

"It's like writing poetry with light. It's magical to me."

– Everett White

Officer passionate about capturing images of city he patrols

HOLLY ABRAMS
The Journal Gazette

Everett White sees every photograph as an opportunity to capture a split-second moment and preserve it forever.

The Fort Wayne native and city police officer has turned what was once a photography hobby into an obsession.

It's not unusual for White, 26, to be seen scouring city rooftops or alleyways in search of the next best shot.

Many of those shots are displayed on his Web site, www.everett-white.com, launched a little more than a month ago.

White, a 2001 Blackhawk Christian High School graduate, didn't always have an interest in photography.

ON THE WEB

■ To see more of White's photography or to buy a print, go to www.everett-white.com.

His first brush with the art came as a teenager while on a family vacation in Wyoming. There, using a small disposable film camera, White took a photograph of a lightning bolt as it struck.

"I was so entranced that I got a picture of lightning," he said. "One moment of light on film ... forever."

As a teenager, White took a liking to using the computer and electronic devices, his parents said.

"He's got an ability for technology that just doesn't quit," his father, Larry White, said.

That interest later resurfaced when White was a student in the criminal justice program at Taylor University. At that time, digital cameras were becoming more affordable, so White decided to take a stab at the art.

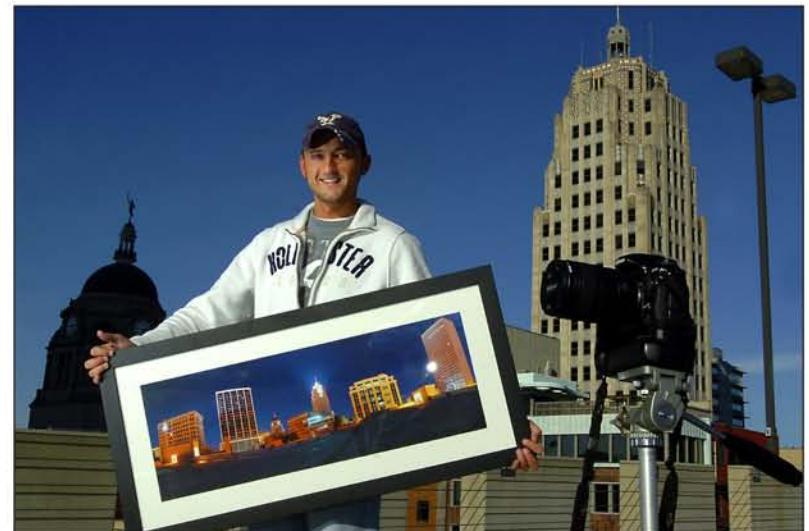
His interest grew, and he got his hands on every photography book he could.

"It's like writing poetry with light," White said. "It's magical to me."

On his Web site, he details that concept further, calling it "phoetry."

White said he most enjoys taking pictures of landscapes,

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Clint Keller | The Journal Gazette

A panoramic image of Fort Wayne's skyline is among photos that city police officer Everett White has posted online.

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architecture, urban scenes and anything symmetrical. He began posting those photos online and commenting on other photographers' work.

One of those photographers was Eric Fetcho, a Southwest Allen County Fire Department firefighter.

Now the two are close friends who often go out "shooting" together.

"There's not so many photographers out there who take night shots of places in Fort Wayne," he said. "We're out there hitting the streets pretty hard for hours."

That includes many overlooked areas of town, making what often appears ugly to a passer-by into something beautiful, Fetcho said.

One of those photos is "Calhoun by Night," a black and white, symmetrical photo taken underneath the Norfolk Southern tracks.

"His passion is definitely night photography," Fetcho said. "It's amazing stuff you don't see every day."

Being in law enforcement also helps White find inspiration.

"Everett knows a lot of interesting places because of being a cop," Fetcho said.

A picture titled "Downtown Pano" shows a panoramic view of downtown and still remains one of White's favorites. It's also the only photo White has printed and framed for himself.

He describes the 19-frame photo as "totally random." Driving around one night, he went to the top floor of a downtown

parking garage and took the shots. Using panoramic software, the frames were merged into a 180-degree view.

Before becoming a police officer, White also spent time as a reserve in the Marine Corps as an electrical engineer.

It is thanks to the prodding of his father that he completed an application for the city police.

Law enforcement runs in the White family. His father spent 25 years as a Fort Wayne police officer. His mother, Angela, spent more than 20 years as a city dispatcher.

"He drug me down to the City-County Building and said just fill out the application and see what happens," White recalled, adding that he originally wanted to be a firefighter.

That was more than four years ago, and White hasn't looked back since.

"I love it," he said. "I don't want to do anything else. No two days are the same."

Being an officer and a photographer are two of White's passions, his mother said.

"He talks about it (photography) as much as he talks about police work," she said. "He is born to be a policeman. He loves that job. They are two passions that don't share billing with anything else right now."

White has sold only one print off his Web site. But even if sales increase, White said he doesn't intend to give up his day job.

"I'm still not any good at (photography)," he said with a smile. "I don't see myself as more than an advanced amateur."

That might be left to the eye of the beholder.

"His talent just speaks for itself," Fetcho said.

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