

Real dorm life begins once parents hit the road

by Robby Messer
Campus Correspondent
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Moving into a dorm can be an interesting — and eye-opening — experience. For many students, it's the only time parents will ever see their living quarters. And that's a good thing because the floors are swept, mirrors polished and desktops buffed to a shine (with the exception of mine, with its broken drawer). These cramped, little spaces won't always be so, well, clean — and Mom and Dad don't need images of how these rooms digress seared into their brains.

In fact, Mom and Dad don't need to know a lot of things after this milestone called move-in day has passed. Maybe some parents know this, which is the reason move-in day feels like this big private joke among the students who nod dutifully as their parents check out the facilities.

Move-in day for me was no exception. Just like everyone else, my parents and I crammed everything imaginable into my tiny space, and just like everyone else, I thanked the parents for helping me schlep my stuff up to my room. They cooed about the tiles missing from the floor, the water that leaked from the heater, the light that didn't work, shelves that didn't exist — you name it — and I just stood there nod-

ding in agreement. But I had other things on my mind

"Isn't this a dry dorm?"

— and so did just about everyone else

as best I could tell. Y'see, nobody really wants to make friends on the first day. Sure, we might go around, introducing ourselves to new hallmates and suitemates, but if truth be told, there are a lot of ulterior motives at work. We're just looking for somebody to bring us back to our rooms when we've had too much to drink.

Of course no one mentions that to the folks. (Let them gurgle about the cinderblock walls in blissful ignorance.) Or at least no one I know did at my school, Northern Arizona University, on move-in day. But our little inside joke almost did fall apart when one guy used a dolly to assist him with moving in. He didn't have the luxury of having parental assistance with

moving in his television, VCR, stereo, bookcase, and couch. Heck, he didn't even use the dolly to help him move any of those things either. The dolly was used for one purpose and one purpose only: to haul beer.

A couch can be bumped, and a television can always be scratched and still function properly. Four cases of beer, however, need to be handled with care. One bump, and that could be one less beer. (To the average person that may not seem like much, but to the dormitory lush who majors in hangovers, it's everything.)

As the beer was being paraded through the hall toward its final destination, parents, almost simultaneously, looked at each other as if to

say "Isn't this a dry dorm?" An ugly scene narrowly averted, good-byes finally rolled around. Parents embraced their children, and hometown honeys stood teary-eyed in the halls — all confident that they had successfully delivered the student they loved to the land of higher education.

But the minute they were out, it was time to christen dorm rooms. Music blared, and the beer flowed. (It was a good thing everyone introduced themselves. Otherwise, we would have had to share a room, passed out on the floor.) The parents were gone. They saw the living arrangements and approved. Wonder what would happen if they knew about the lifestyle.

Average college costs increase by five percent

by Colleen DeBaise
College Press Exchange

NEW YORK—The cost of college tuition will continue to outpace inflation this year, and students are borrowing more than ever to get degrees, according to a new study. "I had scholarships and parental support for college [but] have been relying on loans—about \$50,000—for graduate school," said Derek R. Larson, a doctoral student in history at Indiana University.

His wife is also a graduate student, and they wonder how they'll pay off the loans, he said. "I expect we'll be lucky to pay off our debt in 10 years after finding work, assuming we can both find jobs in our respective fields at all," he said. "I feel quite insecure about the financial future my investment may bring."

According to a College Board survey released Sept. 25, students at four-year public colleges and universities can expect to pay about 6 percent more this year for tuition. That's about \$155 more than last year.

Four-year private schools boosted undergraduate tuition this year by 5 percent, which means students will have to pay about \$607 more. Room and board also jumped, an average 6 percent, or \$220, at public colleges and universities, and about 4 per-

cent, or \$195, at private schools, the study found.

Donald M. Stewart, president of the College Board, said that despite costs that "are daunting too many, for most Americans, the fact remains that college is still accessible—especially in the light of financial aid currently available."

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loans, said Lawrence Gladieux, executive director for policy analysis at the College Board's Washington office. In 1995-96, federal loan programs provided \$29 billion in aid to students—57 percent of all available aid.

In contrast, federal grant support continued to decline—despite a slight

increase of \$40 in the maximum Pell Grant. Now grants represent just 42 percent of total federal, state and institutional aid.

"Since the mid-70s, the Pell Grant has lost ground both to inflation and to the rising cost of college—a 40 percent decrease over 20 years," said Stewart. But Jack Joyce, associate director of information at the association's College Scholarship Service, points out that half of all students enrolled in higher education re-

ceive some financial aid, often a combination of grants, scholarships, loans and work-study. "Focusing on 'sticker price' or allowing 'sticker shock' to influence college choice will limit opportunities that are out there for students," he said.

Some private schools have reacted to "sticker shock" with promises not to raise tuition more than the inflation rate; others have simply cut tuition. The most publicized example is Muskingum College, which cut its tuition more than \$4,000 this year, from \$13,850 to \$9,850.

James B. Appleberry, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, said the good news in the College Board report is that there is more financial aid available for students to attend college than ever before.

The bad news is that the increase is in the form of loans rather than grants, which means "we are creating a seriously debt-burdened society," he said.

He blames rising costs on state legislatures that have "deprioritized" funding for public colleges and universities. "Historically, most states have paid more than two thirds of the cost of a college education, and the student or their family paid the rest," he said. "Now, many states pay only 50 percent."

Surprise! Quizzes good for your GPA

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Here's a back-to-school tip: You want better grades, demand that your professors quiz you once a week.

Still reading? A new study suggests that students who received a quiz on reading material every week outperformed other students on midterm and final examination grades by four to 24 percent.

Students with low grades benefit the most from frequent testing. The reason probably isn't too surprising: "Even when students believe they can learn material in a class, and when they know the appropriate strategies for learning, they won't do it — until we give them a reason to do it," says Bruce W. Tuckman, an educational psychologist at Ohio State University.

In two studies, Tuckman compared the performance of two Florida State University classes on educational psychology. "One class he quizzed every week on the reading assigned for that week. Those students knew when to expect the quiz, and what material would be covered. He didn't quiz the other class, but gave them comparable homework assignments on the same reading material."

In a third study, he compared the performance of these two groups

with a third class who were given neither quizzes nor homework assignments. Students who were quizzed in the first two studies outperformed the other students' grades by an average of four percent and seven percent respectively.

In the third study, quizzed students outperformed the students who did homework by 16 percent, and the students who did neither by 24 percent. But what is more interesting is the grades the students received, Tuckman says. Students with average or relatively high grade point averages earned approximately the same grade for the midterm or final exam whether they were quizzed or did homework. But the students with low GPAs improved their grades dramatically when they were forced to study for a quiz every week.

"This shows that some people have low GPAs not because they're not smart, but because they don't work hard," said Tuckman. Of course, the students weren't crazy about tests, Tuckman said. "I was famous for the spot-quizzes at Florida State. Students hated me. They raged in front of the whole class. They hated being quizzed, and yet, it worked," said Tuckman, who now heads Ohio State's new Academic Learning Lab.

School newspapers go up in flames

by Nicole King
University of Central Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. — Efforts to put together a back-to-school newspaper were trashed when someone dumped several hundred copies of the Central Florida Future in trash bins throughout the University of Central Florida's campus.

School police are looking into the incident, which happened sometime between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m., Aug. 20, and school officials have vowed to punish whoever is caught. The case is being treated as a theft, and could rise to a felony status depending on the newspapers' value.

"This is a violation of the law and university rules," said Garth Jenkins,

associate dean of students. "It's a suspendable offense. The law needs iron clad information, (but) I don't."

The Future's associate publisher,

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Brian Linden, said he was shocked when he heard the papers were missing.

"Something needs to be done," he said. "This is very serious and not something we consider just an ordinary college prank." Jenkins said he also was concerned about the paper's advertisers, one of whom was the university's own bookstore, which had two full-page ads in the paper. Rebecca Grilliot, production editor for the Future, said she was frustrated that her hard work was thrown away.

"I was shocked, I can't believe that anyone would do something like this," she said. "We all put so much hard work into the paper."

Middlebury College argues student responsible for his death

MIDDLEBURY, Vt. (CPX) — Middlebury College is trying to fend off a federal lawsuit insisting that the school be held liable for the death of a 22-year-old student who died in an alcohol-related car crash. The suit was filed by the father of Ryan Waldron, a Middlebury senior killed in 1997 after driving drunk from a campus party at the social house Zeta Theta Phi. It charges that both the college and social house have "at least as much responsibility (if not more) ... for Ryan's death as did the acts committed by Ryan Waldron himself."

Karen Andrews, an attorney for the college, likened the suit to holding the state of Vermont liable when a state-licensed bar serves a minor. She filed a motion asking that the suit be dismissed, denying most of its allegations and stating that even if Middlebury were negligent, the college's fault would be "lesser in degree than Ryan Waldron's own fault." Waldron lived off campus after his social house was shut down for alcohol-related violations. His father's lawsuit alleges that he got drunk on "blackout punch," a mixture of beer and vodka, and died

later that night when the car he was driving home struck a tree. The lawsuit claims that the punch Waldron drank was prepared in an unauthorized container using unregistered quantities of alcohol that had been sneaked into the house.

All student parties at Middlebury at which alcohol will be served must be registered with the college's student activities office. The director of student activities determines the amount of alcohol that can be served based on the anticipated number of guests.

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