

## FRESHMAN PROBLEMS

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one is obtained only through the initiative and ambition of the individual. Many of us are able to accomplish almost any given task if we are willing to adapt ourselves to the requirements of this accomplishment. What better foundation could there be than that of a self-gained education? The knowledge and experience acquired through one's own efforts will definitely be a reliable source for the more demanding and challenging prospects that life may hold.

### College Students and the Military Service

National policies and the world situation have made this the hardest period in recent years for college or draft age males in the United States. They find it harder to make decisions concerning their future education, for they do not know whether they will be attending a history lecture tomorrow or making history in a distant country. Even if each of these students finishes school, where does he go from there? Should the individual start into his chosen field, only to be drafted soon afterwards? Should he enlist just to get his service over with? I shall try to point out some possible answers on the subject as I discuss some of the approaches to the problems.

First, this college age male can find an inviting ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) program in almost any school he would like to enter. This program is indeed attractive because it offers a short cut to the higher ranks in the service. This program states that its graduates will be commissioned officers in some branch of service. "Our graduates will have excellent pay, quarters, and will be 'leaders of men'."

The people who make those statements neglect to tell the prospective officers what the attitudes of most service personnel toward them will be. They will forget to say that there is a tendency among enlisted men to look on such an officer as a "book taught" soldier. There will be a reluctance on the part of the enlisted men to follow an ROTC officer. Even their superior officers may feel jealousy or contempt for the schoolroom officers. In any case, the ROTC officer will have to prove himself to both his superiors and subordinates before he is accepted as a leader. The fact that a reserve officer is a soldier for life is also a drawback to this course of action.

What happens if the student does not finish the ROTC course for some reason, and he is drafted? I say that that person will be very unhappy. He will feel that his two or three years training should make

him a little better than the average recruit. This is not so; he will pull KP when his time comes. Guard duty will never pass him by because he was once training to be an officer. However, his ROTC training will not be completely overlooked. His superior officers will look to him for a certain amount of leadership in the enlisted ranks, but they will show no special privileges for any leadership he might produce. This man will become one of the bitterest of soldiers, and he will resent his service completely.

The third, and possibly best, course of action is entrance into the service immediately upon graduation from high school. Anyone who follows this course will have no worries of an interrupted college education if he decides to go to college. He will be better able to evaluate his aims in life and will go to college with a clear idea of what he wants from life. He will go to college with educational, not social aims, and will make a better college student because of this purpose.

### Is College Worth While?

The most disheartening thing about college life is the monotony of the daily routine. In my case it is necessary to arise at seven each morning in order to arrive at work on time. This is particularly hard to do after an evening of hard study. The lack of sleep becomes more pronounced as the week progresses. Remember how the hygiene teacher in high school emphasized the necessity of eight hours of sleep? If she could see me now!

My job entails sitting behind a desk all day shoving papers from one side to the other. The boss throws a letter in front of me and says, "Type that up to go out right away." A gentleman comes in and asks if his car has come in yet. Before an answer can be given, the phone rings. The books don't seem to balance for some reason. All of this on top of my lack of sleep!

Time for school to begin. The psychology professor begins and immediately calls on me. "Mr. Blank, would you give the class your opinion on the proper training for infants?" Remember? This is supposed to be a snap course! From psychology I go to social science. This is an interesting subject, but so hard to absorb. Now I am sitting in English. I am wondering why I didn't try a little harder in high school in order that I might give a correct answer once in a great while. This is my tough subject; so I have to dig in and really study.

Finally, I am back home once again. After I eat and read the paper, it is time to study. I have so much homework to do and so little

time to do it in. None of it can be saved for the daylight hours because there is much work to do at my place of employment. It is midnight and my eyelids won't stay open another minute; so it is off to bed I go.

There is always a constant strain on my social life. The wife wants to know why we can't go to a movie once in a while. The church has just called and wants me to come down and sing in the choir Sunday. This means that I must go practice on Wednesday night after school. A friend has just called and wants the wife and me to come over for dinner some evening. How can I meet all these obligations?

There are always the financial difficulties encountered in going to college. I must have a car to travel between home, work, and school. There is no greater expense than driving an automobile. Rent and food are certainly high these days, but lucky for me my mother has a large house. Even with the government paying me to go to school, it is expensive.

The part-time job I have isn't entirely satisfactory, but I can't complain too much. I am the one that wanted to go to college. I am no great asset to any company working just eight hours a day. I am using the job only as a means of support to get me through college. The boss doesn't like to catch me studying on the job; he is paying me to work not to study. That small check that I draw once a week is considered pay!

Despite the monotony of my daily routine, the strain placed on my social life, and the financial difficulties encountered, I know that college life is worth while. My philosophy is "the best things in life are always the hardest to obtain."

### The Prime Purpose of College

Inconceivable though it may seem to those of us who believe that the prime purpose of attending college is to learn, people enroll at institutes of higher learning for diverse reasons. There are those who, attending not of their own volition but rather because of parental ambitions, trudge halfheartedly from one classroom to another. Others, taking college education for granted because of affluent families, worry more about their school wardrobes and their fraternities and sororities than about acquiring an education. Social life, as well as athletics, is of course, an integral part of college life, but both become detrimental when overemphasized. Then, too, there are the few who attend merely for the sake of having a college affiliation.

I am grateful that I honestly believe I do not belong to any of the aforementioned groups, for I

came to college solely and unequivocally to study and learn. The expression "The light of learning" has been used over and over again. I like to think of learning as a light—a light which illuminates our lines with interest, depth, and understanding. Sometimes I think of life as a long dark corridor. A new-born child is born into this utter darkness, but with every fragment of learning a new light is turned on. Just how bright, interesting, and enjoyable we make our lives depends on each of us and to what depth we are able to learn.

Yes, I came to college to learn. To me this does not mean studying with a minimum of effort in order to secure a barely passing grade. Moreover, it does not mean studying for high grades. While zealously striving for A's may appear commendable, I believe learning this way is superficial. One retains a potpourri of unrelated facts until after the final exams and then proceeds to forget most of what he has learned. Also, the grades themselves may become so important that the real reason for learning may be lost. The final way to study is simply to learn: that is to understand the subject as thoroughly as possible, to correlate the facts, and to feel that everything learned is another step toward a goal. In studying in this manner, grades are incidental but logically should remain well above average.

To conclude, while at college, I shall endeavor to learn as much as I can about as many subjects as I can in order to make my life more full and more interesting contrary to what some believe, learning need not be prosaic. It can open the door to fascinating discoveries and can lead to exciting mental adventures.

### RHO GAMMA ALPHA

Recently elected officers of the Rho Gamma Alpha Sorority are as follows:

President \_\_\_\_\_ Patsy Hartsell  
Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_ Joanne Hovis  
Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ June Sherrill  
Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Martha Voyles

These girls, along with the other members who are Betsy Wilson, Margie Clark, and Kanela Maydanis, are making big plans for the remainder of the term.

Along with a work project an informal social is planned for the new girls who are interested in joining the sorority. Mrs. Hoyle is faculty advisor.