

Being aware

Lisa McDonald
News Editor

I'm sure you've heard the sentiment before. Maybe you were super excited about finding an Easter egg in your newest video game. Maybe you were ranting about how unfairly your professor graded your interpretation of Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken." But as you were adamantly expressing your opinion to your friends, one friend decided to interrupt. "Seriously, when was the last time you were laid?" While this might seem a harmless jest, it is one we sincerely need to consider removing from our repertoire of comebacks.

You might argue, "It's just a joke, don't be so uptight about it." That same defense could be used for rape jokes. Are rape jokes funny? No, they're not. And there has been plenty of public debate on the subject for us to safely classify rape jokes as a no. And it is rape that makes the "getting laid" sentiment inappropriate as well.

Sexual innuendos can be funny, such as appropriately inserted "that's what she said" statements. But those types of sexual references do not implicate a specific person in the process of the joke. Telling someone to get laid, however, is a direct reference

to that person engaging in sexual intercourse. Yet what if the last time that person had sex, it was actually rape? By confronting them with that statement, even as a joke, it can trigger them to recall exactly the last time they were forced into unwanted physical interactions. Even if you think you know a person very well, there is still plenty of things you don't know about them, especially when it comes to very personal, traumatic experiences such as rape. So to tell them to get laid as a way to imply their story is boring you could unintentionally cause a severe flashback for that person.

Using statements that reference sex in such a direct manner can make even those who haven't been raped feel uncomfortable. You need to pay close attention to a person's body language when a "getting laid" joke is made to determine if those sorts of jokes should be used around that person. If you are unsure, ask them directly to state if that sort of joke is okay. We don't know the lives of all the different people we converse with. But we can become more aware of the language we deploy. Ditching "getting laid" sentiments is a small change for us, but a large one for those who endure these statements in silence.

Dear Queer

Hello Coe!

We are a group of Coe students, queer and ally, who are interested in opening up channels of communication with our peers about issues that are close to our hearts. We do not promise that these are always going to be one hundred percent correct or all inclusive, but we will be glad to inform and include as best we can. Please email dearqueer21@gmail.com with your questions and comments!

Thank you,
from your Dear Queers and Ally

The Question:

Dear Queer, what is "queer" and can I call you it?

Our Answer:

Queer is a reclaimed word that was used for quite a long time in a derogatory way against LGBTQIA+ people. By reclaimed, I mean that now people who identify as LGBTQIA+ use the word with pride. Queer for some people encompasses LGBTQIA+ identities and is an umbrella term for being not of the norm when it comes to one or more of these categories; sexual attraction, romantic attraction, gender identity, gender expression. Basically people use it as a catch-all. But some groups feel less included with the word queer. It has not always included intersex people. It is important to understand the history of words and labels and to use them with respect. If you use queer with respect then yes, you can use it. But if my queerness is not relevant you do not need to bring it up and call me queer. Also if you know that some else prefers a different label you should use that label. Thank you for writing in!

Ironically exclusive

Keenan Lee
Guest Writer

Diversity and Inclusion? Ha.. That's good.. More like, Diversity and Exclusion. Organizations like BSEO (Black Self-Educated Organization) and spaces like the new Intercultural Lounge, while being areas where students can come and confer about issues; also isolates them from the majority population.

Attending a PWI (Predominantly White Institution), it is easy to feel out of place as a minority. The White population at Coe is 74%, Black is 6%, and Latino is 9% CollegeBorad.com reported on race and ethnicity on campus.

While these organizations and spaces help us deal with the situation we're in, they also push us away from the campus

community. The majority of students on campus don't take part in events that BSEO hosts (unless it's a party). So they really have no impact on campus.

On Coe's website BSEO is stated to be an organization that is inclusive for everyone--which it is. But at Coe, it just doesn't work that way. The blame is not on BSEO, however. Why would Caucasian students want to join a "Black" organization? Especially at a PWI.

Not to throw shade, but it seems very unlikely. It is also proven with the attendance at meetings, which is majority African-American. I do understand, though, that



The newly-rennovated intercultural center may not serve the purpose for which it was intended.

Photo by Keenan Lee.

there are some Caucasian students who gladly support BSEO. Don't get me wrong, but because the organization isn't supported by that many people it's hard for there to be a good connection with the Coe community.

Very similar to BSEO, the Intercultural Center will just be another area where inclusion will only be for the minority population at Coe. Even though in a interview

with Steven Shelby earlier this semester he tried to stress that the lounge is "up for use for everyone in the Coe community," I believe it will mostly be used by organizations such as BSEO and Multicultural Fusion.

The irony is this: A space that is all-inclusive ends up being exclusive to all except groups whose main focus is diversity and inclusion on campus.

Coe College Photo of the Month Contest



One Coe-themed photo will selected from all submissions each month. Multiple submissions accepted. Digital photo resolution minimum of 1800x2400 pixels. Photo must be taken during the month of submission. Submit to [sgusbanc@coe.edu](mailto:sgsubanc@coe.edu) by the last day of the month. Winning photo will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card and the photo will be printed, framed and hung in the struve Communication Center. Open to current Coe students only.