

Students need vacation from break

Michael Stone
Capital Times Staff

So much for our spring break. Was that the fastest week of your life, or what? For some of you, it's your last one before you get sent out into the real world. I hope you took advantage of the respite.

I, on the other hand, planned to do quite a lot--I even made a list. I wanted to do those things I've never had time for: washing my car, cataloging my video tapes, making some new cassettes for the car stereo, and taking a trip to New York.

It doesn't seem too strenuous for nine days, does it?

Well, I opted to work the first few days at the intellectual haven of a movie theater, where I am employed as an usher. After two days of smelling like popcorn and such thought-provoking conversation as "how about some butter flavoring," I needed a rest.

I was given some free tickets to the Live concert in Lancaster on Sunday night. The person who gave me the tickets said the band wouldn't start until 9 p.m. I arrived at 8:10 and the band was halfway through their set. I spent a total of six hours traveling back and forth to see thirty minutes of music--how rewarding. If the

lead singer didn't have an attitude and the personality of an anal-retentive lawyer with a two-by-four stuck up his butt, I might have enjoyed it more.

I spent Monday enjoying the

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abnormally warm weather in a park and getting lost in the woods. After about two hours of mindless walking, I swear I saw Chinatown, but that might have been a mirage.

I woke up Tuesday painfully tired from all the driving I had done in the previous 36 hours. I tried using some Zest soap, but to my disappointment, it didn't make me dance around my house yelling "Zestfully Clean" at the top of my lungs.

I spent the day in the theater again, losing some more points off my IQ, and witnessing a mother laugh proudly as her two-year-old brat happily dumped popcorn wherever he walked. I bet you never knew an uptight guy in a black, polyester vest would bludgeon a woman with a two-foot usher broom.

A sad note: Earl Scheib, famous for painting "any car any color for \$29.99,"

died over break. The same day, Tammy Faye Bakker filed for divorce due to "loneliness." Coincidence? I think not.

On Wednesday, I had planned to go to New York City with a friend to take in some touring. He called me Tuesday night (while I still reeked of popcorn) and informed me he wasn't feeling well. He was fearful that it might be cancer-related, which really made my day.

I spent all day Wednesday waiting for the phone to ring. It gave me the chance to fulfill my fantasy of spending an entire day watching television. It was painfully boring--I guess your favorite shows are only on when you can't watch them. The movie channels show awful stuff during the day and MTV and VH-1 show THE SAME TEN VIDEOS ALL DAY LONG. So much for my fantasy.

I finally got the call and found out it wasn't cancer, just something minor. It allowed me to relax slightly and sleep for a change.

I spent Thursday and Friday visiting my friend. We played the boardgame Life, and I found out I don't have one. I finished with no cash, no possessions, and hence, no life. I didn't realize the game was autobiographical.

I spent Saturday getting some minor

maintenance performed on my car. I had to use a new garage, which wasn't pleasant. I spent an hour on the phone getting estimates and using some friends' recommendations. I finally found one, and when I walked in, I wept and screamed, "Please don't rape me for everything I own. I know nothing about my car. Don't take advantage of me, kind souls."

I escaped fairly unscathed, but my checkbook felt the brunt of the attack.

And I spent Sunday sitting in my bedroom chanting, "I can't believe it's over...I can't believe it's over."

Well, although I did no academic work over the break, I still feel burned out and tired--doing all that driving and worrying didn't help. I never got the chance to complete the things on my list, I just ran out of time. I still have 10 video tapes to which I have no clue of their contents.

I bet that if I went to Daytona, I'd be dead by now.

And after watching MTV for a day, do you know what I found out?

If I see the Genesis "I Can't Dance" video or Totally Pauly one more time, I'll puke.

Here's hoping your break was more enjoyable and not filled with urges of regurgitation.

Political and sexual ideologies exposed

Terry Wolf
Capital Times Staff

Read about any good sex lately? How about bad sex? Animal sex? Now that I have your attention, I really want to talk about sex. Not safe sex, or premarital sex, not even sex in particular, but our attitudes about sex. Stay focused; there will be a quiz at the end of this column.

The values in the country have become, not surprisingly, those of a Judeo-Christian culture. No shock there. From the time we first mounted a school bus it was shoved down our throats. "One nation UNDER GOD." When I was in elementary school we still had "a moment of silence" after the Pledge of Allegiance so we could pray.

We constantly have this notion of religion reinforced every time the president goes to church, because the networks like to go with him.

It's no surprise then, that extramarital sex or homosexual activity by an elected official is described as scandalous, or immoral. We prosecute, we judge, and we pass sentence based on our religious beliefs. We usually don't re-elect such a person to office because he was a bad boy.

That type of action and social norm strikes me as unusual, coming from a country whose founding fathers stressed, among other things, freedom of religion and separation of church and state.

Let's take those two concepts one at a time. Freedom of religion means the ability to practice any religion you choose, or to practice NO religion, if you so choose. I think that is fairly clear. I believe in that. I'm Methodist; albeit not as I should be, I still believe in the things that religion has taught me. I just don't

automatically expect YOU to believe in those things.

The other one, separation of church and state is not as clear. If we have TRUE separation of church and state, then I feel

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religious ideals should have nothing to do with the election of, or attitudes about, elected officials. I don't care if Bill Clinton wears his grandmother's dresses. That has absolutely nothing to do with his ability, or lack of ability if you will, to be the president of this country.

If a situation exists where a politician, or one aspiring to be a politician, has performed an act that Jewish and Christian devotees find sinful, too bad. I think we should be more concerned with our country's foreign and domestic policy than other people's sex lives.

President Kennedy was accused of promiscuity, but he certainly did an adequate job in the nation's top office. Another, less sinful man may (or may not) have started a nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Separation of church and state has been sorely lacking in this country for a long time. We worry too much about a person's sex life and too little about his or her

qualifications. That may have something to do with some of the problems we currently have with our country.

The founding fathers had many good reasons for including the idea of separation of church and state. They remembered the problems England had with a king who was also "keeper of the faith." They did not want religion to be a big power broker in the realm of politics. But it's happened anyway.

We judge people we elect to a public office that is supposed to be free of religious ties, and we do it based on our own religious standards. Usually, we hold these people to a higher standard than what we expect of ourselves.



CAPITAL TIMES STAFF MEETING



Attention all staff:
There will be a mandatory staff meeting on

Tuesday, March 31 at 12:30 p.m.
in the Cap Times Office
(room W-341)



If you cannot attend, PLEASE contact Elin!

Anyone interested in joining the staff should come to the meeting.
No experience is necessary, everyone is welcome!



THANK YOU!

