

Word on the Hill

How many text messages do you send a day?

By Anthony Cook




Ann Weese
biology
junior

"Probably 20."



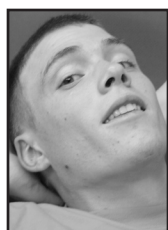
Diane Dixon
biology
junior

"Six."




Paulo Borges
biology
sophomore

"I don't have a cell phone."




Aric Cherry
communication
junior

"None, I don't have text messaging on my phone."




Brandon Hessing
sports management
senior

"I would probably say three or four on average a day."



Keith Peck
physics
junior

"Generally I send maybe one or two a day."




Valarie Hart
athletic training
sophomore

"Anywhere from 25 to 30 a day."



Kara Kenyon
psychology
freshman

"Ten at least."




Katie Gomez
communication
freshman

"I send and receive probably like 150."



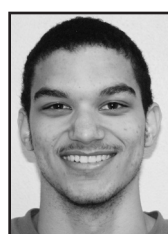
Sarah Jane Boyer
music performance
and creative writing
freshman

"I send about 10 to 20 a day."



James Sanders
marketing
junior

"Last time I got my bill I averaged about 100 a day."



Nick Wagner
undecided
sophomore

"About 400 or 500."

Request for respect

Senior tired of homework being disregarded



Drew Logsdon

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If you're reading this, I'd like to extend a textual hand of gratitude.

You see, all too often, I see people picking up a copy of my homework, and immediately crumpling it up and throwing it in the trash.

As we come to that time in the semester called "midterms," students get geared up for big tests and hefty mid-semester projects. Sometimes the communication major is looked down upon for not sharing in the examination load. True, our load doesn't necessarily pick up at one point or another throughout the year, but you'll never find a break or downtime in our schedules, either.

Learning to be "journalists," whether through television, radio, new media or the traditional news-

paper, is a 24 hour job. Our campus doesn't sleep so students of the communication department always have to have an ear to hear whatever the latest "beat" may be.

This brings me to the probing question. Does your homework get shoved through the campus mailboxes every week, heard on the public FM airwaves, or added to an internet website for world access? Because mine does. And the story is the same for many of your fellow students that walk around this campus with you.

The newspaper staff works for hours to produce a paper that looks professional and now comes out once a week. It's complete with world news, campus happenings, entertainment pieces, campus sports coverage, opinions, photos and more. After the stories are written, the editors make them to be their best, create the page designs, and send them to the printers. This process doesn't happen as quickly as that last sentence can be read. When we get our work back in paper form, each of us delivers them on campus where they'll be distributed to the public eye. One of these delivery

assignments is the campus mail center.

Within a few hours, I see the trash cans outside of the mail center overflowing with the product that myself and several other head editors have labored over for the past week. Sometimes our work isn't thrown away immediately, but rather is put under a microscope, and mocked for its mistakes. Perhaps there are other times when students and staff take the time to read it. I think I'm just asking for an ounce of respect.

Personal Column

Would you consider taking the collection of photos and articles produced by fellow students every week and say, scan them for a headline that might strike your interest? I can promise it will be appreciated by the division that never sleeps.

In the meantime, appreciate that your homework isn't printed every week and put into every campus mailbox. The entire campus doesn't get to see what you're accomplishing and nobody sees your every flaw.

If you're still reading this, thank you. And please, don't throw away my homework.

Tell your friend to get out of a bad relationship



Katie Allender

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How do I help my friend open her eyes to how bad her relationship is?

Dear Anonymous, Sometimes helping a friend is the hardest thing to do. I have a friend

in the same situation and no matter what I tell her or what her boyfriend does, she continues to date him. The best thing to do is to show her what it's like to be in a good relationship. Give her examples of how she can be treated better and what her boyfriend is doing wrong. If she still doesn't want to break up with him, you could tell her to talk to him about it. Tell her to tell him what he's doing wrong, why it's wrong and that if he doesn't start acting like a boyfriend, maybe she can find a new one. She might not mean it, but a threat is a good way to get him to shape up. Why does this guy act nice to me

when it's just you and some other people, but he is mean to me around his roommate?

Dear Anonymous, It depends. When it's just you and some other people, are those other people mainly girls or mainly your friends?

Maybe he doesn't want his friends to know he's into you. If one were to think about transferring to a different college should they wait until next school year or would it be ok to do it at semester?

Advice Column

--Undecided

Dear Undecided,

There's no problem transferring schools after the first semester. There's also not a problem waiting a year. What you should think about is why you want to transfer. Will your classes transfer and where do you want to transfer to?

Some schools are more expensive than others, you want to make sure you're covered. You want to make sure your classes will transfer over so you don't have to re-take classes all over again. Location is a big key factor too. Do you want to live closer to home or farther away? How will

you get there and back home on holidays? You should ask yourself these questions. If you still want to transfer, you should make sure everything will work out. These questions will factor in to when you should transfer.

What are some good ways to relieve stress caused by family, guys and health?

Dear Stressed,

What are your favorite things to do? Sometimes when I get stressed I write everything down just to let it all out, or I write poems sometimes. Another way to relieve stress is to

go for a run, play a sport you like or even just take a nap. You could even cook or have a night out with the girls or guys.

I am getting tired of cafeteria food and would like some ideas on some good food I can cook in my room. Can you help me?

Dear Hungry,

Things like Mac and Cheese, hot dogs, Raman noodles and some sides like rice can be made in the microwave in less than 10 minutes. Just go to the closest grocery store and look for anything that can be cooked in the microwave.

Is global warming just a doomsday prophecy?

Is global warming a fact? Probably. But then, global warming and global cooling have been a fact for something over 4 billion years.

Are we humans the nasty devils who are causing it? I know that many of the human-induced warming faithful will quote scholar after scholar to support their argument. But will they also quote the size of government grants received by these scholars? Such motivating grants have been handed out at an average of a billion dollars a year since 1990 - grants that would vanish if their recipients preached anything less inspiring than Armageddon.

I will quote but one source as typical of the "minority" scientists' view:

Letter to the Editor

Dr. John Christy, professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, said, "I remember as a college student at the first Earth Day being told it was a certainty that by the year 2000, the world would be starving and out of energy. Such doomsday prophecies grabbed headlines, but have proven to be completely false...Similar pro-

nouncements today about catastrophes due to human-induced climate change," he continued, "sound all too familiar and all too exaggerated to me as someone who actually produces and analyzes climate information."

And who is to say what the "ideal" temperature for this planet is? And for which creatures? Granted the 0.6 degrees Celsius increase over the past century or so may well, some day, annoy a few polar bears. But what of the lady bug? Or the bee? Has anyone asked them? Perhaps a warmer climate would please them immensely. Both are certainly as grand a miracle of life as the polar bear, and both do far more for us humans. Pardon me. Us nasty humans. But let's assume for the moment that we truly don't want the planet to get any warmer. To hell with the bees. Can we stop the planet's own eons-old temperature meanderings? Nope. And it would be a folly of arrogance to think we could. If she wants to get warm, mother earth will do exactly that. Alright, then as a fall back posi-

tion are there any genuinely rational actions we can take to minimize our dubious and minimal contributions to warming?

To quote John Stossel of ABC News, "The fundamentalist greens imply if we just conserved energy, and switched from fossil fuels to wind and solar power (they rarely mention nuclear power -- the most practical alternative), we would live in a nonglobal-warming fairyland of happiness. But their proposals are hopelessly impractical. Building solar panels burns energy, as does trucking them and installing them. Not to mention taking them down again to repair them.

"To think that solar energy could stop the predicted temperature increase is nonsensical. EPCOT, a theme park with a solar energy ride, consumes about 395,000 kilowatt-hours per day. The Department of Energy says you'd need around a thousand acres of solar panels to generate that much electricity. EPCOT itself only sits on 300 acres, so you'd have to triple the size of the park just to operate it. (Windmills

are no panacea either. They are giant bird-killing Cuisinarts, and we'd have to build lots of them to produce significant energy.)"

Don't misunderstand. I seek the same sense of approbation and relevance we all do. And I would certainly enjoy pronouncing the glorious good I could do as a greenie. Perhaps a little added suffering would help me feel even more engaged...a colder and far shorter shower, fewer lights, a Kyoto signing, perhaps a few other gestures.

But Mr. Quixote, those sorts of windmills aren't the answer either. It is time to deal with facts, and the only reasonable action we can take in light of those facts. It isn't an accident that humans have survived all manner of tricks by mother earth already. Adaptation is a hallmark of our success. We need to accept the fact of inevitable gradual warming until proven otherwise, and get about the business of making it our future ally and natural habitat.

And while we're doing all that, we'd best be doing some far-future-think about how to transfer out

altogether. Mother earth has given hominids a tiny bubble of geologic time to develop before she changes her mind and treats us as she did the dinosaurs. It behooves us to use every ounce of industrial force and every inch of technological advance to plan our escape. That is a task that will take hundreds, probably thousands of years, but we are the first generations to have an inkling of what is coming, and we, therefore are the generations that must start on a plan.

It certainly beats rearranging green deck chairs while the Titanic

floats toward the very real icebergs of natural and significant climate variations, solar cycles, stray asteroids, and super volcanoes, any one of which could snuff us out like a candle.

In this letter to the editor I have not only quoted John Stossel, but happily pirated some of his references and points. I recommend the original to you at: <http://www.abcnews.com/2020/story?id=3061015>

Tom Jacobs

Professor of computer science and communication

Reader challenges staff to improve coverage

I would like to start this letter with the words, "No offense, but..." But everyone knows that any conversation followed by those three words is always offensive. And for that, I deeply apologize. So in the immortal words of that one guy from that one movie, "It's not personal. It's business."

I understand that writing for a newspaper is no easy job. I have written for my town's newspaper since 2005, and my high school's paper before that. I understand that when facing a deadline, writing can get sloppy. But I would like to offer the following suggestions to The Collegian:

1. You can never check for grammatical errors too many times. You have a copy editor, let her do her

job. 2. When using quotes in an article, take the extra effort to quote more than just four roommates. Then we'll really know you've done your research.

3. Word on the Hill should have more substance. "Yes or No" questions are quite boring. I was pleased with last week's question about the iPods. We need more like that.

4. I know many people who'd like to see fewer stories about sports. We all love our teams, and support them wholeheartedly, but so many stories tend to become repetitive. I would suggest writing more stories about community activities. Not all of us have subscriptions to the town's newspaper, so it would be beneficial

for our own paper to shed a little more light on the day-to-day happenings of Winfield. Keep the articles on sports to please the sports fans, but offer various articles that appeal to more types of people.

5. Pictures that take up half a page in the newspaper are a waste of space, especially when only small body parts of students make it into the photo, like the photo of the Leadership garage sale two weeks ago.

6. Add a little humor to the paper. A cartoon or a crossword puzzle might do the trick. Also, book, movie, and restaurant reviews are generally crowd-pleasers.

7. I understand that some personal columns are meant to give relationship advice, but that advice should

not attack people with mental disorders, diseases, or moles. A less superficial article next time might attract less criticism.

I commend the staff of The Collegian for having the courage to put themselves out there as journalists. I have seen many copies of The Collegian filling the trash bins and believe that the staff deserves to have their hard work appreciated. But we, as students, have faith that we will get what we pay for in choosing a private school over a cheaper, state school. Southwestern is "The Premiere College of Kansas," where semi-professional journalism is not only desired, it is expected.

Tabatha McMullen

Early childhood education junior

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