

Saving a college dollar with less Chick-fil-A

Money is tight in college, especially during the month of January. I was paid at the end of Fall semester, before Christmas break, so in my mind I thought that money would be perfect for Christmas presents.

Then a bunch of new movies came out during break, so I had to go see them. However, with movies, popcorn and candy are essential because what is a movie without a snack?

Then, after receiving gift cards for



Commentary

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Christmas, I would go take advantage of them; however, I have a problem with shopping. If everything fits, I must get it. Gift cards covered a lot, but I chose way more outfits than a few gift cards could cover. Then I see pairs

of shoes that will go perfect with my new outfits.

And of course, if you know me, I went back to getting Chick-fil-A every day I came into Cheyenne.

Now I have a whole \$9.76 to my name. So here are a few tips

on how to save some money in college. Basically don't do what I do.

Now, my New Year's resolution is to save more money and stop my old habits. I noticed though that January is my free trial month and I will start in February. It's hard to break a habit.

First off, if you live on campus, stop spending money to go eat out when you bought an entire meal plan for the whole academic year. I am very picky about my food, so it is hard to eat at the cafeteria

every day; however, that is where most of my money goes. If you do go out to eat, limit it to once a month and save money just for that time you go out.

When you go to the store to get some snacks, don't go when you are terribly hungry because you will find yourself with mini corn dogs and three bags of chips that you don't need. Yes, this was me the other night.

Second, when you go to get groceries or supplies for your place, just get what

you wrote down and don't walk down every aisle thinking, "Oh, I could use this!" I have done this so many times that I found myself at the beginning of the semester not having toilet paper, Kleenex and many other things that I actually need. My roommate and I even took a couple of toilet paper rolls when we went to my house the other night.

Make sure you save money each month to be able to go to the store and get essentials like laundry detergent and fabric softener,

other things I do not have at the moment.

Finally, don't spend money on random stuff you don't need at the moment. Although a nerf hoop and face masks that usually last the entire semester would be nice, you have to ask yourself, "Do you really need it?"

My roommate and I are working on knowing the difference between our wants and our needs, which is saving money so we can go on a trip this spring break. I think we are off to a good start.

Embrace the hard years, accept experiences

More often than not, as the end of my sophomore year of college approaches, I find myself day-dreaming of the future and wishing that I could skip past college, the internships and the many years of extreme trial and error.

However, one of life's greatest ironies is that nothing ever comes served on a platter and anything worth achieving will be earned, not handed.

Of all the information my high school teachers tried to ingrain into the brains of my fellow seniors and I about college, the one piece of information that has stuck with me, and that I've found unbelievably true, is that college is not just school, it's a job. It wasn't designed to build lazy workers and limited thinkers.

Sure, we no longer go to class eight hours



Editor's commentary

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a day, five days a week. But unless you plan on failing, most college students are either studying countless hours in the library, or working a minimum wage job to have just enough money to pay for rent and food in their downtime.

It seems insane to me what college students are willing to go through to chase their dreams. The thought of dropping out and becoming a flight attendant has crossed my mind more times than I can count, but every day I wake up and remember that I have other aspirations along with low-key

anxiety when flying 39,000 feet in the air.

College is truly an investment in a person's future, and eventually once we get past semester finals and late nights spent catching up on overdue homework, it will pay off. In fact, it already has.

I recently found out that a sports feature I wrote for my hometown's newspaper, The News Letter Journal, won a Pacemaker award from the Wyoming Press Association. Up to that point, it felt like any article I had wrote was simply taking up space on the internet.

Now I know that all the articles I had to write beforehand weren't just taking up space; they were building blocks.

Surprisingly, it took me this long to realize Shaun White didn't step on a snowboard and earn a gold medal. President Barack Obama didn't give one political speech and get elected president. Tom Brady isn't labeled the GOAT because of his chiseled jaw or ability to deflate a football.

I, Jenna Piper, did not write one article and become a Pulitzer prize winner.

Every one of those individuals has put in countless hours into their passion. No one but White felt his numerous wipeouts, and no one but Obama experienced his loss for a congressional seat in 2000. But, it never stopped them from becoming extremely prosperous in their professions.



Courtesy photo

Terrific text:

Image received by text on the night of the WPA 2018 conference informing Piper of her award.

Patience, I have learned, is key to the believing of a brighter future. Unfortunately, my generation for the most part has little

to no patience and assumes that after earning a college degree they're going to become the CEO of the next greatest

technology company. Not saying that it hasn't happened, but who really wants to be Mark Zuckerberg anyway?

I have made peace with the fact that I am a young pup in a world full of big dogs, and in order to get on their level, I am going to have to write numerous articles and experience more rejection from sources who refuse to call me back. I will have to endure internships where I will be at the bottom of the barrel, but gain invaluable experience at the same time.

So, as I sit on my laptop typing about the latest news at Laramie County Community College eating ramen noodles, I will be grateful for all that I have experienced and continue to be motivated to be the best journalist I can be in this world.