

Spring Preview @ HSU

Community Comment

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It's a good thing I'm not superstitious. It's Friday the 13th. Some of you probably know where this thing about bad luck on Friday the 13th comes from. Friday, the sixth day of the week is the day of the goddess. I'll have to do some research to find what prompted the curse. I seem to get a lot of these since my comment days fall on Friday. More than I should?

This Thursday and Friday is Spring Preview at Humboldt State. This is an opportunity for new and prospective students to get to know the University, the campus and the community better. Some are already sold on Humboldt and some, with the help of their families will make the decision soon. Going to college, especially when it means living away from home, is a big deal. Those of you who have this experience know what I'm talking about. Those who haven't can imagine.

Going off to college is many things. It's the beginning of serious study of advanced education. It's often the first experience of an extended experience away from home. It's making new friends; some of whom you will keep for a lifetime. It's breaking away from the intense influence of family and friends and learning how to think and behave for your self. While new freedom and flexibility are found, family traditions and moral teaching become clear. A lot of growing up occurs during the college years.

The college you attend will influence your life. Besides the friends one makes, other relationships take root. Professors sometimes become mentors. Clubs and other student organizations also influence the overall success of the college experience. Study groups can be some of the most important educational experiences a student can have. A great deal of learning happens as students work with peers to understand the academic material being pursued. As an undergraduate forestry student at Humboldt, some of the most important leaning sessions revolved around long nights in the calculator room with 5 or 6 other students all trying to work out various problems. The lecture often set the stage but the group discussions cemented the understanding. These sessions were often the most fun we had as well.

The campus experience is important to a successful college experience. But so is the community where the college calls home. The community offers the rest of the experience that completes a college degree. Students often have to work to help support their education. Part time employment, especially when employers work around class schedules and study demands can be critical to success. Communities also offer internships that help students gain professional experience and can help determine an eventual field of study. The community also offers entertainment and recreation opportunities for those hours when a break from studies is available. The community offers the physical support needed to live. Doctors and dentists, grocery stores, general retail stores for basic goods like clothes and supplies are essential services.

This is where we all come in. Humboldt State is a huge part of our economy. These students bring money into our economy. Many services and stores exist because of the student population. Faculty and staff are our friends and neighbors. Local business needs to welcome the existence of a major university and the people that come with it. It is a large part of our success as a community for the rest of us.

This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment.