

Whines & Gripes

collected by Ashleigh Phillips and Emily Gamiel

I can hear you crunching your carrots over the professor's lecture. Talk about distracting.

Students in Gaddy-Hamerick, please stop vandalizing my art that is hanging on the walls. I spend a lot of time and effort on my pieces.

Corn, don't you know I need sleep?

When you go to D.H. Hill to giggle, it reinforces the MRS degree stereotype.

Don't complain about not knowing the material when you repeatedly skip class.

Leggings are not pants. No one wants to see the outline of your girly parts.

Did this freshman just try to tell the professor, with a doctorate, which map to use?

The ground floor of the library may not be labeled "Silent," but it does not entail talking loudly about your personal life for 45 minutes.

By the looks of our unkempt locker rooms, I would think I was in the football locker room at State.

Looking forward to Fall Break so I can catch up on homework.

Class of 2012, get it together. You are supposed to know how to organize events by now.

Pole Dancing... For Jesus?

Lizzie Wood, Staff Writer

A new trend in fitness has some concerned. We all know what pole dancing is. We often relate it to stripping, and we sometimes judge those who participate in it regularly. Whether or not you strip while you pole dance, it does not take away from the fact that it serves as a great form of exercise. Pole dancing is nothing new in the fitness world. Programs such as Flirty Girl Fitness decided to make a profit off women who wanted a fun, sexy workout years ago.

Crystal Deans, a resident of Texas, opens her dance studio once a month—a Sunday of course—to religious women who want to participate in pole dancing. She calls her program "Pole Dancing With Jesus." While the women are not in the studio actively worshiping or reading the Bible, they do listen to upbeat Christian music. Also, women do have to show their church bulletins to get into the studio on Sunday. The workouts are aimed at women who want a fun, spiritual

way to burn calories. Deans is quoted as saying, "God gives us these bodies and they're supposed to be our temples and we're supposed to take care of them, and that's what we're doing."

While several news outlets in her area have covered the pole dancing classes with a negative spin, Deans stands by her belief that there is nothing wrong with mixing pole dancing and religion. In an article written by Kristen Kane on Myfoxxhouston.com, Deans explains, "Just to get past the whole stigma of the whole thing, I'm very Christian. I go to church every Sunday and I pray. I talk to God about things like that. I think there's nothing wrong with what I do. I teach women to feel good about themselves, to feel empowered and we get in really good shape. God is the only person that judges, so anybody who wants to judge me, feel free, but I'm good with God, so that's what's impor-

tant to me and I really don't care what people think." She states that while she has met some controversy (some men came to the studio waving Bibles), the women who participate are responding well to her program. Tiffany Booth, a woman who actually participates in the classes, also expresses her belief in the program on myfoxxhouston.com: "I think it's a fabulous thing. I was raised around religion. My parents were very religious and it's a great way you get the stigma off. It's not just dancing on a pole. You have music and you have girls together working out and it's a different kind of workout. There's tons of different kinds of workouts; this just happens to be one." Pole Dancing With Jesus may not be the most well-known spiritual form of exercise, but if it serves as a good cardio workout and if the women feel that their religious beliefs are not compromised, why not participate?

The Love Triangle Molly Ashline, Staff Writer Education, the Meredith Angel, and Her Man

If you walk around the Meredith College campus on any given sunny day you may be temporarily blinded by the glinting of a few engagement rings. I don't know if that glare reflects from these girls' textbooks and prevents them from effectively studying, but according to Lacy Bass, a Meredith freshman and recently engaged student, it doesn't. That's good news for any woman hoping to put a ring on it before graduating. According to Lacy, her fiancé actually influences her to do well in school: "He's my support system and always has been my support system...either way, he's my motivator." It's interesting to hear such a response since many young women, including me, have thought that relationships, especially such serious relationships, have a negative impact on schoolwork because of how distracting they can be.

Many could see the choice of getting engaged as immature because they see a decision like this as being an interference with schoolwork. The question "how can she study and do well when she's with her fiancé or planning her wedding all the time?" comes to mind. I challenge those who ask this to maybe take a look at their own trysts. How much time do non-betrothed



image via jamesallen.com

girls go trolling around NC State's campus for distraction of the male persuasion when they could be studying instead? It's easy to say that planning a wedding would take away from study time, but does that mean that going to the club or flirting with a new cute guy cannot?

When I was talking to Lacy, she said something that just struck me as really interesting. She said that the amount of time she spends on her engagement and fiancé is equal to the amount of time she spends on schoolwork, saying "You can't give enough attention to one or the other."

I think very often, maybe too much so, we view our lives in discrete stages. I will go to school. I will work. I will get married. I will start a family. For many young

women today, the idea of combining any of those two together is ridiculous, and I can understand why. My mother got married and had children while she was in college and had to drop out. She didn't complete her degree until she was in her mid-thirties. Getting married or starting a family is a huge commitment that one needs to devote a lot of time to, but that doesn't mean it isn't worth it, and it certainly doesn't mean that someone can't both go to school and be in a serious relationship. It just takes massive amounts of discipline and the ability to accept all those responsibilities.

I think that by this point in our lives, we should be allowed to make these decisions for ourselves without tons of negativity surrounding us. Lacy roughly estimated that about fifty percent of the women on campus have a negative opinion about her engagement. That added stress certainly isn't going to help anything. We are considered legal adults who have already had to make a huge life decision in choosing a college, major, and career, so why should the decision for engagement be berated so much?