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With *Love*, From Chile

A weekly look at another country's culture and customs:

College Admission

Charlie Remy

Columnist



Charlie Remy

Since the end of October, the subway stations have been full of billboards displaying advertising for admissions in January to dozens of local universities. I have never seen so many ads for universities before in one place, except maybe at a college fair. The ads are not only limited to billboards ... there are ads on the steps in the subway stations, ads covering the entire subway cars and ads inside the subway cars.

When I see all of this advertising, I have mixed feelings. While I know that universities need to promote themselves in order to attract students, I feel that universities are one of the last bastions free of capitalist influence, but alas they aren't ... they

offer business degrees, have contracts with companies to do research and are often run like businesses.

After the only other person in my literature class besides myself (the class has 11 students) decided to leave a half hour early, I decided to ask my professor about the university system here. He explained to me that before the dictatorship, only public universities existed with the exception of a few private ones. It is interesting to notice that these public universities with profound histories are not the ones advertising in the subways.

According to my professor and other people I have talked to, private universities here essentially accept students who did not score high enough on the public universities' entrance exams.

He thinks that many of the students at private schools don't belong there and would be better served by going to technical schools and learning a trade. As in the U.S., attending a university brings prestige

and status and can often be a "requirement" of being a part of the middle class. My professor thinks that many of these private schools only want to make money by educating students that could not go to the more prestigious public universities. He said that the parents of students who are not very academically inclined are just setting their kids up for frustration.

While it can be frustrating to go to a university where students just don't have the desire to be there or learn because they are not really interested in academics and discomforting to see the capitalist profit making side of private universities, I think that each person deserves an opportunity for a college education.

I say this because not everyone can get into Universidad de Chile or Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile whether it is their lack of ability or lack of effort. I think it's important to give students the chance to learn analytical skills, history, literature and social sciences through attending a

university.

I then asked my professor about the quality of the professors at private universities here. He said that there are many professors at private universities that are starting their professional academic careers. I have been told by others here that it's hard to get a faculty position at any Chilean university in general, be it private or public.

As you can see, the Chilean university system greatly differs from the U.S. system. In the U.S., private institutions (such as the Ivy League) are often considered to be more prestigious than public institutions, especially in the current climate of severe budget cuts at state universities.

My professor said that in 20 to 30 years, the private institutions here will probably be more on par with the public institutions, as they continue to grow, develop, and attract better faculty and students.

Contact Charlie Remy at
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Students need to avoid depression at school

Julie Fogt

Columnist

One of the number one problems among college age students is usually depression, especially for girls.

It may be home-sickness, guy or girl troubles, stress, money problems and others.

We tend to get so bogged down with work that we often forget to take care of ourselves.

College students usually don't eat right or get enough sleep. I know I don't and it seems impossible to do.

We are tired, cranky, stressed and poor and are walking around like a time bomb ready to explode at any moment.

To be happy you have to be true to yourself.

You will always have stress and problems but if you are happy then they will not snowball into others.

As the holiday season is arriving most of us will be going home to see our family. Thanksgiving and Christmas is the happiest time of the year for families. During the

breaks and around exams, take time to take care of yourself.

If you're a girl, go to the salon for a new haircut, go get your nails done, go to the spa or go shopping. If you're a guy, go shopping for a new video game, take your girl out, have a guy's night.

Just do something fun and out of the ordinary. If you really want to be happy you should try to do something like this once a week. Think back to the last time you went all out or you were really happy. That is the best time in the world. College is supposed to be the best years of your life so enjoy it.

I always let the little things get on my nerves and then I let them get me unhappy. I am slowly learning to let them go.

Try to think about what makes you upset and try to fix it. Realize how many good things you have. If weight is stressing you out as most of the freshmen gained the extra 15 pounds we all know about, then go on a diet. I highly recommend the G.I. Diet, which is the Glycaemic Index Diet.

It's not that hard to do either. Try to make yourself happy and not let someone or something else take control of your life. If you have ever had something that you really wanted to do or try, then go do it.

In relationships, think of the overall goal of what you want. Too often we get unhappy because we get stuck in a rut and do the same thing every day.

If this happens in a relationship then it gets old really quick. Try to do something special for friends and significant others.

Relationships can either make you happy or not. There is not an in between.

If you are in an unhappy one then either make it happy and tell them about it or move on.

I am happy in mine and my boyfriend and friendships are what help get me through the crazy times and my repetitive schedule.

Go out a live a little and have fun. You will be happy you did it later.

Contact Julie Fogt at opinions@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Have something to
say?

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