How to (not?) write an essay on time

By MELISSA DOUCETTE

1. Start at home. This way, you can be sure that you won't run out of paper, pens, Pepsi, coffee, munchies, uppers, or anything else you may need. The first time you try to explain to Campus police why you were shimmying in a window of Main at 3:00 AM after coming back from a Tim run will convince you of the wisdom of this suggestion. Did you know that handcuffs chaff like a bastard?

2. Avoid distractions. Siblings can always be bribed into SHUTTING THE HELL UP! with food and/or a movie (stick them in the basement, or move the VCR into their room). Parents can be scared into leaving you alone by mentioning that in a few years YOU get to pick out the nursing home. Shady Pines or Whisperwood – it all depends on a few hours of peace and quiet.

3. Remember that the TV is NOT always your friend. There are just enough channels that you are practically guaranteed to find something interesting 24 hours a day. And let's face it, when you are sitting down to write about the virtues of sense versus sensibility in Jane Austen, the freakin' *Care Bears* becomes a fascinating exploration of your inner child.

4. Have instrumental music playing in the background. It helps to pass the time, and can even be inspirational (the *Braveheart* soundtrack will whip your ass in gear). Stay away from music with words. Although having the line "despite all my rage I am still just a rat in a cage" might sound interesting to some, when your professor reads it you will most likely spend a few days looking at ink blots. "Near, far, wherever you are, I believe that my heart will go on" can have similarly disastrous consequences.

5. Don't work in your room. Although it may be more quiet in your slumber chambers, keep in mind that there are ways to silence a noisy house (see number 2). The biggest reason to avoid your room like the plague is because of the warm, fluffy, yielding, most comfortable bed in the . . . *ZZZZZZZZZZZ*.

6. Don't worry about caffeine being a temporary fix. That's what you're looking for! Don't even try to tell me that you're NOT writing your essay the night before. Professors might believe that crap (they're kinda cute when they talk about students passing papers in early), but I know better. I recommend Pepsi as a wake-up call (Diet Pepsi is less likely to make you want to retch).

7. Take a break every so often. Read a book, have a little walk, take a bath. The latter will be especially appreciated by your fellow students.

8. For the truly well disciplined, take a *Simpsons* break.

9. For the truly UNdisciplined who took the *Simpsons* break and realised that *The Simpsons* comes on a minimum of five times a day, prepare yourself to stay up until 7:00 AM to make up for lost time.

10. Don't despair if your paper isn't as long as it should be. Break out the thesaurus and go into sociologist mode (i.e. make simple concepts very complicated). For instance, the word "mother" easily transforms into "maternal parental unit." And if all else fails, don't forget the three best words in the world – Make It Fit.

If you still haven't met your deadline, it's extension time, and you better be prepared to turn on the waterworks. Pride is the enemy, my friend, not a virtue.
STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY, THROW OFF YOUR DIGNITY AND CRY!

Words from...

Pauline Tran
Vice-President Internal

Wow! What a tumultuous year it has been! I would sincerely like to thank UPEI students for allowing me to be the Vice President Internal for 1998-1999. It was the best of times and the worst of times, but I feel blessed to have been able to work with so many people, and made valuable friends along the way.

This year, the University welcomed several new organizations on campus, including Best Buddies and Classic Comitia. In working with Students Services, the Chaplaincy Centre, Campus Caring Cupboard were able to collect much needed food and household items for UPEI students in December. In the short term of one year, the Student Union organizations the Cadre, CIMN, and Nexus, witnessed many changes. The Cadre faced many hurdles, by hard work and perseverance shone through when students were able to enjoy their student newspaper. The radio station, CIMN, continues to show improvement thanks to the strong management team, and record number of volunteers. The staff and volunteers of the yearbook, Nexus, are working diligently to produce a yearbook of memories for graduating students. Many students council meeting were long and exhausting, but with council's approval, all three organizations, the Cadre, CIMN, and Nexus, have been approved to move into a much newer building: The Student Union Centre. Councillors made it clear that they supported student organizations by recognizing the significant role it plays on campus, and by protecting its future.

I was overwhelmed with the work involved in the position of Vice-President Internal, but I could not have finished the year successfully without the help of many people. Although the idea of working with four men on executive, and me being the only women, was intimidating, I could not have gotten past December without the support I received from Matt, Stephen, Tyler, and Steve. My fourth year is my most memorable year at UPEI thanks to Alison, Jason, and Karen, whom I congratulate for their leadership and dedication to student organizations.

THANK YOU PAULINE
the Cadre