

Putting off the real world for now

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I am a procrastinator. I don't think all students are, but I am. I wait until the absolute last possible minute to start on my school projects and homework because I just don't want to do them.

This is my third year at the U, and I'm burned out. My first foray into higher education lasted three years with no degree and a lot of dance classes because — like you probably guessed — I was procrastinating in picking a major. So I just took fun classes. And, FYI, I can't dance.

Fifteen years later, I have a plan and a goal, but I still don't know what I want to do with my communication degree when I graduate. I am procrastinating, much to the annoyance of my husband. He wants me to decide what I want to be when I grow up. Thing is, I don't know if I really want to.

I like feeling young. Although I graduated high school when this year's freshmen were barely out of diapers, and I feel old when I'm on campus, I still want to feel youthful. I don't mean irresponsible, like skipping class or missing work because I partied the night before — I lead a very quiet life. I just like to be around people a few years younger than me.

Most traditional college students haven't been slapped in the face by life yet, and it's refreshing to mingle with people who are optimistic and hopeful about the future. They haven't had to go out into the big, bad world yet to make their way. There are some pretty negative people out there, and working with them day after day starts to wear on a person.

I've been out there for 12 years and came back to school for a break. Also, making a decent living as a massage therapist — my present career — in this valley is near impossible.

So how do I decide what I want to do when I graduate? I have no idea.

"I'll decide later," has become my mantra. Later is coming up in less than a year, and I don't know which direction to go. My procrastination will end up leaving me with no choice, and I might end up serving hamburgers or taking movie tickets.

And it's not like people are optimistic about the economy. At least every other person I talk to says getting a bachelor's degree doesn't cut it anymore. Gee, thanks. I'm glad I'm getting student loans and working my tail off so I can never use my education. Thanks for the support.

I might procrastinate, but I am optimistic I will find something that pays more than what I'm currently making and will give me benefits. Even if it's not in a field I'm interested in, I still think I will find a job that pays well and makes the most of my abilities and education. Now to figure out what I want that to be.

I'll decide later.

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