

THERE'S
NO SUCH
THING
AS A

GOOD
PERSON

pg. 12



WORD ON THE STREET MAGAZINE (WOTS) is a UW-Stout affiliated publication released twice per semester that has been in publication for 16 years. WOTS is written, laid out, and printed by members of Street Level Ministries on UW-Stout and UW-Superior campuses. We also print a version of the magazine on Cebu Island in the Philippines. We're Christians who love Jesus and want to write about life, God, and college.



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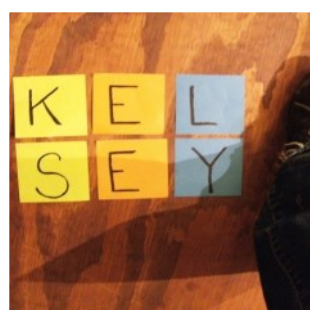
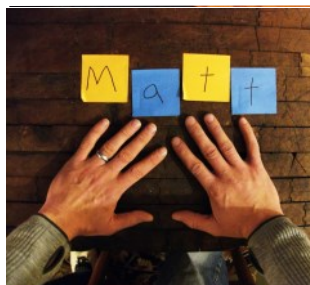
The WOTS crew can be found on campus each Monday while school is in session at Street Level Ministries' student organization meetings. Visit streetlevelministries.com for details. We hope the magazine is funny, challenging, and provocative, while encouraging you to pursue a strong relationship with Jesus.

MEET THE WOTS STAFF: from three cities and two countries

UW-STOUT, Menomonie, WI

UW-Superior, Superior, WI

Cebu City, Philippines



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SHORT & STOUT

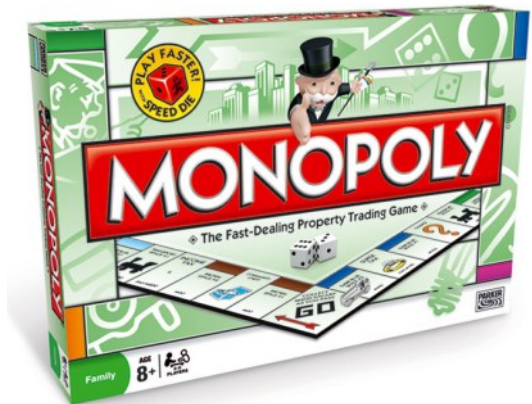
3 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD RENT ON CAMPUS

If you're like me, there will be that moment in the dorms where all of a sudden you desperately need a Philipp's screwdriver, an ice cream scoop, and a deck of cards... most likely all at the same time. You know exactly where they are at your parents' house, but they just didn't make the moving van on the way to campus. Since we're all in college and come equipped with super sensitive "free item" radars, here's a quick guide to some off-the-wall yet useful items you didn't know you could rent (for free with a Stout ID!) right on campus.



JUMPER CABLES

Maybe this doesn't apply to you immediately, but on the next subzero day with a -50 degree wind chill when your '99 Buick can't quite putter to life, this might just be the answer to your problems. All you'll need is a Stout ID, access to a dorm front desk, and a friend with a running car (and several layers) to get you back on the road. Disclaimer: make sure you know how to use them once rented... no need to elaborate.



MONOPOLY

If the last time you played Monopoly was at your Uncle Lou's house for Cousin Eddie's 10th birthday party, now is the chance to give it a new life. Any dorm desk has this and 32 other board and card games (to be exact) for free rental at any time. It could take some heavy persuasion, but your friends might actually go for this whole game-night thing.

But what about the potato masher and vice grips? Here are some links to everything you could possibly rent from Stout:



PROJECTORS

The dead of winter is prime movie-watching turf, but why not take it to the next level? The Stout library has projectors for rent, and no, they aren't the ones your first grade teacher used for multiplication transparencies. Hook one of these bad boys up to your laptop, head down to a dorm basement and project the latest comedy on one of the walls.

Dorm Front Desks (cooking materials, games, tools, etc.):

www.uwstout.edu/housing/services/desk_checkout.cfm

Library (laptop and camera equipment): www.uwstout.edu/lib/services/equipment.cfm

Involvement Center (Student Org equipment rentals): <https://orgsync.com/11321/forms/73900>

Picture Sources:

Projector: <http://contentinjection.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/lcd-projector-use-for-classroom.jpg>

Jumper Cables: <http://images.fineartamerica.com/images-medium-large/1-jumper-cables-blink-images.jpg>

Monopoly: http://www.worldofmonopoly.com/fansite/images/packaging/monopoly_number9_pack.jpg

Blue Devil: http://wqow.images.worldnow.com/images/15480238_BG1.JPG

5 REASONS TO BECOME A HOCKEY FAN THIS WINTER



Hockey features all the best elements of every other sport: bodily impact, speed, teamwork, agility, drama, and competition. With all the goods in one place, who needs the NFL or NBA? Here are five reasons to become a hockey fan this winter.

STOUT HOCKEY GAMES ARE A BLAST

These rowdy games are free with a Stout ID and one of the best ways to get through the winter-that-won't-end. Hockey games go well with groups of friends and blue face paint. Did you know Stout's team even has players from Sweden and Canada?

CHECKING

Yep, legal hitting. It's the automatic one-up hockey has over other competitive sports; it's essentially football tackling on steroids and skates. Any seasoned hockey fan can recognize the familiar sound of smelly gear smashing up against Plexiglas from a mile away.

THE SPEED

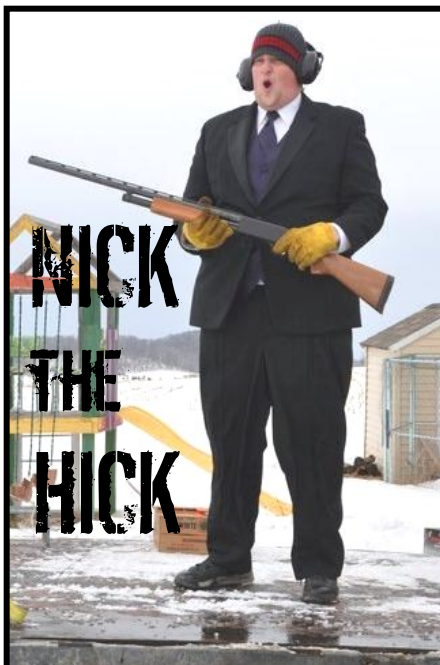
Don't leave the room or you'll miss a goal, a six-player brawl, and a game-changing power play. It's also been said that hockey players have the uncanny ability to grow facial hair at alarming speeds.

THE ZAMBONI

What we want to know is how you can get the privilege of being the man seated upon the throne of this beautiful creature of the ice. Halftime is good for over-priced snacks and bathroom breaks, but it's so much more satisfying to watch the Zamboni gloss over the scratch-riddled ice. Have you ever seen them miss a spot?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN RIVALRY OF PACKERS VS. VIKINGS

The one time Minnesotans and Wisconsinites can get along is when they share bleachers and exchange high-fives over a heroic slap shot. Besides, in traditional hockey fashion, most fighting is left to the players on the ice, not border-sharing fans.



SO-CALLED "MUSIC"

I was ridin' round the country side the other day with one of my special buddies. I have many a buddies and I love em all but some of them got some funky ideas. Like their recipe for music. So we were travelin' in my truck celebratin' 15 mpg and a open highway when he turns the radio to some form of speech I have not heard since I was abducted by those grey leatherly skin minions who wanted to know the secret behind American love. This so called man, "Pit Bull" come on and started singing about a fireball. Not sure whats getting him all wild, but it could be how his singing can cause one to burn a building down. After I "tolerated" my friends beliefs in music I

could not continue when this Arianna Grande came on. The only Grande I am interested in is the Taco Grande at Taco Bell. Then there was the matter of Taylor Swift. The only thing I could come up with was she had to switch to this popsicle music from country because the tweens and woman over forty who like her also need auto tune and a synthesizer. But hey could be worse. At least my friends don't get after me for not wearing skinny jeans. Considering the last time I put Crisco on my legs it took two months to clean off.



COLD AND HUNGRY? WARM UP WITH A DELICIOUS, LOADED BURRITO NEAR YOU!

Restaurants come and go, but one thing stays the same: everyone loves a savory burrito. A burrito can take a rotten day and make it say, “uncle”. Menomonie offers a vast choice of eateries to fill that stomach of yours with a meaty, vegetable-layered, salsa-drenched, bundle of goodness wrapped in a warm tortilla. Scoop out some of your local options below.

Fireside Café

From the stately dorms of UW-Stout, the Fireside Café is just a stone’s throw away. The café provides a great environment to hang out with your friends and have some quick eats. Here you’ll uncover a simple burrito where beef, pork, or chicken are your meat choices. There is nothing special about the fixings, just your basic cheese and vegetables. At \$5.99 it may be a good deal to you, or it may not; either way it didn’t cost you any gas to get there, and you can be back to your dorm before you can say “sour cream”.

Burrito California

Less than a year old, Burrito California meets the requirements of your location, pocket book, and appetite. Even if you’re financially stretched, you can spring for the occasional burrito escape at this joint where everything on the menu is \$6.00. A friendly staff offers a standard burrito with your choice of toppings. It’s like the Subway of burritos, except you’re happy about going there. I preferred steak, but if you love chicken or pork, well, get that. But for \$6.00 across the board I say get whatever is usually more expensive. You will enjoy their legitimate Mexican-restaurant cheese sauce and long hours –

open until 3:00 am on weekends.

Cancun Mexican Grill

College scenario #1: Your family shows up to visit you at school and wants your guidance for their dinner plans. Don’t panic. Take them to Cancun Mexican Grill. This dim but warmly-lit establishment offers an excellent environment for relaxation and abdominal compensation. My all-time favorite is the *Don Burrito*, a large flour tortilla filled with rice, beans, and your choice of grilled chicken or steak. This piping-hot burrito will roll onto your table topped with red sauce and cheese sauce. Try it, you CAN’T go wrong.

Los Cabos Mexican Grill

If flautas (not a burrito but equally awesome) are your thing, Los Cabos Mexican Grill can take care of that desire. You won’t find a more authentic Mexican eatery in town. With a calming environment and excellent pre-dinner chips, you and your friends can celebrate any occasion. The taco meat in these burritos explodes with flavor. Expect to pay at least \$10, but don’t fret, this meal will be worth every penny. Can you say “homemade refried beans”?

If your mouth is not watering at this point, please consult a physician. Menomonie may not be Mexico, but it can offer a taste of the real deal. It is also comforting to know that you don’t have to settle for fast food when you want something another culture has perfected.

Cancun Mexican Grill

Located @ 1919 Stout Rd.

Menu available @

www.cancunmexicangrillwi.com

Los Cabos Mexican Grill

Located @ 2421 State Hwy 25 N

(In the strip mall by your other favorite, China Buffet)

Burrito California

Located @ Main Street

Menomonie

Fireside Café

Located @ Upper Level MSC



Abominable Snow Giant Feels "Misunderstood"

*Abominable Snowman is fed up with the
name-calling and snap judgments*

Suspensions of the fabled Yeti, or Abominable Snowman, have been confirmed this week. On Thursday, climbers scaling Gokyo Ri peak in the Himalayas of Nepal reported sets of unusual tracks and a strange figure in the distance. "We didn't know what to make of it at first. You hear all the stories of the beast, but you never think you're going to be the one to see it!" said Leon Dietrich, an amateur climber. "We tracked those unusual prints back into the dark caves, and there he was!" Dietrich went on to describe that, after speaking with the beast, he realized that all the yeti wanted to do was share a cup of snow and clear his good name.

Leek reporters relocated the creature the following day and, after some coercion, he agreed to hold a press conference. At the start of the meeting, the monster, who referred to himself as Bumble, aimed to set the record straight. "I regret to inform you that, for centuries, I have been called the hairy snow gorilla, man-bear, yeti and wild-man; I have had enough. The



truth must be told. From now on, kindly refer to me as Bumble, for that is my name; not Abominable." Bumble continued to describe how, any time he approached the village to get groceries, its citizens would flee in terror. He described his heartache when, the following day in the newspaper, a blurry and unflattering picture of him was printed with headlines like "Snow Beast Terrorizes Village."

It's easy to see how this has become so upsetting to the Snow Giant. He's also constantly being compared to his older brother, Big Foot, or being looked down on from his more loveable younger brother, Frosty. When asked about this familial tension, Bumble replied, "No one understands the middle child, I guess I'm just more mysterious."

Bumble noted that he really is approachable if we would all just give him a chance and stop screaming and running for our lives. "Just because I'm 10 feet, 543 pounds, hairy, frozen and cave-dwelling, doesn't mean I wish anyone harm."



FICTION

CITY OF STONE

ASH COVERS THE GROUND though no fire has burned. A miserable grey inhabits the sky though no rain has poured. Hearts still beat though no life remains. People of the City mindlessly make their way to work, school, and home day after day ignoring the ruin of this reality. They are not happy, but they are not sad—they are complacent. The streets they occupy are eerily quiet, filled with silent screams of surrender. They are quietly and comfortably all headed, one by one, to death.

The City did not always appear this desolate. Its parks used to be carpeted with plush green grass; children's laughter drifted through streets and homes like the subtle scent of a summer breeze. Pristine storefronts and historic homes beckoned visitors to admire the City's beauty. Concern for one another hung like a mist in the air. Neighbors stopped to talk over fence lines even if it

meant arriving late to work. Coworkers knew each other's business outside of the office. Their hearts were connected by invisible cords of accountability and love. It truly was a vibrant City, once.

Complacency set up residency so long ago that no one remembered when or how the austere grayness first occurred. Most accounts reckon it started small; a sporadic fog appeared for a day or two at a time. Then, the red bricks of the government building turned to concrete one at a time. These were interesting incidences indeed, but not interesting or eye-catching enough for the people of the City to investigate.

Instead, they accommodated the slow metamorphosis. They wore sweaters that kept away the chill left in the sun's absence. They put away their lawn mowers, happy to spend less time keeping up their yards. They didn't take it personally when a friend didn't acknowledge their passing. Eye contact felt uncomfortable anyway. It wouldn't be outrageous to say they even began to love their new surroundings. After all, it was much easier to accept what was happening than to fight it. Fighting, of course, was more uncomfortable than a measly grey sky.

The City handled these changes for a while. They redefined normal and convinced themselves it wasn't getting any worse. But, complacency always gets worse. The innocent new color scheme turned deadly. The concrete buildings started to crumble. The grey skies turned black, and the people themselves turned to hollow effigies of



The Stranger passed person after person, anguished over the pain he saw under the calloused facades. Though this was his first time to the City, he knew all of their stories.

their former selves. You could see it in their eyes—irises of brown, blue, and green morphed to grey. You saw it in their skin—patches of rough, scale-like decay spreading from their feet upward. Once it completely covered their bodies, they would die and forever be forgotten. What, then, would have been their purpose?

Finally, the decay ominously stretched to their necks. It became uncertain how much time was left for the people and the City. After all, how long can one live in death's chokehold? When a Stranger arrived, it was a peculiar sight for no one had entered or left the City since the decay started. As he walked through the City, the dusty and dirty ash did not cling to him. He was immune.

The Stranger passed person after person, anguished over the pain he saw under the calloused facades. Though this was his first time to the City, he knew all of their stories. He knew how they fell in love with the ash and dust and he knew that there was something far better than decay. As he searched the streets, the Stranger called after them, "Wake up, wake up!" "You are about to die!"

Those who did not outright ignore him aggressively questioned him, "What do you know?" They mocked him for not being one of them. The leaders of the City hated him for disturbing their tranquil, quiet, albeit dying community.

"I tell you the truth, wake up! Wipe this ash from your bodies; I can make you clean."

Those in disbelief of their own death quickly rushed the Stranger to the edge of the City. They refused to accept any more of the Stranger's warning. The possibility that he was right was a threat to their predictable, yet declining, future. The Stranger willingly walked amidst all of their shoving hands and slandering tongues.

The edge of the City is where he currently sits, waiting for those who will remember his warning and seek him.

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh...you will be my people and I will be your God." Ez. 36:26-28.



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WOTS IN YOUR POCKET?

YOU HAVE MORE IN COMMON WITH YOUR CLASSMATES THAN YOU THOUGHT...

Look in your pocket. If you look close enough you'll find you have far more in common with the people you share campus with than you realize. Word on the Street went down to UW-Stout to ask students three simple questions: what they had in their hand, in their pocket, and on their mind.

WOTS: What's in your hand?

Keodara (Human Development & Family Studies, Jr.): My hair binder

Sarah (Human Development & Family Studies, Jr.): My hand... my hand is in my hand.

Taylor (Hotel Restaurant & Tourism, Jr.): My phone

Charlie (Business Administration, Fr.): Salad!

Candi (Game Design & Development, Jr.): A carbonated beverage and green bean fries

Megan (Hotel Restaurant & Tourism, Jr.): Balloons for my roommate's birthday

Kasey (Industrial Design, Soph.): An AMP energy drink

Kunal (Engineering Technology, Jr.): A spatula and stir-fry skillet... [Don't worry, guys. He was serving in the MSC.]

WOTS: What's in your pocket?

Keodara: My pen, a pair of gloves, Vaseline, a receipt, my student ID, headphones, my key, and my debit card... Wow.

Sarah: Quarters for the meter and my van key

Taylor: A gum wrapper paper airplane [We thought, WOT the

heck?! But this guy may be our personal favorite...]

Charlie: My phone

Candi: Wallet, gloves, money, cell phone

Megan: My phone

Kasey: Phone

Kunal: My iPhone

WOTS: What's on your mind?

Keodara: Alex, a boy, and food! Ugh, I ate a whole sandwich, but I'm still hungry; so that's on my mind.

Sarah: The HSSO (Hmong Stout Student Organization) meeting tonight and YouTube; we are watching the "Dumbest Tweets of April 2014"

Taylor: We're talking about how Coca-Cola created the image of Santa Claus cuz, well, ya know.

WOTS: What about Santa creating Coca-Cola?

Taylor: Uhh, not really, just Coca-Cola makin' Santa. But originally we were just doing a Spanish project.

Charlie: Food... just food

Candi: How awkward infatuation is; nobody knows what you're thinking, but your face turns red, so you *think* they know... ugh.

Megan: Getting home and

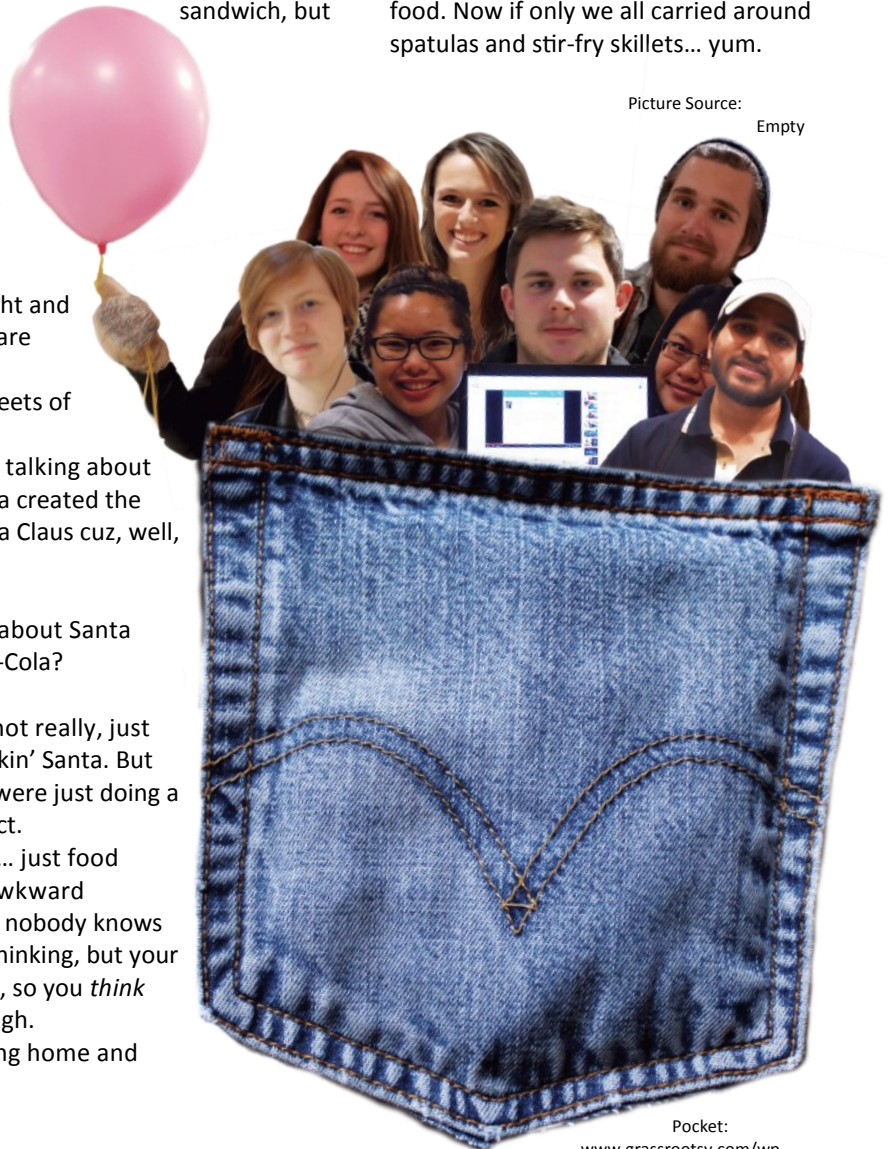
getting dinner

Kasey: Parking ticket... just happened... and my three flat tires

Kunal: Just music, that's it

So maybe you've never seen "Dumbest Tweets of April 2014" or carried a miniature paper airplane around in your back pocket. Nonetheless, our stats show we've all got at least a few things in common: cell phones and food. Now if only we all carried around spatulas and stir-fry skillets... yum.

Picture Source: Empty



Pocket:
www.grassrootsy.com/wp-

ONE GUY'S TRUE STORY



When graduating from School, which is 12th Grade in Germany, all of my classmates and I had to face one daunting question. It seemed to inevitably come up in every conversation. And it was: What are you gonna do now?

18 years without a real choice of how I wanted my life to look like and now: BOOM! I felt like the world waited with open doors for me to enter and have the time of my life. But which door do I enter? I soon understood that following Jesus didn't necessarily mean becoming a pastor, but that didn't make it any easier. I tried to listen what God thought about my future but I didn't see him writing on the clouds or hear a loud voice shouting: "Go there, do that!" But God gave me some ideas and possibilities. He asked me: What do YOU want to do? What is your passion? I understood that God surely wanted to lead me, but in the end, it didn't take away the responsibility of me making the decision. After

“GOD’S LOVE HAS HANDS AND FEET.”

some time listening, thinking and talking with others I ended up applying for a year of ministry in the Philippines. No, I was not a hundred percent sure. The longest time without my family was one week; I didn't know anybody there and only heard just a bit about the project in the Philippines from a presentation in our church. But I was sure of one thing: if I went someplace serving Jesus, He would be with me. So the adventure began...

Luckily, I had the privilege of being sent out not only by my church but also by a missions organization that prepared me in a great way for all the challenges I would face: culturally, spiritually, emotionally. They even gave me tips for physical problems and soon I understood why. I was really out of my comfort zone. I could never have imagined how big the difference is between cultures, people's mindsets and values. I mean of course we are all humans, the people I served alongside are also Christians but we are still so much different. The first weeks were just exciting: everything is new

HE SPENT HIS GAP YEAR SERVING CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN A GARBAGE DUMP IN THE PHILIPPINES.

and so cool. After about three months I started having a hard time with some things like: Why do they always do it like that? In the German culture I grew up with values: punctuality, quality (some will call it German perfectionism) and direct communication. I felt like the German culture was completely opposite of the Filipino culture. After talking with God and people with mission experience, I learned to value these differences and to adjust to the culture. Learning the language was also a must in a foreign country. It was not always easy but I could communicate which was really fun especially in the end and it was vitally important for the ministry.

I worked with the Pro.Vision Kids Ministry in Cebu City. They serve kids, youth and families living at a dumpsite or in other slums of Cebu City. The dumpsite is often marked by poverty, brokenness and negligence. As one can imagine, the area around the dumpsite is extremely dirty with trash everywhere and it smells like it. The locals there work mainly as scavengers, segregating the arriving trash to find food and things to trade for a wage that is much too little to feed a family. Externally, there is not much reason for hope. Some people may not want to minister there but I think it must be one of God's favorite places to be. His mercy and love for broken people is just unending. He shows His love to all the kids and young people there through us, by spending time with them, educating them, talking about Jesus, praying, playing, learning and so much more. We also helped practically by renovating the Pro.Vision Center. God's love has hands and feet.

Another highlight was building relationships with the Filipino staff and church members. There was so much great fellowship, fun, love for Jesus and so much to learn from these people. The mutual flow of encouragement and inspiration will be one thing that remains even though we may not see each other anymore. Moreover, so many memories, lessons and experiences will stay with me and shape my life. This year was without exaggeration, a hundred percent worth it.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A GOOD PERSON

"Dylan was a gentle, sensible kid,"

wrote Sandy Klebold, the mother of Columbine school shooter, Dylan Klebold. "No one in our family had ever owned a gun. How in the world could he be part of something like this?"¹ If we're honest, chances are, at various points in our own lives we've *all* wondered, "How in the world could I have been a part of that?" We usually view ourselves through rose-colored glasses; just look at how we portray our lives on Facebook. The pictures we choose to share are generally of high moments, big achievements, days when we think we look good, or interesting scenery. Nobody shares pictures of themselves at their lowest, slobbiest, and most boring. Even at our worst and most shameful, we usually want to defend ourselves and say, "Yeah, well, I'm generally a good person." I'm with you; I would love to say that about myself as well, if it weren't for the fact that good people don't exist.

Misconception #1 – People are Born Good.

Things didn't start out this way. When God created the world, He made a good man. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created

them." (Gen 1:27 ESV) They were good—even perfect, until they weren't. They did the one thing God asked them not to do, and, in doing so, went from good to bad in an instant. You've maybe thought what happened next was a bit of overkill on God's part. He kicked Adam and Eve out of Paradise along with making childbearing really painful and farming difficult, just because they ate fruit from the only tree He had told them not to. God gave us free will so that we could love Him and each other. Yet, they decided to use this freedom to disobey God and hate each other. Our rebellion towards God has been an inevitable part of human nature ever since. For starters, their firstborn son, Cain, killed their other son, Abel. The chapters that immediately follow in the Bible are a similarly shocking litany of messed up lives, broken families, and selfish acts. Due to the carnage that ensued, including more murder, incest, rape and destruction, humanity slid further and further away from



A Christian is not someone who does good things. They're quite the opposite - they're people who realize their inability to do any good, recognize their sinfulness before God, and ask Him for His presence and help.

a right relationship with God. But God is GOOD. He never left us back then, and He definitely hasn't left us now, although every human being since has instinctively pursued that same foolish independence from God.

The evidence to support this truth in modern-day life shows up at a young age. Nadine Block, executive director of the Center for Effective Discipline in Columbus, Ohio says, "Some degree of hitting and biting is completely normal for a toddler."² Think about the chaotic scene at any daycare. Put a sought-after toy in the center of the floor with 12 toddlers surrounding it. What do you think will happen next? Will little Bobby say to little Gina, "Please, my dear, it would thrill me to the core if you were to enjoy that toy for as long as you'd like. Be my guest!" Um, no. There will be tears, pulled hair, and maybe even blows before an adult steps in to intervene. We don't need to be taught to be selfish, we naturally are. No parent teaches children to think only of themselves, nor does a teacher need to demonstrate tips on how to be a better bully.

The Bible defines what we see to be true from the time we're ticks to the time we're in a nursing home. It reads, "There is none righteous, no, not one." (Romans 3:10) The fact that we're born in rebellion against God should be our - albeit reluctant at times - conclusion based on what we observe

ourselves and others doing and thinking. Staring that fact dead on actually *relieves* us from trying to look like we're good when we're not, but it doesn't get rid of the universal trend of comparing our deeds with each other in an effort to justify ourselves.

Misconception #2 - Some people are better than others.

Imagine two eighth grade boys playing baseball in a backyard. Now if one kid hit the ball better and ran to base quicker than the other kid, we'd say that the first kid was probably better than the other one who tended to swing more wildly and tripped occasionally. But if a Major League scout came along to observe which kid played better ball in order to draft one, he would choose neither, because both of their performances were nowhere near the caliber of talent required to enter the Big Leagues. That scenario mimics the way we compare ourselves to determine who is better. One of us may be a good 'ball player' on this tiny diamond we call earth, but that relative skill won't amount to anything when we stand before a perfect God, one day, after we die.

Since God is the final judge, breaking His law requires justice because God does not just "put up with" sin. It's like how a parent doesn't ignore it when their child does something wrong and potentially harmful. In God's eyes, it's not just our actions that are harmful, it's the thoughts we think and our motivations. Jesus laid us all bare when He said, "But I say to you that

everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:28 ESV) Our thoughts and sideways glances put us all on equal ground. We're all bad, we all lust, we all think nasty thoughts, we all get jealous and hateful, even though we wish we didn't. Partially good is all bad; it's like how a drop of oil in a glass of water taints the whole thing. For example, what if a college senior plagiarized their final thesis paper. Would they stand before their professor and say, "Yeah, I know I copied some stuff, but I've never stolen anything, I've never killed anyone and I'm in the Honors Society." His good deeds, and even lack of certain types of sin, don't erase the harm already done, and they won't get him an "A" on that paper.

When we contrast the good that humans do against other humans, rather than with true perfection - which is only found in Jesus - our plan backfires. Jesus is the only man who was perfectly perfect. No one else has been that, and no one else is capable. Think about it. The God who created gazelles and lady bugs, oceans and galaxies, came to this earth and lived a flawless life. He's the God of goodness and all of us are like a gang of 4K t-ballers attempting to hit a home run at Miller Park. Though we try, we lack the power to follow through.

Misconception #3 - God hates people who do bad things.

Did you know that Jesus was absolutely loathed by "good people?" The religious leaders of the day literally pounced on Him every chance they got in an effort to catch Him doing something wrong, and in the end they finally murdered Him. His perfection revealed that their apparent



It's commonly believed that "good people" go to Heaven and "bad people" go to Hell, but the truth is different.

goodness was only a façade. Among Jesus' other irksome habits was spending time with notoriously bad and socially spurned people, including tax collectors, lepers and prostitutes. These ruffians, however, ended up loving Jesus and turning away from the wrong things they were doing and the bad way they were living – which is really what God wants more than even one good deed. Jesus Himself said, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10 NKJV)," and, "For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance (Matthew 9:13 NKJV)."

A Christian, therefore, is not someone who 'does good things.' They're quite the opposite – they're people who realize their inability to do any good, recognize their sinfulness before God, and ask Him for His presence and help. God described King David in the Bible as a "Man after my own heart," *after* he had committed adultery and murder, but had later turned away from that evil and instead became solely dependent upon God.

It's commonly believed that "good people" go to Heaven and "bad people" go to Hell, but the truth is different. Since there *are* no good people, bad people go to either Heaven or Hell. The bad people who go to Heaven, however, are those who are saved because

they "Confess with (their) mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in (their) heart that God has raised Him from the dead."

Trust me, I'm a sinner, and I've been *there* and done *that*. It wasn't until I finally broke down and admitted to God that I couldn't do it on my own any more, and I wanted Him to lead me in this life, that I realized that God is so much better than the best thing I can possibly fathom, and it has nothing to do with me being good, decent or lousy. We're all bad through and through, but that's irrelevant in light of who God is because God is vastly different from us.

Truth: Only God is Good

God loves those who do not love Him back, gives and asks nothing in return, and every command He gives is for our own protection because of His perfect foresight and love for us. What Jesus' death on the cross means is that He took onto Himself every single wrong we've ever done, faced God's righteous judgment, and was punished... *so we don't have to*. We don't have to! We don't have to try harder, excuse ourselves, or audition for God's approval. The fact that Jesus didn't stay dead, but rose to Heaven means it's a finished, sealed deal.

God's gracious offer is what makes us free to become who God created us from scratch to be. We don't possess the gumption or power within ourselves to do it. All goodness, all power, all *everything* comes from God. It's such a privilege, relief and wonder to know that God wants us to intimately experience and reflect His true goodness within every facet of our lives spent while on this earth.

Sources:

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Cover and Article Pictures:

From album artwork for The Almost, "Monster Monster"

<http://i.ytimg.com/vi/N8GLCribYwA/hqdefault.jpg>



FEBRUARY

- [mon-fri]: "Movement" Dance Exhibit- Eau Claire Regional Arts, 2nd floor, 9am-4:30pm
- 4 [wed]: Men's B-Ball vs. UW-La Crosse, 7pm
- 5 [thurs]: Intro to Design: Digital Fabrication- Menomonie Public Library, 6:30-8:30pm /Cirque Zuma Zuma (African dancers & acrobats)- UWEC Zorn Arena, 7:30pm, \$7 w/student ID
- 13 [fri]: Men's Hockey vs. UW-River Falls, 7:30pm
- 19 [thurs]: College of Arts, Humanities & Social Services Speakers/Piano Concert- Great Hall MSC, 7-8pm
- 20 [fri]: WIRSA State B-Ball Tournament- Sport & Fitness Center, 1-9pm /Men's Hockey vs. UW-Superior, 7:30-9:30pm
- 21 [sat]: **BIG FAT JAM Reunion Concert- Blind Munchies Coffeehouse, 7pm, Free... See band interview on page 22**
- 28 [sat]: Women's Gymnastics vs. Winona State, 6-8pm

MARCH

- [mon-fri]: "Movement" Dance Exhibit- Eau Claire Regional Arts, 2nd floor, 9am-4:30pm
- 3 [tues]: Menomonie Community Garden Meeting- Raw Deal, 6:00pm
- 6 [fri]: **Live Concert- Blind Munchies Coffeehouse, Band TBA, 7pm, Free**
- 7 [sat]: Rockfest Climbing Competition- Sport & Fitness Center, Climbing Wall, 9:00am
- 8 [sun]: Day Light Savings, Spring Ahead!
- 13-22 [fri-sun]: Spring Break
- 23 [mon]: Classes Resume
- 24 [tues]: UW-Stout Track Open- Sport & Fitness Center, 3:30-10:00pm
- 31 [tues]: Advisement Day

APRIL

- [mon-fri]: "Movement" Dance Exhibit- Eau Claire Regional Arts, 2nd floor, 9am-4:30pm
- 2 [thurs]: Softball vs. UW-Whitewater, 3&5pm
- 2,3 [thurs+fri]: "Passion of the Christ" play, EC Regional Arts Cntr, 7:30-10pm, \$8 w/ student ID
- 7 [tues]: Baseball vs. UW-Platteville, 1&4pm
- 8 [wed]: Softball vs. UW-Eau Claire 3&5pm
- 11 [sat]: B-Ball vs. University of St. Thomas, 1&3:30pm
- 15 [wed]: Baseball vs. UW-Platteville, 1&4pm
- 18 [sat]: Softball vs. UW-Stevens Point, TBA
- 19 [sun]: Softball vs. UW-Oshkosh, 12&2pm
- 24 [fri]: **Mitch McVicker Concert Blind Munchies Coffeehouse, 7pm, Free**
- 25 [sat]: Baseball vs. UW-Oshkosh, 12&3pm
- 26 [sun]: Baseball vs. UW-Oshkosh, 12&3 /Baseball vs. Gustavus, 1&3pm

DON'T MISS THESE

Street Level Bible Study
Mondays 7pm
Willow/Walnut, MSC

Jesus Fellowship of Believers Church
Sundays 10:30am
Wednesdays 7pm
621 Wilson Ave

Real Breakfast
Saturday Morning, 9am-12pm
Lunch at 11:00am
Blind Munchies Coffeehouse
621 Wilson Ave
(\$2 with Student ID, \$3 without)

OR THIS...

BIG FAT JAM Reunion Concert

(band interview on pg. 22)

Saturday, Feb. 21st 7pm, Free

Blind Munchies Coffeehouse
621 Wilson Ave

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An Intentional Christian Community

Microwavable FEASTS

Breakfast

Holiday binging is over. Your leftovers are gone. Your sugar levels are at an all time high. Do you remember the last time you ate something that's main components weren't carbs, meat and dairy? Maybe its time to try something a bit more "green" before you're heart gets clogged up and you can't walk across the stage on graduation? However, all you have to work with is a microwave (and ramen only gets you so far)—but have no fear, we can work with that! Here are a few microwavable feasts to get you back on track: breakfast, lunch, dinner and even some dessert! And don't forget about your friends—there's also recipes to fill a crowd.

COFFEE CUP SCRAMBLE



Ingredients: 2 eggs - 2 Tbsp. milk - 2 Tbsp. shredded cheddar cheese - Salt and Pepper

Directions: Coat 12oz. coffee mug (make sure it's microwave safe) with cooking spray. Add eggs and milk; beat until blended. Microwave on high for 45 seconds; stir. Microwave until eggs are almost set, 30-45 seconds longer. Top with cheese; season with salt and pepper.

Tips & Advice: To make this bit healthier add some leftover veggies like broccoli and peppers from last night's Chinese food (but make sure it's not too old or you'll be more than just "green.")

ROAST BEEF MELT

Ingredients: 6-inch sub roll - ¼ lb. roast beef slices - mayonnaise - sliced dill pickles - slice onion - 3 slices provolone cheese

Directions: Cut roll and spread desired amount of mayonnaise on both sides. Add roast beef slices, onion, cheese, and pickles. Put sandwich in the microwave for 30-45 seconds until cheese is melted. Enjoy delicious simplicity!

Tips & Advice: You could recreate this recipe with just about any kind of lunchmeat. Some personal favorites are the traditional ham-cheddar combo, as well as the turkey-Swiss combo, and don't forget about tuna melts! Feel free to experiment with different toppings like jalapenos and throw in some spices too like garlic powder to liven things up.

Lunch



BLACK BEAN SMOTHERED SWEET POTATOES

Ingredients: 1 medium sweet potato - ½ can black beans, rinsed (use the other half for next time) - 1 small tomato, diced - 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil - ¼ teaspoon ground cumin - ¼ teaspoon ground coriander - a pinch of salt - 1 Tbsp. sour cream - 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro (optional, but a tasty extra)

Directions: Prick sweet potato with a fork all over (you don't want that baby blowing up in the microwave). Microwave on high until tender all the way to the center, about 12-15 minutes. Meanwhile, combine beans, tomato, oil, cumin, coriander and salt in a bowl; microwave on high until just heated through, should take about 1-3 minutes. When potato is cool enough to handle, slash the sweet potato lengthwise, press open to make a well in the middle. Spoon the bean mixture into the well you've created. Top with a dollop of sour cream and you are ready to enjoy a hot quick and tasty dinner.

Tips & Advice: If you just need to add some meat to that potato try crumbling up some bacon bits on top, or you could try some turkey bacon for a healthier alternative. Also try to switch out the sour cream with some nonfat Greek yogurt.

Dinner



MINUTE MICROWAVE CHEESECAKE

Ingredients: 2oz. cream cheese, softened—2 Tbsp. sour cream—1 egg—½ tsp. lemon juice—¼ tsp. vanilla—2-4 Tbsp. sugar☑

Directions: Mix all ingredients thoroughly in a microwave-safe bowl. Cook on high heat for 1 ½ minutes; stir them every 30 seconds to make sure everything is evenly distributed. Refrigerate until serving (minimum of 1 hour would be good).

Tips & Advice: Top with fresh fruit, whipped cream or even granola. Crunched up ginger snaps is a personal favorite. Now, after people start hearing about these deliciously simple recipes, you can astound them all the more by having them over for dinner!



Dessert



HOT ARTICHOKE DIP

Ingredients: ½ cup mayo—½ cup grated parmesan cheese—4 medium green onions, chopped (¼ cup) - 1 can (14-15oz.) artichoke hearts, drained, cut into small pieces - crackers or cocktail rye bread

Directions: In an ungreased, 1-quart microwaveable dish mix all ingredients (except crackers, of course). Cover tightly and microwave on medium-high (70%) 4-5 minutes, stirring after 2 minutes, until hot. Serve warm with those delicious crackers! ☑

Tips & Advice: Serve this dip with crunchy veggies like cauliflower, bell peppers, asparagus, and broccoli. Another great idea is to use any leftover dip as a decadent topping for a toasted bagel or English muffin - YUM!

Appetizer

CHICKEN FAJITAS

Ingredients: Green and red peppers—onion—southwest spices—package of raw chicken tenders or cut 4 chicken breasts in long strips ☑

Directions: Slice up the peppers and onion and lay them in the bottom of a 2.5 quart microwaveable dish. Add the chicken and smother all of it in spices. Cover the dish with a lid and microwave on high for 10 minutes. That's all!

Tips & Advice: Super easy, super fast, and super delicious; this Mexican staple is a good source of vegetables. Made with a simple mixture of onions, peppers, and chicken, it can be enjoyed on its own or wrapped into tortillas with cheese and a dollop of sour cream or Greek yogurt.

The Main Course



CHOCOLATE FONDUE

Ingredients: 3oz. bittersweet chocolate, chopped—2 Tbsp. heavy cream (or you could use milk, but cream is definitely better) - 1 Tbsp. brewed espresso—½ teaspoon vanilla extract—pinch of salt☑

Directions: Place chocolate, cream, espresso, vanilla and salt in a bowl. Microwave on medium, stirring every 20 seconds until melted for about 1 to 2 minutes. Pour into a serving bowl and serve with yummy sides like sliced bananas, dried apricots, strawberries, marshmallows, graham crackers; the list just goes on.... ☑

Tips & Advice: If you don't have espresso within reach, look for instant espresso powder at the grocery store or you could use strong black coffee.

While these recipes might not be the finest dining you've ever consumed, especially coming off the heels of all those holiday meals, you can rest easy knowing that you will not starve once those Tupperware-containing leftovers are depleted.

The Dessert



Exclusive interview with Eric de Groot, the owner of popular Amsterdam café, Dwaze Zaken

Dwaze Zaken opened in 2003 as a relevant, Christian coffee shop nestled opposite Central Station in Amsterdam. Last fall, a few of us from Jesus fellowship of Believers went over to Amsterdam and had the privilege of interviewing Eric, the owner of Dwaze Zaken. Eric let us in on the culture of Amsterdam and the challenges Christians face in a no-holds-barred society. Get a fresh perspective on what it is like to be a Christian in Europe.

Q. Are you from Amsterdam?

Yes, we live just around the corner. We wanted to join Youth for Mission here, but somehow that didn't work out. My wife is German, but she did come to Amsterdam. We got married and then we realized that this place and this building was always empty. It wasn't used. So we started talking to different people and in the basement here was a weekly Bible study. A lot of Christian musicians and artists came to this Bible study and regarded it as their church. From that group, voices started to raise as to why this space was never used. We found out that YWAM had bought it in 1981 and wanted to start a restaurant or coffee bar here, but it never really took off. They didn't find people that were really committed. So with a group of people, including some YWAM people that lived here, we made a plan and told it to YWAM and we did a lot of reconstruction before we opened it in 2003.

Q. Is there any stigma with the community because the coffeehouse is Christian? I mean, you are not overt... Do you feel that people say, "Well, that is where the Christians are" and they stay away from you?

Well, that is one of the things to really try to avoid. If that would have been the case, it would have been a failed project. So what we tried was to think about how we would feel if we would go to a Buddhist buffet, and what would go too far for us in terms of the pressure of the Buddhist message and what would still be acceptable so that we might return. We realized that there might be people who are not Christians that think the same way. So, in that sense, we wanted to make sure that everybody, even if you are not a Christian and you really don't like Christians, the Church, the Bible or Jesus; that they would still come back here. Because that is who we are at the core: hospitable. We want to make sure that everyone feels welcome and at ease. So, within those borders we thought, "What can we still do and say and what can't we say or express?" Because if it would be more helpful, I would rather stand on the corner and tell people about Jesus, but it doesn't work.

Q. We see that there are pieces of Christ all around us in Amsterdam and I appreciate that. We understand the idea of Christianity in the real world, and it

appears that is what you are doing here. However, what about the guy that comes in here who is interested in God and in a bad place? If someone was on the search here, where would they go and how would they find a discipleship program where they could learn and grow?

This café is set up as a passive evangelist. This is like a shopping window on the street where you can look, but there is no pressure, there is no salesman breathing down your neck. There the customer or guest can stand and they can decide whether they go into the shop or not. So the initiative lies one hundred percent with the guest and from there on all of our employees are Christians who can possibly engage in conversations and answer questions. The employee can take a few minutes to talk and then say, "When I am done on the floor I would love to talk to you." That is where it actually starts. This is nothing more than a platform. It's the same with the music and creativity. We run the business, we create the platform, but from there on other people, including the people that work here, can use the platform to actually take the next step.

Q. What kind of music do you have here?

We had a singer-songwriter from Australia last month, but it is also very local where starting musicians can come



here. We know that a non-Christian pulls in a non-Christian crowd with friends and family, but we monitor the lyrics to make sure it has a positive vibe to it.

Q. If someone came in and wanted to go to a church in the city where would you send them?

It depends what they want. It depends upon their personality because we have international churches in the city, so that is obviously where I would send someone who doesn't speak Dutch. There are also traditional and evangelical churches... so it depends on who you are talking with. One of the personnel could even meet up with the person to bring them to their church on Sunday.

Q. How do you feel the state of the Church is in, not only the Netherlands, but Amsterdam? Do you feel it is adequately meeting the challenges that the church as a greater movement should be meeting?

Well, it can be a complicated answer, because it really depends on who the person is. There is such a huge variety of people and cultures here in the city. People from all over the Netherlands come here as well as Americans, German, etc. You're so pressed to really search for who you are and what you like, that it is almost impossible to go along with the flow. Because if you do you will be challenged intellectually by your colleagues, your family or someone you meet. "Why do you go to that church?" "I have always gone to that church." is not an answer, you know. And if you say something shallow or something easy, that is also not an answer. You need to actually believe what you do and why you do it and be able to explain that to others. That results in a wide variety of churches.

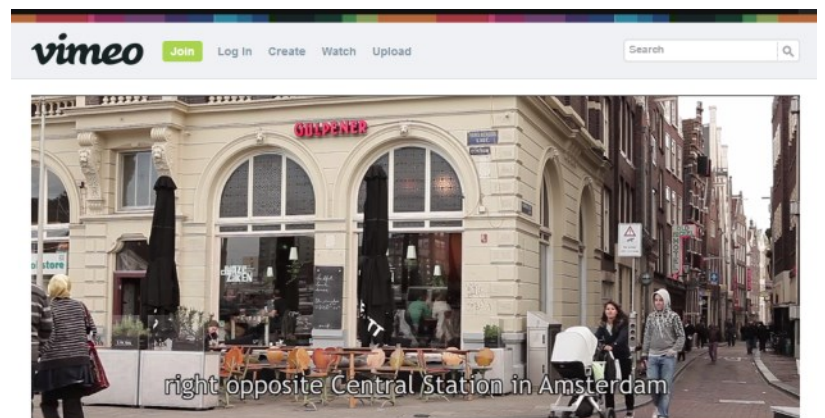
Q. Do you run into people seeking how they can be greatly used by God? Do your employees see this as a mission?

What I realized is that people really like to work here, and every time there is an opening there are a lot of people applying. Next to their study a lot of students want to have a job, do a study, help people, or do some mission work or evangelism, but that is too much for a lot of students because they don't have the time. So they really like it here because they can combine the two. They can do something from their heart, but it also pays the bills; and that combination I really like. I targeted that from the very beginning, because I have seen a lot of projects end because of lack of finances or because there is no business attachment. When the people who carry the vision leave, the project takes a nose dive, or it changes so much that the purpose and all the momentum that is built loses its ground, so it dies as well. So that is why, coming back to your question, yes, I do think people see this partly as their job and partly as their mission.

Q. How were you inspired to come to do this? You're a young man; most people your age would be struggling to hold onto their own life and have God, too.

Well, that is partly my calling and partly my personality. I was just looking and getting confirmation that I needed to have Christianity in the middle of my life. That is something that always came back to me in different ways. And I like that; I get so much energy when things are relevant. And on the other hand I am a guy who really likes to take responsibility and execute it well. So, the two things are the calling and my personality.

Visit Dwaze Zaken (via video at least)
vimeo.com/56753414





MEET: UW-STOUT ARTIST WILL BERZINSKI



Name: Will Berzinski

Year in School: Senior

Major: Fine Arts, Concentration in Ceramics

WOTS: What is the name of your show?

WB: It's "Empiricism," which is gaining knowledge through sensory experience, like physical sight.

WOTS: Do you have a favorite piece from your senior show?

WB: This coffee set; it seems to be the most cohesive grouping. [The mug] has this little serving tray for a tea bag or a little mini muffin; those were really hard, this was pretty much the only one I got to turn out.

WOTS: What inspired you to create this specific piece?

WB: A lot of my forms are inspired by my surroundings here in Wisconsin, like silos, weathervanes, those things on top of barns. The colors are inspired by things I see every day; a lot are sky and nature-related.

WOTS: What is your goal for the future in relation to art?

WB: Right now, I would like to find an experienced ceramicist that I could apprentice under and learn the business side of the ceramic world, because here at school I have been trained to make but not really to financially support myself.

WOTS: What artist do you admire the most?

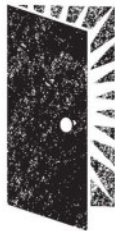
WB: I really admire Richard Notkin, who is a ceramic artist that does a lot of political commentary in his work; he is out of Montana.

It started out as your average walk through a hallway. As an Education major, I don't take many strolls through the Fine Arts building, but I could hardly make it ten feet without stopping to admire a charcoal drawing or intricate painting, peering through the glass of a display case. Even the posters for classes, summer trips, and social-issue awareness were well-designed (I took pictures for my own inspiration)! Second floor brought me to the opening of a senior show sculpture display. Not only did I find myself extremely lucky to get there before the free snacks were scarfed up by eager friends and family, but the pottery took my breath away. I had a soundtrack added to my adventure as I passed band practice on the third floor and tried to look like I wasn't spying on the drawing studio that was just starting. All of the studios, littered with dried out clay, paint palettes, and stained coffee cups made me want to know more about the hands and minds behind the incredible artwork. I emailed, interviewed, and randomly approached several talented students who were willing to share their favorite piece and elaborate on what goes on behind the final product as a down-and-dirty art student at Stout.





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BIG FAT JAM

AN EXCLUSIVE WOTS INTERVIEW BEFORE THEIR ANTICIPATED REUNION CONCERT

There was a time when concerts at the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse involved maracas, feather boas, flailing with a mic stand, and an all-out-jam-fest. We at *Word on the Street* and the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse are excited to announce a one-time reunion concert with one of our all-time favorite bands of days gone by: Bigfatjam. We caught Lance, the lead singer, and Keith, the group's drummer, for an interview that will fill you in on the band's history, and get you psyched for their [February 21st concert at the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse at 7:00pm.](#)

WOTS: For those that missed out on the era of BFJ, can you give a brief history of the band? Where and how did you guys meet and decide to start a band?

LANCE: Well the band originated in the summer of 1995 as a bunch of buddies from the same hometown of Mora, MN. At the time we were four young guys that just wanted to get together and hang out and jam. It kind of just grew wings and went on from there. Still by far the best summer of my life was that very first summer when we were just getting together making music about five nights a week. We played together for about two years before we stopped for about a year and then got back together in 1998 until we finally ended our run in 2004. We had to replace a couple original members but we always found great talent and great guys to hang out with.

KEITH: We were young, we loved music, we loved Jesus, and we were determined to tell the world. We met just before

college in our small town in the middle of Minnesota, and we were doing what we loved. The prayer of Bigfatjam was that this could be our job! Simple. And it was. And we loved every minute of it. Until we didn't. And when that happens the road gets long. In that time we did lots of great things, made some albums, and toured the country in our little "bus."

WOTS: Which bands influenced BFJ the most?

LANCE: Big Fat Jam started out as a blues band and then evolved a lot from there. Major influences for us at the time were bands like The Black Crowes, Lenny Kravitz, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Zeppelin and some funk bands as well.

KEITH: I love the Black Crowes; I think that would be top of that list, and then Aerosmith, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix: that kind of music.

WOTS: What were your first few shows like? Where did you play?

LANCE: The first few shows were mostly local stuff around our hometown just to get out and play. I remember watching video of our first show ever when we played four cover songs and I just laughed in embarrassment at how bad we were and how cool we THOUGHT we were, ha!

KEITH: We come from a town north of Minneapolis called Mora. Our first shows were there, and we jammed in a place we called The Shack. It was a tiny hunting shack on Dave, our guitarist's, parents' land, and we would go out there and jam and invite friends. And that shack became famous in Mora. Everybody came out there just to hang and listen to us jam at volumes that today sound like a terrible idea.

WOTS: How long did you play together for?

LANCE: The band was together for about eight years total. This covered a few different lineup changes.

WOTS: Looking back, what are some of your favorite memories of your time in BFJ?

LANCE: I think the great people we were able to meet along the way... We met so many wonderful, unique people with such great hearts for service; it was very humbling. There were some special shows that stand out to me like when Pete smashed his first guitar on stage in New Hampshire. Playing the tent stage at Ithaca Festival in Kentucky was so much fun, where people didn't know who we were and by the end of the show they were going completely crazy begging for encores! I remember playing in front of one of my favorite bands, The 77's, and them being so generous and gracious to us to let us play longer than our set was supposed to be... Just meeting and hanging out with them was something I'll never forget. Of course, I also remember playing at the Blind Munchies for the first time as well. It was such a small stage and such a small venue I remember thinking, "this isn't going to be cool at all." But I quickly changed my mind when we came out to a full house and a crowd that was so loving and receptive and fun. Still some of the best nights were the ones spent with you all.

KEITH: My favorite memories are ones of just laughing with each other, the down moments in the studio, or in the bus, when you got nothing to do but make up some sort of crazy game, or competition. Those are the moments I remember the most and cherish. There is something different about being stuck somewhere and time on your hands. That doesn't happen to me in my days anymore. I miss that the most.

WOTS: What are some of your favorite memories of playing at the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse?

LANCE: I remember distinctly chatting it up with everyone after one of our first shows there and someone suggested that we go across the street to the local bar for open mic night and jam there. Everyone agreed, so off we went, all our gear packed up, and we barged right in and Tom probably kicked whoever was on stage off and got us back up there to do some more jamming. I think we jammed for another half hour or so at least before we started playing songs for a second time, but it seemed like people didn't care so we just did it. The people of the Blind Munchies were always so kind and loving and wonderful to us I don't think we could ever repay them for what they meant to us. I remember playing our farewell show there the night before our "big" farewell show in Minneapolis and I remember absolutely breaking down on stage because of the love in the room and friendship that they had shown to us for so many years. Those are memories that I have told many people about and are very special to me.

KEITH: Oh man, I think we were a band that thrived on relationships. And blind munchies is the Mecca of relationships. So we just got along so good with you guys. I remember one time we played a show there and after it was all done, we heard about an open mic night at some club in town. So we 'the band' and a bunch of blind munchies people headed over to this open mic and did a couple tunes at this other place. That was so fun. Just organic, real relationship.

I remember another time we were doing an outside show with you guys and I 'the drummer' had to go to the bathroom so bad, so after one song, I just got up from my drums and left, the band had to talk, or make a joke, or play something dumb until I got back. That has never happened before. Crazy, right?

WOTS: In the time since your last show together, what have you been up to?

LANCE: Well, I am currently a high school English teacher at a small town just northwest of the twin cities. I coach basketball and baseball and I am still very much into music although my performing career has probably come to an end. I do record some material with my friends and still have a deep passion for rock and roll and music in general. This past Fall I sang as

part of a barbershop quartet in our school's Fall production of *The Music Man*. What a great experience that was.

KEITH: I live in Minneapolis, I am married with 3 kids, and I build drums for a job (*Keith is the owner and founder of Risen Drums*). It's so fun. So I still deal with the touring life, but I don't live it. I get to be in the mix of all that music brings, but I sleep in my own bed at night. It's a win – win.

WOTS: How has your musical taste both changed and stayed the same since you played for BFJ? Which musicians/bands have you been into lately?

LANCE: Well, that's a great question and one I could talk about for hours! I have definitely stayed close to my roots in rock and roll but have struggled to really find anything that represents good, solid rock music today. I'm very disappointed in the state of music today, even though there are some good bands out there. The Rival Sons are one of the best new rock bands I have heard in a long time. If you haven't heard them, you have to check them out. I have discovered some older bands that I'm really into as well such as Savoy Brown, Dr. John, and maybe the most underrated band of all-time: Little Feat. If you haven't had the pleasure of listening the Little Feat's first 4-5 albums, they are a must for any rock and roll fan. Absolutely wonderfully crafted fusion of rock, blues, soul, Cajun, and jazz all wrapped up in one band. I love them!

I have also recently been introduced to a 1970's progressive rock scene that I've never really been into until now. My current favorite band is Yes. They are so musical and unique in their sound. The albums *Fragile*, *Close to the Edge*, and *The Yes Album* are all total must haves for any true rock fan. Along with Yes, I've been into Uriah Heep and Genesis as well. These bands have flown under the radar too long and I feel like it's timeless music that people need to know about. Along with some of that progressive 70's rock, I've also gotten into some of the "neo-punk" from the 80's including The Cure, Depeche Mode, and The Smiths. Ten years ago if you told me I'd be listening to The Cure I would have called you crazy, but there is some really wonderful music out there for us to discover if you're willing.

KEITH: Oh man, my music tastes have changed a ton, I think everybody's has. Not just in the band, but everybody, right? Right now I love pop music. Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, Bruno Mars, One Republic, to name a few. But I also love worship music; Bethel Live, and Hillsong are always a part of my playlist. Oh and yes, I do love Florida Georgia Line! Just kidding.

WOTS: What are you looking forward to about this February's reunion concert at the Blind Munchies? Will maracas and boas be involved?

LANCE: I'm looking forward to hopefully seeing some old friends even though I don't remember any names. I'm looking forward to seeing my old friends from the band. These guys all have such a special place in my heart and were part of the most exciting chapter of my life. It will be fun to jam with them again. A lot is different from the last time we played the Blind Munchies. I also have to admit I truly miss performing and can't wait to get on stage and let loose a little as well. We have cut our hair and we don't see each other very often anymore, but I have a great feeling that the magic we used to have will still be seen even if we don't look or move quite like we did when we were young. Rock and roll is a mindset, a spirit, and a passion, and something that you definitely don't have to outgrow.

KEITH: Honestly, I love the relationships that were started at Blind Munchies, and they have continued, so I am looking forward to some hanging out. Some stories, some catching up, and some reminiscing. Here is the deal. I don't mean to get too serious about anything, but in life, I have simply come down to this. Love your neighbor well, and love God. I think it can be that simple. Now in my most real moments, if I am to look back on my life and recognize that in others, I think Blind Munchies might top that list. What you find there is a group of people that love well. No judgment, no prejudices. Just loving and accepting. And that is worth coming back to.

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