

# Opinions

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## Ten Reasons to Finish College the First Time

MALIA KALUA  
Staff Writer

The phone rang at 3:00 a.m. My mom said, "Hurry." My dad might die. I rushed around my overpriced, one bedroom and one bathroom apartment throwing clothes in a bag. Four hours later I was in the hospital with tears streaming down my face.

He lived, and my whole family changed. That was four years ago.

My dad grew up in a family where no one went to college. He married into a family where everyone did. He attended Methodist College until his surgery, which nearly ended his life. He knew the value of a college degree. He wanted the same for me. His only request was that I achieve this before he wasn't here to see me walk across the stage for my diploma.

I was 23 years old then, struggling to pay my bills and still on academic suspension from Radford University. I was up for it. I could do it with their support. This was the first time in a long time that I wanted to.

I attended community college and entered Methodist College this fall. Now I am 26, and a junior.

Here are the facts of the matter. I've never had a friend say they wish they couldn't go back and do it the right way. My conclusion is, I wish I would have too.

With that said:

**Ten Reasons to Finish College the First Time.** Heed my words. Take advice from someone older who would like to think she is wiser.

1. When you're young you can stay up all night. When you're older



photo by Lindsey Tederman  
Spring Graduation 2003 at Methodist College; one reason to finish school

your metabolism slows and even four cups of coffee can't help you stay up all night to finish homework you should have done the week before.

2. The Freshman 15 has now become the Freshman 55. To make it worse, the girls that stayed in school are still only on the Freshman 15.

3. Smoking when you're young makes you think you are cool. Smoking when you're older makes you look wrinkled and smell bad. All the younger students who smoke still think they are cool. You know better.

4. You know after failing out of school and having to work in the "Real World" what occupations you can pursue that will make money. The downside: you know all the fun things won't.

5. You identify more with your professors than you do with the guy sitting in the seat next to you. What a depressing thought.

6. You feel guilty now for making fun of your parents because they complain about their joints aching. After a day of walking around campus with a heavy backpack, your joints ache.

7. The person who supervises your work-study is younger than you,

prettier than you AND to top it off, married and you aren't.

8. Adults are not meant to sit in chairs fit for half the size of their butts. Another downside, your butt is the receptacle of the aforementioned 55.

9. You receive an invitation to your ten year high school reunion and all of your friends have their degrees, families and children. You have none of the above.

10. Your mom no longer sends you money, she tells you you're an adult and to get a job. When you explain to her that your occupation is that of a student and you have work-study to deal with, she laughs and says you should have stayed a student when you were 18.

The moral of my story is to stay in school. Your parents aren't telling you that so that they can get rid of you. Your mom isn't telling you that so she can change your room into her sewing room, although you may come home and it has been converted.

I guess my number 11 would be when you are older you realize your parents are always right. You also realize that they love you and just want the best for you. Just like me and my dad.

## Uncovering the Unusual

compiled from  
<http://www.corsinet.com/trivia/>

MIREYA SALINAS  
Staff Writer

1. A chimpanzee can learn to recognize itself in a mirror, but monkeys can't.

2. In 1841, Tim Hyer was the first recognized boxing (fisticuffs) champion.

3. Canada declared national beauty contests cancelled as of 1992, claiming they were degrading to women.

4. A typical lightning bolt is two to four inches wide and two miles long.

5. Fortune cookies were invented in 1916 by George Jung, a Los Angeles noodle maker.

6. Beethoven's last symphony was his 9th.

7. Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

8. The average human body contains enough: iron to make a 3 inch nail, sulfur to kill all fleas on an average dog, carbon to make 900 pencils, potassium to fire a toy cannon, fat to make 7 bars of soap, phosphorous to make 2,200 match heads, and water to fill a ten-gallon tank.

9. The only rock that floats in water is pumice.

10. In 1925, the 1st motel — the "Motel Inn" — opened in San Luis Obispo, California.