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May 3, 1995

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Watch Out Beavis and Butthead

IWU Senior Headed to MTV Internship in New York

Editor's Note: Jason Ryan of Plainfield, Ill., will work this summer as an intern at MTV, the cable television network headquartered in New York. Ryan, a graduate of Plainfield High School, is the son of Roy and Loretta Ryan of 118 N. Sunshine Circle, Plainfield.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Beavis and Butthead, MTV's irrepressible cartoon characters, might gain a co-worker this summer, when an Illinois Wesleyan senior has an internship at the New York City-based music television network.

Jason Ryan--a risk management major from Plainfield, Ill., who will receive his IWU bachelor's degree in August--will arrive in New York City May 28 for his internship, which runs to Aug. 10.

"I can work on any MTV show I want," Ryan explained. "I might work on sports one week and then switch to the Beavis and Butthead show next. Or, I've been told I can work on one show for the whole summer. There also might be the option of paid employment after my internship. In fact, my boss this summer at MTV started as an intern."

While Ryan will wait until the reports for work at MTV to decide what shows he wants to work on, comedy is an option.

"I'm interested in comedy," he said. "I'm writing a comedy routine. While I'm in New York, I want to check out the comedy clubs."

His MTV duties will range from assisting producers and editing videotape, to working on sets and handling clerical chores.

Ryan opted for an MTV internship because of the range of experiences it will provide and its networking possibilities.

"It will give me the chance to meet people from all aspects of the entertainment industry."

Ryan is attracted to the entertainment industry as a career because of its creativity and fast pace, noting that he is not the type to sit behind a desk from

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9 a.m. to 5 p.m. While a cousin works in New York City as an actor (he has appeared on the soap opera "All My Children" and has done commercial for Tylenol, the pain reliever), Ryan is eyeing a career in the entertainment industry from the business perspective.

New York's cultural diversity also helped lure Ryan to the Big Apple. "There are people in New York from all over the world," he said. "You can walk down the street and 90 percent of the people don't speak English."

Ryan will work in downtown Manhattan in the Viacom Building, where MTV occupies 12 floors. He will live on the Fordham University campus, a short walk from Central Park and about 10 blocks from MTV's headquarters.

Ryan went to New York City during IWU's spring break in March to interview for internships at MTV, the daytime TV soap operas "As the World Turns" and "One Life to Live," and King World Productions, which syndicates "American Journal" and "Inside Edition."

At King World Productions, he briefly met former NBC and CBS television newscaster Deborah Norville, but didn't realize it. "I couldn't remember her name," Ryan said, "but I knew she looked familiar and had been on the news in Chicago."

Ryan interviewed with MTV, wearing a dapper new suit. While the interview went well, Ryan recalled that at the end, he was told: "You look nice, but don't wear something like that here again." The dress code at MTV during the summer veers more toward shorts and T-shirts.

MTV Networks, a division of Viacom Inc., owns and operates three cable television programming networks--MTV: Music Television, Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite, and VH-1.

His welcome to New York City in March was getting charged \$40 for a \$20 cab fare from LaGuardia Airport into Manhattan. In addition to scoping out possible internships during his six-day trip to the Big Apple, Ryan saw the Broadway shows "Miss Saigon" and "Grease," (starring Brooke Shields and Adrian Zmed); discovered that the Carnegie Deli's famous mammoth sandwiches run to \$16; and spent some time at hot spots like the "Hard Rock

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Cafe" and "Planet Hollywood."

Ryan and five other IWU students will be working on internships this summer under a program operated by Fordham University, which gives students the chance to live, learn, and work in New York City. The program helps students jump-start their careers, gain leadership experience, and receive practical, hands-on education. Internships in the theatre/arts, business/finance, communications/media, international relations, and urban policy are arranged by Fordham University faculty and administrators. A course on New York City supplements the internship experience and features field trips to many city landmarks and cultural programs.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,800 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. In recent years, the university's endowment has grown to more than \$92 million; a \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$24 million science building will open in 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *U.S. News* ranks IWU the second most efficient national liberal arts college--a key gauge of the campus' quality academic program and relatively reasonable cost. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. IWU's 1994 freshman class scored an average 27.9 on the ACT exam, compared to the national average of 20.7.