

TRANSFERITIS: A NEW U.?

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, transfer, transfer again. At least that's what some students say after unsuccessful attempts to choose the perfect college. Glossy brochures and admissions counselors don't always paint a realistic picture — some students find that the college they picked doesn't add up to their ideal institute.

CLASS

Suzanne Cobban, a senior at Ramapo College in New Jersey, has made transferring an art form — she has three notches in her undergraduate belt. Cobban, a New Jersey native, started at New York U. for a taste of city life but soon found cosmopolitan living less than glamorous.

"It was what I pictured life after college to be like — living on my

own, taking care of day-to-day things," Cobban says.

She says her first transfer — to Boston College — was like going back to high school: "Very clique-y and nearly impossible for a transfer to meet people."

By the end of her sophomore year at Boston College, pressure to choose a major forced her into a yearlong sabbatical from school. Last fall, Cobban enrolled at Ramapo, and she plans, for the moment, to stay.

Josh McKinley, a sophomore at the U. of Miami in Ohio, transferred from Rhodes College in Tennessee to escape the crash course in Beer and Fraternity 101.

McKinley says he wasn't getting his money's worth at Rhodes. "I drank too much," he says. "I came here to calm down. It's a much bigger campus — drinking isn't the only thing to do."

Eric D. Stern, a junior at Northwestern U., considered transferring to a smaller school for a more personal education.

"You think [college] is going to be like Berkeley in the '60s — lots of activism and interaction with faculty," Stern says. "[But] I got thrown into huge classes where I hardly knew the professors." Once Stern learned how to find smaller, more personal classes at Northwestern, he changed his mind about transferring.

Gary Englegau, executive director of admissions and records at Texas A&M U., says that transferring is a good option for students who do the right research. "Students must recognize that four-year institutions have unique personalities with unique requirements," he says. "The earlier you investigate, the better."

Eating solo in the cafeteria, finding your way around campus

and straightening out class credits top the list of hassles you can expect to encounter when transferring. But for many, temporary setbacks are worth the move.

Wes DelCol, now a senior at Rhodes College, transferred from Union College in New York. "I came from a prep school, and Union was just like [it]," DelCol says. "It was a huge fraternity school. The academics were fine for engineers, but it wasn't the best place in terms of off-campus opportunities."

With a year at Rhodes behind him, DelCol is settling in. "Sitting alone in the dining hall is a pain in the ass," he says. "I constantly questioned whether I made the right decision. [But] it wouldn't be transferring if you weren't starting all over again."

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AN APPLE A DAY...

RUBBING A WEDGE OF LEMON IN YOUR ARMPITS TO MEND A MIND-blowing hangover may not be how you spell relief. Still, you might want to give this and other home remedies a shot — they're cheap and easy, and they just might work.

Kitchen cabinet remedies aren't cure-alls, say Joan Wilen and Lydia Wilen, authors of *Chicken Soup & Other Folk Remedies* (Fawcett Columbine), but they do offer inexpensive and safe alternative treatments to minor ailments.

From head to toe, books on home remedies feature a variety of treatments for almost everything that ails you. For example, if you're sour on trying the lemon hangover cure, a tablespoon of honey every minute for five minutes may make you feel sweet again. Or load up on liquids — just not the kind that come with pink umbrellas.

PULSE

If insomnia is keeping you up all night, the Wilens suggest putting chunks of a yellow onion in a tightly sealed jar. When you have trouble falling asleep, open the jar and take a deep whiff. Either the initial shock or the gradual essence d'onion should knock you out in no time (about 15 minutes).

Instead of popping cough drops to soothe a sore throat, ease that dirty sock off after a long day and sleep with it wrapped around your neck. It'll take your sore throat — and breath — away. A convenient rationale for owning 30 pairs of dirty socks or a bona fide remedy? Take a stinkin' guess.

Meanwhile, at the bottom (that's feet — what were you thinking?), salt water and sunlight can send athlete's foot back where it came from. So can walking foot-naked on the beach in the Bahamas, but that might cancel the inexpensive part.

But tryer, beware. Not all remedies work for all people. Michael McLure, a junior at Trinity U. in Texas, attempted to get rid of a wart by putting a used tea bag on it for 15 minutes every day for 10 days. "I'd have to say there was a slight wart reduction," McLure says, "but I think I'm convincing myself that it's flatter because I spent all that time strapping tea bags to my elbow."

Kristina Schurr, a graduate student at the U. of Maryland, College Park, tried to ease the itch of a mosquito bite by putting saliva and wet soap on it. "The whole idea was a little distasteful," Schurr says. "The soap got dry and crusty. It was gross, and it made me think about it more. I'm scratching it right now."

Ken Braslow, U. of Southern California/Photo by Noah Berger, U. of California, Berkeley

