

Down the Hall

What are your plans for Spring Break?



"I'm going to Hawaii just to get a tan for prom."
—Josie Bengel, senior

"I'm going to Tennessee and then going camping."
—Skyler Bishop, junior



"I'm going to see the Liberty Bell and George W. Bush's new house."
—Travis Burton, sophomore

"Going to Florida to play baseball with the baseball team."
—Derrick Bussell, senior



"Kick back, thrown down, cut some slack, and I won't frown."
—Josh Hale, junior

Are you ready for college life?

BY TARA COX

Now that most college-bound seniors know where they are going to spend the next four years of their lives, reality is beginning to sink in.

To say that going from a rural high school to college is a huge change, is an understatement. You will be surrounded by new people, places, opportunities, and cultures, but you must also leave behind much of what you've always had.

Mom and Dad can't move into the dorm room with you and sorry, no pets allowed. Precious few items can accompany you into a tiny hole in the wall that you will be sharing with at least one other person, and they'll be bringing all of their stuff, too.

You'll see some of your friends at football games, relatives on weekend visits home, and your parents may not be there in body, but the phone bills and your voice mail will prove that their presence never fades.

While you may welcome this new burst of freedom, it can definitely be overwhelming. Don't lose focus of why you're at college and what you plan to do when you've graduated.

Are you at college to study and prepare for the future, or is your main goal to have as much fun as possible while wasting your parents' money?

Time management is considered one of the most important skills in college because you must have time to study (no, cramming is not considered studying), do homework (two page papers are not assignments, they're quizzes), work (this is not walking from one side of

campus to the other), and maintain a social life (read as: party).

A college experience would not be complete without each one of these, but how much is too much?

Two to three hours of studying per hour of class is usually sufficient, but more time should be spent for harder classes or if you're having trouble understanding the material.

Homework should be thoroughly researched and completed as assigned. In college, procrastination translates to evil. You never know what will be going on the night before the assignment is due until it finally rolls around, and your schedule may be jam-packed with urgent activities.

Late homework is not accepted, and professors have enough experience to know when a paper has been done at the last minute, and may grade accordingly.

Unless you're lucky enough to have spending money from either the college or your parents, expect to have a job. Most try to work around your class schedule and finals, but they don't pencil in when you have a large project due and might come in late or leave early, and they're not very happy when you bring your class-work to work.

It wouldn't be college without the parties, but be safe and reasonable. When your social schedule begins overshadowing your education and you miss classes because of it (your grades will reflect it), you're in too deep.

Start spending at least half of that time studying and not only will your grades improve, but your par-

ents will be much happier and more likely to empty their pockets to you.

You may have the best of intentions of how you will spend your time when you get to college, but unless you begin developing those habits now, your efforts may prove to be futile.

With very little around to remind you of your high school days, most people tend to do things that they wouldn't normally do, thus college is referred to as "where you find out who you really are."

But before you begin packing for life in the dorms, think about who you are now. What are your morals, and the morals of those you care about and who care about you?

An immediate sense of freedom may be refreshing and well overdue, yet at the same time it can be destructive and corrupting, especially to those who have strict parents and have never experienced a true feeling of freedom. How will you react to being invited to a party every night, with no one around to tell you that you can't go?

Since your parents and other family members, who constantly bring you back down to Earth are no longer around as much, it becomes your responsibility to set your own boundaries and morals, and to stay within those.

Have fun while you're there, call home to let your parents know you're still alive and to send more money, and remember that there is a life after college and you have no one to rely on except yourself.

Spend your time wisely and don't waste a second of it. It's too expensive to do over.

NOTICE Senior Wills

The Rocket staff will have a table set up during lunch April 16-20. All wills must be completed by Friday, April 20 for inclusion in the Senior issue.

The Rocket reserves the right not to print any item which is questionable in nature without prior notice to the student.