

Tech too

North Carolina State University's Newspaper Since 1920

Thursday



College used to be the last hoo-rah before marriage. Now romance and children take a backseat to careers.

Joe Romano 1972

Most college students hope to one day find someone special to marry; others have already made that decision; and still others, like Technician's own Claxton Graham, are confirmed bachelors. However one feels about marriage, it is important to all of us.

Unfortunately, divorce is also a part of many students' past, present or future. Even when both spouses agree divorce is necessary, it's still usually painful.

This issue of *Techtoo* explores topics most students either have faced or will face. We have tried to include something for everyone.

We hope you enjoy this issue. And more importantly, we hope you come away from it with more of an understanding of marriage and divorce than when you picked it up.

Keith Jordan

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TECHNICIAN

Serving North Carolina State University since 1920.

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On the Cover

After college, marriage is usually the next big step in a person's life.

Illustration by Joe Procopio

MARRIAGE N DIVORCE

Students reflect on the perils and possibilities

By Alan Jones
Staff Writer

Marriage has been on my mind for the past few months; I'm engaged. I'm very happy to soon be married, but with change comes possible consequences. One of the many possible consequences of marriage is divorce. I'm going to marry once, for life. But I imagine most people think the same thing.

N.C. State University students' opinions about marriage and divorce seem largely to be the result of observation of their parents and their friends' parents. Many people, despite public opinion, have

parents that have been together, and plan to stay together, a long time. But everybody knows someone whose parents are divorced. It's a fact of life.

Many students think marriage is entered into much too casually.

"It seems to be these days that you get married and see if it works out," said Marilyn Doss, a junior majoring in math.

Paula Fluke, a senior majoring in chemistry education, said "I think too many people are jumping into [marriage] too quickly without thinking about it." Most students agree that marriage requires serious thought, but what should you consider?

Students agree that a couple should

make sure they have enough in common before getting married.

"Just make sure you have the same ideas and the same morals, because otherwise you're going to have problems," said Anna Gilman, a senior in psychology.

"My mom always said you should know who you are before you get married, so you don't find out later that you don't have anything in common [with your spouse]," said Michelle McAtee, a junior in psychology.

People also agree that being married takes a high level of responsibility. After you're married, there are always at least two people to consider with every decision.

As an anonymous student said, "Marriage is all fine and good, but it means you can't sleep around."

Marriage is a commitment to share the remainder of your life with, and grow with, your significant other.

Another consideration of marriage is whether to have, and how many, children. Marilyn Doss said "You should get married, but you shouldn't have kids until after you're sure you're going to stay together."

Paula Fluke agreed. "Don't stay together just because of the kids. I knew for two

Relationships not all good

By Claxton A. Graham
Staff Writer

To be so well known and not be known at all is an agonizing and lonely experience. I have people I've never seen before give me kudos on the opinion columns I write for Technician. Odds are that, if we see each other again, the focus of the conversation will be my columns.

I also have people I've never heard of call me at WKNC and thank me for my newscasts. Chances are that, unless I know them already, I never will.

I'm probably one of the most easily recognized people on this campus, and I don't say that with arrogance or pride. If you manage to stick around as long as I have, you become acquainted with a bunch of folks. And I know I've been around a long time, because now I have faculty members who thought I had graduated.

I have been around long enough to see everyone close to me graduate and get on with their lives. Thanks to a bad jaw and an even worse choice of major—I was originally in civil engineering—I'm still here. At least here in Raleigh, I can walk to just about any place I need to

go. Mission Valley is just across Western Boulevard. Cameron Village and Reader's Corner are a little further away, but still it's a fairly easy trip. And as long as the Wolfline is running, I can always go out to K-Mart for some new socks.

Going home to Mount Holly is like being sent into exile. Going out is out of the question, because I don't have a car and because I don't have any money. Even if I did have that, who would I ask out? Everybody in town is either related to me or dating someone else. Walk to the library? Forget it. That's four miles away on one of the most heavily-travelled roads in Gaston County. And, of course, to do some real shopping, I'd have to go to Gastonia or Charlotte.

Yeah, and when I go home, I run into everyone I know. I bet that between me and my dad, we know everybody in the bloody county. And everyone has some kind of life. The people from my high school graduating class who came to NC State have all good jobs now and getting on with life.

Sure, being single is fun sometimes. You don't have to worry about fulfilling the needs of a "significant other", and you

can basically come and go as you please. But it gets awfully lonely on Friday and Saturday nights. While many of my friends are enjoying some sort of companionship, I have the pleasure of doing my laundry or trying to finish a book. Sure, I love to read, but books can only provide so much solice.

And yes, I still do have some good friends here, but again, few of them know about the other side of me. Believe it or not, I like to raise hell sometimes. I get vicious and nasty, I throw things, I yell and scream like a banshee. And then, sometimes, I like to be quiet, just sit and think and reflect and plan, without outside interference, without thought to what is going on around me.

All most people see of me is the nice-guy image, the person who is good for a smile and a kind word. I'm expected to be the one in control, to come through in the clutch situations, to restore order when it is threatened or lost. Surely, I am the one who should have a girlfriend somewhere.

The simple truth is that I don't I never have. And I can always tell when I find someone I'd like to ask out. She's intelligent, attractive, witty, and we get



Technician File Photo

Some students don't have anyone special to spend time with.

along great. There's just the simple matter of exterminating

See IT'S NOT, Page 8

Faggart: Gay marriage is a choice that should be legal

By Andrew Lloyd
Staff Writer

Heterosexual marriage is a common practice in the United States. A man and a woman get married, have children, work to support those children and finally die.

That is the traditional American family pattern. But recently, homosexuals have been trying to obtain legal recognition for marriage.

"There is no good reason to

deny gay marriage," said Rob Faggart, co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Student Union.

Currently, they cannot marry because most marriage laws specify men and women. And in the few states where the writing is ambiguous about gender, marriages have not been granted to gay couples.

Legally recognized gay marriages would allow couples rights in their relationship that exist in conventional marriages, such as spousal legal rights,

insurance coverage, tax breaks, etc.

Faggart said people argue against gay marriage because it doesn't produce children, that it's not good for kids, and that, if you legalize gay marriage, you should legalize polygamy and bigamy. He said those reasons don't make sense.

"Why let sterile people, the elderly, or professionals who don't want to have children, get married?" he asked.

"The local Domestic

Partnership Laws are the closest recognition of marriage gays can get," Faggart said.

These laws convey specific rights to heterosexual couples who don't want to marry, grandchildren who have to leave with their grandparents, and gay couples. However, these laws are not uniform.

Students at N.C. State University seem to have mostly positive views about homosexual marriage.

"I think legal [gay] marriage is OK," said Jason Horn, a sophomore with an undeclared major. "It shouldn't be looked

down upon. It's people's own business what they do."

Some students feel that the differences between straight and gay people are not very important.

"Sexual preference: that's all that's different," said Ben Wood, a junior in animal science. He said he opposes gaybashing.

But some students oppose gay marriage on either moral, religious or social grounds. Either because they think homosexuality is a sin or

See GAY, Page 8

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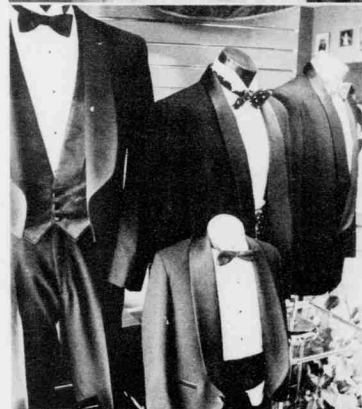
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A wedding guide for the truly ignorant



(3) Liz Mahrncke/Staff

Wedding dresses (top left), tuxedos (above) and shoes (right) are a few of the things needed.

By Maria McKinney
Staff Writer

Here comes the bride, but not without some very intricate and painstaking preparation. The prospect of marriage is a romantic notion, but the process that takes a couple from a proposal to the altar can often be anything but romantic.

The first and most important step in planning a wedding is to find a good wedding consultant. The wedding consultant can provide guidance for the couple and, if the couple wishes, can actually help with the preparations.

Another important decision a couple must make is whether to have a traditional or modern wedding. A traditional wedding is usually held in a church, with the bride wearing a white gown. A modern wedding, though, is a bit less restricted. A couple who chooses a modern wedding may basically do whatever they want without any limitations.

After the type of wedding has been decided, a minister or other official and a place for the wedding must be chosen. Traditionally, weddings are held in a church, though couples may

choose almost any location for their marriage ceremony.

Weddings may take place in a garden, a home or even in a bar — some place that the couple feels strongly about or has some strong attachment to. For an outside wedding, it's a good idea to choose an alternate location in case of bad weather.

After choosing a place for the ceremony, the couple needs to select a location for the reception, normally held in a different location after the ceremony. Couples often have their receptions in fellowship halls, gymnasiums, homes or recreational halls.

The next step is to decide who will be in the ceremony. The bride must choose a maid of honor and bridesmaids, while the groom must choose groomsmen and a best man. Most weddings also include ushers, a ringbearer and a flower girl.

The bride must then choose her and the bridesmaids' dresses. The bride may decide to purchase a wedding dress. If she chooses this option, she must be fitted several times for the dress to fit correctly.

Another option is to have the dress custom-made, a process

that requires much more time and effort and even more fitting appointments.

Dresses also may be rented from the couple's wedding consultant, a less expensive and less time-consuming endeavor.

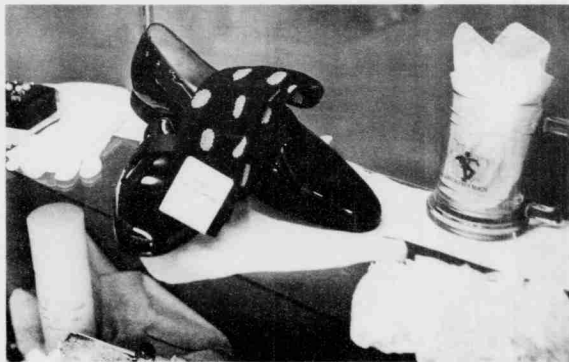
Similarly, bridesmaids' dresses may be purchased, made or rented. They are often chosen and ordered from magazines provided by the wedding consultant. Each bridesmaid must be fitted for any of the options chosen.

The groom must also choose tuxedos for himself, as well as for the best man and ushers. Fittings are not as difficult for the tuxedos as for the dresses, but it's still important to make sure the suits fit.

After selecting the clothing, the couple must then choose the wedding rings. Rings are usually bought from a jeweler, but some couples use family heirlooms. The groom purchases the bride's engagement ring and wedding band, while the bride pays for the groom's wedding band.

A wedding cake must be ordered at least one month in

See **PREPARATION**, Page 8



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Divorce can be traumatic for everyone involved

Children of breaking families suffer along with their parents

By Randy Saunders

Len Bagwell is going to participate in his mother's wedding this coming February. Bagwell, a junior in communications, is excited about his mother getting remarried. Five years ago, Bagwell was the best man of his father's wedding.

"Through the pain of divorce, my parents have found their happiness," Bagwell said, "which proves that divorce isn't fatal."

Bagwell also believes that his parents' remarriages have helped him cope with the tragedy that happened nearly eight years ago. Many teens and young adults are having to cope with families broken apart by divorce.

One in four students grows up living with a single parent; one in six belongs to a step-family. These alarming statistics are much higher than 25 years ago, and they continue to escalate. Divorce has had an effect on today's teens and young adults as they approach parenthood.

Divorce is a traumatic experience for a child to go through, no matter what their age. Many folks believe that children recover and are able to have perfectly normal adult lives.

However, psychologist Judith Wallerstein, author of *Second Chances*, doesn't necessarily agree. She has found that a disturbingly large number of young people suffer the consequences of divorce many years after the fact.

"Almost half of the children of divorce enter adulthood as worried, underachieving, self-deprecating and sometimes angry young men and women."

Also, among the findings of her research, which is drawn out over fifteen years, is that two-thirds of the girls are unable to make lasting commitments and are fearful of betrayal in intimate relationships. Many boys fail to develop a sense of independence, confidence or purpose. They tend to drift in and out of college and from job to job.

In some cases, a divorce ends the hostilities between the child's parents. However, in other families, the divorce doesn't stop the fighting. In fact, the war escalates. Parents will argue at the doorstep or on the phone. Sometimes parents will persuade their children to pick sides.

These scenarios affect the child's ability to cope with the divorce. If the fighting ceases, the child will more than likely recover and carry on into adulthood.

Another effect on a child's recovery from divorce is step-families. Step-families are a result of the child's parent getting remarried. A step-parent's approach to discipline is much different from the parent's method. Bagwell feels that the step-parent must gain the respect of the child.

"After all, the step-parent is trying to replace the parent that was once there," Bagwell said.

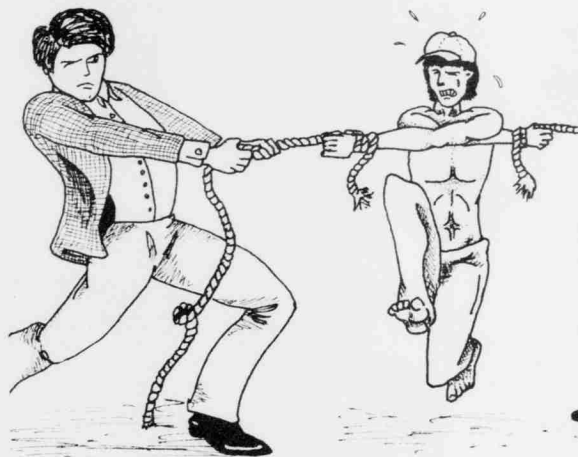
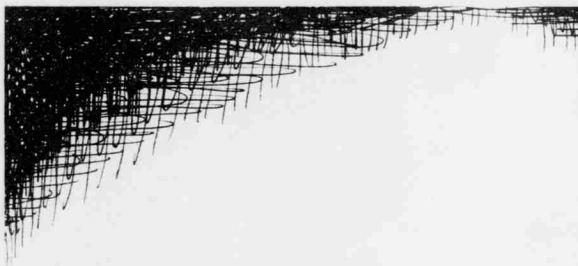
A step-parent must put a lot of effort into the child to gain their acceptance. A lot of step-parents never gain acceptance or they simply don't try hard enough.

Then there's the step-siblings. A child has a hard enough time getting along with their natural brothers and sisters. Force them to live with step-children and an adverse situation can occur.

Bagwell lived not only with his natural brother, but two step-sisters, and a half-brother share his quarters.

"It was like the Brady Bunch. At first, there was a power struggle," Bagwell said, speaking of his step-sister Amanda, who was also an oldest child, "but we've grown into a family over time." This is a positive situation. Many step-siblings never get along with each other.

So, with this background, what does the future hold for the children whose families were broken by divorce? The federal government projects that 61 percent of the children born in 1987 will spend some time in a single-parent household before they are 18-years-old.



"This is a far cry from Ozzie and Harriet! What kind of parents will these children be? Will they become parents? Will they get married? Their parents' divorce has put stipulations in these questions. Many fear that their parents' failed marriages are a bad omen for them.

Despite his parents' divorce, Bagwell hasn't shunned the hope for a family of his own. He feels that his parents' trouble will make him more cautious in selecting a mate.

"I'm looking for someone who is willing to make a lifelong commitment," Bagwell said,

"because I don't want to put myself, my wife, or my children through the pain that I had to experience."

This is the concern of many young adults of divorce. Some just aren't willing to chance going through the pain a second time.

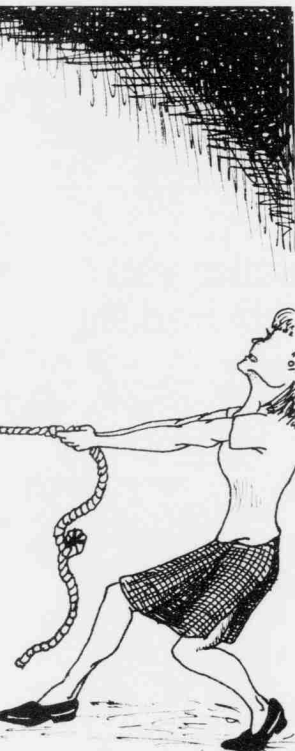
What about those who get married and have children? How will they raise their kids?

Dr. Lawrence Kutner, Ph.D who writes for the *New York Times*, said, "It's a mistake to believe that we can rely largely on our own experiences as children and adolescents to guide

us as parents or teachers. We cannot blindly follow or reject our parents' approaches to bringing up children. The rules of the game have changed."

Meanwhile, Len Bagwell only focuses on the happiness of his parents' separate lives. After his mother remarries, Bagwell's family will consist of a mother, a father, a step-mother, a step-father, a natural brother, a half-brother, a step-brother, and four step-sisters.

"There is a whole lot of love offered in this big of a family," Bagwell said, "but Christmas shopping will be tough."



Angela Pridden '92

Married students find both strengths and weaknesses

By John Harrington

Staff Writer

College students have many responsibilities to contend with while they are at school. The rigorous pace of the curriculum leaves little time for much else, and if those students happen to be married, the responsibilities soon multiply.

According to University Planning and Analysis, there were 3,914 married students last year. Of that amount, 878 were undergraduate students, 1,637 were graduate students, and 1,399 were special students.

N.C. State University offers a helping hand to such individuals in the form of E.S. King Village. E.S. King Village has about 295 apartments for housing married students.

"The majority of the dwellers in E.S. King Village are non-traditional, older students in graduate programs," said Mark Denke, Associate Director for Housing and Resident Life. "Many of them have children."

Comparatively speaking, the rent for these apartments is considerably lower than for other apartments in Raleigh. For example, a two-bedroom goes for about \$275.00. Needless to say, there is a very long waiting list.

Dudley Lameck, a graduate student from Tanzania, lives at E.S. King Village with his wife and two children. He is working on his Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension.

"I find that I have to use my time more wisely than if I was single," said Lameck. "I go to school and I work twenty hours part-time. My wife also works, so I want to make sure I help out with dinner and the children's



Angela Pridden/Staff

E.S. King Village gives married students a place on campus.

homework."

Despite his hectic schedule, Lameck is very concerned about spending quality time with his children.

"Being in America, it's very easy for my children to forget the traditional values of my homeland," he said. "I've got to work to make sure that doesn't happen."

He hopes to return with his family to Tanzania in about three years.

Bongtae Kim, another resident at E.S. King Village, has similar concerns. Kim transferred here from the University of Korea and is currently working on his Ph.D. in Computer Engineering.

Kim has a wife and two children who are seven and five years old. His schedule can be quite demanding and he wants to make sure that his children don't forget their heritage.

"I've known some people who had returned to Korea from America and their children couldn't even speak Korean," he said. He plans to return to his homeland in about three years.

According to some married

students who left work to further their education, school is more challenging than their previous jobs were. Carolyn Waff, a 1984 East Carolina University graduate, came back to school after eight years because she wants to change her career. She is taking courses at NCSU in hopes of being accepted to the nursing school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"I'm much more serious about school now," she said. "Before I just went to college because I had to."

She said being married has a settling effect and helps her to concentrate more on her schoolwork. She suggests that students should go out and talk to professionals in their desired major in order to see what the job really entail in terms of working conditions and financial security.

Other married students, Sherry McLamb, a junior in middle grades education, is also returning to school because of

See **FAMILIES**, Page 8

Single-parent families becoming more widespread

Unmarried fathers the new trend

TechToo Staff Report

Dan Quayle may not like the idea of it, but single parents make up a significant portion of American society. Because of divorce, separation, death of spouse, or just never marrying,

single parents exist and in growing numbers. In the past couple of decades, the lifestyle of Americans has changed drastically.

The mass media has increased the public's awareness of different lifestyles. Longer lifespan has also affected the relationships of adults to their spouse, their children and society. At one time, single parents were at best, regarded with sympathy. But many today think of single parenting as an accomplishment.

"I think good of it" said Emily Heesch, a first-year psychology major. "It takes a lot to raise a kid on your own."

"I have nothing to say negatively about it because more than half of American women are single parents," says Amy Calbreth, engineering undergraduate.

Being a single parent takes a lot of guts and a lot of sacrifices explained Curtis Dancy II, computer engineering And one

of the major problems of being a single parent, especially a female single parent, is the reduced income. There are also the problems of balancing one's social and family lives, and one's business and family lives.

"If it were me, I don't know how I would handle it, the responsibility of a child and myself, especially while attending college," said Dana Staumbach, textiles engineering.

"I could have a car right now, and crazy money, but I don't care," said Dancy.

With mother-headed, one-parent families usually being the case, the new change for society to adjust is to single fathers. Now they are usually the ones regarded with sympathy.

"The scenario for a male is stupid," said Dancy, who is a single parent. "People say, 'I am so proud of you.' I never ask for sympathy." He is my responsibility."

With the help of his parents,

See **SINGLE**, Page 11

It's not easy being single in a world of couples

Continued from Page 4

her boyfriend, that's all.

If it sounds like I'm whining, I'm not really, but these are the things that people just don't see about Claxton Graham. I don't have anyone in my life at the moment with which to be so intimate about my thoughts and feelings. Even after I graduate and get a job and (FINALLY!) get a car, I won't have that. That is why I would like to dangle Michael Bolton over an aquarium tank full of hungry sharks and take out Cupid with

a Patriot missile. That's also why I cut February 14 out of every calendar I own and pray for a blizzard on that day.

Not every unattached person feels as strongly as I do. Some truly savor the experience of flying through life solo. But I am so passionate about this one issue, simply because I want to remember what singleness has been like for me. If I ever do get married, and if I ever do have children, I want them to know that I'm not out of touch with their feelings, that I do remember what it was like growing up as a teenager and a college student,

constantly under pressure to do my best and be my best in every facet of life.

I want my kids to know that they are loved, that it is okay for them to feel left out of one of life's many loops and be fighting mad and confused and scared and pained. But I also want them to know that being single is not the end of life itself. Rather, it can be a wonderful beginning to life.

Some of history's greatest figures went through without ever being attached. Queen Elizabeth I of England; James Buchanan, the 15th President of the

United States; Martin Luther, the German clergyman who single-handedly began the Reformation; and Ellen Glasgow, winner of the 1941 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, are among that illustrious group.

Perhaps I am destined to go through the rest of my life without the benefit of having someone to share my victories and defeats with. Maybe I won't ever have a wife and kids to occupy my thoughts. But I'm doing the best I can, and that's not easy.



Courtesy Touchstone

Fathers of brides like Steve Martin often struggle with wedding preparations.

Preparation vital for a smooth wedding

Continued from Page 5

advance if the couple wants a bakery to make the cake. A less expensive way to have a cake is to ask a friend or relative to make it.

After all of this preparation, it's time to make a guestlist and send out the invitations. Invitations are another thing usually handled by a wedding consultant; the couple picks out the ones they like, and the consultant orders them. It's

usually best to send out invitations at least six weeks before the wedding ceremony.

A rehearsal should be held the night before the actual ceremony. Traditionally, participants eat dinner immediately before or after the rehearsal.

After all of this preparation, the day of the wedding finally arrives! The bride can now walk down the aisle, the couple can take their vows, and — glad that the stress of the wedding is over — enjoy the honeymoon.

Gay

Continued from Page 4

because they think gay marriage will hurt the fabric of the country, they hope such relationships remain illegal.

Clay Arceneaux, a sophomore in communication, said "I don't approve of the lifestyle, so no, I don't approve of gay marriages."

Families

Continued from Page 7

the effect the economy has had on her old job, and because she has always wanted to work with children. She, like Waff, is looking for added job security. She has recently received a scholarship so she no longer has to work part-time.

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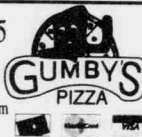
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Fiction

Darrin Millsaps is a senior majoring in textile engineering. Originally from Stony Point, N.C., Darrin is currently taking a fiction writing course at NCSU.

Darrin says the inspiration for his story comes from the fighting in what used to be Yugoslavia.

Important Gains



The sky spun drunkenly about, just before the blackness. There was ringing, some murmurings in the distance. He lay on his back staring back up at the blue sky, streaked with wisps of white. It struck him as very strange that the noise was gone, the thunder of rifles and artillery had faded to the dull murmur in the distance.

His mouth felt dry and tacky and his tongue stuck to his lips. There was wheat, he realized, all around him. The sound of his breathing seemed to come from inside of him. At the back of his neck, he could feel the prickling sensation of the crushed stalks against his skin. In his nostrils surged the smell of a field, grass wet with dew, and it reminded him of his childhood.

Vaguely, he began to recall the impact. It has felt like being tackled by a forward, a particularly rough forward. Images of a green soccer field slipped fleetingly through his mind. Rolling his eyes all around, he could see only the wheat and the sky. Closing them now, he let his head fall to the side. In his mind, amidst a grey fog, came the memories of the last year. A surprise party for a friend, the puppy and hunting in the forest with his father and uncles.

The recognition came upon him in an overpowering wave. He tried to let out a yell but all that emerged was a high pitched whimper. The sound surprised him and he felt ashamed to have made it. He had to lift his head, had to get a look at

himself.

Craning his neck and trying to raise up, he felt the pain completely for the first time. Like ice picks embedded into his

By Darrin S. Millsaps

His head fell back to the earth, sending the tears pushing their way down his temples. A sensation of cold swept through him. He wanted to shudder and shake it off, but his body no longer seemed to belong to him. It was as if he were truly alone, as though the thoughts in his mind were the only ones in the universe.

chest, the shooting pains throbbled with every heart beat. Something felt warm under his back. Tears welled into his eyes. Slowly he shook his head from side to

side, then began thrashing it about in defiant rage. The anger flushed his face, the blood making him turn red. Again he strained to look upon his body. The pain, never having really left, intensified 20-fold. Weakness in his arms made the simple motion an arduous ordeal, but finally he was able to see the wound.

In the morning light, the ripped fabric of his jacket glistened with liquid saturation. It struck him how crimson red the blood seemed, so alive. It was alive with his life. The pools of tears that had been building around his eyes streamed down his cheeks, which faded from pink to pasty white. To his left, he noticed how the blood moved off, creeping through the dirt and around the wheat stalks.

Anger returned to him, anger at the blood for deserting him, anger at the pain, anger at this life that seemed ready to abandon him. Strangely, there was no anger at the unknown figure that had fired the rifle or toward the officers that had ordered him forward. More tears followed in the tracts pioneered by the ones before.

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Marriage on many students' minds

Continued from Page 3

years that my parents were going to get divorced. They didn't tell me."

Every student agreed that children can only get hurt when their parents get divorced.

Many students have very specific ideas about marriage that make sense but are very little help when considering committing your life. Shalea Nuttle, a senior in multidisciplinary studies, said "There's no way to know for certain, but if you end up getting divorced you probably should not have gotten married."

Anna Gilman said, "You should only have to [get married] once."

College life often has the image of a party a day with classes when you're not too hung over. While not true, with hectic homework and an active social life, it's not surprising that many students haven't given a thought to settling down. James Burtis, a junior in mechanical engineering, said "I'm not ready

for [marriage or divorce]."

Others have already decided that they're never getting married. Eric Wright, a junior in physics said "I hate the idea of marriage so I probably won't get divorced."

Stephanie Parker, a sophomore in chemistry said "The easiest way to avoid divorce is not to get married in the first place."

But most students have decided that while marriage is certainly something they will be interested in eventually, it isn't for them during college. Kathryn Klawiter, a sophomore in meteorology, said "A really good idea, but only after I've graduated; marriage, that is."

Michelle McAtee said "I think I'll get married sometime after graduation and have two point whatever kids."

Though students think divorce is something to be avoided, most haven't thought about how to avoid it. Sean Paus, a senior in computer science, said "Lots of marriages are broken up by stupid mistakes."

Marilyn Doss said "It's lack of



Angela Pridgen/Staff

Many students have already decided who they will marry. There is a large number of engaged students.

communication, that's all it is."

Even those students who have thought about marriage and divorce sometimes haven't reached a concrete opinion. Jamin Skipper, a senior in animal science, said, "Marriage and divorce ... umm ... oh my ...

extremely controversial." He went on to explain the source of his indecision.

"My sister's on her second [husband], my brother's going on his second, and the children from [my sister's] first have problems."

He did have one positive comment, however: "Divorce is really better than bheeding your wife."

Gains

Continued from Page 9

Everything was quiet now, even the sound of his breathing had faded. He was aware that his chest was rising and falling in short, rapid movements, but still there was no sound. He closed his eyes, feeling very tired. A sense of numbness seemed to be spreading through him. He tried to wet his lips but there was no moisture in his mouth. Strangely, he could barely feel his lips, a feeling not unlike that after eating ice.

The anger had left him now, replaced by a sense of resignation that just hinted of remorsefulness. The numbness seemed to be even slipping into his brain. He hadn't felt this tired

since the second day of his summer training camp. Only images passed through his mind now, fragments of scattered memories, without pattern or significance.

He was not aware of the two people who had reached his side, each hunched forward on their knees. One placed a wadded up jacket under his head, while the other fumbled with the plastic and paper of a field dressing packet. The other now sprinkled a yellow-white powder over the wound, which was followed by the dressing. The man to his left felt something warm and wet seeping through the fabric against his knee. Further inspection revealed a reservoir underneath the wounded man which neither of them had seen. One man cursed, although it did not strike him as odd that he was more concerned about the waste

of the bandage than the man before him.

In another moment he was alone again, the other two men had moved on to a man who lay screaming 20 yards further up. His breathing had slowed, but was still shallow and weak. The coherency of his thoughts faded in and out, much like the radio reception from a far away city. Before his mind lost its grasp, in his last moments, he found himself wondering what he would have named his children. In a corner of his mind, at the end, he felt guilty for having denied their existence.

Ten minutes later all the shouting had stopped, save the occasional odd roud. The two sides regrouped and carried their casualties off the fields. The dead were lain in haphazard rows off behind one of the medical tents, so that those who

didn't make it through the field surgery had only a short trip before joining the others. Most of the living men were accounted for and regrouped into their proper units. Some men sat alone in silence, another sat hunched over and vomited. In the rear, the officers and leaders gathered around their maps and talked of important gains.



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Single

Continued from Page 7

Dancy chose to come to school to pursue his career. And as a single parent who attends college, the government offers some specific funds.

From Stephen Atlas' *Single Parenting: A Practical Resource Guide* comes several benefits in brief: less tension, more consistency; flexibility in arranging quality time; democratic approach to resolving conflicts; opportunity to learn and share; and the opportunity for the children gain independence and feel valued as an important part of the household.

"You don't have to worry about that other person," Dancy said.

Being the product of a single parent, Fabienne Rogers, computer engineering, said, "My mom is all the world to me. She steered me in the right directions. She supports me in everything that I try and do. I LOVE MY MOMMY!"

So the family, as a "natural and fundamental unit of society," can exist at a size chosen by that family, said the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



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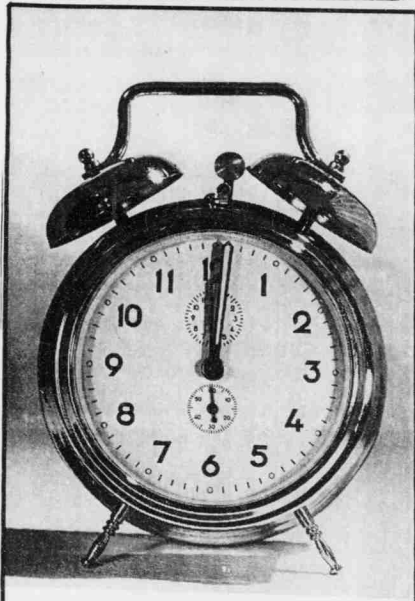
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