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IVHS class of 1996 reunion



(Photo by Dan Klapheke, Illinois Valley News)

Front row, from left: Mindi Johnson, Jennifer Bell, Obleo Chaddik, Melissa Gustafson, Laura Rodgers, Chandra Hyde, Buffy Berger, Krissy Clark; Back row: Shane Dourghty, Jason Peters, Duane Kirkman, Justin Smith, Ivan Carriar, Casey Caster, Josh Beach, Glenn Gammell, Royal Standish, Michelle Berth

IVHS class of 2006 reunion



(Photo by Dan Klapheke, Illinois Valley News)

Front row, from left: Joy Hopkins, Tara Granville, Chelsea Bruner, Mackenzie Neil, Missy Camp, Becky Boatman, Sophia Krauss, Dawna Crocker, Ashly Wissler; Second row: Sage Davis, Zach Pagnotta, Colby Nichols, Garrett Crowl, Jake White, Chris Evans, Pavlo Rocha, Joel Dierkes, Nikko Fujita, Nina Hoelzle, Kamela Culver, Emily Nichols, Julayna Pistone; Back row: Jeremy Pope, Devon Searle, Duke Scott, Sarah Houston, Jaimie Watkins, Mason Madden

Healthy U News:

by Nicole Resenbrink

Sometimes, I daydream about what I would think about people if I were an alien looking down at the earth. It would be like being a human looking at an ant farm: people scurrying here and there, all sharing enough basic attributes that I wouldn't be able to tell one from another. I'd notice them moving about, lying around, fighting, frolicking and communicating.

From that point of view, it would be funny to learn that humans believe they're unique. It'd be hard to fathom that people saw other humans so different than themselves that they qualified them as bad or good, some worthy of worship, and some of death.

That'd definitely be

bizarre, from that alien vantage point, where all humans would look the same.

Another daydream I have is about what it'll be like to die. I have enough faith not to be terrified of the prospect, but what sticks in my craw about it would be saying goodbye to my loved ones. Even though I'm an ambitious person who likes to accomplish things, that doesn't seem remotely as important as the prospect of leaving my sweetie in an empty house without night time cuddles. I don't want to miss out on my kids' lives, nor leave them without their number one cheerleader. Who would talk baby talk to my skittish kitty, and who would run with my

dogs? Who will be there for my clients? And I simply can't leave my mother.

So, back in my current reality, I watch the news about a severely disturbed man killing a bunch of people at a gay bar. I hear various people condemning the killer and his background, and some condemning the killed. I feel my own darkness want to pick sides and join in the fray. Then, I see a gay family member share a post about people lined up around a block to donate blood to wounded victims. On the news, I see an ex-soldier, hailed as a hero, crying that he didn't help more people than he courageously did.

I feel grief and a soulful connection. It's funny how the

two feelings can go together. Like at funerals, when no one talks about the deceased's failings because they all seem suddenly irrelevant. What matters then is just the love we feel in sorrowful moments, and it's the love that shows us that we aren't unique after all.

Love shows us we're better than special. It melts the differences between us, and the funny thing is, that melting away of differences brings us joy. Because really, I think the alien view is the truth. People aren't that distinct. We're billions of tiny cells bumping around and maybe even consuming each other in a mass human body that, when we really pay attention, lives through our hearts as one.

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