

Quarterly : keeping members in touch with the Wisconsin Union. Year-end 1997

Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Union, Year-end 1997

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Keeping members in touch with the Wisconsin Union

QUARTERLY

YEAR-END 1997



This summer's weekend music series drew more than 80,000 people—no rainouts!

Your Union.

Beyond The Terrace. Beyond The Classroom.

Welcome to this special edition of the Quarterly. Inside, you'll find a quick update on what everyone loves about the Union: the Terrace, the Theater, the events, the scene. You'll also find something new: an in-depth look at some of the people and traditions behind your Union including the important role you play.

Officially, the Wisconsin Union is sanctioned as the Division of Social Education at UW-Madison. It is a somewhat cumbersome title for what is daily practice here: fun, educational, cultural and recreational experiences beyond the classroom. No pressure to get a good grade, but lots of opportunity for simple exchanges with peers, classmates, friends, professors, staff

and community members. We call it the full-learning that comes with full-living. It is a broad audience that we serve at the Union and a broad perspective that we welcome.

Of course, it's the students who provide the spark around here. They are an important part of our mission. Students are given leadership opportunities to explore what interests them, to work together, and to bring their full talents and desires to bear to create memorable events. For us. For everyone.

You, too, are an important ingredient in what we call "the Union Family." When you purchased a Union membership, you cast a vote to support our efforts to

develop quality events and services and to offer student leadership training. We ask that you continue to visit the Union, use our buildings and stay connected. Tell a friend about Union membership and share our story. Consider making a special contribution to the Union with the enclosed card. With your active support, we can meet the needs of our ever-growing family: 75,000 Union members along with the current university community of students, staff, faculty and their guests.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, that you learn more about our story and broaden your understanding of the role we play on campus. Your support of the Union, both past and future, is very much appreciated.



THE WISCONSIN UNION

The heart and soul of the university.

A Training Ground for Leaders.

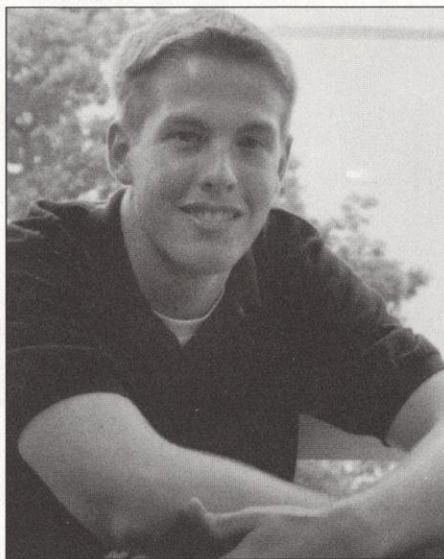
If the Wisconsin Union is the heart and soul of the university, then Wisconsin Union Directorate (WUD) volunteers supply the pulse and the beat.

WUD is 12 committees teaming with the energy of hundreds of student volunteers who want more than four years and a degree from their college experience. They are the wizards of our own little Oz, the Union. They bring you art in the galleries, bands on the Terrace, scuba diving, homecoming food drives, theater events, lectures and multicultural performances. Every year, 12 new student directors take on the challenge of making their committee hum.

Why do students get involved? Seems to be the old adage: give a lot; get a lot. Plus, something unique here: These students are at the controls. They make the decisions. They negotiate, plan, promote, install, develop and evaluate the events. They do it all, from planning a news conference with Noam Chomsky (and what to do if his plane is four hours late) to matching a high school kid with a UW-Madison student tutor.

"My college experience wouldn't be anything near what it is today— not even close— without the Union."

The concept of the Union as a training ground for leaders has been in place since Memorial Union opened in 1928. Students are given the chance to share in and cope with the pressing problems of the day. They



Dave Chaffin, UW-Madison senior and current Union and WUD president, believes there is a place for every student at the Union — to make friends, hone leadership skills and explore what interests them.

receive important staff support, leadership training and advice. They are also given the reigns: to succeed and to fail, to complement their classroom learning with real world experiences, to practice and apply their emerging leadership skills in the university community of today and hopefully, as good citizens of the world community tomorrow.

As Union and WUD president, Dave Chaffin leads a group of several hundred student volunteers who develop the events at the Union. His goal is to reach and recruit as many students as possible into the Union experience, one that has had a

New event welcomes new students

The Union put out the welcome mat this fall for incoming freshmen and other new students with a special late-night Bash. The turnout was astounding: 3,000 students poured through the doors of a Memorial Union that offered live music on the Terrace, tarot card readers, dancing, mural artistry, films, pottery-making and more. Nearly every room was filled with activities and the unique, electric energy of students about to start their first year at UW-Madison.

Current Union and WUD President Dave Chaffin thinks the Bash hit the bullseye. In many ways, the night parallels Chaffin's own three-year experience as a student volunteer with WUD. "The Union showed itself as a place to meet people; to get involved in whatever interests you. Madison's a big campus and it's very easy to get lost here. That needn't happen, because there's a place for every student at the Union."

huge impact on Chaffin. "I never consider myself a leader. But the Union fosters that quality in me. It has helped me mature. I've learned so much from the staff advisors here and I've made so many friends."

"My college experience wouldn't be anything near what it is today — not even close — without the Union. I know I'll be supporting it for a long time."

Events Update

Fall Theater

Single tickets still available. Call 262-2201 for details or stop by the Union Theater Box Office.

November 14, 8 p.m.

Gary Hoffman, cello and David Golub, piano; \$25

November 24, 25 & 26, 7:30 p.m.

Travel Adventure Film: The Eastern and Oriental Express; \$7

Hoofer Ski Resale

It's the big one. Incredible deals. A very hot event for cold-weather sports enthusiasts! Call 262-1630 for details.

Dropoff: December 4 and 5

Bring in your used ski equipment and clothing for resale.

Resale: December 6 and 7

Bring yourself in to buy new and used ski goods at great prices.

Lectures

November 10: Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party. (Tickets: November 5.)

December 2: Author Kurt Vonnegut. (Tickets: November 24.)

One free ticket per person with Union Member ID at Union Theater Box Office, 262-2201.

Lectures begin at 7:30 p.m., Union Theater, Memorial Union.

Tudor Tickets Still Available!

At press time, tickets were still available for the 64th annual Tudor Dinners, December 3-7 and 9-10. Enjoy Tudor England pageantry featuring a lavish dinner menu and the Philharmonic Chorus of Madison. Tickets are \$30 each plus handling. Some dates may be sold-out. Tuesday and Thursday nights tend to have the most openings. Call 262-9909 to place your order today.

The Union's permanent collection and the students behind it.

On the walls, down the hallways, in gathering spots, meeting rooms and offices.

Once you begin to take notice, you see it everywhere. Art in the Union. It beckons from every corner and seems to whisper, "Slow down a moment. Take a closer look. This art is here for you."

What you are viewing is one of the largest collections of original Wisconsin art in the state, The Wisconsin Union Art Collection.

The Union collection represents nearly 70 years of acquisitions featuring over 1,000 works by more than 600 artists. Some of the works are by artists of significant renown. With a keen eye and a meandering spirit, you'll find pieces by Diego Rivera, Stuart Davis, Santos Zingale, Robert Burkert, Aaron F. and Warrington Colescott.

Beyond the works themselves, the collection reflects a cornerstone philosophy of the Union. Porter Butts, the first director of the Wisconsin Union, believed that “only full living induced full learning.” Art, like a good conversation on the Terrace, should be incorporated into the bloom of daily life, not “tucked-away” for the occasional, mandated museum visit. The Union, with its bustle of activity and ever-observant students, provides the perfect backdrop for this informal experience with art.

Appropriately, students are the voice behind the works in the collection. Student volunteers of the Wisconsin Union Directorate (WUD) Art committee maintain and display the collection with the help of two student gallery assistants. Some pieces have been acquired from private art collections or donated by the artist. Most of the collection, however, comes from purchase

awards funded through gifts from alumni and friends.

Many works are purchased from the annual Student Show. Now in its 70th year, the Student Show is a competitive, juried exhibition of works by UW-Madison students. Hundreds of students compete to be included in the annual spring exhibit. Prominent mem-

bers of the art community judge the entries and recommend awards. Final purchase award decisions remain with the WUD students. It is a thrilling learning experience for them.

On the other side of the gallery door are the student artists who enter

their works in the show. Graduate student Adrienne Herman received one of four purchase awards from the 1997 Student Show. Herman, now teaching printmaking at the Kansas City Art Institute, underscores the importance of the Union collection. "I think it's valuable to have students, particularly non-art students, exposed to art on a day-to-day basis—for art to be a part of their everyday world beyond museums."

The Union collection is as varied as the students who roam the corridors here. Murals, two and three-dimensional works, large, small and in every medium imaginable. The works reflect a collective but varied voice of the student throughout the years. Students making art, judging art, selecting art, seeing art and reacting to it. At the Union, art is an integral part of the daily life of all students, not just art students. It is a basic value in the educational experience, here, waiting for anyone to discover.

“I think it’s valuable to have students, particularly non-art students, exposed to art on a day-to-day basis — for art to be a part of their world beyond museums.”



WUD student Art Committee Director Adelia Bussey stands near a piece from the Union's permanent art collection.

The Art Committee

Adelia Bussey, a senior majoring in journalism and art history, is the director of this year's WUD Art Committee, a group of 30 student volunteers. Her goal: to educate the community (including herself and the committee) about art, to involve all students in the process, to develop art events, gain exposure to art, meet artists and bring new pieces into the collection. Bussey adds, "We intend to provide culturally-diverse exhibitions and to encourage students of all cultural and educational backgrounds to join the committee."

Beyond the Union collection and the annual Student Show, students gain experience in these areas:

- select, develop and install monthly exhibits in the Union art galleries
- host opening gallery receptions
- tie-in to national events like A Day Without Art on World AIDS Day
- plan gallery talks and lectures
- curate an annual show

Questions? Call us!

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Games Room	MU 262-1330
	US 263-2514
Hoofers	262-1630

Information Desk/Hotels	MU 265-3000
	US 263-2600
Internet	http://www.wisc.edu/union
Membership	262-2263
Mini Courses	262-3156
Theater Box Office	262-2201

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How I Spent My Winter Break.

At first glance, Cindy Ryals, a senior majoring in zoology with business certification, would seem a pretty typical student. She's very busy; 15 credits this semester and working part-time in a school lab to help finance her education. She has hopes and dreams for a good future and she is focused on attaining her goals. It would be enough to make any parent proud.

But there's more. Ryals is also the director of the 30 student volunteers who comprise Alternative Breaks, a Wisconsin Union Directorate committee now in its eighth year. Their mission: to map out student volunteer opportunities with non-profit organizations

"The opportunity to work with people who are usually ignored is something I'll never forget."

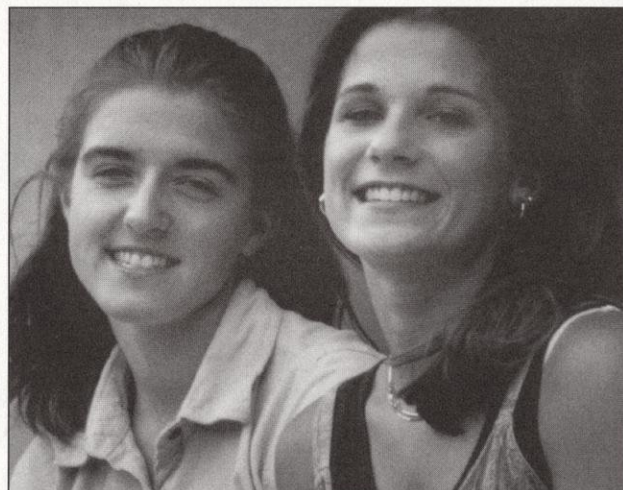
in culturally and economically diverse communities throughout the U.S. This year, students will plan 20 trips to accommodate 220 students who choose to spend their school breaks serving food to the homeless at Martha's Table Soup Kitchen in Washington D.C., building homes with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans or perhaps working with AIDS patients for Openhand Chicago.

Last year, Ryals' Alternative Breaks trip took her to Washington D.C. to live in a homeless center. By day, the students either worked in a community kitchen to feed the homeless or at the children's center playing with kids who loved the attention. By night, the students made what Ryals called "van runs" through the city to hand out blankets and hot soup to the homeless in the parks. When snow threatened, there was a heightened sense of urgency for all involved.

What is it like, living in a homeless center? Ryals answers with the facts first. "Well, there are big rats outside and roaches inside. There is also distrust; people guard their few possessions in small lockers.

"But mostly, it was exciting and exhausting. These are incredible people. They have such hope. They gave me their time and we had long talks together. They let me into their lives and allowed me an insider's perspective. The opportunity to work with people who are usually ignored is something I'll never forget."

You won't find university staff leading these trips. Students are given complete charge and responsibility. Each must cover the cost of transportation, housing, meals and a donation to the site visited. The Union provides the resources to meet and organize, but the students put the trips in motion. What they come away with is leadership skills that can't be obtained by



Alternative Breaks participants senior Cindy Ryals (left) and freshman Kelly Kunz lived and worked in a Washington D.C. homeless shelter during their winter break last year.

sitting in a classroom plus a whole new take on the concept of community. As Ryals puts it, "You bond with the other students on the trip. At the same time, you open your eyes to a new community outside of the familiar and comfortable campus community. It challenges you to think and learn and communicate in a new way."

Students react to the Alternative Breaks experience

"...I learned that in order to achieve, people must work together on any obstacles which they face — be it finding a restaurant to eat at or addressing the issue of discrimination in lending practices." — *William J. Hart, senior, soil science*

"My Alternative Break was one of the most educational, thought-provoking, and worthwhile events of my college career...I saw firsthand many of the poverty-related problems I study in the classroom, including insufficient housing and health care." — *Jill Lucht, sophomore, rural sociology and political science*

"The means by which change can be made are much closer at hand than I ever would have imagined. I learned there are infinite ways I could use resources to help others." — *Ian Denson, senior, economics*

The Charles Meissner Memorial Fund

The Alternative Breaks students, in addition to giving generously of their time and energy, must also come up with the dollars to cover things like transportation and meals. Of course, this is no luxury vacation. Costs are kept to a bare minimum. Still, the trip charge can present a hardship for some students and limit participation. Fortunately, the Charles Meissner Memorial Fund has been established to provide partial and full scholarships for students who couldn't participate without financial assistance.

The Meissner Memorial Fund was established in 1996 by the family and friends of Charles Meissner, a trustee of the Memorial Union Building Association who, during his student days at UW-Madison, served as Wisconsin Union Directorate vice-president.

Meissner, who went on to become the assistant secretary for international economic policy at the United States Commerce Department, died in the plane crash that killed Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and 32 others in Bosnia on April 3, 1996.

From his days as a student volunteer to his years as trustee, Meissner always remained committed to the Union, contributing generously of both his ideas and his time. The Meissner scholarships are an on-going memorial that promote and increase the kind of service to others that Charles Meissner exemplified. They open wide the door for all students to participate in Alternative Breaks; to build new relationships and better understand the diversity found in the United States today, while at the same time, learning the importance of community service.

Volunteerism Fortified.

The Morgridge Center for Community Service.

"I think a king or queen must live there," said the small child with wide-eyed gaze and ice cream cone in hand. "Is it really a castle?"

The answer is yes, but not your run-of-the-mill castle. You'll find no royalty here. Just students willing to serve. A castle built by the people and for the people. Kind of an inverted model of the storybook version.

The castle is the Old Red Gym, our neighbor just to the east of Memorial Union. The Red Gym is undergoing a major renovation and will open in the fall of 1998. Among other programs, it will house the Morgridge Center for Community Service, a part of the Wisconsin Union that links students to community service opportunities.

The Center's goals are three-fold: to act as a clearinghouse to match students to volunteer openings; to enable university faculty to easily integrate service opportunities into their curriculum; and to foster student leadership through special public service events.

One such event, A Day of Caring, was held this fall. On a beautiful September afternoon, 330 students, mostly freshmen, volunteered to help at 21 different sites in the Madison area. They gave time, sweat and a smile to those in need.

There are two fairy godparents in this story (still, no royalty). Tashia and John Morgridge provided the lead gift for the Red Gym renovation project and an additional \$2.5 million to finance the Morgridge Center for Community Service. The couple, both UW Madison alums (Class of 1955), are ardent supporters of higher education and public service nationwide.

Here in Madison, the Wisconsin Union has long served as the bridge between the campus community and volunteerism. The

Morgridge Center is an outgrowth of the Wisconsin Union Volunteer Services Office established in the 60s and continuing today. Program Director Susan Vande Hei estimates 5,000 students use the office annually to investigate ways they might volunteer, to meet a course requirement or simply to fulfill a personal goal. The Morgridge Center for Community Service hopes to expand those numbers and cast the net even further.

5,000 students use the office annually to investigate ways they might volunteer.

Collaboration is the key and it's already reaping results. Vande Hei's voice jumps with enthusiasm and you feel the lurch of an express train set in motion. "It's brought departments together. The Center has fostered a unique and united force on campus and in the greater Madison community: UW Housing, Wisconsin Union Directorate student leaders, University Health Services, the College of Ag and Life Sciences and the School of Education.

"We're involved, too, at the city and state level with the Governor's Volunteer Summit and in planning the 1999 National Service Learning Conference. There's open dialogue now among us all — all in the name of a common goal: to introduce students to community service opportunities."

At the heart of this story is caring, hard work, generous support and a coming together of students, faculty, staff and the community. Indeed, the Morgridge Center's mission is no fairytale, but we do anticipate a very happy ending.

New and Newsy

In the national spotlight...Sports Illustrated recently ranked UW-Madison 15th among the top "jock" schools in the country and singled out our Union Hoofers clubs and its 2,800 members for providing diverse outdoor recreational activities.

Here comes the bride...heading straight for the Union where 80 wedding receptions were hosted between the months of May and September!

Talk before you travel...with the Travel Center advising staff. They have first-hand knowledge of warm-weather destinations like Mexico, Central America, Turkey, Thailand, the Baltics and more. Get inside tips (at no charge) from someone who was already there!

Want to be a secret agent?...Take a Mini Course and learn how! Celebrating 25 years of great classes. Call 262-3156 for you winter Mini Course catalog (available January 2).

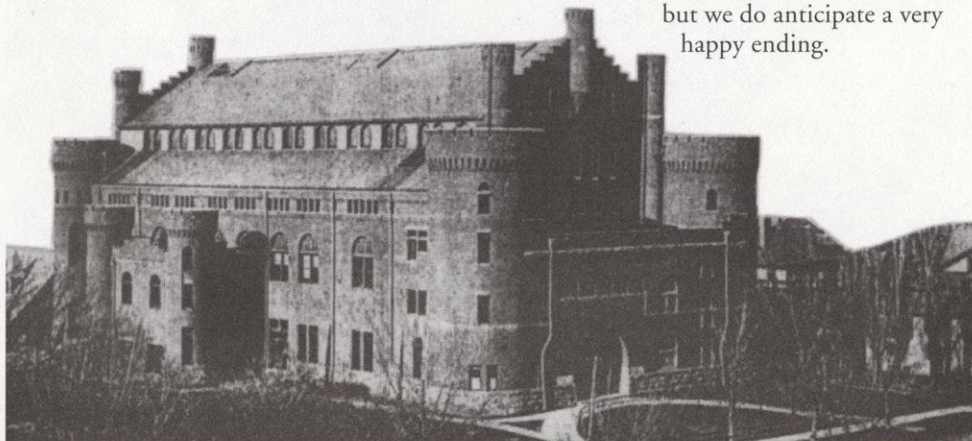
Try these on for size...Outdoor Rentals now rents asymmetrical snowshoes! Call 262-7351.

The winner: Chocolate chip cookie dough...It's the most popular ice cream flavor at the Union where 5,200 ice cream treats are served on average weekly.

The perfect gift...a one-year Union membership. What else says "Madison" like the Union and the Terrace? \$50 or \$30. Call (608) 262-2263.

Thanks to the Union Theater Endowment Fund

More than 3,000 tickets were issued last year to students at a substantial savings (50% off subscriptions and \$10 off single tickets) to enjoy Union Theater Concert, Performance, Travel Series and other special events sponsored by Wisconsin Union Directorate. Now in its 13th year, the fund continues to subsidize the cost of tickets for UW-Madison students and build student audience participation. Generous donor support and individual contributions are entirely at the heart of this fund, which was created by the Memorial Union Building Association and which receives no university, student fee or other institutional support.



A renovated Red Gym, hailed as the gateway to the university, reopens next fall to house student services including the Union's Morgridge Center for Community Services.