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Orientation

Extra Credit: Journal Entry-Reflections on Fall Semester 2004

By Richie Heinlein

This is my second semester at ECU. During my time at ECU, I have taken 5 classes counting the ones that I am now. Classes for the most part over these two semesters have gone pretty well. I have had a few rough spots as probably any college student would. This is mostly due to my eyesight. The teachers have been very accomadating and some are even better than others. However the classes, except for a few parts of them have gone as expected.

Some problems that would considered specific would be visual material, visual projects and keeping up in general. Most of the time, I run late due to getting lost because I don't visualize territory too well. Classes themselves offer an array of challenges as well. For example, my sociology class has me doing things that I don't do at all. This would be talking about racism in survey form to total strangers. That's tough. I talk to random strangers wonderfully, but not absolutely out of the blue about a very contraversial subject before I get to know him/her.

Some positive things have happened over these last two semesters. I have made new friends. I don't think that I've made any enemies. I am learning quite a bit about life and vocabulary that I didn't know before. Unexpected good surprises happened too. For example, one of my new friends sometimes intercepts me while I am walking to class and actually takes me to class. I have experienced, I guess due to my personality, that total strangers became fast friends with me because they opened up to me and told me problems that they were having. This would include girl/boy trouble or life in general good and bad. This is always unexpected and very good. The new friends that I have made sometimes come to my house to watch my cartoon archive, however my social life

is lacking in the fact that while some do come over, not very many of my new friends have much time to do so.

Unexpected challenges have happened too. Because of my social life vying for my time, sometimes I don't have as much time as I want to study or do homework. I just received a 34/50 on a test because of this. That is a "D". It's good I am still sitting extremely well in that class.

I am not currently using a tutor. With the classes that I have, I don't feel like I need one. I don't currently have a major either. I am not currently enrolled for next semester. I am trying to get through this semester first. I am currently under ECU's academic bankruptcy policy. I want to see if I can get a "C" or better in all of my classes. If I don't, I may not be able to return next semester in the first place.

I currently am involved in lots of church groups and activities. I volunteer at the Wesley Foundation on their Jericho Road program. I am currently a member of the United Methodist Church on Main St. I serve in many areas there. This includes the Chancel Choir, Sunday School Teaching, and day care volunteer. Because of this my friendship circle is growing.

My experience at ECU has been an enriching one. Much has happened to me and for me. I am continuing to deepen and improve. The challenges that I have and will face, however uncomfortable, will work to my good. I am glad I chose ECU and would recommend this school to anyone who asks me and is serious about school.