

THE NATIONAL COLLEGE **NEWSPAPER**°

By presenting a wide range of opinions and ideas reprinted from hundreds of campus newspapers, we hope to enhance the quality of campus life as we inform, entertain and engage the national student body. We acknowledge the commitment of student journalists across the nation, supported by their media advisers and journalism professors, to report the activities, issues and concerns of their fellow students.

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COMMENT AND OPINION







Putting on a show for the folks

By Jamie Stanek Collegiate Times Virginia Tech U.

What on earth could be more horrifying than waking up the Saturday of Parents' Weekend - hung over - at 10 o'clock in the morning to the beaming faces of Mom and Dad?

"Hi, Mom. Hi, Dad. Be right with you." "Gee, son," clucks my all-tooimpressed father as we walk around campus, "there sure are a lot of skateboards on campus.

"Are they in some kind of club or organization? Is this an engineering lab?

"When I was at school we had all kinds of crazy engineering things going on. You know, it's not too late to become an engineer . . . just like your brother."

So now I hear it again.

The "Why-can't-you-be-more-likeyour-brother-the-megalomaniacal-electrical-engineer-with-the-silicon-brain" speech.

"Aw, c'mon Dad. You know I barely passed Math for Art Majors 101."

Anyway, it's getting pretty awkward about now. Needing to change the subject, I try to think of some diversion that will lead us to more pleasant topics.

Seeing where this is going, it's high

time for me to call an audible. "Hey, let's all go to the duck pond," I suggest, knowing how much Mom really digs the nature scene.

So now people see the happy trio traipsing on down to the duck pond. All the while my dad is muttering, "Eight thousand dollars a year and he isn't going to be an engineer."

Yep, you guessed it. I broke Dad's heart when I came to Tech to study biology. To this day my mother still shakes her head and tells me about his blood pressure whenever the subject comes up.

Lunch has come and gone. I'm still hung over. Somehow, I managed to get 15 bucks off my dad. I told him I'd think about taking a dynamics course.

"Hey, I really have to go . . . three tests next week. Have to keep those grades up," I say.

Okay, so I lie.

I lie like a rug. I lie like a big, hungover rug that wants to sleep all Sunday afternoon.

So I give Dad a firm handshake and Mom a peck on the cheek, then I wave cheerfully as they drive merrily away. Then I slink back to my room and cry myself to sleep. Parents' Weekend: a beautiful, sharing experience or a nightmarish, guilt-filled hell? You decide.

Life after college

I've recently discovered that the only Better off thing I really know about America is nothing. We're not part of the world

when we come to campus. Not even part of the country.

And nothing I've read has ever painted a clear picture of American life

That is, nothing until I found "On an Average Day" by Tom Heymann. This should be on the bookshelf of every student who wants to know what America is all about.

For example, if you're interested in finding out about America's eating habits, Heymann writes that on an average day:

101,280,321 adults are on diets.

24,657,534 hotdogs are eaten.

 16.3 million people eat at McDonald's. These figures might account for the \$1.37 million we spend daily on laxatives and the 2,005,497 heartburns that Americans have each day.

Want to know about relationships? Want to know how you and your sweetheart are going to fare out there? Again, on the average day in America:

• 6,567 couples get married.

3,197 couples get divorced.

■ Men spend 26 minutes cleaning the house; women spend 59 minutes at the task . I say we live on campus for the next

20 years. Everyone cleans — or doesn't clean - their own dorm room. 1,109,589 condoms are bought;

women purchase 443,836 of them.

So, we've come a long way in some areas, but not as far in others; women buy almost as many condoms as men do, but they still do more than half of the housework.

America's spiritual state isn't looking so good either. While Christian bookstores sell 34,932 Bibles a day, 41,096 calls are made to dial-a-porn services.

The worst news of all, however, is that every day four people call Graceland asking to speak to Elvis.

Well, that's America for ya. Stay in college as long as you can.

Don't go out there. Statistics don't lie.

 Bob Bobala, The Daily Collegian, U. of Massachusetts, Amherst



Is it a violation of the First Amendment to regulate music and art for obscenity?

In the September issue, we asked students if regulating music and art for obscenity is a violation of First Amendment rights. Eighty percent of students who responded said they think it is a violation, while 20 percent

It's definitely a violation, but I think we can all outlive 2 Live Crew's articulation of the English language. ...'

> Michelle Krauss, Monmouth College, N. J.

66 No, because those are forms of entertainment, and they must fall under the norms of society."

> John Durham **U. of Cincinnati**

66 It is definitely against our rights to have any member of society judge what we say, read, write or record."

> Jeff Brown U. of Missouri, Columbia

NOVEMBER QUESTION

Do you want '60s-style activism to return to American campuses?

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