

Stark Raving Sane: On Grand Finales

By Catherine SWEET

Hot dog, it's all winding down. This is the last week of classes for this academic year of University. Usually I'm flying high this time of year. I have to put a final rush on papers and get prepared up for exams, but this time I'm not. Not only it is the final week, it's also the final week for my undergrad, period. I thought I'd be happy. I thought I'd be sad. How can I be totally indifferent? It's like I'm opinionless. And I have an opinion on everything!

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I'm getting my BA, and while I'm excited for the future, it's all so blank. I still haven't received word from other universities regarding my Master's application yet, so everything's up in the air. At first, I didn't care, because I didn't want to start planning. Now, I kinda want to start planning. If I do get in, I have to think about living three provinces west. If I don't, I have to decide on where I'm going to live out the rest of my life as a hermit.

Since I am, by most student standards, a total geezer, let me instill some advise for your future schooling. Take that trip. I know it doesn't sound like school, but really, it is. SWAP is a great program that can help you take some time off and go abroad. Also, there are University exchanges to Australia and the southern 'States that look interesting. Unless something truly earth-shattering happens, UPEI will always be here, and it will wait for you. It waited for me.

On travelling: do it, do it, do it. It's big and scary, especially if you'd never done things solo before, but it's such a great adventure. Save up for it and blow the proverbial wad. I have been slowly learning that more money can always be made, but chances are you won't be able to

purchase a hand-knotted traditional rug in Istanbul ever again. Some things are worth going into debt for. Like school. See my connection there? Clever.

This year had been good. I thought I was too old to learn cool new things about myself, but I did. I found out that I'm actually creative. I found out it's scary to take chances, but so worth it. I learned it's alright to be bitchy if someone's being a jackass. I also had to learn to be more confident in my abilities, even though I've still got a way to go. I used to think "Out with the old, in with the new," was a sad statement, but now I know it can be cleansing.

As for being Copy Editor of the Cadre -- Can you believe people actually do this job for a living? Copy Editors have to be so anal, it's unbelievable. You'd have to have the kind of person that has ulcers and nervous ticks. You have to know that in Canada we spell it "meagre" but the computer's American spellcheck will want you to spell it "meager," and you have to correct for it. That, and all those other hundreds of niggling bits that will eventually wake you up in a cold sweat. It's like being a paper pathologist. Have fun next year, Will.

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I don't know what I thought going into this job, but I've taken a lot from it. It's strange working with your peers on something that blends the technical and the creative. I do know that I never should have started a column based on me ranting about things that bug me. I ran out of material in October. I'm simply not that contrary.

My parting words to the wise: rent the movie "The Paper Chase." It will motivate you in ways never thought possible. Rent it, but *never* admit to a professor that you've seen it. That would taint the whole thing.

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