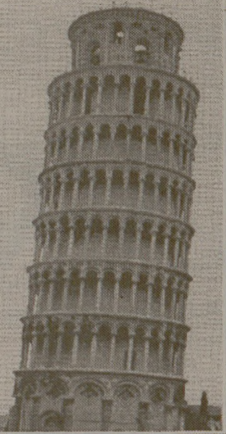


**Spring 2000**  
**Study Abroad in Italy**

**INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS**  
in 154 Blizzell Hall West

- Monday FEB 22  
10:30AM-11:00AM
- Tuesday FEB 23  
3:00PM-3:30PM
- Wednesday FEB 24  
5:30PM-6:00PM
- Friday FEB 26  
1:30PM-2:00PM

Pick up an application at the meeting or drop by the Study Abroad Program Office.  
Study Abroad Program Office, 161 Blizzell Hall West, 845-0544



► JACOB'S LADDER

**What a strange trip it's been**  
Certain steps should be taken to survive the spring road

There comes a time when one must cast aside the shackles, break free from the bindings and say "Not tonight, okay, Hon? I've got a headache." Also a time arises during which one needs serious relief from life (disclaimer: this is not an argument for euthanasia).



JACOB HUVALL

As the tensions of the "rat race" build, one should consider taking a short break from the rut and embark on an all-at-once relaxing and exhilarating road trip — especially if employed as a postal worker or grade-school student.

The road trip is much more than a simple four-wheeled trek over lines of gravel and pavement, a voyage atop a guano-powered automobile crammed with crude, obnoxious companions like so many circus clowns. The road trip is liberation. Liberation!

The first step to getting a much needed road trip underway is to pack the essentials. Of course, "the essentials" vary from person to person. Some hold clean underwear as essential.

On the other hand, some believe that underwear is the last thing that one should pack. What a person packs indicates who they are.

For instance, if one comes across a bag filled with legal documents, the assumption can be made that the bag belongs to a lawyer.

If the bag is filled with drugs, it belongs to a member of the Dallas Cowboys. If the bag is filled with legal documents and drugs, it belongs to Robert Downey Jr. Before starting out on the mystic journey, one should inspect their vehicle for road-worthiness. It is crucial that the air conditioning function normally.

One way to make sure that it functions correctly is to seat one male and one female companion in the car on a hot day and turn the AC on high. If the female comments that the car is freezing and that she needs to warm up, quickly push the male from his seat and seize

the day — the air conditioner works!

The car radio is also essential to the road trip, playing an important role in filling awkward moments of tense silence with agreeable music.

To make sure the radio works, check that the cassette/compact disc slot is not cluttered by unwanted objects such as poker cards, breakfast pastries and country music.

Once on the road and confident of liberation, it is customary for the vehicle's denizens to make car conversation. Interesting topics of discussion usually encounter serious deliberation.

Although this is liberation, do not assume that anything goes in car talk! Some things one simply does not want to hear in a crowded car: "Does this look infected to you?,"

right one to pick up is a complex science which has gotten several grants. Scientific research has suggested that if one encounters a man who is psychotic, the best bet is not to offer him a ride.

Sure signs of a psycho are flickering eyes, a twisted smile and the presence of a large, black bag, an arsenal of knives and attendance at the Regency Hotel.

The same goes for the pansy who is holding a cardboard sign that says "Need a ride and love!" As a matter of fact, it is foolproof way to determine if a man is holding out to passing motorists. Some will travel to great lengths to see you, and many will wonder and marvel at your



MICHAEL WAGENER/THE BATTALION

"Wow, I thought that was my leg!" and "I write for The Battalion!"

So on to liberation! If one has neglected to do so up to this point, a destination should be determined.

Although the road trip is mainly for the purpose of pursuing freedom, destiny and cheap microwavable burritos, it's destination should nonetheless be of some entertainment value. Some of last spring's most popular travel locations were the Pennsylvania-based Amish Computer Camp and Uncle Greg's Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell-Petting-Zoo.

During the journey of enlightenment, there usually arises the opportunity to be the good Samaritan, to offer a helping hand to the less fortunate — the hitchhiker.

Selecting exactly which hitchhiker is the

ther invading action is to 1) countenance, 2) loosen one's pants and 3) say "Thank goodness! I have this rash!"

If this does not work, simply take two steps and modify the third step. George Michael song. This will get you hook and on your way in no time.

After the trip is over, the lightbulb goes off. How does one know if the trip to enlightenment and liberation was successful? Well, if the trip ended up like *Deliverance*, it was pretty good. A way to judge a road trip is if you wake up wide-eyed private dies — no way for a good road trip, but for a good

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C&W I	SUN*	6-7:30	GRW 266
JITTERBUG I	SUN*	8-9:30	GRW 266
C&W II	WED**	8-9:30	GRW 255
ADV. JITTERBUG	THUR***	6:30-8	GRW 255

SIGN-UPS WILL BE IN THE MSC FLAGROOM 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 22 AND IN THE MSC FOURIER 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Feb. 25

\*SUN CLASSES WILL MEET MARCH 7, 28 & APRIL 11, 18  
\*\*WED CLASSES WILL MEET MARCH 3, 10, 24, 31  
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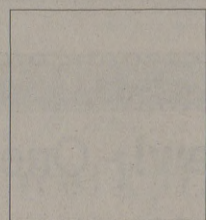
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