

have them memorized. This is a fabulous way to share your knowledge with the world.

I must advise that you should be careful of what books you do read. Any books by Dickens or Shakespeare are a sheer tragedy to the childhood world. If you dare read them you will surely be swept into adulthood. I recommend to stay far away from classics, poetry and other such adult reading. If you desire something more challenging then Dr. Suess try Encyclopedia Brown, Cam Jansin, Goosebumps, or Choose Your Own Adventure novels. Be very careful, anything beyond this level could very easily rip you into adulthood.

The most important thing to remember, besides never to drink coffee, is that people will try to get you to change. If you do decide to remain in a child's personality, adults throughout society will mock you. Many people have not yet realized that it is better to stay young. Society will tell you to grow old gracefully. The truth remains that adults don't get up Saturday mornings and laugh while eating breakfast and watching cartoons. Adults lose that certain sense of pure joy that can only be found in children. Remaining infantile can be hard to do, but it reaps many rewards. As a youthful person you can enjoy a fun, pure, simplistic life, that many adults have completely forgotten about.

## THE CAFETERIA

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Food. Everyone must have it in order to survive. Most of us eat three times each day. In high school, one meal was consumed in the cafeteria, and the other two at home. Now, here in college, if you want to eat, it is either pizza in your dorm room or it is off to the cafeteria. Since everyone goes to the cafeteria at one time or another, I have found that this student stop-off is a very interesting place here at VU.

I like to observe the people in the cafeteria and how they interact with each other. The interaction of people at college is not quite the same as it was in high school. The easiest thing to notice is with whom people

sit. Some sit with a buddy and are deep in conversation about how to save the world. Others come to dinner *en masse*. There are ten or twelve of them. You look up and suddenly the cafeteria has been rearranged so that they can all sit together. There are also those people that sit alone. Often times they are doing homework or reading a book.

In my high school, there was not enough space for anyone to sit alone. There were three shifts and the place was still packed. Everyone sat with someone. Most of the time these groups stayed the same throughout the year, but some people moved around daily. No one really cared who sat where. You found some people you knew from one of your classes, or if you were lucky your best friend ate during your lunch shift. You staked out a table and that table became yours for the rest of the year. There were no questions asked and people did not change tables without asking. Often there were people madly rushing through homework that was due the next hour. No one sat alone doing homework, though. Most of the homework being done was being copied from a classmate. Math, chemistry and Spanish were common books to see at the lunch tables.

There were big groups of kids at tables in my high school, but just about anyone could enter into any group. No one cared. As long as you could find a chair, it was great. College seems to be different. There are still masses of people at tables, but there is something that says, "Don't join us. We are busy." I do not think that the people that sit in these groups realize that they are sending out this message. They are merely busy talking to their buddies. Everyone is sitting on his/her chairs and talking nonstop. To the lone person looking for a place to sit these tables full of people are not an option. The feeling that this group does not want any visitors comes from the fact that people are sitting on the edge of their chairs. These people are also without a clue that there are other people in the cafeteria. It appears that their conversation is the one and only one that is taking place. They are the source of the din.

So the lone person looks at the pair sitting at a table talking about life. This table looks more inviting. The occupants of this table are leaning back in their chairs. They do not talk all the time. There are silences, not that there is a lack of things to say, but because these people think about what they are saying. These people do not mind just listening to the din around them. Being excluded from the noise is not a big deal. The pair or trio sitting at a table is much easier to join.

The person sitting alone at a table reading a book or doing homework is interesting to watch. Sometimes these people are really doing homework. Other times they are just trying to cover up the fact that they are eating alone. Generally people sitting at dinner are trying to look

like they are eating alone because they have work to do, when in reality they are just trying to not look lonely.

At breakfast and lunch it is more likely that they are trying to finish up the homework that is due very soon. Regardless of why these people are doing homework, they can always be joined. They will say "yes" if asked if that seat is open. They enjoy the friendly face sitting across from them. They might not be full of conversation, but they will talk some. It takes courage to approach someone that you have never seen before and ask if you can sit with him/her. Both people feel much better if they are sitting with someone, even if they do not know each other and do not have very much to say. Friendly faces are very nice at meal times. The cafeteria in college is a great place to meet people.

In high school, the cafeteria was the only place to go for that half an hour of the school day. The high school cafeteria was not a very lonely place. There was always someone that you knew and with whom you could sit. In college the cafeteria seems to be much more lonely. There are more people in and out. More of the people travel in packs and sit on the edge of their chairs not interested in reaching out to that lone person looking for a sitting spot. The best way to conquer the loneliness is to be brave and ask to sit with that lone person or that trio. And remember that when you are eating at that table with a mass of people, there is someone who is sitting alone. Sit back in your chair. It would not hurt to invite that lone person to sit with your mass of people. They would enjoy being a part, and you might find that that person has something great to add to your mass of people.

## THE DEFINITION OF LEADERSHIP

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"So you want to join us, then?"

"No. I want to lead you."

from *Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves*