Looking at the Gay community: Bears, Twinks and Queens (500 WORDS)

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Tribes (WITHIN ALL CULTURES AND SOCIETIES) have been around since the dawn of time and have had many different names; cliques, gangs and community. They offered people a place where they could find acceptance for who they are. The gay community is no different and in recent decades, have seen tribes flourish within this community, made more mainstream by the introduction of the gay dating app Grindr.

However, as with any tribe or community, there are naïve and uneducated people (myself included) who don’t quite understand the different tribes within the LGBTQ+ community. These people are mainly heterosexuals, who sometimes assume rather than ask. Now, as a heterosexual female (and a very naïve one at that), I was unaware that there were numerous tribes within the gay community, which resulted in a lot of laughter from my homosexual peers when they started to talk about a cute ‘bear’ or ‘jock’ and I would look on with confusion. So, I decided to look deeper into the world surrounding these tribes (GOOD, I LIKE THE PERSONALITY HERE, I THINK ITS RELATABLE).

What I found was a whole a lot of different tribes, I mean they have one for nearly every single characteristic a human male can possess (no joke). Now in my eyes, I have always firmly believed that people can identify as whatever and whoever they want to, and I believe the same when it comes to the tribes within the gay community. For a group of people to have faced such discrimination, it is understandable that the moment they found comfort in a group, that they would stick to it.

But it’s not always black and white, and while I felt that tribes were a positive, some within the community see them more as a negative. Brett Pall who is gay and writes for the Huffington Post,(A WRITER FOR THE HUFFINGTON POST WHO IDETIFIES AS GAY) wrote that he felt that tribes were separating the community, rather than bringing them together. Kieran Gowan Clark, an artist and student, revealed in an interview (FOR XYZ, SEE PAGE…) that he felt that tribes were turning the community into a bitchy atmosphere, rather than an accepting one (THAT IN HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HE SAW THE OCCURRENCE OF TRIBES AS CREATING SOMEWHAT OF A ‘BITCHY’ ATMOSPHERE AND DIVIDING FROM WITHIN RATHER THAN A FEELING OF ACCEPTANCE).

But this article is not to debate the benefits or negatives of the different tribes within the gay community. DELETE THIS FIRST SENTENCE ANSD JUST GO STRAIGHT INTO IT (WITH THIS IN MIND) This article aims to educate those who are unaware or just stupidly bigoted (DELETE, MIGHT COME ACROSS AS AN INSULT) (OR HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY MIS-EDUCATED) when it comes to the LGBTQ+ community. I remember a homosexual (BIT FORMAL,‘GAY’/’LESBIAN IS FINE) friend of mine remarking that it was better for me to ask then to assume. So, although you probably have not asked for this article, you’re getting it (I’VE WRITTEN IT ANYWAY)(FAB, BUT REWORDED SO IT DOESN’T SOUND AS AGGRESSIVE). Below is a (BRIEF) lowdown on the different ‘tribes’ within the community for those who still get confused when someone (THEIR LGBTQ+ FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS) mentions having a thing for ‘otters’ (and looks at you weirdly when you mention Benedict Cumberbatch).