

PERSPECTIVES

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Seize the Summer

Or what's left of it now that finals and the summer session are mercifully ending

At this time, you may be exhausted in preparation for the upcoming final exams. To those of you who are graduating in two days, congratulations. To those of you who are leaving Oregon for your new jobs elsewhere and those of you who are working hard on packing, good luck.

But for those of you who are going out of town for the rest of this summer, maybe this is the best time to think about your future before you take off for your week-long or, like me, month-long vacation or bury yourself in excessive fun.

When I was studying in primary school in Hong Kong, summer was time for me to waste. I used to spend at least six hours a day in front of the television watching reruns. Of course, I worked on my school assignments and finished them before the second week of the vacation. Afterward, I went back to my routine — watching TV. So for me, watching television used to be everything in the summers.

I used not to plan for anything, not even my studies in the United States, until I was 17. I remember laughing at my friends when they were studying for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOFEL).

"What for?" I asked them.

"For applying to colleges in the United States, of course," they said.

Of course!

Our lives cannot be taken for granted through a lack of planning. We need plan-

ning in our lives, just like we need planning when we go hiking.

I used to not believe in the proverbs "time flies" and "wait for no people." But now, these words haunt my mind. I believe no one should suffer from this horrible feeling — not even me.

Opinion



Edward Yuen

However, you cannot escape from flying "time" unless you catch it.

Although you have spent just the last eight weeks or so in summer school, you feel exhausted. Taking time off for rest seems to be a good way to

spend the rest of the summer and prepare for school again in the fall.

However, we should not forget to plan. At the beginning of this summer, the Emerald's editorial board told us there were a lot of activities to do in Eugene and Oregon.

Have you? I can tell you, honestly, that I have not.

I planned to do a lot of things the last two summers.

I planned to learn cycling, photography or even swimming. But I also made a lot of excuses not to do them. I postponed all my plans summer after summer.

And now I realize I do not have any more summers left in my student life. This time next year I will be moving somewhere for my job. Free time will be a luxury for me after my graduation.

This is life.

But I believe no one should be bounded by so-called "fate."

When I worked at IntroDUCKtion this summer, I realized I have missed a lot of chances in my life.

I came across some students who have been worked for their newspapers in high school. I came across a guy who was a columnist for the Register-Guard. I talked to a girl who spent her summers working in a pizza place in her hometown. I talked to another girl who spent her summers exploring her interest in electronic media.

I envy them for what they have done. What did I do when I was in secondary school?

Nothing.

I spent too much time in the books preparing for the public examinations in Hong Kong. The result: I lost the chances.

Teenagers nowadays have more resources than the people who were born in the 1970s. Internet access used to be foreign to me when I was in secondary school.

However, when people use a lot of their time in front of their computers, lives become meaningless. I cannot believe my 4-year-old cousin in Hong Kong has his own e-mail account. What does he need that for?

People are living in a closed world now. As a 4-year-old, I believe my cousin should explore his interests.

So should you.

Go out. Work in a national park if you like nature. Work in the humane society if you like animals. Don't worry

a lot about money when you work, but think about all the experiences you can gain from your job that can enrich your life.

If money allows, travel around. As a student from another continent, I understand the importance of cross-cultural communication. Every culture has its own specialty that is worth others learning.

Sitting in front of the television, even though you are watching the world news, is not enough. As a reporter, I can tell you the media cannot bring you everything you need to know. A lot of things are waiting for you to explore.

If you are graduating soon, think about your career. I remember when I was taking reporting class from Professor Pam Cytrynbaum, she told us to do at least one thing for our future career every day — write your resumé, talk to a mentor and learn about what they do, buy a pair of new pants or a new dress for interviews, learn to type, learn to give public speeches, etc.

"Don't sit on your mom's couch and cry for nothing," someone told me.

Take your chances, and for the rest of this summer go explore the opportunities whenever and wherever you come across them. Do something that you won't regret when telling your children.

Good luck.

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Editorial Cartoon

the rd chronicles: virtual Waste of time



R.D. Miller for the Emerald

Oregon Emerald

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