

DREAM AND PLAN

When I was eighteen, I went to college but I also started a band. Which one was more important? At the time, I had no idea so I did both.

During the next four years of my life, I reached several forks in the road when I could have chosen one direction over the other. At one point I almost quit the band so I could focus on college. Another time, I almost dropped out of school because of the band. But at each juncture, I continued to pursue both. It wasn't until the band signed a recording contract and our touring schedule made attending school impossible that I chose the band.

My band is called Third Day, and we've done pretty well. We've sold some records and toured all over the world. We've even raked in a few awards and other accolades. By just about any standard, the band has been a success.



But I do not regret the time I spent in college. College equipped me with a writing ability that I have used to write songs, blogs, and magazine articles. The rigorous nature of school gave me a level of confidence to meet challenging deadlines. And I learned a whole lot about a lot of things.

If things had gone the other way, I am quite confident that I would be writing this same article, albeit from a slightly different perspective. I might be a college professor or lawyer or politician, and I would be looking back fondly at my years of being in a rock band and how that gave me a set of skills and experiences that I would not have otherwise.

Right now, you're standing on a precipice. Before you is a wide chasm filled with possibilities. It is exciting, but it can also be dizzying, even paralyzing. You probably have grand dreams as well as practical plans. My advice: Pursue both.

MARK LEE
Third Day Guitarist

