



Volume 76, Issue 12: The Travel Issue

Washington College

Established 1930

# Is the WC Bookstore Overpriced?

BY KELLY BIRINGER

Students at WC can purchase their textbooks at prices sometimes much cheaper than what's charged at the WC Bookstore.

Prices in the bookstore are a concern for students, faculty and staff on campus. "In theory, school bookstores should provide students with the best deals possible." Bridget Romano, a sophomore, says. "It often seems that some of the books and clothing prices are a little high."

Ron Young, another student, disagrees. "I think it's pretty comparable to other colleges. I think bookstores in general are expensive."

Jeani Narcum, Director of Financial Aid, has her concerns about the bookstore, saying, "Our bookstore is like most other college bookstores. Besides providing the textbooks used for current classes, they operate as a type of convenience store for

An internet search indicated that many common books required for classes can be found online for much cheaper.

Independent sellers, both websites offer online rating systems, so that past customers can rate sellers, and safe buying guarantees, as well as a place for sellers to describe

thirty-four used and new copies on Amazon.com, the cheapest edition being 55.98.

Some textbooks, such as A Writer's Reference, which is the Diane Hacker MLA

various new and used copies available.

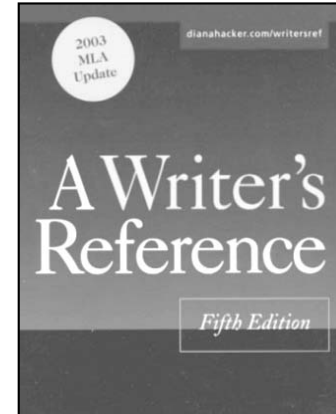
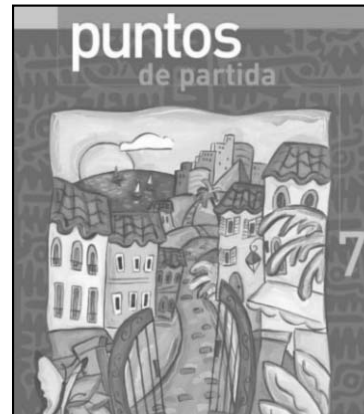
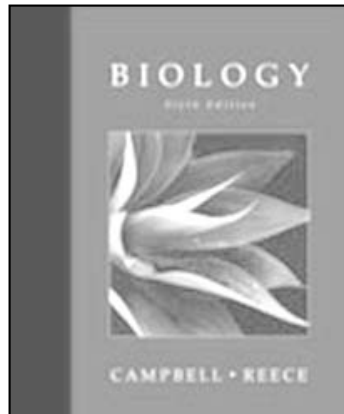
Other texts, such as Economics by Campbell McConnell and Stanley Brue, Visual Arts: A History by Hugh Honour, Puntos de partida (Spanish textbook) by Marty Knorre, et al, as well as Psychology textbooks, have a much bigger price difference. Economics, for example, is 129.00 new in the WC bookstore, but can be found online for 34.95 on Amazon.com used.

Susan Haines, Director of the WC bookstore, explains that "most prices are set by the distributor.

"We're small and independent, there's just one of us." Haines says, speaking in comparison to bigger retailers like Wal-Mart.

"We're buying in really small limited quantities, whereas the huge retailers people compare us to can order huge quantities."

Used books can provide lower prices in the WC bookstore, but also have their own problems. Prices are set for



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

**Want to save money? Try buying textbooks online**

Biology (6th Edition) by Neil Campbell and Jane Reece is available in the WC bookstore new for \$143.00 and used for \$107.25. Amazon.com, however, has the textbook new for 132.00 and 196 copies used and new through independent sellers

their product (for example, making a note if it is a different edition, so the buyer is aware what exactly they're purchasing).

Other popular textbooks can also be found online. Riverside Shakespeare is 72.00 in the WC bookstore

guide required in all freshman CNW classes, and the Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume 1, can also be found online but with not as much of a difference in price than the WC bookstore. The Norton Anthology can be found new in the WC book-

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most other college bookstores. Besides providing the textbooks used for current classes, they operate as a type of convenience store for some personal items. However, you pay dearly for convenience."

Books, however, are most likely the greatest concern due to the fact they are a necessity for WC students.

(1,2) store new for \$143.00 and used for \$107.25. Amazon.com, however, has the textbook new for 132.00 and 196 copies used and new through independent sellers, its lowest price being 28.84. Half.com also offers used books through independent sellers, their lowest price being 38.00.

Although buying online can be riskier, because books are sold through indepen-

aware what exactly they're purchasing).

Other popular textbooks can also be found online. Riverside Shakespeare is 72.00 in the WC bookstore, but can be found online for as low as 30.00 on Half.com. Amazon.com also has fifty-two used and new copies, the lowest being 38.50.

Chemistry: The Molecular Science is 140.00 new in the WC bookstore, but has

Literature, Volume 1, can also be found online but with not as much of a difference in price than the WC bookstore. The Norton Anthology can be found new in the WC bookstore for 61.00, but can be found used on Half.com for 53.13. The Hacker reference guide is 45.00 new in the WC bookstore and can be found used on Amazon.com for as low as 31.99, with sixty-nine

compare us to can order huge quantities."

Used books can provide lower prices in the WC bookstore, but also have their own problems. Prices are set for them depending on "how much we pay for the book, how high the demand is, and all that other fun stuff," Haines explains.

See Bookstore, Page Two

## Internet Blogs: The New Way to Communicate

BY LILLI SCHESTAG

Most of your parents may not even know how to use e-mail, but today's college students cannot function without e-mail, databases, and the ever popular Instant Messenger. This is perhaps one reason why so many of The Elm's writers are accused of interviewing solely by e-mail; we are the first generation whose lives are so dependent on computers and electronics. One of the more recent innovations online are blogs, or electronic journals, which are incredibly popular with students at Washington College.

Lindsay Bergman, a sophomore, said, "I've used an online journal called Xanga since 2002. A ton of my high school friends use Xanga. It's kind of how we keep updated on each other's

lives. I've had an online journal on my domain since 2000, but its password protected and really only for myself. I used to use Livejournal, but since more of my high school friends use Xanga, I switched to that.

"The real argument I have for keeping an online journal is the fact that I can type a lot faster than I can write by hand. Plus, it's nice to be able to keep in touch with friends and family through them. Sometimes it's hard to catch people with phone calls and IMs because we're all so busy, but once in awhile I can just sit down and read 'my subscriptions' and find out, in one sitting, what all my friends are doing," says Bergman.

Matt Hollis, a sophomore, agreed, saying, "It's a free way to stay in touch with old friends.

Lauren Perkins, a freshman, said, "I've been using an online journal for a while. Many of my friends use them, especially ones back home. We use them to stay in touch and since we're all busy with college life, it's a way to keep up on current events in each others lives.

"I have used others - livejournal.com, digitaexpressions.nu. There are slight differences between the different journals. For instance, when you put pictures up in Xanga, they show up right in the middle of your entry, Whereas, in Digital Expressions they link them to your entry and people who read your journal have to click on the link to see your picture."

Andy Abbott, a freshman, said, "I've been a

See Internet Blogs, Page Two

## INSIDE



Wondering how to go about getting a passport?  
*Features, page 6*

What's the best music to listen to while traveling?  
*Entertainment, page 7*



WC Senior Sara Wuillermin shares her travel journal with The Elm.  
*Noise, page 8*



**Editor's Note** - This week's Elm marks the last issue of the fall semester. The Elm staff decided to close out the semester with a "themed issue" focusing on travel. Winter break is right around the corner, and spring break isn't that far away; feel free to use this issue as a resource for how to get out of Chestertown and see the world! Check out "How to Get a Passport" on page 6, or "Winter Break Relaxation" on page 6 to see how fellow WC students are spending their holiday. How can you book a Spring Break trip for practically nothing? Check out "Book Spring Break for Less" on page 3. Not going away over vacation? Check out "How to Make Yourself Look Like You Went Somewhere Exotic Over Vacation" on page 8. But, most of all, have a safe and happy holiday, wherever you are.

## Internet Blogs *(Continued from Front Page)*

Xanga member since May 16, 2003. Most of my friends use Xanga, but I also use Livejournal and Blogger; they are all free.

"I use my online journal mainly to express my thoughts and tell people what's going on in my life. One of my good friends likes to update her life on her Xanga, and post old funny conversations on her Livejournal. I don't use Livejournal anymore because of the way it's set up. I use Xanga to talk about my college life and I use my Blogger to talk about politics."

Nicole, a freshman, said "I've had an online journal for probably a year, off and on. Most of my friends use Xanga, that's actually why I started using it. I used to use Blurty, but then switched to Xanga in the

summer because that's what most of my friends use. I basically use it as a way to write what happened in my day, and how I'm feeling, so my friends and family who I don't see very often can read what I'm up to. But sometimes I just use it out of boredom."

Giovanny Inca, a senior, said, "I've been a member of Xanga for more than a year. A lot of my high school friends use online journals, but I found out about it through my girlfriend. She uses it as a means to stay in contact with her sisters and read what they were up to."

"I am also able to join groups like WC or one about Ecuador and read what those people are up to. Being at Washington College, I don't get to see them much and I don't call them much,

but by reading their online journals I am able to see what is new in their lives. Of course, once I find out what is going on, then I send them an IM. I know that lots of people use other journals besides Xanga, like Livejournal," said Inca.

WC has 29 users alone on the Xanga website. Other popular blog sites are Friendsster.com, Facebook.com, and Livjournal.com.

These blog websites aren't only for personal use; man at WC recognize its potential on an academic level.

Sharon Sledge, Assistant Director of Academic Computing and Support Services, said, "Although the college does not sponsor weblogs, students are setting up blogs and becoming active bloggers. Blogs are

definitely making an impact on campus and not just for personal use. For example, Professor Martin Connaughton is using blogs as an interactive learning tool this semester in his CNW course."

Nancy Cross, Manager of Instructional Technology, who will be assisting Connaughton's class, said, "The school often has website classes, but blogs are much more accessible and easy to set up."

"Blogs are everywhere and they are changing the way our culture interacts, which is very interesting. Hopefully using the blogs in class will show students how easy they are to use."

David Dudek, Assistant Professor at the Library, said, "We are thinking about

using blogs as an interactive learning tool for the library."

Sunni Lange, a senior, said "I've never used an online journal because I don't have the time; I feel like they take a lot of effort. I know people that use them, but I don't think online journals will catch on to the main stream public. However, I do think that they accurately show the influence of technology on our generation."

Abott said, "I think online journals will catch on to the main stream. It's a great way to gather your thoughts and help out when you're stressed or in a bad mood. When you're having a tough time in life, sometimes the best thing to do is write out your problems."

## Bookstore *(Continued from Front Page)*

The problem that arises with used books in that they are often not as available as new books in the bookstore. "It's difficult to get our hands on used books because editions are constantly changing," Haines says, pointing out that often professors change the edition required for a course between semesters.

Small items, such as tissues, tampons, and

student worker at the WC bookstore.

Prices can be given upon request at the register, but sometimes factors such as the shifting the placement of items in the bookstore can cause item prices to not be marked.

Haines also points out that rising prices are a result of many factors, a surprising one being rising gas prices. The WC Book-

Common WC Textbook	New in WC Bookstore	Used in WC Bookstore	New on Amazon.com	Used on Amazon.com*	Used on Half.com*
Biology, 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition,	143.00	107.25	132.00	28.84	38.00
Riverside Shakespeare, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition	72.00	54.00	71.96	38.50	30.00
Chemistry, The Molecular Science	140.00	105.00	142.95	55.98	88.95
A Writer's Reference (Hacker MLA Guide)	45.00	33.75	44.75	31.99	n/a

(1,2) is to not be marked. Haines also points out that rising prices are a result of many factors, a surprising one being rising gas prices. The WC Bookstore buys from a distributor and then pays for delivery, which can be quite expensive depending on how far the delivery is coming from and other related factors.

Small items, such as tissues, tampons, and laundry detergent, can also be the focus of scrutiny over high prices, but upon examination, many of their prices were not even marked on the products themselves.

"A lot of times when people are coming in for that kind of stuff they don't care what the price is," explains Allison Sullivan, a

"It's the student's bookstore, we're for you guys, but we're not always going to have the lowest prices." Haines points out.

"If we don't offer the lowest prices, it's because we can't."

The Molecular Science					
A Writer's Reference (Hacker MLA Guide used for CNWs)	45.00	33.75	44.75	31.99	n/a
Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. 1	61.00	45.75	66.75	55.00	53.13
Economics	129.00	96.75	123.43	34.95	59.36
Visual Arts: A History	97.00	72.75	97.00	58.95	25.00
Puntos de partida: An Invitation to Spanish Student Edition w/ bind in card	98.00	73.50	93.75	32.00	69.99
Psychology	95.00	71.25	100.85	29.99	38.00

\* These prices represent the lowest price available used as of 11/30/04 on these websites.  
\*\* Prices of books off of websites do not include shipping.

## THE ELM of Washington College

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## Public Safety Report

### NOISE VIOLATION: SC 04-3430

On 11/17/04 at 1:15 AM A STUDENT WAS ISSUED A CAMPUS CITATION FOR A NOISE VIOLATION IN WORCESTER HALL. THE STUDENT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY WARNED.

### NOISE VIOLATION: SC 04-3448

On 11/18/04 at 12:50 AM A STUDENT WAS ISSUED A CAMPUS CITATION FOR A NOISE VIOLATION IN FREDERICK HOUSE. THE STUDENT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY WARNED.

### THEFT: SC 04-3457

On 11/18/04 at 8:17 PM A STUDENT REPORTED PERSON(S) UNKNOWN HAD REMOVED APPROXIMATELY 15 CDs FROM HIS JEEP WHILE IT WAS PARKED IN THE HARBOR HALL PARKING LOT.

### ALCOHOL VIOLATION/DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR: SC 04-3461

On 11/19/04 at 2:00 AM OFFICERS RESPONDED TO KENT HOUSE FOR A REPORT OF A DISTURBANCE. A STUDENT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A CAMPUS CITATION FOR DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR AND UNDERAGE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL.

### HARASSMENT: SC 04-3466

On 11/19/04 at 12:57 PM A STUDENT WHO RESIDES ON CAMPUS REPORTED A WC EMPLOYEE WAS HARASSING HER. THE INCIDENT IS UNDER INVESTIGATION.

### MDOP: SC 04-3476

On 11/20/04 at 1:18 AM OFFICERS RESPONDED TO THE SPANISH HOUSE FOR A REPORT OF A STUDENT DAMAGING THE EXTERIOR DOOR. THE STUDENT HAS BEEN

IDENTIFIED AND CHARGES HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO STUDENT AFFAIRS FOR REVIEW.

### TRESPASSING / ATTEMPTED THEFT: SC 04-3549

On 11/27/04 at 2:05 PM WHILE ON PATROL AN OFFICER OBSERVED A JUVENILE ATTEMPTING TO CUT THE LOCK OF A CHAINED STUDENT'S MOPED, WHICH WAS SECURED NEXT TO KENT HOUSE. THE JUVENILE WAS REFERRED TO JUVENILE SERVICES.

### MDOP: SC 04-3566

On 11/29/04 at 10:45 AM A WC EMPLOYEE REPORTED THAT PERSON(S) UNKNOWN HAD "KEYED" HIS CAR WHILE IT WAS PARKED ON CAMPUS

# Book Spring Break for Less

BY KIM LAST

When it comes to spring break travel, the early bird catches not just the worm, but the most affordable travel packages.

"Without a doubt, it's a good idea to plan ahead for spring break vacations so you can receive the best deals on airfare, meals and drinks," says Amy Ferguson, a travel agent at Chestertown Travel.

"When you book ahead, you can receive extra perks such as free drinks or reduced hotel room fees."

Plan ahead is exactly what sophomore Kate Hertzler did. Hertzler and her friends booked a trip to Jamaica through

StudentCity.com and received an all-inclusive package that covered round-trip airfare, meals, drinks, insurance and, not to mention, a fully-furnished condo.

"I'm really excited about this trip because everything is set," says Hertzler. "My friends and I don't have to worry about finding restaurants to eat at or a place to stay because it's all been taken care of."

"I only paid \$1,050 for everything," continues Hertzler. "It's really flexible, I can pay it off at my own pace and only have to worry about bringing money for souvenirs."

Websites such as Studentuniverse.com, Travel-

Cuts.com, and StudentCity.com are just a sampling of hundreds of different websites where students can customize and book their own spring break sunspot adventures.

StudentCity.com offers an array of different seven and four-night spring break packages in destinations such as: South Padre, Texas; Cancun, Mexico; Acapulco, Mexico; Punta Cana, Mexico and Boulder, Colorado. The site allows users to select the hotel where they would like stay and the amount of meals and drinks they would like in their package. The site is chock-full of student reviews of where to stay and what to do during the day and night.

As of December 1, a seven-night package in Acapulco, Mexico that includes hotel and a roundtrip flight from Baltimore, MD costs \$1,037 per person in a group of ten.

The same exact trip costs \$1,077 on Travelcuts.com.

What is important to note about sites such as Studentcity.com and Travelcuts.com is that the larger the travel group is, the cheaper the trip is.

"With Studentcity.com, we had to make sure that we had ten people in our group, otherwise our plans would fall through and the trip would be a lot more expensive," says Hertzler.

Another seven-day, all-inclusive package from Studentcity.com with hotel and airfare from BWI to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic costs \$1,473 per a person for a group of eight.

"Students want to be out in the sun and sand," explains Ferguson. "Chestertown Travel's most popular and cost-effective packages are in Cancun and Punta Cana."

"Cancun and Punta Cana have beautiful beaches and enticing nightlife that college students enjoy," says Ferguson.

However, not every spring break student desires the sand and sun.

"I've had a number of students request spring break packages in London and Paris," says Ferguson.

"I'm not a sand or sun person," says student Rachel Loose. "I prefer Europe."

Loose and fellow WC student Mary Elizabeth Wilkes planned an entire trip to Europe during the summer of 2004. They visited London, Paris, Munich, Florence, Siena and Nice.

able to meet a lot of young, different people who were exploring Europe in the same way that we were," explains Wilkes.

"Hostels are designed for youths," explains Loose. "The hostel staff can tell you where the hot spots are."

Loose and Wilkes also relied on travel guides. Their favorite is Rick Steves' *Europe through a Back Door*. "This guide made planning much easier and gave you a real taste of what I like to think is the 'real' Europe," explains Wilkes.

Even though Loose has not planned a trip for this spring break, she keeps on top of the rates and packages available online. "What I've come to do is to learn the seasons in Europe, when it's the least and most busy, then I plan accordingly."

Travelcuts.com and Studentuniverse.com offer users the opportunity to book European Rail Tickets and packages. If a student is under 26 years old, they can book a Eurail Pass through these two sites to travel to three to five different countries in Europe in five days for only \$249. As of December 1, Travelcuts.com offers a day trip between Paris and London for only \$200.

"There are a lot of great deals out there if you plan early," says Wilkes.

"The beauty of our trip is that we planned early and were able to go where we wanted to go. We didn't have a set schedule like group tours do where we had to be out of the hotel room at 7 a.m. It was flexible and fun! I recommend planning your own trip."

"March is the off-season in Europe," explains Ferguson. "There are fewer tourists, so it is easier to get

## Staff Concerned About Student Debt

BY KELLY BIRINGER

Student debt is not just comprised of loans that students take out; debt can be formed right on campus in the form of charging to credit cards and ID cards.

"Charging on campus is a dangerous thing," says Nancy Toy, Assistant Director of Student Financial Aid. "I would like to see it stop... it's a dangerous thing."

Administrators around campus seem to have a growing concern about not only the accessibility of the student ID card, but also the use of credit cards and poor spending habits.

"We've had students drop out of school because of credit card debt," says Toy.

"We've heard of suicides at other schools. It's terribly sad - so tragic - when it could have been avoided."

"I'm not opposed to students having credit cards, nor am I opposed to students using ID cards to charge on

Jeani Narcum, Director of Student Financial Aid, agrees with Toy that the student ID card can be a problem. "It's far too convenient to just be able to swipe your card in the Cove, Town Hall, and the bookstore," says Narcum.

Although they are not completely opposed to credit cards and credit card-like student ID cards, administrators on campus are quick to point out how much of a problem poor spending habits are for students.

"It's different for students to keep track of the amount that's going to show up on their account from month to month." Narcum says, pointing out that the balance can be checked online.

Toy offers a solution, and says, "I would like to see a debit card on campus."

Narcum also agrees on the idea of having a WC debit card that students can put

easy access to credit cards and to multiple credit cards. Instead of being used for emergencies or substantial purchases, something that has a long term value, many students use them for impulse buying."

Narcum points out an incident that happened a few years ago at WC.

She explains that the bookstore bags used to come with credit card inserts, which was adding to the amount of student debt on campus. Narcum explains that herself, Toy, and Holt were the main advocates in having the bookstore remove the inserts from bags.

"You would go down to the bookstore to get a t-shirt or something, and there's, like, two or three credit card applications in there," Holt recalls.

"There was a lot of resistance," says Toy.

"We lobbied to both the bookstore and Dr. Louis Stet-

could have been avoided.

"I'm not opposed to students having credit cards, nor am I opposed to students using ID cards to charge on campus," says Joe Holt, WC Vice President. "My concern is many students come to college without having an opportunity to talk to parents about having to manage credit."

"They [students] don't always understand the long term implications of consumer credit and their ability later in life to qualify for home or auto purchases," adds Holt. "What I would much prefer a student to do is have a checking account debit card and once students develop that discipline, move onto consumer credit cards."

Toy offers a solution, and says, "I would like to see a debit card on campus."

Narcum also agrees on the idea of having a WC debit card that students can put money on.

Holt points out that the student ID card is not necessarily a bad thing to use; although the student ID card is used as a charge card, it does not have the same dangers as a credit card. Student ID card charges are supposed to be paid within 30 days. If unpaid, privileges may be suspended. "It's not quite the same as a debit card but it's pretty darn good," says Holt.

Toy, Narcum, and Holt are all greatly concerned with credit card debt and wish students were better educated.

Holt reiterates the problem, saying, "Students have

applications in there," Holt recalls.

"There was a lot of resistance," says Toy.

"We lobbied to both the bookstore and Dr. Louis Stettler [Senior Vice President for Finance and Development] to stop the practice and they did. Eventually, we won. 'I've never heard any objections. I think people were glad not to have the trash in their bags anymore.'"

Loan debt is also a concern, although Holt, Narcum and Toy all point out that student loan debt is "good" debt. "Student loans are an investment," Toy points out, "credit cards are just money that's gone."

Holt gives simple advice: "When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."

dent Mary Elizabeth Wilkes planned an entire trip to Europe during the summer of 2004. They visited London, Paris, Munich, Florence, Siena and Nice.

"We spent 23 days in Europe for less than \$2,000. You can do Europe cheaply by staying in hostels and planning in advance; that's what we did and we had a great time," says Loose.

Loose and Wilkes used onetravel.com to book their flights and recommend it to anyone planning a spring break or summer vacation. "I used the lowest fare search and really found a great deal," says Loose.

"We also used hostelworld.com to book hostels. It was important for us to know where we were staying while in a foreign country. The hostel stays were great! We were

omend planning your own trip."

"March is the off-season in Europe," explains Ferguson. "There are fewer tourists, so it is easier to get tickets to the theatre and other popular attractions. If you are not into the sun, I recommend doing it."

Obtaining an International Student Identification Card is another great way to gain savings for admission to museums and tourist attractions in Europe, according to Loose.

No matter where you plan on going to over spring break, Ferguson advises students to carry a picture ID, a passport and their original birth certificate. "Traveling is a lot more complicated than it has been in past years. Carrying proper ID makes the process much easier."

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# Give Back to WC Staff: Donate to the Annual Employee Holiday Fund

CONTRIBUTED BY SARA A. SMITH, WC SWITCHBOARD MANAGER

To ALL WC Community Members:

The college has once again established an Employee Annual Holiday Fund.

The WC Office of Human Resources selects employees to receive holiday assistance from nominations it receives, based solely upon need. We invite all of you to assist us in giving some of the WC employees and their families a happier holiday season.

It is that time again and we would like to ask you live up to the marvelous giving spirit we have seen from WC in years past. This is a chance for each of us to pay back in some small way to those WC employees who make our work days and college days just a little easier!

Many employees here at WC do all they can to provide the normal things needed to live each day for their families (food, clothing, shelter).

For some, it is hard enough just to keep the electric and heat on in the winter months!

It can be a particularly difficult time for these employees; the holidays begin to arrive as they attempt to balance normal everyday expenses and, on top of that, try to get a little something extra for the holiday for their family members.

Washington College has set up the Employee Holiday Giving Fund to assist these employees and their families during this time. These donations allow us to provide gift certificates for food, toys and clothing for their children, and some gifts for the adults of each family chosen.

We also accept bought items for these families. If you would like to purchase a toy, item of clothing, anything that you think will delight someone for the holiday, which they otherwise might not have gotten, anything can be donated.

You can also donate wrapping supplies if you would like. We do have many little elves just waiting to wrap these items and label them.

In past years, we have had donations of Christmas trees, items of food, turkeys, etc. It is a beautiful thing to see when this community of giving spirits pulls together to make the someone else's life easier during the holidays!!!

One employee who has been blessed by the fund says, "I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it is. When you otherwise would be sitting depressed and worried about where dinner for the holiday is going to come from because you had just enough to pay the regular bills, the members of your work community have made sure you won't worry or stress.

"When you don't have even one gift to give to your child, your colleagues have provided several, plus a gift or two for you. Several years ago, when I was a single mother, I couldn't even get a tree, and a thoughtful student provided one for my daughter and me."

Food items may also be donated; please call Doris Oakley or Jennifer McGovern (extension 7706 or 7406) if you have food items in mind to donate.

So let's all show our wonderful, giving holiday spirit as we have always done, and start bringing in those donations right away to allow us time to wrap, label, sort and distribute these items.

Monetary donations can be taken to Oakley, of the WC Human Resources Department in the foundation level of Bunting Hall. All monetary donations should go ONLY to Oakley.

Donations of gift items and wrapping supplies can also be taken to Oakley and McGovern in the Human Resources Department. They will accept wrapping paper, tags, bows, tape, or any supplies needed.

The WC Cove is accepting donations of gift items to be wrapped and distributed; just take your item to the Cove cashier and drop it off.

Volunteers are needed! ANYONE can volunteer to help wrap and label the donations that come in. Please contact Edie Stevens in the

WC Cove if you are willing to help with this.

Donations come in up until the deadline and can be packaged at any time. Students, if you would like to help with this task before you leave for break, please go see Miss Edie.

Employees, if you have a few minutes in your day, stop by and volunteer. Employees could also volunteer their children to come in and help; this is a lovely way to teach your children about the spirit of Christmas and helping those in need, who happen to be right here within our community.

The WC Cove will also once again have the WC Mitten Tree; you can purchase mittens, gloves, hats, scarves or slippers to put on or under the tree; the items will then be distributed to someone who needs them for a warm holiday season.

Again, other gift donations (toys, etc.) may also be left in the Cove.

May all of you have a very Happy Holiday season, blessing to each and every one of you!

## campus voices

Where's your favorite place in the whole world?

COMPILED BY LARA SIMMONS



**"My own backyard, because it's peaceful and quiet."**

Jennifer Chapman, senior

## WC Music Facilities "Leave a Great Deal to be Desired"

CONTRIBUTED BY BILL SPENCER

*Spencer is a member of the WC Musician's Union.*

I have a question for all the musicians out there.

Have you ever wanted to start a band on campus, but

Room nine is a nice place to practice, but anyone using it has to worry about any plays that might be going on at Tawes, as well as the many consorts and ensembles that use the same room to practice. Also, it gets locked up at night, and any person who

equipment storage are just the bare minimum of what any music department should have.

Due to the advent of digital recording technology, it would be incredibly easy and inexpensive for the school to build a recording studio. This



**"My own backyard, because it's peaceful and quiet."**  
Jennifer Chapman, senior



**"Fiji."**  
Jami Rosencrance, junior



**"The womb."**  
David Hosey, sophomore

**"Snowboarding anywhere."**  
James Lombardo, freshman



the WC Musicians Union.

I have a question for all the musicians out there.

Have you ever wanted to start a band on campus, but not been able to find a place to play? Have you ever wanted a nice quiet place to practice but ended up stuck in your noisy dorm? Have you ever wanted a place on campus to record your own music?

Well, so have I. So have a great many students in fact.

That is not to say we do not appreciate what the college has done to accommodate musicians: the Musicians Union (MU) has its own practice room in the basement of Cain Gym, and there are listening rooms in Gibson where any musician can take an instrument and practice a bit.

Unfortunately, these facilities leave a great deal to be desired.

Take the listening rooms for example: if the building is quiet, they are a great place to practice an instrument, but try concentrating when there is a trumpet warming up in the room next door. They must be called listening rooms because you can hear what is going on all around you.

Also, the rooms are only big enough to accommodate one or two people. If an entire band wants to practice, there are basically two places to go: room nine in Gibson and the MU practice room.

plays that might be going on at Tawes, as well as the many consorts and ensembles that use the same room to practice. Also, it gets locked up at night, and any person who wants to get it unlocked without getting permission from a

*"...the Musicians Union practice room is basically the room on campus nobody else wanted."  
--Bill Spencer*

music professor in advance does so at their own risk.

The MU room is no better, unfortunately.

Stuck in the deepest, darkest corner of the basement of Cain Gym, the MU practice room is basically the room on campus nobody else wanted.

The acoustics could be compared to the sound you get if you stick your head inside a bucket and hit it with a metal spoon, and the permanent forecast down there is about 95 degrees and humid.

The question that faces any musician, when using this room, is whether to lug all their equipment to and from the room every time it is used, or leave it there and risk it getting water damaged. This is a choice no musician should have to make.

Things like soundproof practice rooms and safe

naive.

Due to the advent of digital recording technology, it would be incredibly easy and inexpensive for the school to build a recording studio. This would be an incredible opportunity for students who have never had the money to pay for a professional recording studio, as well as a great learning experience for anyone with an interest in recording live music.

If more students are able to record demos, then more campus bands will be able to get gigs at local venues and in the student center, which requires demos if they are going to book a band. This would be good for any person who enjoys live local music as well as campus musicians.

Music is a form of expression that brings people together. It is something that nearly everybody enjoys, and it can bridge gaps between generations and different groups of people. People go to live music not only to see the band, but to socialize and hang out with fellow music lovers.

Improving the WC music facilities would help the musicians on campus bring quality music to friends, classmates and residents of Chestertown alike.

In the end, this would strengthen the WC community, as well as help anyone who likes playing, listening to, or recording music

## Letter to the Editor

### Student Disappointed in College Community

CONTRIBUTED BY SARAH HILL  
WC CLASS OF 2005

Dear Elm Editor and fellow Washington College students,

While there are many things that have disappointed me during this semester at Washington College, the most recent edition of the Elm brought to light one of my largest concerns.

The Public Safety report in the 11/19 issue of The Elm was an ENTIRE page.

In case you do not recall or don't have a copy of the issue handy, let me remind you of its contents. There were eight reports of "Possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute" or "Possession of a controlled dangerous substance." All of these were related to the possession of Washington College students.

There were six reports of burglary or theft. I didn't even bother to count the number of alcohol violations.

There was a total of forty-three incidents reported.

The Public Safety report is read by people throughout the Washington College community, as well as people in Chestertown and alumni.

The other, perhaps most impressionable, group of people to read the Public Safety report in the Elm are prospective stu-

does this say about us as people?

From what I can tell from this Public Safety report we are telling the Washington College community and others that:

1. We have no respect for authority including our own campus rules and regulations and the laws that govern our land.

2. We carelessly treat the property of others through trespassing, vandalism burglary/theft, public urination, littering, and assault.

3. We are just what the media tells our families about college campuses. We abuse alcohol and other "controlled dangerous substances" and create an unhealthy environment for ourselves and others.

I have never been more disappointed in my fellow students or the college community.

I know that there are many people out there who do not contribute to the Public Safety report and who do the right thing and make Washington College a wonderful place to be.

If you are one of those people who contribute to the welfare of Washington College in a positive way, I commend you.

To those of you who ruin our campus, who steal things from others, and who constantly violate the laws and regulations put in place for our safety perhaps you need a reality check.

## TOP 10 EXCUSES FOR A LATE PAPER

BY BEN WHITE

10. My dog ate it
9. My dog died...choked on homework
8. That philosophy paper? It doesn't exist
7. "The files are IN the computer..it's so simple"
6. My pen ran out of ink.
5. Heartburn.
4. Wing Night at O'Connors.
3. Thirsty-Thursday (need I say more)
2. My grandmother died...again
1. Shut up! Why don't YOU do it!

The ELM Editorial Staff takes pride in the work we do with our limited time and space. As our readers, you are entitled to your opinion. We welcome any opinions and articles that our readers wish to send us. However, we only have so much space per week. Please note that we reserve the right to print or not print your opinion in a designated issue, as well as edit your article. We assure you that your thoughts are very much appreciated and considered.

-Tom Murray, Opinion Editor

*Nourishment for the Soul...*

Catholic Mass is held every Sunday at 5:30pm in the Norman James Theatre in Smith Hall.

**CLARIFICATION**

The "Jennifer" quoted in last week's *News* article "Can Staff Survive on a WC Paycheck?" was not the Jennifer Nesbitt who works in the library. The Elm staff apologizes for any confusion.

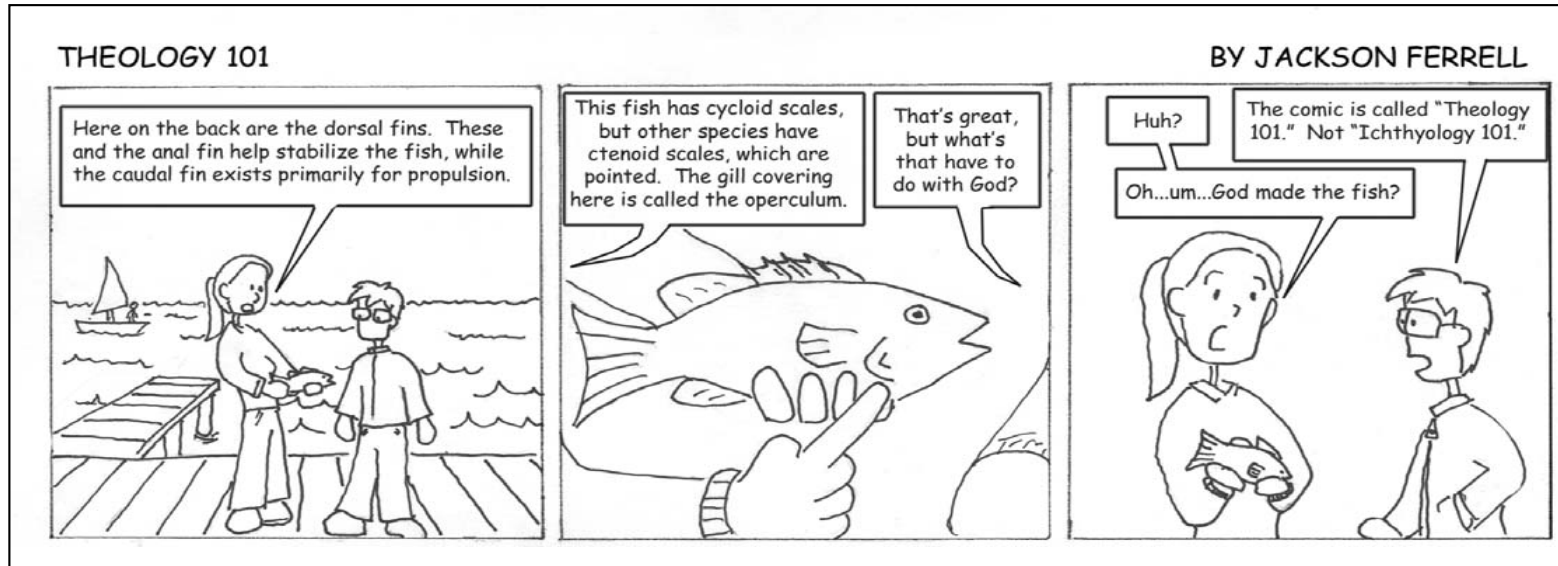
*Nourishment for the Soul...*

Catholic Mass is held every Sunday at 5:30pm in the Norman James Theatre in Smith Hall.  
Be nourished by Word and Sacrament.

*Nourishment for the body...*

Soda and pizza are served immediately after Mass- stay and socialize with fellow students.

Can't attend the 5:30pm Sunday on-campus Mass? Mass is also held at Sacred Heart Parish Saturday evening at 5:30pm and Sunday morning at 8:30 and 11:30am.



## Winter Break Relaxation

BY NICOLE VATTIMO

With finals just around the corner, students are thinking about how and where to unwind over their winter breaks.

Morgan Walker, a junior, says, "The Outer Banks is the most relaxing place where I vacation. I love it; it is not like Ocean City, with tons of people. It is relaxing simply because you do not have to be around all the crowds."

Senior Rosa Snauffer says that Ontario, Canada is her favorite place to relax. "Specifically, I love the area around Lake Victoria. It is so quite and scenic; the lake water is so clear and clean, and just the entire atmosphere is calm and tranquil."

Junior Julia Shinderman says, "I would say my aunt and uncle's lake house in North Carolina is the most relaxing place to vacation. Their house is so huge and it is right on the water, in a quiet town. And plus, there is surround sound in every room of the house, and even a flat screen TV in the bathroom."

Junior Heather Whiting picks a more exotic spot as the most relaxing place to vacation, saying, "Tortuga Bay in the Galapagos is the most relaxing spot on earth. There were no other people there when I was there, besides a few locals. There are white sand beaches, clear water, and beautiful sunsets. What more could you want?"

Junior Thomas Minter suggests a vacation spot close by. "I have been going to Deltaville, Virginia since I was two. It is a quiet town, and we have a house on the beach where I just relax on the porch all night."

Freshman Caroline Trossbach says the most relaxing place she has vacationed is, "Probably on a beach near Chincoteague that I just visited. The waves were calm, water always has a calming effect on me, and the weather was cold, but I felt at peace and vaguely recharged. I think the fact that it was just a different place helped."

Junior Quintina Wells says, "Aneгада is the most relaxing place in the world. It's beyond quaint; it is just this side of deserted. Its beaches have flecks of coral in the sand, and the water is perfectly clear."

"There is a coral reef surrounding the entire island, and because of the hazards of navigating the coral reef, in centuries past there have been numerous ship wrecks, making this place perfect for divers. The island is very flat and dry, but so peaceful."

"The most relaxing place on earth is an overstuffed armchair next to a fire in a quiet room, preferably in the evening," says junior Luxx Cohen, "It's the best place in the world to read, think, or simply to dream."

## How to Get A Passport

BY LILLI SCHESTAG

After the results of the past election, the first thought in many Americans minds was, "That's it! I'm leaving the country!"

Whether it is political loyalties, studying abroad, or simply the pleasure and excitement of exploring the cultures that make up this great country, traveling outside the United States has never been easier, especially for students.

However, no one can go anywhere outside the US without a passport.

But how do you apply for a passport in little Chestertown?

According to the United States Department of State website, "To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to one of 6,000 passport acceptance facilities located throughout the United States with two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license."

"Acceptance facilities include many Federal,

state and probate courts, post offices, some public libraries and a number of county and municipal offices. There are also 13 regional passport agencies, most of which serve only

this small town to be one step closer to leaving the country.

Worried about where to go for passport photos while in Chestertown? You can smile pretty at the UPS store, located in the Superfresh shopping center, for your two passport photos.

You can apply for a passport at the local Chestertown Post Office; it will then be mailed to your home address.

You can also buy an International Student Card at the Business Office, which entitles you to great, cheap deals while traveling outside the US.

You will save on train fares, hostels, museums, even stores, all over Europe.

For example, Top Shop, a clothing store in the UK, offers a fifteen percent discount with the International Student Card.

The International Student Card costs twenty-two dollars, but the advantages are well worth it.

those who are departing urgently. Appointments are required in such cases."

Chestertown may be hours from the city, but you don't even have to leave

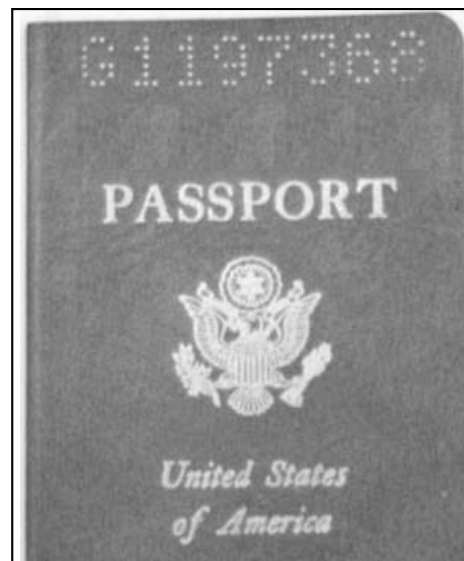


PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL-ANTHEMS.NET

**You can apply for an official U.S. passport right here in Chestertown**

**SUPPORT THE JUNIOR CLASS!**

**Alumni Corner**

## **SUPPORT THE JUNIOR CLASS!**

### **Junior Class Candy Sale**

**December 6 - 10  
12 - 1 pm in the CAC  
5 -6pm in the Dining Hall**

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## **Alumni Corner**

**CONTRIBUTED BY CHELSEA  
PRIOR AND AMY LEVAK**

The Student Ambassadors and the Alumni House are seeking YOUR help!!

Starting Tuesday, November 30 until Friday, December 10, the Student Ambassadors will be collecting toys to give to the Kent and Queen Anne's Alumni Chapter.

This alumni chapter is helping collect toys for the Toys-for-Tots campaign. Please help these children have a great holiday season by donating any toys and dropping them off in boxes in the Cove, LFC and the CAC (around the mailboxes) or by donating any amount of money to help buy toys.

Any amount of money will help as well as all toys donated! All cash donations can be delivered to the Alumni House.

Thank you for helping the kids this holiday season!

If you have any questions, please contact myself, Chelsea Prior, at cprior2 or Nancy Nunn, at nnunn2.

Thanks once again!  
The Student Ambassadors and the Alumni House

The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations just finished a six-week Phonathon Campaign.

Approximately 25 students called nightly throughout the months of October and November to stay connected with WC Alumni and to raise funds for the college.

These funds help to provide the most state-of-the-art, up-to-date laboratory equipment and computer software, provide students with need-based scholarships, supply the Miller Library with essential reference books, promote student growth and leadership, plus more!

Congratulations to the following contest winners:

Aundra Weissert - Most money raised overall

Amy Uebel - Most money pulled in per hour

Rebecca Holtzer - Highest number of pledges received

Nina Burton - Most money brought in through credit cards

Weekly contest winners were: Jillian Nehr, Nicole Alpert, Zarina Syed, George Connelly, Courtney Milton and Aundra Weissert.

To all of the Phonathoners - Thank you for all of your hard work!

# HAVE MUSIC, WILL TRAVEL

BY PETER KNOX

There is no secret that traveling and music are perfect companions. People have entertained themselves with song for thousands of years and have never been without a place to go and music to get there. Try to imagine a movie without a soundtrack or a long car ride without a discman, and suddenly the impact of music on our lives becomes incredibly apparent.

Sometimes a piece of music can have such a strong connection to a personal memory or the ability to fit perfectly with a certain leg of a journey. Here are some suggestions submitted by WC students for the next CD to bring along in the car. Prompted to relate their favorite song, band, or soundtrack to travel with and why; here are the results:

## The Eels: *Daisies of the Galaxy*:

The album is well mastered so focus can be given to every aspect of the music without losing concentration while driving. The emotions of the album run from high to low so it fits the scenery of a drive in the mountains quite well. Oh, and it sounds rockin' when you crank it.

-Cindy Brown

**Boston's "Don't Look Back:"** because it is a good song and looking back might get you into an accident.

-Jon Beall

The eponymous first **Ramones** album is a killer travel companion. Twenty-nine minutes of spry, snide, catchy rock; put it on repeat and you're bound to stay, to swipe their words, "all revved up and ready to go."

-Charles A. Hohman

## Astralyte - *To The Nines*:

Astralyte's first album manages to encapsulate the feeling of a seventy minute electronic jam session, with each track flowing into the next; serving as an ever changing constant background track to your travels.

The music doesn't get old or repetitive, like techno, but seems to adapt to the moods in correlation with the passing landscapes out the window of a car.

-Peter Knox

I like to travel with **Phish**, **The Eagles**, and **Jackson Browne** because that music relaxes me and keeps me from lashing out in a fit of road rage and jerking the wheel into the nearest car.

-Tom Murray

I find that many songs, while lyrically or musically beautiful just aren't any good for driving. Driving music needs energy, and **The Offspring's** "Smash" has got more energy than most music you hear today, which important if you drive like a maniac (or live in Pennsylvania).

The album starts off strong with "Nitro", and songs like "Bad Habit" were almost assuredly written to be driven to. More importantly, it embodies a sort of angry cynicism that is poorly reproduced by more modern CDs.

The current trend in "angry" or "rebellious" music sounds more like a pitiful, whiney lament rather than a real shot at rebellion. "Smash" faces youthful cynicism and embraces it fully, instead of complaining about it like modern punk does.

-Walter Koerber

**Mariah Carey Christmas:** Yes, even not when it's the Christmas season because I sing to all of her songs.

... "All I Want For Christmas" is the song even the taken love to sing.

-Rachel Hartman

## Death Row Greatest Hits:

Everyone loves a sing-a-long, and the whole family can enjoy such classics as "Nuthin' But a G Thang", "Gin and Juice", "Natural Born Killaz", and a rousing rendition of Slick Rick's classic "Lodi Dodi" performed by Snoopy Doggy Dog.

The special thing about this cd is the looks from other drivers as loud rap music emanates from a car containing upwards to four Caucasian males yelling and bouncing in unison.

-Will Grofic

## The Casket Lottery's "Moving Mountains:"

This album is great for driving because it fades into the background when you need to pay attention to the road, but is good enough to keep you interested in traffic. Also, it's great music to sing along with in the car, whether you need to keep yourself awake or just have a bit of cabin fever.

-Bill Spencer

**Janis Joplin's** "Me and Bobby McGee:" "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose" is a great line for when you literally have nothing but motivation to travel.

**Grateful Dead:** They're good all the time, but a "Truckin'" is a good roadtrip song, as is **Golden Earring's** "Radar Love" and **Steppenwolf's** "Magic Carpet Ride" and "Born to be Wild"

**Bob Marley** is always good. Always. Especially when traveling, because everyone loves Bob Marley no matter what country you're in. It's

just feel good music and won't get any complaints from fellow travelers.

The best song to listen to at the end of a long trip is **John Denver's** "Country Roads Take Me Home"....but maybe that's just me.

-Pat Horley

I think the best type of music to listen to while driving are the oldies but goodies. The **Forrest Gump & Remember the Titans** soundtracks are amazing. You can sing-a-long to them instead of freaking out with road rage!

-Liz Benham

"Glory Days" by **Bruce Springsteen**; "Crash" by **DMB**; and "Shook Me All Night Long" by **AC/DC** because they are fun to sing along to.

-Liz Jenkins

**Queen's** "Bohemian Rhapsody" Need I explain?

-Amanda Schmidt

I take **Cake** and the **Reservoir Dogs** soundtrack in the car. While I was traveling around Europe, nothing was more wonderful than listening to "Give Up" by **The Postal Service**, especially on the long train rides from country to country. On the go - **Damien Rice** is good to hear in the discman.

-Sara Wuillermin

It depends on the level of road rage. **The Shins** or the **Garden State** soundtrack is great for chill night driving. **The Neptunes** is great when I want to pretend I'm cool. **System of a Down** or **Coheed and Cambria** is great when I feel like driving fast. And **Ashlee Simpson** is just terrific in general. God bless Ebay & SoulSeek.

-Lindsay Bergman

## RADIO FREE CINDY: I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU A REASON TO STAY

BY CINDY BROWN

We use our cars for so many things but hardly

music, talk to our friends, pile our groceries in the trunk, travel from school to home and back again, or

think about things that deeply affect us, thus giving us the opportunity to go back to our place of res-

music and the reviewer mentioned Death Cab for Cutie's "sudden" fame. He made some very snide com-

is not going to make me go out and buy stamps.

I use The U.S. Mail when I need to send a

By **CINDY BROWN**

We use our cars for so many things but hardly ever think of them as more than just an object that transports us from one place to another. It's a place where we listen to

music, talk to our friends, pile our groceries in the trunk, travel from school to home and back again or, if we are feeling adventurous, across the United States.

But it is also a place we use to be alone and to

think about things that deeply affect us, thus giving us the opportunity to go back to our place of residence and write about it.

On my ride home from teaching today, I was listening to a broadcast on NPR about independent

music and the reviewer mentioned Death Cab for Cutie's "sudden" fame. He made some very snide comments about how a year of extensive touring didn't do for them nearly as much as having a song appear on The OC 2 soundtrack did.

Yes, superficial television is helping America become more in tune with [what I believe is] good music. Don't get me wrong. I love Death Cab and I'm glad they are getting exposure and getting paid. Their music hasn't suffered from it as of yet but I guess I just have to wait until the first Atlantic Records release to see what's up. Deep down, I just don't want to say goodbye to \$10 shows at The Black Cat in DC.

There was a lot of other stuff the reviewer talked about in defense of indie rock and how sad it is that it is being commercialized because advertisers feel like, "Hey, we can reach a whole new generation of people this way." But maybe more of our generation are breaking into advertising and trying to make a change in the way we view the world.

Music has always been a powerful weapon but it can cause a lot of worry when it falls into the wrong hands. Either way, having a Postal Service song playing during a Postal Service commercial

is not going to make me go out and buy stamps.

I use The U.S. Mail when I need to send a package or a money order, or whatever. I am never going to find myself in front of the television saying, "Oh my god! They are playing The Postal Service! I need to go buy stamps and send letters to all of my friends RIGHT NOW!"

Most of the time, when I actually do watch TV, it's midnight and I'm watching Adult Swim. The post office isn't even open and I am sure as hell not dragging my body out from the warmth of my blankets and pillows to write in my diary, "Go to post office, buy stamps, send letters to all of your friends, immediately."

I still believe in old-fashioned mail in the same way I believe in music. Sometimes, anticipation is what makes life rewarding. Get out there on the road, pay your dues, earn your respect, suffer. Wait patiently for a letter from a friend. Death Cab, I still love you, no matter what you do.

Just promise me that when you're big stars playing HFStival with Modest Mouse and The Shins, you'll do at least one small show at The Black Cat, for old time's sake. For those of us that were with you and "knew you when."

# Andy's



**337 1/2 High St.**

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Kitchen open until 11pm weeknights,  
midnight Friday & Saturday

Saturday, December 4

**Radio Mosaic**

*jam band*

Friday, December 10

**The Shambles**

*rock*

Saturday, December 11

**Rob Levit Trio**

*jazz guitar*

Saturday, December 18

**August West**

*folk rock*

**\* Must be 21 \***

go (gö) *v.* 1. To move or travel; proceed. 2. To depart. 3. To cease living. 4. To come to be in a certain condition. 5. A Chinese board game.

## A Travel Diary: Adventures Abroad

CONTRIBUTED BY SARA  
WUILLERMIN

7/14 4:15pm

I'm sitting at a café in Paris on Bastille Day. What a wonderful stereotype.

Today's been good so far—we've mainly walked around after taking the metro to the Arch de Triomphe. We walked some of the streets there and then made our way back towards the streets that followed along the Seine.

Currently we've stopped to eat (an omelet and fried and I'm going to follow it up with some mousse) and then it's on to the Musée D'Orsay and afterwards the Madeleine as long as we have time for them.

After that we're going to head back towards the Eiffel Tower to see the fireworks for Bastille Day, which will make up for missing them on the 4th at home—not like I often have the opportunity to celebrate Independence Day there, since I was usually working. Here's to Europe, eh?

7/17 4:44pm

Well, right now I'm sitting in front of the monument that was constructed in front of Dachau, one of the first concentration camps in Germany, ten minutes outside of Munich.

It was one of the first camps that had been established and first was used to hold prisoners of war and

those who resisted Nazi dogma. Later the prison held Jews, Poles, homosexuals, Gypsies, and anyone else who seemed a threat to the 3rd Reich's regime.

It's been a good experience, though I definitely enjoyed walking around the actual camp more than the memorial museum that they had set up. I was able to get more out of that time spent walking around the bare buildings than the informative exhibit because out here you're able to truly sense the feelings of terrible loss.

Even right now as I'm writing this, that dreadful feeling overwhelms me because the number of tourists has thinned with the dark clouds that are looming over the main barracks bringing the anticipation of rain.

I can't imagine being forced here during the war, waiting to die. It is almost hard to believe the pictures and film footage that remain are real. Seeing the piles of starved human bodies and the huge gas chambers and the ways that these people had been beaten and tortured is unreal.

I think for me the means of self preservation that the Jews and others created through art, music, and poetry is equally as moving. To me, it shows how powerful these mediums are.

## The Game that is "Go"

BY CARLI BORCHERDING

The New York Times describes Go as "the fruit fly of artificial intelligence," since the best Go game software is much weaker than the average Go player.

For decades, programmers have set up games that outwit the best players but Go remains one game that is too complicated for computers to master.

The official American Go Association's website ([www.usgo.org](http://www.usgo.org)) reports that Go is a board game originating in China over 4000 years ago, and made up of the simplest elements: line and circle, black and white, stone and wood. Known as Baduk, Wei Ch'i, Weiqi, and Igo in other cultures, the game is comparable in the East to the Western fascination with chess.

The game requires two players to move black and white stones on a 19 by 19 gridded wooden board.

The aim is to surround territory and opposing stones. Stones are never moved once placed and are only removed from play when completely surrounded by the opposing color.

Players quoted on the AGA website agree that "the game rewards patience and balance over aggression and greed."

Michael Redmond, the only Western player to have won status as a middle-level professional player in Asia, is quoted on the AGA website saying, "The game can be a casual pastime for the idle hour -- or a way of life."

Many use the game as a form of meditation and interpret it as an analogy to life, a mirror of personality, an abstract exercise for reasoning, and even an "art in which black and white seem to dance across a board in delicate balance," according to the AGA site.

The AGA also reports that some legends say the game was originally a fortunetelling device, using the black and white pebbles to represent yin and yang. Some say that it was a forerunner to the abacus. Others believe it was invented by an Asian emperor in an effort to improve the intelligence of his half-witted son.

Around 600 B.C., during the time of Confucius, Go was one of the "Four Accomplishments" (along with brush painting, poetry, and music),

according to the AGA, that had to be mastered in order for a Chinese boy to pass on to manhood.

The earliest North American Go players were probably Chinese workers employed on railroads in the 1800s. The game came to the attention of Westerners in the early 1900s when mathematicians, including Otto Korschelt and Edward Lasker, stumbled upon it. In 1937, Lasker and others formed the AGA in New York City.

Today, the AGA reports that it has a little over 1500 members with 150 clubs nationwide. Members think of it as "a small, tight-knit national community that generally greets a new player as a long-lost member of the family."

Go is comparable to Eastern martial arts in that it teaches concentration, balance, and discipline. It is said by the AGA that "the rules of Go can be learned in minutes, but that it can take a lifetime to master the game."

For more information about Go or to form a club in your area, contact the American Go Association; P.O. Box 397; Old Chelsea Station; New York, NY 10113 or email [aga@usgo.org](mailto:aga@usgo.org).

## How To Make Yourself Look Like You Went Somewhere Exotic On Vacation

BY TANYA BORUKHOVA

Are you sad because you are going to be stuck at home for a month doing ab-

highlights and tell your friends that they developed over the course of your 7 day stay in Aruba.

that you purchased at Barnes and Noble.

8. Purchase Mai Tai or Blue Lagoon mix and make

BY TANYA BORUKHOVA



PHOTO BY SARA WULLERMIN

The former concentration camp Dachau, pictured with artwork in front of it

Are you sad because you are going to be stuck at home for a month doing absolutely nothing, envious of your friends who get to enjoy a lovely vacation in Tortolla? Luckily, now you, too, can look like you were on vacation, with these fool-proof ways.

1. Fake'n' bake. Just make sure it's in moderation because an orange tan is blatantly fake.

2. Get cheesy hair extensions, wraps or braids at the local salon. If you feel really courageous, get beads, too.

3. While at the salon, you might as well ask for

highlights and tell your friends that they developed over the course of your 7 day stay in Aruba.

4. Wear an excess of pua shell necklaces, bracelets and earrings that look like they had to have been made south of Texas.

5. Go to a craft store and buy funky seashells. Give them to your friends and tell them an elaborate story about how you found each one on the sandy beaches of the BVIs.

6. Buy several cheesy Hawaiian shirts or sarongs at your local hippie store.

7. Send your friends postcards of exotic islands

that you purchased at Barnes and Noble.

8. Purchase Mai Tai or Blue Lagoon mix and make your friends weird concoctions, claiming that you learned to make these drinks from a shaman named La Bamba.

9. Get in a bad bike accident and tell your friends that it was a shark attack.

10. Even in the dead of winter, continue walking around in your flip-flops (or espadilles if you are really risqué) and board shorts, claiming that you just can't get out of the vacation frame of mind.



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