

WHAT THEY DONT TELL YOU ABOUT HAVING A SINGLE MOM

Sara Ohler | Opinion Editor
sohler@therampageonline.com

I'm 12-years-old, crying on our living room sofa after my mom explains the real reason my father wasn't in our lives. Following the time I was eight, crying on the same living room sofa as my step-father and step-brother were packing their truck to leave, after the final decision to divorce.

Now I'm 24-years-old, crying not because of the lack of fathers, but because of the realization of what my mother had to sacrifice to be a single parent of two children.

Like many people who grew up with one parent, understanding the hard work and sacrifice that our parents went through doesn't come at a young age.

The feeling of realizing a little too late doesn't escape me.

It's frustrating to remember the ideologies from childhood of how having a single parent creates a weakness for a child, disregarding the obvious valuable examples of resilience and hard work that comes from our single parents.

These can also cause a lot of harm to children of single parents and the parents themselves. Outcasting somebody because it doesn't match what others perceive to be healthy enables bullying against not only children but the adult as well.

As a kid, my mom would ask if it was embarrassing to be a child of a single parent. The answer was always no and was often met with confusion, because why would I be embarrassed? This was the life I knew and was comfortable with.

Then that question became more common outside of my household. The stares of regret and pity after they ask me about my parents when I only respond with one. It always seemed more of a problem to others than it ever has been for me.

It's an oversight on society's behalf to create a narrative of embarrassment when there was a perfect opportunity to showcase the great strengths that can come from that experience.

As an adult, it feels impossible to fathom being a single parent to one child, let alone two. I owe every advantage and strength that I've gained to my mother.

The biggest lesson she's taught me is to value my independence and individuality. Every phase I went through in childhood was met with open arms and genuine curiosity.

She gave me a childhood filled with books and art, following me into adulthood where I've pursued my passion for writing.

Imposter syndrome would have swallowed me a long time ago if it wasn't for her.

NO ONE WANTS TO LOSE A FRIEND FRIENDSHIP BREAKUPS SUCK

Fabio Saravia | Sports Editor
fsaravia@therampageonline.com

The idea of having someone that you thought would be in your life, and then no longer wanting to be part of your life is devastating. It hits even harder when it's a friend that ghosts you.

A perk of being single is never having to break up or be broken up with. Starting any romantic relationship comes with that risk. But the pain of losing a friend hits harder than anything.

Falling in love is hard, but loving someone can be easy. This is why I feel that a friendship loss is worse than a romantic loss.

It sucks losing someone that you love. Especially when it comes out of nowhere. I've been broken up with and been the one to break it up romantically, but those times were nothing compared to when my friends broke up with me.

All I could think about was how distant we had been from each other leading up to that day. The signs were there but I couldn't see them. Or maybe I just didn't want to see them.

I could have been a better friend, but ultimately I wasn't. I know I wasn't perfect. For two people not wanting to be a part of my life, I had to be doing something wrong.

The worst part wasn't losing people to depend on, or no longer hanging out with those people. The worst part was how it happened.

Being ghosted left me with no actual closure or explanation. That's what hurts the most. The fact that my friends will never



LOSING FRIENDS CAN FEEL ISOLATING. WATCHING PEOPLE YOU POUR YOUR HEART OUT TO JUST WALK AWAY CAN BREAK ANYONES HEART. PHOTO BY MICHAEL LIN.

know the effect they had on me, may never know or care to know.

I haven't seen them since that day and I don't know if I want to.

There was a time after the break-up when we almost saw each other, and I panicked. I probably should have known I would see them again randomly, but I didn't.

This is a heartbreak that can only come from the love I had for these people. Weirdly enough I do still have love for them, but I don't want to be friends again.

It doesn't matter how they feel about me or the situation, it can't change the way I feel.

When we were friends they treated me well even better than a current friend could have, so our initial bond was unforgettable.

But at the same time, if it was that easy for them to forget about me, maybe they don't deserve me as a friend.

I am at the stage where I'm choosing not

to talk about it as much. It's not fair for my current friends to still hear about this, which is why it's easier for me to say I'm over them so the conversion can be changed.

Writing this is my way of letting go. I hope it will be the last time I have to think about them.

The breakup did make me realize not to take my current friends for granted. I haven't been the best at this, but I'm trying. My mental health sometimes gets in the way.

I understand that friendships aren't forever and sometimes things happen for the better, even if it may never seem that way.

For those who've had a friend break up or are in the middle of one, I hope closure has been offered to help make the days forward easier.

I know I will get through this and come out on the other side ok, but that will only happen if I am honest with myself.

There needs to be a market for friend breakups to help people feel like they're not alone. It happens in some media, but it is usually played for laughs.

More friend breakup songs would also be nice, unfortunately, the most famous ones come from Taylor Swift, who my ex-friends are in love with. So yeah, not listening to those anytime soon.



SRISHTI SAINI

"I was here."

Street Photo :
Taken on March 8,
2024.

RAMON COLMENERO III

"The Last Touch"

Taken on March 3,
2024 in San Francisco



DAVY GARCIA

Student Artist/
Photographer :
Davy Garcia
Subject : Still Life
Light Logic Study
Taken on
3/14/2024



STUDENT VOICES

Who is a woman in your life that inspires you?



WINTER AUSTIN
Geology Major

"The most important woman in my life right now is my sister. She has had a rough life similar to mine, but she still managed to have a beautiful family and live happily."



LONDON SANDOVAL
Early Childhood Development Major

"The most important woman in my life would have to be my twin sister because she's done so much after going through so much. She inspires me every day just to keep going."



LILIANA ARZATE
Childhood Development Major

"The first person that pops up in my head is my mom. Maybe because she always put us first and showed us how to persevere through hard times. She's very resilient, never giving up and showed us how to be independent."



PHANG HER
Business Administration Major

"One particular woman I'm inspired by is my mom. She was born as the oldest child so she always had to take care of the younger siblings and you can see that within her personality"