

Texas Trip

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Okay so I'm writing this Email because this is something both mom and dad need to read and it's also because I'd rather avoid a confrontation right after I email it because we all know that I hate arguments and I know that this will cause an argument.

Okay so my Texas Trip, I saw it less as a vacation and more of a time to see what it would be like living in Texas, I toured a high school and am hoping to tour a college soon and went to many extra curriculars and on quite a few learning trips such as the Alamo. I also noticed how differently I felt, both mentally and physically. I also made quite a bit of money while down there, all of this I'll be getting to.

Let's start with the school Tour, The school we went to was Hutto High School, I'd say it's about a 5-10 minute drive away from home and it was very nice for multiple reasons that I'll go over. The first of many is how they have a full career path for digital arts which is exactly what I'm looking for in my future, whilst in Chariho I feel like I'm doomed to running a cash register or working some sucky job in my future where I feel like the career path that Hutto has available will ensure my success later on in life while I may wound up in a fast food place or behind a cash register, at least I won't be there for the rest of my days. I even did some research on colleges in Texas and there are plenty of colleges that specialize in what I'm looking for. They also have classes that can be substituted for PE, for example I hate PE up in chariho but I don't have much of a choice, however in Hutto I am able to trade out my regular PE class for say an acting class, or a dance or gymnastics class. And there's a lot of wiggle room when it comes to classes. It has two floors and when we toured we looked into some of the digital arts programs available because that is what I want to go into, they have about ten different classes for all different things from concept arts and news reporting to special effects, green screens and 3D Animation. The Hutto Police Department is also directly connected to the school so if there is an issue, it should be resolved before it even begins whereas if there's an issue at Chariho it could take the police about 10-15 minutes to get there when at that point multiple people could possibly be hurt or worse. The school lunches are even better than Chariho lunches, to give an idea, in chariho, we have 20 minutes to get in line and get our food (which takes about 10 minutes, 15 if it's a busy day) and then we have the rest of lunch to stuff our faces with food before going back to class, however, in Hutto, the lunches are 40 minutes long with too many options to count, food trucks are also there most of the time with accommodations to allergies.

Next I'm going to go over how I felt while down in Texas. I think the most important thing is how safe I felt and how quickly I adopted that place as my home. I wasn't afraid of anything happening and I really only had anxiety the morning I was supposed to talk to Mrs. Patty. Whereas in RI I rarely feel safe and find it difficult to relax when I can easily relax and let go when I was in Texas. I also noticed that after a couple days my nightmares went away completely, in RI I would have nightmares almost every night and they have come back since my return. I didn't sleep well last night and the night before because I kept waking up from nightmares, I would wake up in a cold sweat and sometimes I'd wake up in tears. I don't normally talk about this but I feel like this is important. I also wasn't afraid to speak my mind and actually *talk* about my issues. Like one of the days I'd felt sick and my legs were crampy (due to skating for 3 hours the night before) I actually talked to Mary about it and asked her if she had some sort of vitamin I could take, she did and I took some Iron Vitamins and some T-Relief and I'd felt better in a few hours and was even working the next day without a problem. The point I'm making there is the fact that I wasn't afraid to ask what was going on and ask for help whereas with my mom if I told her that I was crampy and feeling sick, she would make me take some Aleve (that normally only works for period cramps) and rush me out to get a covid test. I also found it easy to get along with others, I didn't feel like an outcast unlike how I felt in school up in RI. I was happy as well. I was sleeping normally, from about 10-11 PM to 6-8 AM whereas in RI I could go to sleep at 11 PM and barely sleep due to nightmares and get out of bed at 11AM to 12 PM.

Finally I was working a bit of a job with my dad, Liam, David and when Wilbur flew down I did some work with him. We were working for our landlord Tully (I think that's how you spell his name) who was super nice, we started off moving SOD (Slabs of Dirt) and transplanting them to another house where the lawns had been destroyed by dead leaves and the houses we took the SOD from we're expanding the concrete of their back decks, we were getting paid about \$15/h as it was a hard job and once we finished that we stained two fences for about \$10/h using redwood stain, by the end of the four weeks I was down there I'd made about \$300 give-or-take in total. Whereas I can rarely work at indie Cycle because it's hard to get up at the top of the morning to drive wherever in RI and work for 3 hours at \$7/h, in a *good* month I'd

make no more than \$42 (about 2 events per month) it would take about 15 events (13+ months) to make the \$300 that I made in 4 weeks and there are tons of places where I can work and get a steady income since most places we go to are hiring, it could be a waitress, security guard, heck, somebody could *mix teas* at a store and even an employee at the Kalahari Water Park.

A few extra things to note from while I was down in TX:

- My family wasn't blocked
- I could call anyone anytime as long as I wasn't working
- The only difference was the time zone and that changes things a little bit but it didn't affect much in the ways of communication
- I was able to get together with people
- I wasn't lonely
- I felt good about myself
- I wasn't depressed
- I wasn't stressed

A final note to you mom before I finish this email, sure No life is perfect, but some lives are better than others and this life is better than the one that's here for me in RI. I'm not looking for an argument, I'm looking for happiness and success.

Thanks all for reading,
Rebecca K. R. Parker