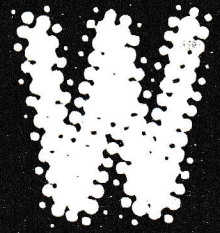


Why Not Sleep In?

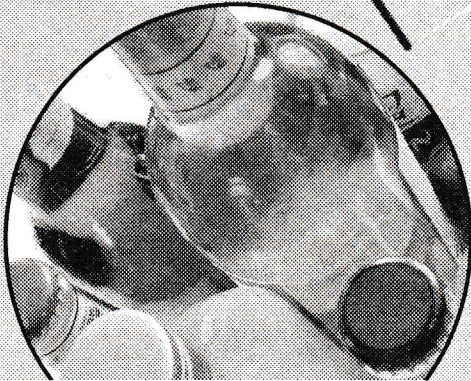
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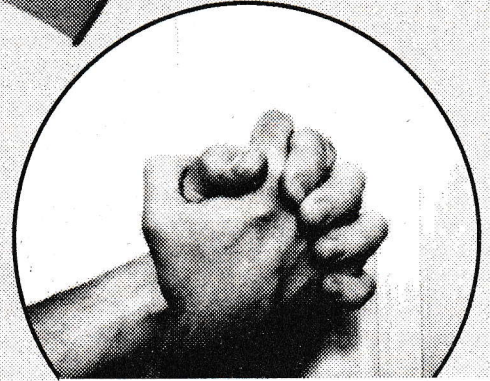
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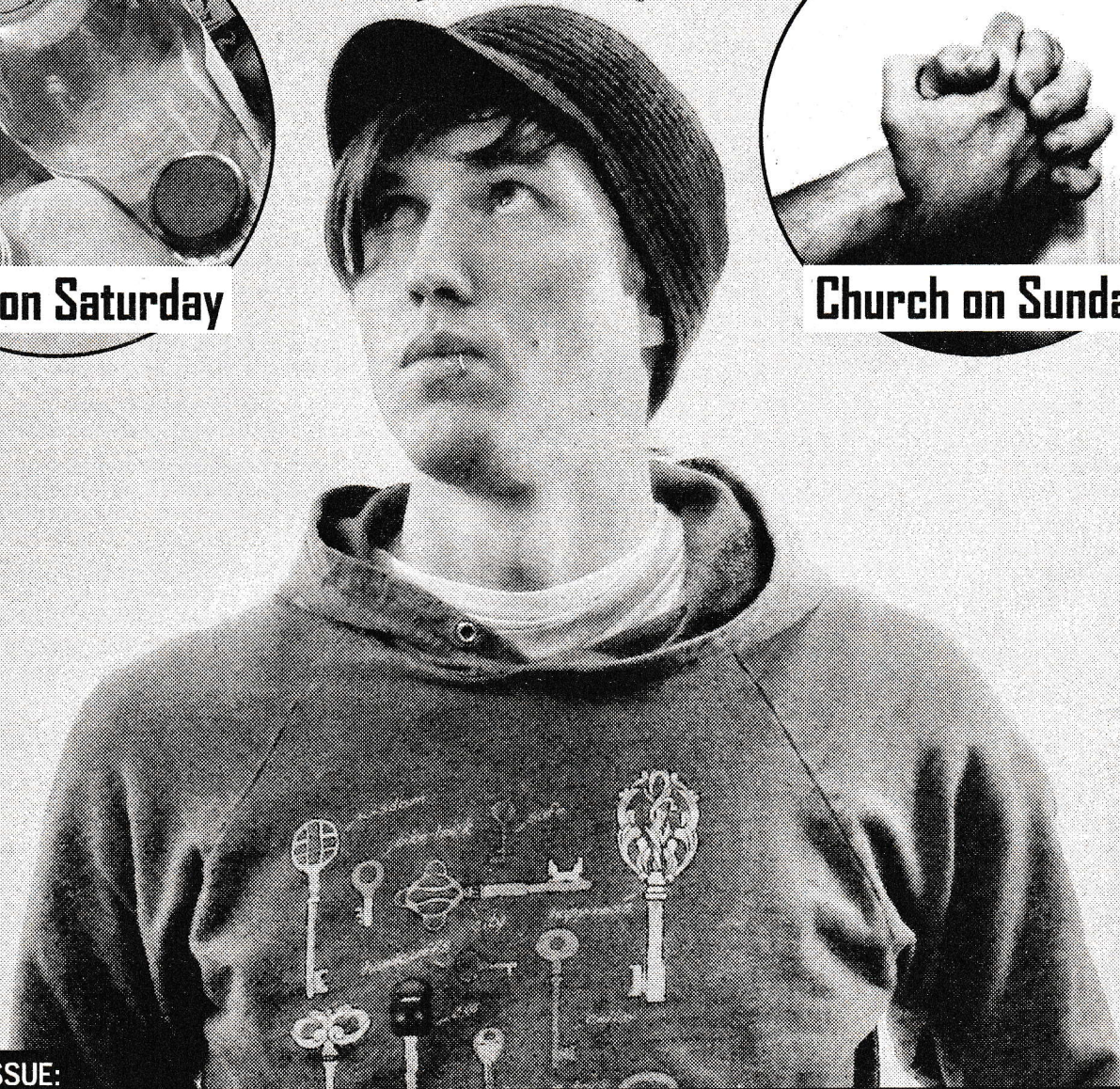
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Party on Saturday



Church on Sunday



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:





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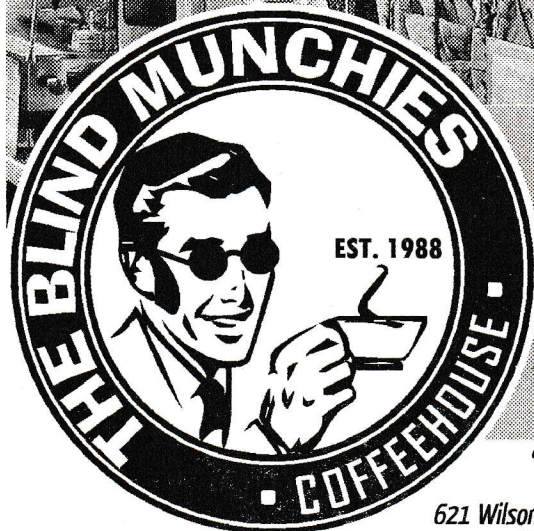
UPCOMING FREE EVENTS:

Friday, Jan. 29th: B-Movie Night
THEY CAME FROM BEYOND SPACE

Friday, Feb. 12th: Concert Night
ZOO ANIMAL

Friday, Feb. 26th: Live Concert TBA

Friday, Mar. 12th: Concert Night
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Why Not Sleep In?

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Meet our
Crack writing
Staff:



Word on the street
magazine

A quarterly publication of Street Level Ministries, a UW-Stout Student Organization

Want to know more?
Check out our website: wotsmagazine.weebly.com
Any comments or suggestions, please write us:

621 Wilson Ave.
Menomonie, WI 54751
wotsmagazine@yahoo.com



Academic

- Jan. 21**
Winterterm Classes End
- Jan. 25**
Classes Begin
- Mar. 13**
Spring Break Begins
- Mar. 23**
Spring Break Ends, Forth Quarter Start
- Mar. 31**
Advisement Day, No Classes
- Apr. 10**
Spring Holiday, No Classes
- 4 Apr. 13**
Spring Holiday, No Classes

Sports

- Jan. 20, 2010**
Men's Basketball vs. UW-Superior
Menomonie 7 p.m.
- Jan. 22, 2010**
Men's Ice Hockey vs. St. Olaf College
Menomonie 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 23, 2010**
Men's Track and Field vs. UW-Stout Open
Menomonie 12 p.m.
- Women's Track and Field vs. UW-Stout
Open Menomonie 12 p.m.
- Women's Basketball
vs. UW-River Falls (Blue Devil Buddies)
Menomonie 4 p.m.
- Men's Basketball vs. UW-River Falls
Menomonie 6 p.m.
- Jan. 27, 2010**
Women's Basketball vs. UW-La Crosse
Menomonie 7 p.m.
- Jan. 29, 2010**
Women's Gymnastics vs. Gustavus
Adolphus College Menomonie 6 p.m.
- Men's Ice Hockey vs. UW-Superior
Menomonie 7:30 p.m.

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a Dude's Review of:



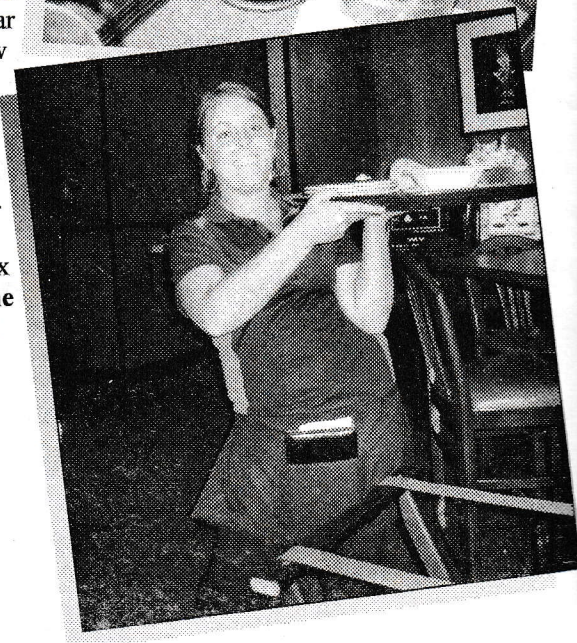
North-side Menomonie



It all started one Friday night when a bunch of guys decided to get together and review Menomonie's new restaurant, Sparx. There are a lot of different restaurant reviews that have been done over the years, but none seemed exceptionally original. This review, on the other hand, is truly an original. We have designed what just might be the most awesome restaurant review ever created.

Allow me to point out some of the things that make this review superior to all other reviews. First, note the scoring system. Most other reviews utilize a four or five star review system. Ours takes it to a whole new level with the addition of super precise scoring to the nearest hundredth. Next, note that we have assembled a crack team of some of the most cultured palates Street Level has to offer. Lastly, observe the easy-to-follow review spreadsheet.

We got ourselves together and hit Sparx at 1800hrs on a Friday night. **Check out the dude-approved review chart on page 17!**





COFFEE

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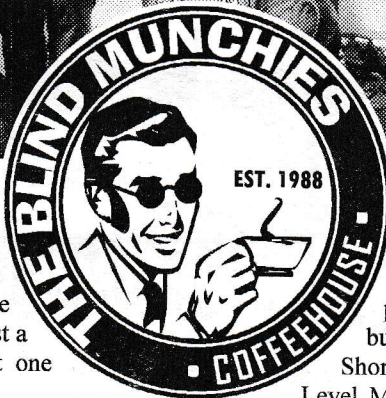
The Munchies at a Glance:

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By far, the longest running coffeehouse in Menomonie still serves up quality hot gourmet espresso drinks, fresh bakery and the most eclectic atmosphere in town along with new features like Wi-Fi, great free concerts and free B-Movie Nights. We are just a few blocks away from UW-Stout, and just one block from Burger King.

"The Munchies", as it's commonly called by its regulars, isn't so much about buying, selling, or the fast-paced treadmill of this world. It's a haven from the outer world. It's about coming in to a warm couch, live music, and a hot cup of java at a great price.

So, what's with the name? The "Blind Munchies" name originated in the 70's in Des Moines, IA, under Gary Schmalfeldt. It was known as a popular wayside stop for hippies and late night travelers. Jazz and folk played in the background and there were lots of delicious items to munch on. Éclairs, baklava, and deli sandwiches with Irish potato salad were a few of their menu items.

It went up for sale in 1988 and was reopened, but under a new name. Years later Tim Dodson, a frequent visitor of the original Blind Munchies, decided that he wanted to keep the Blind Munchies alive and reopened it in Eau Claire, WI, on Water Street. He relocated about five years later to Broadway in downtown Menomonie. Dodson ran the Munchies in the same light that he had known it, and maybe even a bit funkier. It was a hit with the college community.

In January of 1997, the Munchies relocated to the corner of 7th and Wilson, into the basement of Calvary Chapel Christian Fellowship, as Dodson had become the senior pastor and God had blessed them with a larger building.

Shortly after that, Dodson gave it over to Street Level Ministry, a college ministry of the church as a volunteer, donation-based coffeehouse. "It was always meant to be a bar without alcohol," said Dodson.

Instead of that they serve lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, authentic Indian chai, herbal teas, and real hot chocolate. Everything is by suggested donation; during the day it is self-serve and two army-green boxes sit on the counter to take your donations. Most nights there is someone behind the counter to make change for you. They have posted suggestions on chalkboards behind the counter for those who are wondering what to donate. "We make just enough to get by," Dodson says about the donations. "It's a God thing! I like the idea that if you don't have any money, you don't pay. People are generally respectful of what we are doing."

The Blind Munchies aims to be a Christian coffeehouse with an edge, showing that Christianity is about real people having a personal relationship with Jesus. No need to be alarmed by the fact that it's located in a church, however. It's a non-confrontational environment where all are welcome. So stop in, take a break, study, read the paper, catch the free live music, and enjoy a great cup of coffee at a great price.

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MUSIC

sitting in with:

Last December, *Word on the Street* had the chance to sit in with the members of the nationally acclaimed local band The Daredevil Christopher Wright. Here's what the band had to say about life on the road, the recording process and the purpose behind their music.

W: We're catching you guys after a long national touring stint. Are you road weary or ready for the next round?

Jon: It's definitely nice to be home. This is our first time really doing any extensive touring. It seems like you never really know how you're going to handle it until you do it. It was encouraging to know that we could survive it and that we came away from it fairly emotionally and relationally sound.

W: With each other as well?

Jon: Yeah, with each other and that we could handle being away from home for that long. But it's nice to be home and not have to travel for a little bit.

W: And you've been touring since May when the LP came out?

Jon: Yeah, we put out the record in the middle of May and did a three week tour in June and a nine week tour all through August, September, and into October. Then we were off for about a week and a half and did a month to the west.

Jason: We had done some touring before that, just smaller scale, and mainly around the Midwest. So this was the first time that we went just about everywhere.

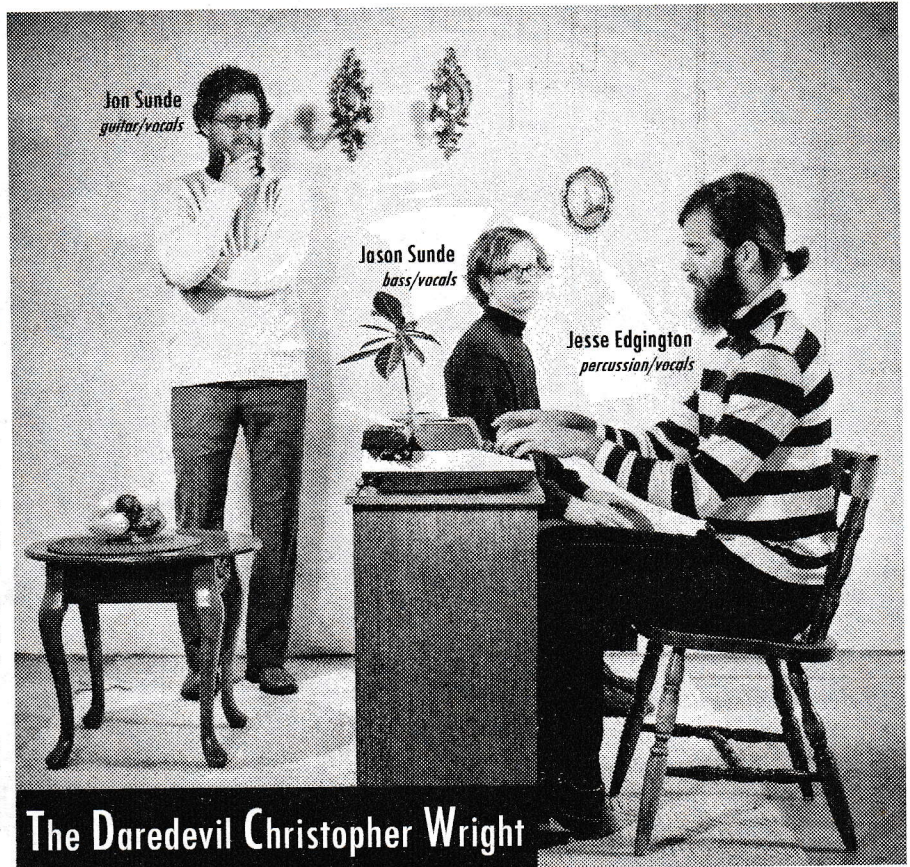
W: Any favorite venues or highlights from the tour?

Jon: I really enjoyed Toronto. We've been there now several times and it really is a great city. It's funny because some places you seem to just strike up relationships really quickly with people. We made some really fast friends there, and our mom grew up in Toronto, so we're kind of sentimentally attached.

W: What keeps a touring musician down to earth?

Jesse: Living on the road is a lot different than living at home because you don't have the same place to come to every day; you're always arriving home somewhere else and it's usually someone else's house, or a hotel or campsite or something. If you're like me and you really like having a bit of a routine around you, it's very hard to then suddenly have to adopt a completely new routine and culture.

Jon: Yeah, and in terms of groundedness, when you're a band our level you play a lot of shows where there's 10 people there and it's a very



The Daredevil Christopher Wright

humble existence, so you kind of know your place. I mean there are certainly bands at about our level who exist maybe in a fantasy about where they're at, but, yeah, you're humbled fairly regularly, which is a good thing.

W: I read that in putting out your album, *In Deference to a Broken Back*, you guys had said concerning the recording process, "Of cheap, fast and good you can only choose two.", and you chose cheap and good. In light of that, I was wondering what the recording process is like for you guys?

Jason: When we did this album we had a bunch of material that we wanted to record, so we weeded out some things we didn't want to record and we took all these songs and re-evaluated them. There was some stuff that we'd been playing for quite a while and so we decided that we would take some time, think about them and rearrange them. We did that for a couple months, and then we went into the studio and it took maybe a month to get most everything done. There was some extra over dubbing that took place later. So, from start to finish it was about two years, and it was a year after we started recording it that we finally mixed it. So, it was a really slow process. The thing that was most weird to me was when we began recording all the tracks, it just takes forever. You get mics set up and you're waiting around and moving them and finally everything is in place, which took about two hours to get it all set up, and you're like, "Ok, let's track this song." And then you take it like several times before you get something good. Then you're like, "Let's try something else", so we're thinking about different ways of doing it.

W: Justin Vernon of Bon Iver worked with you guys to mix nine of the tracks on this record, what did he have to add to the mix?

Jon: When he agreed to do it, we'd get together a couple days and then he would take the recordings for maybe a week or two weeks or something and he would be working on mixing and we'd come together and critique it together and make adjustments. It was a good experience with him because he was very collaborative in the process. This whole art of recording, all of these pieces are very important. Maybe you have a vision for what a general sound will be, but understanding how to capture or develop that from the basic tracks that you've recorded is a skill that we're hopefully learning

something about, but are far from really knowing how to do it. So it's nice to team up with someone. He came with knowledge and an aesthetic we really enjoyed.

W: Some lyrics that really intrigued me from the song "Near Death Experience at Sea" were: "Not yet you're still living, you've got a purpose that you've been given." I was wondering what you see as that purpose for your band?

Jon: Well, kind of varied. I mean I can speak for myself. I really feel like the thing I can do best is music, and that's been the gift that I've been given and where I feel called to help people and minister to people. So I really feel God has given me that type of purpose. Pretty much every song I write, I can't not write about some spiritual component. Some of them don't, but the vast majority of them have some element of that. It's just always what comes out and I really feel like in my writing I'm able to honor God and honor the gifts I've been given and speak it most clearly in that way. So, for me, I really feel like the purpose is to help people with this music hopefully and direct the fame toward God.

W: That seems to really come through in the fact that you can sing about such serious topics in such a joyful way, sounding light and hopeful while you're singing about cancer, dying, and death.

Jon: Yeah, well thanks. Good.

W: Do you see the direction of your band changing at all as things are picking up speed for you guys?

Jason: It's getting a lot more "planny." We have to make plans now. Where before we were just like, "Let's get together and play music," now we're like, "What should we do for the next six months?"

Jon: We've all gone full time since May doing this and so and it's a huge blessing in that we can do music full time. We've moved to our folks' place so we don't have to pay rent when we're traveling and we can essentially focus more on music and all the components that go into it which we're finding get exponentially more complicated.

"Pretty much every song I write, I can't *not* write about some spiritual component..."

W: So, how are songs born in your band? Is it a collaboration or one person bringing something to the table?

Jason: Jon and I kind of write some songs. Jon mainly is the songwriter and what happens is that Jon brings a song and then we play through it. We're learning a lot from Jesse about the collaborative process, which he learned about here at Stout. (laughter)

Jason: It's interesting because Jesse's background in creative art lends itself to that collaborative process in that you take the first idea that you have and then you really work with it and develop it. When we (the Sunde brothers) studied music in Eau Claire, the training was specifically skills and analysis and you were working with finished products. It was mainly a performance thing and they were never asking us to come up with something interesting and new or to make your own song, so basically we had no tools, only the ones we learned on our own, so we're learning how to write. I would settle way sooner without Jesse's method of collaboration.

Jesse: It's called crabbiness. (laughter) A lot of songs on the album went through some pretty big changes that we were proud of. Like "The Stewardess" and the song "Clouds" both went through a bit of refining over the time that we've played it.

W: Changing gears, on your MySpace site it says that a flink of cows influences you, so we all wanted to know what a flink of cows was.



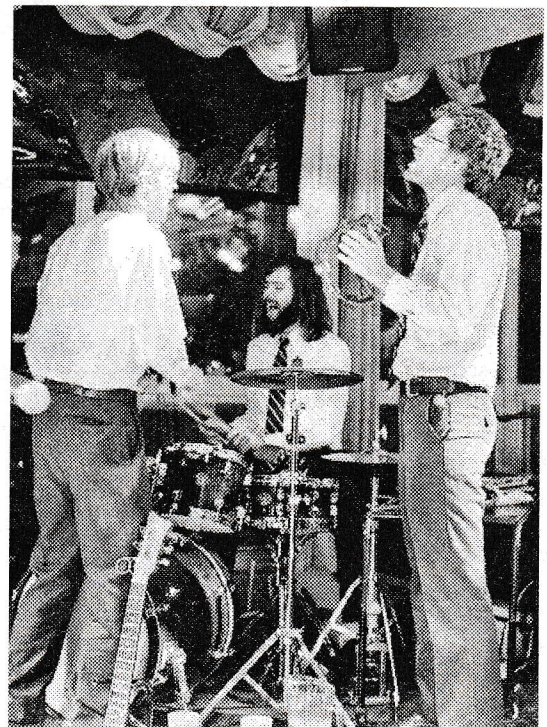
Jason: It's a very obtuse reference. It's like a herd of cows, like a murder of crows or an exaltation of larks. I put those on there to be weird and because we like animal collective.

W: Anything you'd like to say to UW-Stout students reading this interview?

Jon: Make bands.

W: And what's on your band's playlist right now?

Jesse: Cryptacize, The Walkman, and it's cold out so I like to listen to Sufjan Stevens.



Blue Devil Hockey



8

In hockey, the average size of a puck, is 1" thick and 3" in diameter, weighing between 5.5 and 6 ounces. It can reach speeds of up to 100 miles per hour and can cause injuries. This underestimated rubber disk is the center of attention for both players and spectators alike. They watch its every move with eagle eyes in this fast-paced and aggressive sport. Although all eyes follow the puck throughout the game, the real stars of the show are those that endeavor to master it: the Blue Devils Men's Ice Hockey team.

The smell of fresh ice and shine of bright lights meets everyone who steps into the Rec Park Ice Arena. The games are free for Stout students and \$5 for non-students. At the start of the game on December 5th, all the bleachers were filled with blue and white faced fans chanting, yelling, and cheering. They inhaled excitement and exhaled anticipation. The bleachers were billowing out on the sides, and the entire arena was bordered by fans. This was not an unusual crowd. The arena seats 800, but usually gathers around 1,200 people. There was plenty of room on the ice, however.

Only 12 athletes play at once, including the two decked-out goalies. The game started out great with the first two goals scored by Branden Gay(#14) and Brandon Larson(#12), respectively. Sticks rose in the air and the sounds of manly grunts and shouts echoed throughout the crowded arena. The second and third periods, however, were not as enthusiastic. The UW-Eau Claire Bluegolfs tied the score and ended up winning in overtime.

The following weekend, the Blue Devils came back and pummeled the UW-River Falls Falcons with a 6-1 final score for the first game, and a 6-5 final score for the second game. The losses to UW-Eau Claire on December 4th and 5th must have been the fuel they needed to win the next two. Their current record is 6-5-3 (wins-losses-ties).

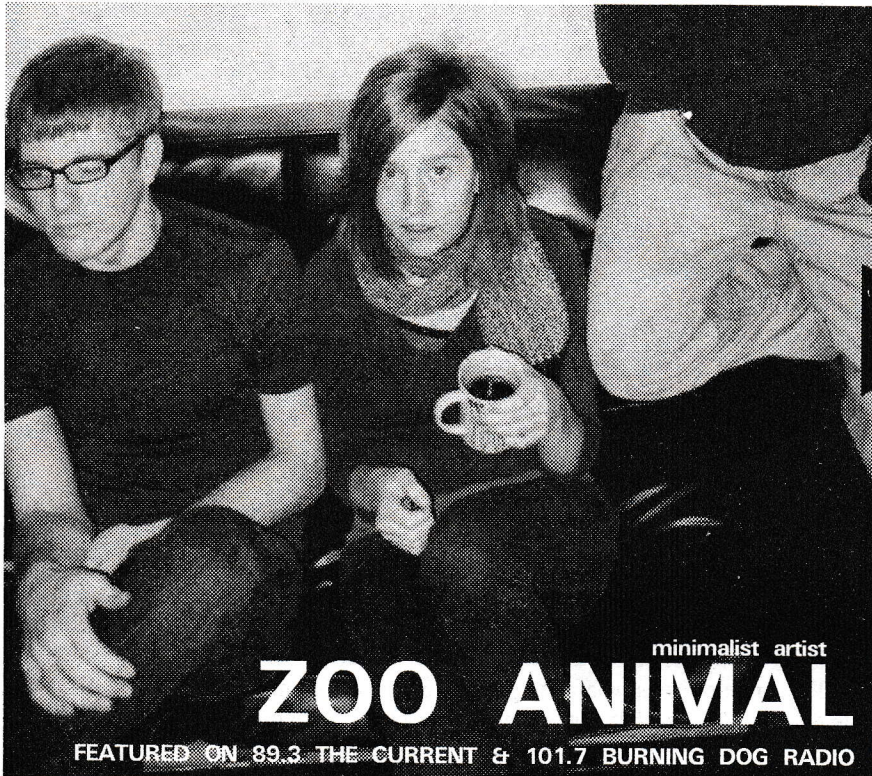
The UW-Stout Blue Devils Ice Hockey team went to the NCAA Division III Frozen Four in Lake Placid, NY, in the 2008-2009 season, and is one of the top teams in their division. Although this year does not look as promising as last year, UW-Stout still has some of the best players in the division. For the second time, Scott Mots(#18) received the WIAC Hockey Athlete of the Week award for his abilities showcased in the games against UW-River Falls on December 11th and 12th, with two goals and three assists. He is the team's key offensive player. Joel Gaulrapp(#9) and Derek Hanson(#25) are other major offensive contributors. Defensively, David Larson(#3) has stepped up to fill the shoes of Bobby Kuehl(#4), last season's leading defense player, who was injured in the first game. The head coach, Terry Watkins, says Kuehl will be back next year.

Another drastic change for the team took place in the nets. All three goalies are freshman: Tom Lescovich(#29), Mike Morgan(#30), and Nick Hopper(#31). Of the three, Lescovich currently gets the most play time.

Coach Watkins encourages the players in between games by assessing mistakes and correcting them. "As a coach," he says, "you're a teacher." After the games, the team eats pizza and on Sunday nights they watch previous games to see how they can improve. They also study their opponents by watching their games to see their playing style and key players.

Whether the hockey team wins or loses, it is still an exhilarating game to watch, (not to mention the fights!) So if you aren't busy on a Friday or Saturday and want to see an action-packed event, check out a UW-Stout Ice Hockey game. Find your way to the Rec Park, which is located east of campus at 800 Wilson Ave. To see the schedule and statistics, visit www.athletics.uwstout.edu.





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9

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(continued from page 4)

Jan. 30, 2010

Men's Track and Field vs. Warren Bowlus Open
Menomonie 12 p.m.

Women's Track and Field vs. Warren Bowlus
Open Menomonie 12 p.m.

Men's Ice Hockey vs. College of St. Scholastica
Menomonie 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 03, 2010

Men's Basketball vs. UW-Stevens Point
Menomonie 7 p.m.

Feb. 04, 2010

Men's Ice Hockey vs. UW-Eau Claire
Menomonie 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 05, 2010

Men's Ice Hockey vs. UW-River Falls
Menomonie 7:30 p.m.

10

Feb. 06, 2010

Women's Basketball vs. UW-Oshkosh (Alumni
Day) Menomonie 5 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. UW-Oshkosh - Alumni Day
Menomonie 7 p.m.

Feb. 10, 2010

Women's Basketball vs. UW-Superior
Menomonie 7 p.m.

Feb. 12, 2010

Women's Gymnastics vs. John Zuerlein
Invitational Menomonie 6 p.m.

Feb. 16, 2010

Softball vs. St. Scholastica (DH)
Menomonie 10 a.m.

Feb. 17, 2010

Men's Basketball vs. Silver Lake College
Menomonie 8 p.m.

Feb. 19, 2010

Men's Ice Hockey vs. NCHA Quarterfinals TBA

Feb. 20, 2010

Women's Basketball vs. UW-Eau Claire - Senior
Nite Menomonie 3 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. UW-Eau Claire - Senior
Night Menomonie 5 p.m.

Men's Ice Hockey vs. NCHA Quarterfinals TBA

Feb. 21, 2010

Women's Gymnastics vs. UW-Eau Claire (Senior
& Parent's Day) Menomonie 1 p.m.

Feb. 23, 2010

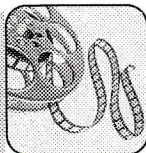
Men's Basketball vs. WIAC Quarterfinals TBA

Women's Basketball vs. WIAC Quarterfinals
TBA

Feb. 25, 2010

Men's Basketball vs. WIAC Semi-Finals TBA

(Continued on page 11)

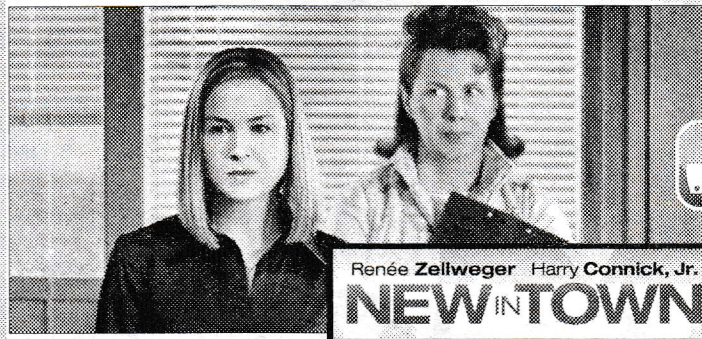


MOVIE

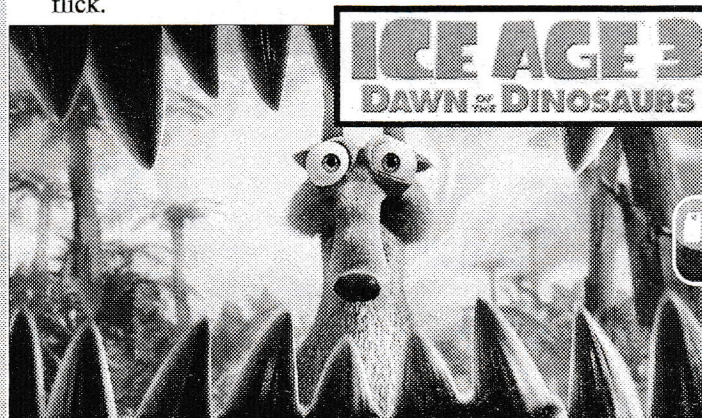
Quick Six Movie Picks



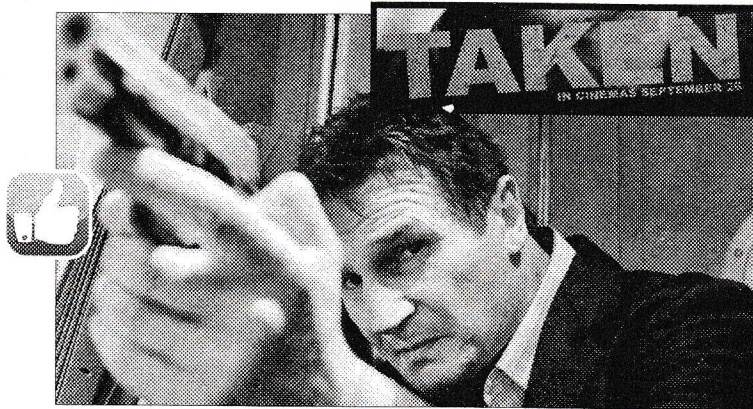
Nicolas Cage stars in one of the most disappointing movies of the year. While the plot starts out on a promising note, the quality turns into, "Someone paid money to produce this?" at the last minute. The problem lies in the story line, which crescendos toward the climax with wonderful anticipation, but suddenly deflates to a "B-movie" style finish. The angels/aliens/whatever you care to call them are reminiscent of a creepy uncle. I am amazed that someone sees being snatched away by aliens as a beneficial ending. **155 irretrievable minutes.**



This romantic comedy starring Renee Zellweger and Harry Connick Jr. will either be hated or loved, depending on where you live. While online reviewers hated this flick, one can quickly realize that virtually none of them has ever lived in the Midwest. While being entirely predictable, the majority of the comedy is related to setting- humor which is lost on outsiders and city folk. I would recommend this for the next obligatory chick flick.



Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Dennis Leary, and Queen Latifah deliver a performance expected out of a third string film. Sid tries a hand at motherhood. Diego leaves the herd, only to return and save the day. Manny and Ellie prepare for their first-born. The herd discovers a hidden land of dinosaurs and retrieves Sid from the farthest reaches of it. The setting is somewhat different, Ray Romano remains a character actor, and the series continues on. Children should appreciate this as it is superior to the first in animation, but as an adult, once is enough.



Liam Neeson stars in an action-packed drama where his daughter is kidnapped to be sold into the sex trade in Europe. Fortunately, Neeson's character has a particular set of skills necessary for the retrieval of said daughter, which also play into the calculated movements that ensue. Action movie enthusiasts only like guys that have great skills. While the movie was entertaining to watch, the heavy subject matter leaves you appalled that this sort of thing really goes on in the world today.



In the world of "Nerd", only one movie was released last year and this was it. The introduction is a strong, critical factor in retaining one's interest. The graphics are clean, crisp, and detailed. Kirk's character starts out annoying and lacking anything resembling nobility, but as the other characters came on scene, I realized that the movie is as concerned with developing backgrounds as it is with developing plot. The action is riveting, and twists in script are revealed as you lean forward, shortening the time it takes for the light to become information in your mind. Much to my amazement, the movie is good, not just good, but great! A new era of Star Trek has begun.



A comedy disguised as a tale of one man's misery, this complex plot acts as a herald for a wonderfully dark satire. While this film contains a myriad of obvious humor, its genius is in the subtleties of setting, background, and irony. The story remains mysterious and captivating from start to finish, interlaced with points of climax and minimalism. The music enhances each scene by giving greater depth or irony. Overall, this is an excellent movie for the alert spectator and worth all of your hard earned "buck-0-six" at the Redbox!

(Continued from page 10)

Feb. 25, 2010

Women's Basketball vs. WIAC Semi-Finals
TBA

Fri, Feb. 26, 2010

Softball vs. Northwestern College (DH)
Menomonie 10 am

Feb. 27, 2010

Men's Basketball vs. WIAC Championship TBA

Feb. 27, 2010

Women's Basketball vs. WIAC Championships
TBA

Men's Ice Hockey vs. NCHA Semi-Finals TBA

Mar. 03, 2010

Softball vs. Augsburg College (DH)
Menomonie 10 a.m.

Mar. 04, 2010

Baseball vs. University of Minnesota, Crookston
(DH) Menomonie 11 a.m.

Mar. 05, 2010

Men's Basketball vs. NCAA First Round TBA

Women's Basketball vs. NCAA First Round
TBA

Mar. 06, 2010

Men's Basketball vs. NCAA Second Round
TBA

Women's Basketball vs. NCAA Second Round
TBA

Men's Ice Hockey vs. NCHA Championship
TBA

Mar. 10, 2010

Men's Ice Hockey vs. NCAA First Round TBA

Mar. 11, 2010

Softball vs. St. Olaf College (DH)
Menomonie 10 a.m.

Mar. 12, 2010

Men's Basketball vs. NCAA Sweet Sixteen TBA

Mar. 12, 2010

Women's Basketball vs. NCAA Sweet Sixteen
TBA

Mar. 12, 2010

Men's Track and Field vs. NCAA Division III
Indoor Championships
DePauw University hosts
TBA

Women's Track and Field vs. NCAA Division
III Indoor Championships
DePauw University hosts
TBA

Mar. 13, 2010

Men's Basketball vs. NCAA Elite Eight
TBA

(continued on page 18)

Why Not Sleep In?

Party on Saturday



“Is it okay for me to hit the bars on Saturday, then go to Church Sunday morning?”

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Sure. As it turns out, there is no law that prohibits the attendance of Sunday morning church services post-party. However, the real question is not whether it's okay to go to church after getting wasted on Saturday night, so much as it is why go to church in the first place?

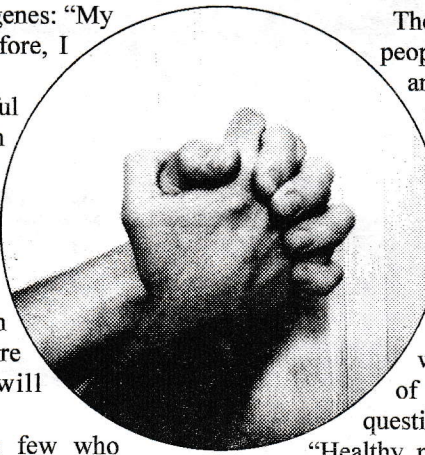
No matter who you are, now is a good time to take a closer look at your reasons for attending church if you choose to go at all. Countless factors either attract people to a pew on Sunday morning or keep them far away from it. Surprisingly, God loves you equally whether you go to church or not, and He's given clear directions in the Bible as to how church should function like a loving family and a healthy body. God even has specific reasons for wanting you to be part of a church, but first you might need to redefine what the word "church" means. Stay tuned...

Going to church for different reasons

It's a straightforward question: why do you go to church? Take a second and think about it. There are many reasons that people go to church; which one is yours? Perhaps it's out of obligation. Maybe you're dating someone who goes, so you feel as though you should go too. Maybe it is more of a cultural or traditional reason. These people think Christianity runs in their genes: "My parents were Christian. Therefore, I am too."

Guilt can also be a powerful motivator for church attendance. You might be a member of the group that attends church to make up for all the bad things you've done the previous week. You think you're on a points system with God and as long as you score enough gold stars, it will overshadow your screw-ups.

You may be one of the few who actually go for all of the right reasons. Some of you go because you are truly seeking God, even though you may not realize you are doing it.



Maybe something unexplainable drives you to go. Something inside of you feels cavernous and thirsty and the need grows daily. You go fully realizing you have nothing good to offer, but you wonder what this Jesus person is all about. So, what's your reason?

What is church supposed to be like?

The God of the Bible is a personal God with specific reasons for wanting us to meet with other Christians at church. He is not interested in mere religion. Webster's Online Dictionary defines religion as "a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices." Maybe that's all church is to you, a system of religious attitudes, but that's not how God intended it to be.

Church is not for people who think they're "good" enough. Jesus had some very strong words regarding those who had the type of attitude that tried to earn God's love with their good deeds. In Matthew 23, Jesus addresses the Pharisees (Jewish religious leaders of Jesus' day). From the outside looking in, they seemed like they had it together, but Jesus held a very different opinion. In verse 27, Jesus states, "...you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones."

The good news is that church is for people who *don't* have it all together and know it. Matthew 9:10-13 records Jesus eating with tax collectors. Tax collectors in that day were considered slimy, low life people. They were the scum of society, yet Jesus made a point of eating with them. His obviously confused disciples asked Him why He would even want to associate with this group of individuals. Jesus answered their question in verse 12 when he stated, "Healthy people don't need a doctor- sick people do." Church is not for "good" people; it's for broken people that are looking for complete healing. Perfect people need not apply.

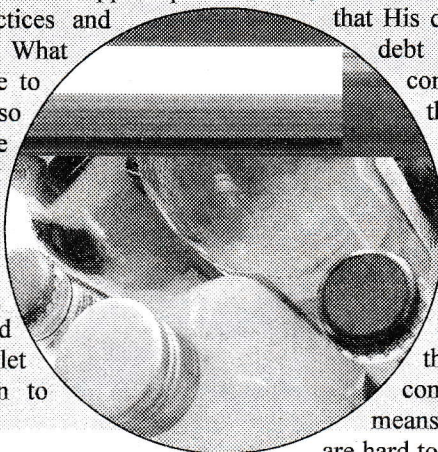


Church on Sunday



"Every command in the bible is there for one reason- to bring you closer to God and to save you from pain. He knows the consequences, and doesn't want you to go through that."

Why would Jesus say these things? He said them because the Pharisees missed the truth that would have set them free. They were wrapped up in rules, laws, and religious practices and missed the spiritual "soul train." What God wants for us is to be close to Him, by way of His Son, Jesus, so that He can give us eternal life with Him. Not only that, but God makes our life purposeful and He also wants us to talk to Him. Philippians 4:6 (NKJV) states, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."



A family and a body

So how does God define "church". God designed church to be a family, not just a building. It's a group of diverse people united under Jesus. Repeatedly in the Bible, God calls the church the "body" of Christ. Since it is a body, it's important for people to take their place in it. Then, it not only functions, but it is also effective in completing tasks. Hold on to your hats, it's analogy time! If you're the ear in the body and someone else is the liver, it's going to be very difficult for you to function in an effective manner if you're thousands of miles apart. You are not a healthy working body; you are a bunch of disconnected organs. If you have been reborn in Jesus, Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) emphasizes the need for you to be part of a body when it says, "Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together..."

We need each other. Each one of us has different talents, strengths and weaknesses. Together we balance each other out, help each other grow, and support each other when life is overwhelming. Everyone has something to bring to the table. United under the leadership of Christ, the church can be full of love and able to show others clearly who Jesus is.

If church is like a family, and you're born *physically* into your biological family, how are you

born into the family of God? First, and most importantly, you need to be *spiritually* born into it. When you make the decision to follow Jesus, trust that His death on the cross paid for your debt of sin, and let Him truly take control of your life, He will send the Holy Spirit into your life and begin to change you from the inside out. It's at this point that you become birthed in the Spirit and are now part of God's family.

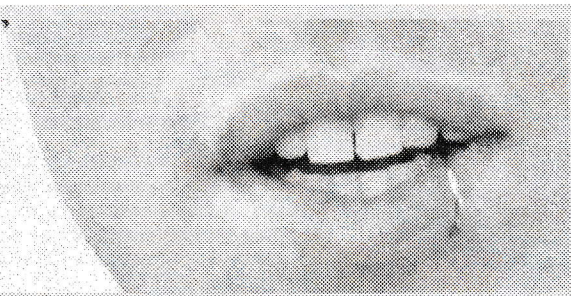
What goes along with being part of this family? It thrives on love, discipline, and complete honesty. Sometimes that means telling each other things that are hard to hear, and being willing to listen to correction. Proverbs 27:17 puts this concept into words when it says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (NIV)

Being part of God's family comes with a lot of benefits. One in particular is the element of support. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." This can be something as simple as talking with one another, sharing difficulties, praying together, and encouraging each other to press on in a life with Christ.

The Christian journey is a life lived against the flow of the world and we need others to help us through the hard times. If you're not surrounded with Jesus-lovers on a regular basis, the world begins to shout so loudly and pull so strongly that it's nearly impossible to stand strong on your own.

Worst of both worlds

Thinking you're going to be okay with God by just going through the motions of church and still living life your own way is dangerous. You are caught in a permanent state of limbo. In Revelation 3:15-16, God states that He would rather you either be cold or hot for Him. If you are lukewarm (riding the fence), He will, figuratively speaking, "vomit" you out of His mouth. You must realize that when God says things like this it's because He



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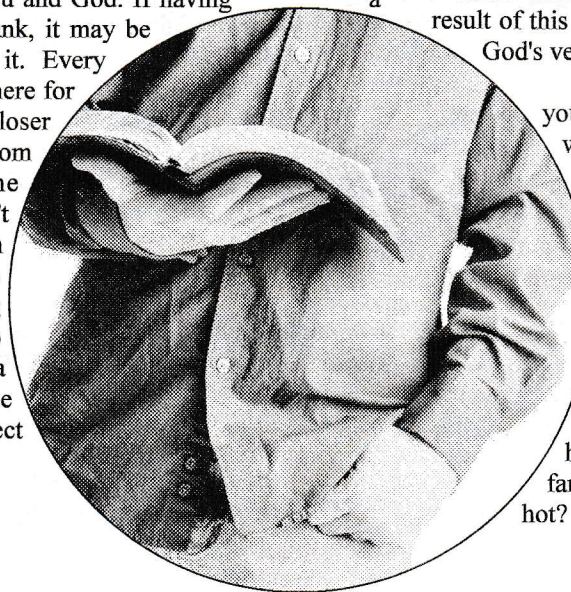
ultimately wants what's best for you. He knows how empty the world will leave you, and how wavering between two lives will cause you to miss His blessings.

First, you have the pleasures of this world. Getting sloshed on the weekends, rotating through sexual partners, experimenting with drugs, or simply living for your own gain can be fun, but the aftermath hurts. Eventually, the drugs wear off, you have a hangover, and sleeping with random people gets old. It then creates a vacuum inside you. It might not come right away; it may take hours, days, weeks, or even years, but it will catch up with you in time. All that is left is a deep feeling of loneliness and sorrow, quenched only by going out and doing more of the same. God is not ignorant of this fact. Proverbs 20:17 says that sin is fun for a while, but is ultimately not going to satisfy you.

When you waver between two lives, you are robbed daily. You're robbed of the temporary fun that goes with living in the world, and of the long-term blessings associated with being a close follower of Christ. In effect, you have the worst of both worlds.

Following Him means more than just heading off to church on Sundays and Wednesdays; it means following the commands laid out in the Bible. The motivation for following is thankfulness for new life. If you truly love God and want to follow Him, you will obey His commandments (*not to be confused with the 10 commandments.*) Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments." God was very good at laying out what He expects of us and the New Testament clearly describes Jesus' commands for us.

Let's look at the party example again. Ephesians 5:18 plainly says, "Do not become drunk..." Hold on a minute-contrary to popular belief, God is not trying to be a killjoy. This verse doesn't mean that a Christian of legal age can never have an alcoholic drink. It means don't get drunk, and it's a personal thing between you and God. If having a drink leads you to get drunk, it may be that you need to avoid it. Every command in the Bible is there for one reason- to bring you closer to God and to save you from pain. He knows the consequences and doesn't want you to go through that. He cares about us so much that He was willing to send His son Jesus to earth to die for us on a cross so that there could be a bridge between imperfect man and a perfect God.



What are my options, what should I choose?

There are three basic options of where you can go with your faith.

Option 1: Be cold. Sleep in, but don't stop there. Live life however you want, and leave God completely out of the picture. Face the eternal consequences of separation from God for eternity after you die. In very straightforward terms, live like hell because you choose to believe that this life with all of its temporary pleasures is as good as it's ever going to get.

Option 2: Be lukewarm. Live a "morally upright" life following rules and standards, never experiencing the temporary pleasures of this world, but at the same time never experiencing the true blessings that God has for you. Here you are not hot or cold, but not just right either, forever caught in a spiritual limbo that will amount to a wasted life.

You could be thinking, "But it's okay for me to party it up on Saturday! All I have to do is ask God for forgiveness and everything will be okay." If you think this, however, you might want to start questioning whether you realize what Jesus has done for you and if you've trusted in His sacrifice to make you fully right with God. Repeatedly, God calls us to live our lives different from the rest of the world and in obedience to His word. If we do not do this, we'll never know what we're missing. If the spirit of God lives in us, these types of attitudes- *wanting* to follow what God wants us to do- will show naturally. If we have not put our trust in Jesus, and the spirit of God does not live in us, those attributes will be missing.

Option 3: Be hot. Rely completely on the fact that Jesus' execution on the cross paid for your sin and makes it possible for you to have a right, loving, and obedient relationship with God. Sell out for God. Embrace God's plan for your life and dive into the Bible so you can get to know Him. Experience the huge blessing of being part of God's family, the church. Take your place in a local church family, and get to know some cool people who love God and follow Him with their whole lives. Allow Him to *be peace* in your life, to give you hope for a future with Him, and to give your life meaning and purpose. The result of this choice will be the blessing of spending all of eternity in God's very presence.

As far as what choice you should make, the ball is in your court. God gave you the ability to choose the path you wish to follow. Take some time to think very deeply about what you are going to choose. The costs of being a Christian may seem expensive, but in the grand scope of eternity, they are worth it. You may have many unanswered questions about what God has for you, but the Bible has answers. If you choose to ignore the calling that God has for your life and you are getting ready to party it up Saturday night, think about this: is your eternal life worth the gamble? There is something better. There can be joy in your life when times are hard, closeness with the One who made you, and a huge family that truly loves you. Choose wisely. Why not be hot?

" Flawed people can't be perfect. It seems like an obvious statement, but we expect perfection from the people we are dating. "

Love—from empty chocolate boxes

We think that love is like the movies, that everybody lives happily ever after, but that is far from the truth. Gifts with love notes attached such as, "You are the only one I need," or "I will love you forever," although thoughtful, never last. Guys everywhere scramble to the store for last minute chocolates and flowers, knowing that it's only a matter of time before they're eaten and wilted. The girls have visions of the man of their dreams sweeping them off their feet with grand gestures of devotion and affection. When God, who is love, is not in the center of relationships like these, the feelings for that other person are not enough. The chocolates get eaten up and all that's left are wrappers or one or two chocolates that nobody wants. What if someone said they would love you forever and could? What if you had the only one you would ever need? God has that kind of sustaining love and when He is in the center of a relationship, real love for the other person comes from Him.

Flawed people can't be perfect. It seems like an obvious statement, but we expect that from the people we are dating. The other person won't always be there for us when we are having a bad day if they are having one too. We can't expect our significant other to always recognize our thoughtful actions. When someone can't love like that, a love that always gives and is not dependent upon the response, the relationship goes south. So, we move on, looking for love from another person, thinking maybe this one will be different. "Maybe this one will be the ONE. I won't ever cheat on this one. I will always be dedicated to this one, always forgiving, and always give everything I have to this one. This one will always love me the way I need. He/she will never be attracted to another person but me, will never disappoint me, and will never let me down." The problem doesn't disappear; it is only delayed when we find someone new. We feed off of people for our satisfaction, enjoyment, and pleasure until they have nothing left to give us. That is the only kind of love we know. God's kind of love is the opposite of that: giving without taking and giving for

another's benefit even if it is inconvenient, difficult, or uncomfortable. When we don't have that giving kind of love, the box of chocolates runs out, and we continue our search for another box.

We look for love in people rather than God. 1 John 4:16 states, "We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them." God is love, so we can get love from another person, but not the kind that fully satisfies. It's not real love without God, not lasting love, only feelings that sometimes feel like love. God's kind of love is real, constant, true, and confirmed by His actions. 1 John 4:10 states, "This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." He is always with us when we are having a bad day.

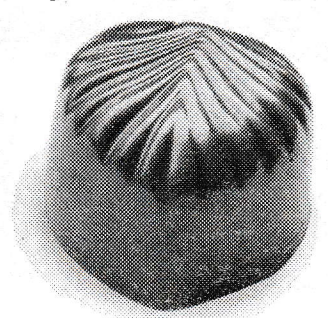
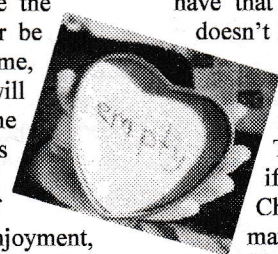
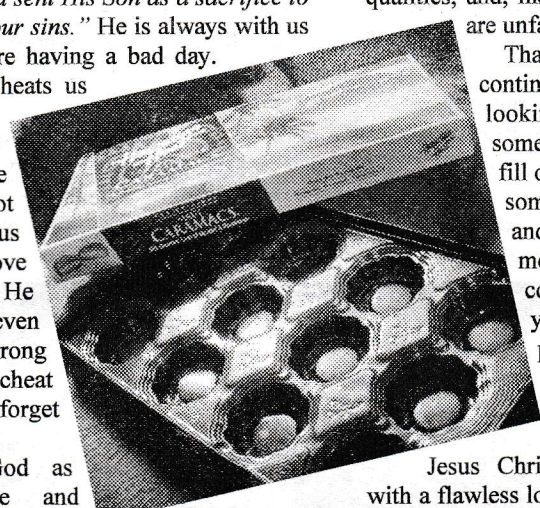
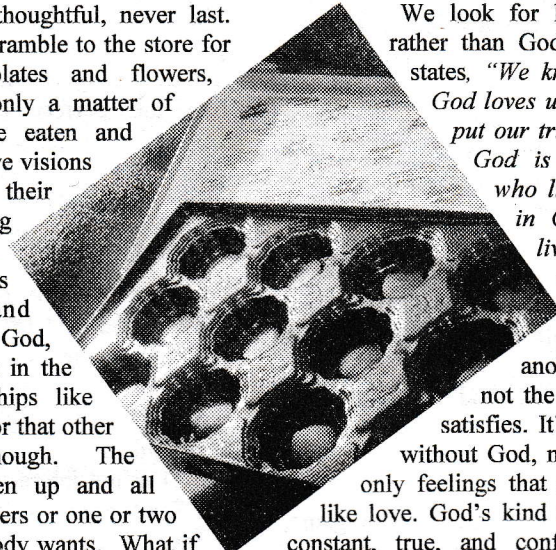
He never cheats us or wishes we were someone else. He not only loves us when we love Him, but He loves us even when we wrong Him, and cheat Him, and forget Him.

With God as the source and center, we can then have a lasting and growing relationship with another person. Now the other person does not have that pressure to give what he/she doesn't have. There is freedom instead of expectations. Jesus Christ is now the center of the relationship as well as the goal. That is why it is very important if we are Christian to be dating a Christian with a similar level of maturity. If God is to be the center of a relationship, how can He be if one person does not know Him? If He is the source of love, how can the other person love without Him?

Chances are that if you've ever been to a wedding, you've heard: "Love is patient, love is kind..." This is from 1 Corinthians 13 in the Bible, but most people don't realize that it's speaking of God's love, not human love. Verses 4-7 read: "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." Those verses are packed with action. Much like Jesus' actions on the cross displayed His love, our love is displayed in these ways within our relationships. Wouldn't it be nice if no one remembered how we wronged them? Wouldn't it be nice if we were not proud but humble, if we were not jealous but understanding? With God's help, being made new by turning away from sin and trusting in what Jesus did to save us, it is possible to have these qualities, and, like the verses imply, they are unailing.

That is the search that continues throughout our lives, looking for someone or something to complete us, to fill our empty soul. There are some things that complete and fill, but only for a moment. Then the hunger comes back and we search yet again. Only a perfect person can complete someone else, and the only perfect person who has ever lived is

Jesus Christ. Jesus completes us with a flawless love that is like an endless box of chocolates, with this love note attached: "I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love, and I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them." (Hosea 11:4)



Major Debut: VIDEO GAME DESIGN and PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Video gamers and real estate junkies now have reason to flock to UW-Stout: a B.S. program for Game Design and Development as well as B.S. program for Property Management program.

Game Design and Development had been a concentration within the Applied Mathematics and Computer Science major, but UW-Stout received a lot of student and industry pressure to create the 4-year degree.

Wisconsin has become the Midwest Mecca of game development companies, mostly because the state now offers a 25% tax incentive for calling it home. Over 22 companies in the Midwest area responded to a recent UW-Stout survey saying they would consider hiring graduates of the new program.

"As someone who isn't in the program, I definitely wish that it had been opened earlier so that I could have been in it," said Jessica Wilson, a senior in Graphic Design.

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GDD 101, or Introduction to Video and Computer Game Design and Development, was full of students on a recent weekday. Enrolled students ranged from freshman to seniors and had a healthy mix of men and women.

Wilson added that the class is, "A lot of fun and provides a good overview of the video game industry." A fellow classmate, Andrew, chimed in, saying his favorite project was the one they were currently working on, which was designing a game using ALICE.

When asked to explain what that was, he said, "It's creating a really basic game, but I like it because it gives me an idea of what it'd be like since I'm still not sure if I'll be in this major." He laughed and added, "After all, this class is just intro!"

This begs the question: with this new major still fresh out of its plastic case, will it enjoy smooth game play or be doomed to a dramatic end? Diane Christie, program director for the new major, said it's still too early to say if the program has been a success since it doesn't have a track record yet.

However, there are a number of factors pointing to a top score. Despite the intense recession, the game industry is continuing to make profits. Reports from the first quarter of 2009 had that figure at \$4.25 billion. Plus, the program certainly won't have a lack of interested students. UW-Stout projections estimate a healthy growth. As of the end of last year, there were approximately 55+ interested students, including those already enrolled in the concentration.



Wisconsin has become the "Midwest Mecca" of game development companies.

STOUT

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

"Ever since I first played Super Mario, I've always been keen on video games, and when I heard about the unique program offered at Stout, it felt like the perfect choice," said Rad Duprey, a sophomore at UW-Richland who was recently accepted into the new program for fall 2010.

There's a misleading stereotype that video games are the domain of greasy bachelors. On the contrary, there is a growing demand for what is referred to as "serious games", games designed for military and other industries, that include flight simulators to train Air Force pilots.

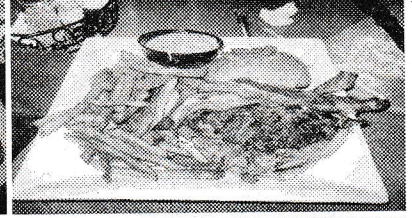
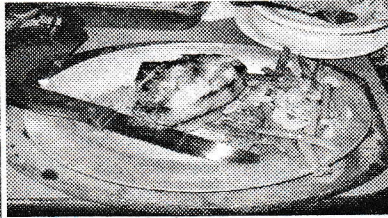
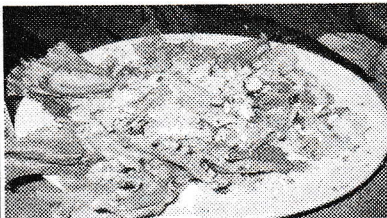
"I'm not interested in the Dungeons and Dragon type stuff—I'm looking at the amazing creative potential video games have. It's an art," said Duprey.

Switching gears, the newly approved B.S. in Property Management was also implemented to meet a growing industry need. This new major has been adapted from the 28-credit minor already in existence. Its purpose is to create a major so that students will possess the skills necessary to manage property for owners of both residential and commercial properties.

According to IREM, the only professional real estate management association in existence, "The threat of a serious labor shortage looms on the horizon, and management companies are being challenged to attract, develop, reward, and retain staff to achieve a quality pool of talent." That translates to good job prospects for UW-Stout students who successfully graduate from the program.

"While a number of universities offer a degree program in real estate, most of those programs only offer a single course in property management," said Doug Kennedy, program director for the new major. UW-Stout is therefore fulfilling a societal need because while many institutions offer majors in real estate, none do so specifically in property management.

Scoring key:
 5 = Amazing!
 4 = Dudes love it
 3 = Man-friendly
 2 = Hmmmm....
 1 = No way, dude



a Dude's Review of Sparx

Reviewer Alias & Dish Ordered	The T-Dogg Lienies Bacon Burger	The Pretty Boy Chopped Salad	Bubba Villiage Salad	The fuzz Cajun Pork Chop
Food	4.74	4.5	4.5	4.5
Comment	Now that's a tasty burger	Like it a lot	Well dispersed vegetation	Needed more Cajun, but most well cooked pork chop I've ever had
Atmosphere	5	5	4.5	5
Comment	Good balance of classy and comfortable	Like it a lot, not too loud, easy to converse with others	Good ambiance, TV's are well placed	No echo, lots of people
Service	5	3.5	3.97	4.8
Comment	Very helpful, water glass was hardly ever empty	Waitress came a little too often, but not bad	Ran out of water for a little bit, but not bad	She was there in my time of need, not annoying
Silverware	N/A	4	2.5	3.75
Comment	Finger food baby!	Nicely rolled	Had water spots	No comment
Price	4	4	4	4
Comment	Very large portion	Good portion, great price	Large serving	A lot of food for under \$25
Clientèle	5	4	4.51	4.5
Comment	Not too rowdy	Classy, family friendly, good peeps	Classy, not a hobo bar, though they did let us in....	Well behaved
Menu	5	4	4.5	2.5
Comment	Like the choices	Too big for the speedy service	Lots of good choices	Too big
Interior Design	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.8
Comment	Comfy	Really like the lights	Ooooooo	Dislike slot machines, but good otherwise
Bathrooms	4.8	2	4	4.3
Comment	Urinal was clean	Didn't like them	Surfaces were clean	Nice
Final Score	5	5	4.7	5
Comment	Good vibe, good food	The music over the speakers was good the whole time	Food was the best, even the free bread was great	Good pork chop, good music, nice paneling

Overall, this was a good experience. We all agreed that the atmosphere was good, as well as the food. All of us found that the menu was quite extensive, almost too extensive. I think we spent more time trying to figure out what to order than it took to actually eat the food once it got there. We did have a slight disagreement on the service. Some of us thought it to be very good, while others thought our server checked on us a little too often. Ultimately, whether you like it or not is up to you. Go check it out!

(continued from page 11)

Women's Basketball vs. NCAA Elite
Eight TBA

Men's Ice Hockey vs. NCAA Second
Round TBA

Men's Track and Field vs. NCAA
Division III Indoor Championships
DePauw University hosts
TBA

Women's Track and Field vs. NCAA
Division III Indoor Championships
DePauw University hosts
TBA

Mar. 19, 2010
Men's Basketball vs. NCAA Final Four
TBA

Women's Basketball vs. NCAA Final
Four TBA

Men's Ice Hockey vs. NCAA Frozen
Four TBA

Softball vs. National Training Center
Spring Games (10 games) TBA

Mar. 20, 2010
Men's Basketball vs. NCAA
Championships TBA

Women's Basketball vs. NCAA
Championship TBA

Men's Ice Hockey vs. NCAA
Championship TBA

Baseball vs. Spring Break Trip TBA

Mar. 26, 2010
Women's Gymnastics vs. NCGA
Championships TBA

Mar. 27, 2010
Women's Gymnastics vs. NCGA
Championships TBA

Apr. 03, 2010
Baseball vs. Finlandia University (DH)
Menomonee 1 p.m.

Apr. 07, 2010
Baseball vs. La Crosse (DH)
Menomonee 1 p.m.

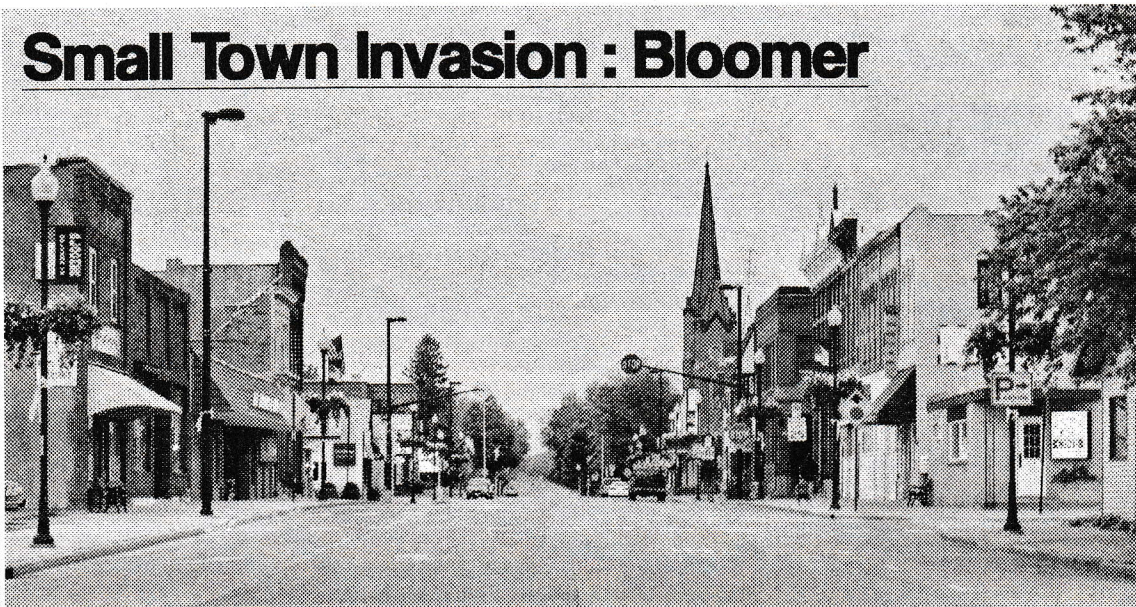
Apr. 08, 2010
Softball vs. Superior (DH)
Menomonee 3 p.m.

Apr. 11, 2010
Women's Tennis vs. College of Saint
Benedict Menomonee 1 p.m.

Apr. 14, 2010
Baseball vs. La Crosse (DH)
Menomonee 1 p.m.

(continued on page 19)

Small Town Invasion : Bloomer



Now that the school year is well on its way, many students have eaten at just about every Menomonee restaurant, shopped at every Menomonee store, and have visited the majority of interesting local hotspots. It's also about the time that many students are itching to venture out for a change of scenery. If you're looking to get away for awhile, grab a Snickers, get in your car and drive to the small town of Bloomer. The town was founded in 1855 and still stands strong today. Bloomer was founded by a few business men who created workplaces from mills to breweries. In fact, a few businesses in the village of 3,488 have developed and maintained an excellent reputation and are well worth checking out. Here are just a few!

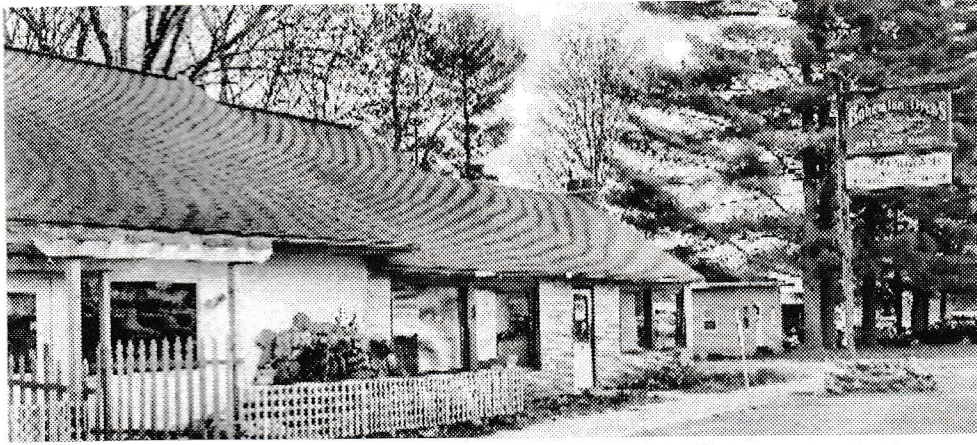
Main Street Café

With many tables and antique decorations, Main Street Café provides a comfortable, relaxing atmosphere and is a nice place to unwind whether you are there for the regular food or just the dessert. Hands down, Main Street Café is best known for its pies. In fact, their pies can be found in just about any Kwik Trip, including the ones in Menomonee, and are freshly baked by a crew of ladies daily. If you're into a hearty breakfast in the morning, you can choose from a cholesterol-free breakfast to breakfast pizza, omelets, pancakes and more. For lunch and dinner, you can choose from an assortment of burger baskets, including the Main Street Café Burger which is a 2/3 lb. patty, with mayo, lettuce, tomato, and Wisconsin cheddar cheese. You can also pick from a variety of soups, steaks, and salads. For more information on the Main Street Café, check out www.mainstreetcafe.com.



Recreation

Sledding, ice skating, or riding the snowmobile trails are just a few of the fun things Bloomer has to offer for winter recreation. The town has its own ice rink located on the east edge of town. Skating is free and open during daylight hours. The city also provides its own sledding hill too. It's an excellent sledding hill, which is also free and open during the day. We all know that you are never too old to go sledding.



Bohemian Ovens

Due to their excellent service, quality foods, and unique appearance, Bohemian Ovens is arguably the best bakery in the county. One thing that really sets Bohemian Ovens apart from other restaurants is that all of their baking is done in an authentic brick oven. Their custom-made brick oven is composed of 2,128 bricks and weighs 15,000 lbs. The bakery produces a multitude of different baked goods like kolaches, their famous Caramel apple rolls, doughnuts, and raspberry almond bars. Bohemian Ovens' goal is to provide the best bread around and they believe this can only happen in a brick oven. They also offer an assortment of sandwiches and lunch specials. From 4-8 p.m. on Saturdays, you can custom build your own pizza, adding as many toppings as you want on a 10" crust. For more information about Bohemian Ovens, visit: www.madpages.com/bohemian.com.

Bloomer's Claims to Fame

Just like every small town in Wisconsin, Bloomer is famous for something. Bloomer is the birth place of Roz Doyle, a popular co-star on the TV show, Frasier. If you're athletic, you might also be excited to know that, according to www.50states.com, Bloomer is the jump rope capital of the world.

If Menomonie is starting to look the same and you'd like to venture out into the countryside, Bloomer's a diamond in the rough. This small town has something to offer everyone, whether it's good food, gourmet bakery, or outdoor adventure that interests you. For more information about Bloomer, check out www.ci.bloomer.wi.us and see for yourself!

Driving Directions to Bloomer

Drive east on WI 29 for 25 miles
 Take the exit onto US-53 North
 Take the exit toward WI-40 North
 Turn right at WI-40 North and arrive in Bloomer!

(continued from page 18)

Entertainment

January 29th

B-Flick Movie Night and Dinner at the Blind Munchies featuring grilled stuffed burritos
 7:00pm (dinner served at 6:00pm)
 Blind Munchies Coffeeshouse, Menomonie, 621 Wilson Ave., 235-4977

QuinnElizabeth and Won Siemit, blues acoustic rock concert
 7-10pm, Acoustic Cafe, Eau Claire, 832-9090

Saturday, Jan. 30

The Daredevil Christopher Wright, Caroline Smith & the Good Night Sleeps, Starfolk, and Cedarwell
 7:30-11:30pm, \$5, Grand Little Theater, 102 W Grand Ave, Eau Claire 832-7529

Doktor Kaboom, Comedian and Scientist
 7:00p.m., Mabel Tainter Theatre, Menomonie
 715-235-0001, \$15 All Ages

Tuesday, Feb. 2

6-8pm, Live Jazz, Infinita Teahouse,
 112 East Grand, Eau Claire 514-1975

Friday, Feb. 5

MHS Improv Show
 7-9pm, \$3, Memorial High School, Little Theatre,
 2225 Keith St., Eau Claire 456-4339

Saturday, Feb. 6

Jayson Collins Sextet, high energy jazz
 7-10pm, Acoustic Cafe, 505 South Barstow Street,
 Eau Claire 832-9090

Friday, Feb. 12th

Live in Concert; Zoo Animal
 7:00pm, Blind Munchies Coffeeshouse, Menomonie,
 621 Wilson Ave., 235-4977

Thursday, Feb. 25

Volume One Presents Back Stage Concert Series:
 The Excellent Adventure
 7pm, \$5, The State Theatre stage door (Enter
 through the ECRAC parking lot), 316 Eau Claire
 St., Eau Claire 552-0457

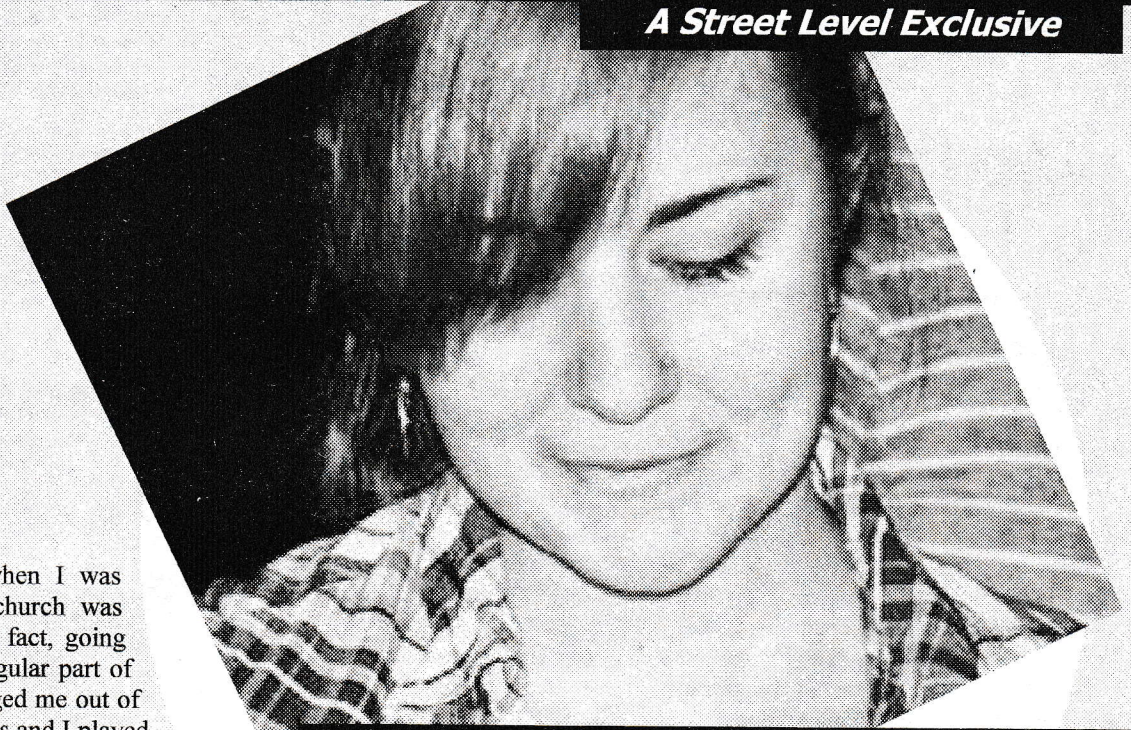
Friday, Feb. 26th

Free Live Music; Band TBA
 7:00pm, Blind Munchies Coffeeshouse, Menomonie,
 621 Wilson Ave., 235-4977

(continued on page 23)

I needed to know what my purpose here was...

A Street Level Exclusive



I guess it started when I was young. Going to church was nothing new to me. In fact, going to church was just a regular part of my life. My mom dragged me out of bed on Sunday mornings and I played church for an hour. Stand up, sit down, now we pray; it became a routine thing. After a while, I would just mouth the words, which were now programmed into my head, not really knowing or meaning what I was praying, but only echoing what the rest of the congregation was saying. When I was confirmed in 8th grade, I treated it like I was graduating from church. I had a party. I got a lot of gifts and money, and I wore a gown, so I figured I must be okay with God. No more church. Right?

High school is when things really took a nasty turn. My friends didn't follow Jesus and neither did the guys I dated. I started to party, I started to have sex, and I had a lot of hate towards people. It really took a toll on my life. From this point on, I had a very false sense of what Christianity really was. I knew that the things I was doing were wrong, but I didn't know how to stop them, and I didn't want to get mocked as a "Bible Thumper", so I kept disregarding God. When I went to college, I continued this lifestyle and partying, sexual activity, drug use only got heavier. I was just trying to be normal and fit in with everyone around me, but it left me completely empty. Things would fill me for a while, and then I would get depressed again.

I finally hit rock bottom second semester of my sophomore year and decided I had to seek school counseling. The counselor suggested that I join a group here on campus, and, as I walked out that day, I passed a poster hanging on the wall. The poster read, "Are you depressed? You were designed for

"I was just trying to be normal and fit in with everyone around me."

greater things." It was for Street Level Ministries, a Christian college organization on campus.

After that day, I broke down in my dorm room and asked for God's help because I was at my end, and I needed to know what my purpose here was. I didn't even know if I was going to go to heaven, and I needed to be sure. I didn't have a great relationship with Jesus Christ before. In fact, I didn't know that was even a possibility, and I had never had God talk to me before. After that day in my dorm room, though, He hasn't stopped. After a lot of debate with myself, I finally got up the courage and went to Street Level. Those first few Mondays, they were covering Romans 6 and 7 in the Bible, and it was as if God knew the struggle going on in my life. The words jumped off the page and completely reflected my heart. God had met me where I was at in my life and I was His from then on.

I started reading the Bible with new eyes and gave up everything else that had left me empty; nothing was as fulfilling as having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Since then, God has given me purpose. No matter what situations go wrong in my life, I still feel full from Him. He is better than any high, any buzz, or any relationship. And I am thankful to be saved.

JARVIS SCIENCE WING REVIEW

APPROVED

When you walk into a building, do you think of the aspects of safety and the dangers present in regard to the building design? Does architectural design think about potential safety hazards, or is it purely aesthetic, only wishing to please the eye? A committee of highly influential people was formed in order to look at these aspects in the new Jarvis Science Wing addition. A team of very smart looking, pseudo-experts volunteered for this because these building characteristics are very important to them. What follows is a "scientifically practical" look at the new building addition. These findings were conclusive to practicality (we don't know what this means and I doubt the team does either). Time was taken to carefully consider many aspects of the interior design. Here are their findings. Take them for what they're worth.

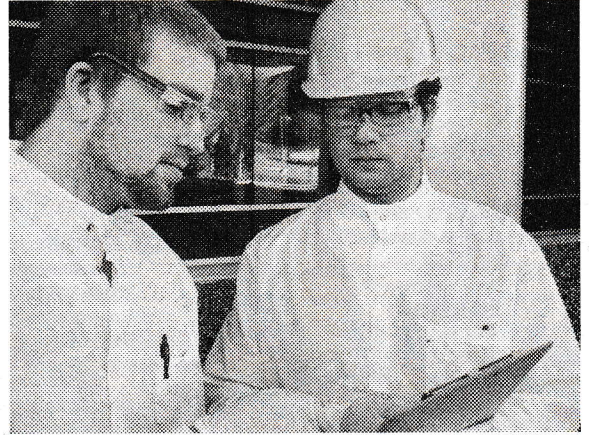
When we arrived outside Jarvis Hall, the first thing that caught our well-trained and safety conscious eyes was a fire hydrant. It was well placed, had the correct height, and left enough clearance for most dogs. It was also visible from many northern facing windows. If there was ever a fire, those still in the building could point out to the Fire Department where the fire hydrant was located.

Next, we assessed the safety of the building's construction from the outside. A very large attraction to this building is its massive glass and steel overhang. Think about that for a second: a massive glass and steel overhang structure which is designed to attract one's attention. Sounds like the most primal of traps to us: "Oooh, shiny!" *Crash* While we are talking about overhanging features of Jarvis Hall, we

should mention that there were plenty of other overhangs throughout the building. The safety of each of these features is questionable and is best avoided.

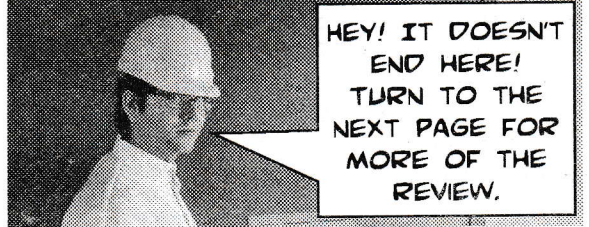
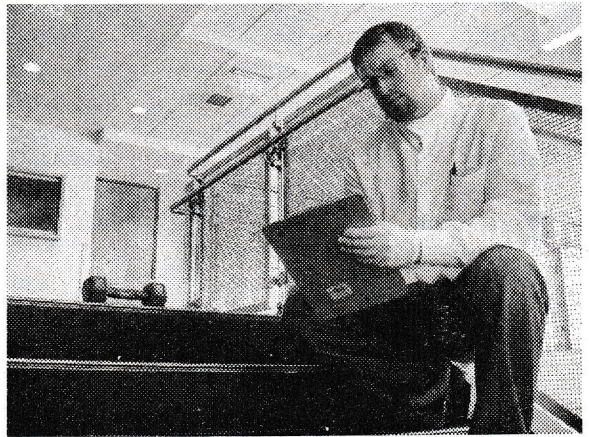
As we made our way up through the building's various levels, of which only three were accessible, we scientifically proved that the stairs are capable of holding a person of significant weight. For this test we chose to use a 10 lb weight as the comparable weight of a human being. It is also worth noting that the rise and run of each step is sufficient to facilitate the ascension of said stairs. Well done.

Many floors of the building featured balconies overlooking a few of the nine lounges. These balconies do have railings and guards to prevent people from falling over, so they were deemed safe. If one were to accidentally drop an item over the edge, such as a cell phone or a laptop, the ground below should provide enough of a bounce to protect said device. This was proven with a very scientific method: using a



tennis ball to represent the item dropped. It bounced a good six inches.

On the day we toured the facility, all classrooms, labs, and offices were locked. Even the greenhouse was locked. Because of this, we could not fully assess the safety of the contents in these rooms. Our observation is that if the rooms are



HEY! IT DOESN'T END HERE! TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE OF THE REVIEW.

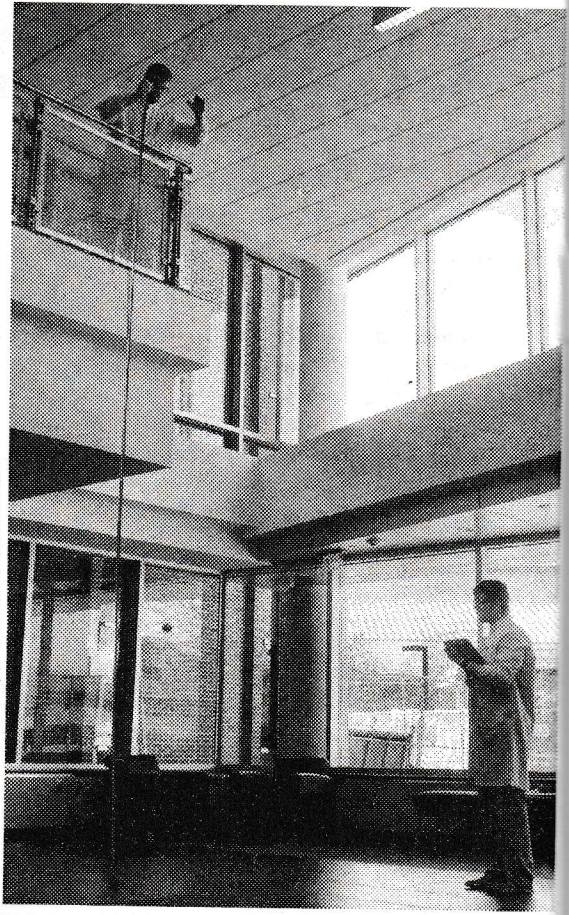
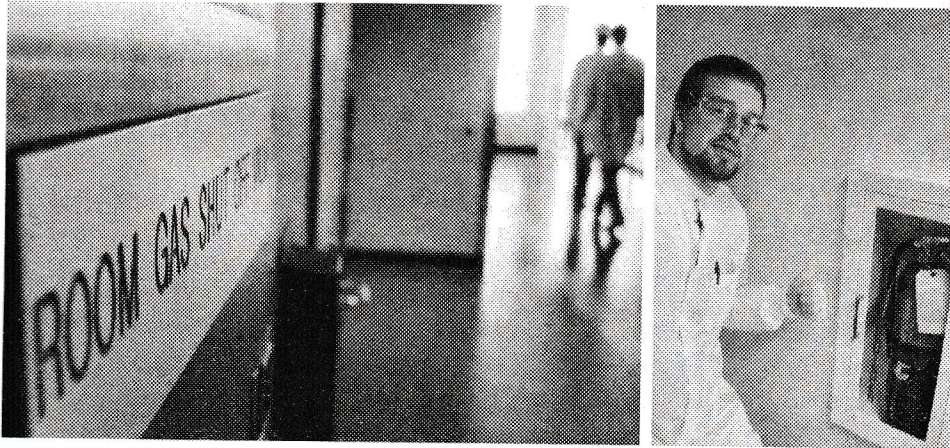
JARVIS SCIENCE WING REVIEW

(continued from page 21)

locked, they are locked for a reason and what is inside must be dangerous. The greenhouse, we assumed, is a very dangerous area because of the "greenhouse gases" contained within.

In conclusion, our findings reveal that the building is a sound building, but it has some design flaws and subtle dangers that make us question why they were put in the building at all. Whatever happened to basic design, squares and rectangles, boring furniture, no natural lighting, and the hum of florescent lighting? We see that this is a nice building, but we were wondering if it was all really "necessary". Angles and overhangs are nice, but straight and true is safer.

22



a word from the barn... **NICK THE HICK**

Today's Topic

HICK HOP

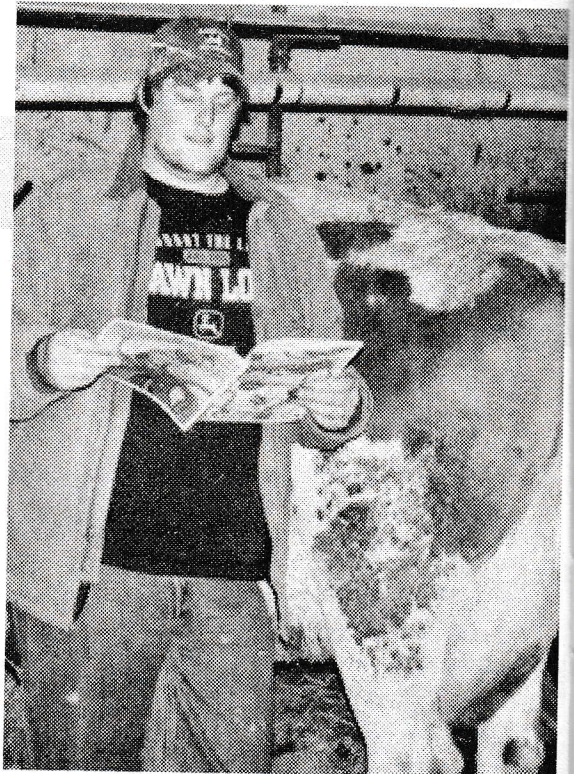
Stars as old as Dolly, Whalen, and Hank Jr, Up to Alabama, Garth, and Brooks and Dunn knew how it was. They sang country, and Dixie, and twang the way the good Lord intended music to be. Deir music calmed, outraged, and shaped the redneck community of the past. Well as the clock winds on so does deh good music and the twang has gone from upright natural good to upbeat mumbo jumbo that flows faster than Jimmy Johns.

Since when was country sposed to also fit in the hip hop catgory? It aint no surprise to the average Joe that they done this seein what they been doin with everything else in this world. Guess them new artists arnt concerned with the country crowd of old. Heck, ya cant even stop down to the honky tonk to slow dance anymore. It's all about shorty, and seein how low shorty can go. What's that about anyway? Guess I still

need that explained to me.

And what's the low glow with this country to pop, pop to country, and rock to country? Shucks, aint a soul got any sense any mur? Just the other day I was makin the rounds at Fleet Farm and I heard Billy Rays daughter whats her face on the radio sangin all fancy crazy music. And us tax-payin, head-scratching people are putting up with that Kid Rock too, hes all sangin hip hop tunes and they put it on the country station, hurts my ears it does. Who the heck wants to listen to a country song bout smokin' weed all summer long?

But I dont know bout this whole thing anymore, why can't songs just go back to bein bout my dog, my ex wife, my truck, my farm, my kids, my hurtin back, my empty wallet, my angry neighbor, my rotten soul, my warn out boots, my drankin' problem? Well then I wouldn't have nothing to grouse about



and therefore Id be out of a job. I don't want that either, guess I dont know what I want, well thats enough for now, I just saw a deer.



(continued from page 19)

Entertainment

Friday, March 12th
Live in Concert; Mitch McVicker
 7:00pm, Blind Munchies Coffeehouse, Menomonie,
 621 Wilson Ave., 235-4977

Saturday, March 13
 Elisabeth Von Trapp, musician
 7:30p.m., Mabel Tainter Theatre, Menomonie

Thursday, Mar. 18
 Volume One Presents Back Stage Concert Series: Irie Sol and Duncan Ninja
 7pm, \$5, The State Theatre stage door (Enter through the ECRAC parking lot), 316 Eau Claire St., Eau Claire 552-0457

Friday, March 19
 Eau Claire Children's Theater Presents: "The Jungle Book", 7:00p.m.
 Mabel Tainter Theatre, Menomonie

Recreation

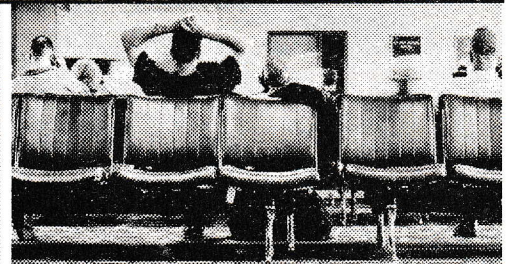
Jan. 25- Jan. 29
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Feb. 24, Feb. 25
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Major Debut

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- 2 New Program Authorization - Bachelor of Science in Game Design and Development - University of Wisconsin Stout
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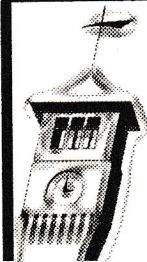
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Street Level Ministries
UW-STOUT
621 Wilson Avenue
Menomonie, WI 54751
www.streetlevel.uwstout.edu

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Sure, they go to church *once in a while*.

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