

Online Edition express
 MISS TODAY'S EXPRESS?
 CLICK HERE TO READ IT.

Nominate Now
 SUBMIT YOUR FAVORITES FOR
 EXPRESS' BEST OF '10 EDITION

Search:



Site Highlights: Jersey Shore | Creed | Bellflur | Crowded House | Fit | Phone recycling



InterestPlus Online Savings

Get paid. **Twice.**

1.35% APY* + **10% bonus**
 with a balance of \$2,500 on interest earned*

MEMBER FDIC

- Superior Rate
- No fees
- Easy Online Transfers[®]

[Learn More](#)



BLOGS

Top Stops

What's going on tonight?

Sound Bets

Music with a local flavor

Dine & Dash

D.C. eats in quick bites

Booze Clues

D.C. deals: drink them in

Geek Philosophy

Unique takes on tech

Broadcast Muse

Small screen, big ideas

The Reelist

Get a movie on

Baggage Check

Ask Dr. Andrea Bonior

Swengali

Sports talk with attitude

DVD REVIEWS

Speaking on the Record: 'I Need That Record!' on DVD

Facebook Post This Like (1) Comments (0)

ShareThis Print



Early in his documentary "I Need That Record!" [Brendan Toller](#) cites a startling statistic: In the last 10 years, more than 3,000 independent record stores across the country closed. For Toller, this development is cause for grave concern. Independent record stores — locally owned and staffed with knowledgeable clerks — are important "community spaces," he says.

Toller's argument is sympathetic, and his cause noble. Yet, "I Need That Record" is too rambling, too broad and too unfocused to be persuasive. He buys into a generational attitude about independents as noble heroes and corporations as evil ogres, without acknowledging that the truth is more complex.

It's a stance born out of punk rebellion, and especially with so many of his elder-statesmen interviews ([Thurston Moore](#), [Lenny Kaye](#), [Mike Watt](#), [Ian MacKaye](#)), it has all the force of received wisdom. This major oversight severely limits Toller's argument to one perspective, rendering it more a state-of-the-field summary than a probing dissection of important contemporary issues.



The interviews with store owners unintentionally portray most of these businesses as passive, so set in their ways that they can't adapt to change at all. Only Connecticut store [Trash American Style](#) seems to have much of a plan: The owners take the store on the road. It's a bold business model, perhaps not as secure or as lucrative as having a brick-and-mortar store, but Trash American Style is still a presence in its community.

And here's perhaps the biggest shortcoming of this documentary: It doesn't live up to that hopeful parenthetical aside in its subtitle. Toller fails to examine what makes certain stores so successful

in this steep downturn. Why are [the Sound Garden](#) in Baltimore or [CD Cellar](#) in Arlington or [Crooked Beat](#) in Adams Morgan (just to name a few local examples) going strong when 3,000 other stores have closed? What makes them exceptional, and what can be learned from their examples? While they

CLASSIFIEDS

powered by [Woodle](#)

- [Post an Ad](#)
- ▶ Jobs
 - ▶ Cars
 - ▶ Merchandise
 - ▶ Rentals
 - ▶ Homes
 - ▶ Services
 - ▶ Tickets
 - ▶ Pets
 - ▶ Personals

TODAY'S POLL

[Comments \(1\)](#) | [Archive](#)

Will Albert Haynesworth be a distraction to the Redskins this season?

- Yes
 No

Your Station:

advertisement

GAMES / PUZZLES



Sudoku
Daily numbers game



Crossword
Test your vocabulary

Miss a day's Express? [Click here](#) for our easy-access archive.

Newsletters
Sign up now

Contests
Win Stuff