



Congratulations to



Cruisin'4 CASH Winner

Stephanie Falcone

Deer hunting on the interstate

This tale is of the conflict between woman, the wilderness and interstate roadways, and it takes place en route to my lakehouse in Minnesota. Along for the 9 hour ride was my boyfriend Kris and my dog Brady. We took the family truckster, an anteater looking mini-van whose stark white color has led my family to dub it "The Fridge". We're Chicago Bears fans and the opportunity to name our van after William Perry was a temptation we weren't about to wrestle with.

Kristopher and Brady were sleeping as I drove through the dairy land of Wisconsin. I was admiring the cuddle puddles of cows when I diverted my eyes back to the road just in time to see a giant crow dip in front of "The Fridge", and without warning went SMACK into the windshield. Shocked and shrieking, I did

the first thing that came to mind when the crow didn't fall off. I turned on the windshield wipers. This only pins the bird's wing to the windshield. At this point Kris is just waking from his nap, he hands me a map and I hold it over where the bird is. I'm screaming, the dog is howling and the bird's wings are flapping against the windshield from the wind. It's like this until the next rest area 12 miles down the road where Kris took care of the bird issue.

It was a peaceful week with highlights including: Kris forgetting to tie the rope to the minnow bucket, sending it and \$5

worth of bait to the bottom of the lake, and me throwing my pole into the lake and fleeing when Kris caught the meanest looking fish ever

to live. We left around 5am on a Sunday. It's dark and Kris and Brady are sleeping again, while I'm cruising down the road. I am barely able to make out what appears to be a human body lying across the road when I jerk the car out of the way. What looked like a body was actually a deer and as my front tire clipped its head everything in the car went flying. Brady

slid across the faux leather seats, caramels and Combos went everywhere, pop spilled, and poor Kris hit his head on the window. Through my din I hear, "Pull over NOW." I stop screaming and sheepishly turned on my turn signal. We sat on the side of the road in silence until Kris whispered, "Get out." I resign myself to losing my driving privileges and we switch seats. Kris gains composure and asks, "Are you aligned with the devil? Why do you keep killing these animals?!" I point out that the deer was already dead. This fact matters little and I am shushed. We ride in the quiet of morning until I say "I think everything will be ok if we listen to the Super bowl Shuffle." When he agrees I know I'm forgiven and later this will be a really funny story.

-Stephanie Falcone



One Happy Camper

Pig out at Country Buffet

by Karl Benacci
features co-editor

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to eat lunch at Old Country Buffet, which is located at 7200 Peach Street, near Sam's Club.

I had heard that Old Country Buffet had a decent selection of different foods, so I was excited to see what it had. I was also told that there are 254 Old Country Buffets nationwide in 41 states, which I found sur-

prising because I had never heard of Old Country Buffet until it came to Erie.

After my party and I had been seated, I noticed the overall theme of the restaurant. It didn't have the country look that I had expected, but appeared more modern.

I then saw the buffet and was quite impressed, for it had a better selection than I had previously thought.

I chose a number of different foods, including

pizza, lasagna, macaroni and cheese, and fried chicken.

I especially liked the pizza and the fried chicken for they had a very unique (but good) taste to them. The lasagna and macaroni and cheese that I had chosen weren't anything to write home about, but still tasted halfway decent. I was so stuffed after eating my meal that I had no room for dessert.

Overall, I think that Old Country Buffet was pretty good; the cost was fairly low. I give Old Country Buffet *** stars.



Old Country Buffet is located near Sam's Club.

PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

Hot Spots in Erie Media Play



Media Play is located near Peach Street.

PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

by Karl Benacci
features co-editor

Many of us crave entertainment, however, finding the right music, movies, books, and video games can often be tough. Tracking all of these things down can be a tedious task.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of these items could be obtained at one place?

Well, they can be. Media Play is located near Kohl's Department Store at 6857 Peach Street.

It not only has music, movies, books, and video games, but

also electronics, instruments, posters, and much more!

It also has a great selection, and if shoppers can't find a certain item, Media Play may be able to order it for them.

However, finding music at Media Play is quite easy when using its computer system. A song or an artist can be found by typing information into a category, and the computer can even let an individual know if a CD is available for purchase and where to find it.

Perhaps the best aspect of Media Play is its prices, which are usually cheaper than other

stores. Sale and clearance items can't be beat.

There are often bins full of \$3 movies and \$2 CD's, and if one searches hard enough, one might be able to find a movie.

Media Play also has a number of events that are open to the public, such as live music, readings, and appearances by a number of popular authors.

Great entertainment and decent prices definitely go hand in hand, making Media Play a definite Hot Spot in Erie.

How to eat cheaply

by Joanna Carman
staff writer

We know what we like: Pizza, burgers and carbonated drinks. But students don't realize that the convenience of a drive-through can put a dent in their pockets.

Ken Scott of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling said college students generally are not known for choosing the healthiest foods, or for being good grocery shoppers. However, everyone needs to eat and students need to save money, but also eat well.

Scott said students should track their food dollars. For one week, write down every food or drink item bought. Don't forget to include the soda from the machine after physical education, the popcorn at the ball game, and the sandwich gulped down on the way to lab. Students may be surprised as to how much they actually spend each week on food and drink. Cut back on spending. Once aware of where food dollars are going, trim those expenses.

"If you are thirsty, cool water will be far more refreshing than a sugar-laden soda, and a lot cheaper. Those who must have a pizza, order a one or two topping instead of the deluxe," Scott said.

Not all college students can be expected to cook throughout the week. However, with some planning, students can have food on hand instead of relying on vending machines or fast-food outlets. But remember,

students don't have to commit to preparing a four-course meal, according to Scott.

Start with the basics. Don't underestimate the appeal of a spaghetti dinner. Pasta is cheap and filling, and you have a variety to choose from.

Try cooking a roast or several chickens at one time. While your main course is in the oven, pop in baked potatoes and corn on the cob wrapped in foil to have a complete, fuss-free, healthy meal. And you have meat for future meals such as sandwiches or salads.

You pay for convenience both at the drive through and at the grocery store. So think in simpler terms. Buy lots of fresh fruit such as bananas, apples, grapes and watermelons that you can keep on hand for snacks. Spend one evening cutting carrots, celery, cucumbers and broccoli.

Store in airtight containers and bring out when you have late-night munchies.

Eating out can be expensive. Even the cost of picking up a hamburger to go can add up, Scott says. When ordering, consider ordering a few appetizers instead of full, more expensive meals.

Watch out for drinks and desserts that can really add to the final tab. If you are going to eat out, use coupons to save money. Also, take advantage of advertised special deals at restaurants.

Happenings in Erie

April 28

Twelfth Annual Cat Show, at JMC Ice Arena, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mercyhurst College Presents Erie Dance Consortium, at the Mary D' Angelo Performing Arts Center; shows are at 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Mercyhurst College Presents "Assasins," an exploration of the history of presidential assassination in America, from Booth to Hinkley, at Taylor Little Theatre; shows are at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

April 29

Twelfth Annual Cat Show, at JMC Ice Arena, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WWF Backlash Party, at the Kings Rook Club, 8:00 p.m.