

ISSUE 43

CHRISTIANITY

The Ultimate Ride
of the Biggest
Buzz Kill?
PAGE 12

TEMPTATION 101

This is War
PAGE 15

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:



Only in this way could He deliver
those who have lived all their lives
as slaves to the fear of dying.
Heb 2:15



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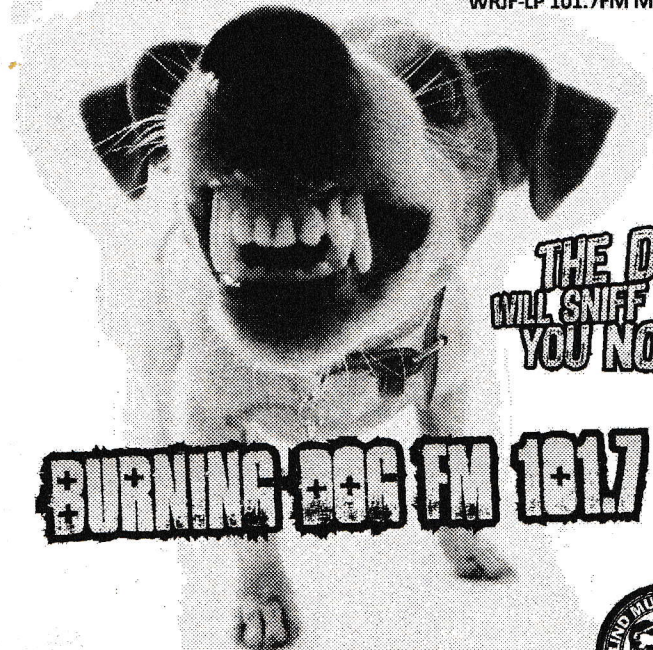
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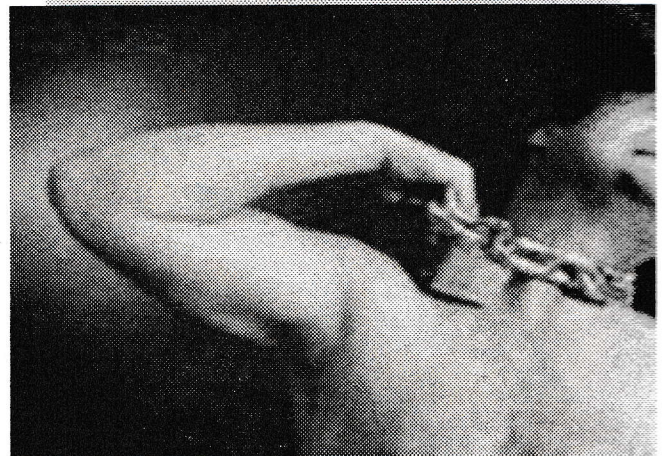


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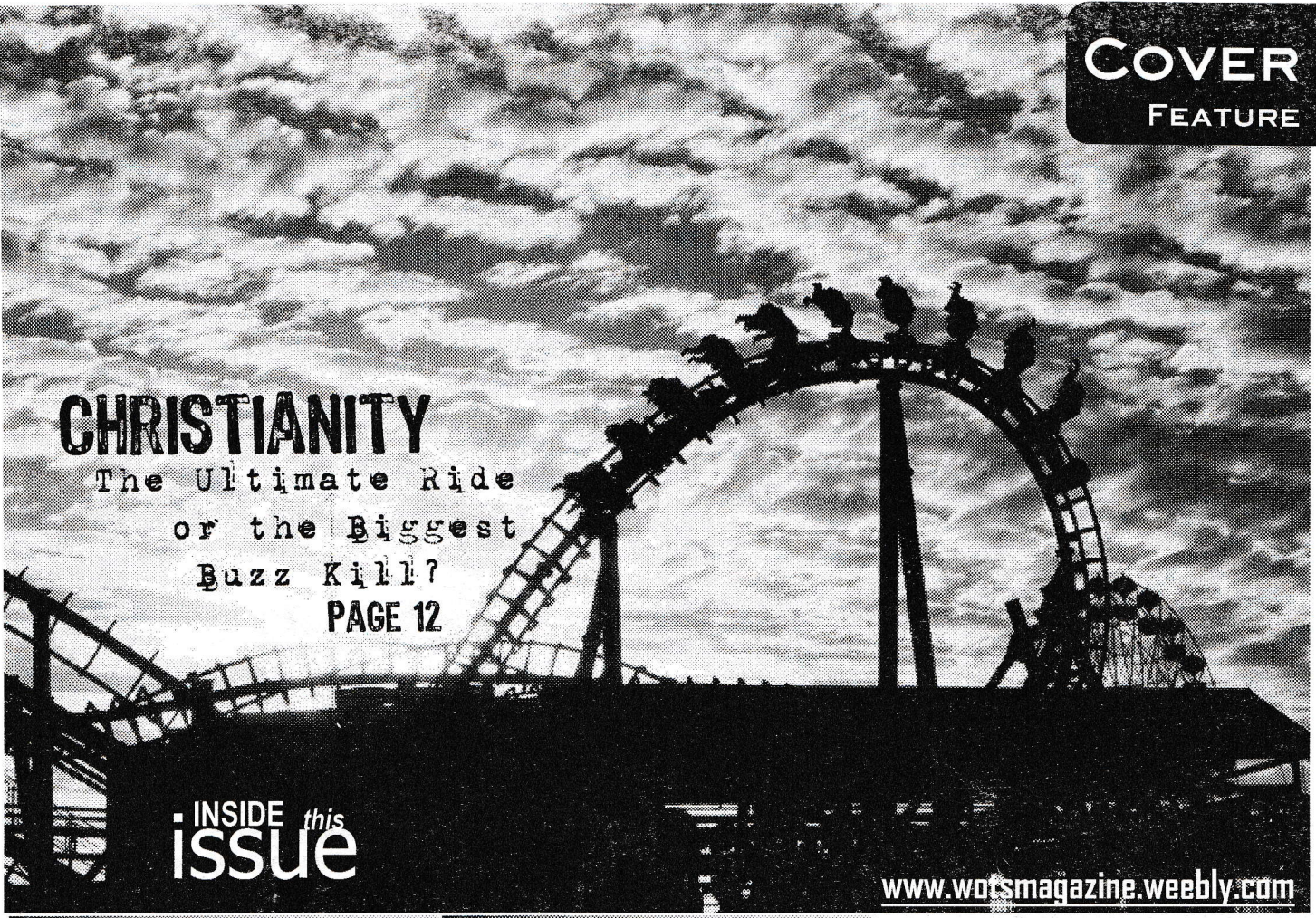
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CHRISTIANITY
The Ultimate Ride
or the Biggest
Buzz Kill?
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issue

www.wotsmagazine.weebly.com

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Meet our
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Nicholai

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: www.wotsmagazine.weebly.com
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W.O.T.S.

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The Finest Local Burgers

CALLING ALL
TASTE BUDS...

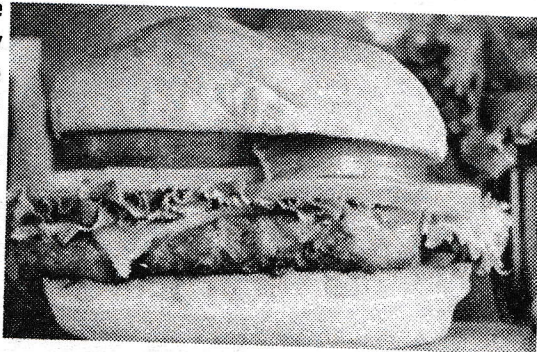
The five best burgers for college students, sports fans, connoisseurs, and the occasional hillbilly.

Most men and, yes, some women appreciate a good juicy burger and fries now and again. In fact, it can be said that a fresh burger and fries ranks high on the list of favorite American foods. After sinking our teeth in and testing our taste buds, the top five places for quality Menomonie burgers rose to the surface. We visited many fine eateries ranging from bars and main line restaurants to ma and pa restaurants. Here are the results...

FOR SPORTS AND FRIENDS

Stout Ale House

This modest, Wisconsin-friendly establishment recently became famous thanks to the two surprised deer that busted through the glass front doors (www.youtube.com/stoutalehouse). Aside from whitetail crossings, the Stout Ale House also serves one mean burger. The restaurant is conveniently located in the Shops Off Broadway Mall in

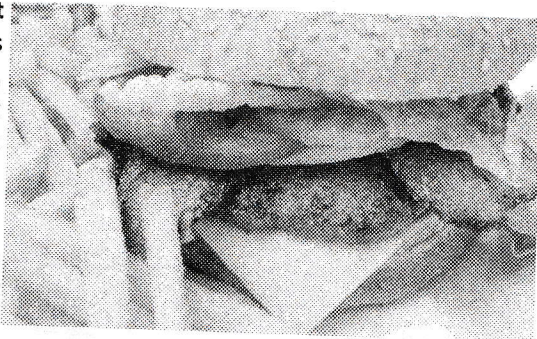


north Menomonie and is simply a good ole sports bar where you can go for a fine burger and a ball game. After searching the menu thoroughly, the Ale House Special was fixin' to be good choice. This full beef patty is topped with grilled pepper, onions, melted Parmesan cheese, and served on a ciabatta roll. It was also reasonably priced at \$8.99 and came with fries. The Ale House Special is a perfect choice when your favorite sports team is playing and the gang's all there. Get more details at www.stoutalehouse.com.

TO SATISFY THE HILLBILLY BONE

Exit 45 Restaurant

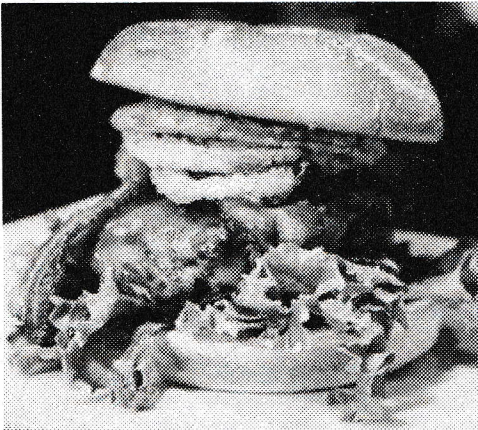
This trucker's haven welcomes its guests with the motto, "East to West, Good Home Cooking is the Best." Exit 45 Restaurant is located in the Cenex truck stop east of Menomonie, just north of exit 45. The café lives up to its motto by serving sweet potato fries so good that they are reason enough to stop in themselves. Add to that a simple menu with no "freaky burgers"



and you will not be let down. The burger to order is their 1/3 lb. bacon cheeseburger that is sure to satisfy every bit of Midwestern in you. You can expect to pay around \$5.45 for a burger and fries, which makes a close running for the cheapest home-cooked meal in town. For site information and menu prices, visit www.cedarcountry-coop.com/ and click on the Exit 45 Restaurant link.

THE COLLEGE HANGOUT

Log Jam



The Log Jam has a comfortable, cool atmosphere with a selection of burgers perfect for varying tastes. Their homemade, home-fried potato chips are a unique side that goes perfectly with your burger of choice. The patty to pick is undoubtedly the Lumber Jack. True to its name, it's a whopping 1/2 lb. patty loaded with bacon, barbecue sauce, pepper jack cheese and their homemade onion slices. Loosen up that belt because this is sure to leave you full for a few meals. Expect to pay \$8.99 for this buffet on a bun. For site information, visit

www.menomonielogjam.com.

MOST SURPRISING

Perkins

Even though Perkins is a common, mainstream restaurant, they caught our eye with the Tangler Burger. This burger combines a beef patty, cheddar cheese, crunchy



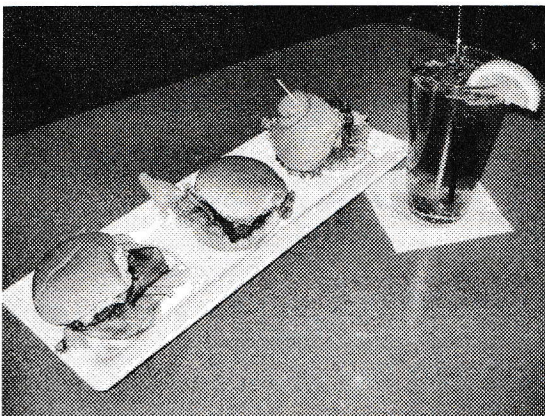
onion tanglers, Grey Poupon bistro sauce, tomato slices, and pickles. Whew! The burger is so good you may have to go back for another one a few days later. Do not expect to have room for pie at the end, though, because this meal weighs in at close to a pound. At \$7.99, even the price is a pleasant surprise. Menu information can be found at:

www.perkinsrestaunt.com.

SOME FINE DINING

Sparx

Throwing a little variety in the mix, Sparx hosts a burger that is mouth-watering and bound to please anyone. Allow me to introduce you to the Angus Minis, which boast



a bun, bacon, Angus burger, lettuce, red onions, and Sparx's famous ketchup. The plate is always served with three burgers on it, and be certain that your taste buds will be just as thrilled with burger number three as they were with number one. This meaty trio is competitively priced at \$8.49. Get the skinny on Sparx at

www.sparxrestaunt.com.

Academic

Mon, Sept. 6
Labor Day, No Classes

Tues, Sept. 7
Advisement and Orientation

Wed, Sept. 8
Classes Begin

Sat, Oct. 16
Homecoming

Mon, Oct. 25
End of First Quarter

Tues, Oct. 26
Beginning of Second Quarter

Wed, Oct. 27
Advisement Day, No Classes

Sports

Wed, Sep. 8
Women's Volleyball vs. College of St. Catherine
Menomonie 7 pm

Sat, Sep. 11
Women's Soccer vs. College of Saint Benedict (Parent's Day)
Menomonie 12 pm

Sat, Sep. 11
Football vs. Jamestown College (N.D.)
Dorm Day
Menomonie 1 pm

Thu, Sep. 16
Women's Tennis vs. UW-Eau Claire
Menomonie 3:30 pm

Fri, Sep. 17
Women's Volleyball vs. UW-La Crosse
Menomonie 7 pm

Sat, Sep. 18
Women's Volleyball vs. UW-Platteville (Family Day)
Menomonie 12 pm

Sat, Sep. 18
Football vs. Eureka College Hall of Fame & Take a Kid to a Game Day
Menomonie 2 pm

Tue, Sep. 21
Women's Soccer vs. Hamline
Menomonie 7 pm

(continued on page 10)

Put Yourself in Their Flip-Flops

A LOOK AT TRUE CONTENTMENT

"It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society."
Jiddi Krishnamurti¹

6 There is a sickness in our country. Can you feel it? In 2007, 16.5 million adults over the age of 18 had a Major Depressive Episode (MDE) and 64.5% of those received treatment. Treatment consisted of talking to a doctor or other professional, and/or using prescription medication.² The fact that so many Americans seek medication, psychologists, and self-help books to improve our chaotic lives is proof enough that no matter how many amenities we have available to us, we are not actually as "on top of the world" as we might imagine.

In developing nations (sometimes referred to as Third World Countries), many people possess a richness that doesn't break, shut down, run out of memory, or need to be refilled. Their richness comes from strong family ties and simple living, which allows them to appreciate the world around them. A growing majority of Americans have broken families and broken lives decorated with clean houses and fancy cars. All of our stuff, activities, and status actually make our lives more complicated, stressful, and sad. As long as we stay busy, we won't see the need for a Savior, we won't see how empty our lives are. Those with few distractions can more readily accept a loving Savior and are able to truly enjoy the new life Christ creates. Put yourself in

A growing majority of Americans have broken families and broken lives decorated with clean houses and fancy cars.

the slippers (flip-flops) of a Filipino family for a bit and see true richness of life.

Rollie and Laarni Paraiso welcomed this interview about their simple lifestyle. They are a young couple that live in the barangay (village) of Cataloan on Cebu Island in the Philippines. They have two boys, Johanz (11 years old) and B.J. (4 years old).



Interview abbreviations:

WOTS: Word on the Street

LP: Laarni Paraiso

RP: Rollie Paraiso

WOTS: Do you have a big family?

LP: Yes, I have a big family: four siblings. They all live in different houses close by.

WOTS: Have you lived most of your life around here?

LP: We have been living in this house for 10 years. I am from around here and he grew up near SinSin, a town about an hour away.

WOTS: You said you met when you were 15. How did you cross paths?

RP: I worked as a caretaker of Liberty, the government site on the top of the mountain near Shofar Missions Center. She lived near to where I worked. We saw each other and we both thought the other was kind of cute. Then I would visit her house a lot because she didn't go out of the house, so it is basically my fault.

WOTS: How long have you been married?

LP: *We have been together for 12 years and married for 8 years. We lived together because we had a kid; I gave birth when I was 16 and we couldn't get married yet because we could only get married when I turned 18. Right now, I am 27 and he is 38. So it was my age that was the problem. We got married when I was 19.*

WOTS: Where did you go to school?

RP: *Camp 7 Elementary School and Camp 7 National High School*

LP: *Camp 7 Elementary School and then Das National High School in Lutopan.*

It is simple living, simple life. Maybe the people in America are too busy.

WOTS: Rollie you said you work as a caretaker. What do you do for work, Laarni?

LP: *I am only playing housewife. I take care of my children, clean the house, and cook.*

WOTS: What is your favorite Filipino food? Do you have a recipe that has been passed down in your family?

RP: *My favorite food is Chicken or Pork Adobo that is fried and then it is dipped in sauce or salsa. We both cook Biko and spaghetti. We have a lot of recipes because it is a part of our culture to learn the recipes from our families. She has learned many recipes from her mom because their family likes to cook. My wife's Biko is very good; I think that it is the best. I cook anything so there isn't a particular recipe, and we experiment a lot too, to make the food better.*

WOTS: What do you enjoy most about living in the Philippines?

LP: *The best thing about being in the Philippines is we are comfortable because it is where we were born, and if you are going to stay in other countries it is going to be difficult. The cost of living is expensive and the new language is difficult. If we stay outside of the country, we will be on our own. Whereas, if we stay here, our family is here, so it is much easier to deal with problems because we have relatives and family that can help us.*

WOTS: If there was a fire and you could only save one material thing, what would it be?

LP: *Sari Beads (Catholic Rosary beads)*

RP: *Money because without money we cannot survive.*

WOTS: What is most important to you?

LP: *My family. There is a feeling of belonging that I am a part of something. The family bond is different than any other bond and it is the most important thing to me. I have no choice; I am stuck with my family. We always have each other's back.*

WOTS: In America, there are many people who take medication because they are depressed. Is that common here? (When asked this question, they had a confused look on their face. It was a

ridiculous idea to them.)

LP: *We don't know what depression pills are here in the Philippines.*

WOTS: Do you even talk about depression at all?

LP: *No. One of the reasons, personally, is that we have the feeling of belonging to our family. There is no such thing as depression in the Philippines. We really help each other. When we have problems, we can just go over to the neighbor's and chat, and just live the day normally and the next day we will be fine. Or some people also just sing it out, *Canta!**

WOTS: Do you feel that most people here are content with life?

RP: *If there are problems, we look for solutions, but the feeling of contentment is always there no matter how little we have. It is simple living, simple life. Maybe the people in America are too busy. There is no time and no communication when it is too busy.*

Cultural variations aside, the most obvious difference between America and the Philippines is contentment. Medicating for depression is nearly non-existent in the Philippines, but in our society depression is an epidemic. Filipinos would seemingly have more reason for depression, considering the high levels of poverty and hard living conditions, yet Mr. and Mrs. Paraiso responded, "We really help each other. When we have problems, we can just go over to the neighbor's and chat, and just live the day normally and the next day we will be fine." Can you make that statement? Can you live the day normally without needing to be entertained, thrilled or drugged? Do you have enough time in the day to think about where your life is going and if the things that consume your time are worth it? Are you too busy to stop and think?

The issue is not just centered on a comparison of Americans and Filipinos. The deeper question is for those who say they are Christians, and yet live a discontented and hurried life. A Christian has purpose with each step and makes time to build a strong, loving relationship with God. A Christian is not defined or influenced by their society but stands on the unmovable, untouchable Rock. What is it that defines and influences you?

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." 1 John 2:15-17 (New King James Version)

¹ http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_society.html

² <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/>

NSDUH/2k7nsduh/2k7results.cfm#8.1.7

Battle of the Bands: TWO FILIPINO BANDS SQUARE OFF

This June, two bands, *Skul of Fish* and *Ramoth Gilead*, performed in different villages throughout Cebu Island, Philippines. Since you can't hear them play and pick a favorite, you can judge them based on their answers to the interview questions. Which band reigns supreme? You decide. Let the battle begin!

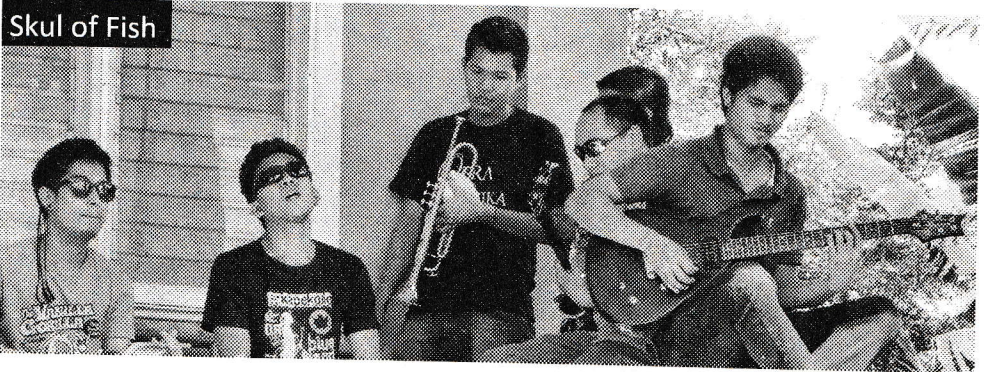
Abbreviations used in interview:

WOTS: Word on the Street Magazine

SF: Skul of Fish, a ska band from Cebu City, Cebu Island

RG: Ramoth Gilead, an alternative indie rock band from Bacolod City, Negros Island

Skul of Fish



SF: The message of our music is all about the good things that our Lord God has done for us and also the gospel. Our music is in tune with the good news from the Bible.

WOTS: How does a typical concert play out with the location, travel, equipment, and setup?

RG: Most of our big gigs are front-acts for Manila-based bands. Usually, these gigs are in big malls. Once, we were asked to jam with the DJ's of a local radio station for their Maskarra Festival, a main festival in Bacolod City. Our gigs are mostly within Bacolod City, Negros Island, where we are from, and the neighboring towns and cities. For the small gigs, we bring and carry our own equipment and we do our own setup since we do not have a crew.

SF: We usually have a huge crowd. We play at music bars in Cebu like the Out Post when God-Rock Music Production sets up gigs for us. We were amazed with the set up last night in the basketball court in Balamban, the sounds were so good. God is moving.

WOTS: What are a few major differences you see between Americans and Filipinos?

RG: The difference I see is that Americans are more frank compared to Filipinos. Filipinos are non-confrontational and tend to beat around the bush before they get to the main point. I like the frankness better.

SF: The major differences for me are the height, lifestyle, and attitudes. Your food and our food taste different also. This morning I tasted your spaghetti and, oh, it is okay, but I really love the garlic bread the best.

WOTS: What do you like most about living in the Philippines?

RG: What I like about the Philippines is its being an archipelago. We have to be on barges, ships or planes before we get to the next island or province. Traveling is a big adventure. I also love the diverse dialects and cultures. You go to the next island and you think that you are actually in another country.

SF: The climate because it is tropical. It is not that

cold and it is not that hot. I love the beautiful beaches and the white sand. Friendship that Filipinos can offer to other countries, I love that as well.

WOTS: Ramoth Gilead, what do the lyrics mean in your song, "Save Me From"?

RG: In a narrow sense, the song "Save Me From" is about drug addiction. Drug addicts are doing things that destroy their bodies and their souls. This song is asking God to save "me" from drug addiction. This song has a deeper meaning too. We are born sinners and we always seek to indulge in our fleshly desires. We were born depraved, separated from God. We need God to save us from ourselves – to save us from all our depravities.

WOTS: What is your favorite Filipino snack?

RG: -Arroz Caldo. Arroz Caldo literally means "hot rice" and it is the Filipino version of the Chinese congee or porridge. Its main ingredients are rice and chicken. It classifies as heavy snack.

-Chicharron. Chicharron is a snack made from pork rinds though another variant is made from chicken skin. It is usually eaten with vinegar.

-Batchoy. Batchoy is a noodle soup made with pork organs, crushed pork cracklings, shrimp, vegetables, chicken stock, chicken breast, beef loin and round noodles.

-Bayi-bayi. Bayi-Bayi is a bite-size rice or corn cake flavored with coconut and wrapped in banana leaf.

-Pancit Palabok. Pancit Palabok is a noodle dish made from round rice noodle smothered with a thick, golden shrimp sauce (or any other flavor) and topped with shrimp, pork rind, hard-boiled egg, tinapa and minced green onion.

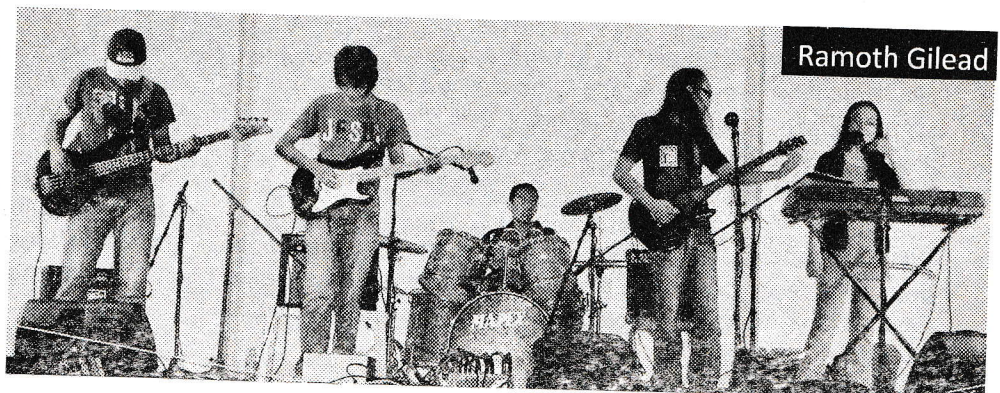
SF: I really like the Tempura. It is fish coated with flour then deep fried on a stick. Then you dip it in hot and sour sauce; it tastes really good. I am addicted to Tempura.

Ramoth Gilead:

www.myspace.com/ramothgileadrock

Skul of Fish:

www.myspace.com/skuloffish



Ramoth Gilead

WOTS: How did all of you meet?

RG: The original members were part of the worship team. Daniel (lead vocals, guitars) and Elijah (drums) are the only original members left of Ramoth Gilead, which formed in 2002. Daniel met Jasper (backup vocals, keyboard) in 2003 and that was when she joined the band. Andrew (lead guitar) was Daniel's student in school and Daniel asked him to join in 2009. Jimmy (bass) was Elijah's co-worker and Jimmy was also asked to join the band in 2009.

SF: We met at church. We were on the praise and worship team and then decided to form a ska band. We met three years ago and then Juan, Johnny and Daniel joined the band.

WOTS: Skul of Fish, do you have any crazy stories from when you first formed?

SF: The craziest moment is every time we play. I think there was a time when we were looking for a new set of horn players; that was a hard time for the band.

WOTS: So, what's behind your band's names?

RG: Ramoth Gilead literally means "heights of Gilead", which was a city of refuge east of the Jordan River (Deuteronomy 4:43). Daniel thought about this when the band was brainstorming for a name. It sounds "hardcore", but at the same time, it has a biblical meaning. For the band, Ramoth Gilead symbolizes God as our refuge.

SF: Skul of Fish is from what Jesus was talking about when He said that He will make us fishers of men. So I was in a bookstore and I was scanning in a magazine, and I saw the name School of Fish with a picture of coral reefs that were in the form of a church with a cross on top and lots of fish around the coral reefs, so I decided to name the group Skul of Fish.

WOTS: Are there any bands that have been a major influence on your music?

RG: The major influences on our music are P.O.D., Skillet, Thousand Foot Krutch, Pillar, and Fireflight.

SF: Yes, O.C. Supertones, Insyderz, Five Iron Frenzy, and Christian ska bands from states like Orange County. Also, reggae bands like Christafari, Matisyahu, and Temple Yard. Most of our songs come from the O.C. Supertones.

WOTS: What is the message to your listeners?

RG: We want to promote godly music to this generation – we want the world to know that a sovereign God exists and He is able to free the world from the bondage of sin. We believe that music was created to glorify our Creator. So when we play our music, we play for God first of all, and secondly we want to minister to other people.

YOU WERE A HOUSE ON FIRE

Lyrics by Dan Smith of Listener; See Music Reviews on Page 11

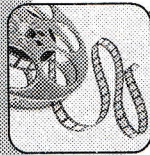
and you were a house on fire, and I couldn't understand why
 burn me all down to the ground, you said, the fire is on the inside
 flames dancing like ghosts, behind the windows
 pain jumping from the walls
 you want to keep this private, I can see that
 but you can't ask that of me, we've only just met
 I said we need hope now more than ever before, do you believe it?
 the answer was silence.....I took it as a no
 we all want to be normal anyways
 we all want to be somewhere else than where we live
 but that's not reality, it's just point of view
 let's not talk about the weather
 and whether or not there's really rain the clouds
 unless you want to know if I feel the same as you
 it's more measuring up than just wasting time
 but time is not on our side, you're burning
 rain would only be a temporary fix
 and there's just no place right now for cute ironies

We all write songs about life, we just sing them different.
 you sing the words but you don't know the song.
 and you expect us all to sing along? how selfish
 the lengths that we go to, to put so much distance between us is staggering
 you're burning alive with stress and life
 both hands in flames trying to hold the fire inside
 drop and roll ...repeat line for emphasis.
 I'll repeat it and repeat it until you believe it
 you're gonna be ok! say it to me...
 the answer is still silence ... I'll take it as a maybe
 I can't decide if I should knock down your door or on it
 say the word and I'll take an axe to your heart or a pin prick
 cut right through the dark, let it spill out the contents
 on our knees sorting through the remnants
 pour out your hate in my hands, I'll let em slip through my fingers
 and this is for you, and this is for the times that we only listen long enough to know the
 other person we're talking to has the same opinions we do.
 for when we're burning inside, for when we're trying to hide that fact
 this is for the scalps that we went after, to be only the best dressed
 to scrape another notch on our belts, add another feather to our headdress
 I want to be the bigger man for you, but I can't take this truth
 I'm trying to kick the habit here, but these track marks are 100 proof
 burn me all down to the ground, you said
 I'll kick through your ashes, hope they sober up my head

(continued from page 5)

Wed, Sep. 22

Women's Volleyball vs. UW-River Falls
Menomonie 7 pm



FILMS

Sat, Sep. 25

Women's Soccer vs. Lawrence University
(Youth Day)
Menomonie 3:30 pm

Sat, Oct. 9

Women's Tennis vs. UW-Oshkosh
Menomonie 10 am

Sat, Oct. 9

Women's Soccer vs. UW-Platteville
Menomonie 3 pm

Wed, Oct. 13

Women's Soccer vs. UW-River Falls
Menomonie 7 pm

Fri, Oct. 15

Women's Tennis vs. UW-Whitewater
Menomonie 3:30 pm

Sat, Oct. 16

Football vs. UW-Stevens Point
Homecoming
Menomonie 1 pm

Wed, Oct. 20

Women's Volleyball vs. UW-Superior
(Senior Night)
Menomonie 7 pm

Wed, Oct. 20

Women's Soccer vs. St. Olaf College
Menomonie 7 pm

Fri, Oct. 22

Men's Ice Hockey vs. Concordia
Menomonie 7:30 pm

Sat, Oct. 23

Football vs. UW-Eau Claire
Menomonie 1 pm

Sat, Oct. 23

Women's Soccer vs. UW-La Crosse
Menomonie 2 pm

Sat, Oct. 30

Football vs. UW-La Crosse Military
Appreciation Day
Menomonie 1 pm

Sat, Oct. 30

Women's Soccer vs. UW-Superior (Senior
Day)
Menomonie 2 pm

(continued on page 11)

BOUNTY HUNTER

Action/ Adventure/ Romance/ Comedy
Gerard Butler, Jennifer Anniston, Gio Perez
Director: Andy Tennant
Colombia Pictures
Rated: PG-13

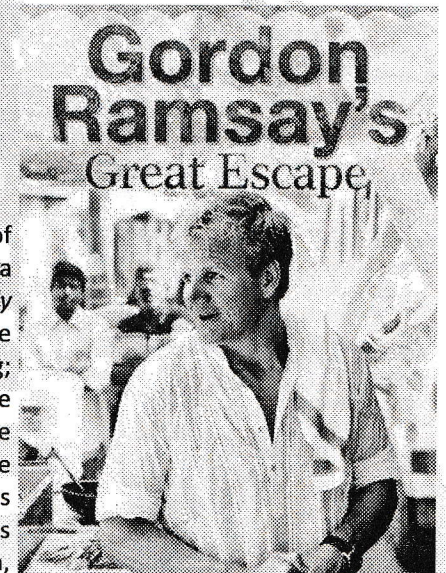
The Bounty Hunter has slithered its way to the top of the list of favorite rainy day movies. Starring Gerard Butler (Milo Boyd) and Jennifer Aniston (Nicole Hurley), this love/hate relationship takes an action-packed turn when a warrant gets issued for Nicole's arrest. Milo is a hard luck cop turned bounty hunter with a severe gambling problem. Milo laughs at the suggestion of being hired to chase down and bring in his high-class ex-wife, and considers it a prime chance to pay off his weighty debt. His plan takes a wild twist when he realizes that even a simple catch-and-return will not be easy with Nicole. For example, when Nicole is in the trunk of Milo's classic car, she lights a smoke bomb off to trick him into opening the trunk. However, her golden opportunities never pan out when all is said and done, and the "crazy couple" keeps you wondering what diversion is coming next. To add to the drama, Nicole is investigating a suicide throughout the whole movie and drags Milo in when he finds out his best man is in the middle of the saga. This film is not necessarily worth buying, but for a dollar at Redbox you can't go wrong.



GORDON RAMSAY'S GREAT ESCAPE

Food/Travel/Documentary
Chef Gordon Ramsay
Watch on Youtube
Some Strong Language

Everyone's favorite "love-to-hate-him" guru of the kitchen tackles the unfamiliar and embarks on a hiatus to India. His mission is to learn how to *really* cook the Indian dishes that are served all over the UK. Gordon is convinced that the UK has it all wrong; serving up bland, inauthentic versions of classics like chicken tikka, butter chicken, and veggie curry. He sets out to take in the culture, lifestyle, and purpose behind Indian food and in the meantime steps completely out of his comfort zone. He cooks vegetable curry and rice on a moving train kitchen, climbs a tree to get ants to make ant chutney, and cooks with an Indian prince— and that's all in the first episode. Be warned that Ramsay's strong language follows him overseas, so you may not want to watch it while babysitting. The colors, sights and sounds of this documentary will transport you. You'll also be shocked to see this normally over confident chef out of his element as a learner instead of a drill sergeant. Watch it on Youtube in 10-minute increments for free.





LISTENER

New Album: *Wooden Heart*

Listen:

www.myspace.com/listener

Dan Smith (vocals, lyrics)

Christian Nelson (guitar, percussion, electronic beats)



This southern, indie/ progressive duo is flying the flag for their self-created genre: talk music. Dan Smith's mastery with words is perfectly matched by his gravelly voice and Nelson's clever accompaniments as he pours out phrases which are sure to grab your attention and send you on an online quest for the lyrics. Their new release, *Wooden Heart*, is like taking a road trip through the human soul. Smith captures the highs and lows of life as he introduces each new character. "Seatbelt Hands" tells the tale of a woman who has loved and lost throughout her entire life. "House on Fire" (lyrics on page 9) takes a stab at our human niceties: "The lengths that we go to, to put so much distance between us is staggering, you're burning alive with stress and life." If you're ready for something new that's anything but shallow, have a listen.

SKUL OF FISH

Listen:

www.myspace.com/skuloffish

Jonas (Vocals, Guitar)

Bon-bon (Drums)

Noi-noi (Guitars)

Shin (Bass)

Johnny (Saxophone)

Daniel (Trumpet)



Skul (pronounced School) Of Fish, grouped up in early 2003, playing Christian ska music with a little twist of reggae, which was inspired by the music of The O.C. Supertones and The Insyderz. The group has undergone many changes of members throughout their history, but has finally settled on a core of six members who give it a full and eclectic sound. Keep looking for Skul of Fish as up-and-comers in the Filipino music scene, and catch their live video performance on the "Burning Dog Revival Traveling Show" at <http://www.streetlevel.uwstout.edu/burningdogradio/mainpage.htm>. Click on the Skul of Fish video at the bottom to hear some original reggae!

(continued from page 10)

Entertainment

Tues, Sep 7

Backyard Bash, South Lawn of UW-Stout Student Center
Stout 5:30 pm

Sat, Sep 11

Yeshuapoloosa
Stout Field House Lawn 2pm

Fri, Sep 24-Sat, Sep 25 & Fri, Oct 1 – Sat Oct 2 @ 7:30, Sun, Oct 3 @ 2

Caught in the Net
Comedy Play
Mabel Tainter Theater

Sat, Sep 25

Taste of Durand Night (Local restaurant food booths)
Crazy Keys (Dueling Pianos)
Memorial Park Band Shell (Durand), 5-8 pm

Wed, Sep 8

2010 Meet Menomonie (local vendors)
Johnson Fieldhouse, 5-7 pm

Sep - Oct

Every Sat 8:00am-3:00pm, Wed 12:00pm-6pm
Menomonie Farmer's Market
Dunn County Fairgrounds

Sat, Oct 23

2nd Annual Fabulous Fall Fling
Location - TBA
5-9 pm

Fri, Sep 24, 6:30 pm; Sat, Sep 25, 6:00 pm

31st Annual Punky Manor Challenge of Champions Races
Red Cedar Speedway

Recreation

Mon, Sep. 13

Free Week, Stout Adventures
Mon, Sept. 13 at 3:00 pm until, Fri, Sept. 17 at 6:00 pm

Sat, Sept. 18

All Nighter Campout
UW Stout Challenge Course 9:00 pm

Wed, Sept. 22

Kayak Deep Water Safety Clinic, Johnson Field House Pool
8:00 pm- 10:00 pm

Thurs, Sept. 23

Yoga For Rock Climbers
Thurs. nights
7:00 pm; Sep. 23 to Dec. 16

(continued on page 11)

CHRISTIANITY: The Ultimate Ride or the Biggest Buzz Kill?

When someone says the words "Christian" and "fun" in the same sentence, you may picture yourself sitting for an hour in a rock-hard pew, chanting monotonous hymns, and eating suspicious casseroles at the church pot luck. But *real* Christian fun means just what Jesus said in **Matthew 10:39**¹, "**If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will find it.**" Fun comes with a radical life commitment to following Jesus first and putting yourself last. Sounds crazy, right? Let's look into it.

You'll spend a good amount of time in college making new friends, figuring out what you *really* like, studying, socializing and sleeping. In the midst of all this, everyone needs an outlet for the stress that builds up during the school year. But what does it mean to have fun? The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines fun as, "what provides amusement or enjoyment." Personal definitions of fun can range anywhere from blacking out at a party to going on a hike with a close friend. If you've tried "fun" your way and still feel at a loss, it's time to delve into the true definition of the word fun. Jesus promises us, "**I have told you this so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!**" (John 15:11)

Idolatry

When you turn to God, your desires for the world will fade because they pale in comparison to knowing Him. You don't have to walk away, white-knuckled, longing for the things you used to do. You will lose your taste for them and want God instead. A lot of people have the wrong impression that Christians are "frustrated" (sexually, thrill-wise, etc.) because they "can't" do the things that

they want to do. But a person who has truly turned to God and away from this indulgent world and its obsessions will naturally lose their taste for the world's form of fun. Nothing can compare to knowing God and experiencing His love and forgiveness.

Think of a person who is constantly buying things, whether it is the latest electronic device or a snazzy new outfit from a department store. They are excited about their new purchase and want to show it to everyone. They feel good about themselves because they have something new that makes them stand out...at least for awhile. Over time, that "new toy" sensation wears off, other people will purchase the same thing, and that person no longer feels special or different because of what they bought. Think about it. Why is the pursuit of these things unfulfilling?

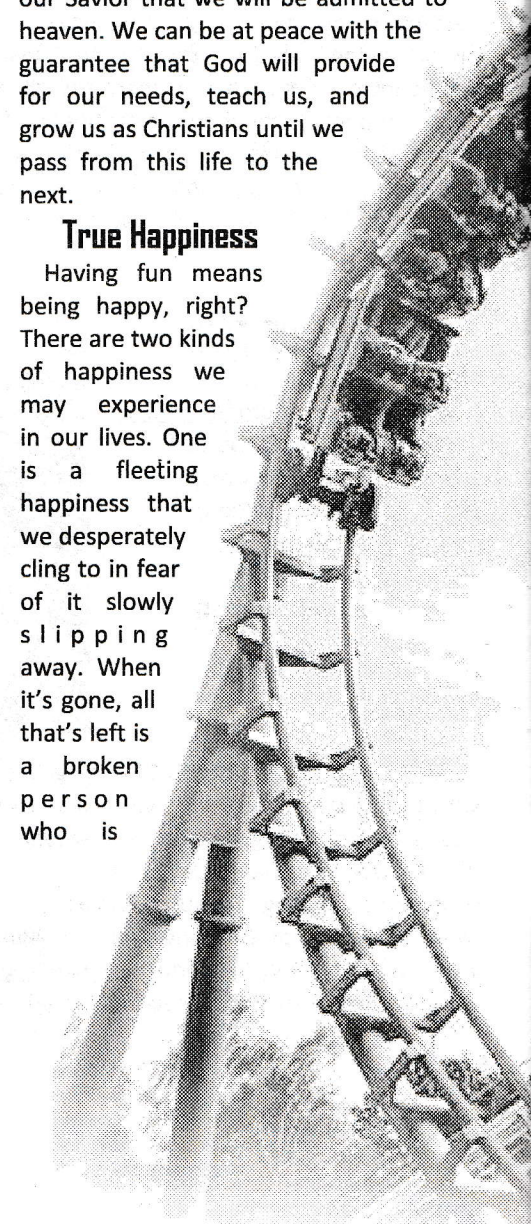
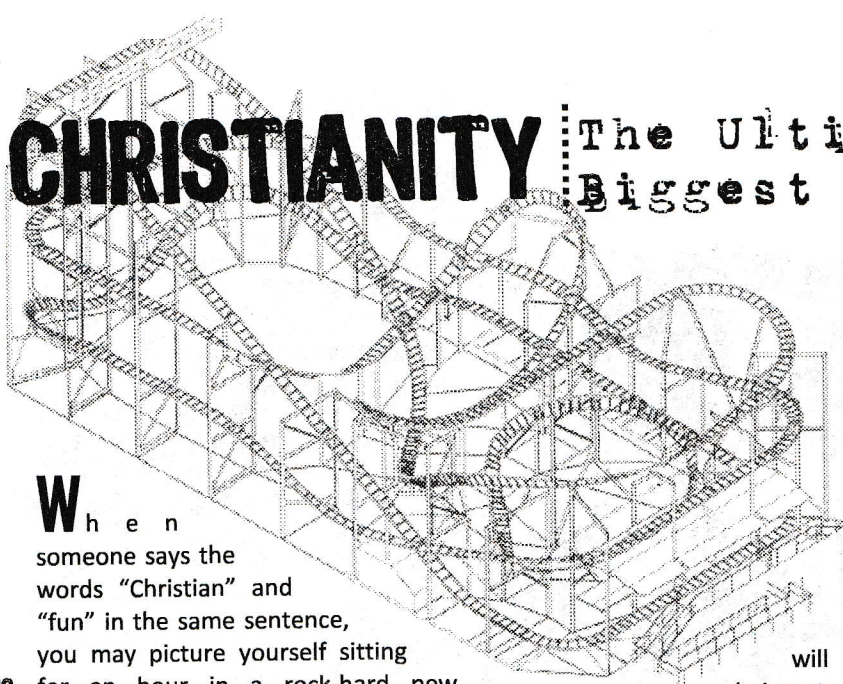
The Bible reminds us that having your heart and thoughts set on anything other than the true God will only cause hurt and discord in your life. **Isaiah 42:17** says, "**But those who trust in idols, calling them their gods—they will be turned away in shame.**" Idolatry doesn't only mean worshipping little Buddha statues or things that we'd traditionally consider false gods; it includes anything that has become a fixation in your life. Things such as materialism, lust, and self-obsession all fall under the umbrella of idolatry because we put them before God and they consume a large amount of our time. Buying things, constantly thinking about the opposite sex, or worrying about the way you look in the eyes of others are really just subtle forms of idolatry.

The Bible assures us in **1 Corinthians 8:3**, "**...the person who loves God is the**

one God knows and cares for." God gives us so much more than any worldly or material idol could ever provide. Jesus promises us in the Gospel of Mark that if we give ourselves to God, He will give us back more than we can ever imagine *in this life*, and we will also inherit an eternal life spent with Him in heaven. Eternal separation from God is the result of continuing to live in sin, but if we turn away from our sin we will be saved. Jesus' death on the cross built a bridge between us and our Creator, and it is only through accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior that we will be admitted to heaven. We can be at peace with the guarantee that God will provide for our needs, teach us, and grow us as Christians until we pass from this life to the next.

True Happiness

Having fun means being happy, right? There are two kinds of happiness we may experience in our lives. One is a fleeting happiness that we desperately cling to in fear of it slowly slipping away. When it's gone, all that's left is a broken person who is



discontented with reality. This is what you may feel after a raging party on the weekend, only to find yourself faced with the stark reality of another long week of school on Monday morning. The world's happiness is based on things that can be taken away, such as an attractive person, lots of money, or the newest Apple gadget. The other kind of happiness is a secure, peaceful happiness that we can only obtain through knowing Jesus Christ. Happiness in God is deeply rooted in things that last *forever*. Which sounds better to

you: momentary or everlasting happiness?

Hayley DiMarco, a well-known author and follower of Christ, said, "Happiness is based not on circumstances or success but on the very nature of God. He promises to be your joy." What a hopeful promise! The Bible gives us further reassurance that we are not to be sorrowful and worry when circumstances change and life gets weird, because God has a plan for each and every person on this earth, including you! **Philippians 4:6 says, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."** Putting everything in God's hands will guarantee you true contentment and happiness in your life. You don't need to worry about your life because God has it planned out for you.

In getting to know God, you are able to live the way He designed you to live. This means letting go of the control that you think you have in your life. God knows what you need better than you do, and He will guide you down the path that He has planned. You can either make the decision to walk with Him or fight against Him and end up leading a life full of pain and emptiness. Living doesn't need to be a roller coaster of enjoyment followed by times of depression. You don't need to wake up on Monday and think about how much your week is going to suck in comparison to the weekend. Unhappiness is the result of knowing the truth but making the decision to ignore it and walk through life alone. To all those who desire the truth and want to have a personal relationship with the Creator of the Universe, there is the promise of true happiness and a life fulfilled by serving God. **Romans 10:13 says, "...anyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved,"** and **Romans 10:11 promises, "...anyone who believes in Him will not be disappointed."** It is so

comforting knowing that God will fulfill these promises and that He will never leave us.

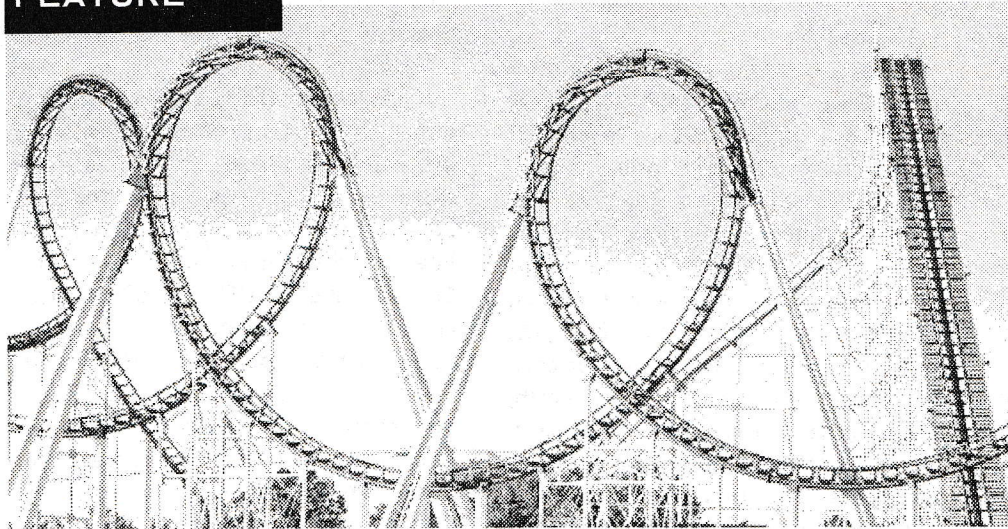
Is life automatically supposed to get easier the moment you believe in Jesus and choose to follow Him? No. In some cases, life becomes more difficult because you're no longer going with the flow of the world we live in. The Christian life is still full of ordinary circumstances and everyday struggles, but even in the tough times, God is with us and is willing to help if we are ready to change. Sometimes we find happiness in things that don't feel good, but we know it is the right thing to do. Pain and suffering is an inevitable part of this life, but knowing that God has your best interest behind the hurt is a comfort that goes deep. Think back on a time when you said to yourself, "I'm never going to do *that* again!" You learned from that uncomfortable experience, and now you know what to do when the same situation comes up in the future. God uses the painful moments in our lives to help us grow and mature as Christians. Going into tough situations with the knowledge that God is on your side and will protect you is a reassurance that brings happiness and rejoicing in itself! God never wastes pain. He can use everything we go through if we let Him.

Having Fun

If you could write the *college* definition for the word "fun", what would it say? Maybe, "That which makes you feel good NOW," or, "Experiencing everything you can while you're young." You know how college students define fun just by watching the way they act. Do you ever think about *why* you do what you do? The [ideal] result of having fun is happiness, right? If drugs, alcohol, and sleeping around are your definition of fun, think about if these things are really fulfilling or if you are left feeling empty when they are taken away. In time, all of these things *will* fade away, and you'll be left with nothing lasting. Anyone can see that "fun" usually means "temporarily feeling good" to an 18-year-old who has just realized their parents aren't around.

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14

Picture a dad who is crazy in love with his kids and wants to see them happy. He teaches them right from wrong because he doesn't want to see them go through unnecessary hurt. The one true God is a perfect father, and He's crazy in love with you. He has a much better plan for you if you are willing to listen to Him. There is no better resource than the Bible to back up this claim. **Ephesians 2:10** says, **"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."**

Anything we do that causes us to ignore God and do what we want instead of what He wants is defined as sin. Sin in our hearts, thoughts and actions cuts us off from a loving, joyful relationship with God. Sin also traps us in a cycle of wanting more of it in order to feel better for a mere moment. We are all born trapped in the cycle of being slaves to sin. Jesus said, **"...I assure you that everyone who sins is a slave of sin."** (John 8:34) I don't know about you, but being a slave doesn't sound very "fun" to me. The good news is you don't have to stay trapped.

The only way to gain true freedom is through Jesus Christ, our Savior. We call Him our Savior because He voluntarily agreed to God's plan that He needed to be brutally killed on a cross so that the power sin has over us could be broken once and for all. Jesus is God in a human body, fully God and fully human at the same time. This way, He could understand everything that we experience in the world. By dying, Jesus took on the burden of our sin and freed us from its eternal bondage. In the book of John, Jesus says, **"...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."** The really wonderful thing is that Jesus came back to life after being dead for three days. God took Him up into heaven, ensuring us that this same life that lasts forever is available to us through Jesus. Accepting Jesus as our Savior and Lord is the *only* way we can have an intimate relationship with God.

Cultivating a relationship with God will give you the desire to do His will and spend your time around people who have the same goal in mind. Getting to know God is the best way to connect with those around you. If you have a relationship with your Creator, you will naturally find an ease in creating lasting friendships with other Christians. These are the kind of friendships that last even *longer* than a lifetime!

The Family of God

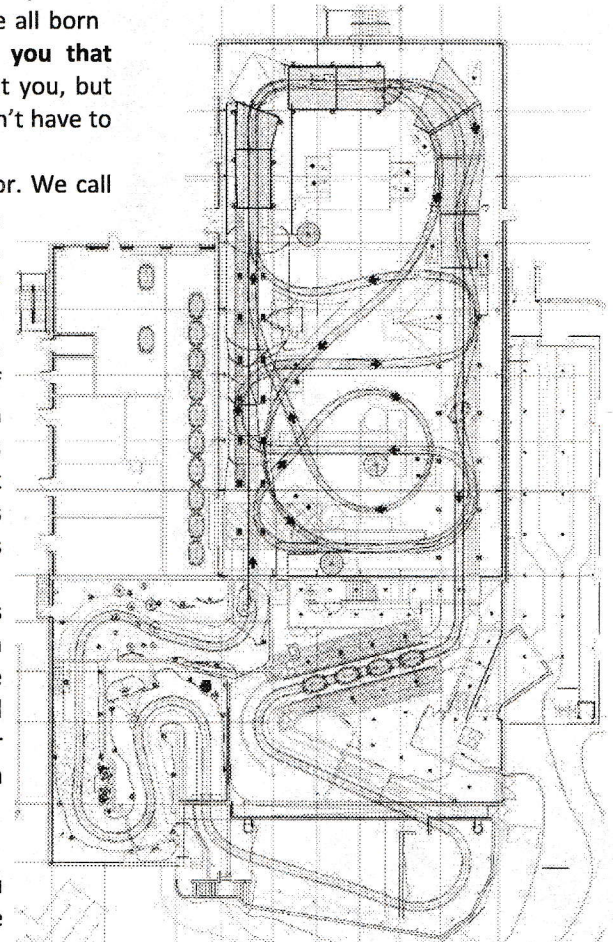
Having close friends who know you and actually *like* to be around you is generally a solid foundation for having fun. Making sure that you are

hanging out with quality friends is a start to finding real enjoyment. Looking at the lifestyle and morals of your friends is also a good way to begin. Ask yourself these questions:

- Are my friends following Jesus with their lives and actions?
- Do they act with kindness toward others?
- Do they know me inside and out, and do I know them in the same way?
- Will they take time to listen and help me?
- Do I have a genuinely good time when I am with them?

If you're wondering about who Jesus is and want to know more, or if you've already begun a relationship with Him and want to grow, joining a church, Bible study, or Christian organization is a great way to start. These groups put an emphasis on spending time with other Christians in a significant way.

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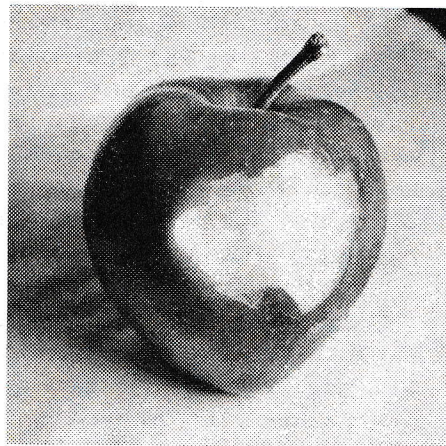
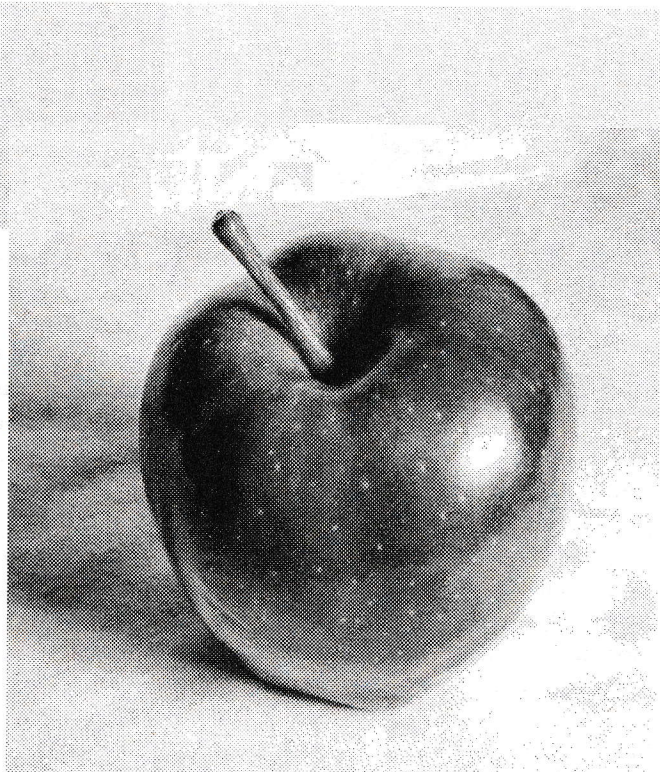
Temptation 101:

THIS AIN'T A BATTLE,
THIS IS WAR

Handling your thoughts is a moment-by-moment battle, so if you have committed your life to following Jesus because you are gripped by God's undeserved love, welcome to the war. All day long you're bombarded with people telling you what to think and how to live, and in the midst of this chaos with flying shrapnel and smoke, the question of how the battle for your mind can be won arises. A person's thought life is compared to a battlefield where there's a war over territory.

Whether you gain or lose ground depends on whether you're completely in tune with your commander. In Christianity, Jesus is the commander and He knows exactly how to win the battle of life. He's given directions on how to advance, such as praying, allowing yourself to be under the control of the Holy Spirit, reading God's Word, and spending time with others who follow Jesus. Without these spiritual tools (weapons), a tempting thought can and will transform into sin because as humans we are naturally wicked. Although we are indoctrinated from childhood with the belief that we are "good people," the truth is that we are all evil at heart. The only reason we can be tempted to sin is that we are born loving it. The song "Freedom Time" by Lauryn Hill says it well:

*There's a war in the
mind, over territory
For the dominion
Who will dominate
the opinion
Hungry and thirsty
For good meat we
would eat
And still, dined at the
table of deceit
How incomplete
From confrontation
to retreat
We prolong the true
enemy's defeat.*



As Christians, we should think of ourselves as God's soldiers on active duty with weapons not of violence, but of truth and devotion and our mission not to destroy, but to save. We therefore have the responsibility to represent the very nature of Jesus if we are to honor our God, our commander! That is why it is so crucial to uphold the truth that Jesus never gave in to temptation. Hebrews 2:18 says, "Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted." This verse is a reminder that we can draw comfort from in order to live obediently as He did. Unfortunately, we might not always

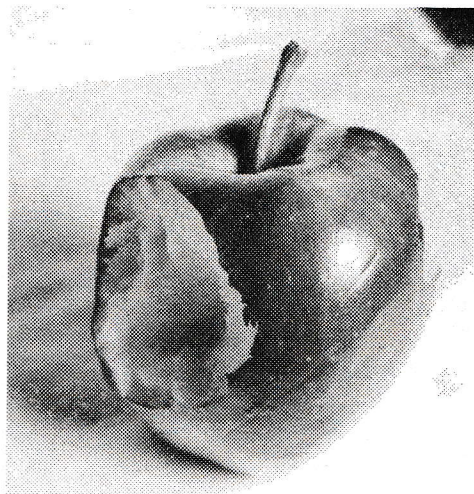
take this seriously enough because of our desire to sin, but that is where God's undeserved love comes in. No matter how many times we try to overcome temptation and fail, He's always there to show us that we really can change. Not only that, but He always provides a way out of temptation, as long as we're willing to take it.

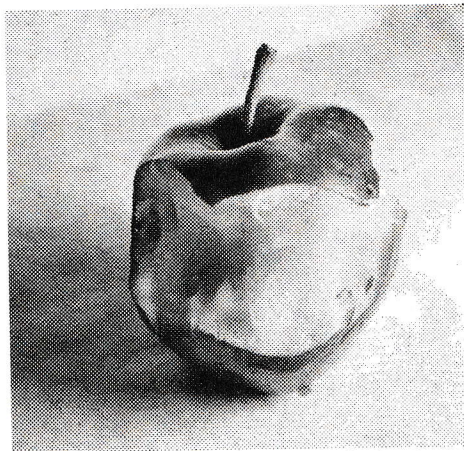
Pleasing Your Commander

Just as in a battle, you can't will the enemy to lay down their arms and wave a little white flag. The enemy, like it or not, will always continue their onslaught against you and the barriers you've set up around yourself. This is why being a Christian is so cool. We have certain victory over the enemy because Jesus won once and for all when He died for our sins and rose again. He is our victory.

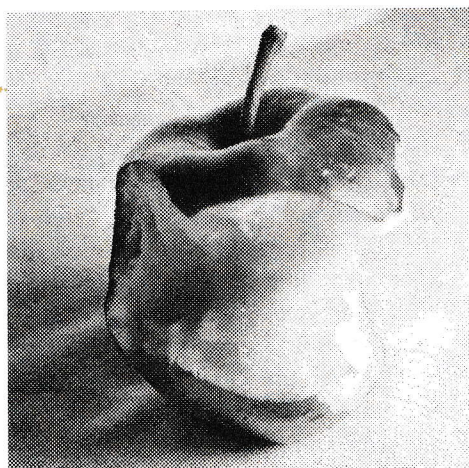
God requires us to understand that "The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure." (1 Corinthians 10:13). It takes real action and real stamina to not give in. You can't just hope you won't do it again, or trust that someone else will

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16 prevent you from doing it, you need to actually decide in your heart that you will wage war against sin with all the strength that God's made available. You can try with all your might to stop doing something, but if you still long for it in your heart you'll always give in to it in the end. The key is living to please God. If you're in love with Jesus and truly thankful that He's set you free from the endless cycle of sin, you'll want to please Him with your life. That is why 2 Timothy 2:3-4 says, **"Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer."**



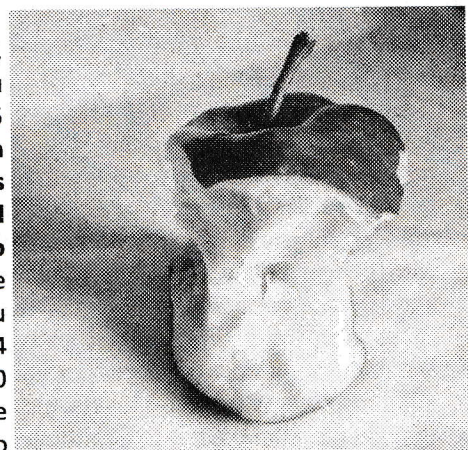
Fearless

It is not easy being a Christian, but with the knowledge of eternal life, it is easy to be fearless. With every temptation that arises, attack its root cause first. For example, if you face the temptation to procrastinate, it might not be because you're lazy, but because you're not devoting your time to what God has asked you to do. If you think you can trust yourself to not give in to the temptation of

being too physically intimate with someone you really like, know that your trust is misplaced, for it should be solely in Jesus. If you desire to drink and you're underage, don't just think of the worldly consequences (jail and a fine), but ultimately think of answering to God. Study what God says in the Bible about getting drunk and obeying the laws of the land if you're not sure about this.

When You're Tempted

Being tempted is not sin in and of itself, but what you do with it *can* be sin if you give in and act upon it. James 1:14,15 says, **"Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."** Our hope is always in Jesus, though. Maybe you can recall the story of Jesus in Luke 4 when He was led into the desert for 40 days and nights and was tempted by the devil. Despite everything the devil did to tempt Jesus, including offering Him the entire world, Jesus answered the devil with scripture like, **"Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only."** Jesus didn't eat during this time (40 days) even though He had the power as God to turn any stone into bread. He didn't give in to temptation; He didn't *sin*.



We're in This Together

What areas of your life do you see yourself giving in to over and over? Do you really want to stop? Are you using the weapons God's given you, such as talking to Him and confessing your sin to Him, and getting to know Him better by reading the Bible? Are you spending time with other Christians that are determined to move forward in living their lives to please God, as opposed to constantly being around people who try to pull you away? It is a true joy to live for God, especially when you are obediently devoting your time, resources, and money to Him. The strong allure of temptation will always be there, but its pull lessens because you simply love God more than you love a certain sin.

Temptations are like "fiery darts" that get flung at you. Do you have a shield to deflect them? Ephesians 6:10 says, **"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."** Temptation is temporary, but true fulfillment in Him is forever. So, take heart Christian—we're all in this war together.



Stout's Top Four

THEY'RE KIND OF A BIG DEAL.

1.



UW-Stout has cacti in its gardens and a major in Golf Enterprise Management of all things, but its very own Dr. Pepper? You bet. Dr. Christine Peper was officially welcomed as an adjunct professor in the Education Department this past summer after having been a special education teacher for 13 years prior to earning her PhD. "I am passionate about preparing pre-service teachers to work effectively with families and students to plan successful transition programs for students with disabilities," said Dr. Peper. She's good-humored too. When asked what her favorite beverage was, she said, "Of course Dr. Pepper!" In her free time she enjoys training her two Portuguese Water Dogs, Ike and Eliza, for their "junior water dog" certificates.

Menomonie will officially be welcoming a downtown apartment/retail complex that will fill in the abandoned lot at the intersection of Broadway and Crescent Street. Dubbed the 'Gateway Project,' it is expected to boost Menomonie's economy by providing easier shopping opportunities and convenient housing for students due to the fact that it is only a few blocks from campus. Renderings of the project show two L-shaped buildings with a parking lot in between, retail space on the bottom, and three stories of housing above that. Yep, that means it's four stories tall – a level higher than any other building downtown. Expect this conglomeration to come to you by August 2011.



2.

www.volumeone.org/magazine/articles/1559/A_Front_Door_for_Menomonie.html/page/2

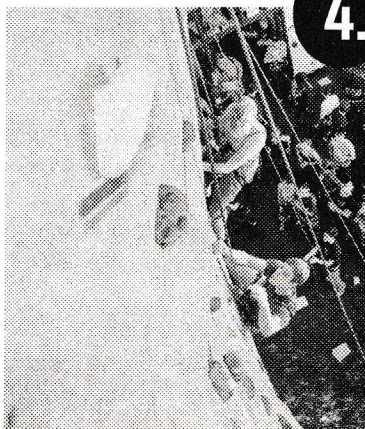
3.



Despite an imposed UW-System 5.5% increase in tuition, expect your tuition to rise only 3.8%. Phew - thank your UW-Stout laptop for that. The e-scholar user fee is going down a whopping 14.3% so while you still have to shell out more money than last year, it's still a sweeter deal than it could have been. "We are doing everything possible to hold the line on the costs that are within our control," said UW-Stout Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen. "We want to keep our costs low to give every qualified student a chance to attend UW-Stout." Thanks Chancellor! And by the way, glad you're better after your gallbladder surgery last June.

www2.uwstout.edu/news/index.asp?event=news.get&ID=2024

If you're a fan of America's Got Talent, maybe you saw the AscenDance group performing dance moves on climbing walls and you're wondering where you can practice. Or maybe you just want to *climb*. Probably the latter. Look no further than the two 30 ft climbing walls with 11 ropes and over 40 routes located at Stout Adventures. The walls are in the basement of the Johnson Field House on campus. No experience is necessary, and friendly, knowledgeable staff are always on-hand and ready to answer any questions. Unlimited access to the walls is \$35 a semester, or \$3 for one-time use.



4.

(continued from page 11)

Fri, Sept. 24
Sea Kayak the Apostle Islands
Apostle Islands, WI
Fri, Sept. 24 at 4pm – Sun, Sept. 26 at 6pm

Fri, Sept 24
Sailing the Apostle Islands
Apostle Islands, WI
Fri, Sept 24 at 4pm - Sun, Sept 26 at 6pm

Wed, Sept. 29
Basic Bike Maintenance & Repair
Stout Adventures 7pm

Fri, Oct. 1
Rock Climbing Lake Superior's N. Shore
North Shore, MN,
Fri, Oct 1 at 4pm - Sun, Oct 3 at 6pm

Mon, Oct 4
Lead Climbing Clinic
Stout Adventures, Mon, Oct. 4 7pm

Wed, Oct 6
Dutch Oven and Utensil-less Cooking
Stout Adventures, Wed, Oct. 6 6pm

Fri, Oct 8
Backpacking the Superior Hiking Trail
Superior, MN Fri, Oct. 8 to Sun, Oct. 10
6pm

Sat, Oct 9
Challenge Course Open House
Challenge Course Sat, Oct. 9 11am

Tues, Oct 12
Map & Compass Basics
Stout Adventures 4pm

Tues, Oct 19
Gravity Never Sleeps
Stout Adventures & Taylor's Falls Tues,
Oct. 19 7pm to Sun, Oct. 24 6pm

Thurs, Oct 28
Woman's Climbing Night
Stout Adventures 8pm

Fri, Nov 5
American Red Cross Wilderness &
Remote First Aid with Adult CPR & AED
Stout Adventures Fri, Nov. 5 4pm to Sun,
Nov. 7 6pm

Local Ninjas Cope with Stout Tobacco Ban

18

The UW Stout Campus became tobacco free on September 1, 2010. This follows a referendum passed by students of the university. Though accepted with open arms by many students, one group in particular is struggling to cope with this new legislation: the ninjas. Always resourceful, local ninjas have learned to adapt to their new environment.



The tobacco ban does not allow for any exceptions, so there will not be any designated smoking areas. All smoking has to be done off campus. Faced with this conundrum, ninjas have quickly adopted the use of zip lines and, in some cases, the use of flight to reach off-campus locations to partake of tobacco products.

While some ninjas have attempted to cope with the ban, there are others who have decided to conform to the situation. The Campus Counseling Center provides services to the ninjas, allowing them to put aside the habit.

Though most ninjas are law-abiding martial artists, there are the few who have not heard about the ban or have chosen not to abide by it. The ban is enforced through the participation of students, so it is important to approach the situation properly. Courteously ask the offending ninja to refrain from the use of the banned

substance. Most ninjas are willing to submit if asked in a way that is not demeaning. Provoking a ninja by speaking harshly will only result in him ignoring you or perhaps the loss of a limb.

There are several things every ninja and student at Stout should be aware of:

- The tobacco ban went into effect on September 1, 2010

- The ban covers *all* tobacco, even smokeless

- Everyone on campus is covered by the ban: students, faculty, ninjas, etc.

- Enforcement is implemented by the UW-Stout community through "gentle reminders" (i.e. "Kind sir, could you please refrain from the use of that tobacco product?")

- Assistance for quitting smoking is available at the Stout Counseling Center. You can set up an



appointment by calling 715-232-2468.

If you would like more information on how the campus-wide smoking ban affects you or a fellow ninja, please consult the campus website:

www3.uwstout.edu/committee/sbic/faq.cfm



A Street Level Member's True Story • IN LOVE WITH A GOD WHO NEVER GIVES UP

When I was asked to write this article about my testimony, I must admit that I was a little intimidated, even scared. I had read past testimonies of how God grabbed a hold of someone and turned their life around 180 degrees. I thought about my story and wondered, "What do I have to offer?" I was raised in a Christian home with Christian parents, went to a good church, went to a Christian school, and was involved in youth group from middle school through high school. I have never been drunk, nor had alcohol for that matter. I've never done drugs, never had sex. I didn't have a crazy conversion story where God saved me from an addiction. Then I realized what I do have is a story of God's ever-continuing faithfulness and protection over my life. My testimony, my God story, might seem plain and unexciting, but any story where God saves a soul unto Himself is a magnificent story and needs to be told.

I accepted Christ as my savior when I was five by saying a prayer with my mom at the kitchen table. I don't know if at five I really understood the magnitude of the decision that I had just made, but God knew and He and His angels were rejoicing. As I look back on my almost 20 years of life, I can see God's hand through it all, even in the times that I was angry at Him for not giving me what I wanted. I know God's protection has been on me the whole time. I can see it in the way He has kept me strong against many of the temptations that teenagers face today from drugs and alcohol to boys. He wrapped His arms around me and said, "I am not letting you go, my beloved."

Sadly, I have to admit that I often take His love for granted. I lose sight of all that He has done for me and focus inward, trying to build a foundation upon myself rather than relying on God's solid foundation. It is in

GOD HAS NEVER GIVEN UP ON ME, NOR WILL HE EVER. I TAKE GREAT COMFORT IN KNOWING THAT.

those times that God has to remind me of who He is. It is when I stop regularly reading my Bible and praying that I begin to stray away from Him. But, God is faithful, and it is then that He starts to pull my wobbly, self-made foundation out from under me. He has to break through and remind me of the true foundation for my life that He has to offer.

BIOGRAPHY:
.....

TRUTH IS BETTER
THAN FICTION



Even though I have known Christ my whole life, it doesn't mean that I have a perfect relationship with Him. That it is because I am not perfect; in fact, I am far from it. I fight with people and I disobey my parents. I have hurt people I love and turned my back on friends, yet God in his infinite grace and mercy still calls me closer. His grace and faithfulness are overflowing and amazing. God has never given up on me, nor will He ever. I take great comfort in knowing that. If God will never give up on me, how could I give up on Him? Christianity is about a relationship with an all-powerful, amazingly loving and faithful God. If you are willing to bring yourself to Him, He will accept you with wide open arms.

Meet the Squirrels of Stout : Friends are Only a Tree Away

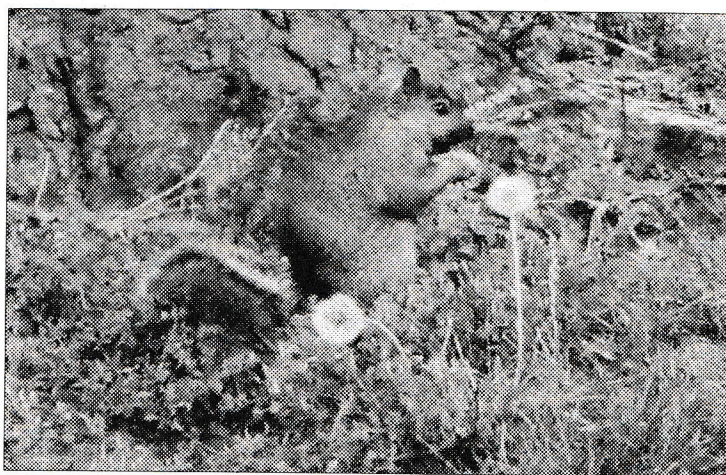
Feeling lonely? If you're having a hard time meeting people this fall or beginning to feel homesick, don't worry; friends are close by. Welcoming, diverse rodent buddies roam the walkways and lawns of Stout, always willing to make your acquaintance. Be assured that there is a perfect squirrel pal for any personality if you'll only take the time to look around.

Mark: The Jogging Buddy



Training for a 5K? Mark never gets sick of late-night jogs and he even does intervals. He ran the Twin Cities marathon this year and placed at the top of his age group. He can be a real drill sergeant at times, but you'll see results. If your roommate keeps refusing your pleas to work out, you can probably find him wearing Under Armour and perusing the dumpster outside CKTO for low-carb, protein-filled foods.

Harmony: The Eco-Friendly Pal



If you'd rather run through a field of daisies than run a 5K, you can find Harmony at one of several large pines positioned outside the Applied Arts building. She'll surely listen to your environmental concerns and she always has a re-usable cloth,

bag on hand in case you forgot yours. Although you may have to eat dandelion greens and berries if you visit her for dinner, rest assured she'll have a nice hot cup of ginger green tea to wash it down.

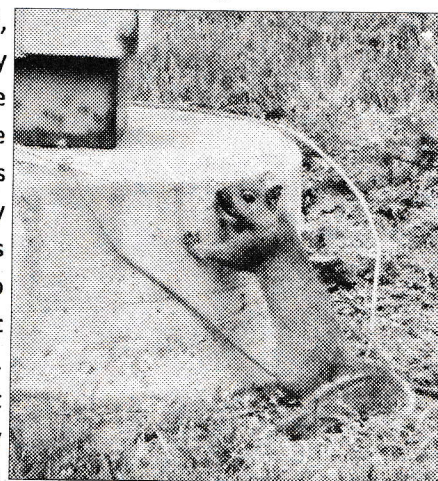


Dexter: The Philosophical Friend

No college experience would be complete without that one pal who's always thinking deeply about things. Dexter's been staring at this tree for the last three days, and is not likely to stop until he gets some answers to the meaning of life. He's read a few books and took Philosophy 101, so that pretty much qualifies him as an expert on all major world religions and historical perspectives. Don't call Dexter when you want to watch a comedy or mess around on the guitar, but he'll be at his tree by Harvey Hall when you need someone with whom you can share deep collegiate wisdom.

Benny: The Life of the Party

When you get that restless feeling and want to do something wild, look for Benny anywhere on the lawn outside the Commons. He's probably busy setting off fireworks or gluing quarters to the sidewalk, but feel free join him. You'll never get bored while spray painting extra



letters onto campus signage or pulling fire alarms in the dorms at 3:00 am. Keep in mind, however, that when he hot wires a homemade explosive, he's small enough to hide behind a pole and you're not.

continued from page 14... Christianity: The Ultimate Ride?

This could be through volunteer work, weekend retreats, or even just hanging out together. Being around other Christians and getting to know them personally will help you create lasting relationships that are loving and meaningful.

It's a common misconception that "all Christians do is hang out at church." While there are many ways to be involved at church, there are tons of other things to do outside of that venue. Having movie nights, going to coffee shops, or finding local outdoor recreation areas are some examples of ways to have fun with a group of friends. If you do a little research, I'm sure you will be amazed at the hidden treasures that are located right in your own town.

Fun is also found in having a genuine, lasting purpose behind the things you're doing. For example, serving side-by-side with friends to help raise money to support foreign missions work is fun, both because of the people you get to be with and because what you are doing has purpose and lasting value. When you look at how you spend your time, think about the result of what you are doing. Only that which is done for Jesus will last. The Bible states in **1 Corinthians 5:10**, "For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in our bodies." Do you find yourself stuck in a rut of temporary enjoyment, or is there a greater purpose being fulfilled by your actions?

Being a Christian doesn't mean that life becomes tedious and dull. In fact, knowing God brings true happiness and an infinite peace that we can find in no other place except the loving arms of our heavenly Father. "Fun" is not a concept that has to be thrown out when you become a Christian because you will come to understand that its true meaning is the enduring, worthwhile experiences and relationships that come with being integrated into the family of God (church) and serving God. Start thinking about the temporary "fun" that consumes your life and whether or not you are truly satisfied with what it brings. God is always there, ready to provide you with the ultimate ride of Christianity and all the blessings that come along with it. Is it worth pursuing a superficial experience that will leave you empty in the end, or would you rather pursue a deep passion that is eternally fulfilling?

¹All scripture verses are from the New Living Translation Bible.

Want to learn the Bible, meet new people, find out who Jesus Christ really is and what that means for you? Come to the **Street Level Campus Bible Study. Monday Nights, Cedar-Maplewood Room, UW-Stout Student Center, 7:00pm.**

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**"Hand's OFF, Lady!...
...MY coffee!"**



Wi Fi

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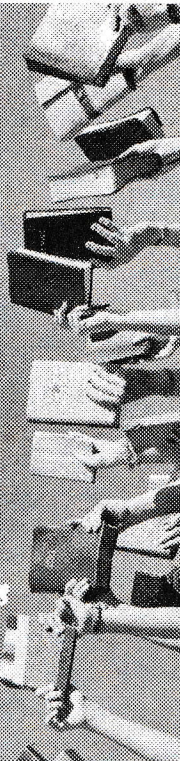
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a word from the barn...

NICK THE HICK

Today's Topic

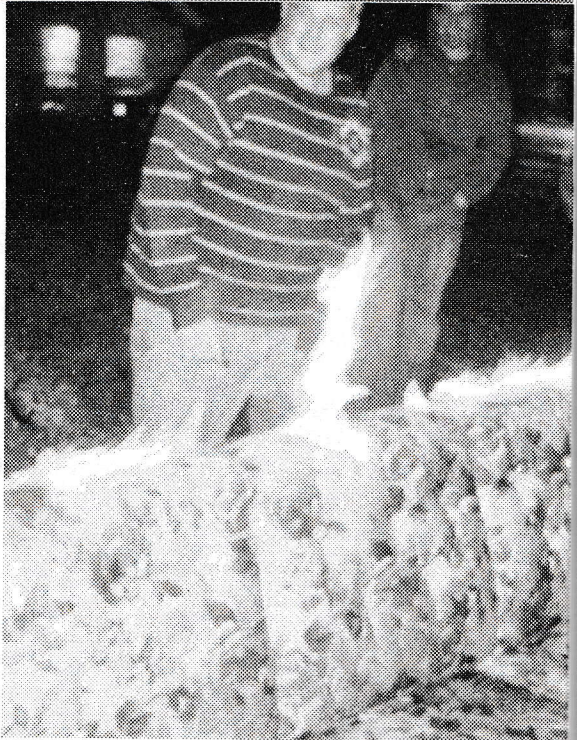
WHY ARE YOU DRESSIN UP THEM PETS?

John Wayne wore the hat, Vader wore the mask, Chuck Norris wore what he wanted, and Hilton's dog wore the absolute classiest.... Wait, what? You tryin to tell me people are putting clothes on their dogs now? I thought dogs were for huntin and barkin and bitin unwelcome folk and here we are putting satin clothes on them because the dog has feelins too. Well I will be the first to tell you that doggy of yours wants some mud and a tube of tennis balls and would like to chase cars and bikes. Don't cart him round like some little spoiled child who just finished a round at JC Penney with his mama.

Fact I saw a dog out the other day chewin on a Favre jersey it had on and I thought to myself, now what in the Sam heck has gone on round here? For one that jersey should have been in the burn barrel

with that two bags of milk cartens and spam I burned this morning but that's a different story for a different day. Anyray what im getting at is your dog aint "cute" with clothes on. In fact I like watchin these people. Yeah it's kinda a sport, you get to see who wears the pants - the dog or the owner. Just like with their kids, fact most days that darn dog looks like their kids, dress the same act the same and that's the gospel truth. But anyray it makes my mouth laugh, and my inner man rumble. Yeah just like the one time I saw under armor guy runnin with his Nike clothed dog and all the sudden the dog chewed off the sweat suit. Now I shook my head but was set back when I done saw the guy yell at the dog and say, "You are not getting no treat or t.v. tonight Buster!" Now what in carnation. Im just set back by this, don't all people think the way I do or what? Jeez.

I tell ya what im going to do bout this, Im going to lead by example. First of all im



having a burn party at the lake for them Favre jerseys. Im also going to make a coalition, one that goes out, secretly spies on people, and video tapes them talking to their dog like it's their child. Then me and the gang will sit em all down to watch their actions. If and only if they don't respond with, "What the heck am I doing walkin this here dog around dressin him up like a doll and threatening him with words he don't even know," well im gonna make a bet with them that they can't fix up a pit bull to act like this. When they try it me and the gang are gonna tip our lawn chairs over laughing when the pit bull grabs you by the britches and carts you around. Well anyray, that's enough grousing for now, gotta get back to my real dog that's digging in the trash again.....O man, not the skunk again.....garsh when are these dogs gonna gain some class round here?

Graphics Sources:

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Curious?

Attend:

What: Street Level's Monday night campus Bible study

Why: Hear the Bible taught practically and applied to your real life. Get answers to your toughest questions and meet people.

Where: UW-Stout campus Student Center, Cedar/Maplewood Room

When: Every Monday night at 7:00pm

Listen:

What: 101.7 FM Burning Dog Radio

Why: Local, independent and national recording artists. Eclectic mix of metal, blues, indie, rock, rap, industrial and more

Where: Penetrates even the toughest concrete dorm walls

When: All day every day

Meet

Who: Members of Street Level Ministries, a bunch of people who like each other a lot and want to live their lives for Jesus.

Why: Friendship, casual folks, laughing, asking the tough questions, fun.

Where: We're all over campus, but most likely to be found at the campus Bible study on Monday nights.

Eat and Drink:

What: The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse

Why: Gourmet coffee and espresso drinks, free Wi-Fi, retro atmosphere, homemade bakery and hand crafted sandwiches. Free, live concerts on Friday nights.

Where: 621 Wilson Avenue. Two blocks from campus near Burger King.

When: 9:00am-9:00pm Tues.-Friday and 8:00am 9:00pm Saturday.

How?

Come to the first Bible study on campus Monday, September 13th to learn more.

Visit: www.streetlevel.uwstout.edu



Street Level Ministries

UW-STOUT

621 Wilson Avenue

Menomonie, WI 54751

www.streetlevel.uwstout.edu

FREEDOM

OUR FIRST CAMPUS MEETING IS
MONDAY NIGHT SEPT. 13TH

WWW.STREETLEVEL.UWSTOUT.EDU

College Bible Study
Monday: 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Nights

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THE CEDAR-MAPLEWOOD ROOM

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