



IN THE RICE BOX

In Defense of ... Me

OLIVIA CHEUNG
Editor in Chief

To the stranger at Shaka's who asked about my future plans and then proceeded to criticize them, perhaps it's the senioritis kicking in full swing, but I don't care about your opinion.

At this point in our senior year, most of us have been badgered by hovering families and overly curious friends about our colleges, our majors and our futures. (Did that sound as scary to you as it did to me?) Perhaps it's the defiant adolescent within me or the uncertain and scared child that's slowly counting down the remaining days until graduation, but I'm no longer going to entertain any more questions about my future plans.

You'll know when I know. Granted, there are those who are admirably resolute about their future. For the rest of us, though, breathe easily knowing that you don't owe anyone any justifications about your future, assuming safety and legality are prioritized. Some may call us impetuous or selfish, but these next few years are ours. Every decision and consequence is ours to own and learn from, not our parents', our friends' and certainly not strangers', so why should their opinions dictate our paths of self-discovery?

In defense of me, your opinion is irrelevant.

When in College, Do as the Upperclassmen Do

JANET GUAN
Copy Editor

After the college acceptances, rejections and changes of path, most high school graduates will begin to prepare for their first steps of adulthood. Many will begin to pack their belongings as they get ready to move from what they have called home. Bringing the basic necessities, like clothing, should be quite easy, but common comforts may take time to develop.

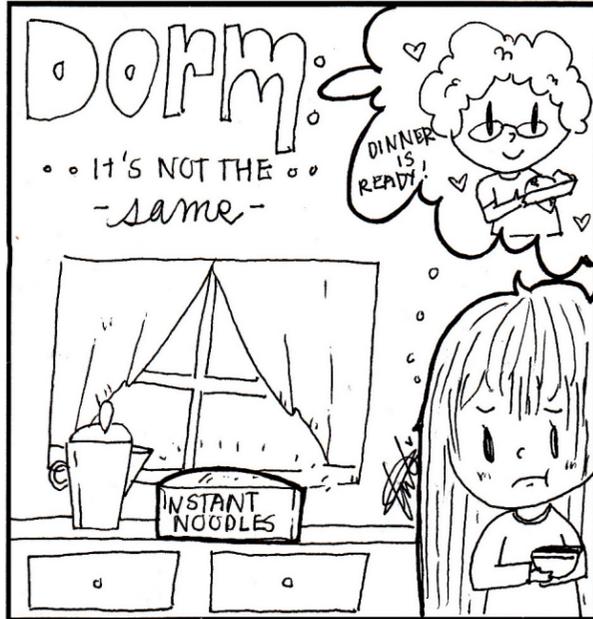
For one, going to college will throw students into a new environment. College campuses occupy more land estate and hold more people. The transition from middle school to high school can hardly compare; high schools bring together teenagers from relatively close vicinities, so community-related events are relevant to most adolescents. Colleges can bring students in contact with peers from different cities, states and even countries. Meeting new people means encountering unfamiliar ways of thinking, personalities and habits. Disagreements can arise when stubborn people with distinct ideas clash. As a result, not everyone from college will be welcoming.

College students may long for the comfort of their hometown that their

temporary four-year residence may not provide. AHS is conveniently located near helpful resources, like the Alhambra Civic Center Library, and an array of different restaurants and establishments

hard, but there are ways to manage. Cooking can be a way to ease the pining for home-cooked meals. Though the flavor may not be up to par, cooking can both ease nostalgia and encourage eating at home, killing two birds with one stone. Students living away from home should take into account their own habits and personality as well. Roommates' consistency in being responsible will greatly affect home life, so choose roommates and living quarters wisely. Above all, be open-minded. Not everything in college will match expectations, so instead of being disappointed in the quality of certain cuisines or the absence of a type of recreation, take the opportunity to find a new favorite dish or pastime. Be non-judgemental towards people; the individuals undergraduates meet will reshape each other into different people.

College will be a unique experience. For the first time, many students will take care of themselves wholly without parental supervision or aid. Difficulties will arise; society will begin to expect more out of young adults. However, college should provide the microcosmic environment and the needed obstacles to prepare young adults for their futures.



to hang out with friends. Although colleges are their own community, they may not have the same cuisines or businesses that students grew up with. Most of all, AHS students living away will long for simple home-cooked meals or close gathering, with family that used to be in such close proximity. Homesickness will definitely hit

IN-STATE OR OUT-OF-STATE COLLEGES?

MOOR VS. MOOR



SUSANNA AIGA
Opinions Editor

A new measure of freedom is expected as we enter adulthood, but sometimes these possibilities and the pressure to choose wisely can overwhelm us. Choosing to attend an in-state or out-of-state college for the next four years is an especially difficult decision to make. Although this choice is ultimately a personal one, attending a college in state may be the most practical option.

It is no secret that attending an in-state college is the cheaper route, and for many, the college decision primarily comes down to finances. Most state residents qualify for lower in-state tuition rates and state education grants, favoring their own taxpayers' kids but excluding out-of-state residents from the same treatment. According to the Washington Post, the average cost of a public university for students paying in-state tuition is \$15,213 per year versus the out-of-state costs of at least \$25,000 without financial aid. These costs coupled with the price of traveling between states may cause more than a little financial strain.

Some say the college experience is priceless and worth the extra costs to experience the full range of freedom an out-of-state college provides, but no matter where you go, living out of your parents' house will already enable you to have that golden college experience, and staying in California has the added benefits of being close to home in case of emergencies and illnesses, including homesickness.

MOOR graphic by GEN THIPATIMA



ANGELA YANG
Opinions Editor

With graduation season imminent, seniors may soon find themselves either shipping off away from home or staying in state to attend college. While there are financial benefits to staying in the state, experiencing a new area that isn't California may prove extremely powerful in shaping your character, as well as your future.

Leaving for college is already in and of itself a big journey. For the first time, you have to fend for yourself without your guardians to guide you. While staying in state provides some of the comforts of home, leaving California may help develop confidence in the ability to provide for yourself. There may not be a restaurant that sells boba at every corner, but by pushing your own limits, you can establish your own independence as you interact with new people, new cultures and a new environment and learn how to live on your own.

Furthermore, out-of-state schools can open up students to more programs and opportunities. Different colleges have different programs and consequently, the program that would best suit you and your future interests may not be in California. Establishing connections somewhere other than home may also lead to new career opportunities, as staying in one area limits the job market one is exposed to.

It is evident choosing an out-of-state college will prove immensely beneficial, even if it initially seems like a foreign and scary experience. After all, home is where you make it.

Cheers!

- Welcoming new principal Duane Russell
- Varsity girls' soccer goes undefeated in season
- Speech and Debate team ranks 21st in the nation
- Same-sex unions legalized in CA
- All-Male dance team is undefeated

DEREK WU
Staff Writer
MOOR graphic by SYDNEY LI

JEERS!

- "Gas leak" forces evacuation, causes students to sit on the track field in the sun for three hours
- Monterey Highlands 8th grader Maia Wu and her siblings expelled from AUSD
- Saying goodbye to Assistant Principal of Student Services Chris Takeshita
- Fire alarms disrupt class time, causing inconvenience to students and staff alike

CARTOONS

