

The shortness of the graduation celebration

The academic year has concluded. Students across the country have celebrated high school and college graduations. Parties marked the festive events and all who attended had a good time. The commemorative books and memory banks have done their job and sealed the history of formal education for graduates everywhere.

Beaming parents can now send their ecstatic offspring out of the proverbial nest and into the world to claim their fortune.

Those graduating from high school will find the euphoria short lived. They will quickly discover that the age of innocence is over. They must now make crucial adult decisions. College, military service, a full-time job--those are the choices. How icky.

The college-bound bunch can look forward to being freshmen all over again. They will soon learn that the life of a college freshman, when compared to that of a high school freshman, is an entirely different world. The change is not for the better.

They will be strangers in a strange land with nobody to coddle them or even pick them up when they fall under the many different pressures they didn't even know existed. Social pressures, academic workloads, maintaining their habitat and managing an unbelievably strict budget are waiting to greet them behind ivy-covered walls far away from home. Many will have the need to hold down at least a part-time job to help sustain life and fulfill obligations.

Did I forget to mention merci-

less professors who don't know them, don't care to know them and don't have any sympathy for those who can't "keep up?" How thoughtless of me.

At the end of the school year, the freshmen who have not dropped out will be made aware that the sophomore year they are entering the following fall will be much more academically demanding. Their freshman year was just a taste of what is yet to come.

Consequently, their summer vacations will be spent working a minimum of one full-time job and, more than likely, an additional part-time position. Only then will they have the needed funds to support them while they struggle with the academic demands of the upcoming semester.

If they have any free time, it will be spent earning money, unless they plan on sustaining life with a daily diet of mac 'n' cheese



You can't beat a system you can't understand

By Sam Bari

that comes in a box.

Many will ease the economic burden by sharing space with "the roommate from hell." This charming person usually comes with enough luggage and personal belongings to stock a thrift shop for at least a semester. He or she would not notice if most of the stuff they brought was sold.

And where does said roommate store all of this gear? Funny you should ask. It takes up every square inch of space not occupied by the other roommate, who "was

not using the space anyway."

The "roommate from hell" traditionally entertains at home on a daily basis, has significant hygiene problems and likes music when it is played loud. Nonetheless, sharing a space does reduce expenses.

Now let's take a small peek through an exclusive little window that reveals what the college grads have in store for their future. The choices are graduate school plus a full-time job, military service with a part-time job or two full-time jobs. Why the need for so many revenue-generating positions? The average college graduate has somewhere in the neighborhood of \$100,000 in student loans that need to be satisfied.

What's that? You didn't think about that when you applied for college? You don't say? A small oversight, was it?

Now, those who are going to graduate school, med school, law

school, etc., *ad nauseam*, will have even more student loans to pay back. Professional jobs don't come cheap. Houses can cost much less.

After looking at the future, how do those who are still in high school feel about graduating? Is high school really such a bad place to be? And those who are making it through college—do you really want to graduate? No reason to be in such a rush, is there?

Don't let me frighten you. Many bright young students attain scholarships, grants and other methods of paying for their education. Unfortunately, that is a small percentage of those who earn coveted degrees from institutions of higher learning.

Think about this: After the student loans are paid, the next step is marriage and children, and ultimately sending them off to survive on their own in a system they can't understand.

The Mae Day Foundation would like to Thank You for "Helping Us to Help Others"

On behalf of The Mae Day Foundation we would like to send our heartfelt thanks to the individuals and businesses for your generous financial and in-kind donations. Your personal commitment to "Help Us to Help Others", and give back to the community in Maegan's memory is sincerely appreciated.

Because of your generosity a perpetual fund is being established at The Rhode Island Foundation to continue Maegans' legacy. The Rhode Island Foundation is a non-profit organization connecting private philanthropy with the public good. Each year a North Kingstown senior will receive a \$1,000 college award in her memory. In addition, the fund will also support other non-profit organizations such as children's educational and sports programs, elderly programs and animal shelters, all of which were interests of Maegan's.

The mission of the Mae Day Foundation is to make a difference in the community in Maegan's memory and also to promote volunteerism and increase awareness of the benefits to one's self and the community of the positive effects of a simple good deed or a random act of kindness.

Your kindness has allowed us to reach our goal.

"May you use those gifts that you have received, And pass on the love that has been given to you..." A quote from a favorite prayer of Maegan's, a prayer attributed to St. Theresa of Lisieux.

In addition to your personal donation we would like to recognize the following businesses whose donations helped us reach our goals.

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| A Bit Of the WEST | Green Ink | Onne van der Wal / Artist |
| AAA | Green River Silver Co. | O'Rorke's Bar & Grill |
| Ace's Pizza | Green Valley Country Club | Patrick Foley / US Coast Guard |
| Anita Haircut | Grille on Main | Peking Garden |
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| Baker's Pharmacy | House of Pizza | Peter Anderson |
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| Benjamin's | Jamestown Designs | Purple Door Bead Shop |
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| Blue Hydrangea | Jamestown Hardware | Rob McMahan / Puma |
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| Bouchard's | Jamestown Oyster Bar | Shaws Market |
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| Café Zelda | Jamestown Wine & Spirits | SchrimshanderS |
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| Chicago Pizza | JW Graham 'Yes' Gallery | The Narragansett in Newport |
| Chopmist Charlie's | Ken's Barber Shop | The Newport Harbor Hotel and Marina |
| Conanicut Massage Therapy | Kerry Sheehan Construction | The Oyster Bar |
| Cracker Barrel | Len & Jill Hubbard | The Place in Wickford |
| Cranston Herald | Lionel Champlin Guest House | The Secret Garden |
| Dauntless Divers | Lowe's | The Wharf Pub & Restaurant |
| Dave's Fresh Marketplace | McKay's Furniture | The World Store |
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| East Ferry Market & Deli | Neale Farm | Victoria Corey / Artist |
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| Frenchies Cakes | Newport National Golf Club | WB Mason |
| Garret Roberts / Remax | Newport Sunglass Shop | Wellworks |
| Golf Tec | Newport this Week | Wickford Flowers and Garden Shop |
| Geppetto's Grilled Pizzeria | Newport Yachting Center | Wickford Package Store |
| Golfers' Warehouse | Oasis Salon & Spa | William Heydt / Artist |
| Grapes and Gourmet | Old Beach Inn | Whole Foods |
| Grateful Heart | Oldport Marine | Wilson's of Wickford |



P.S. Please consider doing a good deed in Maegan's memory.

Applicants sought for town committees

The Town of Jamestown is currently seeking applicants for various town committees.

The Jamestown Fire Department Compensation Committee is seeking a citizen-at-large, with the term ending May 31, 2012. The Jamestown Fire Department Compensation Committee makes annual recommendations to the tax assessor regarding members' eligibility for tax exemptions.

The Town Buildings and Facilities Committee has an opening for a member with a term ending May 31, 2011. The committee evaluates the condition and usefulness of existing municipal facilities and develops a plan outlining the nature of renovations and changes.

The Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee seeks a member for a one-year term ending May 31, 2010. This committee acts in an advisory capacity to the Town Council on issues relating to housing. Members sit as a review committee for proposed Housing Trust Fund projects, and conduct studies and analyses of the current housing conditions in Jamestown, to be used as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Any resident who is a qualified elector and is interested in serving should submit an application to the Town Clerk at 93 Narragansett Ave. by July 29. Applications are available at www.jamestownri.net or at the Town Clerk's Office.

Those who have submitted applications in the past are encouraged to re-apply. The Town of Jamestown has adopted an affirmative action policy and will make appointments consistent with that policy.