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FRESHMEN SPEAK ABOUT COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

The annual countdown has once again winded down to the last week before finals. It is time of year that brings to most of us a sigh of relief, and often, a tear of two. For 601 of us, this week is particularly important in that it signifies the end of our first year in college. As I sit here, writing this article, my mind drifts to all the special events and people I have encountered in the past 9 months. For all of us, I'm sure, the people and places we've seen this year will stay with us forever.

So how well did we actually cope with the pressures involved with going to college for the first time? Undoubtedly, it wasn't easy, as I'm sure we'd all agree; but what parts were particularly difficult, and which made the transition from high school easier? What expectations did we have upon entering college? How were these expectations fulfilled or disappointed? To find these and other answers, I decided to decided distribute a survey among some of the freshman population.

Academically, most of the students surveyed expected harder classes and the need to study harder than they actually did. What many freshman found was that the college classes taken

this year were easier, in fact, than high school classes. While many incoming freshman expected to study all the time their first year, instead, they found that they didn't study nearly as much as they'd expected.

Many of those surveyed expected a higher GPA than was actually achieved this year. While this may have been due to the minimal studying done by most of the students surveyed, I suspect that more so, this was due more to social implications involved in one's first year of college. Perhaps students had a difficult time adjusting to college, and living away from home. Perhaps the mere change of lifestyle was difficult to adapt to. Often, I suspect that one's social life interferes greatly in one's academic life.

Socially, most freshmen surveyed overestimated this aspect of their first year. Most students surveyed expected to socialize and party much more than they actually did. I suppose that the grand illusion of the "forever partying" wasteland of college fooled us all. The harsh reality of it is that without at least some kind of effort put into studies, you can't get anywhere in college.

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