

Married couples adapt to college life

by Lisa Sutherland
Staff Reporter

*For richer or for poorer,
For better or for worse,
Through chemistry and
calculus,
Do you take this person to
be your lawfully wedded
s pouse?*

"Being married doesn't mean you can stop bettering yourself. It means that now you have two people to help, and someone to help you," said Ron Bannucci, married 18 years and working on his teaching credential at UNLV.

Married students are motivated to go to school for someone besides themselves. College represents a chance to help their families, but going to college as a married student can present a lot of problems.

All students get there working long, hard hours. But married students also have to believe that working hard on school and sacrificing time with their families for the next several years is the right thing.

Local marriage and family counselor, Dr. George Carpenter who teaches at Clark County Community College tries to make clear to his students and clients that school is temporary, and that they must see themselves as "survivors."

"It's like being out in a rain-storm, and you don't like the rain. You hunker down into your coat, and hope the rain goes away. [Being a married student means] enduring and persevering to get to a normal life."

Balance is a delicate item for

a student who may also be responsible for a job, a spouse, and possibly children. These students have to reconfirm their goals and priorities everyday. Do they forego some study time for a mid-term to stay home with a sick child? If an important office party is on a night that they have classes, which comes first?

Joanne Meyer, a Secondary Education major who works part-time out of her home, said that school can be her first priority now just because her kids are old enough to understand what school demands of a student.

"Family should come first in a crisis situation, though," she said.

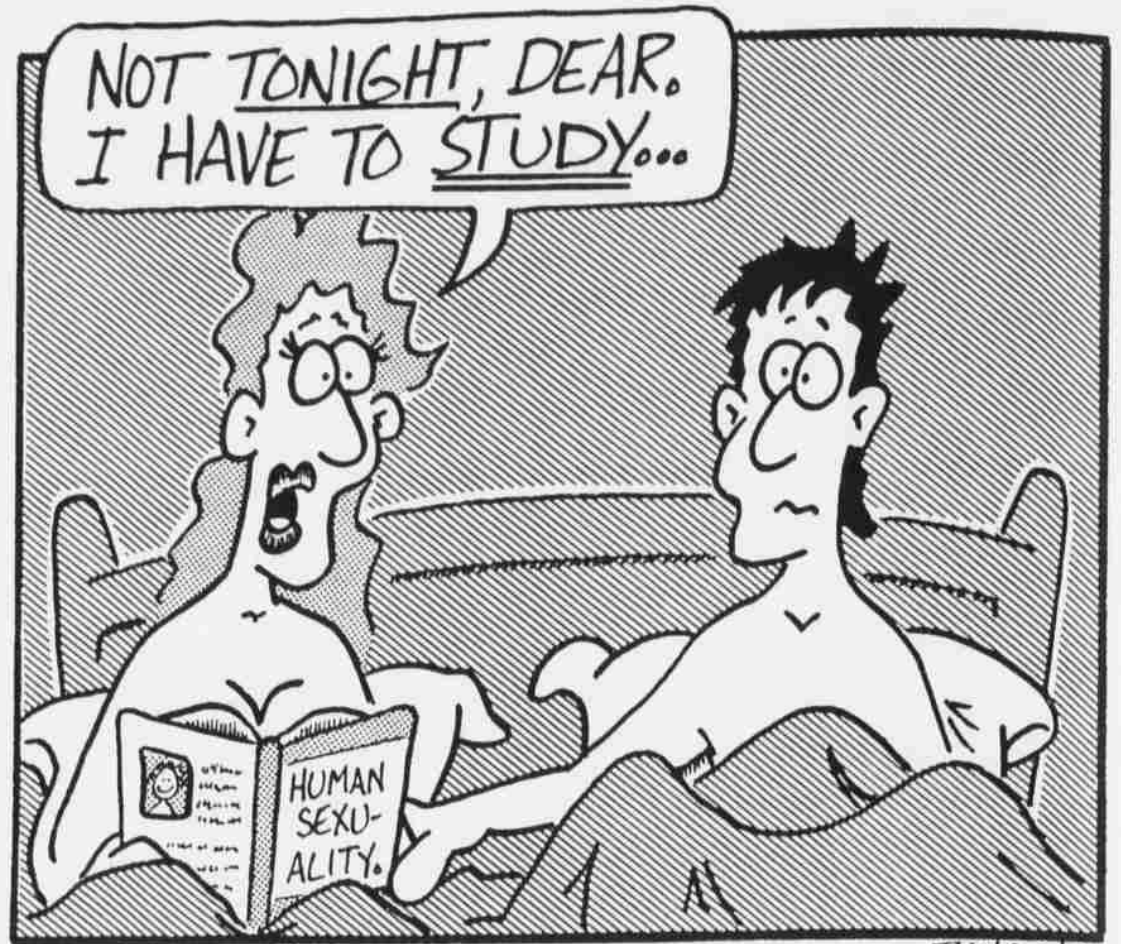
Ron Bannucci holds a different opinion. "My family comes first. School can always be made up later." He added, "I think that it's a great example for my kids to see me studying when they get home from school. They get to see how hard it is to go back, and maybe they'll learn to do it right the first time."

"If the couple is willing to work hard and compromise, then their marriage will have a better chance of surviving through school," said Dr. Carpenter.

Married students seem to need a certain drive to advance themselves for the benefit of their families. In the meantime, families have to recognize some of the consequences they all have to face while they live with a student.

"With a regular job, you can go home and leave the troubles at work," said Laura Hammond, a counseling psychologist at UNLV's Student Development Center.

Hammond explained that



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with school, a student not only has classtime, but also homework. It is hard for some partners and kids to understand why a student can't do housework or pay attention to them, even if they are home and visible.

Concerning time commitments; UNLV Student Body vice president B.J. Engle said, "My husband and I just have to let each other do our own thing right now. We know we can work really hard now while we're young so we can be together comfortably when we're older."

Adjustments may also have to be made by the student to maintain the family atmosphere. "My study room was taken over by a computer, and now everyone is in there," said Mary Cooke, a Biology major carrying a Chemistry minor. "I try to study in the mornings so I can be with everyone when they are home, in the evenings."

Occasionally a spouse who isn't in school may not understand, or be envious of the time and energy required for their partner to be a student. They may

seem unsupportive, but this tension may be a symptom of deeper marital problems.

Dr. Carpenter said blaming college for a couple's problems or divorce is "false blame." The couples who have problems with school "would have had problems eventually."

While every married student on campus may not suffer a marital crisis because they are attending college, school and marriage present a tricky balance, no matter how light a load they are taking.

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Congratulations to the 1990 UNLV Homecoming Court!

- Queen - Shana Hyatt
- King - Nick Simms
- 1st Runners-Up
Barbie Pacchetti/Robert Cudlip
- 2nd Runners-Up
Devona Hicks/Korey Johnson
- 3rd Runners-Up
Donna Stava/Jeff Bauhs
- 4th Runners-Up
Alicia Taylor/Ed Enzmann

Hail the 1990 Homecoming Float Winners:

- President's Cup (Superiority in all categories)
Alpha Tau Omega - ATW
- Royalty (Color & Symmetry)
Alpha Delta Pi/Phi Delta Theta - ADP/FDQ
- Alumni (Technical display & animation)
Sigma Phi Epsilon/Alpha Gamma Delta - SFE/AGD

- Student Government (Spirit)
Sigma Kappa/Lambda Chi Alpha - SK/LCA

Special thanks to all the float participants this year:

Hotel Association, Residential Life, SAE, DSP, SC, KSIDZ, ADP/FDT, SFE/AGD, LCA/SK

Guten Tag! Oktoberfest is Here!

Thursday and Friday, Oct. 25 & 26, Oktoberfest will be celebrated in the same tradition as West Germany! However, instead of celebrating the harvest, students can celebrate the passing of 1/2 of the semester! Two days of fun and excitement will be offered to students through such activities as:

- Performances by Teddy Carpenter, a professional comedian
- A joke contest hosted by Teddy Carpenter - winner will receive \$100
- Free authentic German food to be served both days
- Oktoberfest sweatshirts will be on sale (With purchase of a Oktoberfest sweatshirt, you can get a Homecoming sweatshirt at a discounted price!)
- And more!

All activities are scheduled from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the MSU Courtyard.

For more information or participation, stop by MSU 120 or call 749-3477.

Traci Smith: Director