

Wonders of Canada cannot compare to close-knit Eugene

I transferred here from McGill University in Montréal, perhaps the coldest city on the face of this planet (excluding Irkutsk). I went from a city of 3.5 million to one of 140,000, and the differences between the two places are almost impossible to imagine.

Firstly, Montréal is stuck in a quasi-North American, quasi-European vortex. Half of the city speaks English; the other half speaks a language resembling French. You buy beer from what is referred to as a Dépanneur. Wine comes from the Société des alcools du Québec, the state-run liquor store. You can't turn right on a red light, but people frequently drive directly through them. To an outsider, little makes sense about this island. It was an ideal place to get lost in a new world with the comfort of taking classes in English.



ELLIOTT ASBURY
EH?

Linguistics was my major. But I was really there to study immersion. I was keen to see what it would be like to separate myself from what I knew. It was sort of my year abroad before I even started school.

And I learned a lot. I learned that a drinking age of 18 was at the same time no big deal and a blessing. Poutine, a gross concoction of fries, gravy and cheese curds, was something best to avoid. But, most importantly, I learned that it's important to be away from home. It's easy to miss what's happening around you if you never leave.

But, I came home to get me a education in advertising, something that wasn't offered at McGill. The place to be, of course, was the University of Oregon.

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Internships, friends made college a good taste of real world

College has been good to me. This thought enters my mind as I sit on my incredibly comfortable futon in my exceedingly cool historic home, surrounded by friends and good music.

As everyone knows, college is much more than school. It's a personal revolution that changes who we are, who we know, what we do and, sometimes, what we want to do. This has been true for me, and I hope it's true for you. As a middle-aged sage told me many years ago around a campfire, "The whole point of college is to get laid."

While it wasn't much of an exercise in courage for me to attend this in-state, public liberal arts university, I have endeavored to derive from it as much as possible. To wit, I made the excellent decision to join the Sailing Club team my freshman year, a decision that has taken me far both geographically and personally (a special thanks to George Yioulos, without whom the team might not exist).

I took on the task of double

majoring in journalism and political science, which I completed in four years minus a term. I interned at two newspapers, one of which is the most-read daily journal in our little corner of the world, and also

wrote for this publication. I fought forest fires for two summers. I did all this while maintaining my trademark sense of humor, charisma and a killer set of abs. (Sure, this column drips with egotism and self-congratulation, but it's a graduation column, what did you expect?)

In college, friends have come, and friends have gone. Some warrant just a nod and a "what's up" when I see them on campus. Others, a short conversation. But a quartet of fellas has been there day in and day out for every drunken ass-grabbing, every drained three-pointer, every high and low. To Adam Crossley, Ryan Matthews, Ryan Orr and Pete Zenczak, I give my thanks and best wishes.

Now I enter what some insist on calling the "real world," though

SLOTHOWER, page 23B



CHUCK SLOTHOWER
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