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Letter from the Editor

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Lessons Learned From College

College offers us multiple chances to start over. I was in a rock band when I started college with hopes we’d take off and I could drop out of school to be a musician. We played the Warped Tour, opened for some big names, recorded two albums and toured the Midwest. But it didn’t pan out, and now I will graduate having become a relatively well-known multimedia political reporter on my way to Washington, D.C. If I hadn’t been in college, I don’t have any clue how else I would’ve achieved a reinvention like that.

Throughout my phases and reinventions I’ve learned a lot during my time at Iowa State University that didn’t come from a book or a professor. So I wanted to share some of the lessons I learned:

Most students qualify for food stamps. • Moderate drinking with friends is better than blackout drinking at random parties. • The party scene tends to be at its best through September and October, then returns for a couple weeks in April depending on the weather. • Students who were, or are, in the military have the absolute best manners out of anyone you’ll ever encounter. • If you call for a cab in Ames, expect it to be an hour late. • DMACC’s West Des Moines campus is probably technologically superior to Iowa State’s. • It’s far more economical to live off campus than to live in any of the dorms or in Freddy Court. • Dorms are only as fun as the people who live in them and your own willingness to socialize. We’re lucky we’re alive. • When I had to drive all the way to Jordan Creek Town Center to see “Across the Universe” in theaters, I realized I could never live in a town as small as Ames. • Jim Carrey is a fantastic actor, but “Yes Man” was not his best. However, trying to say “yes” to everything people ask you to do makes a much more interesting life. • Driving a minivan is cool if you’re in a band; driving a minivan if you are the editor of a magazine is embarrassing. • No one sells yogurt as cheap as Walmart. • Swiss Gear makes the best backpacks. • Most apartments in west Ames include a membership to Ames Racquet & Fitness. • If you like a girl, the worst thing you can do is piss off her friends. It will sabotage your chances every time. • Manners are necessary. Especially around women. • No one deserves to be screwed over by the opposite sex, but if you are, move on. The quicker you do that, the better. • Always dressing your best is not the same as being vain. • You can dress your best, and learn how to care less about what other people think about you. • You can’t stop laughing. We’re lucky we’re alive.

Our Editor in Chief is graduating! Go to ethosmagazine.org to find his goodbye letter to ISU.