

ADVICE FROM AN OLD TIMER

by Ellinore Krieger

Are you wondering what it is like to be a freshman? Well, it has its good and bad points. You are in very understanding company here in Montreat, however, and we are all anxious to help you. There are a lot of fine people here, like the SCA, the SPS, AMA, and, well, yes, even the teachers, who want to make this one of the happiest years of your life.

However, as I was a freshman once way back in '51, I realize that there are little personal problems that arise from time to time about which most people are too timid to ask advice. Therefore, I am writing a frank report of my most trying problems as a freshman, and am also sending some suggestions your way in hopes that you may rise above your difficulties as lightheadedly as I did.

Roommates are the best part of college life. They always have such interesting jewelry that is just what you need for the dress you are wearing. They always have chewing gum when you are fresh out. They are nice people and you are bound to like them. The problem is whether they will like you. Right now, only you know how hateful you can be, how untidy you keep your room, or how grouchy you are in the morning. If you can keep those dark secrets from your roommate you'll both be happier.

If you happen to get a very talkative roommate, you may find it effective the night before a test just to tell her bluntly to shut up. In my experience, this gets quicker results than trying to read as if you didn't hear her, tearing your hair, yawning, or scraping your feet on the floor. Some people can't take a hint, you know.

Now about the teachers: Nothing can be done about them. You just have to accept them. They seem to be standard college fixtures and as a rule, will work long and well if properly used. The best way to get along with teachers is to humor them. Be interested in what they are saying. It is not a good idea

to agree with them 100 per cent, because in college you are supposed to have your own opinions. However, never disagree with them. If you don't think they are right, the best policy is to look exceedingly thoughtful and say slowly, "Well, I don't know, now." That way, you let them know they have not bullied you by their superior position, but at the same time, they are convinced that you will come over to their way of thinking in a short time.

Now, housemothers are a peculiar race of people. It is impossible to please them. It is possible, however, to win an occasional smile from one of them by the following methods: 1) Have a broom handy at all times so you can grab it when you hear it coming, thus giving the impression that you are a tidy person. 2) By having an industrious roommate who will keep the room in good order. 3) By actually applying yourself and keeping your room neat and clean. From personal experience, I find the first two plans far more satisfactory than the last.

Sleeping in class is not advisable first semester, unless you have had experience in high school. It is a good idea first to study the teacher, gather class procedure--that is, whether she walks, sits, or stands in class, and whether she directs her questions to those paying attention, or to those not paying attention. Sleeping has to be scientifically arranged according to the situation. However, it is always wise to stay awake the day before a test. You learn so much then!

About extra-curricula--- go all out for it. We have lots of fun--- sports, clubs, parties, hikes, etc. You will enjoy Montreat so much more if when you work, you work hard, and when you play, you play harder.

** This article is a reprint from a previous issue of the DIALETTE by special request, on the grounds that it should be REQUIRED READING for FRESHMEN.