

# DIRTY SHORE

## 'ARE YOU IN?'

### *Much to consider during college admission season*

**T**his column is dedicated to all the high school seniors who currently await acceptance and those who already received it, to the colleges and universities inviting their attendance. Good luck and congratulations to you!

Students spend their lives acquiring knowledge in the forms of classroom learning, reading, calculating, writing, hypothesizing, memorizing, and synthesizing. Lessons teach eager learners how to retain information through processes such as note taking, outlining, practicing, and studying. Finally, proving what the brain absorbs through an assessment involving testing of some sort determines the worthiness of higher education.

Earning good grades, participating in extra curricular activities, and contributing to the communities both within and outside the walls of school are the necessary ingredients for applying to college. Standardized tests, such as the SAT, ACT, SAT II Subject Tests, AP Exams, and Achievement tests raise the bar of the competition for acceptance.

Being an athlete, musician, artist, dancer, actor, or genius all work positively in the favor of the student bestowing such qualities. However, not everyone falls into even one of these categories, let alone several. What edge does an "ordinary" student have over those who seem "extraordinary?"

Marketing is an appropriate

**By Vicki Isacowitz**



#### ON THE CHALKBOARD

term when describing the college application process. Students must consider how to "sell themselves" to their desired schools. With the correct tools and knowledge of effective marketing, the student who falls under the label of ordinary can easily appear extraordinary. Remember that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

The month of April holds significant meaning to high school students, especially those planning on attending colleges and universities this coming fall. Acceptance and rejection letters began and continue their journey into the mailboxes of students awaiting their arrival. Tears of joy and sadness travel down the cheeks of 17 and 18 year olds trying to figure out their future. A thin letter in a small envelope doesn't always mean bad news, despite the anxiety of reading return addresses desired to appear on large bulky packets.

Major decision making takes place within the next month. College visits help determine which campus becomes a stu-

dent's potential world for the next four years. Many factors contribute to what appears as the biggest decision of a lifetime. Little do future college freshmen know this is the first of many more to come.

Most importantly, students deserve recognition for a job well done. Getting through 13 years of schooling is an accomplishment unto itself. Acceptance to a four-year college or university is the icing on the cake.

The more effort a student puts into their education determines the rewards they take away from it.

A good friend often jokes by reciting the following line from Whitney Houston's song, The Greatest Love of All: "Don't you know the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way..." This lyric holds truth, despite the comical reference to a cheesy 80s love song. The future depends upon the knowledge gained and implemented by the young adults who are eager to learn. Obtaining a college education gives students the necessary tools to make a difference in this world.

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