

MAKING BANK

Graduation parties used as elaborate ruse to stockpile funds

Kylie McCalmont | Staff Writer

Another graduation party invite means another trip to the bank.

Senior Rahul Sandella said he is not only looking forward to graduation, but his grad party where he anticipates cashing in on the generosity of friends and family.

“I remember going to my sister’s friends’ grad parties; my parents would always give money to people who they knew well,” Sandella said. “It would usually be relatively substantial amounts because they might not have given a lot of money for a 16th birthday or something like that.”

Sandella has a full ride to the University of Cincinnati so rather than the money being used towards college, he plans to spend the money from his graduation

party on a trip to Europe.

“I’m interested in the money aspect because obviously money is awesome but I was lucky enough to get a full ride to UC so I don’t have to worry too much about undergraduate costs, but I would like to pay for that trip if there was any extra money,” Sandella said.

Unlike Sandella, senior Katharine Hoover said she decided not to have a grad party because of the hassle to plan.

“For me a graduation party would be difficult to have because my parents are divorced and it’s just really inconvenient because there’s so much to figure out and so much to plan and so much to get,” Hoover said.

By deciding not to throw a graduation party Hoover is giving up on a popular reason to have one: the money. Although

it isn’t a common decision, she said she isn’t bothered by earning money for college herself.

“I will have to work a lot over the summer and help save my own money to pay for college and I know my dad and my mom are both willing to help pay for things,” Hoover said. “I just don’t have a problem working for the money that I need to pay for things that I need for college like laptops and textbooks.”

Although people may feel pressured to empty their pockets when attending a graduation party, Sandella said that generous gift-giving is not necessary.

“People feel the obligation (to give money) if they are family and we’re really close with them,” Sandella said. “(But) I wouldn’t be offended if someone didn’t bring anything except a nice message.”

According to Hoover, giving

gifts at every graduation party can become expensive and hide the true meaning of the celebration.

“That’s definitely something people put together,” Hoover said. “(The fact that) I’m going to a graduation party so I must bring something but you’re just celebrating the fact that you graduated from high school, I don’t get why that can’t be enough.”

Despite the pressure to plan a party or the unnecessary money obligation that looms overhead, Sandella believes a graduation party is truly about the experience because, after all, everyone only gets one chance to graduate high school.

“You could have multiple graduations but your high school graduation is going to happen once so you might as well make the best of it,” Sandella said.



Senior Rahul Sandella said he is looking forward to his grad party to receive money from friends and family.

Photo by Madison Krell