How To Enjoy College

"College," we are told by the experts, "can be a dismal chore, or a satisfying and happy time." The following notes come highly recommended:

"The old proverb, 'Well begun is half done' is literally true and is one of the reasons why your first year in college can be a crucial one. Your Freshman year is a year of transition, and transition periods are usually filled with doubt, distress, and danger.

"Approximately 45% of all students entering college do not graduate; and the majority of these are lost in the first year. These drop-outs are not mere statistics -- they are people, human beings with a mission on earth..."

"Success in study should have a high place in your set of values. It is known that intelligence alone does not necessarily guarantee success in college. Average students have earned better academic records than fellow students who possess superior mental ability. Intelligence is of little value without drive, determination, persistence, and industry...

"Give thought to what you are beginning -- you are taking at least four, full years out of your life -- years that could give a good start on a job; four years that could result in a substantial savings account that would be a financial backing for the day when you are ready to marry and start a family.

"Realize that either you or your parents are making a major financial investment in your college training. Don't fool yourself into thinking that the cost of a college education can be reached by multiplying the annual tuition by four -- that's only the beginning...

"Going to college is a full-time job... yet every college student has a certain number of hours to use at his own discretion. This calls for a type of schedule that must be made intelligently and individually. Others can suggest, but you must determine and decide. Plan your own schedule. Custom tailor one to fit you -- one that fits your abilities, your weaknesses, your temperament, because no two people are alike; and no two students study in exactly the same way.

"College is a little world in itself, a world artificially created for your development and enjoyment. College social activities are many and attractive. Acclaim, approval, and acceptance by your fellow students are very alluring, but decidedly dangerous -- particularly if you are versatile. Be loyally but intelligently active.

"By all means, don't neglect the spiritual side of your college life. Let no day pass without prayer. Receive the sacraments frequently. Steer clear of those who may contaminate you. Don't be misled by statements such as 'Everybody does,' or 'One cannot be better than the world in which he lives.' God and you make a majority. Be as God-like as imperfect creatures can be. Plan! Plead! Pray!"

-- Stephen Budash in the Ave Maria.