

Remembering our edumacation: what we loved, what we hated

We remember when we were getting ready to go off to college and everyone was saying how it would be a place where we could discover ourselves and try new things. We kind of shrugged it off then, dismissing it as cliché advice from our elders. But, in retrospect, they were right. It's just that we were too busy being college students to notice how being college students changed us.

In the last few weeks, we've spent some time reflecting on our past few years here and why they mattered. We discovered that, among other things, we've learned better time management, how to write more concisely and how to live on our minuscule incomes. We've learned to be more tolerant of others, and to express our own opinions clearly and respectfully.



Jessica Blanchard
Editor in Chief

And, probably most importantly, we've learned to think about what we see and hear instead of just accepting it at face value.

To keep ourselves from descending into needless nostalgia, we decided to condense our college experiences into 10 succinct points: the top five things about college we won't miss, and the top five things we will.

The top five things we won't miss, in no particular order:

1) The exorbitant University fees and textbook costs each term. We hate having to live on ramen noodles for the first month of the term in order to pay for that \$80 political science text that we never even cracked.

2) Inane classmates who ask equally inane questions, taking up precious class time. You apparently don't know who you are.

3) Having three midterms in one class. Stop calling them "midterms." None of them are ever during week five, and they're just really, really big tests. Maybe professors think "midterms" don't sound as scary as 'really, really big tests.' They're wrong, and we're not fooled. And why have a really, really big test in week eight, when you're going to give us a killer final two weeks later?

4) The members of the greek system who exemplify the stereotypes about fraternities and sororities. We know this doesn't apply to many members of the greek system, but we won't miss the hordes of blondes in backless shirts and drunken frat boys leering at passers-by.

5) Slaving away six days a week at the Emerald, knowing that no matter how hard you work, everyone still hates you.

Let our caustic comments mislead you, our college experiences weren't all bad. Here's the top five things we'll miss:

1) Ruling the Emerald with an iron fist. (Just kidding.) Really, what we'll miss is the camaraderie

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of harsh realities and demanding responsibilities. And I have to admit that the thought of spending the next 40+ years of my life sitting behind a desk for 40+ hours a week in order to pay off the \$60,000 in student loans I've accrued during the past five years of study frankly makes me want to run screaming for the hills. I dread that moment when my six months of scholastic respite has come to an end and Uncle Sam knocks on my door with his posse of bill collectors to demand his money back.

But money aside, passing from college into the "real world" doesn't have to be as big a nightmare as all that. Change is never easy, but I have to remember that this is simply the next stage in the process of

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Soon to be a mere memory are the days — and nights — of laying in bed on Monday morning instead of attending class, cranking out a 10-page paper in three hours the morning it's due and abstaining from sleep for days at a time while cramming for finals.

All my life, those inhabiting the "real world" have told me not to be in a rush to join them in this world



Jen West
Pulse reporter

Finally ready to enter the real world

As I sit on my couch, laptop glowing in front of me, my fingers furiously typing the last papers of my college career, it hits me that in four days, I'll be free. After 18 years of sitting behind a desk, absorbing information and regurgitating said information back to professors, the higher minds have deemed me worthy to enter the "real world."

I wonder where the time has gone. It seems like yesterday that my parents helped me stuff all my bedroom belongings into their Subaru station wagon, and we sped down the I-5 freeway at 75 miles an hour toward the University. I was eager to spread my wings, and my parents were eager to let me assert my independence in a place that was anywhere other than under their roof.

Five years later, my parents and I have learned the art of compromise. OK, I've learned to compromise. And I now have to upgrade to

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