

Poutine a New Place

By Elisabeth Moffitt



Photo by Elisabeth Moffitt

“DON’T TRY TO MAKE COLLEGE EXACTLY LIKE HIGH SCHOOL.”



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As soon as you walk in, your heart rate accelerates. Your salivary glands begin to flex as the smell of juicy burgers and delectable fries roundhouses your nostrils. Soon your stomach begs with whale calls for finger-licking good poutine and burgers to be launched down your gullet. What’s that strange word you ask? Poutine? “We let out a little gasp when we picked it up at the counter,” says Anna Walsh from *Baltimore City Paper*, “because it looked like a goddamn magnificent artery-clogging marvel.” That is poutine. Something that you have to try even just to say you tried it. It seems strange at first, but what doesn’t? It sounds foreign and unfamiliar, but that doesn’t mean you should ignore it. College is like a burger and a big dish of poutine. It begins as foreign, unfamiliar and somewhat threatening, but if you give it a chance and play around with the ingredients, you won’t regret it.

College is like a good burger. When done right, everything melts together in glorious harmony. Maybe the most satisfying burger joint a college student could ask for is right up York Road. “Hell. Yes.” says

Sarah W., “Favorite burg in the area” (Yelp). Whether it’s tears from a hard class or fears for upcoming midterms, Clark Burger will comfort you with an outstanding meal consisting of hundreds of calories. But let me tell you, every last calorie is worth it.

“This place is amazing,” says Marlon B., “Love at first bite. Seriously when you read this you need to trust me. Love at first bite” (TripAdvisor). Not many things can be as good of a mood booster as a well-made, American burger. A good meal works wonders for a college student.

When you order a burger, you know how you like it cooked and what you like on it, you just trust the cook. In college you’re the cook. You have all the ingredients right in front of you to put together that perfect burger; you just have to learn the recipe. Trial and error. Continue the sports, clubs, languages, groups, and routines you have your whole life at a college level. Switch up the ingredients and add a new element to your weekly schedule. Try that Zumba class. Go to that psych seminar. Don’t try to make college exactly like high school. Keep college, college; just learn how to cook. Learn how to figure out the schedule that works best for you

without someone constantly holding your hand. All the ingredients you need for that melt-in-your-mouth college experience are around and even off campus. Just put on your eating pants and start cooking.

College is a “goddamn magnificent artery-clogging marvel” in more than just one way (Walsh). College is like the Canadian dish poutine because it’s a chance to try something new. “Treat your inner Parisian” Uberesque suggests, “...fries smothered in seasoned brown gravy and topped with cheese curds ...scandalously filling and delicious” (TripAdvisor). Simple in concept, superb in taste.

“Don’t be scared of poutine you xenophobes!!!” Crawford S. says (Yelp). In order to live a full life, you have to increase your experiences; don’t stick to the same boring routine all the time. It’s college—time to try new things. As the Chinese proverb says, “Pearls don’t lie on the seashore. If you want one, you must dive for it” (Blackwell). Dive into the college experience. Join new clubs and services, try new foods, meet new people. Love these things, and stick with them. Figure out what you don’t like and move on. Keep discovering what you love.

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When you see something unfamiliar, the first instinct is to ignore or avoid it. You can ignore Cheetos lip balm and deep-fried butter, but you can't just ignore poutine. Clark Burger's infamous Canadian dish of poutine is a must try. At least once. You may be unsure about the ingredients, but you won't know that you don't like

it until you try it. Rachel L. describes poutine as disco fries (Foursquare). "Disco fries" aren't something you see every day. But neither is a college campus, until you live on one. "Live the poutine dream," Chris Cromwell simply says (Foursquare). Live the dream of trying new things and finding out what you like and don't like. College is a whole new time in your life and should not be limited to what you're comfortable with.

Test your boundaries and explore. Anna Walsh says, "We couldn't stop shoving bites of the poutine into our mouth even when we had long passed the threshold of being full." Sometimes you'll like things more than you expect. College presents hundreds of opportunities to try poutine, it's up to you to trust your gut and take the first bite.

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