

Classic Campus Images



Johnson Hall

Image submitted by Amber McKinney



Tables in front of the Cate Center

Image submitted by Amber McKinney

Why I Live at Home

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I didn't realize how much being at home made me more comfortable and more myself until I moved back into my parents' house this year. I have always lived at home for the summer, and this summer was not different, but when I told my parents last spring that I wasn't going to be an RA in the fall, I should have seen the wheels turning in their heads. They wanted to save money, to have more control, and to have someone who could help drive their kids around. I don't blame them: if I had free help and an extra driver, I'd use them too. But upon hearing that I was going to be living at home during the school year, I believe I had my first mental break down. I cried my eyes out to my father, telling him, "I just can't live here!" I may have offended him, but if I find my new clothes in my sister's room one

more time, I will break her neck. So after some ground rules were made, on my side and theirs, the task of commuting to and from my former residence of Meredith College began.

Normally I would spend my weekends at parties or studying or visiting friends at other schools, but the down time spent at home with my family has become invaluable to me. Many a time my parents will say, "Aren't you glad you're here?" after a particularly funny event or delicious dinner. I find myself fighting with my sisters over the Dr. Pepper I bought with my own money and asking Dad where my beer went, only to find that he had made a previously unheard of switch from Miller Light to Corona or Stella.

After Mom's run-in with some of the nurses at work and her resulting reprimand that made her shift from nights to days for two months, I think

that my help around the house is keeping us all together. Last year I would spend a week or weekend at the house with my parents were out of town so that my sisters would have someone around to tell them to do their homework and cook dinner for them. Now that I am home all the time my parents seem feel that they can take trips whenever they want, and I have found myself in the car with several thirteen year olds at the ungodly hour of 6:30 a.m. on our way to school.

I think that being at home and around the family is a great example of nature and nurture. I will come into a room where my sister is and sit down to watch a show with her. I will make a comment about a character and Sarah just giggles. "What?" I say. "Mom said the exact same thing, word

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