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Midterms: to study or not to study

By DIANE IRIARTE

It is only October and it's still too early for finals, but it's not too early for midterms. Today most of your worries are probably over, but I'm sure it was one tough week. I was ready to throw my books out of the nearest window.

One student told me about her old study habits. She's a college graduate, but nonetheless, she still remembers this time just around midterms...

"I was the worst procrastinator. I would talk all day about this all-nighter I had to pull off. Then I'd talk about it at dinner time around 7 p.m. and oh, I guess it would take me until 10 p.m. to get mentally prepared."

She continued to say how she would end up hanging out with her friends. They'd suggest downtown — she'd agree; but just till midnight. (a decision that she was faithful to). By the time she settled back into her work, it was too late.

"Around 1:45 a.m. I'd say 'I'm too tired for this stuff' and set my alarm for 6:30 a.m.," she said as she laughed. "If only I'd sat down at 7 p.m. I would've been done by midnight." Sound familiar?

Freshmen who do not yet have a grasp of this phenomenon, don't blow off studies, it will just pile up on you.

I shouldn't talk. It has been four years later, and I've yet to get through a semester without pulling some kind of all-nighter. How many recall this favorite: "No way! I'm not pulling another all-nighter again. They are murder! I refuse."

We retreat to the library in search of the perfect hiding spot. Now this is a laugh. Those eagerly wanting to study, soon to come realize that the one

sacred building of study actually has the most notorious social life at Cortland State; socializing spreads like the plague.

I asked freshman Kathy Casazza "Where do you study?"

"Oh, at the library. I go to the late night reading room," she said, "so I can eat, drink and smoke."

Trying to develop the perfect strategy that combines a social life, a study life, and good grades isn't easy. That's because there are no strategies to acquire the perfect study environment. It's the way students go about their work that is so amusing.

We can relate to the library syndrome. How could you not stare at that cute guy or girl you saw the other night? The Pepsi machine's around the corner. Your friends just stopped by to talk for a minute. That makes three strikes, your out.

It's always something; like juicy gossip about Saturday night, or staring out the window watching everyone walk up and down the hill. Anything that breaks through you study barrier.

I asked another question to a freshman about all-nighters.

"What keeps you going?"

Kelly Hogan said, "Coffee. Lots of coffee. And, oh yeah, 'Vivies!' (Vivarin, the over-the-counter drug that has as much caffeine as a cup of coffee.)"

Another student, a senior, said, "I'm terrible when it comes to studying. I restrict myself. If it just gets past a certain time, too bad. I just go to bed." The "Johnny Carson/David Letterman Killer Combo" will do it every time.

To some, a 'Buzz' word is all that's needed to put off a student's studies. Familiar 'Buzz' words are: Beer, Popcorn, Downtown, Music, Mets' Game, Dead Nite, Imports, and even Boardy Barn.

So much for studying, right?

Off campus seniors Karen Sweeney and Christine Flynn say they do everything to keep from picking up the books. Flynn says, "I eat. I clean. I make a phone call home. Make a Diet-Coke run. I even resort to cleaning the bathroom! Then I read my eight chapters from midnight till 5 a.m."

"My life is (full of) all-nighters," admits senior Cindy Winthrop.

I asked a lot of people, and calculated that this week was undeniably a "Communications Major Week." Anybody taking Mass Media and Society? Editing and Graphics? Writing for Radio/T.V.? Mass Media Advertising? Television productions? If so, you took a test this week.

Professor Bob Thompson got smart. He took the match off the firecracker, I was told, by postponing his Broadcast Programming/Management midterm until next week. He saved a lot of souls. Had he not made this tactical move, there definitely would have been an explosion in the Dowd Fine Arts building.

Communications major Susan Boyd, a victim of midterm overload had no response. She just nervously jittered and muttered something about "insanity."

Your study habits may not be all there, but if you make it to your classes, you'll be set. As Flynn pointed out, "Classes are the most important."

It's not that students don't do their share of work, it's all the procrastinating.

The one inevitable location and final destination for those looking to study is one's room. I find it's the one place a person can trust to find solace. I'm not reputed as a library goer, so it works for me. But then my housemates have got cable television...

Tina: sounding better than ever

By JAMES HENKE
Rolling Stone Magazine

BREAK EVERY RULE,
Tina Turner, Capitol, ★★ ★

In fact, Tina Turner plays by all the rules on the follow up to "Private Dancer," her multi-platinum comeback LP. Turner has assembled many of the same musicians and songwriters who worked on that album, including Mark Knopfler, David Bowie, Paul Brady, Rupert Hine, Terry Britten and Graham Lyle.

But it sounds like everyone involved was trying too hard to duplicate "Private Dancer's" successes rather than come up with anything new. Every track seems aimed straight down the middle of the road, and there are no little surprises along the lines of her cover versions of Ann Peebles "I Can't Stand the Rain" or Al Green's "Let's Stay Together." Tina sounds as good as ever, and this is certainly a well-crafted, superb-sounding LP, but it would have been even better had Turner tried to stretch out just a little.

THE SUN STORY,
Various Artists, Rhino, ★★ ★★

It's about time that an American record company started sorting through the vaults of Sun Records, the legendary Memphis-based label that was home to Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and a host of other rock & roll pioneers

back in the 50s and early 60s. This two-record set presents a mini-history of Sun, from such early R & B-flavored cuts as Jackie Brenston's "Rocket 88" (considered by many to be the first rock & roll record ever) and Junior Parker's "Mystery Train," to Elvis' first single, "That's All Right," Perkin's "Blue Suede Shoes" and such other rock classics as "Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On," "Great Balls of Fire," "Ooby Dooby," "Red Hot" and so on. If you don't already have these songs in your collection, or if you're eager to learn about the roots of rock & roll, this is as good a place as any to start.

MATCH GAME, *Marti Jones, A&M, ★★ ★ 1/2*

In a period dominated by black, female pop-soul singers, Marti Jones is something of an oddity: a white, female pop singer who has more in common with Dusty Springfield than with Aretha Franklin. This is Jones' second album — last year's "Unsophisticated Time" was an overlooked gem — and she and producer Don Dixon (R.E.M.) have opted for a more heavily produced approach, no doubt hoping that it will work to Jones' benefit in the radio marketplace.

Jones' voice is warm and sensual, and she's a keen interpreter of other people's material; this LP not only features songs by Elvis Costello, Marshall Crenshaw and David Bowie, but also

cuts by the British band Free and pop singer John David. All in all, it makes for a splendid pop record, the kind that was more common a decade or so ago than it is today.

OUT MY WAY, *Meat Puppets, SST, 1 ★★ ★ 1/2*
Like Husker Du, Phoenix's Meat Puppets have evolved considerably since their days as a hard-core thrash band. Five or the six songs on this mini-LP find the group sounding like

a cross between the Grateful Dead, circa "American Beauty," and Creedence Clearwater Revival. Curt Kirkwood's guitar playing runs through the whole vocabulary of C&W and rockabilly picking, while the rhythm section of Cris Kirkwood and Derrick Bostrom keeps the music moving at a brisk pace.

For old times' sake, the Puppets have also thrown in a cover of "Good Golly Miss Molly," which they fly

through a break-neck speed. 54-40, eprise, ★★ ★ 1/2

Imagine R.E.M. with more tightly constructed songs and a harder-edged guitar sound, and you'll have some idea of what this Canadian group sounds like. Though heavily influenced by neo-psychedelic bands here and in England, 54-40 seems to know the value of a good song, and it's because of that that this LP succeeds.



Tina Turner's new album:
"Break Every Rule"