



MEMORIES OF COLLEGE ESCAPADES, ENDLESS WRITING, AND BOXING

The Professors Who Pushed Me Further and Memories I'll Never Forget

While college may be where we learn incredible lessons in and out of the classroom, it's also often the setting for stories of adventure and personal growth. That certainly rings true for me. Sept. 1 is National College Colors Day, so why not share my transition from being an Albuquerque High Bulldog to a Rice University "Owl" (a challenge to embrace)?

One reason I chose Rice was that it was the U.S.'s "Best Bargain School" at the time. Back then (the late 1980s), tuition there was relatively inexpensive, and I thought Texas would bring me more sunshine than any East Coast school. I had an outstanding experience and education at Rice University. There, I studied history and languages with professors I still admire today.

My History of Colonial Latin America professor was incredibly influential as she always supported my writing endeavors and unconventional writing style. At the time, I was reading Beat Generation authors and was inspired by their stream-of-consciousness style. Despite her love for my writing, two subsequent history professors told me (separately) my writing was chaotic and unclear. My (albeit blind) confidence in my writing shattered after that, but it was the push I needed to start taking my writing seriously and try even harder. It's the professors' job to build us up and then take us down a few notches because we will give everything we have to improve.

After additional years of writing and studying with an eye toward constant improvement (and not letting my stream-of-consciousness override clarity), my writing improved. During

law school, I even took a year off to write a sequel to Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit." While I did not pursue publication, it was a cathartic achievement in my life.

Now, as for experiences outside the classroom, there might be too many to mention and some too outlandish to bring up. I was never too involved with school events and determined to put myself outside the usual status quo. I was in search of more distinctive experiences. As you can imagine, that led me down an interesting road. I lived off campus, rode my motorcycle, and did everything possible to keep myself "outside the hedges" (the "hedges" bordered the college campus). Not surprisingly, this desire for adventure led me to study abroad. I spent only two and a half years at Rice's campus since I spent the rest studying in Paris and Laos. However, my freshman year gave me enough unique Rice experiences to compensate for it.

Back then, there was a tradition called "Fight Night," where freshmen underwent two weeks of boxing training before battling it out in the ring. Insanity? I know. Well, I did my part and practiced, with the other college students, at a professional gym in Houston. A pro boxer even took an interest in me and offered me some tips. At the time of Fight Night, my designated partner (another college freshman) bailed and left me searching for a partner. The pro boxer who had previously given me tips offered to do a match with me. At first, I hesitated, thinking the idea was crazy – to fight a pro boxer for my first boxing match. But his entourage assured me he had the talent not to hurt me, and



I judged him honest in his assurance he would not. I agreed. I then learned that this man was Frank Tate, the famous former middleweight champion! What ensued was the most dream-like Rocky Balboa-esque fight I'll never forget. He glided around the ring, letting me get some punches in. If I hit too hard, he let me know it with a friendly but firm (and funny) flurry of punches. At the end of the last round, he fell back with flair (as he let me win). Now that's a college memory I'll never forget.

I could go on for countless more pages about leading parades with my motorcycle, spring break trips crisscrossing Mexico, and later Eastern Europe (soon after the Berlin Wall fell), coffee with monks (and later becoming one in Laos), and other stories of adventure and exploration, but I'll leave that for another day. So, while my reasoning for going to Rice University, as well as my experience there, might have been somewhat unconventional, the experience will always stay with me. It particularly made my return home to New Mexico more meaningful and special. We should all experience some radical stories, but not reckless ones, because then you might have to schedule an injury consultation with Parnall Law!

—Bert Parnall

From Pumpkin Picking to Haunted Corn Mazes

McCall's Pumpkin Patch Offers Thrills for Everyone

It isn't truly fall until you've been to a pumpkin patch! While fall festivals and pumpkin patches are scattered throughout the state, there's one that keeps topping our team's list time and time again. McCall's Pumpkin Patch is one of the best places to be this season, not just in New Mexico, but in the U.S. If you've never been, then you wouldn't know their 15-acre corn maze was rated the third best in the country! Massive and intricately designed, the corn maze is enough to bring visitors from all over. Bert and the Parnall Law team have enjoyed this pumpkin patch for years, and we want to ensure our readers experience it, too!

Everything to Do (and Eat)

Clearly, this place is more than just a pumpkin patch. McCall's Pumpkin Patch includes over 60 attractions to experience that every single member of the family will love. Every year, the event gets even grander, but some staples you can expect at this year's visit include:

- Pumpkin Express train ride
- Pumpkin picking
- Candy cannon (shoots out candy!)
- Pedal kart racing track
- Gemstone mining
- Petting zoo
- Hayrides

Of course, that's just a quick brief of everything to experience here. For those of you who'd rather just snack and shop, then McCall's Pumpkin Patch has a whole area dedicated just to that. Visitors can check out the country store offering old-fashioned canned goods like jams or salsa, plus souvenirs to remember your visit.

When it comes to dining, you'll want to save some space in your stomach so you can try a little bit of everything! Warm up and chow down on some fresh kettlecorn, turkey legs, roasted corn, barbecue, and even roast your own dogs and s'mores. For something sweet, we definitely recommend their homemade fudge, ice cream, and churros!

Have you ever had an apple cider slushie? If not, it's time to change that. Kids will also love heading down to the Slushie Saloon to sip some sugary goodness in an old-time tavern straight out of a Western movie.

A Haunted Transformation

With Halloween coming up, everyone should be ready for a good scare. Well, as long as you're over 13. McCall's Haunted Farm was rated one of the best haunted attractions in the U.S., but it's also an intense experience younger kids should probably skip. Remember that giant 15-acre corn maze? When you head to the transformed pumpkin patch, the maze is now a haunted trail that will have you scrambling toward any possible exit!

Along with the haunted corn maze, you can purchase tickets to enter the haunted barn decked out like an old cattle barn and meat processing facility! Along with these two main horror-filled attractions, you can encounter other thrills, including the clown labyrinth and zombie paintball shooting range.

Whether you head out for a fun-filled day at the pumpkin patch or a terrifying stroll through the nighttime corn maze, you'll create autumn memories to last a lifetime. For more information, such as this year's calendar and tickets, head to **McCallPumpkinPatch.com!**

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Honey-Pecan Chicken Breasts

With summer over and fall here, pecan and honey reign supreme in this sweet chicken recipe. The honey provides a perfect caramelization while pecans pack on the crunch factor!



Ingredients

- 2 6-oz boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1/8 tsp black pepper
- 1/8 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 tbsp butter
- 3 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp finely chopped pecans

Directions

1. Pound chicken with a meat mallet to 1/2-inch thickness. Sprinkle with salt, garlic powder, black pepper, and cayenne pepper.
2. In a large nonstick skillet, heat butter over medium heat; brown chicken on both sides. Cook covered until chicken is no longer pink, about 6–8 minutes, turning once.
3. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle with pecans. Cook covered until chicken is glazed, about 2–3 minutes

Inspired by TasteOfHome.com

HOW A WWII CAT SURVIVED 3 SHIP SINKINGS:

The Story of Unsinkable Sam

You've heard the saying, "Cats have nine lives," and while there are countless tales of cats falling from trees or high-above windows, one cat put this theory to the test, earning himself the name "Unsinkable Sam."

Sam's original name was "Oscar," and his legacy began aboard the Bismarck, one of the two first-class Nazi battleships in World War II. The Bismarck (with Sam) was launched on Feb. 14, 1939, and soon after engaged in battle with The Prince of Wales, an Allied battleship. The Nazi ship was severely damaged in this battle and ultimately sunk. Only 118 of the 2,200 crew members survived, plus Sam.

The British destroyer HMS Cossack found Sam floating on a board hours later, and they promptly scooped him up and welcomed him aboard. Sam had officially switched sides to the Allied forces.

Now on the right side of history, Sam lived with the British crew for the next few months as they performed convoy escort duties — until a torpedo struck the HMS Cossack in October 1941, killing all 139 members aboard. Except for Sam. Once again, Sam clung to a wooden plank and floated safely to the nearby shore of Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory. British service members who found him ashore put two and two together and realized the cat — the very one their fellow servicemen saved in 1939 — was the only survivor of HMS Cossack, earning him the nickname "Unsinkable Sam."

The group in Gibraltar was from the HMS Ark Royal crew, and of course, they loaded Sam aboard when it was time to launch. But as Sam's luck would have it, a torpedo struck the HMS Ark Royal just a month later, leaving him once again clinging to a floating plank near a boat launch back in Gibraltar.

Luckily, Sam's boating days were over, and he was honorably transferred to the position of "mouse hunter" in the building of the governor-general in Gibraltar. Eventually, the British restationed their favorite floating feline to a "home for sailors" in Belfast, where he lived for the rest of his days until his peaceful passing in 1955.

Sam's story may not officially prove cats have nine lives, but it makes at least three seem likely!

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If you are a medical professional or a lawyer practicing in another area of law, we welcome you to refer your patients or clients. We know you want the best for your patients and clients, and so do we. Call us today at 505-207-0144 or visit HurtCallBert.com for more information on our services.

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Navigate Your Purchase: EXPERT TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME CAR BUYERS

For many, their first taste of freedom is purchasing their first car. It's an exciting milestone and a huge financial decision. To help make the process easier and ensure you know what to expect, here's a guide for parents and teens when purchasing their first vehicle.

Establish a budget.

What can you afford? Today, the price of a new set of reliable and safe wheels is high. Even the cheapest new vehicle on the market is upwards of \$15,000. Determine if a new or used car fits your price range and whether or not financing is a smart option.

Pro Tip: Check out vehicle listings on Facebook, Craigslist, and OfferUp — sometimes, you can land a great deal. Just be sure to do your research and bring a friend along when you test drive the vehicle, for both safety reasons and another opinion.

Research and weigh your options.

The industry is vast! After you've established how much you can spend, you can begin to do your homework and find a car with the features that fit your needs.



Pro Tip: Some questions to ask yourself are what will your vehicle be used for, how much commuting you do, what are some necessary features, and how much space do you need?

Don't skip the test drives.

A test drive is essential, especially when purchasing your first vehicle. During this check for roadworthiness, you will see that each car drives differently. It's important to get a feel for how each one handles and rides.

Pro Tip: If you are purchasing a used car, don't forget to check CARFAX for the vehicle's crash history, mileage, service history, and exterior and interior condition.

Don't forget insurance and registration.

As soon as you purchase a vehicle, you will need to insure and register it with your nearest department of motor vehicles!

Pro Tip: Don't forget this cost when considering your budget! These fees add up.

With these tips, purchasing your new car will be fun and exciting! Most importantly, don't forget to buckle up and practice safe driving as soon as you exit the car lot!