

Plan Ahead and Believe in Yourself

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I moved into a new apartment this past week. My roommate and I went grocery shopping one night last week and also got a copy of the key made.

So the next morning as I left for work, I figured I needed to try the key out before I left. My roommate wouldn't be there when I would get back so I needed to be sure I could get back in. I tried for about 10 minutes and to no surprise it wasn't working. I didn't want to be late for my first week on the job so I left it. It's probably just because it's a new key, no big deal, I thought to myself. Surely it would work if I tried some more later. Plus, I would be seeing my roommate at lunch and I could sort it out then.

Lunch rolled around and my roommate and I needed to run around town to do some errands and sign the final papers for our lease. I mentioned to him that my key didn't work and that maybe we should go back and make sure it worked, since he wouldn't be around in the afternoon.

Somehow, he managed to convince me that the door simply needed some jiggling and if that didn't work, surely the back door would. "You just need to jiggle it left and right, sometimes it's like that." He seemed to be in a rush, so against my better judgment I let it go.

When I got back from work, I tried the door (front and back) for about a half hour each. No luck. No key should take a half hour to open a door. The time was about 5:45pm, my roommate would be gone till at least 10pm when he got out of class. For some reason, maybe the heat was getting to me, but I wasn't too worried.

I figured I could shoot hoops till 8pm when the gym closed and then survive *Man Vs. Wild* style for the next two hours. All I had to do was cut down some trees by the middle school, bind them together with the straps of my book-bag to make shelter and catch a squirrel for supper and some much needed protein. It would be easy.

Except when I called him, he told me he wasn't planning to be back till after midnight as he had to go to the airport for a pick-up. I guess the heat had subsided as night came, and I realized this wasn't a good situation. But, long story short, I ended up getting a second key he had made and got into my place, avoiding the use of my extreme survival techniques I learned from watching cable TV.

The moral of my story I guess is to plan ahead and believe in yourself. You won't get to where you want to go (or home) if you don't have a map to get there. Don't let anyone doubt you because ultimately, you need to trust your own judgment and believe in yourself.

Just this past weekend we had our biggest freshmen orientation at Mount Olive College ever. At a time when enrollment is down about 5-10% for most schools, this was a

phenomenal achievement. It was a culmination of all the hard work and planning from all the staff at Mount Olive College. My new colleagues set goals, believed and achieved. It's going to be great for the town.

Peace.