

# Dollars and Sense

MONEY • BUSINESS • ACADEMICS

## DOLLARS AND SENSE BRIEFLY

**Sweet house o' mine...**For two university students, postcards they mailed this summer were definitely worth the cost of the stamps. Erika Aldan, a senior at the U. of Akron, won the opportunity to meet Guns n' Roses vocalist Axl Rose and also walked off with his condo in West Hollywood. "We're going to have an 'Evict Axl Party,'" where Rose will hand over the deed to his \$425,000 condo, Aldan said. Jonathan Asch, a sophomore at the U. of California, San Diego, entered a Comedy Central contest and won \$5,000 and a day on campus with anti-establishment comedian George Carlin, a high school dropout. ■ Eric Schmidt, *The Guardian*, U. of California, San Diego.

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**But did they post their own bail?...**Three freshmen at Berry College in Rome, Ga., were charged with forgery after local and campus police and Secret Service agents confiscated more than 100 counterfeit \$20 bills. Police found the students after a convenience store clerk notified them that a young white male passed a phony bill in the store and gave them a description of the suspect's car. Police arrested two of the suspects after searching their rooms. Kevin Nejedly, the third suspect, who passed a phony bill in the local Del Taco, turned himself in. "I pretty much had to make an on-the-spot decision while being completely nervous and in a complete state of indecisiveness as to what to do," Nejedly said. "Unfortunately, I spent it." ■ Michelle Williamson, *Campus Carrier*, Berry College.

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**Home sweet home...**Most students work during the summer to help cover school costs, but few are as industrious as Brian, Liane and Brent Hores. The students built a house this summer and are selling it to help pay for college. Both Brian and Brent are studying architecture, Brian as a third-year student at the Boston Architectural Center, and Brent as a freshman at the U. of Tennessee. Liane is a junior studying environmental science at the U. of North Carolina. "We got on each others' nerves, but it drew us closer together," she said about the 12- to 15-hour days spent working on the two-story, two-bedroom traditional house. They hope to sell it for between \$70,000 and \$80,000. ■ Stephanie Johnston, *The Daily Tar Heel*, U. of North Carolina.

## Students find 'The Write Stuff'

By AMY APPLEBAUM

*The BG News*, Bowling Green State U.

College students are accustomed to reading books, but few have written their own.

Jayna Miller, a sophomore at Bowling Green U., entered a Landmark Editions, Inc., contest and won a publishing contract for her children's book, *Too Much Trick Or Treat*, which she wrote and illustrated.

Her central character, Jammer the Rabbit, is a cute and cuddly schemer who concocts a plan to steal his friends' Halloween candy. His friends turn out to be smarter than he realized as they foil his plan.

Miller found out she won the contest on a Monday, about a year after she entered. That Saturday she flew out to Kansas City to begin editing her book.

Contest winners are flown to Landmark, where they are assisted by professional editors and art directors in producing the final version of the books for publication.

Miller said the text was rewritten about six times, and each illustration was redrawn about 20 times.

Aside from spending time at Landmark last fall, Miller also worked on revising her book in her residence hall room.

She left Bowling Green spring semester to work full time on her book. She said she could not keep up with her school work and spend enough time on her book concurrently.

"It was a full-time commitment," she said, "more work than I could ever imagine. When I was (working on the book), I thought, 'Why am I doing this?'" she said. "Now I want to do it again."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LANDMARK EDITIONS

Jammer the Rabbit has a thing for chocolate.

When she returns to school, it may be to a college that offers a program in illustration. The experience, she said, was like four years of college in one.

Miller is spending a lot of this year traveling, mostly in Ohio, and lecturing at elementary schools to encourage children to write. She tells children about other students who have been published and teaches about illustration. After she leaves, she hears stories about children who want to write. Lotti Hewett, a sophomore at Emory U., sent a manuscript to Hollaway House after reading through a marketing directory for writers. Her novel *Coming of Age* was released by them last summer.

The plot revolves around the lives of three black high school seniors who struggle to find out about themselves.

The students, two girls and one boy, become involved in each other's problems (which range from having mixed parents to a mother who committed suicide and a brother who is involved in a gang) and in a love triangle.

Hewett said she was skeptical about her chances of getting published because she didn't have an agent. Her main purpose in sending her manuscript out was to get some input from editors.

"I was basically lucky," Hewett said. "I've never known anybody in the industry."

She said having a book published has opened up a lot of doors, and she now has an agent. Warner Bros. Inc. has purchased the right to study the novel in order to decide if the company wants to make a film based on the book.

Hewett said she would love to be a writer if she could support herself. Getting another book published, she said, "will be easier, but not simple."

## Mandatory insurance ruling affects student financial health

By TANYA BRICKING

*College Heights Herald*, Western Kentucky U.

The state of Kentucky told Julie Pincombe to have health insurance before she started classes this fall, but the freshman at Ashland Community College couldn't afford it.

Pincombe and Michael Kessler, a senior at the U. of Louisville, filed a lawsuit questioning the constitutionality of a mandate passed by the 1990 Kentucky General Assembly. The bill required undergraduate and graduate students attending state universities to have health insurance before Sept. 1.

But a judge ruled in August that Pincombe and Kessler could enroll without insurance pending the lawsuit's outcome and granted the suit class-action status.

Pincombe said she hopes lawmakers will repeal the law in January.

She said the law is discriminatory as well as costly. "It's almost like saying all black people or all such-and-such people have to have health insurance, and that's really not fair."

David Thomas, a legislative analyst with the Kentucky Health and Welfare Committee, said premiums would be covered by student financial aid for students who can't afford them.

Scott Coburn, Pincombe's attorney, said a minimum plan for most students would cost between \$33 and \$39 per semester but wouldn't include what most students need — outpatient care for such things as broken bones, colds and sexually transmitted diseases.

Thomas agreed that most students need comprehensive insurance, what many have under their parents' plans. For an individual, that would cost \$250 or \$300 a semester.



MATT MILIOS, THE CAMPUS PRESS, U. OF COLORADO

For Stephen Papanikolas, a U. of Colorado freshman, insurance paid off this fall.