



Freshman students have a meeting in New Residence Hall.

Enrollment The Largest In University's History

By Anthony Keene, Jr.
Staff Writer

What's up with the freshmen students of FSU?

With 767 new students, the freshman class is one of the largest in the school's history. In fact, The university's enrollment is the largest in the school's 134-year-history. A total of 4,531 students are attending classes on the main campus. Combined with the 477 enrolled at the extension campus, FSU now serves a record 5,008 students.

Now back to the freshmen. Why would all of you decide to come to college to chill with your friends instead of sitting on your mother's couch, eating her food and leaving dirty

dishes in the sink? You did it for 18, 19 or 20 years, so why should another year matter?

Mark "Sprag-On" Spraggins, a sophomore and a graduate of Westover High School, said jokingly he came here to enhance the university.

"I came here to make the school better," he said. "I believe that my presence will bring this university up to an A-1 status."

Kala Bernard, a graduate of East Carteret High School near Morehead City, came to FSU to be with family and because the school had a good business department.

"I needed to go to business school and my

sister is here," she said.

Lakeisha Samiltons chose FSU because of its proximity.

"It's close to home," she said.

Westover graduate Adrian Price, said he couldn't afford anyplace else and FSU offered a good deal.

After talking with several students, many seem to share Price's sentiments.

FSU is a good alternative for those who can't afford to go elsewhere.

The university seems to be keeping to its mission of shaping people of tomorrow into intelligent individuals.

Many Traps Await Unsuspecting Students

By Jeff Herring
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Here are seven traps that college students often fall into and tips on how to avoid them.

Debt: Going into debt to pay for college makes sense. It's a good investment that will last you a lifetime. You can pay off those college loans after you graduate and get a job. Going into consumer debt, however, to live beyond your means and have a great time makes no sense. If you drive those credit cards up high enough, you can pay on them for many, many years after you graduate.

Solution: Save instead of spend, even if it's just 10 bucks a month.

Party life: Many colleges, including Florida State University, have had the dubious honor of being named the No. 1 party school in the nation. The trap here is insidious and very seductive. Before you realize it, you can be majoring in partying and even living to do it. Short-term fun, long-term failure.

Solution: Go to parties and party if you want. Just don't live to do it. Remember one of the reasons you came to college in the first place - to get the ticket or pass to the rest of your life.

I'll do it later: Procrastination is a huge and sometimes bottomless hole, and it's tough to crawl out. We put things off because it feels good in the short term, and we really do believe we will do it later. Then we wind up virtually killing ourselves the last week of school.

Solution: Take all your assignments and move them up one or two weeks. Do just a little bit each week. By

moving up the due dates, you get it done ahead of schedule and have a cushion just in case. It works.

Perpetual student: College life can be a blast. For some, it can become so much fun that they never want it to end.

Solution: Get everything you can out of your college experience. Then get out of your college experience and live the rest of your life.

Buckling to the competition: You'll often hear statements such as "Only one out of 10 applicants gets into that school, or graduate school or program." These statements alone are the beginning of the weeding-out process. If this is all it takes to keep you from pursuing your goals, perhaps you are not ready to be there.

Solution: Don't listen. Don't buckle to the competition. Don't give it a place in your thoughts. Decide to pursue your dreams, do the necessary things, and be one of the ones who get in.

Love relationships: Many people, including me, met their spouse in college. It can be a great. At the same time, relationships can be a real mess. During college, most of us are still trying to figure out this whole relationship thing, and this search can lead to some unhealthy situations. If you find that you have dropped everything else in your life (friends, classes, family, etc.) for a relationship you believe you can't do without, it's time to come up for air and a reality check.

Solution: Learn about relationships. Choose wisely while making a relationship part of your life. Don't make it your whole life.

Advice Diva

Q: Dear Advice Diva:

My girlfriend of two years still has photos of her ex-boyfriend - love letters, too - stacked in boxes in her closet, which I discovered while helping her install a shelving unit. I was speechless when a box overturned, filled with all sorts of mementos of their past together. When I confronted her later about it, she made light of it, saying that he means nothing to her anymore but it is still a part of who she is and she saw no need to throw it all out. I don't know whether this is chick-talk for "leaving my options open" or if I should just cut her some slack. Whenever I bring it up, she says that we already discussed it and there's no need to talk further.

What's going on here? -In the Dark

A: Dear In the Dark:

It's hard to say whether your girl of two years is way sentimental or secretly plotting to return to her ex. Only you will be able to determine this and we see several factors influencing her readiness to toss her romantic past: Her commitment to you and your relationship, her ability to live in the present and her knowledge of Girlfriend Etiquette. Judging from her reaction to the "Found Your Ex-Boyfriend Stash" episode, we'd say she could stand to brush up on her Girlfriend Etiquette.

To say that there is no need to discuss the matter further is akin to your cutting her off during a teary PMS moment. Not to sound sexist, but guys have feelings, too.

Condom Use May Still Be Gamble, Experts Report

By Sherry Jacobson
The Dallas Morning News

In the two decades since the AIDS epidemic became a fact of life, condoms have emerged from the hidden place in men's wallets.

Parents now talk to their children about using condoms to avoid getting AIDS. Sex educators give them away freely. Drugstores sell them openly. And condoms are even being advertised on TV nowadays.

"Most young people clearly recognize that condoms provide protection from HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases," notes the Kaiser Family Foundation in a recent report on condom use among sexually active young people.

But the ease with which condoms have become an integral part of American sexuality obscures an important fact: No one can say how well male latex condoms prevent the

heterosexual spread of sexually transmitted diseases, or STDs, other than AIDS.

A government report, released in July, concludes that too few scientific studies have been done that prove condoms stop even the most common sexual diseases such as syphilis, chlamydia and genital herpes.

"The published data documenting (the) effectiveness of the male condom were strongest for HIV," the STD experts concluded. "Condoms provided an 85 percent reduction in HIV/AIDS transmission risk when infection rates were compared" between heterosexual couples who always used condoms and couples who never used them.

The report grew out of a two-day conference in July 2000. The gathering of STD experts was organized by the government agencies responsible for condom research, regulation and use

guidelines: the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Agency for International Development, National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But the condom report is subject to interpretation, even among those who produced it.

Some call it the new "gold standard" on the ineffectiveness of condoms in preventing the transmission of STDs. Others say it merely points out that too few studies have focused on condom protection.

"We identified the gaps in knowledge that need to be addressed in order to answer people's questions about condom usage," says Dr. George D. Wendel Jr., an obstetrician at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, who attended the conference as an expert on syphilis.

Dr. Joe S. McIlhenny Jr., an Austin, Texas obstetrician/gynecologist, pronounces the

findings "up-to-date and scientifically valid." He recommends that the government widely distribute the 27-page report as a warning of how little is known about condom effectiveness.

An estimated 15 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases occur annually in the United States, according to the report. One in five adults has an STD. Many have no symptoms and can spread the diseases without knowing it.

Untreated STDs can cause miscarriages, stillbirth and mother-to-child infections. Some can cause infertility in women. And one, the human papillomavirus, can cause cervical cancer.

"If someone anticipates having sexual activity with more than one partner, then they need to know that condoms will not protect them," says McIlhenny, who is president of the Medical Institute for Sexual Health. The 9-year-old nonprofit

agency lobbied the government to re-evaluate how well condoms work.

"An honest look at the research leads to only one conclusion: The only realistic way for a young person to eliminate their risks of STDs and nonmarital pregnancy is to remain sexually abstinent until marriage," McIlhenny writes in an editorial on the institute's Web site, <http://www.medinstitute.org/>

The panel of STD experts carefully reviewed 138 studies, published before June 2000, that looked at how well condom use stopped the spread of eight diseases through sexual contact. But the experts found that, in many cases, the condom studies did not meet certain scientific standards.

"Most of the people on the panel were surprised that there was as much data as we found and that the studies couldn't stand up to the rigors of scientific review," he says.

From TMS Campus