

Enough is enough

“A time when the shine of a lackadaisical uni timetable fades”

The idea that the life of a uni student is punishing and penurious is simply no longer true. Everyone with Facebook (and therefore at least 45 connections to ‘friends’ who are uni students) knows that the turmoils of salvaging a bit of glad wrap from the bin to wrap your lunch before developing early-onset arthritis from writing notes are over.

Likewise, the days of fossicking through op-shops for lack of a more affordable source of underwear/cutlery/romance novels are also long behind us. In fact these days op-shopping is a stalwart for the new generation of uni students. You know what I mean. Someone asks “Oh, cute! Where did you get that?” to which you casually reply “Oh this? Op-shop”, and consequently gain instant street cred and social glory. Behold, the Savers revolution.

Times have changed. These days, the life of a uni student looks something like this:

Monday – Sleep in. Spend majority of daily brain activity determining which is better on a crumpet: honey or vegemite. Three weeks’ worth of readings are given the cold shoulder in favour of skinny soy lattes at a weekend adventures exchange AKA catch up with friends.

Tuesday – Woken by

alarm at 6.30am for 8am lecture and combat feelings of guilt and responsibility by questioning the sanity of whoever scheduled a lecture at such an unrealistic hour and wondering in astonishment at the downy, nest-like softness of the bed in which you are lying. Sleep in until 9.30am. Arrive late to tutorial and try and maintain intelligent input (or try to sit mutely while looking interested, but not interested enough to encourage questions from tutor). Expensive micro-brewery beers and ciggies (ie luxury items afforded by disposable income of the young and studious) in the afternoon with friends wearing aforementioned indie op-shop purchases, discussing life, love and all things photographical.

You get the picture. There’s more to the story though. There are, surprisingly, negative aspects of the fountain of youth-lifestyle that is uni. And I’m not just talking about missing out on the nice career that follows the earning of a testamur.

If you commit yourself to a life of eternal study, or more realistically fail to pass all your units and therefore have no other choice but to continue, then prepare to spend eternity laughing miserably at your dad’s jokes.


Prepare to spend countless hours hoping that you’ve been saying ‘yes’

and ‘oh really’ at the right moments as your mum tells you yet another story about so-and-so from work/down the street/around the corner instead of offering to help pay for your overdue car registration bill.

Because the price of a home is never as expensive as when you’re flicking through a real estate magazine while wondering when your parents will stop telling you what to do with your life.

There comes a time when enough is enough. It is undeniable that the uni lifestyle, be it carefree and unburdened, can be amazing. Too much of a good thing, however, is not so good. Life is made valuable by the achievements and experiences that we accumulate and carry with us as we stride, wander or perseure our chosen path.

As the uni door swings closed, chances are you will notice a bright green ‘Open Now’ sign leading to the rest of your life. As Robert Frost penned almost a century ago, “yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back”.

There must come a time when the shine of a lackadaisical uni timetable fades and to continue happily, the individual must tread the unfamiliar yet promising path of post-uni life. 

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