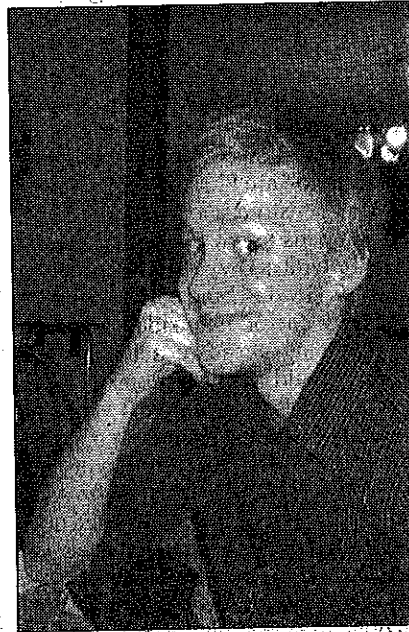


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Jonathan (Jon) Francis Lacina



Jonathan (Jon) Francis Lacina, 21, of Grinnell, died on Jan. 22 or 23, 2010, at Iowa State University in Ames.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell at 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 23, and a public lunch reception with the family will occur at St. Mary's Religious Education Center in Grinnell, beginning at 11:30 a.m. on the same day. There will be no graveside service. There will also be a tree planting in Jon's memory near the College of Design at Iowa State University at noon on April 22.

Memorials may be made to the Jon Lacina Arts Fund at the Grinnell Area Arts Council, P.O. Box 657, Grinnell, IA 50112.

Jon was born on Sept. 30, 1998, in Grinnell and grew up on the family farm just north of Grinnell. He graduated from Grinnell High School in 2007. Jon maintained a passion for art, music, nature, Legos, video games and great food throughout his life. He was in his third year at Iowa State University, studying graphic design. His family, friends and classmates knew him as a quiet and sensible artist and musician, with a pleasant wit and an easy smile.

Jon is survived by his parents, Tom and Alesia Lacina of Grinnell; his brother, Joe Lacina of Grinnell and Philadelphia; and his grandparents, Jeri and LaVerne Dickey and Floyd Lacina of Grinnell.

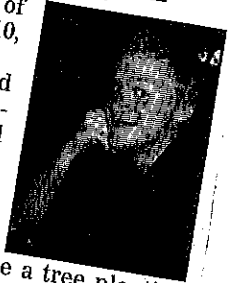
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A memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell at 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 23, and a public lunch reception with the family will occur at the Elks Club, 720 3rd Avenue, in Grinnell, beginning at 11:30 a.m. on the same day. There will be no graveside service. There will be in Jon's memory near the College of Design at Iowa State University at noon on April 22. Memorials may be made to the Jon Lacina Arts Fund at the Grinnell Area Arts Council, P.O. Box 657, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Jon was born on Sept. 30, 1988, in Grinnell and grew up on the family farm just north of Grinnell. He graduated from Grinnell Senior High School in 2007. Jon maintained a passion for art, music, nature, Legos, video games and great food throughout his life. He was in his third year at Iowa State University, studying graphic design. His family, friends and classmates knew him as a quiet and sensible artist and musician, with a pleasant wit and an easy smile.

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PCCR April 21, 2010

Lacina Jonathan Francis

G-14-R 4-19-10

Search for missing Grinnellian ends in tragic discovery

The search for Jonathan Lacina, the Iowa State student from Grinnell who had not been seen since the evening of Jan. 22, came to a close Wednesday, April 14, when an ISU police officer discovered Lacina's remains in a little-used building about a mile from the Ames central campus. The remains were positively identified the next day as Lacina's during an autopsy by the State Medical Examiner. A memorial service will be held for Lacina on Friday, April 23, in Grinnell, and a tree will be planted in his memory Thursday, April 22, on the ISU campus. Lacina's family issued a statement when the remains were identified; reprinted at the end of this article.

A memorial service for Lacina will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 23, at St. Mary's Catholic Church with a luncheon across the street in the St. Mary's Religious Education Center scheduled for 11:30 a.m.

A tree will be planted Thursday, April 22, at noon on the north side of the King Pavilion on the ISU campus in memory of Lacina. The Lacina family has told ISU they consider the tree planting a memorial service, recognizing that not everyone at ISU can attend the Friday service, and Lacina's parents and brother plan to attend the planting ceremony. Luis Razo Gutierrez, dean of the ISU College of Design in which Lacina was studying, will speak at the tree planting, and the Design Council and Graphic Design Student Association will plant a Red Oak tree (*Quercus rubra*).

"We never stopped searching," said ISU Police Chief Jerry Stewart. "It occurred on a daily basis, on a per-shift basis." Stewart described a search which began Jan. 30 when Lacina was

reported missing and included ISU police, Ames police, Story County deputies, trained search teams for various environments and building managers and operators from the City of Ames and ISU who searched a four-mile square on foot, on horseback, by car, by helicopter, by fixed-wing aircraft, with dogs and with teams of divers.

Stewart explained that the primary search area was a four-square-mile area with the ISU central campus at the center. The primary search area included everything from high-rise residential halls to rural areas. Stewart noted, with property managers in charge of complex or outlying property asked to search their property. Stewart goes on to explain that rechecking is a routine search protocol since teams can tire and conditions for a search like heavy snow cover can exhaust searchers.

ISU Officer Nick Grossman was rechecking property outside the primary search area the evening of April 14 when he entered a small boiler room attached to a brick pavilion on the former dairy farm property about a mile southwest of central campus nearly to Hwy 30 and found Lacina's remains. Stewart remembers the first time the former dairy farm was searched in early February. "They were battling waist-deep snow," Stewart says, recalling he was concerned about the physical safety of searchers struggling under those conditions. The farm road into the former dairy farm was not plowed, and the south side of the build-

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ing where the entrance to the abandoned boiler room is located was literally inaccessible, Stewart says.

The boiler room where Lacina's remains were found, Stewart notes, is a very small room without an interior entrance to the rest of the building. The building, a brick pavilion originally built as a classroom for dairy students, is now used for storage, and people have been in and out of the building since the snow melted, Stewart says. He explains that anyone entering the classroom space, designed to seat dairy science students around a simple show ring into which cattle could be brought, would think the west wall of the classroom was also the west wall of the building. The existence of the abandoned boiler room was not obvious from any point except outside and away from the main entrance.

The floor of the boiler room is dirt and below the level of surrounding ground, and the space can only be reached by outside steps which were completely covered by snow when searchers first passed by. Significant snow arrived after Jan. 22, the last day on which Lacina was seen, and before searchers tried to look, Stewart adds, obscuring both the exterior stairs and window wells from the view of on-foot searchers and aircraft which overflew the site several times. The snow had to melt before the entrance could be seen from outside.

"We are awaiting lab results from the State Medical Examiner's Office," Stewart says when asked if the boiler room provided information about why Lacina entered the space. "It is possible he was simply seeking refuge from the cold. While foul play cannot yet be excluded at this time, it is very possible this was an accident." Stewart points out that the abandoned boiler room was unheated, adding that searchers knew they might encounter the effects of hypothermia if the person they sought had been in an unheated area too long.

Additional information from the Medical Examiner and the ISU investigation could take "days or weeks," Stewart cautions.