

Smoking Banned!

Anonymous

Have you ever had a problem getting into or out of the school's main entrance because of the smokers who barricade the front door? It seems like every time I leave or enter the building I have to fight through the fog of smokers who seem to gravitate towards the main entrance. Yeah, I know it's cold out and yes, I know it might be snowing or raining and you don't want to get wet, but everyone cannot fit under that little roof. It makes it hard for people to get in and out of the building, not to mention the exposure of secondhand smoke.

The WCCC policy on smoking states: "To protect the health and welfare of the students, employees,



An injured student tries desperately to enter the building through a large cloud of smoke with little success, due to the crowd of students lighting up.

and general public, the college prohibits smoking throughout all interior spaces of the college buildings and vehicles. Smoking is permitted

only at designated exterior entrances. Violation of these regulations are subject to disciplinary action." If you haven't gotten the

Continued on pg 3

Starbucks® Comes to WCCC, Youngwood Campus

Anonymous

For many students, coffee and caffeine intake has developed into a daily ritual. It is an important element of student life. For that reason, WCCC has joined the ranks of many colleges and universities across the nation in opening a campus coffee cafe featuring the rich and flavorful Starbucks coffee.


Located in the south atrium of Founders Hall, the student-run café offers a delicious selection of lattes, espressos, coffees and teas. Coffee drinks are the core menu at the Common Grounds Cafe, but there's also a



Common Grounds Cafe

full range of soups, sandwiches, paninis, and sweet treats. The café's well-lit open space, cozy armchairs, deep

couches, and wireless Internet access make it a desirable alternative to the campus cafeteria.

Not only does the new cafe provide students, faculty, staff and visitors another option for coffee, but it also provides a much-needed central gathering place on campus. A place for students to hang out with friends or cram for a midterm. People feel a sense of kinship if they have a space in which to come together. At WCCC, let's make the Common Grounds Cafe live up to that purpose. 

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New Sports Logo Hits Home Run with Students

Anonymous

Last week a brand new sports logo was introduced to sports teams at WCCC. It was decided after several teams were ridiculed for the poor

logo, that a new one would be designed. The logo was created by one of our very own graphic design students who wishes to remain nameless.


After being introduced last week in a special unveiling ceremony in the gym, students were thrilled and excited.

One student said that, "This new logo is clean and crisp with a fierce quality, as compared to our last logo." Another student was quoted saying "I've been on a couple different sports

teams at WCCC and I have always been embarrassed by the cartoon like logo, now I will be proud to wear my uniform..."

"...I have always been embarrassed by the cartoon like logo, now I will be proud to wear my uniform!"

For students that are not on sports teams, the new logo is available on T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and ball caps at the book store (40% off now with coupon on page 13). With the new logo in place, even faculty members are getting into the excitement. Several members have

been spotted wearing the new logo, even our very own president. This renewed sense of school spirit has finally brought together WCCC in a brand new way. 




New items available at Bookstore beginning April 1st.

Ticket Availability Unfair to Students

Anonymous

Many students only have classes two days a week and most ticket sales are sold out by Monday. For example, one show was posted Friday and by Monday afternoon, they were sold out. This doesn't give many students an opportunity to get tickets. Tickets sales should be spread out and limited to how many they can sell in one day.


While many students do live close to campus, others travel an hour or more and would not want to make a special trip to get tickets. By not having more tickets available to those students who only come twice a week, we are excluding much of the student population. Also, many events happen on Mondays and Wednesdays. SGA should spread out ticket sales so that more students have an equal opportunity to purchase them. 

Sports Programs Cancelled, Lawsuit Pending

Anonymous

WCCC offers only a few sports programs for students. They offer; Baseball and Softball, Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's and Women's Bowling, Men's and women's golf, and women's volleyball.

Attention all athletes! WCCC cancels all sports programs! Due to an ensuing legal allegation against the college. WCCC has to temporarily discontinue its sports programs because of an apparent discrimination

charge against the college. The plaintiff apparently believes that the college is discriminating against male volleyball players because there is no men's team. The plaintiff also accuses the college of not having a wide enough variety of sports teams. Athletic Coordinator Dick Holler and college President Steven C. Ender would not give us further detail on this subject. Will sports be banned for good? 

April 1, 2008; Volume 2, Issue 1 – First and last issue. Cross Toads published by the GCT 231 Spring '08 class. All people's name's' has ben reemuv'd teew protext the identity thefts of teh people's.

So hee hee hee.

Sheeeeeeee?

SHEEEEEEE!!!! | | | | | | | | | | threethree

Cross Toads

K.I.S.S – Keep It Simple Uncomplicated Early Registration



Anonymous

Mention “Fall Frenzy” to returning students and the reaction may be something like, “Run, Forest, run!” Unfortunately the words “Fall Frenzy” only bring forth negative images of the “frenzy”, not the opportunity for early registration. Long, winding lines, lack of communication, and plenty of frustration were the order of the day. Dream along with me for a moment to a better solution...

Good news students! Fall Frenzy procedures have

been simplified so don't be afraid to attend! The “old” procedure required that a student's “status” be checked for “HOLD FLAGS” which include things like outstanding payments, fines, etc. before being allowed to register. That's what created the long waiting lines last year.



Each year prior to early registration, the campus sends out a notice informing you who your advisor is and other information. This notice will now also include the student's current status. You will need this form when you meet with your advisor and when you register. If you have any “hold” flags, it will also explain each type of flag and how to make them go away. The college is also exploring ways to have this information available online in the future so that each student

can check their status at any time.

IMPORTANT: If you do have flags, it will be your responsibility to get the “blue approval stamp” from the Student Services office on your form indicating that all your flags have been removed. You will need to show this form when you meet with your advi

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Smoking • From pg 1

why the ash-tray/trash cans are located away from the entrances.

There have been a number of complaints about the smell of cigarettes leaking into the building, because everyone chooses to smoke right in front of the doors.

Well the school is cracking down on those who choose to smoke in front of entrances. Also, because of these complaints the school has decided to extend and add an aw outside the

Scheduling Classes

Anonymous

Did you ever try to sign up for a class, only to find out it wasn't available on the day you needed? That's happened to me on more than one occasion. I found out that there are many problems with scheduling classes. The biggest issue is not having enough classes at different times. The majority of students at WCCC have jobs and other commitments outside of school. Many of those commitments make it hard enough to attend school at all. But if the college would change their way of scheduling classes, it might make things easier on everyone. You should be able to take whatever class you want on the day you need. So if you want to attend school on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, you shouldn't have to worry if your class is available that day or not. All the college would have to do is space out the classes. Give one class in the morning and one at night. Students would be able to pick which one is convenient for them.

Of course if the school decided to pursue this idea, they may need a larger teaching staff, more space, computers, and money. But giving so many courses at different times would mean more students would be able to attend. That's really what the college wants! And if there are more students enrolling, maybe the cost of tuition would come down. It's just an idea. But I do know that many students have had a problem with classes being on the wrong day or at the wrong time.

Got an early class and just don't feel like showing up on time?

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My Space Blocked

Anonymous

Have you ever been on the internet at WCCC around noon? On a typical day, the network slows down to the point where you may as well leave. If you were to come back in half an hour, you may have something to use. Why is this? Well, if you ask most students what they are doing while they're on the computers, most of them will admit to getting on web sites like myspace.com, thefacebook.com or youtube.com. Yes, they may be doing it to talk with friends and have fun in general, but think about it; is it possible that the internet may be slow because of too much chatting?

While MySpace, Facebook and YouTube may be fun for socialization, they are the biggest of all the bandwidth thieves. None of these sites has any true educational value. All three web sites load things in the background, so they use up a large portion of WCCC's bandwidth. Worse still, some students will stay online for hours, getting no homework done and hogging up the college's bandwidth. The real killer is that there are computer classes that need to use the internet during this time period, too, and they can't get fast enough access to do what they need. This has happened on several occasions in classes I've taken.

So, to satisfy this need, the college has officially decided to block myspace.com! The ban was decided last week and they have almost completed the changes they need to make. They have also installed some new network components, so that any time they want to know what a student is doing, they can take control of the computer and find out.

The block will go into effect on April 3rd. Watch out, students!



Dude, Where's My Car?

Anonymous

WCCC, Youngwood has recently started a new towing policy for students and faculty. Any faculty or students parking in any of the schools' fire zones and or "No Parking" zones will be towed. The cars that are towed will be impounded and will cost \$250.00 to be removed from the lot.

The new towing policy was instated after a lawsuit was filed against the school. Reportedly, this happened



when a student was hit by an oncoming car while walking to class. Since there was a car parked in the fire zone, the driver of the car was unable to see the student when they made the bend in the front of Founders Hall.

Part of the lawsuit was for the school to deal with this problem. New signs will be installed the beginning of next month at all of the fire zones throughout campus.

So if you dare to park in any of these zones be prepared to take a trip to the impound and shell out a hefty fine.



Dreaming and Wishing in the CRC

Anonymous

In college, it is important for a student to do all of their homework. This is especially important if the student is a Graphic Design major and working with a special program that is essential throughout their class work and their entire career. Thus meaning that the student should have access to this program throughout the school on all computers. However, this is not the case at Westmoreland County Community College. They only offer this useful program, called Dreamweaver, in only one classroom in Founders Hall.

This one room is clearly not enough. It is important that Dreamweaver should be available on all of the school computers. If the students have this option, they will have time

to finish their homework as well as other important projects that involve Dreamweaver.

First of all, what is Dreamweaver? Dreamweaver is a web design program that helps someone design and create his or her own web page. It is very good for people who do not know how to use the special codes.

This is an expensive computer program, so most people who take a class on this cannot afford it. That is why they use the computers in school to finish class work and homework. It

is necessary that the program should be on more computers than just in that one classroom. If a student had to work on Dreamweaver they might not get the opportunity to do this because there might be a class going

"A busy student does not have the time to just wait around for one specific computer..."

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Doggie Day Care

Anonymous

Are you the type of person who can not stand leaving your dog home alone all day, and miss them terribly while your at school? As dog lovers, we know that our dogs' are not just

dogs, they are a part of our family. We love them as if they are our own children. Well you don't have to miss them anymore, Pooches Play Pen (PPP) is coming soon to WCCC. At Pooches Play Pen, your dogs can run, play, and make new friends while you sit in the classrooms



and focus 100% on your school work, instead of drifting off in your head wondering what your dog is doing. PPP gives your fury friends the opportunity to become more comfortable around other dogs by socializing and getting familiar with new friends.

You will even see changes at home. Your pets will not be so rambunctious when you reunite after a long day apart. The chewing and barking obsessively will become non existent shortly after they start at Pooches Play Pen. The animals will also be taken outdoors on a regular basis, weather permitting. Knowing that sometimes they can get dirty from being outside, a grooming service is provided as well.

We are very excited for the arrival of Pooches Play Pen. Construction will start this summer and be ready for enrollment for fall semester. Stop by the Admissions office and pick up an application to enroll your pets, there are a limited amount of spaces so don't wait until the last minute, you can pick one up in June. Thank you and we look forward to playing with you.

Why can't School Start on a Monday?

Anonymous

Why not start school on a Monday? I have often wondered why we start school during the middle of the week. When starting in the middle of the week it seems as though you barely get anything accomplished and then the weekend is here. We have a two day break then you have to get back into the swing of things again. Why not just go full force from the start? The work week starts on Monday and when you get a new job they usually start you at the beginning of a week or pay period.

To me, it seems as though, it would be more productive and practical to start school on a Monday.

Dreaming • from pg 4

on or all the seats in the room could be full.

There is also an issue of time such as working around your kids, work schedule, and other classes the students have to attend. A busy student does not have the time to just wait around for one specific computer in a certain area. They have more important things to accomplish.

Having more computers with the Dreamweaver program on it can help result in better grades and much happier students, therefore showing that it is important for Dreamweaver to be more easily accessible.



Cafeteria Food Half/Off

Anonymous

Today at WCCC there is a money saving opportunity right down the hall. One day and one day only the college cafeteria will be selling all their food for half off! Because of the high cost of food and drink in the cafeteria this semester the head administrators decided to slash the price in half for one day to help give back to the students. All the same food as usual will be sold just at half price. So hurry down to the cafeteria and eat up because this offer is a one time thing.

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3		4	7	6				9
6		2		8	7			4
8				9	1			
	3	5				9	1	
			3	6				2
4		1	8			3		7
5			6		9	4		1
	6		1				9	

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WCCC Launches Shuttle Program

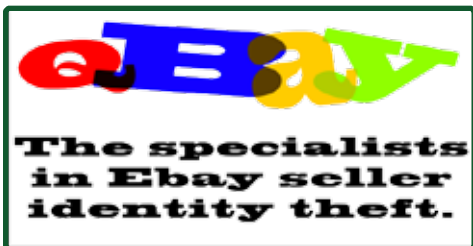
Anonymous

Each winter many people suffer from illness, frost bite and even hypothermia due to exposure to cold temperatures and other winter environmental factors. A lot of times at WCCC, parking lots are filled to maximum capacity, forcing students to park in lots extremely far away from the buildings they need to go to for classes.

Walking such a far distance in the freezing temperatures and low windchills gives ample time to become sick or even become frostbitten.

While most colleges and universities have the same problem, some have taken steps to resolve such issues as to offer shuttles from far away parking lots to main buildings. Here at WCCC, there are plenty of staff members who could offer their help in shuttling students to classes limiting their time outdoors and thus cutting down on chances to get sick. Instead of holding down the tables and chairs in the cafeteria, I think that both the school's attendance records and student grades would benefit from having maintenance crews offer shuttles from far away parking lots to the main building during the harsh winter months.

Not that shuttles should run all the time, but perhaps during the busiest hours such as between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. when parking within a mile's distance is completely out of the question. Staff members could even take shifts so that not one person is always outside in the cold. After all, we don't want members of the staff to become sick from the freezing temperatures either.



Bill Payment Woes

Anonymous

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you didn't get your tuition bill? That is exactly what happened to me last year after I signed up for the spring '08 semester during Fall Frenzy. I knew that payment was due early in December but I misplaced the slip that had the due date on it. It wasn't very economical to make an extra trip to college and find out since I live 30 minutes from the college and on the days I was there the issue was not forefront in my mind as I usually had to leave for work as soon as my classes were over. I kept looking for the bill in the mail but it never arrived. The next thing I know I get a letter saying my classes were cancelled because I didn't pay. The staff at the college were very nice and helpful in resolving the issue but by the time I arrived at the college and paid my bill one of the classes I had signed up for had filled up. I wasn't very happy because this meant that my degree was delayed an entire year because the class is only

offered in the spring, plus, the notice of cancellation said that I could still pay my bill and be "reinstated" into my classes. This, however, is a little misleading. It should have read "re-sign up" for classes as I had to fill out an add/drop form and try to squeeze into any empty seats.

What might work a little better for a situation like this would be to either send a letter of warning a week before the payment deadline to a student that hasn't paid, or, once the deadline is past, put the student on a "temporary suspension" list and send a letter telling them that they have 3 days from a specific date to make payment or their classes will be cancelled. This could be beneficial for students that missed payment, allowing them to retain the classes they signed up for and not be forced out because one of the classes filled up.

People can forget about things because they are busy or things get lost in the mail. Providing a safety net for events such as these and others can prevent headaches and can also help keep students from "Missing the Bus" of higher education.



Free Gas with Registration

Anonymous

With the price of gas constantly on the rise and the threat of global warming and through all the talk on how to conserve energy, we have no choice but to waste gas. With all the hard work, time, effort, and expenses placed into doing our best at furthering our education to make a difference in our lives and our families' lives, we are forced to waste or put aside all this we work so hard for.... For those of us who live a good distance away from the school and tend to take online classes when available in order to organize our time, conserve gas and mileage on our cars, we must drive an hour or more one way to participate in preregistration (the preregistration that the school spends a great deal of

time and money itself advertising and promoting).

We are forced to waste gas and place wear and tear on our vehicles and spend hours instead of minutes to stand in a line to register for classes we want or absolutely need to graduate. After all of the time and money wasted for that day, the registration process once you reach the end of the line to enter your classes into the computer - occurs within a matter of seconds.

If we are already a student with a valid ID and have already received approval from our advisors, then why can we not save half of the day's time and save our not so abundant money for that day by registering online?

Continued on pg 8

WCCC Cancelled My Graduation, Again

Anonymous

One week before the start of Spring Semester, 2008, I received a telephone call from WCCC informing me that one of my scheduled classes had been canceled due to insufficient enrollment. This was problematic for me in several ways, not the least of which was that I had already paid for the course. The college assured me that I would receive a refund – and I did, three weeks later – but I had designed my schedule both to meet the requirements of my major and to accommodate my job, and the cancellation upset both priorities. Needless to say, I was irritated.

The college regularly publishes a catalogue of available courses, and one expects it to be reliable, especially when certain courses are listed as mandatory for a particular major. What is a student supposed to do then, when a required course

is canceled – perhaps repeatedly? One might answer glibly that he just won't graduate until the course becomes available, but that would be obtuse. Not everyone has the time or resources to be a perpetual student. And what does the student do if the rest of his schedule hinges on the canceled course? Yes, he could rearrange his classes – with sufficient warning, which one week is not. Toward the start of the semester, slots close and options diminish. Does the administration consider this when it perfunctorily cancels classes? More pointedly, does it think before listing courses that regularly fail to attract students? My experience suggests not, and that is a problem in need of a solution.

Here is my suggestion: Before compiling the course catalogue for each semester, poll students to de-

termine which courses are actually in demand. This need not be a complicated process: it could be conducted via Campus Connections (which already features periodic pop-up questionnaires), with polls tailored for specific majors. If a course fails to elicit sufficient interest, do not list it in the catalogue. Simple. The benefits of such a measure would be twofold: first, students would not waste time chasing elusive courses; second, the administration would garner valuable data on the needs of the student body. The polls might even incorporate a “suggestion box”, in which students could propose new courses to the faculty and staff. The result would be a more reliable course structure and fewer last-minute schedule corrections.



Fall Frenzy • From pg 3

...and when you register. For those few of you who have not been able to accomplish this before Fall Frenzy or if you forgot to bring the form to registration, there will be a special line JUST FOR YOU, not the whole student population. So don't forget the form! If you have no flags, but have no form, you'll be standing in this line to get a copy and a “blue approval stamp”.

Plans are in place for faculty advising to take place in the gymnasium and registration in the cafeteria. This should allow for a much better flow of the registration lines. Once you've met with your advisor, proceed to the cafeteria where a bank of 10 or more computers and registrars will be available to help you register.

Facilitators will also be available to

help direct you to where you need to go, keep lines flowing, and answer questions. Want to make a buck? Volunteer to be a facilitator during early registration. The college is looking for a few good people to help out.

“...if you forgot to bring the form to registration, there will be a special line JUST FOR YOU, not the whole student population.”

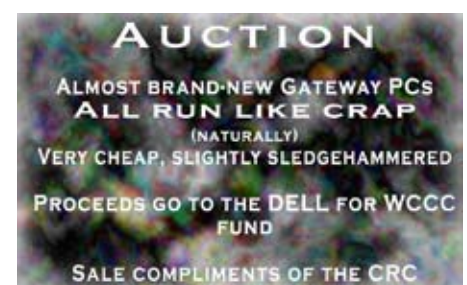
Before “Fall Frenzy” 2007, I had never heard of a “hold flag”. To keep students better informed, we will use campus newsletters, flyers, and also Campus Connections to post details and reminders such as how to clear any

hold flags you may have prior to “Fall Frenzy”.

Gee, I hope I'm not dreaming. I'm kind of looking forward to early registration now. How about you?



BrownineBrown	Rareware	Retro
Samus	Camelot	Noise
Saki	Intelligent	Skip
Pit	Systems	SEGA
MonolithSoft	Ape	Nexon
Nintendo	EAD	Lucas
Treasure	NST	Mario





Free Gas • From pg 6

I know, as a student that lives 40 miles away from campus and as a single mother with three kids at home, my day could be better spent than wasting time and gas. I too need certain classes in order to graduate and with the threat of the class being closed if I wait for regular registration, or dropped for not enough participation, I am forced to drive to the school, waste time, place miles on my 1993 vehicle (which already has over 100,000 miles on it), and spend money on gas that could be used for something more important.

I am sure that most of us would rather have our vehicles last longer by saving the wear and tear and conserving the mileage, which by the way - higher miles reduces the worth of your vehicle. Finally, I know that everyone has better things to do with their money rather than spending it on

gas to drive to the school to do something that takes seconds and could be done from the comfort of your own home. Acquiring the classes that we need desperately to graduate may be closer to reality and the outlook of the older students may be uplifted if only preregistration was available online. Perhaps the school would like to provide free gas fill-ups, free garage work with free car parts available (like tires and brakes), free baby sitting delivered to your home, free ATM cards with money to cover the expenses, money lost from work that day, and any other compensation to every student that attends this day. I have a hard time forcing myself to attend or get excited about attending an event that doesn't offer some kind of incentive to compensate for the large amount of negative issues for that day.



CLASSIFIEDS

Clothes hanger for sale – AKA treadmill – never used - best offer (413) 555-1238

Affectionate, male tabby cat free to good home – 5 of 9 lives left (413) 555-1823

English Mastiff named Chico – \$250 OBO. Spanish-speaking buyer preferred; dog apparently doesn't understand English. (413) 555-2183.

Girl wanted to assist magician in cutting-off-head illusion. Blue Cross and salary. (416) 555-8934

Toaster: A gift that every member of the family appreciates. Automatically burns toast. Call (561)555-8523 for details.

For sale by owner: Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica. 45 volumes. Excellent condition. \$1,000.00 or best offer. No longer needed. Got married last weekend. Wife knows everything.

WANTED: Someone to go back in time with me. This is not a joke. P.O. Box 111 Random, CA 945671. You'll get paid after we get back. Must bring own weapons. Safety not guaranteed. I have only done this once before.

Used Tombstone; perfect for someone named Homer HendleBergenHeinzl. One only 1-344-555-0963.

Man wanted to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel.

Fast Ticket to Easy \$80 Fine

Anonymous

Have you ever been just pulling into the parking lot in the morning or in the afternoon and almost get hit by someone pulling out at excessive speeds? About twice a week, I witness students driving at faster speeds than 15 miles per hour. Someone is going to get seriously injured or have damage to his or her car if something isn't done to stop this.

The set speed limit in the student handbook is 15 miles per hour and says that fines will be levied according to a schedule they give you. The funny thing about the schedule is that it has no fine for speeding.

So due to this mistake the college has decided to post more speed limit signs and have a tighter security enforcing the speeds that the students are driving. Anyone that is caught will automatically get a fine of \$80, a price decided by the local police department. They have also installed cameras on each light post in the parking lot so if a student is caught on tape in the act of speeding, the school can get the license plate number and report the students to a higher authority if the student have other offenses.



If you're confused by what you've read and concern has left you scratching your head, don't complain or call the school, we're only kidding,

April Fools!