



REALationships 101: Butterfly kisses

BY ERICA SPALTI | Online Editor

I had no idea what type of relationship to write about this week and then I realized it was my dad's birthday. So I figured, why not fathers and daughters? And since opinions are assigned as a "writing piece about something that pisses you off or something you really care about," instead of a "rant," I decided to write about my relationship with my dad since it is something I really care about.

If you haven't figured out by now, due to my lack of articles regarding siblings, I am an only child. Growing up it was just my mom and dad and I. My dad was more than just a normal dad, he was literally the coolest dad in the world and let me tell you, I am, and always will be, a daddy's girl.

He did the normal stuff that dads do like help me with my math and science homework in high school, taught me how to drive a stick-shift and literally scare away almost every boyfriend who came by, putting new meaning to the saying "only the strong will survive." However, he did a lot of things you would not expect dads to do. He used to do my hair when I was little and even as a senior in high school he would curl my hair for cheer before every football game.

One of the best things that I share with my dad is something I like to call "truck memories" and I know I am not the only girl out there who has had these. "Truck memories" (or "car memories" if your dad doesn't own a truck), are the memories that you always refer back to. We hear all these cutsie quotes saying "you hear a song

and remember exactly where you were and what you were doing" and memories with your dad usually take place in a vehicle. Think about it. For example, whenever I hear The Rolling Stone's "Beasts of Burden," I think of driving in my dad's truck on the way to Crystal Mountain to go snowboarding. While yes, it is just a plain memory with not very much detail, it is still one of my favorite memories.

For all those daughters who have a close relationship with their father, tell them you love them and that you are not ashamed of being a daddy's girl. If we can learn anything from any movie it is that "the only man a girl can truly trust is her daddy." If you have never seen "Grease" and did not know where that came from, then we can't be friends. It is true though, your dad is one of the only men on the planet who won't lie to you (unless he says "you'll like asparagus" in which case ... he might be lying). He won't break your heart and he will keep all of your secrets for you. Just remember, he is always there and no matter what - he always will be.

X.O.X.O.
Erica

P.S. I know I said it before, but in light of recent developments I feel the need to clarify that this is an opinion. If you don't like what I have to say, then don't read my articles. Obviously people care enough to continue to read my articles and complain about them.

Got a relationship problem and you need some outside advice?
Send me an e-mail me at cwuobserveronline@gmail.com



JEREMY'S JURISDICTION

Ahhh, simpler times ... kinda.

BY JEREMY VIMISLIK | Opinion Editor

What is it about new technology?

We have to have it. We have to read about it and watch teaser videos for months before its actual release date. We are bound to our personal tech with our wallets, our social class and our mobile amenities.

Moore's Law states that transistor tech doubles about every 18 months. This means that the size and performance of tech changes for the better every two years or so.

Under this constraint, we are forced to update our tech quite often. No problem there; new tech comes out all the time.

LED-backlit LCD TVs allow for truer blacks and more vibrant colors. Organic light-emitting diode (OLED) TVs are even better and are much thinner. The tech used in larger, household appliances like TV paves the way for use in mobile devices.

The Apple iPad is a big version of the previous handheld iPod Touch. Netbooks are small laptops, and laptops are smaller, mobile versions of desktop computers.

Blu-Ray will soon stomp out DVDs. The DVD is smaller and more efficient than VHS. VHS beat out Betamax. USB flash drives are more portable and vastly more rugged than DVDs, which succeeded CDs. CDs, of course, beat out the Zip drive, which was a beefed up version of the floppy disk. Apple's iPod and other harddisk-based MP3 players like the Microsoft Zune

or Creative's Zen beat out the short-lived MiniDisc and widely used portable CD players of yesteryear. Before the CD player was the Walkman ...

Newer tech is merging what we consider essential items. A decade ago, a small backpack would be needed to haul a laptop, cell phone, GPS unit, portable DVD player, MP3 player, portable gaming system, and camera to do all that a modern smartphone, crackberry or iPhone can do now.

The problematic cycle of progressive tech remains: New tech breaks onto the market, everyone wants it or is forced to change (look up American analog TV), and old tech needs to be recycled (which is not very environmentally friendly to begin with). We don't necessarily need the new tech, but when we buy these new items, we allow for expanding tech to get a foothold on the market, driving people to look forward, creating new products. There are, of course, the fanatics; those who swear off all new technology (look up Ted Kaczynski, AKA the Unabomber), or stick with their inefficient, outdated items (like us poor, starving college students).

Moral: Reflect. Technology has advanced to almost science-fiction levels in the past 25 years. So go ahead, whip out your [insert awesome tech here], hug whoever bought it for you, and bask in its glory this week.



DEEP THOUGHTS

BY QUINN EDDY | Thinker

MY FRIENDS,

Watching "27 Dresses" and thinking of you.
Text that to someone and see what happens.

If you haven't seen the Betty White Saturday Night Live please watch it. Your Quinn homework is to watch that on hulu.com.

Rumor has it there is free coffee in that new Welcome Center over by Jerrol's. If I ever meet the person that told the world Hawaiian shirts are Dad shirts, I'm going to punch them in the face. I had way too many, "You look like my Dad" moments Friday night to make wearing that shirt in public worth it.

The best thing ever happened to me at Safeway the other day. I ran into my good friend Amanda and being a master of small talk I asked what she bought. Excitedly she answered, "doughnuts and tampons." It was just one of those days.

Anyone who has gone through a dramatic weight-loss change I take seriously. Not only have they achieved a major accomplishment, but they also have lived the lesson that if you put your mind to it, you can probably pull it off.

Anybody who doesn't like The Beatles is just dumb.

My next-door neighbor must have enjoyed LSD a whole bunch in the '60s. He's not only a terrible person who views our generation as a waste of life, he's cost our house over \$1,000 the past two years in noise violations.

Normally this would make us seem like ridiculous people, but one of the noise violations I paid for I was actually asleep when the citation was given. How could it be that I can be asleep and our house still be loud enough to warrant a citation?

This last weekend we had a final hoorah for the graduating seniors at my neighbor's house. In addition to calling the cops and being rude to people walking towards the house, I was told that my neighbor, along with other neighbors, video-taped partygoers.

Supposedly he works at a fly fishing shop in town, so to be good neighbors we go out of our way to not block his fishing boat in.

Former students in my house blocked his boat in one day and instead of coming to the door and asking for the car to be moved like any normal person would do, he hooked up a tow cable and yanked the car out of the spot. Forcefully removing a car that isn't yours and putting it at possible risk to damage isn't a smart idea.

I figure \$1,000 is at least two days of work at the fly shop, so here's what we'll do: We're going to buy a Porsche 911 Turbo with the license plate frame reading Wildcat1.

Then we'll park it right in front of his boat.

For extra credit we'll aim several cameras toward the Porsche. Then if everything works out, he'll yank the Porsche and we'll sue him for a nicer one!

I'm a super senior so I'm aloud to walk around the house in my underpants. My computer automatically capitalizes the letter I when I am writing a sentence so I don't have to hit the shift key. My Mac has my back.

I've listened to a lot of Sting today.

It's good to have a friend who can lay down a solid background murmur if an awkward situation pops up. Awkward situations call for a solid murmur.

This week's vocabulary enrichment is snackagawea. Snackagawea (n.): term used to describe the guy who will lead you through a 7-11 like a native guide. Used in a sentence, "Dude we can't leave without a snackagawea."



Ask Tina Sparkle:

Dear Tina,
I recently got a bad haircut. What should I do?
Much love, Bedazzler

Dear Bedazzler,

Well, as all of us girls never like looking like a hobo out of touch with society, you don't need to fret too much. Whenever you are getting your haircut, don't be afraid to let them know that if your cut isn't what you wanted. They want you as a customer just as bad as you want a haircut. Hair stylists have to pay rent on the space they are using, so it's important for them to have customers to be able to pay off their rented space and have money left over after rent.

When they are done cutting your hair, don't tell them, "Yea it looks great," if it doesn't. Make sure you examine your hair right then and there and let them know if something is off.

Worst-case scenario is you leave, and then you notice the haircut is tilted or off somehow and they won't fix it. If you know what is off, try to fix it because a little snip here and a little snip there won't hurt. If it's a big piece that needs fixing, try talking to them. If they don't fix it, ask their manager if they will give you your money back so you can go somewhere else to get it fixed.

But, if worse comes to worse, just note to not see them anymore, because obviously they don't care about their customers. Hope that helps ya!

Much care and hang in there,

LOVE ALWAYS, *Tina Sparkle*

With finals coming up in three weeks, I hope everyone is making sure to eat right and get good sleep. Take care of yourselves, I want you to be healthy and write in!

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