

Steve Boerner

Last eight days give students 192 hours to waste

T minus eight days and counting. Eight days of classes. That's all that's left in the semester schedule before Finals Week. *Eight days.* That's 192 hours, more or less, 11,520 minutes.

The subject of this column is how to most effectively waste those minutes.

Don't kid yourself by thinking that they will be spent studying and writing papers. First of all, you can knock

warp nine

off at least one-third of them for sleeping time, so the number is reduced right away to 7,680. And at least another 500 minutes will be spent during meals.

So if you're at a loss figuring out what to do with the remaining 7,180 minutes, read on. First let's set some ground rules:

Putting things off

Rule 1: Don't do anything today that can be put off until tomorrow.

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Rule 2: Any form of activity is preferable to constructive activity.

Rule 3: Wasted time is more rewarding when spent by groups of two or more persons. In other words, don't go at it alone. Recruit others and waste their time as well.

A necessary footnote to these rules is Crammer's Law: Studying intensity is proportional to the square of the amount of wasted time that precedes studying. Example: a person who wastes two hours will later have to study four times as hard. And so on.

One more thing. A distinction needs to be made at this point between procrastinators and bona fide time wasters. Time wasters don't just put things off until later. They creatively fill the time with useless activity. There is a difference.

Now for the particulars. It is suggested that time wasters, in order to increase efficiency, keep track of wasted minutes and record them on a tally sheet. A stopwatch can be a big help here.

Ways to waste time

1) Sleep more. This is such an obvious method of wasting time that it shouldn't have to be mentioned. Minutes count as wasted time only if they're overslept. Going to bed early in the evening is an extreme form of efficient time use and should be avoided at all costs. Go to a party instead. Now, if you sleep an average of 12 hours a day, you're left with only 5,760 minutes. That's a considerable head start.

2) Extend mealtimes with an extra cup of coffee. If

you drink slowly enough, that takes care of another 360 minutes. The drawback is that it'll be harder to get to sleep at night. But that time can easily be wasted by tossing and turning, if it is done well.

3) A challenging way to waste time is to play two or more games of pinball every day. You're wasting quarters as well, so count those. Even if a person is a consistent loser, 300 minutes can be totally wasted this way.

4) Read the Rag every day. Don't forget the Personals column in the Want Ads. That takes care of another 105 minutes.

5) Try to place a couple of calls each day through the University Centrex system. The wasted time gained by doing this is truly calculable.

6) Talk to your roommate, whom you haven't seen for three weeks. Chalk up another 500 minutes for this.

7) Sit on the edge of Broyhill Fountain in the Union Mall and wait for the Physical Plant to turn the water on. If you spend two hours each day at this perfectly meaningless activity, that gives you another 960 minutes. A big chunk.

8) Spend another hour each day in the South Crib listening to the tasteless music that's pumped out of the juke box. This one is for fully conditioned time wasters only.

That should do for a start. I heartily recommend them all. But even if you follow all the above suggestions, you're still left with 3,000 minutes — minutes that could be well spent if you don't watch it. So start counting.

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