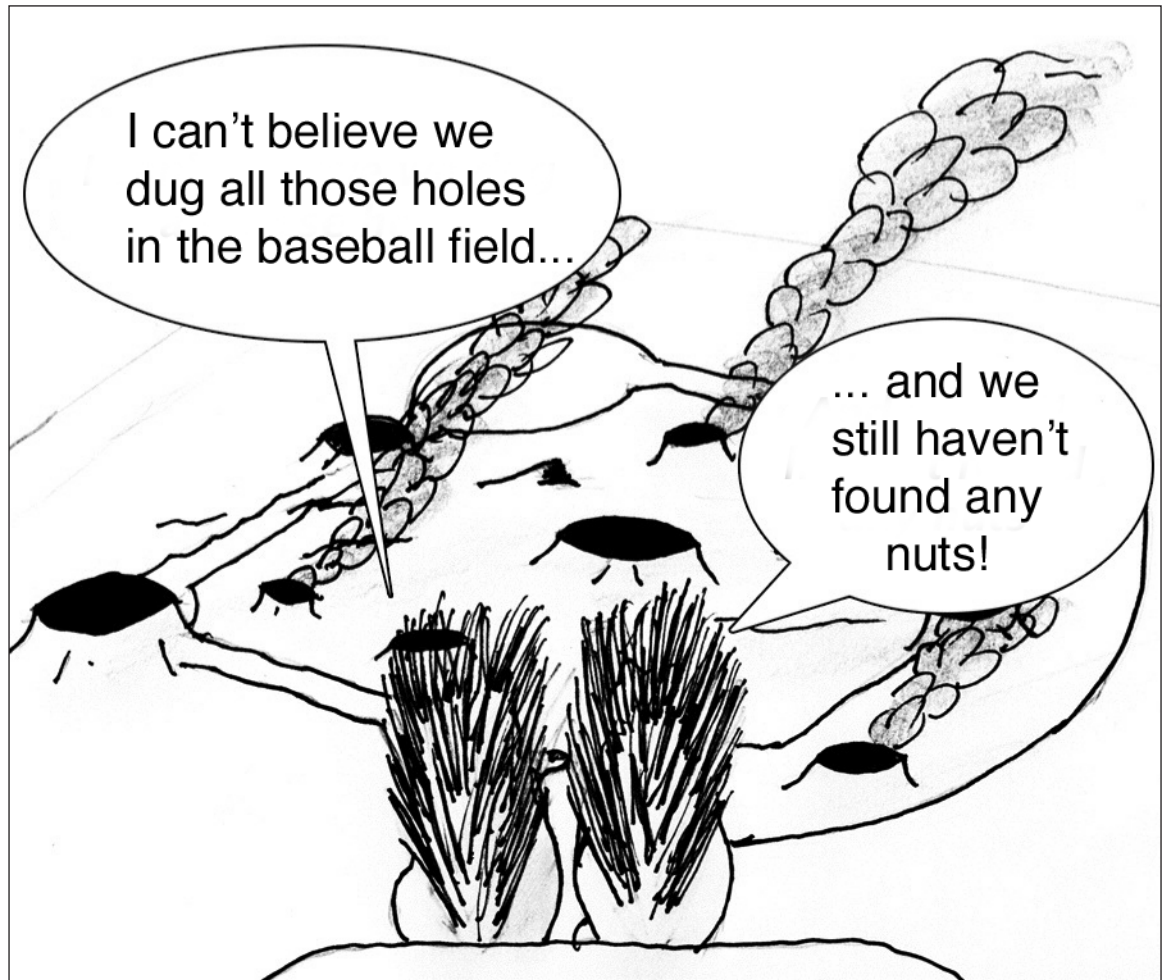


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## OPINION

# Cursing shouldn't be taboo when used responsibly

By **MATTHEW SO**  
Online editor

Why do parents teach their kids not to swear? For the child's own benefit, or to maintain the parents' fantasy that children are perfect and innocent?

Yes, children are like a clean slate, but that does not make them perfect or innocent. They are merely ignorant and naive and tend to be curious. Curiosity often leads to misusing or abusing a practice due to a lack of knowledge on the part of the curious and a failure to provide that knowledge on the part

of everyone else.

What we do not know is naturally classified to us as the unknown, the dangerous and the forbidden.

Hence, children's fascination with the unknown is a natural human impulse to explore it and satisfy their curiosity.

However, parents often pass on their discomfort by using swear words to express themselves (stemming perhaps from their own upbringing) – so why is swearing bad?

Swearing is merely an extreme form of expression. It is considered obscene simply because it has no

meaning other than as an expression, generally, of anger or spitefulness. But no one gets hurt.

Swearing does, however, have relevance in today's modern language and it's useful to be aware of its proper usage. Pretty much everyone will utter an expletive at some point in their life.

There is no reason in the world to do so. It is unprofessional, it may sometimes be unnecessary and perhaps even gutter-speech – but why is it ascribed an immoral quality?

And here it is, another social taboo with no practical basis with,

nevertheless, its bad reputation propagated by unquestioning devotion. A drinking age above the age at which people are seen generally as adults, clouded, uninformed views on drugs, curfews, underage sex, etc. Sounds like anarchy, doesn't it?

That's not your conscience speaking, it's the memories of threats of punishment, jail and failure ingrained into your psyche. It's getting slapped in the mouth to teach you a lesson you didn't understand when you were five. It's feeling guilty and ashamed while learning for yourself the meaning

of life from your friends.

If people see no value in some of these things, that's fine. But give yourself a chance to decide for yourself before you reject something. This applies to everything that has to do with taking responsibility for yourself.

But don't let practices, conformity, and unfounded opinions decide for you. Parents, if you can speak openly and plainly to your children, giving them sound advice and honest information about everything, your children will make sound, honest decisions. That is what responsibility is all about.

# You're a demo target for the MySpace advertisers

By **LILA SALINAS**  
Staff writer

MySpace. A place where anyone can feel like an individual. You get your little personal profile which describes who you are, how you're feeling and what your interests are; for some, this could become the center of their lives. MySpace could have positive or negative outcomes. It could build your social life or

destroy it, among other things.

I think it's funny how serious MySpace is taken at times, not just by younger crowds, but by older folks as well. If you don't have a profile on MySpace, many will look at you strangely, just like if you didn't own a mobile phone, as if it's a necessity.

On the other hand, there are several ways to utilize the site. You can gather information, use it for statistical purposes, advertise your music if you're an artist and, of

course, create a personal profile.

Most users don't even know who owns this multi-billion dollar site. Actually, most users believe that it is the infamous "Tom" who's running things. That's partially true. Tom and a friend did start up the web site and they still handle it, but Rupert Murdoch (the man who owns FOX) bought MySpace for a huge lump of cash. That's why you always see advertisements for FOX television shows or movies and its affiliates.

With millions of users logging in each day, why would anyone not want to promote through this site? MySpace could also be a very resourceful tool for broadcasting.

There are "target demo" stations on MySpace aimed at finding out what their target demographic likes and dislikes. From there, the stations decide what kind of programming to air, what subjects are hot and so on.

It's a cycle for the trendy people; the media introduces a variety of

artists, shows and movies. The consumers choose what they like. And the media then keeps track on what's profitable and "in."

I agree that Myspace is a great way for musicians to be heard and sell music track by track. The bottom line is that MySpace has something to offer for everybody; it is here to be used in any way possible. Just don't get too caught up in your little "limelight." You might not see that it is choosing you as another target.

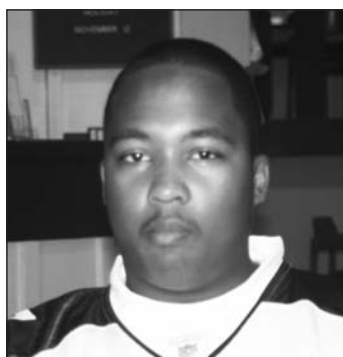
## CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

# Could you survive without your cell phone?



**RICKY BROWN**  
Music Theory

"Absolutely, because I don't need a brain tumor."



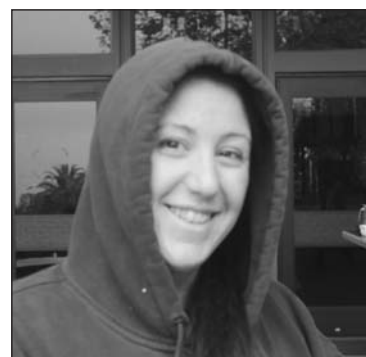
**CHRIS COBB**  
Sociology

"I'd get used to it after the first month or so."



**MARZ HODGE**  
Criminology

"Hell yes, I would just yell across the world."



**KRISTEN KIE**  
Deaf Studies

"Hell no. That would be like living without oxygen."



**ZORIN ZEIDAN**  
Accounting

"Yes. I don't have too many friends."