

Managing the College Jump

A personal calendar can keep you on track

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FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The college preparation that takes place during your senior year of high school is filled with a lot of details and paperwork. Creating a personal calendar can help you keep track of the due dates for the college admission applications, scholarship essays, financial aid forms and other deadlines.

Throughout your senior year, continue to build your resume by achieving academic success, as well as participating in extracurricular activities. Colleges are very interested in well-rounded students. It's also important that you involve your parents as you review your career plans and decide which type of postsecondary school is best for you.

Here are some things that you should have already done, if not, the time is now:

- **Save money** for tuition and college expenses. List your top college choices. Request admissions information and school catalogs. Go on college visits. Obtain registration materials and test dates for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and/or ACT assessment. Compare costs of each school that interests you by contacting the colleges by phone, mail, or via their websites. Visit Going2College for information about career, college, and financial aid resources in your state. Mark your calendar with registration, admissions, and financial aid deadlines and fees. Determine if the schools that interest you have online admission applications. If not, request them by mail now. Meet with school representatives who visit your high school. Look at virtual tours of college campuses online.

- **Ask employers, teachers, and guidance counselors for letters of recommendation** to accompany your admissions applications. Take the SAT and/or ACT. Work on your admissions essays. If you haven't already done so, attend college planning and/or financial aid information nights and college fairs. Go online and visit your top school choices. If possible, make appointments with faculty, staff, and students. Complete applications for every scholarship for which you may be eligible.

- **Meet with your guidance counselor** to develop a college admission and financial aid application plan. Make a folder for each of your college choices. Contact the schools' financial aid offices to determine which forms they require. Some schools may require special forms.

- **Finalize** portfolios, audition



tapes, writing samples, or other **evidence of talent** if required for admission. Complete the admissions applications by deadline each college prescribes. If necessary, register to retake the SAT and/or ACT.

- **Sign up for a PIN** to complete your FAFSA online. (Also let your parents know that they will need a PIN.) Finalize admission applications. Urge your parents to file their taxes as soon as possible. This will ease the financial aid process. Research and apply for other financial aid, including grants and scholarships.

- **Keep copies of all documents**, including your PIN, in a file. If you can't attend financial aid nights, ask if you and your parents can borrow a video of an event from your counselor. Be mindful of deadlines. Always submit information on time.

- **Watch for the e-mail notice** indicating your Student Aid Report (SAR) is ready. Review your SAR for errors and make any corrections as indicated. Rank your top school choices. Attend a College Goal Sunday event.

March Calendar Checklist:

- Check with college financial aid offices to ensure your paperwork is complete. Submit tax forms if they request them.

- Narrow your school choices and make campus visits.

- Be on the lookout for acceptance letters.

- Start looking for summer jobs.

April Calendar Checklist:

- Compare financial aid award letters.

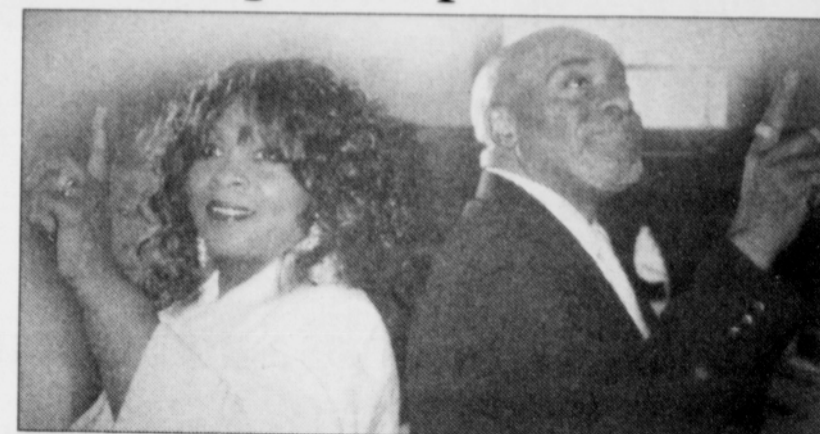
- Make your final school decision and mail deposits, as required.

- Check with the school you've chosen about returning financial aid award letters.

- Notify the schools you have chosen not to attend.

- Plan for registration, orientation, and housing, and mark your calendar with important dates.

You are cordially invited to the
Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship



Pastor Roy E. Clay Sr. & Co-Pastor Lottie M. Clay

Family Reunion Praise and Worship

3:30 pm • Sunday, March 14, 2010

Philadelphia Community Missionary Baptist Church
224 NE Mason, Portland, OR 97211

Pastor Roy E. Clay Sr.

RSVP 503-281-6017

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