

Fear of studying keeps libraries empty



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Ok, honestly how much do you study a day? Don't worry, I won't tell Mom and Dad, but let's get real folks the majority of you spend maybe an hour, if even that, outside of class each day studying.

There are those, like myself, who have become best friends with the library, spending more time behind a book than in their room. However, for every library goer there are those who pride themselves on maintaining their comfortable distance from the cream stone building. How ironic, that the one building singled out for the sole purpose of studying is the one cast in an ever hovering shadow of disgust. It's not a scary place, a little old yes, but

I was told that the lead in the paint wasn't lethal unless it was eaten. So, perhaps the reason it is avoided is because studying is not a priority for the majority of college students.

No fear, this plague of apathy is not specific to Southwestern, but rather an overly contagious disease spreading to college campuses across the nation. One of my friends, currently attending the Kansas of University, confessed that her ultimate goal was to never step foot in the library. While her phrasing was a little more mature than I am allowed to mention, her admission captured the consistently common attitude of the average American college student.

There are a number of causes of such carelessness. The most obvious of them is laziness and while I hate to admit it, it's probably the most accurate and

most telling.

This trend of lethargy is reflected throughout the American society. Less people exercise so they get fat. People are able to skim by in the work place in office jobs that expect little and demand little. It can also be seen in the public school system that in some states, not all mind you, fails to hold students accountable for their work or lack thereof. This leads to the next potential cause of educational apathy.

The same friend, who admitted her detestation for her college's library, told me that high school had done nothing to prepare her for the demands of college. In high school she was an above average student, enrolled in advanced placement classes, and she had no trouble maintaining an A/B average. She never had to study. What had once seemed a

blessing was now a deadly curse. Allowed to glide through the public education system without studying had led her to develop poor study habits and like all students, she carried those habits developed in high school, to her college career. Now she doesn't know how to study.

Like so many other college students she is overwhelmed. Luckily for her she is a bright student, but what happens to those not so bright students who made it through K-12 and are now faced with a not so forgiving college curriculum. This is especially hard in larger universities where students are numbers and professors, having four classes of five hundred students, can't fit all of those students into their tightly scheduled office hours. Southwestern students are lucky in

this respect, where staff members are willing and able to provide one-on-one time.

However, while the professors may be willing to spend time outside of the classroom to further their student's education and strengthen their chances for success, this is only half of the equation. Luckily for us for every problem there is a solution. Unfortunately the solution for this problem is not easy.

The answer to all your college headaches is to study more. I was fortunate enough to have parents who demanded excellence. Because of this I developed strong study habits in high school and those are what have saved me in college. My study habits are ridiculous, ask my roommate. When the tri-weekly Woodburn test rolls around I spend hours upon hours in study, rereading all of the chapters that we have covered in

class and committing the outlines to memory, I truly am the ultimate nerd, but it pays off in the end. I'm not advocating my study style because it probably wouldn't work for everyone. In order for a person to develop study habits that they are able to stick to they must find a method that fits them individually. Maybe you study better in the morning, maybe at night. Maybe you're better able to focus in the library rather than your dorm room or visa versa. You have to play around with your options to find what works for you.

So go for it. Start experimenting, but always keep in mind that better grades equals a better job and an easier future. If you really think about it all you lazy students out there should be studying like crazy now because it could ultimately lead to a cushy desk job. You see if you buy into the system now you will beat it in the end.

Bill bans funeral protests Newest album big hit for artist Tim McGraw

By Katie Allender
Entertainment editor

Upon reading a headline entitled "House unanimously passes funeral protest restrictions," I thought to myself, why would you want to protest at, or against a funeral? Doesn't that seem rather rude?

Apparently a bill was passed to keep protestors away from the funerals and was approved by the House of Representatives. According to the article, it is to keep members of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., from protesting against such things as homosexuality at funerals. The House of Representatives passed the bill 123-0 according to *The Wichita Eagle*. It even allows loved ones to sue the protestors for invading their privacy.

Before the bill was passed, the Kansas Funeral and Privacy act ordered them to stay 150 feet away from the service, cemetery and mortuary from two hours before the ceremony until two hours after it is over. It requires them to stay 200 feet away from military funerals.

According to this website, firstamendmentcenter.org, the church protested at funerals of soldiers sent home from Iraq and think that the war is happening because God is punishing the country for having gay rights. An American church seems to be not so patriotic. No wonder the House passed the bill without a second thought.

First of all, how could a church protest at a funeral? I always thought churches hold the funerals

and do they really go to someone's funeral, in front of the members of that family and that person's friends and rant on about what they think is wrong? I think that you would feel some sort of guilt from this, especially being from a church of God, who loves everyone. Going on about what is wrong and right while people are crying their eyes out in grief in front of you seems a little less than respectful.

Second, not only are they protesting at funerals, but they're against the war for completely different reasons than that of the average American. You see Americans are protesting the war because they feel war is wrong, not because they feel we're being punished for letting people of the same sex love each other. I think there are other things to worry about in the world than homosexuality, let's try murderers, thieves, racism and environmental issues for a few examples.

They say that God hates homosexuals but I've never read that in a Bible. I've heard many times God loves everyone despite their sins. I don't believe that he'll ever stop loving you, even if you end up in hell. It sounds like this church needs to read up on the Bible before opening their mouths.

I understand that a lot of churches are against being gay, but why be rude about it and invade someone's funeral? I think they should think about how they would feel if

another church or group protested being Baptist at their funerals? It's ridiculous to see that a church, a place you go to for worship, for prayer, for guidance would do such an insensitive thing.

According to the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights, Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

If we break that apart and read closely, it says peaceably to assemble and to petition...peacefully being the keyword. What could be peaceful about protesting at funerals on ideals such as anti-homosexuality and anti-American criticism? I don't see that listed anywhere in the First Amendment.

Freedom of speech does imply saying what you feel is right, I'm not saying that they can't protest against homosexuality, but there's a line to draw. Protest on your own grounds, protest somewhere that doesn't invade on private matters. Do not protest at someone's funeral, it's rude, it's cruel, and it's very ungodly if you ask me.

It's also very un-American to protest at soldiers funerals, soldiers who keep our country free and allow you that precious amount of free speech being abused, to each his own when it comes to how you feel about being gay, but protest on your own time.

Editorial

Music fans shut door on element of surprise



Tommy Castor
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One of the biggest complaints I have had from listeners of radio stations that I have worked at is that people like the surprise of not knowing what songs are going to be played on the station, but they don't always like the choices of songs. They sometimes complain that regardless if they like the format and style of the radio station, there are bound to be several songs that they just do not care for.

In the age of iPods and music downloads in our society, consumers can create any sort of music play list that they want, only hearing songs that they program, essentially creating their own personal radio

station.

But by doing that, listeners are shutting the door on one of the most important and essential parts of listening to the radio.

They shut the door on the surprise.

They know exactly what song will be played next. Even if their play list is set on random, they still know what songs are in the play list because they put them there.

So how would a person go about listening to songs that they like, and still not getting rid of the surprise aspect of the radio?

A brand new piece of technology may just do the trick.

Pandora.com is a website for all music lovers who are willing to try something new and still hear great music. This free program first asks the listener to list an artist or band

that they enjoy. Pandora will then program a mix of that band's music and other artists that the program believes the person will like, based off of tune, tempo, harmony and instruments.

My first experience at Pandora, I picked the rock group Relient K as the band to base my listening off of. In a seven song selection, I heard two songs by Relient K. I also heard a song by Weezer, one song each by Punchline and Kisschasy, a song by Feeder, and one from Fall Out Boy.

I had the opportunity to hear songs by a band that I really liked, plus a couple songs from other bands I recognized. However, the kicker was being introduced by underground bands in the rotation.

Music Column

By Jessica Bernhardt
News editor

After 15 years in the music biz, who would've thought he'd do it again? Definitely not me until I started hearing "Last Dollar (Fly Away)" on the radio several times a day. Tim McGraw has successfully released his 11th album as of March 27. The album is ranked No. 7 on Amazon.com's Top Sellers in Music, and rated 4.5 out of 5 on customer reviews. The album also is ranked No. 2 on iTunes Top Albums.

The CD starts off with the ever-too-often heard song "Last Dollar." At first, I liked the song. I'll admit it. Unfortunately, the more and more I heard it, I wished it'd never played on the air. The song ends with children singing, "One, two, three, like a bird I sing, 'cuzz you've given me the



most beautiful set of wings." The children happen to be McGraw's little girls. It's a genuine touch to the song but does get annoying after hearing it so often. There are, however, many people out there that like this song. They like it so much that this song has reached No. 2 on the Hot Country Songs list. McGraw does a tremendous job in this album of singing lyrics of life, love, pain, and joy.

"Suspicious," McGraw's remake of Eddie Rabbitt's famous song, makes it seem as if McGraw knows what it's like to have all the guys look at the love of your life as she walks into the room.

Track 9, "Between the River and Me," contains the saddening lyrics of the murder of an abusive stepfather.

"I Need You" is a song of truly loving someone and needing them. "Like a needle needs a pain/like my Uncle Joe in Oklahoma needs a rain/I need you/like a lighthouse on the coast/like the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost." Its moderate tempo adds to the meaning of the lyrics. McGraw's wife, Faith Hill, joins

him in this song. The song differs from all other songs they've done as it is not such a powerful ballad.

Hill also joins her husband on "Shotgun Rider," which seems to be the most traditional country song they have ever done as a team with lyrics such as "that plane leaves a scar on my heart like an old brand in time/she said lovely man where are you going/don't you know that the light for the cowboy is no good alone."

McGraw does, yet again, a flawless job of selecting which songs to sing and co-writing yet another song, "Train 10." If you're a first time listener of McGraw, this is a great CD to pick up on. However, if you're a lifelong fan, be sure to add this album to your collection of his already great CDs.

Released: March 7, 2007
Producers: Byron Gallimore, Tim McGraw, and Darran Smith
Label: Curb
Price: \$9.99 (as shown on Amazon.com)

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