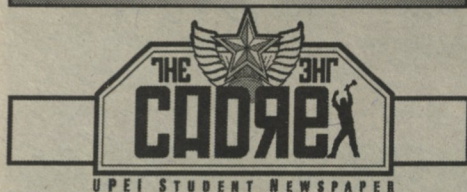


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There are meetings open to anyone **Mondays @ 4:30** and on **Fridays @ 4:30** in room 213 in the W.A.Murphy Student Centre. The deadline for submissions is Thursday at midnight.

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Editorial

by Sean Brady • Managing Editor

I had sworn I wasn't going to do this again. I had promised my wife that I would not yet again leave her waiting. I had had this vision of having my editorial written early and in before my own imposed deadline. Where did all the swearing and promising get me? Practicing procrastination and suffering from writer's block.

I think one of my English professors put it best when she quoted someone else as saying "Some people write raw and some people write cooked." Maybe I like it because it appeals to my culinary background, or maybe its simply because it just made so much sense in helping me identify my own writing style.

Now I suppose I should elaborate. To write raw means to put all the ingredients (thoughts) out onto the paper and then work them together through editing and rewording until you have something that resembles a proper finished product. By contrast, to write cooked means to bake things with thought until done, then present it onto the paper for all the world to see, needing only fine tuning here and there.

Now my problem isn't that I write cooked, nor is the biggest advantage to me having learned that analogy that I could identify my writing style. The problem I suffer from, and the analogy helped me realize, is that I can go to the point that I begin to write hard boiled - that is to say in certain situations I may fall victim to the art/curse of procrastination.

I have been known to be heard saying, "Why do now what I can put off until later?" Check that. I'm not the one saying it - it's the little voice inside my head that creeps in when I'm tired of studying, writing code, mowing the lawn, etc. This little voice plagues my mind, jumbling my thoughts, until I finally succumb and reposition myself in front of a computer game, television show, or other activity of choice which seemed like a better idea at the time.

In the last few years I have become much better at realizing when I'm procrastinating and forcing myself to pony up and just get it done. It's something all students eventually need to master (or at least get a bachelor's

degree in), but often we have areas of weakness that continue to plague us.

Writing is my achilles heel. I generally have good intentions but more often than not I take pondering the topic, thesis, or style to a whole new level, and before I know it I've burnt the meat, boiled the potatoes into oblivion, and vaporized the corn. When I do settle on whatever it was that held me up, look out. Thoughts flow from the fingertips into the keyboard like the exorcism of some terrible demon.

So, where lies the point? The great lesson? The moral one might ask? Don't know. I haven't got one. I would but the printing deadline is fast approaching and I'm suffering from writer's block. I did say that didn't I?

I suppose the lesson would be to plan on paper next time. Put my thoughts out where I can see them instead of keeping them bottled up inside myself where they're only a heartbeat away from being forgotten.

So, maybe next time I'll do that. Yeah. Brain storming, organizational charts, thought bubbles, and loads of scrap paper. Now if only I could stop procrastinating long enough to get around to starting.

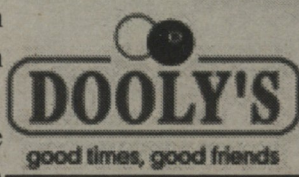
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