



Scientists excite photons to make laser, and excite nerds everywhere...Stock in tissues spikes...Star Wars Episode VII stunt doubles quit

## Top 10 Things I Learned From The Backroom

by Jeremy "Mr. Sunshine" Loucks ~ Daily Bull

Last week, the Bull ran an article about the Backroom Multi-Entertainment business, formerly downtown. The article talked about how it had closed down (got seized by police!) and all the things inside were sold off to various people and community groups. What few people know is that this brave reporter actually dared to work at that "business" for a month, less than a year before it was shut down. While we at Tech love to make fun of the store, very few knew the level of zaniness that would take place there. Here's my top 10 things I learned from the store:

- If you worked there, everyone thought you either smoked or sold pot. I had three people ask to buy or try to sell me pot my first day there!
- Nobody ever bought the romance books. No, not even the little old ladies that would come in with bags of books to exchange would buy any of them. The second floor was about half normal books and half harlequin romances that would make a hooker blush.
- The Backroom had a concessions area at one time, on the second floor. A ton of supplies were still there. Who wouldn't want a snack stand when you're suffering from the munchies?
- People who buy drug testing and body cleansing supplies often didn't realize that it would take more than FIVE OR SIX HOURS to remove/test for toxins. And calling in asking if the store carries something that can clean you out within an hour is...\*facepalm\*
- Houghton LOVES incense. There must be an enclave of Buddhist monks or something, because that stuff flew off the shelves. That, or everyone has really nasty bathroom problems.
- If you're late on payments for even a small order, representatives from some companies will call you until you either pay, or block their number. This was especially funny because of one British guy that I started having actual conversations with while pretending my boss was

see Revolver on back

## How to Camp in the UP

by Abigail Skibowski ~ Daily Bull

Camping is one of those things that many people pick up on when they come to the UP, as it's a great way to get acquainted with mother nature. I have camped many times since moving up here and I have learned quite a few things that are worth sharing. Some of these things come from personal experience or an experience of a close friend.

My first tip is to check the weather. If the forecast says "light rain throughout the evening," it really means torrential downpour the entire night. Experiencing this while sleeping on a dune is even worse. SAND EVERYWHERE. Not even a high quality rain-fly can save you from the storm. Everything you own will be soggy, including the hot dogs that you forgot to put away. This leads me to my next point.

Put away your food. Soggy buns are no fun in the morning. Also, the whole thing where animals might come and snoop around through your food, yeah, that's true. I've only encountered some small critters but there are other, much larger, animals that reside throughout the Keweenaw... some of which you do not want to encounter.

Another thing to remember is to bring enough clothing for a snowpocalypse. It does get quite chilly. By "quite chilly," I mean you will literally freeze your butt off. I have a high quality sleeping bag but when it gets really dark and the fire goes out, a high quality sleeping bag might not be enough. Of course, some people are less of a pansy than I am so this point can be disregarded.

see Candlestick on back

Normally, if given the choice between doing something and doing nothing, I'll do nothing. But I will do something if it helps someone else do nothing. I'd work all night if that meant that nothing got done.

--Ron Swanson (Parks and Recreation)

## Pic o' the Day: What does the fox-corgi-deer say?



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from Revolver on front

out of the store. Coming up with creative reasons to BS him became an art form, especially when the boss was yelling at someone elsewhere in the place.

- Only two kinds of people went up to the infamous third floor: People less than 25, and old, balding white guys in their 50s. The young folks either wanted something kinky, or they went up the creaking stairs as a right of passage, braving the incredibly exotic gauntlet of porn and porn accessories. The older folks seemed to not know that the internet, and the vast amounts of free nudity on it, existed; they also still owned VCRs. It's funny in a very sad way.
- There is an elevator in the building that goes to every floor. Wait, really? Yep, and it's incredibly scary.
- If you went in the store and it smelled like fecal matter, it was because the owner would let his dog run free; this led to some very creative places to find its "deposits," often on merchandise. That puddle you walked through in the blacklight room? Nobody was mopping there.
- Finally, about the owner: 55% sleazy, 45% genius, 100% crazy. He didn't pay employees in money. Nope, you got store credit, so if you wanted 300 books, a bunch of posters, porn, or all the smoking supplies you'd (n)ever need, he had a great deal for you. Also, aliens. And conspiracies, especially with government agencies spying and doing mind-control. Apparently, every Biblical story where people talked to God was actually them doing drugs, as he told it. And he was descended from kings and great people in history, including a few Roman deities. Yep, truly a winner.

The thing is, be very, very glad that the Backroom has shuttered its doors. While it did have a great supply of cheap books, and the biggest collection of midget porn within a few hundred miles, the place was even sketchier than its reputation, and that takes some doing.

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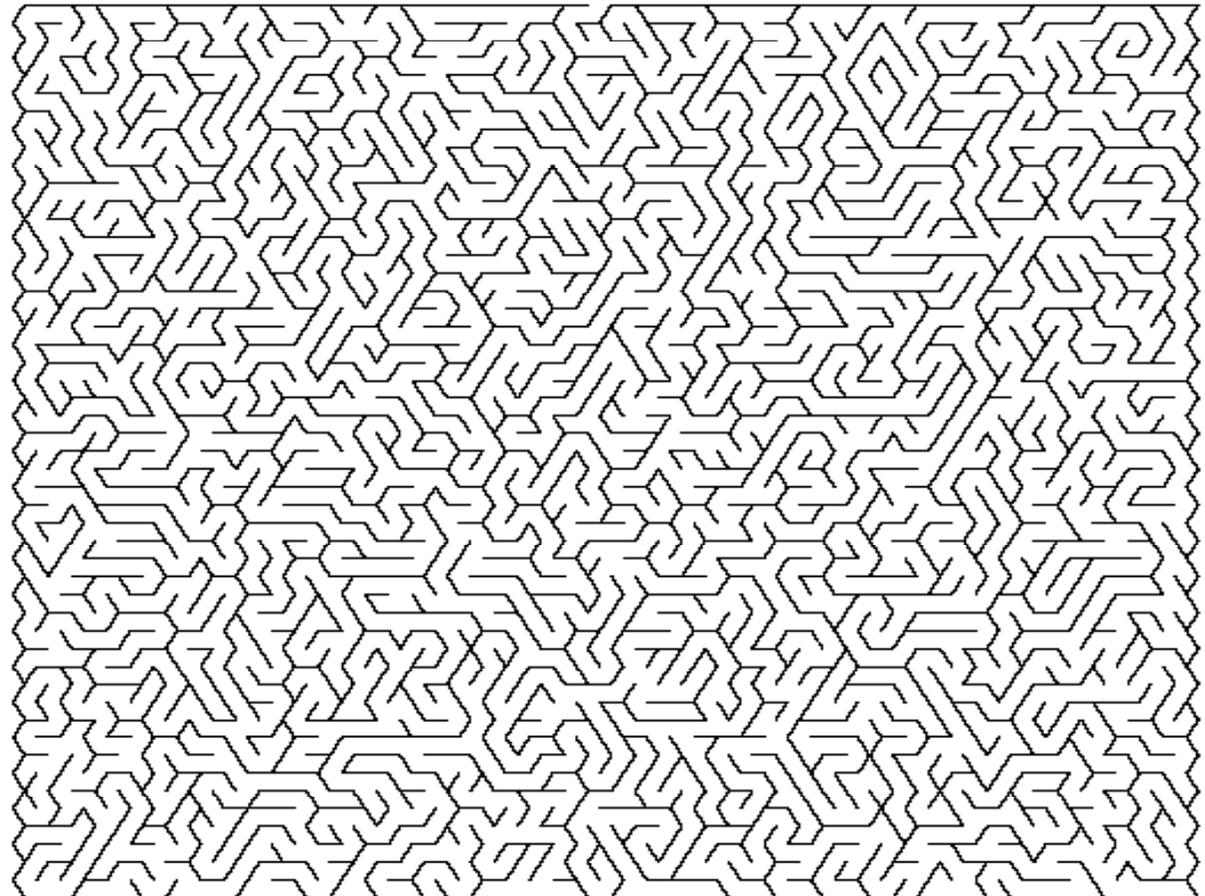
from Candlestick on front

On a side tip, I do find that if you go camping before the first frost, extra clothing is a good idea to keep away the bugs. No amount of bug-spray can keep you safe in the middle of the woods. You will probably look like you have a bad skin condition and you'll walk around itching all day. Not attractive.

My final tip is please do not drink any water that comes from the ground. I know that the water up here is a lot cleaner than some other places, but still. You are not Bear Grylls. Unless you want to be squatting over a hole all day, steer clear. This also goes for random berries that you may find. Unless you are a Forestry major and you know what you're talking about, don't put unknown substances in your mouth because it sounded like a good idea and they looked pretty.

So, do take advantage of everything the beautiful Keweenaw has to offer but remember to bring your common sense and your bug spray.

## Maize Craze



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