



Out with the old, bring in new year with party skills

By Cheris F. Hodges
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It's time to kiss 2006 goodbye and welcome in a new year.

Many people usher in the New Year at a party. If that happens to be your plan, make sure that you don't blend into the background at the New Year's Eve shindig.

Why not be the master attractor at this year's party?

According to author Susan Barnes, being a master attractor means having:

- Charisma
- Individual focus
- Active listening
- Air of mystery
- Backup plans
- Presence

In her new book titled "The Power of Net Magic," Barnes talks about the personal net energy that everyone has.

At a party, the best way to meet new people and possibly have a new love for the New Year is to flirt.

"When you look great, you feel great," said

Rita Templeton, a writer with googobits.com, a lifestyles web site. "And when you feel great you're a better flirt."

Templeton also says cooing confidence by making eye contact and smiling. "Be approachable. A smile is the absolute best way to look approachable and can attract someone without you having to say word."

If you're hosting a party and want to create a memorable time for your guests, that takes some planning. According to ehow.com, you need to warn your neighbors if you're having a party at your house. "Even if they choose not to attend, they'll know what to expect and thus will be less likely to knock on your door and complain."

If you're not the host, then according to real-simple.com, avoid arriving early. "For a cocktail party, your host probably expects you no later than an hour after the start time. If you're not sure when to leave, look for these signs: music turned down or up (to make talking more difficult); lights turned up, the bar closed, food no longer being replenished; the host with her shoes off, rubbing her feet."

Survivor: Senior year of high school

By Brittanie Dixon
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Surviving the senior year of high school is no easy task. There are college applications, SATs and ACTs to study for as well as scholarships to apply for. Then there's high school graduation.

The stress can be hard to handle, especially with a gripping case of "senioritis," or cruising through the final year. The ailment develops with the completion of senior exit projects, which begins during the junior year. After that, many seniors don't feel like doing anything.

ToNetria Paige, 17, a senior at Harding University High School, said she knows what's needed to make it to graduation day.

"Dedication and motivation," she says. You have to be motivated."

And a time manager, something ToNetria said is required for a successful senior year. She works two jobs to pay for senior dues and college applications.

"I had the (senior exit project), college applications, and the SAT all in one week," she said.

ToNetria's advice to rising seniors (class of 2008, take notes) includes:

- Save money. Expect paying a lot of money for senior dues, college applications and tests.
- Start early with applica-

tions and testing. "Not only that," ToNetria says, "but take your SATs and ACTs as soon as possible. And when senior year is starting to wear on you, get together with friends and just hang out. Don't give up on your social life."

College isn't for everyone. Although many seniors see college as a must, there are those that choose not to go, opting for the military or workforce. Tashiva Green, 17, a senior at Harding, plans to go to the Air Force after high school.

"My father played the biggest role in my decision not to attend college," she said. "He was in the Air Force for 20 years and I decided to follow in his footsteps. My parents respect my decision."

By picking the Air Force over college, Tashiva said. "It makes me think about how it's going to be being in a different environment than the college lifestyle. I know going to the Air Force will be a life-changing experience." Although Tashiva's plans aren't the same as many other seniors, she feels her decision doesn't make her final year any less stressful.

Someone who knows what it takes to survive senior year is Michelle Hoffman, a guidance counselor at Harding. She gets weekly visits from students asking all kinds of questions. "Information about financial aid" is the

most-asked question, she said. "And other general questions about applying for college like when to apply or where. I also get questions for parents concerning paying for college."

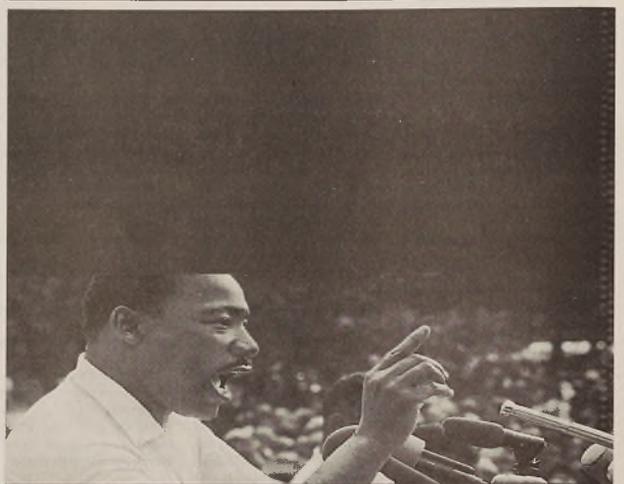
Hoffman said choosing a college will require research.

"When choosing a college students should consider the size of the school, location, whether it's public or private and costs," she said. "Not just the cost of tuition, but costs of books, housing, living expenses and things of that nature."

"Senior year is very important for many reasons," said Steve Cumming, director of admissions at Pfeiffer University. "College admissions (officials) are looking for students that can do college work and who don't slack off. There should be a smooth transition."

Cumming went on to say: "When choosing a college seniors should consider the admissions requirements. And whether the school has their major and if it's a good match. If the student is looking into Pfeiffer, they should consider the programs, statistics and if our school has what they are looking for academically."

Cumming's advice: "Visit the campus. When you get to college expect to work harder and expect a different workload. Also, make sure to manage your time and be prepared."



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