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Bo Burasco
Junior

Amy Gleaves/Index

Amateur photographer Bo Burasco enjoys shooting landscapes scenes, especially in the spring and fall.

Recreational photography

Not an art major? Not a problem, amateurs and professionals share their photography advice

BY EMMA MUELLER
Staff Reporter

One, two, three — say “Cheese!”
Photography is an art form that almost anyone can successfully attempt. The switch from 35-mm film cameras to digital point-and-shoot cameras has made photography accessible and allowed even the most inexperienced to dabble in it. Today, almost anyone can be considered an amateur photographer. However, some take the hobby more seriously and use photography to creatively express their personalities.

Andrew Maxwell, a junior and a self-employed amateur photographer, uses his hobby to support itself. He said his main focus is portrait photography.

“I like shooting in junkyards,” Maxwell said. “Grungy, urban settings are my favorites. Both of those places are typically where I take senior portraits and band photos.”

Maxwell said he thinks that it’s all in the photographer to take a high quality photograph, not the camera. He said he feels that if the creative juices are flowing and the imagination is there, a \$10,000 camera won’t produce a picture that captures emotions more than a disposable camera will.

“It’s not about the camera, it’s about the photographer,” Maxwell said. “It’s all about imagination and showing people the way you see things. Don’t think that just because you have a crappy

camera you can’t take good photos. And don’t think that just because you have a nice camera means you can take good photos.”

Truman photographer Tim Barcus sees things a little differently. He stresses the importance of learning the ins and outs of both the camera and the camera manual.

“Read the manual because the manual has a ton of information,” Barcus said. “Set your camera on manual. Learn to use manual settings. Turning the dial to the smiley face doesn’t guarantee you are going to get a good portrait. When you have all those modes, it takes the experimentation away.”

Barcus has been taking pictures professionally for almost 20 years. He said that although photography is much more of a job than a hobby nowadays, he still enjoys the recreational aspect of photography.

“I like the lake and walking on the trail,” Barcus said. “I like seeing the natural world in different seasons. One thing I would love to do, but haven’t, is to go photograph the eagles over by the river.”

Barcus said photos.truman.edu includes a section where Truman students can upload and display their own shots of campus scenery.

“Right now, there are only three photographers that have submitted stuff, but I want more,” Barcus said. “There are a lot of good photographers out there. A lot of people have a great eye, but there are very few people that have actually

learned the techniques and the technology and the technical aspects that make it repeatable.”

Photography, in addition to its use as a form of expression, is used to capture memories and record events. Barcus said he has one piece of advice for anyone wishing to improve their skills.

“Always take one more,” Barcus said. “When you think you got it, take one more.”

Bo Burasco, a junior and an amateur photographer, said he has been around cameras most of his life but has begun to take pictures seriously within the last two years.

“Landscapes are my favorite things to take pictures of, or just really anything that interests me in the world,” Burasco said. “I’m starting to do more portraits and people.”

Burasco said he has both his favorite spots and seasons to take snapshots of. He has special places in his hometown that he frequents, but in Kirksville he likes to take pictures of what interests him and what he finds striking, he said.

“I’m a big fan of spring and fall,” Burasco said. “They’ve got a lot of good clouds and a lot of good potential for landscapes. Really, I like to shoot in any season if it offers me anything.”

Burasco said that for him the joy of photography is to allow his creativity to flourish and to express his viewpoint.

“Photography, to me, is really a creative expression,” Burasco said. “Some people write. Some people paint. But my form of expression is photography. That’s why I do it.”

Peace
D mind

Design by Antonette Bedessie/Index



Zoe Martin

A personality might be nothing more than a collage

Forget drugs and terrorism. America has a greater war to wage: cannibalism.

No, no, not freezer-full-of-human-limbs cannibalism. This is a much finer form of identity consumption, and it’s raging through our great nation’s schools. Classrooms full of pre-pubescent children tend to be all about collective identity — and what better way to make sure you’re not singled out as the weird kid in fifth grade than by chowing down on little bits of your classmates? Her clothing style, his musical taste. The coolest kid in class loves Hanson? So do you! Oh, ‘MMMBop.’

For a time, this personality feast results in a generation of look-alike 10 year olds, stuffed full of their peers’ characteristics. Eventually the hunger for homogeneity subsides and the seed of Self is planted. Still, even without the indiscriminate identity theft of younger years, so much of individuality for college students and beyond is shaped by parents, peers and trends. What part of the self is outside this influence? And is self determined solely by the surface traits we display on Facebook profiles? I can’t speak for everyone, but there’s a little more to me than my appreciation for Wes Anderson films, ‘Gossip Girl’ and Kurt Vonnegut quotes.

In its song, “Taste,” the band Animal Collective questions, “Am I really all the things that are outside of me? / Would I complete myself without the things I like around?” The ageless question, “Who am I?” — which ranks right up there with the meaning of life conundrum and the college student’s eternal query, “Why didn’t I start writing this yesterday?” — encompasses so many inexplicable layers of personality and character, “the subtleties of taste buds” as the song poetically puts it.

To rephrase (and probably complicate the already convoluted question), how much of Me is the company I keep, the posters on my apartment walls, the song playing while I write this or even my first name (which, fun fact, is not in the byline)? Conversely, how much of Self is composed of intangibles — memories, aspirations, values and emotional tendencies?

So, even when we stop filling ourselves with the personalities of others, there can be no real delineation between what is ‘Me’ and what is ‘Me, but only after she introduced me to it’ or ‘Me, but only because others perceive me this way.’

I have no sugar-coated “be yourself” message to offer because this piece isn’t about how awesome it is to be unique. Instead, I encourage spending some time figuring out what being yourself even constitutes. Explore yourself.

Chuck Klosterman, a pop culture journalist and author (also known as that guy with the job every writer and music lover always dreamed of), presents a hypothetical question in his collection “Chuck Klosterman IV: A Decade of Curious People and Dangerous Ideas” that examines this internal quest for self-in-taste. It goes a little something like: Imagine everything about your musical tastes is reversed overnight, so that now you despise your former favorite bands and adore, say, sappy love ballads from the current army of young blonde country singers. Now, contemplating this transformation undoubtedly makes many people unhappy. But explain why.

Feel free to ponder.
And while you’re at it, let’s solve this banking boondoggle and save the polar bears.

There’s no right or easy answer to the question of individuality. It’s a collective, a mismatch of goals and guilty pleasures that fit together, jigsaws falling into place, to reveal the puzzle of human character. In part, my individuality is the position I fall asleep in at night, the way I misinterpret song lyrics, the reason I cried as a kid when Littlefoot’s dino mama died and cried at 16 when my cousin died, the friends I choose, the things about my friends that frustrate me and the things about me that frustrate me.

Chew on that.

New Class for Fall 2009

ED 483 Grantwriting Across The Disciplines

Days: Tuesday and Thursday
Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.
Location: Violette Hall, room 1320
Instructor: Sam Minner

The objectives of this class are to introduce students to the fundamentals of locating sources of funding for external grants, preparing high-quality grant proposals, and effectively managing grants post-award. The course is open to students from all disciplines. It is offered for variable credit. Students registering for one semester-hour of credit will acquire information and skills related to locating sources of funding and preparing a basic grant proposal. Students enrolled for two semesters of credit will acquire the basic knowledge and skills previously noted and serve as co-authors as we collaboratively prepare one or more grant proposals. I will work with students enrolled for three semester-hours to identify a grant opportunity and prepare a proposal to the relevant funding agency.

There will be no required textbook for this class.

Enrollment is limited to 15 students.

If you have questions,
please call Dr. Minner at 4384
or email at minner@truman.edu

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