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Life

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“LIFE”

Victor Inzunza, 2011 Literary Editor

I spent most of my senior year wondering whether or not I should apply to graduate school or get a job. Struck by some confusion as to what I should do next and feeling sapped from having worked and studied so vigorously, I finally decided to take a year off. I thought that working and writing would give me the answer I needed. Did I really want to begin a Ph.D. program? Should I apply to MFA programs in writing? Should I just get a job?

It seemed to me that most of the practical concerns were what troubled me the most. Like finding a job and making some real money. The idea of finding a career seemed to be pulling me forward at a rate I wasn't comfortable with.

But the time I took off taught me a lot about myself. I learned that planning your future really takes the fun out of it. Besides, the job market being what it is, I had a difficult time finding a “real” job after graduating. The more and more I searched for that job that would establish me as a productive member of society, the more I felt that I really wasn't doing what I wanted.

I wanted to write. I spent this time after graduation reading, writing, and living in the world. Despite the fact that there's so much uncertainty involved in anything we do, I finally did make a decision to apply to a few MFA programs. I was surprised to find that I got accepted into my top pick, University of San Francisco, and even more surprised to find out I received a full scholarship.

When I got the news that I'd been chosen as the Lawrence Ferlinghetti Fellow and discovered that I would be able to attend my MFA program for free, I kept waiting to wake up from a wonderful dream.

I didn't anticipate any of this, and the only planning I really did was to be open to the possibility of the future. As the poet Rainer Maria Rilke once said, “Live the questions now.” It seems our inclination as human beings is to reason everything to death, to ask for answers, often to the point of evacuating anything that resembles life or living out of our daily lives.

So I ask you this question. Why not be open to the possibilities of that strange ambiguity that confounds us, living each day with our arms stretched wide to the sun?

Bring all that you can to your life, whatever difficulties you can bear, waiting for the questions to which you may have no answer, and live.