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CLASS

t's 7 a.m. The alarm rings, and Parween Sultany, 19, forces herself out of bed. She follows the routine of most college students - shower, dress, eat breakfast.

However, Sultany, a sophomore at West Virginia U., has one responsibility that most

college students do not - she has to take

on America's college campuses. A growing

problem is that many colleges aren't help-

top of that, students have the stress of

exams," says Marilee Nieuwasma, director

of KinderCare At Work, a Rutgers U. child-

care center. Rutgers has several child-care

centers across campus, but even those often

Rutgers senior Lisa Germann is frus-

trated by the university's lack of support

systems for finding quality, affordable

care. When other arrangements can't be

made, baby Nicole joins her in statistics

class, "I've taken her with me since she was 2 months old," Germann says.
"It's naive to think that if you're a student, you can't be a parent," says WVU

vidual to run my life. Must be good with

Emily Breedlove can't wait until grad-

taxes, contracts and my schedule.

are overcrowded and have waiting lists.

ing student parents find child care.

This scenario is becoming commonplace

"All parents face stressful times, but on

care of her infant daughter, Shanel Marie.

senior Heather Gibbs. Gibbs couldn't believe that a university as large as WVU had no arrangement for child care, so she began a research project, investigating childcare programs throughout the United States from small, organization-run child-care programs to massive, on-site facilities

She found that no college, not even a government organization, has done comprehensive research on the number of students who are also parents. She calls them use the centers, and about 100 are involved in a home-care program.

This is needed at any campus of any size," says the program's home-care coordinator, Becky Orford. "It's difficult to find child care when you don't have a substantial income.'

Kim Kowalski, a 27-year-old WVU student, feels lucky to have found day care for her 1-year-old daughter. Kowalski found child care on her own, but she may use Home Base after it establishes nighttime hours, when she says it's even more difficult to find child care.

"It is ridiculously frustrating," she says, "especially when you have a young, young child."

■ Maureen Kenyon, The Daily Athenaeum, West Virginia U

S. Mitra Kalita, The Daily Targum, Rutgers U., contributed to this story



Homework takes on new meaning when you're in college... with children.

the "invisible minority" and says that one shouldn't have to choose between having a family and getting an education.

In August 1993, she started Home Base, a child-care program that matches WVU student, faculty and staff parents with prescreened, qualified people who will provide home child care.

Shake, Rattle, Enroll

Home Base is modeled after a similar child-care program at the U. of Montana. The Association of Students of the U. of Montana Child Care and Family Resource Centers were estab-lished about 12 years ago. About 50 parents

"I still get really nervous when I perform," Larson says, although the drum-mer plays in four campus ensembles, the school's marching band and a rock band on the side. "I choke all the time."

That dream job could be lost with one slip of a finger, squeak of a reed or soreness of a throat.

And music majors will do whatever it takes to avoid these problems: always play

that this is exactly what I want to do."

Because of the level of competition to win a job, many performance majors give the same advice. "If you want to do anything else, do it," Breedlove says. "[Succeeding as a performer] takes a lot of sacrifice — and a degree of obsession."

■ Sharon LaRowe, The Breeze, James Madison U.

Blow It Out Your Ho

depend-

able indi-

uation from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, when she can find an agent to run her affairs.

Interested? Wait - there's more. Don't expect to hear the patter of little feet. "I'm not planning on having a family," she says. "I'm willing to sacrifice to be a musician."

Music majors are of a different breed. Far from the just-another-number atmosphere of the lecture hall, music students deal in vocal cords and instruments rather than pencils and computers. And unlike most graduates, musicians can't rest on the laurels of a degree, says Indiana U. grad student Jaren Hinckley.

Brian Larson, a sophomore music industry major at James Madison U. in Virginia, says, "A symphony doesn't care if you have a degree. It cares that you can beat out the 200 to 300 other people auditioning

with a lucky guitar pick, never go outside without a scarf to cover the vocal cords and always keep a water bottle handy.

"As a singer, you have to take care of your voice," Breedlove says. "I don't smoke. I don't like to be around people who smoke.'

Igor Gefter, a junior performance major at the Julliard School in New York, says he has to work out on exercise machines at a local dance studio because of the back pains that come with sitting behind a cello all day.

Student musicians are willing to play tricks to stay in the trade. For Hinckley, the clarinet has been a magic wand since third grade. Like so many children, he had a pipe dream to become a famous soloist.

Yeah, hurrah. Easier said than done," he says. "It finally clicked ...



The performance world may be cutthroat, but it's music to their careers.

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