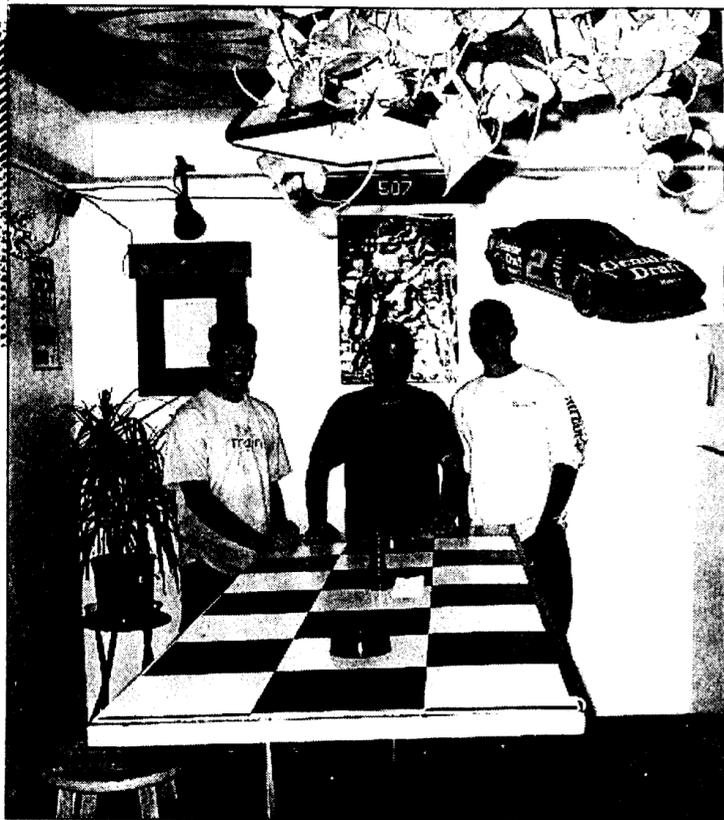


You'll never be 'barred' from this local lounge



Three of the four J's present their work of college art, a bar in their apartment. Rumor has it that their place is a relaxation haven.

by Kristen Schrum
staff writer

Ever feel the need to meet more new and exciting people? Well, Jason Wachter, Jim Busa, Jake Schade, and Jeff Hughes not only did, but did something about it. They raised the bar for comfortable apartment living. The four J's' place is very different from the standard issue apartment. As for comfort, the guys at this

apartment have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Every college student's apartment needs a little decoration to make it feel more like home, but the guys in this apartment have added a little something extra...their apartment has a bar.

That's right, they built a bar in the middle of their kitchen. And what's more, it's legal because they are all at least 21 years old. This

bar is about eight feet long and includes many features such as a black-and-white checkerboard top, wood paneling, a dishwasher, and barstools.

Surrounding the bar are a variety of decorative "bar lights." The bar was built during the summer over a two-week period, with the total cost for the wooden structure of the bar and the tabletop being \$90.

The living room of the four Js' apartment has a totally different atmosphere from the "bar room". This room is the lounge area of the apartment and it has a comfy, warm, and appealing ambience. Where most apartments only have a plant or two in a room, there are five live plants that surround this living room. The plants make visitors feel as though they have just walked into a jungle. Also, a comfortable couch is a necessity when having guests stay the night.

Apartment member Wachter says that their couch, affectionately named "Old Brown", has seen its share of "crashers".

"Upwards of 20 people have slept comfortably here after nights of fun," Wachter said. Needless to say, these guys know how to accommodate the comforts of their visitors.

"One of the things that draws people to the apartment is the four guys who live there all have charismatic personalities and they make their visitors feel welcome," said Stephanie, a student who did not give her last name.

"You never know what to expect when you go there," said Kim, another frequent visitor who did not give her last name. "It keeps things interesting."

PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY

Hot Spots in Erie



The Millcreek Mall

by Karl Benacci
features editor

Let's face it: Erie doesn't have a lot of places to shop. When the Christmas season is in full swing, an individual must often run from store to store, buying presents for everyone on his or her list.

This can be quite hectic for it takes up time! What can one do to cut down the time needed to shop?

All one needs to do is go to the Millcreek Mall. After all, it boasts of such stores as American Eagle, the Gap and the Limited.

The mall looks like a tacky eyesore eleven months out of the year; however, it looks halfway decent during the Christmas months for a number of reasons.

The mall goes crazy on decorating

the interior; yet pulls it off, transforming itself into a festival of lights and cheer.

Santa Claus is even at the Millcreek Mall, along with his kingdom of elves.

Perhaps the best thing about visiting the mall during the holidays is purchasing a gift certificate which can be used at any store in the mall. There are also booths set up throughout the mall where employees graciously wrap presents - for free!

Finally, for us Erieites, a great facet of going to the mall during the holidays is that we see many people from our past, including old friends and classmates.

Gifts and holiday cheer definitely go hand-in-hand, making the Millcreek Mall a fun and festive *Hot Spot in Erie*.

On the Road Again... Chagrin is even better the second time around

by Melody Sherosky
staff writer

I told you all I would return to Chagrin Falls, Ohio. How couldn't I? The first time I visited I saw many things that I did not have a chance to investigate, so I returned to dig a little deeper into this busy Ohio town.

First, I must say that Chagrin Falls is a rich place. It is full of people who are, well, probably more well off than you and I (put together). What that means for us visitors is that we can enjoy top notch food and shopping with people dressed much better than we are. And they are also people who must have very little to do! Every time I have visited Chagrin, whether it is winter or summer, day or night, the main streets and the park along the Chagrin River are always full of people, children, and dogs. The dogs are incredibly well behaved in Chagrin Falls, too.

The downtown area of Chagrin Falls is based on a triangle-shaped park. If it looks sort of familiar, you may remember it from the back of a Calvin and Hobbes book where Calvin is a giant crushing the town. Bill Watterson is originally from Chagrin, and you can often find signed copies of Calvin and Hobbes books at the Fireside Bookstore on the triangle. You will also find a lot of other books from local authors.

As you walk through the triangle, you will get to the bridge that goes



The majestic beauty of Chagrin Falls.

over Chagrin Falls, and the Chagrin River. You can walk down to the boardwalk to get a better view of the falls. And if one is very careful, one can walk up under the bridge and get a view of the falls.

Directly above the falls is the popcorn shop, an old building that looks like it might fall into the river at any minute because of its precarious position on the edge.

The popcorn shop has many treats, like ice cream and chocolate, that will give one energy for continuing a walk around Chagrin Falls. It will, however, be packed with the children of wealthy shoppers.

The shops in Chagrin are interesting, to say the least. If someone doesn't have the money for a \$5,000 wardrobe made in East Timor, one can at least walk around

it appreciating how big, beautiful and expensive it is. Then again, there are also some shops that do not cater only to loaded people. The Chagrin Falls hardware store is really a hardware store, but has some strange old things scattered throughout. I found a 1953 version of Monopoly in great condition for only \$5. I also saw stamps and sealing wax, old furniture, and every hardware need

you can think of. There is also a great little toy store on the triangle, packed to the gills with wooden and modern toys of all sorts.

Coming out of the stores, you may notice that the music gets louder. In fact, it may be the first time one realizes that there is music, pumped in to the town over several P.A. speakers in the downtown area. From now until Christmas, townsfolk will hear holiday music on the streets while they walk around doing shopping in Chagrin, something one may not be used to unless one is in a mall.

When hunger strikes, or when the music gets too loud, I highly recommend Dink's Restaurant, across the triangle from the book and toy stores. It serves breakfast all day, but has lunch and dinner options, too. Prices were decent, and their chocolate cream pie was to die for.

Whether there's some Christmas shopping to do, or you are a big Calvin fan, or just need a break from Erie, Chagrin Falls is a great little place with friendly people. Until next time...

From Erie to Chagrin Falls, OH (appx. 1 1/2 hrs.): Take I-90 West to the Mentor Exit #193 (Rt. 306), go left/South on Rt. 306 for about 25 miles to Bell Rd, GO right on Bell for about 5 miles until you hit main street, turn left and you are there.

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