

# Weighing in on student life

## • CONT'D FROM C1

throw tuition into the mix and you have a recipe for, as Grater refers to it, student living. But money is not the only determinant of the student experience. In fact, academics too play a key role.

Napeloni noted that while he has spared himself the financial burdens associated with living away from home, so too has he been able to get more studying done. "I'm not sure how students close to campus get studying done only because they have more reign to enjoy themselves, whereas at home I have a more quiet setting," he explained. However, Grater said that her academics have not suffered as "academic perseverance depends on the person, not your living situation."

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the student experience as we've come to understand it lies in one's social life.

Napeloni explained that "people who live with their parents live a little farther from campus so, for me, personally I'm not gener-

ally aware of some of the social settings that probably take place when people aren't at school ... I try to make those connections as much as possible ... but [living at home] is just not the same as [living away from home]. If something is going

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on, or if someone is having a spontaneous gathering, it's not something I'd even know about."

Conversely, Grater said that her social life is undoubtedly improved in living away from

home, and emphasized that "you have a freedom that would never be possible while living at home."

Yet, a student may still lead a satisfying social life while living at home. Getting involved at the University – by joining campus clubs, for example – is a great way to tune into McMaster's social network. You can also make friends who may not mind you crashing on their couch now and again when you find yourself craving that away-from-home experience, if only for a night.

Napeloni said that his own involvement in SOCS has greatly contributed to the standing of his social life. "I remember going to every single event during Welcome Week in my first year. My peer mentors for SOCS were amazing so I really enjoyed the experience almost to the point of wanting to be a rep right away ... I decided it would be kind of nice to get to know the community a little bit, and progressing throughout that year and having my peer mentors messaging

me all the time to see how I was doing [was really helpful]."

Whether you find yourself living at or away from home during your university years, perhaps in either case the student experience has little to do with where you live, but, rather, what you make of it. As Grater noted, "student life encour-

ages you to look at life with optimism." And so, the toss-up as to whether your living situation enhances or limits your experience as a university student is perhaps not so much a matter of weighing the pros and cons as it is about making what you can of these short-lived years.

## From all souls day to halloween

### • CONT'D FROM C1

Although the tradition of Samhain was established by the pagan, Celtic culture, the name we understand as Halloween stems from ancient Catholic traditions, which celebrated and worshipped the dead.

Halloween refers to the night before *All Hallows*, also known as *All Saints* or *All Souls* day.

Roman Catholics used this holiday to worship Saints in heaven and to pray for the deceased. This was usually celebrated on November first.

The practice of dressing up and begging for candy closely

resembles the Medieval tradition of "souling". Allegedly, poor people went "souling" door to door on Hallow's Eve, begging for food in return for prayers dedicated to those celebrated on *All Souls* day.

By the early 20th century, kids would harass shop owners for nuts and candies in return for songs and dancing.

It wasn't until the late 1930s and early 1940s that children were encouraged to dress up and engage in what we know today as trick-or-treating.

The term "trick-or-treat" essentially means that children would give the option of trick or treat. If no treat was given, they

would prank the home owners.

Although now this custom is discouraged, you'll still get a few who will egg your house if you decide to give out granola bars and apples.

Media influence promoted the custom in some Middle Eastern and European countries.

Today, we tend to become wrapped up in the superficial meanings of holidays.

Halloween is no longer a celebration of souls, but an excuse for children to dress up and get free candy, and for adults to throw a party and get drunk. It's important, though, that we're aware of tradition this Halloween.

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