

## SENIOR PUNISHMENT

One can't help but think that admissions officers get a little sick of piles of, "Ms./Mr. Clean, Promising, Young American," applications to review.. They certainly must suspect, like we know, that behind those sweet innocent yearbook grins lie crafty adolescent minds. It's time that a brave and honest sort jolts these snoozing admissions officers upright in their chairs, so that they will gasp in happy recognition, "Ah, yes! Here is the kind we really want! This kid will bring a sparkling new presence to our university. We'll give him/her a personal phone call right away to inform him/her of immediate acceptance and the award of a full four year scholarship plus spending money!" Sounds good? Just follow a few simple instructions.

1. Choose a selective college that claims to be interested in your inner soul, your hopes, aspirations, the particulars of your sex life. The applications to these colleges provide room for creativity because they usually contain several bothersome essays. Simple, straight-forward applications don't work unless you have a particularly attractive social security number.

2. Now start completing the application with a skillful blend of unexpected honesty and captivating fiction. For example, where it asks for brothers and sisters, you may want to include the president of the college, a movie star or two, a few members of royalty, and a convicted murderer. On the honesty side, you should definitely answer, "Why do you want to attend \_\_\_?" in some such manner: "Because you have good parties . . .", "Because I'm a sap for big name colleges. . .", "Because I'm a robot of society and any ambitious young person is supposed to want to go to your ridiculous school. . ." Any or all responses are refreshingly appropriate.

3. Many applications ask for a photograph. The personal picture allows plenty of room for innovation beyond the misleadingly bland yearbook pose. If you have a nice body, you may choose to submit an 8" X 10" glossy of yourself in your favorite beachwear. For those more comfortable with a touch of make-up, the admissions officer will no doubt be impressed by an interpretation of a punk rock star or your favorite character from, "Star Wars."

4. Colleges always want to know about school activities. If you consider that practically every high school across the nation has the same activities. . . well, can't you just see that admissions officer yawning? With the admirable objective of insuring their entertainment, you might add a twist to your activities. For example, claim to have started a club such as the Procrastinator's Club (never got around to having a meeting) or show that you undertake ambitious projects such as lusting after the entire football or pom squad, or both, depending on your preference.

5) Now comes the most interesting section, sometimes called the "Personal Statement," designed to cover everything else that the writers of the application were too lazy or too dense to think of asking. "Write us about something that is most meaningful to you," they say. You can't really go wrong with something that narrowly defined. Yet admissions officers across the country are sick of upstanding and thoroughly repetitive eulogies over the passing, but infinitely rewarding, experience of being newspaper editor, cheerleader, or helper of orphans. If you really want to grab their attention, you might write. "My most meaningful and rewarding experience has been pushing hard drugs and saving my money to buy a Corvette." The promise of a budding young capitalist is quite attractive to a college, especially if you plan to major in business. Another might be, "My most meaningful activity has been planning to overthrow the United States government," for political science majors, or the all-inclusive "I've never had any meaningful experience and I bet you haven't either, or else you'd ditch your exceedingly dull job for something better."

If you follow these simple guidelines you'll have absolutely no problem in getting those jaded admissions officers to notice you as a unique, interesting specimen of American adolescence.

Donna George

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