

Is Saying "Hey, I'm Sorry"

acceptable—or Irresponsible?



Over the past two weeks, an internal question brought on by several events has continued to plague my consciousness. The question, for me, is not very original, and it is a question each of you have dealt with at one time or another. But, it is a question I feel we must look at from time to time while we journey through St. Andrews. So, with all that said, the question I put before the student body is, "How far do we allow other people to overstep the boundaries set up in our relationships before we take some form of corrective action?"

Now, I think each person in this community will have a different limit of toleration before there is some action taken. So, instead of examining how people create their individual action lines, I would like to jump ahead and examine how we respond to the apologetic phrase, "Hey, I'm sorry."

How many times have we had our toes stepped on, only to hear "Hey, I'm sorry?" This simple statement given by folks to relinquish self responsibility for their actions becomes a little worn after the third and fourth use. I wonder when it is appropriate to disregard this phrase as an apologetic and move to another form of responsive action. Again, I think we have moved into an area where each of us must have an existing boundary already established.

Alright, I'm not about to claim that I do not use this phrase because I do. In fact, I used it to get out of writing this response, but then it struck me as a total falling down of my commitment to the editor, so I told her I would struggle through some response and here it is.

Now, tomorrow I may be grumpy, coarse, and short with some people due to a lack of sleep in completing this commitment, but I hope if I step over those invisible boundaries that you will allow me to say, "Hey, I'm sorry." I make this point for two reasons. First, I think it is imperative that we try to understand the reasons why someone oversteps our boundary before we take some form of action. Second, I also think it imperative that we ask ourselves whether the person was sincere in their statement and not just using it as an offhanded excuse.

In a nutshell, I'm simply saying that it is accepted, in my opinion, for people to say, "Hey, I'm sorry", but I would remind them that it is accepted only as long as it remains sincere and meaningful, and it is not accepted when it becomes an excuse for irresponsibility.

Drew Hayes
Student Association President

Granny's Words

of Wisdom

Our grand business
is not to see what
lies dimly in the distance,
but to do what
lies clearly at hand.

(Thomas Carlyle)



No Spirit

I have noticed that the people of this college express very little or no spirit! The other day at one of the parties a soccer player inquired if I was going to attend the soccer game. The individual then proceeded to tell me, with an expressionless face, that although he knew the team would not win he would appreciate my presence at the game! Granted I have never personally taken part in this sport, I feel that believing in one's teammates is a start to winning! If one does not believe in himself or others on the team, of course he will lose.

L. Okan

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