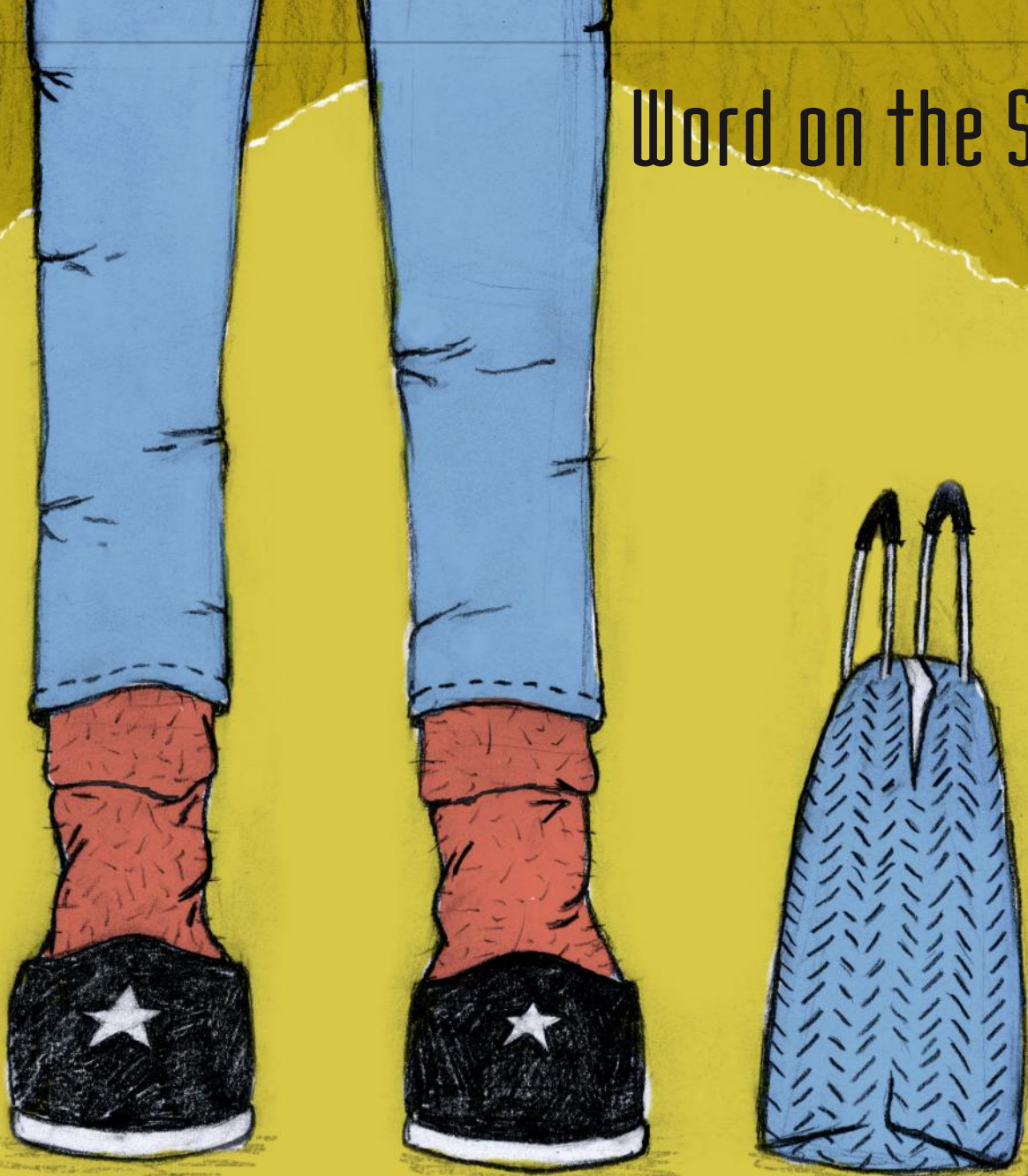


ISSUE 66

Word on the Street



now what?

MAY - AUGUST 2016

STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES | UW-STOUT

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WORD ON THE STREET MAGAZINE (WOTS) is a UW-Stout affiliated publication released twice per semester that has been around 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.

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 on how you can get involved. We hope the magazine is funny, challenging, and provocative, while encouraging you to pursue a strong relationship with Jesus.



wotsmagazine@gmail.com

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MEET THE WOTS STAFF: from three cities and two countries



From top left clockwise:
Duluth, MN
Cebu, Philippines
Menomonie, WI



NOW WHAT?



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Short & Stout

STOUT GETS SCIENCE-Y, NEIGHBORLY AND BASEBALL-Y



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

7,000
students, parents,
and coaches from
all 50 states will
be making their
way to UW-Stout
for the 2016
National Science
Olympiad.

If you're like most students, you probably have your end-of-the-year countdown going. Lucky for us, Stout is letting out early this year! If you haven't noticed, our Winter break was shorter than usual; classes started on January 19th and evaluation week will begin on May 2nd. Shortly after that, if you're sticking around this summer, on May 18th-21st, 7,000 students, parents, and coaches from all 50 states will be making their way to UW-Stout for the 2016 National Science Olympiad. If you're not a Bill Nye-in-training yourself, let me fill you in. Middle and high school students in STEM-related programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) will rival in the competition of the year, contending in events and challenges where they will be asked to work as a team and showcase their problem-solving strategies. In the months ahead of the event, nearly one million participants will be battling in regional and state tournaments, working their way up to the national level.

If you're wondering what this means for you as a Stout student, not much will change. Look forward to getting out early this spring, and enjoy your summer! If you're looking to stay in Menomonie for the summer, Science Olympiad also means lots of job opportunities around campus. Check OrgSync for the Summer Camps and Conferences job application online. Summer Operations is looking to hire LOTS more Conference Assistant positions in the dorms than in past summers in order to accommodate for the competition. With over 2,400 students from 120 teams staying in the dorms this summer, they're also going to be needing cleaning crews. Go to Stout's CareerLink for more information.



UW-STOUT BASEBALL INTERVIEW

On one of the first sunny afternoons this spring, WOTS got to sit down with three Blue Devil baseball players to get the scoop on what it's like to play college ball.



... continued on next page

VOLUNTEERING ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Looking for a place to volunteer on campus or in the community? We've compiled a list to get you started:



domestic violence and sexual assault. The Bridge to Hope volunteers can expect to assist with an array of jobs, from cleaning to childcare to helping with support groups. Contact brittanyo@thebridgetohope.org OR call 1-800-924-9918 if you're interested.

Stepping Stones – Are you passionate for fighting against hunger and homelessness? Stepping Stones provides shelter and stocks a food pantry in town, which can always use volunteers. Contact Jane Redig, Community Connections Program Coordinator, at 715-235-2920 ex3 or email communityconnect@steppingstonesdc.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters – The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to build one-on-one relationships between a child and a “big brother or sister” with the goal of building confidence and higher aspirations among kids facing adversity. To be a “big,” or volunteer in other ways (like fundraising or event planning), contact info@bbbsnw.org.

Dunn County Humane Society – Calling all persons *not* allergic to furry things! Volunteering at the humane society has a \$20 fee for a t-shirt and training, but your new animal friends will thank you for walking them, playing with them, and keeping their homes clean. Contact info@dunncountyhumanesociety.org OR 715-232-9790 to get started.

River Heights Elementary School – Contact bonnie_scheel@msd.k12.wi.us to learn about volunteering in an elementary school classroom or helping plan events for the school.

Positive Alternatives – Gain experience working with at-risk youth in the community by volunteering at Positive Alternatives. You can work with teens in the group home or assist the intervention specialists by giving presentations at local high schools. Contact program coordinator Chelsi Lauer at clauer@positive-alternatives.org for more information.

The Arc of Dunn County – The Arc of Dunn County serves individuals with intellectual disabilities along with their families. They are currently looking for artists to help adults who have Autism and Down Syndrome with art projects. Health educators and cooks to teach them how easy it can be to prepare a good meal are also needed, along with other opportunities. Contact the community outreach director at 717-235-7373 x20.

Crossroads Community Center – Crossroads was founded in May of 2012 with the hope of creating a fun and safe environment for teens to hang out when not in school. If you're interested in volunteering, email medenwaldtm@my.uwstout.edu.

Campus

Study Abroad Office – No car? No problem. The ESL Institute on campus is always looking for Stout students for volunteer tutoring positions to help international students practice speaking English. Contact the program assistant Kaori Cegler at ceglerk@uwstout.edu for more info.

Community

The Bridge to Hope – A non-profit organization that seeks to provide shelter and support to those affected by

UW-STOUT BASEBALL INTERVIEW



Top: Austin Littmann
Center: Hayden Bowe
Bottom: Josh Halling

WOTS: What position do you play?

A – I play 2nd base.

J – Right field

H – Pitcher

WOTS: What's your major and year in school?

A – Environmental Science, Senior

J – Packaging, Senior

H – Golf Enterprise Management, Hotel Restaurant & Tourism Management double major, Senior

WOTS: How long have you played baseball?

J – Like, since little kids?

WOTS – Yeah!

J – Oh, since little league; since I was... five.

H – Since I was four.

A – Four for me, too.

WOTS: What made you decide to play college baseball?

A – Not wanting to stop playing baseball

H – It's a lovely game; you kind of want to keep playing until you have to stop.

WOTS: You weren't too burnt out after high school?

J – Baseball is too relaxing of a sport to burn out.

A – Well, I think a lot of people play sports in high school. I played three sports in high school. It's like you wouldn't know what to do with all the extra time if you didn't play a sport.

H – We all burn out every once in a while, but the highs are worth the lows.

WOTS: Do you have any aspirations to play after college?

J – I mean, we'd probably all like to.

H – There's always the goal to continue and to play, but coming from a D3 aspect, the chances of that are kind of lower than others. But yeah, there's always the thought in the back of your mind of being able to go on.

J - I think what's cool about baseball, too, is that almost every town has a league or a men's league where you can play. My dad is 53, and he still plays.

A – I was going to go from the competitive aspect; there's still some leagues you can play in that are competitive.

WOTS: What do you like most about baseball?

A – Camaraderie. That's a big thing for me.

J – Basically all of our friends play.

H – Yeah, even when we're not at practice, we're usually hanging out.

J – It's relaxing. It's not a sport like football; it's just relaxing being out there on the field and playing.

WOTS – What's the most challenging part?

A – For me, when I first started, the most challenging part was time management. Homework, baseball, social life, and sleep.

H – Yeah, making time for everything throughout the day, like Austin said, like scheduling. Knowing when you have to get your homework done, when you have to go to bed, when you have practice the next day, just stuff like that. Talking to your teachers ahead of time so they know you're on the team and you'll be missing class.

WOTS: Do you have a favorite game that sticks out to you?

J – Well, I've only played 16 of them, so yeah! I remember Stevens Point's game.

H – Yeah! Josh scored the winning hit that game. And what were they ranked... We were there, and we beat them. What was it, one-nothing? They were in the top 15 in the nation.

WOTS: And you won?

H – Yeah, we beat them one-nothing. The Florida trip is always fun for us, too.

A – I was going to say my sophomore year. Everyone's excited about the season when you have a good start, and we did.

WOTS: When do you guys go to Florida?

A – This Friday for Spring Break. That's always a highlight of the year: going down to Florida, get to play baseball, and hang out on the beach afterwards.

WOTS: How would you describe your perfect pizza?

A – Tombstone pizza, I know that one: the Tombstone Four Meat pizza. I knew that one right away.

WOTS: I was going to say, that was very impressive!

A – That's what I ask for at Christmas!

J – As much meat and cheese as possible.

H – I'd say chicken, bacon, and cheddar from Jeff's.

A – Chicken, bacon, ranch?

H – It's cheddar, though; on certain nights they do cheddar. Jeff's is definitely the best pizza place in town.

There you have it, folks. You've still got time to go out and support these Blue Devils. Head to a game and show them some love.

One Guy's **TRUE STORY**

Throughout my childhood I was in a Christian family who went to church twice a week, Wednesday and Sunday, and tried for the most part to separate themselves from the world. I do not resent this, but it made becoming a believer in Jesus somewhat confusing.

By the time I was 12-years old, I had heard the gospel message preached soundly and knew that there was heaven and a hell and knew that I was sinful and in need of a Savior. However, I had never really believed it because I just knew it was true but was not concerned about believing in God myself. On October 21st, an elderly lady from my church passed away. It was the first time I had

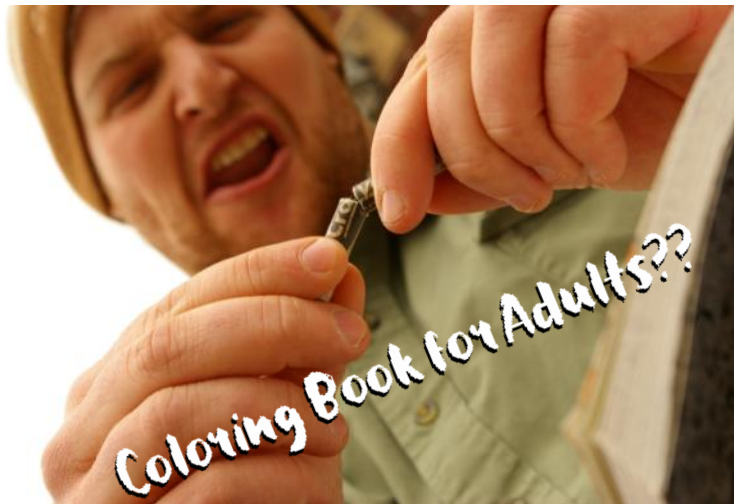
ever known someone who died and it caused me to begin thinking about death and heaven and hell. The next week, after our usual Wednesday night service, I was in my bed thinking and I couldn't stop thinking about how Mrs. Betty was gone. She was never going to live another day, take another breath, or laugh another laugh. She was gone. This led me to think about where she was eternally, if she had gone to heaven, and what she was doing. I believe she is in heaven because she was a professing Christian. However, I started thinking about myself, where I was going if I died, and I knew I was not guaranteed another day of life. I knew I was going to hell because I had not repented of my sin and this scared me greatly.



“As I read through the book of John, I remember reading the promises Jesus gave and the things Jesus said to the disciples and I was overjoyed to know that those words now applied to me, and those commands were now for me.”

I knew Jesus died for the sins of man, but I had not really asked him to take my sins on his account, to pardon me with his grace. After thinking all of this, I cried out to God to forgive me for my load of sins. I knew that I was wrong and that no one else could take away the sin that I had except Jesus. I think it was about a half hour that I prayed and sought God for salvation, and after that I went to the bathroom, cleaned my eyes and blew my nose, and felt forgiveness that I knew I did not earn. It was the best feeling to know that God was not going to punish me because of my sin and was loving enough to forgive me. I instantly began reading the book of John because I heard that it was a good book to read for newly converted Christians. As I read through the book of John, I remember reading the promises Jesus gave and the things Jesus said to the disciples and I was overjoyed to know that those words now applied to me, and those commands were now for me. I felt a connection to the Bible that I had never had before when reading it even though I had grown up reading it. It has not been easy after my conversion, but I still see God's hand at work in my life in many ways. I am so thankful God chose me, because without Him and His love, I am nothing.

NICK THE HICK ANOTHER REDNECK RANT FROM YOUR FAVORITE GUY



Now before you shoot at me just hear me out. I used to love coloring as much as the next snout nosed, four eyed, second grader. One of my proudest moments is when I learned to keep it “in the lines.” Now only if I could get that habit down with my driving. However I do pay taxes on the whole road not just between the lines but that's a subject for a different day. At any rate during my daily scan of the top headlines a colorful article caught my attention. Turns out adult coloring books are the latest thing grown folks are getting in line for. Now I may not be “progressive” or “free spirited” but I do know that I have never been so bored in my adult life that I dropped a 5 on some crayola's and gave life to a drawing of Aladdin. Listen, if putting markers together to see how high a tower you can make is your thing, well that's cool, and better than you know, like using drugs or something. All I am saying is that if you are a young man try considering wood working, or fishing, or even talking to a lady. Or spray paint something. It's amazing what a fresh coat of spray paint can do to yer truck.

OUTTAKES



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We want to hear about it.

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CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

I NEED A RECEIPT

Anna almost forgot to say it, but there it emerged half-hearted and torn around the edges. "Have a good day." It is her first day working at the coffee shop by campus and learning a new job, a new city, and a new routine is getting to her, ultimately manifesting in her obligatory responses.

"Whatever. You forgot my receipt," Noah grumbles. He hates it when the newbies forget his receipt. Stuffing it in his pocket as he leaves, the bell slams roughly against the door as a warning, "Get it right next time."

He takes the east route through the train yard back to his apartment. It's an obscure part of town with buildings that look anything but habitable. It's the part of town for those who live alone and like it that way. Climbing the four floors to his place, Noah gets to his landing, reaches for his keys, and retrieves his receipt that he was clutching tightly the entire way home.

Noah strategically places today's coffee receipt where it belongs—not in a folder, in the garbage, or in a shoebox. He tapes it on the wall right below the window that faces the tracks. It took him months, but another wall is finally covered, corner to corner. The texture of the overlapped receipts and the light grey printing could be mistaken for unfortunate wallpaper from a distance. He stands back and reminisces as particular receipts catch his eye, like the one from the Star Wars premiere. He went with a girl, Joy, who ended up being more of a fanatic of the movie than of him.

The collection started as soon as Noah moved in. He didn't have much for decor so he taped up his favorite accomplishment, the receipt from the car he bought in high school. It only spread from there, day after day, year after year. He wanted something to remember his days because they seemed to evaporate too quickly.

The receipts bring him comfort. Though some may be for the same item, like coffee, they track the time, the date, and the place—like a visual record of where he has been and what he has done. The one above the kitchen sink is his favorite—it's only for \$3.28 but it's worth more in the memory of having a last piece of pie with his dad before his sudden death. The dirtiest receipts are often the most interesting. The one from the music festival, for example, that got lost by his tent and then retrieved after two nights of rain. Just by looking at it he can smell the July night air and it brings it all back.

But, the receipts also make him afraid. Noah doesn't want anybody to see everything he's done. Maybe they'll spot that receipt for *the Notebook* or the one for the two bags of M&M's he ate while watching it. What if someone knew he buys birthday and Christmas cards for his sister every year that are stored, unlike the receipts, in a box under his bed? Would they judge him for signing and sealing them even though they stopped talking years ago? Would people understand the numerous receipts that faithfully tell of his depression meds being filled month after month? And, would they count how many there are?

As evening progresses, Noah spends it like every other. He lies in bed listening to the rustling of air from his open window against the receipts on his walls. He falls asleep to the moments of his life rustling all around him.

ROAD

TRIPPIN'

Has the semester brought you to the tipping point? Are you short on cash but need to break away from your routine? A road trip might be just what the doctor ordered. You don't need a fuel-sipping car to make it most places; it's amazing where just a few dollars, time and a desire for new places can get you. If the only thing holding you back from a trip is a set of wheels, then hit up a friend who has some. It's better to share a road trip with a group of friends anyway.



The Cheapskate \$10

The Bottoms (15 miles)

Are the beaches calling? The Bottoms offer a spacious, mile-long beach on the Red Cedar River. Grab a cooler, grill, some friends and make a day of it. To locate the Bottoms, type Dunnville State Wildlife Area into Google maps. Once you turn left onto 524th St., take the road to the dead end to find the parking lot.

Willow River State Park (88 miles)

When someone says, "take a hike", make it literal. This park is mostly paved trails for those who get lost easily. The biggest draw, however, are the expansive waterfalls you can wade under. If you're feeling up for it, there is also a lookout tower, boasting breathtaking views of the falls. The park hours from 6 am-11 pm, year round. The park costs \$8 for a day or \$28 for the annual pass, which is good at all state parks.

Wabasha, MN (80 miles)

This small town of 2,500 is the home of the movie *Grumpy Old Men*. Wabasha is located in the beautiful Mississippi River Valley, housing the Eagle Center - a sight that will leave you soaring for only \$8. Check out the many parks they offer, including Beach Park along the mighty Mississippi.

Barn Bluff by Red Wing, MN (104 miles)

If a destination hasn't caught your eye yet maybe this will. There is a large bluff sandwiched between the Mississippi and Red Wing. The bluff towers a robust 340 feet in the air. The view on top is sure to take your breath away... if the hike up there didn't already. There are multiple marked trails leading to the top, so choose wisely and bring plenty of water.

Apple River Canyon State Natural Area (116 miles)

Canyon much? This Canyon echoes a depth of 100 - 140 feet

and is about 150 feet wide with the Apple River flowing through. This natural area offers hiking and fishing options as well as other activities. It would be a good idea to bring a compass or GPS device to keep you on the right path, because none of them are marked.

Get Down and Give Me \$20

Hayward, WI (206 miles)

Are unique shops your thing? Hayward offers quite the variety, from old fashioned fudge to leather belts. If that isn't enough reason to visit this idyllic town, then check out the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, showcasing a Muskellunge you can walk though.

The River Run up Hwy 35 starting at Fountain City, WI to Prescott, WI (Round Trip 202 miles)

Are you all about the wind in your hair? Do you own a motorcycle? This drive is sure to overwhelm your visual neurons. This National Scenic Byway weaves right along the Mississippi river. You can take in the magnitude of the bluffs along with the backwaters of Mississippi all in one road. There are also tons of swimming holes along the way and a broad selection of places to eat.

Spooner, WI (160 Miles)

Looking to try on a new set of wheels with a vintage feel? The Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad is sure to fit the bill. For about \$12 per person you can experience a mode of transportation that has graced America's landscape for over 100 years.

Big Spender \$50

The North Shore (Apostle Islands) (410 miles)

Looking for a mash up of culture and nature? This is sure to be the highlight of your trip, with eight historic lighthouses spread across six islands. The Apostle Island National



Lakeshore will certainly provide astounding views with more than fifty miles of trails on 12 of the 21 islands. Experience the lighthouses, abandoned quarries, old farms sites and much more; this is sure to be a hiking treasure.

Door County (510 miles)

Remarkable is the best way to describe this area. Open the door to Door county, where you will find a reason to ditch your four-wheeled mode of transportation for a walk along the famous Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal pier. If you can muster enough gumption and convince your friends, why not try for a beautiful sunrise stroll along the shore of Lake Michigan? While you're at it, make it a day by bouncing around the quaint shops that populate the county until you catch a sunset.

Now you are without excuse to break away from your routine. Use these ideas to expand your horizon (literally) on the road for a day or two. Cut the cost and make it a lifelong memory by sharing the experience with your closest friend.

* The gas cost estimated for these trips was based on a vehicle that gets about 24 miles per gallon and a price of gas at \$2 per gallon. The total numbers are for round trip. If you are unsure about the MPG your car or your friend's car gets, then check out this website: <https://www.fueleconomy.gov/trip/#?>



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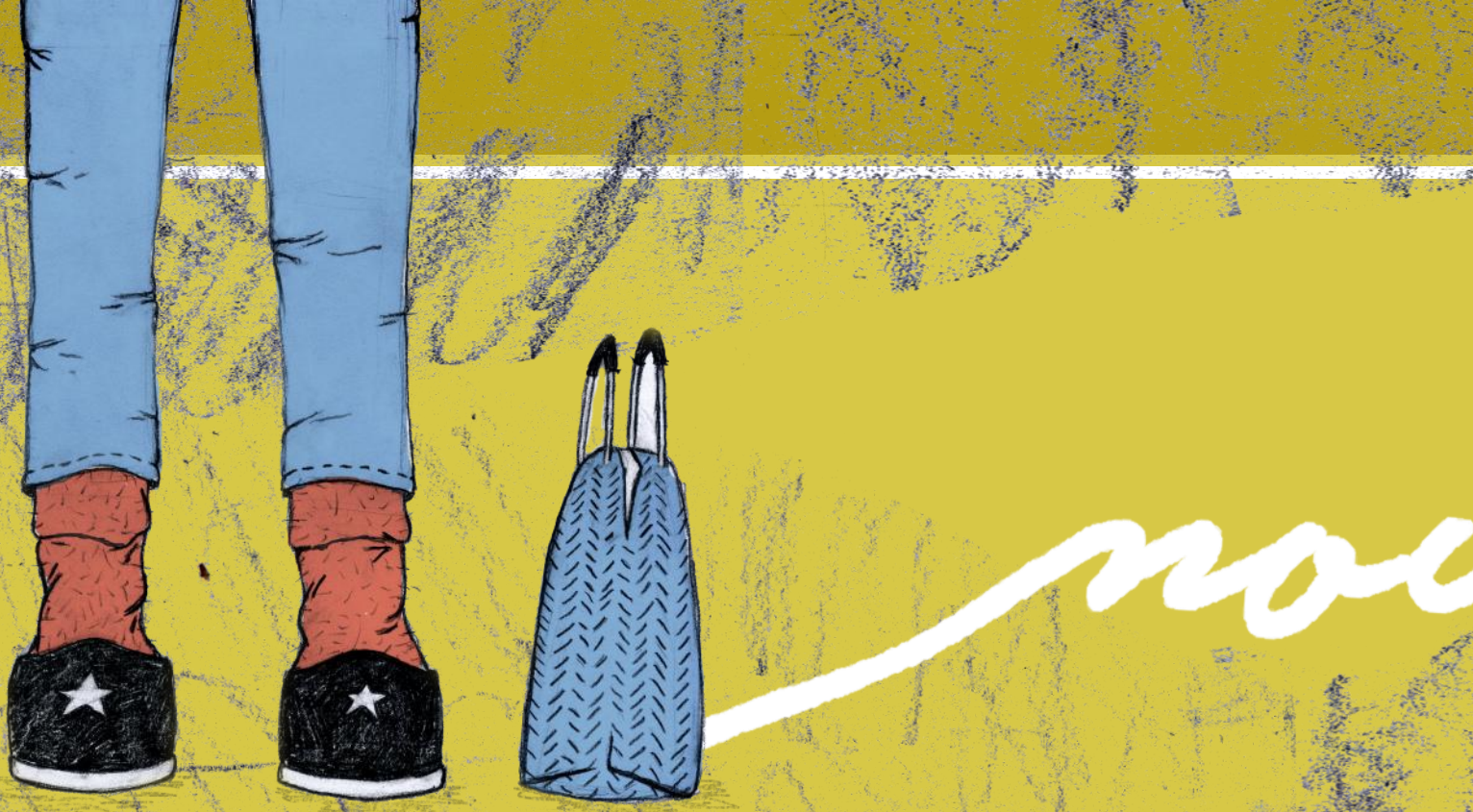
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For some of us, college has finally come to an end, and the prospect of an entry-level job and nights in our childhood bedroom loom near. One question lingers for nearly every student packing up their belongings and vacating their first apartments: “Now what?” This one is followed by its close cousins, “What job should I take?” and “Where should I live?” As a college student or soon-to-be-grad, the choices you have in front of you are overwhelming. Just because you choose Option A doesn’t mean you won’t feel the sting of having not chosen B, C, or D. When you do finally decide between grad school and that job in Baltimore, you end up wondering if “the other thing” would have been the better choice after all.

God is not neutral when it comes to your “now what?” Although you may not have clarity about the next step, He’s not in the dark about your future. The Bible – God’s letter to us – is not silent about your “now what?” If you really want answers about *how* to approach the next three months or the next three years, read on.

STOP THE MADNESS

Making a decision can be paralyzing, but it’s not supposed to be. We need to stop thinking of God’s “will for our lives” like trying to navigate a foreign city without a map. News flash: God is not a crystal ball we gaze into whenever decision-making time is upon us. He is really, really good all the time, and one of the things He gives us is a brain. He expects us to use that brain to read His Word and make decisions. Not only that, but He gave us certain skills and passions and invites us to take risks for Him. Yes, God has a plan for our lives that is truly wonderful, but don’t plan on hearing Him explicitly tell you exactly what it is before it happens. That just isn’t His way. Rather than being preoccupied with what decision you need to make, your job is to trust that He will take care of your needs (along with the travel itinerary) without you knowing exactly where you’re going.

So, decide now to ignore that constant urge to have every aspect of your life “figured out” before you get there. God does have a wonderful plan for your life. It’s a plan that includes hard things and good things, but it’s all so you will see Him as the One propelling your life and be transformed to become more like His Son, Jesus (Romans 8:28 – 29). But, God does not show you His specific plan for you until you get there. Did you know for certain you were getting an A in biology before or after finals were done? You hoped for it, worked

what?

hard for it, and you secretly wished you could know the mind of your teacher so you could ace the test, but you did not know it.

IT'S NOT A SECRET

God is not interested in hiding things from you. It's true there are many things we don't know and never will figure out, but God *has* told us this, "*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.*" (Matthew 6:33) He has also commanded us to, "*Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*" (Luke 10:27) These truths are what God means for us to strive after, not what you're going to be doing a month from now. The Bible never explicitly reveals what we're supposed to be doing this summer: *Thou shalt take the job at Perkins and get lots of tips!*

We misunderstand what it means to hear from God, because we fret about decisions based on our circumstances rather than spending time on what God has already revealed to us in the Bible. "*He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*" (Micah 6:8) That's the secret! We're not supposed to worry about whether we're supposed to become a teacher or an IT Technician, but rather to become a teacher or an IT Technician while *doing justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with God.*

God's Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12), so when you read it you are hearing from God. But don't approach it like a life coach, because it's never going to say who you're

Rather than being preoccupied with what decision you need to make, your job is to trust that He will take care of your needs (along with the travel itinerary) without you knowing exactly where you're going.

supposed to date or where that apartment is that you need to find quickly since your lease is running out. The Bible is the words of God. By reading it, we can know our Creator so intimately that His way of thinking becomes our way of thinking, His interests become our interests, and what He loves becomes what we love. And this becomes what drives us rather than an insatiable need to know what's next.

GET WISDOM, FOOL

There is a big difference between knowing about wisdom and having it. It's the difference between knowing a world-renowned artist who can create your paintings for you versus studying under a world-renowned artist so you can create the kind of pieces they would design. So many of us want God to give us handouts; God wants us to learn from His Son so we can actually live the life He created us to live, free from the trappings of our small desires. If God simply handed us a job, spouse and retirement benefits, we'd miss out on the best thing about being alive in the first place: knowing and worshipping God! Wisdom is trusting God (whom we can't see) and asking Him for our hearts to be pure and to lead our lives in good conduct (Proverbs 2:1-6). Wisdom will never be sexy, because it's akin to hard work and seeking ourselves less and others more.

The fool, on the other hand, is anyone who does not live life God's way. In other words, fools try to live lives without God and rely exclusively on intuition. We are *never* told in the Bible to ask God to show us His plan for our lives, rather we are to ask Him for wisdom so we can know how to live according to His Book (James 1:5). Wisdom is awesome and to be sought after, because it's what keeps us from foolishness. It does what money, fame, health, careers, families, and degrees can never, ever do on their own.

Wisdom comes from God. You cannot have wisdom apart from knowing God. In order to receive wisdom from God you need to have a relationship with Him. Call upon God to come into your life so you may know Him (not just to have His stuff). Turn away from your sin (the bad stuff you do) and your self-motivated pursuits (the good stuff you do for the wrong reasons). As you begin or continue in a relationship with God, you're going to discover quickly that you need Him more and more, but don't just wish to know Him and His plans for you; put some action behind it. First, read the Bible. The more you read it, the more you'll be transformed by God and actually want to live life the way He prescribes because you'll fall in love with Him. Second, pray. Don't necessarily only pray for what to do, rather pray for God to open your mind so you can understand what He is saying through His Word; then ask for strength to apply it to your life, even and especially when it upsets your plans. In addition to praying for wisdom, pray about what you already know is God's will. For example, you might ask to have the courage to tell someone about who He is. Also, get wise counsel. If you're not plugged into a local body of Believers (a church) who loves God and takes the Bible seriously, do so.

(Sweet, a decision made!) Ask them, "Can you see me doing this?" Then, listen to them and keep an open mind that you could be wrong. Finally, go and do the thing.

GO AND DO IT

For a lot of college students, being stuck trying to figure out what to do may be all you know how to do. Believe it or not, it's actually good to just decide. Rather than shaking the Magic-God-Eight Ball every time a decision needs to be made, make your life all about studying the Bible, listening to others, and praying continually. But in doing so, don't forget to actually make decisions and follow through on them.

Don't be brash. But don't be afraid of stepping forward in something. Following God does not mean eating saltines and grape juice and wearing your knees out from praying all the time in a closet. God leads His people to a lot of different things – a lot of exciting, awesome, and hard things. Sometimes you "feel" that He is calling you to something, and sometimes you may not actually feel much of anything but you do it anyway because your heart is set to please God.

Additionally, you have the capability as a Christian to pray for discernment and move forward into a decision while keeping your radar up to sense God's call to "turn to the left or turn to the right". If your peace leaves you, turn around and go back a few steps. We'll never know perfectly everything we're supposed to do, but we can seek God each step of the way and turn around when we make wrong turns." Proverbs 16:9 says, "*The mind of a man plans his way, but the Lord shows him what to do.*"

Just remember there is an awfully big difference between complacency and contentment. Don't be afraid to run hard after all those big plans you've got swimming in your head, but be open to Him saying, "No," or "Wait" or "Now about this instead?" Pray, ask wise Christians in your church, know the Bible better every day, and then make a decision and do it. Working every day to be like Jesus is the way of life, not the act of determining the specifics of your life. In other words, God has told us what we're to do with life, and it doesn't come from a series of complicated rituals and enchantments. This is where it's at: Live your life for God, and think of others before you think of yourself. Learn what it means to be holy, and then do it. Fall in love with Jesus, and live life largely.

Live your life for God, and think of others before you think of yourself. Learn what it means to be holy, and then do it. Fall in love with Jesus, and live life largely.

WE MAKE MARGINAL CHRISTIANS NERVOUS

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9 things to make friends cackle

WE all love to laugh. Even the painfully serious professor void of smiles is deep down, just waiting for someone to make him or her chortle. Hilarity relaxes your muscles, relieves stress, helps ward off colds, increases pain tolerance, is healthy for your heart, is a great form of exercise and best of all...it's fun.¹ Here at Word on the Street Magazine, we not only like to crack a few jokes, but we also want you to snicker with your friends...out loud...in person. So without further ado, enjoy these creative ways to chuckle.

1. Download the Dubsplash app and giggle over and over as you and your friends record your favorite songs or outrageous phrases.
2. After a glorious dinner of turkey sandwiches and Sun Chips, stuff as many grapes as possible behind your upper lip. Now try to carry on a conversation.
3. If your friends are willing, take a pic of their faces smashed against glass and then set it as your pic for when they call or text. Be guaranteed to titter when their flattened faces pop up!
7. Watch YouTube videos until you are blue in the face. Some good ones to search for are: Julian Smith videos, bloopers from The Big Bang Theory, news anchors and babies that can't stop laughing, and Simon's Cat.
8. Have a hoot by reading articles from the Onion.com. There is something about making super serious subjects funny!
9. Tape your nose to your forehead with scotch tape and have a conversation with a friend who also has their nose taped to their forehead.

4. Next step: When and if your friends text you, text them back the same thing backwards and continue until they catch on or give up. !esruoc fo ,noitautis ycnegreme na si ti sselnU

5. If you have animals, cover them with a fairly large box that has a small hole in the top and see what happens.

6. Next step: When the furry creatures emerge from the darkness, draw eyebrows on them and guffaw every time you look at their face.

Some people are lucky enough to make themselves laugh while others have friends that are actually funny. And then there are the rest of us that have to think of ways to laugh. Don't be down on yourself though, you are not alone. Hopefully this article has helped bring a little more laughter into your life. So laugh on, laugh long and loud!

Sources:

1 <http://inspiyr.com/laughing-good-for-you/>

Pic: theodysseyonline.com/bucknell/what-your-profile-picture-says-about-personality/124127

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

SPRING / SUMMER 2016

THURS. 4/21 – Shiny Penny, Electro-Pop Live Music, MSC Terrace, 7pm

FRI. 4/22 – Star Wars: The Force Awakens, APPA 210, 7pm // Humane Society Rummage Sale, Menomonie Veteran's Center, 9am-6pm

SAT. 4/23 – Canoeing the Chippewa River, Stout Adventures // Humane Society Rummage Sale, Menomonie Veteran's Center, 9am-3pm // OUTSET Senior Showcase Fashion Show, 676 17th St. SE Menomonie, Doors open 2:15pm, Show at 3pm

WED. 4/27 – Game Design & Development Game Launch, MSC Great Hall, 6-8pm

FRI. 4/29-SAT. 4/30 – Barefoot in the Park, Mabel Tainter, 7:30-9:30pm

FRI. 4/29 – Spring Garden Kick-Off, UW-Sprout Campus Garden, 2-5pm

FRI. 4/29 – SUN. 5/1 – Free Book Sale, Menomonie Public Library, 10am-5:30pm

SUN. 5/1 - Barefoot in the Park, Mabel Tainter, 2-4pm

FRI. 5/5 – Senior Show Displays, Applied Arts Building, 7-9pm

FRI. 5/6 – Free Live Music, Larry Past & Al Julson, Acoustic Café, Menomonie, 7-9pm

FRI. 5/6-SAT. 5/7 - Barefoot in the Park, Mabel Tainter, 7:30-9:30pm

SAT. 5/7 – Spring 2016 Commencement

SUN. 5/8 - Barefoot in the Park, Mabel Tainter, 2-4pm

SAT. 5/14 – Get It Dunn Run, Mainstreet Health & Fitness, Free, 8am // Songblast Dueling Guitars, Mabel Tainter, 7:30-9:30pm

WED. 5/18 – Free Poker Walk; play poker as you walk around Stout, Outside the MSC, 11:30am-1pm

WED. 5/18-SAT. 5/21 – Nat'l Science Olympiad Tournament, Stout Campus

SAT. 5/21-SAT. 10/22 – Menomonie Farmer's Market, Saturdays 8am-1pm, Wednesdays 11:30am-6pm,

Wilson Park

FRI. 5/27-SAT. 5/28 – Street Level House Thrift Sale, 1009 6th St. E, 8am-5pm

MON. 5/30 – Memorial Day

TUESDAY NIGHTS, Free Ludington Band Concerts, Wilson Park, Menomonie, 8-9:30 pm

MON. 7/4 – Freedom Fest, Menomonie, 5-11pm

FRI. 8/19-Sun. 8/21 – Cucumber Fest, Boyceville, WI

SAT. 9/10— Street Level's Annual Block Party, 2pm-10pm, 6 live bands, UW-Stout, Johnson Fieldhouse

DON 'T MISS THESE:

Street Level Bible Study
Mondays 7pm
Ballroom B, MSC
UW-Stout | Menomonie, WI

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

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

FREE Live Music @ The Street Level House
HARBOR & HOME
Friday, April 29th





We talk a lot. Just for starters, we greet each other all the time without even thinking about it. A 'good morning' here and a 'strange weather we're having' there. A 'hey how's it going?' quickly said by a professor and student as they briskly walk by one another, trying to get to whatever important thing they have next, while a somber 'good, how are you?' is replied so fast it's hardly noticed by either party. So, are words just there to pass the time and keep people updated, or is there actually weight behind every single thing we say? Because we certainly say a lot. Paul Tripp, a pastor, author, and international conference speaker says, "All of us are tricked into thinking that words aren't really that important, because they fill all those little mundane moments of our lives." Words are so much more than filler, so much more important than a way to pass time and keep a nagging relative in the loop. Words are the way relationships are formed, endured, rekindled, torn down, utterly destroyed, abusively decimated, revived, rekindled, and renewed.

Words bring life and words bring death; the choice is yours, whether you like it or not. Inevitably something will come out, good or bad. You can try to hide from it, but no matter how much Netflix or Internet you lose yourself in, eventually you'll have to come out from under the blankets. When that moment comes, no longer tucked away like a hobbit in his hole, and you find yourself face to face with another human, how you interact with him or her will inevitably demonstrate what is in your heart. Angry at the world? Maybe you'll ignore the object of your anger but have a lot to say about them to someone else. Envious of your friends who never had to try hard at anything and got everything handed to them? Perhaps a snide remark. Upset that life didn't deal you enough lemons or let you collect \$200 once you passed go? An unpleasant dig spat towards the stranger at their expense.

Ultimately, what is stored up in your heart will make its way out of your mouth. This is where you need to check yourself. An unpleasant attitude or some stored up bitterness could end up flowing from you and smack a stranger right in the face, like the

impact of a lukewarm, cottage cheese-filled water balloon. Consciously attempting to filter your words and make them sound pleasant becomes impossible and exhausting. Just look at this verse from the Bible in the book of James, "*No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.*" (James 3:8) So, since you can't control your tongue completely by sheer willpower, the solution is that you need a change of heart. "*A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.*" (Luke 6:45)

Changing your heart is not a task you can accomplish independently; it is only through faith in Christ and striving for obedience to God that your heart, your desires and your passions will change. "*I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.*" (Jeremiah 24:7) "*Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*" (Ezekiel 36:26) It is possible for your tongue to no longer light fires with unpleasantness, but only once your heart is changed by God Himself.

Remember that words mean a lot, really a lot, and what you say has a deeper impact than you realize. Words can hurt more than breaking bones, and well-worded compliments can brighten a somber situation. Words bring life, and words bring death. They are more than the mundane passing of time as you drearily shuffle about school and work, bumping into strangers with a faint, "hello".

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/war-of-words-getting-to-the-heart-for-gods-sake> -Paul Tripp
English Standard Version Bible

END OF THE SEMESTER SURVIVAL GUIDE

DO



RETURN YOUR TEXTBOOKS



MAKE SURE TO CLEAN BEFORE YOU LEAVE



STAY CONNECTED WITH FRIENDS OVER THE SUMMER



RECYCLE



CLEAN THE FRIDGE & MICROWAVE



TAKE TIME TO STUDY



MAKE A BOX OF ITEMS THAT YOU'LL NEED RIGHT AWAY

DON'T



LEAVE YOUR PLACE A BIOHAZARD



PROCRASTINATE



FORGET TO PUT YOUR BED TO THE HIGHEST POINT



JUST EAT JUNK FOOD



LEAVE TRASH IN THE HALL

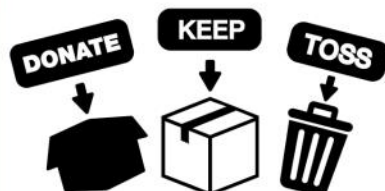


GET TOO BUSY



LEAVE YOUR PET HAMSTER UNDER THE BED...IT'S A BAD IDEA

NOT SURE?



DO YOU NEED IT? SHOULD IT JUST GO IN THE TRASH? CONSIDER DONATING UNWANTED FURNITURE TO THE STOUT SPRING MOVE OUT OR GOODWILL.

THIS IS NOT YOUR AVERAGE MUSIC REVIEW

WHITEBOARD SESSIONS

PANDORA PLAYLIST REVIEW

Spring makes me want – no, NEED – to move. My little off-campus house that seemed so cozy as the snow fell now makes me crazy, and I feel the urge to get out and do something. If you're like me, this always involves an accompanying Spotify playlist or Pandora station. The ones I've been listening to for the past six months are as flat and stale as the air in my rental house, and I'm craving fresh artists. Pandora Whiteboard Sessions are the doorway to find that rousing sound you need for the changing season.

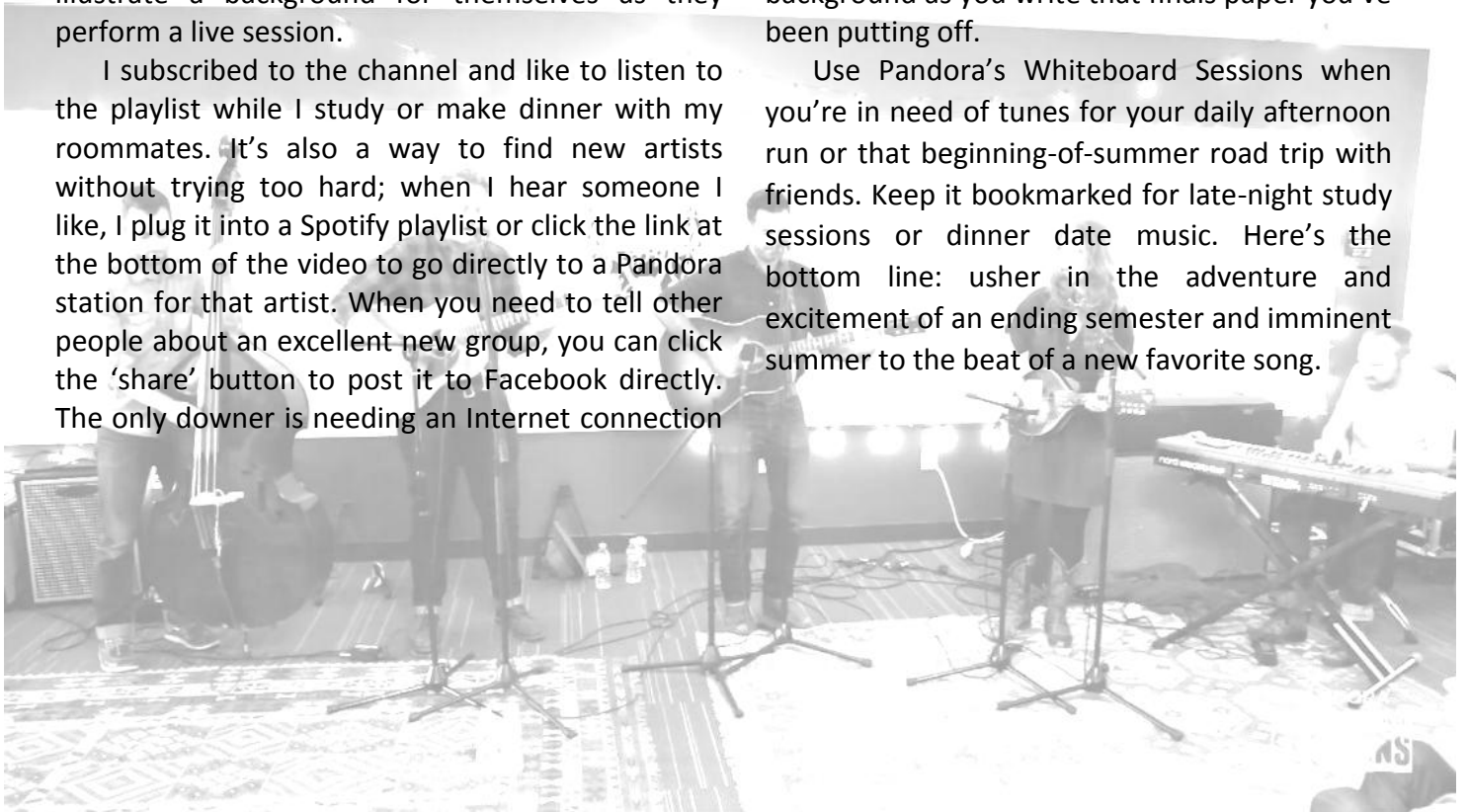
When a friend of mine told me about the Whiteboard Sessions, I googled it and found that the playlist is actually on YouTube rather than Pandora.com. It's a video-playlist of about 150 different artists. They're filmed on a Pandora set with a massive whiteboard where they can illustrate a background for themselves as they perform a live session.

I subscribed to the channel and like to listen to the playlist while I study or make dinner with my roommates. It's also a way to find new artists without trying too hard; when I hear someone I like, I plug it into a Spotify playlist or click the link at the bottom of the video to go directly to a Pandora station for that artist. When you need to tell other people about an excellent new group, you can click the 'share' button to post it to Facebook directly. The only downer is needing an Internet connection

to stay on YouTube for the Whiteboard Session Playlist itself – so I would recommend using it as a resource for building your own playlists on more mobile apps.

But you know those irritating ads that come up in the middle of listening? They're non-existent on the Whiteboard Sessions Playlist, and – extra bonus – there's no skip limit! Search the hashtag #whiteboardsessions at blog.pandora.com for the latest posts and videos from their playlist. The blog records their latest changes and updates to the playlist. Indie, alternative, folk, reggae, country, and acoustic are a few types of music I've run across while listening. If bluegrass is your thing, I'd recommend Mandolin Orange. Like folk? Then go for Run River North. Takénobu is an electric cello player whose music is ideal to have in the background as you write that finals paper you've been putting off.

Use Pandora's Whiteboard Sessions when you're in need of tunes for your daily afternoon run or that beginning-of-summer road trip with friends. Keep it bookmarked for late-night study sessions or dinner date music. Here's the bottom line: usher in the adventure and excitement of an ending semester and imminent summer to the beat of a new favorite song.



burning dog radio's weekly

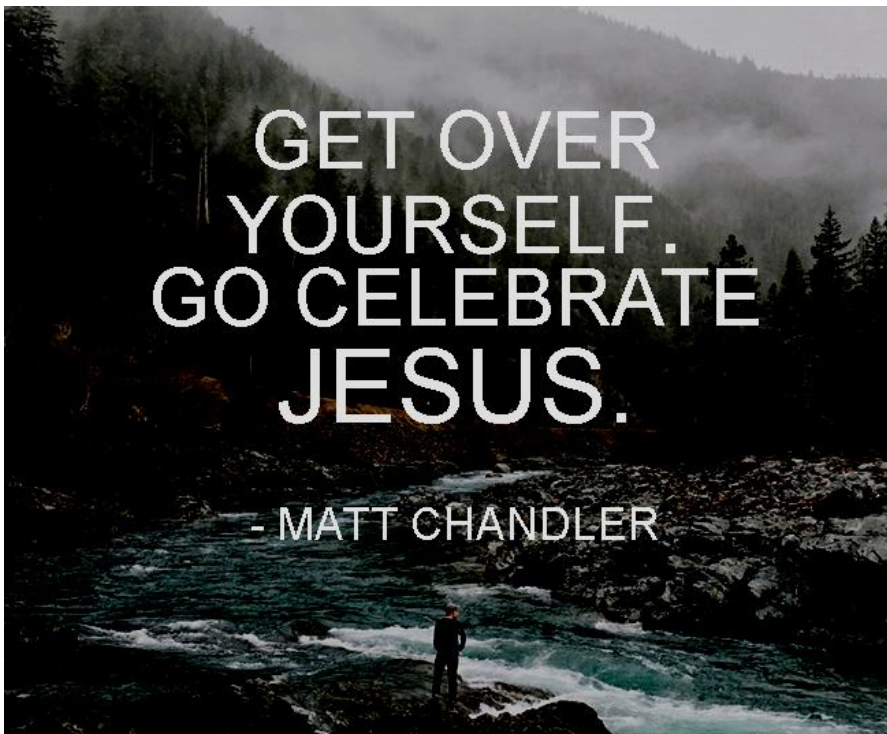
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 thursday 7:00PM YOUR NOISY NEIGHBOR
 friday 3:30PM ENDGAME
 saturday 9:00PM IN COLD RADIO
 sunday 7:00AM SUNDAY MORNING PRAISE

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Place in snail mail.



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 Menomonie, WI 54751

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

- Yes, send me a Bible.
- Yes, send me the online link to new "WOTS" issues when they're released.



Street Level is looking for artists who are interested in trying their hand at creating a giant mural for the back of our community house (right behind Jarvis).

**TO APPLY EMAIL STREETLEVEL@UWSTOUT.EDU
APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 15TH**



BACK FROM THE DEAD

Miracles happen. What thoughts come to mind when you hear those words? Doubt? Inspirational poster images? Maybe you just laugh. As time passes the amount of information we as a people know grows tremendously. But one thing has been the same since the beginning. We tend to be skeptical. For many people, when the subject of God and miracles is brought up, questions start rising.

"He was blue his face, he was lifeless. I checked for a pulse, I checked for a heartbeat, there was nothing," Don Smith the father of Justin Smith. Justin was walking home in frigid temperatures after a night hanging out with friends. Never reaching his destination Smith passed out in a snow bank. He was presumably frozen to death, with absolutely no brain activity. The paramedics arrived and placed a blanket over him thinking it was another tragic life cut short. However the team of doctors at the hospital had to find out for sure. After 2 hours of CPR they slowly started warming his stiff cold body. Over the next 2 days his brain went from showing no activity to normal activity and his heart started beating on its own. 30 days later he woke up. Losing his toes and pinkies was a small cost compared to losing his life.

"He was dead for 45 minutes," said the doctor who assisted in saving 14-year old John Smith. John had fallen into an icy lake and was submerged for at least 15 minutes. After arriving to the hospital and 27 minutes of CPR with no success John's mother came into the room and started praying loudly. Coincidence or not what happened next is not an everyday occurrence. The doctors found a pulse. After worrying about how much brain function he would have it seems as if there will be no problem. Obviously we should be skeptical about hokey, weird claims about miracles because there are plenty of false stories about miraculous healings that are completely unfounded. But to say that everything in this life has to be explainable to be believed

would be to deny the power of God. His power is something we cannot even begin to grasp.

God has been performing miracles for a long, long time, and healing is nothing new to Him. In the New Testament, there are numerous accounts of Jesus healing people of blindness, deafness, leprosy and even death. In John 11, Jesus resurrects his friend Lazarus who had been dead in the grave for four days. If leaving milk on the counter for four days reeks, imagine the stench a body in an enclosed cave would cause. Who else but God could call forth a body from the grave after it had been dead for four days? It is key to note, however, that Jesus never did it purely show. Quite often, He asked the people He healed to not even tell other people about it because it was interested in enabling them to believe that He was God, and not in gaining a crowd of fans who were there just to get healed.

There is no rational reason someone like Justin Smith should be alive today after being found frozen with no heartbeat in a snow bank. So while we should never expect God to perform miracles to prove His existence or that He loves us, He does intervene all of the time in all of our lives in ways that are sometimes unexplainable. The fact that Justin Smith is still alive means that God simply wanted Him alive still for some reason. It is awesome to know that our God and Creator has a beginning and end date in mind for each one of us, and as long as that date has not arrived yet, we are in a way indestructable. This does not give us license to test that theory by being reckless, but it should give us assurance that God is completely in control of the world we live in since He is outside of time and space. He made the laws of nature so He can do with them what He chooses. So when something unexplainable happens, we're only left with one choice in our human vocabulary to use – "miracle."

¹www.abc.com

²www.usatoday.com

**WHEN
YOU
ARE
READY
TO
GET
RADICAL,
STREET
LEVEL
MINISTRIES**



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Mondays @ 7:00pm
Ballroom B, MSC

Street Level is an Intentional Christian Community. We want to radically follow Jesus on a daily basis and discover the purpose that God has planned for our lives.

streetlevelministries.com
streetlevel@uwstout.edu

