

There isn't Much Time

It is Monday morning and I have slept in, thanks to Thanksgiving. In fact, it's twelve o'clock and I am free for the afternoon. As usual, I sit in front of the television after I clean myself up, staring endlessly at the screen with my finger clicking on the remote. I realize that I have a draft due on Thursday, but I justify my procrastination with reasons like: "there is still lots of time."

Life is faster now, and people in the 90's are supposed to organize and plan in order to keep up; however, it seems to me that more people are procrastinating than ever before. When I ask people why they procrastinate, they often supply reasons like: this task won't take me a long time; the pressure makes me to work more efficiently; there were emergencies; and there were other important things. Some of these reasons sounds legitimate, but I think these reasons are just excuses for people's fear of failure, fear of lost security, and need for pressure.

Back high school, I had a friend, Eric, who dropped out of school because of bad grades. As his friend, I knew he was doing fine until the period of final exams. He was a smart and responsible person which laziness is not a factor of his bad grades. Eric could not pick up the books soon enough before the exam because he was afraid of failure. Since Eric's older brothers had achieved excellence academic records and great careers, Eric's parents expected him to follow his brothers' foot step. As the result, Eric was afraid to try because he feared to fail his parents' expectation. When he realized the problem, it was too late.

It is two o'clock in the morning. The computer is on, the coffee maker is cooking, and I am under a lot of stress. "There isn't a lot of time left," I keep telling my self as I watch the blank piece of paper in front of me. "I know I can do it," I keep encouraging my self while my mind generates zero ideas for my essay: which is due six hours from now.

Everyone I know procrastinates, my friends, relatives, even people in government. Back in Taipei, the Mayor, Mayor Chen, delayed getting rid of gangs in the city.

"I am going to issue a policy that will eventually stop gangs from spreading in our community," promised Mayor Chen of Taipei during his election campaign. Mayor Chen won the election, but he didn't do anything about the gangs for three years. He was afraid of success. If he got rid of the gangs, he would hurt the economy and if he hurt the economy, he would lose his job. Finally, pressure made him act.

"Mayor Chen's dragnet operation has 1 successfully disintegrate Taiwan's sinister gangs' infiltration into Taiwan's economy," and "The successful dragnet operation will secure the Mayor Chen's percentage of votes in the next month's election," are the headlines in recent newspapers.

This is a situation where I just start writing my term paper six hours before the date line. I was given two weeks time to complete the essay, but I could not put my mind on the assignment until I felt the stress from the time limitation pressure. I do have spare time and thoughts of writing the essay within the two weeks; however, the my tendency laziness won battle over the my sense of responsibility.

I need pressure to get me working.

No matter what anyone is or what anyone does, every now and then he will

procrastinate. Procrastination is a tendency that substantially exists in the human nature. People can always fight procrastination with consistency or sense of responsibility but they will never win the battle.