

Jeff  
Randall

# New game, new rules

Adaptation is key word when entering world of college

Hello. My name is Jeff Randall, and I am a former Regents' Scholar.

That's right, I used to roam this campus with the freedom that accompanies a full-tuition scholarship and did so proudly. I walked these grounds with the reassurance that all I needed was a 3.5 GPA and full-time student status to keep that freedom.

I had cruised through high school and earned the right to have my college paid for. I had aced the tests, done the homework and read the books to get me here.

And then, after about a year, reality set in.

I discovered that college not only wasn't as easy as high school, but it was far more time-consuming. I discovered that sometimes the best classes you can take are the ones that result in C's rather than A's. And I discovered that there was more to college than books and lectures.

I'm not saying that maintaining a high GPA is impossible, thousands of people do that every year. I'm just saying that for me college has become less of a status symbol based on grades and class rank, and more of a proving grounds for what I can handle after I graduate.

And as a result of this philosophy, my scholarship is now a thing of the past.

I suppose I could place considerable blame for this fall from grace on the Daily Nebraskan, the paper you're reading right now. As a freshman news-editorial major, I wandered into its dungeon-like offices with hope and fear, and I have ended up spending the majority of my time there ever since. Rather than bestowing the lion's share of my free time on studying, I spent most of it down here, on real-life journalism. For one thing, it paid better than studying (at least in the short run). And it was actually fun – most of the time. But I also think that I've learned more about what it takes to work at a daily newspaper here than I would have in any number of classes.

So I'm not too bitter. And I'm still here, after all.

But the DN wasn't the only thing that hurt my scholarship standing.

The social aspects of college – although less respected by your parents and prospective employers than the academic ones – are as much a part of these years as your major. That doesn't mean that the night before a

test should be spent at a movie theater or in an alcoholic haze, but you should also be able to take some time off to party, even on school nights.

And even if you do dedicate yourself to the relentless pursuit of studies, nearly every student will face one class that tests his/her will to survive and immaculate GPA.

More often than not, these courses are requirements that students would not have registered for unless they had to, and are therefore seen as trials rather than learning experiences.

But that's not always the case. Sometimes, you run into a high-level class that you want to take, or a class that you think you should take. And even though irreparable GPA damage is imminent, you tackle the beast in the hopes of learning something useful – or at least interesting.

Well, good for you. Go for it.

College is supposed to be about stretching your horizons and testing your limits. Cruise through these four (or five or six) years without testing yourself in some way, and you

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