

Traveling prophet assails 'wayward' students

Listeners criticize preacher's convictions as vague

By B.J. Thomsen
Of the Emerald

"Being a prophet of God is not fun," according to Michael Peter Woroniecki, who describes himself as being offensive and crude because he has to break through to college students who he says are wasting their time in school.

"I didn't choose this life. I don't get off on telling you the truth. I wake up every morning and wish I was dead," he told a

crowd of students gathered around the free speech mound at the corner of 13th Avenue

changed. You don't like to hear it. I don't like to say it," he added.

'Absolute truth remains unchanged. You don't like to hear it. I don't like to say it.'

— Michael Peter Woroniecki

and University Street on Monday.

"Absolute truth remains un-

changed. You don't like to hear it. I don't like to say it," he added. Woroniecki, his wife, Leslie, and their four children, Sarah, Faith, Mercy and Abraham, who live in Grand Rapids, Mich., travel to campuses around the country preaching the "truth" to college students on a wayward path to the "lake of fire" in hell.

"You're working for a world that's going to end, that's going to burn," he told the crowd, which fluctuated in size throughout the day. "You're not here to think, people. You're here to follow."

Debate was vigorous and usually one-sided throughout the day as spectators asked questions of the self-proclaimed prophet and ex-football player from Central Michigan University.

Woroniecki and his wife met at CMU while he was playing football and she was a cheerleader.

Shan Anderson, a University freshman majoring in political science, appeared at the gathering dressed like Woroniecki's twin in a coverall jumpsuit armed with a large wooden cross and a Bible. Anderson stood next to Woroniecki on the mound to the bemusement of the crowd, waiting his turn to speak but eventually gave up and left.

"He's telling us to change, but he doesn't tell us how," Anderson said. "I was trying to get on his level by dressing like him."

"He (Woroniecki) is going about it all wrong," said Keith Keana, a freshman pre-med major. "They want to hear what he has to say but he won't answer basic questions. He just



Photo by John Giustina

Michael Peter Woroniecki (right), a self-proclaimed prophet of God, preaches his ideas to passersby on campus Monday. Mocking his style is Shan Anderson, a freshman political science major.

condemns."

"God doesn't speak through people who condemn," said Jeff Heiman, one of Woroniecki's most vocal challengers. "Jesus

The Woronieckis do not claim affiliation with any church, according to Leslie Woroniecki. Churches are a system invented by man and not by Jesus Christ,

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— Keith Keana

didn't condemn. Moses didn't condemn. Mohammed didn't condemn; even the Rajneesh didn't condemn," he told the crowd.

she said. "America is so polluted with churches, that's why everyone here thinks they're saved," she added.



Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

Woroniecki takes a break from preaching Monday and adopts a prayerful attitude as he looks heavenward.

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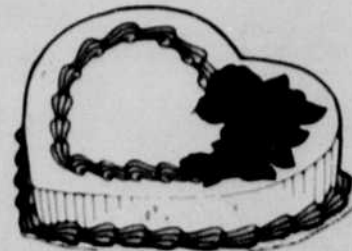


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