

You've heard it before,  
you'll hear it again  
but it's up to you to  
make sure college days  
are the . . .

## Best Years of Your Life

By Salli Hearst

*Applied Art Senior*

**N**OW, I kind of wish I had it to do over again. Instead of this being my final year in college, I wish it were my first. I'd like to be going through Freshman Week: taking tests, dancing at the Freshman Mixer and attending that first college class. I wish I were looking forward to four good years on this campus, instead of recalling three rather mediocre ones. I wish I were a freshman again . . . I would like to change now some of the things I have done in my years of college.

**I**F I WERE a freshman again, I would aim for, and attain an all-college average of "B." I would realize that I wasn't capable of getting too many "A's," for if I tried for that I might turn into the familiar bookworm, who never crawls out into the world. But, I would also realize that I was capable of more than average, neither good nor bad, "C" work. So, I would set my goals for a college grade point of three.

**I**F I WERE a freshman again, I would make a resolution to show my parents, once a week, my appreciation for the things they had done and were doing for me. I could do it in a letter, with a small gift or by spending some extra hours with my books. I realize only now, and too late, the sacrifices they must have made in their living, in order to send me here to school. I would remember, as I sat procrastinating, that each minute I wasted meant sacrifice for them . . . a new dress for my mother or good tires for the car.

**I**F I WERE a freshman again, I would begin getting into activities. I would be discriminating in my choice, for activities with only the thought of recognition, are useless. I would look over many, and finally choose two or three in which I was vitally interested, and concentrate my four years of extracurricular activities on them.

**I**F I WERE a freshman again, I would write a sign to myself and pin it on my bulletin board. On that sign would be: "Make a new friend every day!" I would make a point of remembering names of people to whom I was introduced, and the next time I met them, I'd give them a bright "hi" with their name following. And I would carry out that resolution on my bulletin board, for the part of college I'll remember the longest will be the friends I made here.

**I**F I WERE a freshman again, I would make a resolution never to say, "I haven't got time to do that." If a good speaker or orchestra were to be on campus for a lecture or concert, I would make time in my schedule in order to attend. In fact, I would make use of every opportunity to hear "good" things, maybe substituting Carl Sandburg for a Gene Kelly movie. If one of the girls down the hall was looking for a partner in a good discussion of religion or politics, I'd find the time without sacrificing my studying . . . for often from that type of relationship comes more knowledge than can be gained from books.

**I** ENVY you freshmen who have four years of college in which to achieve your goals. Make the best of them, so that when you are a senior, you won't have to say: "I'd study harder, make more friends, be in more activities, and take more time for 'good' things. . . if I were a freshman again."