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**Pro- procrastination**

by Nola MacDonald

There are several reasons why people, myself included, wait until the very last minute to do things. This applies particularly to writing stories for a deadline. For some wierd and wonderful reasons, many of us like to procrastinate — why do today what we can put off until tomorrow? This article, like a few others in this paper, was written at the last minute. I didn't even have a topic until just a few minutes ago.

One of the big reasons other people give for waiting until just before the deadline is that they work best under pressure. This is true for some people. There are actually people who need the extra adrenaline from being rushed in order to do a good job. I am not one of these people. I do much better when I

think things through carefully, and research them properly — and don't come up with my topic only hours before the deadline.

Another common excuse for procrastinating is lack of time. This includes "I was too busy", "I had a million other things I had to do first", and "I need sleep!" This is a great excuse, and I use it all the time, especially where returning letters is concerned, but it really doesn't apply this time. I do not have a job, or anything else important to do. As a matter of fact, this is the most interesting thing I've had to do all week. However, I have managed to fill up my time with important activities like watching TV and solving crossword puzzles.

Now we approach the "I forgot" section. "I forgot to do it." "I forgot what I was going to write about." "What! Is this due today?" Of course this one doesn't really apply to me either. I have known for a week and a half when the deadline was. I remembered to write the article, just figured out what I could write about, and I am writing it the day before it is due. Thus, I need to find another excuse.

My real reason? I think the answer is simply procrastination in its purest form. I just did not get around to it until now. Sure, I could have done this a week ago. I could have had a real topic. However, reality is I am sitting here, the day before deadline writing about waiting until the day before deadline.

If I didn't wait until the last minute, how could I possibly write about waiting until the last minute., and I still wouldn't have a topic. I like that excuse; I think I'll keep it. Hence, I figure I waited until the last minute so I could write about last-minute writing ... but where does that leave the rest of the world? Waiting as long as possible for no apparent reason? Surely everyone has his or her own excuse for procrastinating, though, most of them are not as creative as mine. (After belittling myself for an entire article, I thought it would only be fair to boost my own ego a bit.)

I guess all this has left me to deduce nothing about procrastination- except, perhaps, if it works, why change it?

Have a nice, productive, day.

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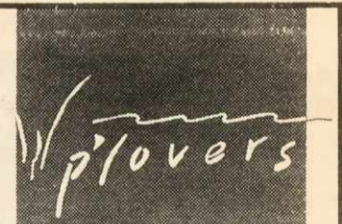
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