

From Farm Fresh to Fordham: The Journey

In growing business opportunities for women, I find it important to break through the expectations of current society. Expansion from the homemaker figure, can create a new race of women; strong, intelligent, and potent. Through three different places and five years, the real world and I will stand face to face, and I can have to knowledge to stand with men previously seen as my superiors. The adventure from my hometown of Chesapeake, Virginia, to Richmond, Virginia, and to Manhattan, New York, can be compared to the development and journey of a human being from conception to adulthood.

As a current busy high school junior, growing like an embryo, somehow time is found for schooling, studying, working, and, on occasion, sleeping. Farm Fresh is my place of employment, helping the advancing fetus to kick and gain strength. Making \$6.50 an hour doesn't collect a large sum of money, but saving is important for future plans to be achieved. Though taking advance placement courses and graphic design classes at the local community college, I can still manage to work 25 hours a week for the next year, which will help amount a sum of approximately \$7,800 before graduation. Another 3 months of labor there, providing an additional \$975, plus extra money earned from babysitting, enables this now strong infant to leave the womb. With these funds, the next year of life is given an extra boost, having helped cut the financial umbilical cord from parents, and start crawling toward success.

Richmond, Virginia, the next stop on the road of life is another crucial stage of maturation. First, applying and gaining a part-time job at WRIC TV8 as a graphic artist

will provide funds for the cost of living. With a roommate, in a South Richmond townhouse cuts the cost of a \$625 rental bill to about \$312, which includes paid utilities. The growing juvenile is now walking, wobbly, but still feeling a sense of freedom and independency. Using previously saved money, enrollment at Medical Careers Institute occurs, South Side campus, in Richmond, where one can become a certified massage therapist in 11 months. The newfound information the adolescent has learned through early years is now being applied and success ensues from the hard work. Another year has passed, another fork in the road, and a new direction is chosen.

2 years have now passed since junior year, and both hard work in high school and Business College helped provide acceptance to Fordham College, Lincoln Center campus, Liberal Studies and College of Business. The total cost of each year is about \$31,043, which includes tuition, room and board, books and supplies, and travel. As that is pricey, I take out student loans with the help of a college counselor, apply for scholarships concerning previous work done, and use my skills as a massage therapist by getting a job at Soho Sanctuary, in New York City, providing 90 minute sessions for \$185. Now being 20, acquiring a credit card, used only for emergency situations, helped me build good credit, which became very useful later. So with the help of a job, double-majoring in Women's Studies and in Urban Studies, I can begin to pay off my loans early, continue to advance in knowledge and studies, and participate in local protests concerning my area of cogitation helps my preparation for a career as a women's advocate in the community and around the world. A now rebellious teenager, life is at a climax, full of adventure, passion, and acquisition of things never known or heard of. The

human now understands what is really occurring on the earth, and wants to change the corruption.

Now a graduate of Fordham University, with a Bachelors Degree in Women's Studies, and in Urban Studies, I have gained respect in the political arena, fighting through sex discrimination, and climbed up the social ladder to an executive position, supporting myself without a man dominating my life. Because of my conservative past financial decisions, I was able to purchase my dream house and start the kind of life I dreamed of. The once tiny human, now a high school graduate coming into adulthood, with a logical and astute air about them, is ready to face the trials I had now already faced, with the decisions of schools, homes, loans, savings and jobs; all which created the experience of a successful financial life, and future.