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But What About College?

TERESA ANASTI

Throughout the halls of NCSSM, it is common to hear students talk about what colleges they applied to, what colleges they received acceptance letters from, or what scholarships are available. However, while it is still a rarity at NCSSM and other schools, some students are looking at college alternatives.

These "alternatives" can provide an education that exceeds that of a four-year university. Options range from traveling the world or talking the year off and going to a university the following year. These options serve to relieve the monotony of typical schoolwork. However, there are also other reasons for college alternatives. One such alternative is offered by the United States academies. These unique programs provide an education that is equal to that of the nation's top universities. This is the perfect choice for young men and women interested in entering the military later in life. Another bonus is that these academies are entirely paid for by the United States; there is no cost involved. Heidi Landry, a senior, is going to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy this fall. She starts a six-week long boot camp on July 5.

"I always wanted to attend an academy as I got older. I wanted to travel, and I felt that the Coast Guard performed more noble missions than people performing in actual combat. In addition, I also really wanted to travel the world," said Heidi.

The Coast Guard Academy lasts for four years. The education during that period is free but graduates must

serve in the military.

"I am very excited, though I am a little scared about serving in the military. I'm just going to go in there with a good attitude," Heidi explained.

Courtney Melton is also planning to try something a little different. She has applied to work with Americorps, a community service organization.

"I wasn't necessarily bored with school, but I thought this was an opportunity that I shouldn't pass up," said Courtney.

Americorps is a national service organization that provides volunteer aid around the country. Volunteers with the program are paid \$9 a day for their help.

"I was talking to this one guy who was enrolled in the ten-month program at the site of the flood [in North Carolina] and he said it was a very rewarding experience. You live in a dorm, just like in college, and get to meet people of all different backgrounds, equally interested in volunteer work," said Courtney.

And the organization does not hinder your education either.

"If I'm accepted, I'm going to be enrolling in college with the 2001 class," Courtney explained. She has been accepted at both Duke and Carolina.

Although it may seem a welcome opportunity from school, these commitments will be as challenging and educational as college. The next year promises to be interesting and gratifying for Courtney and Heidi. Both of them are certainly prepared and excited for the events to come.

Construction in Bryan Dorm

APRIL PRIDGEN

"I never thought the day would come when the SLI's would tell us not to take a shower," says Junior Chelsea Armitage.

Since construction began on Bryan halls, lots of things have changed around the building. Girls are unable to take showers between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M. on weekdays because of workers on the hall. That means if you want to do some major aerobic exercise, you had better do it at a time when you can shower or when you are able to take a shower on another hall. Also, if you have a double sleep-in, you might want to take a shower the night before if you want to take one.

I'm sure most of you have noticed the loud noises in class

and in the hallways recently because of the Bryan dorm wiring project. Just think about what it is like living on a Bryan hall! The only disadvantages of construction are not just lots of noise during sleep-ins and free periods. Students have to con-

that Bryan dorms are not the ideal place to live right now. However, the long-term benefits will be well worth the trouble. Next year, Bryan residents will enjoy air conditioning and internet access for the first time.

"I hate the noisy drilling and pounding while I try to do work during the day, but it should all be worth it someday when we have air conditioning and internet access," says Junior Andrea Kaelin.

If you live on a Bryan hall or attend classes near one, you may not find the construction very funny. However, these are some humorous ways to think about the construction:

The Top Five Best Things about Living on a Bryan Hall while Construction is Going On:

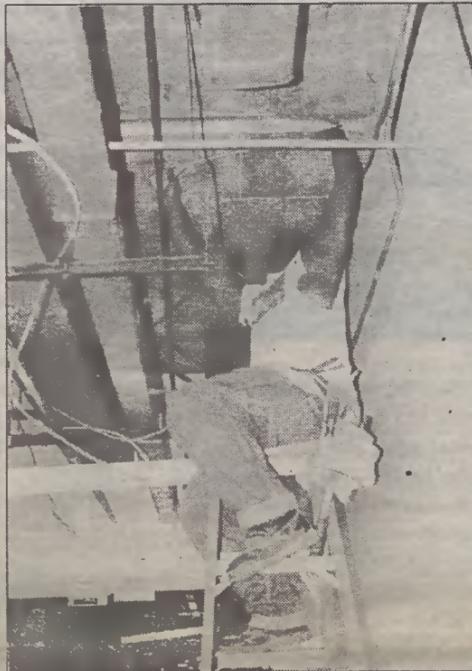
5. The dust from the holes workers drill in the walls provides the perfect excuse for a messy room.

4. Guys can come on hall at times other than I-viz and nobody gets a level for it.

3. You have the perfect excuse not to shower. (Just kidding!)

2. You can explain to your parents that the noise is what's affecting your grades.

1. Being awakened during your double sleep-in by drilling and hammering is the perfect excuse for having a bad day.



Workers in Bryan.

Ashley Rankin

tend with dusty halls as a result of drilling, lots of workers coming on and off of hall, and the doors being propped open during the day.

If you consider all of these factors, you might decide



Naptime for Napster

WILL GARNEAU

The wheeling-and-dealing days of music on the Internet may be coming to an abrupt end. Since last week's announcement that the Internet music company MP3.com would be held liable for copyright infringements facilitated by its website, there have been several lawsuits filed against companies that aid digital music piracy.

Within the last year the MP3 standard for digital music has spawned a mammoth problem for recording companies.

Although there are web sites that cater to users who want to purchase MP3's, most of the recent growth has been in companies that aid in finding copyrighted material on the Internet. These services allow users to type in a song name and receive a list of other users who have those songs on their hard drives. It is an appealing choice for many users because it allows them to get music that they would not normally pay for in a store. However, the recording companies are not pleased about this trafficking in copy-

righted material.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has responded by filing lawsuits against Napster and MP3.com, two of the primary vendors of software that permits copyright abuse. In addition to the RIAA lawsuit, Napster faces a lawsuit filed by the band Metallica for continuing to allow users to trade the band's songs. Howard King, the lawyer that represents Metallica, recently hired NetPD,

~NAPSTER CONTINUED

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Thanks to the staff of *The Stentorian*, it's been a great year