

'Tis the season to be jolly



Photo by Patricia Larsen

As the holiday season creeps near, take a moment and enjoy your surroundings. Houses around Stevens Point continue the tradition of hanging lights that make the holiday season glow.

Faculty and student senates take sides on University Foundation

By Andrew Bloeser
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

The private organization which seeks contributions to fund scholarships at UW-Stevens Point finds itself in serious financial straights, needing a monetary infusion to stay afloat.

Following financial losses of \$2.5 million, the University Foundation has now looked to the university to provide that infusion.

"The foundation is the fundraising arm of the university that secures funds for student scholarships and support to academic departments that gives the university a margin of excellence above what is provided by state support and student tuition," said Assistant Chancellor Greg Diemer, of the Business and Budget Affairs Committee. "Right now, the foundation needs

resources to pay for its administrative operations if it is to continue to provide that margin of excellence."

The question now remains whether the university will opt to provide the requested assistance, in effect, allocating funds to the foundation's operating budget.

The Faculty Senate and Student Government Association (SGA) emerged divided in proposing an answer to that question, passing opposing resolutions at their respective meetings last week.

The matter at hand centered upon the allocation of \$62,000 in general purpose revenue (GPR) requested by the foundation to fund its operating expenses. Typically, GPR funding serves to supplement academic units on campus by providing financial resources for such uses as faculty research and classroom equip-

ment. However, as its name implies, the university can allocate general purpose revenue for wide variety uses, including support towards the foundation's operating budget.

Faculty and student representatives produced clear positions on the proposal to allocate GPR funding to the foundation, evidenced by the unanimous vote from the faculty senate to deny allocation and the 16-1-1 vote favoring the allocation that emerged from the SGA senate.

The request for GPR funding by the University Foundation came on the heels of a two-year period in which the organization experienced severe financial losses that undermined its mission as the fundraising arm of the university. Due to a number of fac-

See University Foundation, page 2

Parents turn up pressure on police in missing students' cases

By Scott Cattelino
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Relatives of the four college-age adults that have been missing since late October recently got together in the Twin Cities to urge police to step up their investigation and search efforts.

All four students disappeared within 170 miles of each other and still remain missing. "Seems like this stuff's all got to be connected somehow," said Brian Guimond, the father of 20-year-old St. John's student Josh Guimond. Josh Guimond has been missing since Nov. 9.

Family members are concerned that authorities would have been quicker to respond to the cases if those missing were a few years younger. Unlike cases involving missing children, most police departments wait a few days before starting an investiga-

tion because many missing adults return home on their own.

Mancel Mitchell Jr., acting commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, said that officials were doing the best they could but it would never be enough for the families. "The avalanche of casework that comes into these agencies necessitates some type of prioritization," Mitchell said.

The family of Chris Jenkins, a 21-year-old University of Minnesota student missing since Halloween, said that due to the lack of police initiative the families took on the

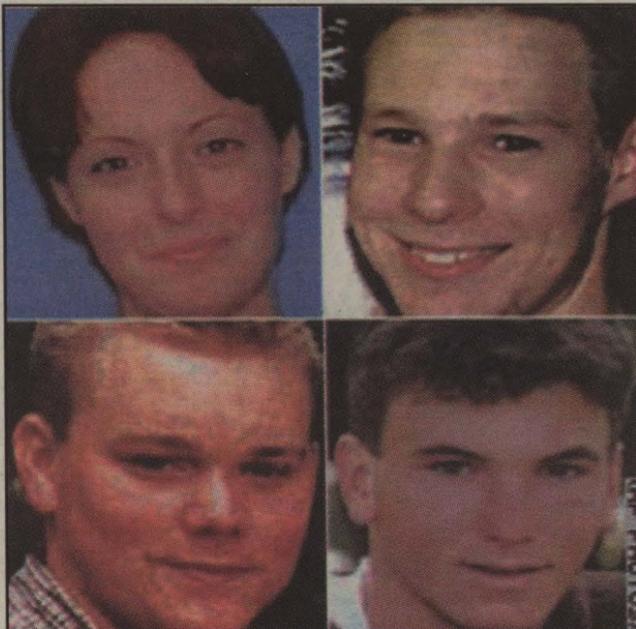


Photo by Patricia Larson

Missing students: Erika Marie Dalquist, top left; Josh Guimond, top right; Christopher Jenkins, bottom left; Micheal J. Noll, bottom right.

brunt of the responsibilities. Searches for Jenkins have continued in the Minneapolis area up

until this week. Not only were they left to deal with the fear of losing their children, but had to organize search crews and hire private investigators themselves.

"I think it's painfully evident these are kids," said Jenkins' mother, Jan. "This has got to be the most gut-wrenching, terrifying situation parents could find themselves in."

New evidence has come to light in the case involving Erika Dalquist a 21-year-old missing from Brainerd, Minn. since Oct.

30. After reviewing evidence, both the police and FBI announced that they see no connection to the other cases. As of late November, police have gathered evidence that has led them to believe Dalquist was murdered.

Eau Claire student Michael Noll has been missing since Nov. 6, when he was last seen leaving a bar after his 22nd birthday. Eau Claire police do not suspect foul play or a connection to the other cases. Recent evidence has led officials to a steep bank near the Chippewa River where dogs are believed to have picked up Noll's scent. Police have called off the search as of Nov. 20.

Although there are aspects of each case that lean toward a connection, collaborating officials in Minnesota and Wisconsin are downplaying the probability of any link to the four

Area business owners to address graduates at UWSP

Mid-year graduates have the opportunity to listen to a success story that will inspire students to strive for their dreams.

The founders of Renaissance Learning, Inc., of Wisconsin Rapids will address the 550 mid-year graduates and their families at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, at UWSP.

Terry and Judi Paul, founders and owners of the international educational software company, will speak at both ceremonies in Quandt Field house.

Associate degrees and baccalaureate degrees in the College of Letters and Science will be awarded at the 10 a.m. event, and master's degrees and baccalaureate degrees in the Colleges of Professional Studies, Fine Arts and Communication and Natural Resources will be given at the 1

University Foundation

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tors, including the aggressive investment strategies employed by Baird, the organization's former asset manager, the foundation incurred losses of \$2.5 million dollars over the past biennium, including investment losses of \$1.68 million in the past year alone. The losses, which resulted mainly from an era of unprecedented devaluation in the stock market, served to virtually deplete the foundation's operating budget, leaving the existence of the organization in jeopardy.

Paradoxically, these financial losses occurred during the same two-year period in which the organization raised record levels of contributions, receiving \$2.4 million in funds intended for scholarships and program support. Despite its success in generating funds for the benefit of the university's mission, the University Foundation itself has remained in precarious situation, as restrictions stipulating the spending of contributions prevent their use toward covering operating costs.

In response to this situation, Chancellor Thomas George made the decision to allocate \$395,000 to provide for one-time university support to the foundation, creating a projected \$80,000 surplus for the 2003 fiscal year. Still, budgetary difficulties lie ahead for the foundation, making GPR funding from the university a necessary for the organization to continue to function.

The faculty senate cited the budget cuts projected for UWSP

p.m. ceremony.

The programs will open with the national anthem sung by senior music education major Katie Doran, 1240 Locker Road, Mosinee, who will also lead the singing of the alma mater. UWSP's ROTC color guard will present the flags and Provost Virginia Helm will welcome the participants and recognize honor students and award winners. Chancellor Tom George will introduce the speakers and give the charge to graduates. Deans from their respective colleges will present diplomas.

Brant Bergeron, director of Alumni and University Relations, will give the charge to the alumni. Music will be provided by the UWSP Commencement Band under the direction of Scott Teeple. Professors Dan Dieterich and Bob Bell will introduce each candidate for graduation.

In 1986, the Pauls founded Renaissance Learning in the basement of their home in Port Edwards. Judi, a full-time mother of four, was concerned that her children were not reading enough

is a leading provider of reading, mathematics and writing software for 60,000 schools, more than 50 percent of the K-12 schools in the United States. The company employs 1,000 people



Terry and Judi Paul are featured speakers at this year's graduation ceremony.

books. She invented a system on paper that became the Accelerated Reader software program, Renaissance Learning's leading product.

Today Renaissance Learning

worldwide at its headquarters in Rapids with five additional offices in the United States and four offices outside the United States in Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and India.

This year Renaissance Learning was listed as one of America's 200 Best Small Companies by Forbes and as one of the 100 fastest growing technology companies by Business 2.0. Its products have received numerous awards including Learning Magazine's Teacher Choice Award, EdPress Distinguished Achievement Award and Technology and Learning's Award of Excellence.

Judi has a degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois where she received this year's College of Education Distinguished Alumni Award. Terry received bachelor's and law degrees, also from the University of Illinois. He has authored one book, has another in the works and has published numerous educational research studies. The Pauls have been business partners for 16 years and have been married for 37 years. They are the parents of four children and grandparents of seven.

in 2003, implicated by a statewide deficit, as the deciding factor in opposing the allocation of \$62,000 for the provision of salary support within the foundation.

"It's bad timing," said Professor Chris Sadler during the faculty senate meeting. "The University Foundation is asking for additional GPR funding when the university is facing substantial budget reductions. It's not that the university doesn't find the foundation's role important, but this might not be a good time to consider such an allocation."

Concerns regarding the allocation of GPR funding away from academic units, especially in the face of impending budget reductions dominated discussion in the faculty senate, as the body unanimously supported the recommendation of the University Affairs Committee to deny faculty approval of the foundation's request.

"Given the existing budget conditions we see ourselves facing in the next biennium, the reaction of the senate was expected," said Assistant Chancellor Greg Diemer of the Business and Budget Affairs Committee, following the meeting.

The SGA, however, has taken the opposite perspective of the faculty, expressing the university's need to invest in the foundation's future. The SGA emphasized the benefit students derive from the University Foundation's capacity to provide scholarships as the principal factor guiding its

position. Further entrenching its stance, the student senate struck down an amendment intending to limit funding to a one-time allocation in passing its recommendation to the Chancellor.

SGA President Beth Ann Richlen, summarized the issue during the SGA Senate meeting last Thursday, stating that an investment in the foundation will ultimately result in a positive return for the university, and thus for students.

Richlen further stated this week that, "Scholarships increase access to the university for a greater number of students. I support [the allocation of GPR funding to the University Foundation] because the foundation provides thousands of dollars for student scholarships. I think that should be a priority given the current budget cuts."

The decision to allocate GPR funding now rests with Chancellor Thomas George, who said earlier this week that he would carefully weigh the resolutions adopted by both the Faculty Senate and Student Government Association and consider the state's budgetary difficulties in his decision.

Larger problems still loom for the foundation, regardless of the Chancellor's decision, however, as the requested \$62,000 allocation will not cover the entirety of its operating costs. The resolution to this matter ultimately rests not on support from UW-Stevens Point, but on the University Foundation itself.

The University Foundation has already undergone crucial self-examination and has made a number of proposals aimed at regaining its self-sufficiency. One early proposal from the foundation, that has since been dismissed, recommended substantial cuts or complete eliminations in the distribution of scholarships and program support, with only modest cuts to operating expenses. Upon revision, the foundation acknowledged that such a proposal would abandon the fundamental mission of its existence and instead recommended a sizable reduction in operating expenses that included the elimination of one staff position.

The Foundation Finance Committee approved the latter proposal, citing that its contents remained consistent with organization's purpose. In addition to changing its asset manager when hiring Thompson Plumb, the foundation has also sided with the committee's initiative towards less risk-involved methods for generating operating expenses that exist independently of market fluctuations.

According to a document compiled by Janet McKnight representing the UWSP Faculty and the Division of Business and Economics, "The Foundation Finance Committee revised its policy regarding this practice to be more conservative. The new policy precludes this practice in future operating periods, including years in which market values

of the investments appreciate."

This new, more conservative policy puts a premium on efforts combining the generation of increased unrestricted donations and a reduction in operating expenses. Statistics taken from a report submitted by University Foundation President Bruce Froehlke indicate that the foundation has attempted to move in this direction by reducing the foundation's budget for the current year was reduced by \$152,000.

"We've cut the foundation's budget to the bone, arguably into the bone," wrote Froehlke in the document.

The question posed now is whether the University Foundation has cut far enough into the bone, as strict downsizing looms inevitable. Pending the decision by the Chancellor to allocate GPR, and perhaps regardless of that decision, the issue of downsizing is one that the foundation will likely face in the immediate future.

One thing remains certain: the University Foundation has little room for error. With no funds remaining in the organization's reserves, the only two options remaining involve resolving its budget problem or liquidating its funds. The existence of the foundation, as well as immense benefits for students, hangs in the balance.



Lot Q
Tuesday, Dec. 5 7:15 p.m.

A complaint was filed in regards to multiple vehicles being vandalized.

Hansen Hall
Tuesday, Dec. 5 10:45 a.m.

A community assistant reported the smell of marijuana coming from a third floor room.

Lot P
Tuesday, Dec. 5 2:39 p.m.

A stop sign was reported stolen from the front entrance to the parking lot.

College of Fine Arts
Thursday, Dec. 7 3:25 p.m.

A complaint was filed stating that a locker was broken into and the contents were reported missing.

College of Natural Resources
Friday, Dec. 8 2:56 a.m.

A report was made stating that two males were vandalizing a bike that was locked to a bike rack.

Lot U
Friday, Dec. 8 8:36 a.m.

A complaint was reported stating that a car was vandalized while owner was at class.

Lot P
Saturday, Dec. 9 7:11 a.m.

A car was reported vandalized while parked in Lot P.

University Center
Saturday, Dec. 9 9:30 a.m.

A report was filed that stated there was money stolen from the Student Legal Services Office located in the University Center.

December graduation arrives



Winter commencement will take place this weekend, Saturday Dec. 14, in the Quandt Fieldhouse. Ceremonies will consist of two sections. All students receiving Associate Degrees and Bachelor's Degrees from the College of Letters and Science will be part of section 1 at 10:00 a.m. Section 2, which starts at 1:00 p.m., will include those obtaining Master's Degree and Bachelor's Degrees from the College of Professional Studies, College of Fine Arts and Communications, and College of Natural Resources.

Those graduates who have not yet picked up their cap and gown are reminded that they can do so at the double doors in the back of the university center. They will be distributed over the next couple of days, Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Graduates are also encouraged to pick up tickets for family and friends to attend. Each student is allotted 10 tickets.



Advent at Newman

A season of messengers, preparation, anticipation

The Third Sunday of Advent

5 PM Saturday
10:15 AM Sunday
6 PM Sunday

St. Joseph Convent Chapel
1300 Maria Drive, just west of K-mart

Late-Night Mass

9 PM Wednesday
Newman Center
Next to Pray-Sims

Advent Prayer

7 PM Monday, Newman Center

Pray the Rosary

12:15 PM Tuesday, Newman Ctr.

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Whatever...the world according to Steve

Prof evaluations: A. Agree, B. Neutral, C. Disagree, D. Useless?

By Steve Seamandel
EDITOR IN CHIEF



Professor evaluations have really been getting under my skin the last few semesters. It never seems like the evaluations do much good, at least from a student's perspective.

For those of you who always skip the last review class and miss the evaluations, they're pretty simple: five questions, all multiple choice. If only all tests were like this, eh? Anyway, the evals ask questions like, "Was the professor available for office hours?" "Was the professor prepared for class?" "Did the professor foster an atmosphere of mutual respect?" and then students are to rate the professor's performance in addition to the class itself. The only choices for answering are "Strongly agree," "Agree," "Neutral," "Disagree" and "Strongly disagree."

As many times as I've disagreed or strongly disagreed with any of those questions, or graded the course with an "F" by marking the circle really exorbitantly dark with my pencil, I don't think I've ever seen the smallest change result from these evaluations. I've taken a few classes that, before even registering for them, I knew wouldn't require any effort in terms of homework or studying, apart from a night of cramming before the exam.

One of the classes that I'm referring to, for example, is one to which I usually take extra homework. It's one of those "dock-your-grade-if-you-don't-attend" classes, but I, like many others with whom I've conferred about this topic, get absolutely nothing from the lecture except a grumpy attitude for wasting three hours of my week. Furthermore, the exams are 95% derived from the book reading, but the lectures usually stray way off the book's path. What a horrible concept for a class. I'll be sure to note this on my evaluation, but I doubt that students taking the class next semester will see much of a difference. I was warned of the vast ineffectiveness of this class long before I took it. However, because it's a core class that I can't graduate without taking, I have no choice but to bite my

lip and endure the vast wasteland that is lecture. At least I have the opportunity to sit in the back and be a little productive. You're probably thinking, "What a waste of your money, Steve. You should at least pay attention." And to that I reply, "No. The lectures really are *that* bad."

Although I will be sure to pass this info along to future students of this ridiculous class and mention every last emotion running through my head on my evaluation, I guarantee you that students will continue to be forced to suffer in future semesters.

I'm not expecting a professor to be fired because his or her teaching style didn't jive with my expectations, along with the expectations of 90% of the other students in the class, but I at least think that a professor who constantly receives oodles of negative feedback should have enough common sense to realize what he or she is doing is incredibly ineffective and useless. That's the purpose of evaluations, isn't it? If students are telling a professor that the class is a waste of time, what's the use of the evaluation if the professor refuses to change his or her ways?

The evaluations need to be processed in another manner. Since there seems to be little change from semester to semester, maybe professors could be reprimanded after so many years of horrible evaluations without attempting to change their presentation style at all. Or, students could have the right to hang profs in effigy after so many negative evaluations, or at least tar and feather a model of that professor. Ahh, there's nothing like settling an issue with tar and feathers.

For this semester, I'll have to resort to bad-mouthing the crap classes and realizing that the poor future students will have to endure the same time-wasting lectures that I had to, which makes me wonder why I'm even taking the two minutes to fill in five more ovals on yet another Scan Tron answer sheet.

Christians should accept it

I have a few comments about the homosexuality and Christianity discussion, which I unfortunately could not attend.

First, although the article stated that all involved stressed the need for open-mindedness, I wonder how many minds were changed that night. I would guess that, if anything, the two sides are more polarized than before.

Second, I think the Bible does have a sexual ethic. When conservatives quote Bible passages about homosexuality, liberals often (correctly) bring up flaws in interpretation from the original biblical languages; the Bible condemns homosexual rape, homosexual pagan temple prostitutes, drunken homosexual rape-orgies, slave boys kept for sex, etc., but nowhere condemns, or even mentions, committed loving homosexual relationships. One could say that this allows such relationships, but I think if the only homosexuals the Bible mentions are drunkards, rapists and prostitutes the opinion of the Bible's authors is clear.

Third, my big question: why does the gay community care? I know that many liberal Christians are not bigoted against gays, but unfortunately the loudest Christians are conservative, and they hate gays. Excuse me, they hate homosexuality, but they love gays.

I think if the Christian community rejects homosexuals, then that's too bad for the Christians. I would spend my time fighting plain-old ignorant bigotry, instead of attacking the particular form of bigotry mandated by the fundamentalists' God.

-Brandon Podoll

So long, departing members of *The Pointer*!

Farewell and good luck to Scott Cattelino, Laura Daugherty, Cheryl Tepsa-Fink, Luke Zancanaro, and Amy Zepnick.

You'll all be missed . . . in style, of course.

THE POINTER

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SGA needs a swift kick in the ass

Everybody knows this week is the preamble to finals at UWSP, and if any students are like me, procrastination has been the theme of my collegiate career. Recently, during an attempt to actually get something done, I was quite startled by the University's computer hours for off-campus students. Just so everyone knows, ALL computer labs on campus close at exactly 11 p.m. (Monday through Friday), there is, however, one exception to this policy and that is the first floor computer lab in the LRC.

With approximately 60 computers in this lab, there is not a chance in heaven that UWSP students have an equal opportunity to utilize the facilities that we pay for. In fact, there was a 20-minute wait for each open computer. Why is this a problem at UWSP?

The answer is simple and should be rather obvious for any

student: Student Government Association. Yes folks, that's right, our formidable friends at the SGA are to blame for this under-funded atrocity. Being a former member of SGA, which was a significantly humorous and constipating experience, I have a decent understanding of what they actually do. Every Thursday they sit through four to five hours of litigation as to how much they should fund the Intramurals Program this week, or how much money we, as students, should contribute to some SGA under-the-table back door cause.

First and foremost, SGA needs a kick in the ass, including their faculty advisor for supporting this nonsense. They feel that it's proper and just to fund Parking Services employees to issue tickets to students, who in turn pay them and the unknown amount of gas used every year by these student dictators.

Secondly, how much money would it really cost to keep all public labs on campus open for a few extra hours during the end of each semester? I know the SGA senate does have some definite financial issues; look at *The Pointer* comic staff who recently got denied compensation for their work. At most you are looking at a few hundred dollars a year.

That may seem like a decent amount of money, but when you look at what SGA actually funds, 32% of their allocations go directly to the athletic program with an additional 5% going to Intramurals, compared to the 13% that actually goes to the wide world of Academia. It seems to me that SGA is composed of special moneyed interests, supporting the jocks and screwing the dorks.

-John P. Baeten esq.

Dork Outreach Program

The Pointer Editorial Policies

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Pointer Poll

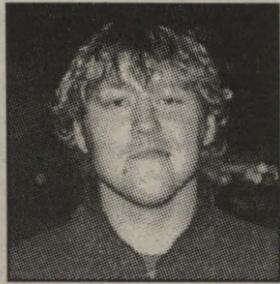
Photos by Luke Zancanaro

What's the worst Christmas gift you've ever received?



Gwynndolynn Kawski, Sr., Graphic Design

A bag of snowman poop.



Eric Marsh, Sr., Art Education

A lifetime membership to the fruit cake of the month club.



Justus Cleveland, Jr., Comm

A scented candle.



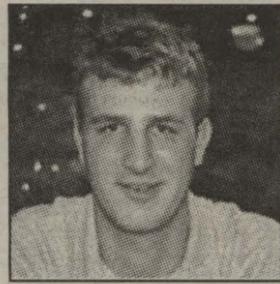
Kat Jens, Sr., Graphic Design

A purple light saber.



Meghann Krueger, Soph., Sociology

An old lady's denim button-down with a flower on it.



Tony Hentz, Soph., Und.

I get socks every year!

Correspondence from down under

Amidst the hustle and bustle of Sydney, Australia's largest city, one common phrase sums up life in the Aussie world: No Worries! Australia has been our home for the past three months, and if you ask anyone on this trip, they'll say it's not nearly long enough. From wine tours to surfing in the sun, there is something here for everyone. Our first group adventure was to the beautiful Blue Mountains. For an exhilarating trail ride on horseback or a hike through the gum tree forests, an extended stay in the Blue Mountains is a must.

The next weekend we found ourselves in Australia's capital, Canberra, where we visited Australia's historical past and enjoyed a schooner at the local Irish pub. October approached rather quickly and spring break gave us a chance to experience Australia on our own. For ten days, thirty Wisconsinites were set loose in Cairns. We took advantage of the local night life and the water adventures on the Great Barrier Reef. A couple of us staggered to Alice Springs to experience the red desert and observe the breathtaking view of the Uluru.

Back at Dunmore Lang College there were "heaps" of stories to share and memories were relived all over again. In and amongst all the weekend excitement, we were learning a great deal about the Australian culture and the colonization of a great convict settlement. An air conditioned classroom was our saving grace as we found ourselves immersed in the history, geography, natural resources, anthropology, and literature of Australia.

On our next excursion, we found ourselves aboard an overnight train which led us into what seemed like a whole new world. As we gazed out the window, we saw an endless sea of desert with kangaroos littering the landscape. A visit to the

School of Air and the Royal Flying Doctor Service Base made us realize the vastness of the area and the isolation these people endured.

That night we pitched our sleeping bags under the endless starry sky and the next morning we awoke to the serenity of the rising sun. The underground motel gave us a chance to put our creative minds to work. We filmed our own version of the Blair Witch Project set in the small opal mining town of White Cliffs. The outback was an experience never to be forgotten.

It was now time for a change of pace. The 33



Photo submitted by authors

The group poses for a shot in front of the Opera House in Sydney.

of us, and our leaders Elaine and Remer Hutchinson, went out for a night on the town. Dressed in our Sunday best, we congregated under the white sails of the Sydney Opera House as Banjo Paterson serenaded us with Waltzing Matilda. As we sit at Manly Beach on our last day in Australia, we can't help but look back on the memories we've shared and the friendships we've made. Australia will greatly be missed, but New Zealand awaits us with more exciting adventures ahead.

-Angela Stewart, Audrey Miles and Sarah Ceranski, UWSP students

Think about it: The Bible is pro-evil

Christians who feel that the good book is pro-life should try reading it sometime. The only reason the "word of God" commands the respect it does is because no one ever reads it. Before I hear "out of context" shouted at me I challenge the Christian community to find a "context" that makes the following anything less than pure evil, senseless death, or cruel injustice.

Num. 15:32 - A man is caught gathering sticks on Sunday. It is not clear what should be done with him for breaking the fourth commandment. Luckily, the Lord clears things up and tells Moses that "the man shall be put to death" and the good people of Israel comply by stoning him. What happened to repent and sin no more?

Num. 31 - After destroying the Midianites (as commanded by God), the Israelite army takes hostage the women and children. Moses is angry because he feels that the

hostages will turn them away from God. He orders the non-virgin women and little boys butchered and tells the army "but all the young girls who have not known man by lying with him keep alive for yourselves." (I am sure that the army just wanted to play charades with the virgins, that's all.)

Deut. 20:10-18 - These are instructions for how God's army should plunder various nations. If a city is close you should kill everything that breathes. Could you take a baby and throw it against stones? Imagine taking a sword to the stomach of a five-year-old. This is the type of sick behavior that is commanded by God.

Deut. 22 - This chapter disgusts me. There is a test for virginity (v. 17) that few women can pass. (In Mosaic law if a woman is not a virgin on her wedding day she can be stoned at her father's door.) Verses 28-29 have rules for

how you can rape and buy a woman from her father. We also learn in verse 23 and 24 that women who are raped in town should be stoned with their rapists because they didn't scream loud enough.

Joshua 7:24 - An entire family is burned to death for the actions of the father.

Judges 11:30-40 Jephthah sacrifices his only daughter to the Lord because he made the stupidest promise in Bible history. Hey Jep, you might want to give the family the heads-up on the whole "I-made-a-pact-with-God-and-I'll-have-to-sacrifice-you-if-you-greet-me-when-I-come-home-from-my-bloody-war" thing. Who did he think was going to greet him? The Dell computer guy? Get a clue Jep. He is later praised for his faith in Hebrews 11.

2 Kings 2:23-24 - Elisha curses 42 children in the name of the Lord for calling him a baldy and then two she-bears maul the children to death. It is safe to say Elisha has some

serious anger management issues.

Other verses included in the divine word of God are **1 Sam. 15**, **2 Sam. 5:8** (RSV or KJV), **2 Sam. 5:6-7**, **2 Sam. 21:6**, **Ps. 137:9**, **Hosea 13:15**, **Matt. 10:34**...

A lot of times these passages are dismissed because "that was back then." God's morality is supposedly absolute and does not change with time. Jesus also came to fulfill the (Mosaic) law not to break it and he even backs Moses up in John 5:46-47. According to the Bible, mosaic law is still in effect!

Many people feel that the world would be a lot better place if we just all read the Bible. The right often rallies behind laws that favor religious groups and introduce religion into schools, and the Gideons are constantly handing out Bibles. Would you teach these verses to your children?

Think about it.
-Chris Race

The Pointer would like to wish everyone good luck on final exams and a safe and relaxing winter break!



We'll see you next semester when we're back on the racks on January 30!



Chanukah history: the Festival of Lights celebration explored

By David Cohen
FEATURES REPORTER

This holiday season, many people will not be celebrating Christmas, but will still have a holiday very close to their hearts. The Jewish holiday of Chanukah (variable English spellings; pronounced Ha-new-kah) is celebrated every year in the winter for eight days corresponding either before, during or after Christmas. This varies from year to year as the Hebrew calendar correlates differently with the standard calendar. This year Jews began celebrating the first night of Chanukah



one night before Thanksgiving. The holiday always begins at sundown and ends eight days later at the same time because that is when days in the Hebrew calendar end and begin anew.

Though Chanukah is the most well-known

of all the holidays in the Jewish calendar, many people are unaware of what the holiday represents. Chanukah "Festival of Lights" is a holiday celebrating Jewish liberty and freedom and commemorates a victory believed to have occurred approximately 2,500 years ago. The Jews were living under the tyranny of Antiochus III of the Greco-Roman Empire in ancient Israel. Antiochus had created laws to forbid Jews to worship their god and to eradicate Jewish (or Hebrew) culture. Attempts were made to force all Jews to bow down to the Roman gods.

When this was met with rebellion, the Romans attacked and killed 10,000 Jews. War emerged between the Romans and the Jews who were led by a family who became known as the Maccabees (Hebrew for "hammers"). The Jewish army, led by Judah Maccabee, was greatly outnumbered by the Romans, but the Jews succeeded in pushing back the empire and recreating the nation of Judea for a time.

After the victory, the Jews wished to honor God in thanks and returned to the Temple which had been ransacked by the Romans. The Jews wished to rekindle the eternal flame which honors God only to find that all of their oil had been destroyed. A

search for oil took place and one day's worth of oil was found. Somehow the oil burned for a full eight days, which allowed for more oil to be found before the flame went out. It is for this reason that candles are lit on Chanukah for eight days.

The days of Chanukah celebrate also religious and cultural freedom. Contrary to popular belief, Chanukah is not the most important holiday in the Jewish religion. Rosh Hoshonah (Head of the Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) are deeply religious holidays that take place in early fall and are known as the High Holidays. Chanukah does not have the significance of the High Holidays, but rather is a joyous holiday loved by children. Its importance in Jewish culture was increased throughout the 20th century so that Jewish children did not feel left out at Christmas time.

Traditional Chanukah festivities include the giving of presents on each of the eight nights, eating latkes (a kind of potato pancake), lighting the candles, and playing dreidel (a top game played for chocolate money).



Spotlight Trivia

By Aaron Druckenbrod

1. How many *James Bond* films did Sean Connery star in?

- a. 7
- b. 4
- c. 5
- d. 6

2. Where did Harrison Ford once attend college?

- a. Ripon
- b. LaCrosse
- c. MATC (Mil.)
- d. Superior

3. Who narrated Dr. Seuss's Christmas special *The Grinch*?

- a. Jack Lemmon
- b. Elvis Presley
- c. Orson Welles
- d. Walter Matthau

4. In *The National Lampoons Christmas Vacation*, Clark W. Griswold plans to purchase what with his Christmas bonus?

- a. A family truckster
- b. A swimming pool
- c. A Vegas vacation
- d. A new RV for Eddie

5. What is Bill Murray's occupation in *Scrooged*?

- a. television executive
- b. disk jockey
- c. filmmaker
- d. mascot

6. In *A Christmas Story* (1983), Ralphie gets new pajamas that make him look like what?

- a. reindeer
- b. puppy-dog
- c. snowman
- d. bunny

7. In *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965), Lucy suggests Charlie should do what?

- a. dress like Santa Claus
- b. direct a Christmas pageant
- c. leave out milk & cookies
- d. give Linus a blowjob

8. In *On the Waterfront*, what does Marlon Brando keep on the rooftop of his apartment?

- a. money
- b. pigeons
- c. booze
- d. wife's jewelry

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Answers:
1. a, 2. a, 3. d, 4. b, 5. a, 6. d, 7. b, 8. b.

Afterimages enthralls university audiences

By Dan Mirman
SPORTS EDITOR

People may see my bi-line as sports editor and wonder how credible a sports buff reviewing a dance performance really is. In fact the Afterimages show was the first dance performance I have seen since coming to this campus three years ago. But after watching the show on Thursday night, I guarantee that it won't be my last.

Afterimages is a show performed

every semester where the students choreograph and perform their own dances.

"The dances I was in were very different and they were both fun and a challenge," said senior dancer Gretchen Talbot. "For my first time I thought it went just spectacular. There is just so much creativity and a variety of dances."

The show started off with a tribute to Frank Sinatra, titled "Old Blue Eyes," as dancers twirled to different songs from the legendary crooner including "I Won't Dance" and "New York, New York".

The show kept the audience enthralled for the next two hours as viewers witnessed an amazing variety of performances. Many of the dances told stories and the music ranged greatly going from rap to classical seamlessly.

"I love telling a story to the audience through movement," said Talbot. "Half of me loves that the audience is there, but the other half gets so lost in the performance that I forget they're there."

Fittingly, the show ended in a fun celebratory danced with musical accompani-

ment from the psuedo-jamband OAR. Judging by the ovation after the final dance, the crowd shared my amazement for skills and feeling shown over the evening.

Talbot already has her eye on next year's show, "Definitely, I am already thinking about it hardcore, and I hope to get a show that I choreograph in to next year's program."

Rockers Know Boundaries to make UWSP debut

By Amy Zepnick
FEATURES EDITOR

Take a break from your diligent studying for a local explosion of sound. Know Boundaries, a Baraboo based band, will perform at the Encore Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. as part of the "Point Brewed Talent" series sponsored by Centertainment.

The show will mark the last installment of the "Point Brewed Talent" series for the semester and will be free for all students with a proof of student identification.

A regular on the music scene in Madison, Know Boundaries has performed at such venues as the Annex, developing a devoted local following that has begun to span across the state.

Staking its reputation on socially conscious lyrics, Know Boundaries amplifies political and social issues over a combination of rock, hip-hop, R&B and soul, stressing that the message behind their music remains as essential to their self-concept as their

eclectic sound.

Centertainment concert coordinator, Kirsty Steiner best describes their stylings as "a cross between Rage Against the Machine and Black Eyed Peas." She added, "It's an interesting combination, but it works."

The band's current lineup is composed of six members: Aaron Blacker, Hermel Randolph, J Granberg, Gary Joréwicz, Brennan Connors and Dave Osmalov.

Quickly becoming one of the state's best, Know Boundaries finished in the top five of a battle of the bands contest sponsored by WMAD (92.1) in Madison. Their sound exceeded the 200 bands that competed.

This is Know Boundaries first performance at UW-Stevens Point and hopefully not their last.

"It's going to be one of our biggest shows of the semester," Steiner said. "I think after one song, people will be jamming with them."

Centertainment revives poetry promotion

By Andy Bloeser
FEATURES EDITOR

In an effort to promote creative interaction among students and provide an outlet for artistic expression, Centertainment Productions will orchestrate a campus-wide poetry reading exhibition to close out the semester.

Themed the "Inspirational Invitational Poetry Reading," the event will take place in the Encore this Friday at 8 p.m.

The end of semester poetry reading intends to serve as a throw back to last year's "Slam Poetry" exhibitions, also promoted by Centertainment, with aims of providing a means of showcasing student poetry.

While the Inspirational Invitational Poetry Reading remains open to all students, participants must register in advance. Students participating in the event will not be limited in the number of selections they can perform, but will only receive up to five minutes in which to read or perform their poetry due to time constraints. No restric-

tions will be made upon the content of poetry submissions, emphasizing the event's intent to provide an open atmosphere.

"This event provides an opportunity for students to come together by sharing things that are important to them," said Synder, who hopes the event will generate a supportive and creative atmosphere.

She continued, "I think it will be a positive event allowing the students to explore their creativity."

Pending the success of Friday's venture, Centertainment's Centerstage branch plans to consider more attempts toward promoting student poetry in addition to its current lineup of coffee house artists and student performers.

"If this goes well, I definitely want to do it again," said Synder.

Poetry submissions should be sent via email to Centertainment Centerstage Coordinator Rachel Snyder at rsnyd336@uwsp.edu. The Centertainment Staff has set Thursday evening as the tentative deadline for all poetry submissions.

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*Changing Lives*

# Your College Survival Guide

By Pat "Hashishem" Rothfuss

MOON-FACED ASSASSIN OF JOY.

## Reality Television

Dear All-Knowing:

*I hate reality TV shows. I just don't understand what the big deal is. All the reality TV is not reality.*

*Take "The Real World" for instance; I watch and I don't know why. Where in the world do Seven "beautiful" people live together and do nothing but party and have sex with each other?*

*The next example is the worst show ever, "The Bachelor." This is a bunch of crap. One guy, about 25 women, and in six or so weeks he can choose who he wants to marry.*

*But, I have a problem. My significant other loves reality TV and all the dating shows. Why does she love these shows so much and I hate them so much? Am I just jealous that I am not in the shows? Or do I just have built up angst that I need to channel somewhere?*

Philip Kauth

OK, lets deal with these questions in reverse order. First, I think I can say with some surety that you've got some pent-up something going on. Right now it seems like you're channeling it into letters to my column, which works fine for me, and is reasonably healthy compared to, say a compulsion to indulge in binge drinking, bad poetry, or mime-abuse.

Second: Yes. You're jealous about not being on the shows. It's almost impossible not to be.

Here's the deal. Everyone wants to be famous. However, in the olden days you needed something to be famous *with*. Like money, or power, or, ideally, some sort of talent. Sure you might be jealous of Fred Astaire, but you're jealous of his *talent*, not his fame. He earned his fame.

Unfortunately, the days of Fred Astaire are gone. Welcome to the world of Jonny Knoxville. However, it would be wrong of me to imply that Knoxville is a talentless hack. Freakish deviance and the willingness to shit yourself on national television is, in fact, a sort of talent. That means that even Knoxville has earned his fame to a certain degree.

Even lower down on the fame food chain are the people on reality TV. They're not talented. They didn't earn anything. They suck.

**"PERHAPS WHEN YOUR GIRLFRIEND WAS A BABY SOMEONE POKED THAT SOFT SPOT ON TOP OF HER FRAGILE BABY MELON AND SHE NEVER RECOVERED."**

So here's how it breaks down. You watch Fred Astaire, and you're jealous. Maybe you even say something like, "I could do that if I really wanted to." But sooner or later one of your less drunk friends points out that even if you took lessons, sold your soul to the devil, and smoked a full ounce of industrial-strength rock cocaine, you still couldn't get your doughy, flaccid, rhythmless body to move that way. Astaire has talent, so your jealousy is tempered with admiration, and eventually you get over it.

Later, you watch Jonny Knoxville roll around on a huge pile of elephant-poo while being covered with flaming bees and shot with a tazer, and you're jealous (sort-of) because he's got his own show. You say, "I could do that if I really wanted to." Then your friend asks, "Would you really want to?" And you realize that no, you really don't. In this case your jealousy is tempered by fear and revulsion, so eventually you get over it.

Then you watch some piece of God-awful reality TV. You watch a bunch of wankers displaying their vast social and mental incompetence, and you're jealous. You say, "I could do that." Your friend replies, "Goddamn. So could I." Then you both continue to watch, hatred twisting you up inside. You grow increasingly bitter, slowly filling with bile and loathing. Then, eventually, you die.

Your last question, namely, why does your girlfriend like these shows and you don't, has a simple answer: There is something seriously wrong with your girlfriend.

I'm guessing something is badly broken, deep, deep in her psyche. Perhaps when she was a baby someone poked that soft spot on top of her fragile baby melon, and she never recovered. Maybe she isn't human at all, merely a soulless, fleshy automaton sent to earth to tempt God's chosen into sinful corporeal pleasures, such as snuggling and the wicked co-mutual pressing of lips.

But hey, everyone has problems. Personally, I think you two are perfect for each other.

### Fun Fact!

When spending leftover food points at the UC Store, most students purchase foolish, things such as clothes, writing utensils, or sweet, sweet methadone. Little do they know that a copy of *Writers of the Future Vol. 18* offers the best value for their entertainment dollar. Not only does it contain Pat Rothfuss' award-winning story, but there's a half-naked woman on the cover. This makes it a perfect gift for that pimply geek cousin of yours who likes to read sci-fi and fantasy.

*Well folks, it's been fun. If the powers that be are kind, I should be back next semester. Keeps sending in your letters and questions to prothfus@uwsp.edu.*

## 'Twas the Night Before Finals...

Passed around the world-wide web, I see this as fitting for the week ahead:

'Twas the night before finals,  
And all through the college,  
The students were praying  
For last minute knowledge.  
Most were quite sleepy,  
But none touched their beds,  
While visions of essays  
Danced in their heads.  
Out in the taverns,  
A few were still drinking,  
And hoping that liquor  
Would loosen up their thinking.  
In my own apartment,  
I had been pacing,  
And dreading exams  
I soon would be facing.  
My roommate was speechless,  
His nose in his books,  
And my comments to him  
Drew unfriendly looks.  
I drained all the coffee,  
And brewed a new pot,  
No longer caring  
That my nerves were shot.  
I stared at my notes,  
But my thoughts were muddy,  
My eyes went ablu,  
I just couldn't study.  
"Some pizza might help,"

I said with a shiver,  
But each place I called  
Refused to deliver.  
I'd nearly concluded  
That life was too cruel,  
With futures depending  
On grades had in school.  
When all of a sudden,  
Our door opened wide,  
And Patron Saint Put It Off  
Ambled inside.  
Her spirit was careless,  
Her manner was mellow,  
She started to bellow:  
"What kind of student  
Would make such a fuss,  
To toss back at teachers  
What they tossed at us?"  
"On Cliff Notes!  
On Crib Notes!  
On Last Year's Exams!  
On Wingit and Slingit,  
And Last Minute Crams!"  
Her message delivered,  
She vanished from sight,  
But we heard her laughing  
Outside in the night.  
"Your teachers have  
pegged you,  
So just do your best.  
Happy Finals to All,  
And to All, a good test."

## Week in Point

Thursday, December 12, 2002

Diane Bywaters: The Great Divide, FAC Carlisten Gallery, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Runs through Dec. 20

Cardio Center Presents: Yoga Series II w/Jeanne Pawielski, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

UWSP Wrestling vs. UW-Platteville, HEC Berg Gymnasium, 7:00 PM

CPI Concerts Presents: Know Boundaries, UC The Encore, 8:00 PM

Friday, December 13, 2002

Campus Holiday Party, UC Alumni Room, 3:00 - 7:00 PM

CPI Centers Cinema Presents: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, Debot 073, 7:00 PM & 9:30 PM

UWSP Men's Basketball vs. Coe, HEC Berg Gym, 7:00 PM

UWSP Saxophone Studio, FAC Michelsen Hall, 7:30 PM

UWSP Men's Hockey vs. UW-Eau Claire, Willett Arena, 7:30 PM

Inspirational Invitational: Poetry and Prose Reading with English Dept. and Sigma Tau Delta, UC The Encore, 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 14, 2002

Winter Commencement, HEC Quandt Fieldhouse, 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM

UWSP Women's Basketball vs. Carroll, HEC Berg Gym, 5:00 PM

UWSP Men's Hockey vs. University of St. Thomas, Willett Arena, 7:30 PM

Sunday, December 15, 2002

Suzuki Solo Recitals, UC Alumni Room, 2:00 PM

Winter Wonders planetarium show, SCI College Letters and Science Planetarium/Observatory, 2:00 PM & 3:00 PM

Tuesday, December 17, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 19, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 21, 2002

UWSP Men's Basketball vs. Viterbo, HEC Quandt Fieldhouse, 7:00 PM

Monday, December 22, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 26, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Monday, December 30, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

# Pointers fall in OT, twice

## Women's hoops drop two games by a combined five points

By Jason Nihles  
SPORTS REPORTER

Last night the UWSP women's basketball headed to Menominee, a place they haven't won since 1989 to play UW-Stout. Coming off a heartbreaking loss to Wheaton last Saturday, which broke a 12 game winning streak, it's needless to say they had plenty of motivation.

Going into overtime for the second straight game the Pointers found themselves down 88-85 with less than 40 seconds left to play. They were forced to foul but Stout left the door open by missing four straight free throws. Point's last gasp came in the last second of overtime as freshman Cassandra Schultz's potential tying 3-pointer missed the mark.

The women battled hard the whole game taking a 32-31 lead into the break. The second half was much of the same with both teams trading baskets throughout. In the last 10 seconds Stout had the ball, and a chance to win, but were unable to get a shot off sending the game into overtime tied 76-76.

"I thought we did an excellent job with our effort," said Coach Shirley Egner.

Stout's high-pressure full court defense forced Stevens

Point into committing 26 turnovers.

"We did an ok job with it (Stout's defensive pressure)," said Egner. "We are going to have turnovers, we are a young team."

Sophomore Amanda Nechuta played an outstanding game for the Pointers, scoring a career high 25 points, while also collecting nine rebounds and four steals.

### women's basketball

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Wheaton  | 47 |
| Pointers | 45 |
| UW-Stout | 88 |
| Pointers | 85 |

"Nechuta comes to play every single game. She is clearly leading the charge and becoming the go-to player," said Egner.

Sophomore Amy Scott finished the game with a double-double 14 points and 10 rebounds, and junior Cassandra Heuer tallied 16 points.

This past Saturday, USWP's 12 game winning streak came to an end in Wheaton, Illinois on a last second shot in overtime on a night when the women had one of their worst shooting games in a long time. They could not buy a bucket. For the game they shot an abysmal 25.4% connecting on only 17 of 67 field goal attempts.

"It was ugly," said Egner. "Obviously, you will have bad shooting nights, but we shot horrific."

The Pointers came out

shooting badly and it continued most of the night. Wheaton jumped out to a 15-4 lead to start the game. To their credit, Stevens Point battled all the way back and took a 38-33 lead with just under nine minutes left in the second half. However Point once again went cold and did not make a basket in the last five minutes. Wheaton tied the game and sent it into overtime.

The game remained close throughout the extra session and was knotted up at 45 with two seconds left. Wheaton forward Sarah Harris, who scored a game high 19 points, curled to the lane near the free throw line and knocked down the 15 foot jumper for the win.

Sophomore Amanda Nechuta, while in foul trouble much of the game lead the pointers with 15 points. But it was Senior Megan Hodgson who was the real leader for the Pointers on Saturday. She was the physical and emotional leader of the team. She came off the bench to score 10 points, on 4 of 5 shooting, and grabbed seven rebounds.

"Megan just played an outstanding game," said Egner. "She was the one kid that came to play. She defended their top player (Harris), rebounded and scored for us."

This Saturday the women return home to host Carroll College at 5:00 p.m. Then the Pointers will have some time off until after Christmas. On Saturday Dec. 28 UWSP travels to Franklin, Ind. to compete in Franklin University's holiday tournament.

## SENIOR ON THE SPOT MEGAN HODGSON-BASKETBALL



Hodgson

### UWSP Career Highlights

- Started 21 games as a freshman.
- Pulled down career high 16 rebounds vs. Lawrence on 12-13-99.
- Member of 2001-2002 national championship team

Major - Business

Hometown - Barneveld, WI

Most memorable moment - Winning the NCAA Division III national championship.

Who was your idol growing up? - My high school coach because he demonstrated an unbelievable love for the game of basketball. He had the ability to step on the court day in and day out with passion, drive and determination.

What are your plans after graduation? - Marry an incredibly rich man, settle down, and have beautiful children.

Do you plan on playing basketball after graduation? - Only for recreation.

What is your favorite aspect of basketball? - I love the unpredictability and the intensity of competition; every day brings something new, no game is ever the same, no two practices alike.

Most embarrassing moment - I peed my pants in Kindergarten when we were taking a test.

If you could be anyone for a day, who would you choose? - Lisa Leslie; It'd be nice to see what it's like to dunk instead of being a 5'6" post player.

If you were going to be stranded on a desert island and could choose only three things to bring with you, what would you choose?

1. Pictures
2. Water
3. Genie (to grant me three wishes)

Do you have any parting words for the underclassmen? - Don't ever take for granted the opportunity you have to play at this level. Sometimes it seems hard and you might even question whether or not its worth it, but one day it could all be taken away from you and that's when it's hard.

# Oh, the Places



# You'll Go!

Congratulations Scottie, from the Cattelino Clan—Mom, Dad, Debi, Beth, Tony, Ben, Jake, Olivia and Big Tail!

# Women's unbeaten streak pushed to 25 games

## A pair of victories over Lake Forest keep Point hot

By Emily Teachout  
SPORTS REPORTER

It took two solid kicks in the rear end to jump start the UWSP Women's Hockey team this past weekend. Despite the lackadaisical starts, the Lady Pointers prolonged their unbeaten streak to 25 games, dating back to Dec. 15 of last year, with two wins over NCHA conference opposition Lake Forest.

The Pointers came into the game 7-0-1, while the Foresters from Lake Forest had an impressive 7-1-1, which already surpasses their total of six wins last season. The outcomes of the two games would determine an early lead in the conference.

The Pointers played the role of courteous hosts when Lake Forest struck first shortly into the second period. Fortunately for the Pointers, who have allowed the first goal in the last three games, it only took 1:12 for the alarm to go off when freshman phenom Tracy Truckey continued her outstanding season by knocking one past All-NCHA goaltender Theresa Taylor.

Unfortunately for the Foresters, it was all downhill from there. The Pointers rallied to score three more goals in the second and add another three in

the third to make the final score a convincing 7-1.

"I don't know what it is; I don't know why we need a scare in order to realize that we can't just sit on the bench and win. Teams know who we are, and we will get everybody's best game," said frustrated Head Coach Brian Idalski.

Saturday saw the Pointers in a similar situation. Down 2-1 over half way through the third period, sophomore transfer Jana Jurkovich notched her second goal of the season from the point on the power play.

Then with just under four minutes remaining in the game, the momentum the Pointers had built throughout the entire game broke the backs of the Foresters. Sophomore Jackie Schmitt's low wrist shot found the back of the net and gave the Pointers their first lead of the game. Luckily for the Pointers, the 3-2 lead was enough, and UWSP took sole possession of first place in the conference.

"For some reason, Saturday has been giving us problems all year. It is something that definitely needs to be corrected before it costs us dearly," said Idalski. "Championship teams don't take days off. We can't afford to lose a game due to lack of focus."

With the two wins over Lake Forest, the Pointers conclude an eight-game home stand, and will embark on their first of eight straight games on the road when



Photo by Patricia Larson

Jackie Schmitt and Ashley Howe (right) battle against the Foresters in their weekend match-up.

### women's hockey

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Wheaton  | 47 |
| Pointers | 45 |
| UW-Stout | 88 |
| Pointers | 85 |

they venture to conference rival, UW-Superior, on Friday. The Pointers will look to avenge their lone loss of last year, which came at the hands of Superior.

Idalski and his troops are more than pumped to be on the road and heading up north. "It was nice getting to play in front of our own fans and sleeping in

our own beds for the past month, but there is a lot of excitement on the part of the returning players to go back on the road to play the one team that got the best of them last year. They still haven't forgotten about it."

## Holtz scores lone pin in dual meet loss to La Crosse

By Craig Mandli  
SPORTS EDITOR

Johnny Johnson knew that with his young team this year, he would be facing many ups and downs. After a promising early non-conference season, Johnson's fears came to a head with the Pointers being upended by the La Crosse Eagles by a score of 23-15.

"The main reason [why we lost] is that our guys that went in expecting to win did the job, but the guys that went in wrestling not to lose ended up losing," said Johnson.

The Pointers started the meet in a positive fashion, with junior Jared Esala blanking the Eagles' Tom Tribon 4-0 to win the 125 lb. weight class.

Junior Brady Holtz then came through with the

only pin of the night for both teams, dispatching of La Crosse standout David Silva in 5:17.

The Pointers then proceeded to lose the next four classes in lopsided fashion, as Jon Burdick, Ryan Hanson, Ed Wynimko and Jamie Schultz fell to Eagles before sophomore Cody Koenig came back with a 6-4 decision over La Crosse's Nick Patenaude to take the 174 lb. division.

"We've got some guys that are struggling," said Johnson. "If we can get those guys to work through the problems that they have, we should be alright."

Junior Yan White was the only other winner for the Pointers, continuing his strong season with a 9-3 decision over La Crosse's Matt Morris.

Although it was a loss, Johnson was impressed with the performance of freshman heavyweight Mike Hayes, saying "our heavyweight wrestled pretty well, considering the position he was in and his inexperience." Hayes lost 13-5 to the Eagles' Ryan Allen.

Thursday the Pointers face UW-Platteville in their first home dual of the season. Johnson likes their chances, saying "If we come out and wrestle better than we did [Tuesday], we should win. It's all a matter of coming out and looking at yourself in the mirror, and then deciding where you want your season to go."

The first match is set for 7 p.m. in the Berg Gym.

### Wrestling

## Fink named third team All-American

It hasn't taken Kelly Fink long to make an immediate impact on the UW-Stevens Point women's soccer program.

After just two seasons, Fink already ranks fourth on the school's all-time goal scoring list and most recently has been named a third-team Division III All-American by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

She had the second-highest single-season goals total in Pointer history this season with 24, while also sharing the WIAC lead with 11 assists. The West Bend West High School graduate is the eighth All-American player in UW-Stevens Point history and the fourth in the past three seasons. She is the only player from Wisconsin named to the All-American team this season.

UW-Stevens Point finished 18-1-2 overall and advanced to the regional championship match for the third straight year before losing to St. Thomas (Minn.) to snap its school-record 20-match unbeaten streak. The Pointers won their sixth straight WIAC title and 10th in 11 years.

A junior forward for the Pointers, Fink played her freshman season at Concordia (Wis.) where she amassed 31 goals and 17 assists. She transferred to UW-Stevens Point and had 22 goals and five assists for 49 points as a sophomore before her 59-point season this year. In two years with the Pointers, Fink has 46 goals and 16 assists for 108 points, which ranks sixth on the school's all-time point-scoring list. Including her freshman year at Concordia, she has equally impressive career numbers of 77 goals and 33 assists for 177 career points.

Fink tied a single-match school record earlier this season by scoring all four of the team's goals in a win over Carleton. She also had three goals in a 4-1 WIAC semifinal win over UW-River Falls and scored the lone goal in a key victory over final four participant Trinity (Tex.), snapping the Tigers' 31-match home winning streak.

Last week, Fink earned her third straight All-Central Region honor, gaining first-team accolades after being named second-team as a sophomore and third-team as a freshman.

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# Pointers remain perfect in conference play



Photo by Luke Zancanaro

Sophomore Jason Kalsow passes the ball off during Wednesday's victory over Stout.

## Basketball 2-0 in WIAC for the first time since 1993

By Dan Mirman  
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior Josh Iserloth scored nine of his game high 20 points in the final 3:30 to lead the Pointers to a 69-64 victory over UW-Stout.

UWSP shot 12-15 from the free throw line in the final four minutes, including 7-8 for Iserloth as Point is now 2-0 in the WIAC for the first time since the 1993-94 season.

"This was just one of those grind 'em out type games," said Head Coach Jack Bennett. "It may not be pretty, but it's awfully intense, and it's awfully impressive."

Iserloth ended up 11 of 16 from the charity stripe for the game and he also added eight rebounds.

Iserloth was joined in double figures by a pair of teammates. Sophomore Jason Kalsow recorded a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Nick Bennett also continued his solid season with 13 points.

A Neil Krajnik three pointer and a Jason Kalsow dunk in the final two minutes of the first half gave Point a 34-26 advantage.

The second half was a back and forth battle as the Pointers were unable to pull away from the Blue Devils. Twice UWSP pushed their lead to ten, but on both occasions Stout crawled back into it.

The Blue Devils tied the game up at 48 with 8:33 to play but they could do no more as Point pushed them back every time they made a run.

"This was a team that had been tough for us last year," said Bennett. "We had to find a way, and I thought our guys were resourceful. We got enough defensive

stops, and we knocked down some free throws in the latter part of the game which were crucial."

UWSP had to overcome a very quick Stout team that played a full court press for almost the entire game.

Despite the heavy pressure, the Pointers turned the ball over only 16 times, which was four less than Stout had been forcing per game.

Once again the Pointers were keyed by a strong defensive performance as Stout

### Men's Basketball

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| UW-Stout | 64 |
| Pointers | 69 |

managed to get just two players with more than eight points.

"You know that when it really gets to crunch time we will make teams earn their points," said Bennett. "We have a legitimate shot at stopping teams from scoring, and that's given us more confidence than anything."

Stout was led by Andy Bray who had a team high 15 points. However, UWSP held him down in the second half as he scored just three of his 15 in the second half before fouling out.

The Pointers will stay at home when Coe College comes to town for a Friday tilt. Pointer fans interested in attending should probably show up a little earlier because the game will be played in the Berg Gymnasium. It's the first time the men's team has played in the Berg since the Quandt Fieldhouse was built.

"It's gonna feel like it's in an old high school cracker box," said Bennett. "I think it's gonna be a great atmosphere for our team to play in."

## Consecutive road losses sting Point

### Pointers have five game winning streak against Foresters snapped

By Craig Mandli  
SPORTS EDITOR

UWSP has suffered three non-conference losses in a row over the past week, but needs to regroup quickly with two more games this weekend to bring their record to .500 before the holiday break.

The Pointers lost to St. Olaf 3-2 on Friday night, fell to Gustavus Adolphus 6-2 on Saturday and then went down against Lake Forest 3-1 on Tuesday.

The Pointers jumped out to a 2-0 first period lead at St. Olaf on a goal by freshman forward Rory Milcarek and a power play tally by senior Zenon Kochan before

in two, but that is as close as they would get.

On Tuesday, the Pointers continued to get out to the early lead when Kochan slapped home a shot just 25 seconds into the game. However, Lake Forest then came back to score three unanswered goals to take the 3-1 victory.

The Pointers will try to right the ship Friday when they finally come home to face Eau Claire in a conference battle at the Willett arena at 7:30 p.m. The Pointers also face St. Thomas at 7:30 on Saturday.

### Men's Hockey

the Olies came back with two second period goals and a third period score to beat the Pointers for the first time in seven all-time meetings.

The Pointers also took an early lead at Gustavus Adolphus as sophomore Ryan Kirchhoff scored a first period goal, which he was assisted with by sophomore David Scott. However, the Gusties scored two goals to close the period and then took advantage of three Pointer penalties in the first 53 seconds of the second period with two power play goals for a 4-1 lead. Senior Craig Busse added a garbage-time goal on assists by Kochan and sophomore Mike Broisma to bring the Pointer's with-

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# THE BACK PAGE



## View from a Pointer:

Wisconsin sports fans stand up and take a bow, or curtsy

By Dan Mirman  
SPORTS EDITOR

This is one of the most difficult columns that I have ever had to write. The majority of my adult life has been spent making fun of the quirkiness of Packer fans.

I am always the first one to point out that cheeseheads are absolutely hideous and that having blaze orange as your third color is not cool. But after watching the Pack's latest game on Sunday, I have to admit that Green Bay fans do it right.

Let me give you an example why. For Sunday's contest against the Vikings, the front row of Lambeau Field was filled with die hard fans, most of them wearing dead animals on their heads and all of them cheering their hearts out.

I then flipped around the dial to some other sporting events and watched some highlights from earlier NFL games. What I found was that everywhere else the front row fans vary greatly. Now I don't want to stereotype, but I am going to anyway.

The average front row fan is usually a woman with a chest that costs more than my car (sometimes the chest is bigger than my car as well). Next to her is a man who feels the need to talk on his cell phone for roughly 93.5% of the game. It is obvious that these people do not care as much about the outcome of the match as much as they care about being seen by other people.

It was seeing these non-fans that gave me a moment of clarity about the Packer faithful. They don't care how they look, or how they are perceived by the rest of the country. They care about supporting their team as much as their lungs will allow and damned be anyone who writes them off as backwoods.

It's not just the Packer fans either; for the most part, I would say that Wisconsin sports fans rank up there with the best in the world. Per capita they are more knowledgeable about the teams they support and usually have a solid understanding of the game in general.

Just look at the following the Wisconsin Badgers have. Even when they suck, fans still pack Camp Randall. This year they are playing in a bowl game against a team much better than them mostly because they have the fan support that few teams can match.

Keep it up Wisconsinites, but don't take for granted the situation you're cheering in. One must only look to Pointer games, but look for what is not there. You won't see people shouting obscenities at players, or booing the home team either; You can only see the camaraderie amongst dedicated fans.

So there you have it: a die hard Bears fan tipping his cap to Packer fans. However, I still think that those cheeseheads and the new bratheads are gawdawful.

## The Man's Take: Do video games go too far?

By Craig Mandli  
SPORTS EDITOR

Recently the NFL has been hit with a rash of fines for "illegal" hits, namely when a defensive player leads with the crown of his helmet and annihilates a receiver. For the most part, these hits are considered football faux pas, a thing of the past, if you will.

So that left me to wonder this: isn't it a little contradictory to fine a football player for leading with his helmet when football video games endorsed by the NFL glorify it?

I just got done playing a game of Madden (easily the best non-old school Nintendo football game) with my roommate and noticed that our game was actually much more violent than an actual game. I didn't see any linemen ripping off helmets and throwing them downfield or safeties clocking a player as he's celebrating a touchdown in this game, though. This, I guess, would be considered bad taste.

However, I did notice that more than a handful of times, one of our defensive players would nail an opposing player with such force that his helmet would come flying off his head. Can't say that I've ever seen that happen in a real football game.

The truth is, Madden isn't even the worst. We also have a game called "MLB Slugfest," in which you can charge the mound after a beanball, and duke it out with the first baseman after a single. If you're lucky, you'll knock the first baseman unconscious, causing him to drop the ball, allowing you to advance.

It seems to me that there are two sides to this matter: the

first that thinks that professional athletes are coddled too much and that violence is part of the game, and the second that thinks that professional athletes are becoming too violent for their own good, and overly-violent but very realistic video games are hurting the cause.

I think that I tend to fall on the idea that professional athletes are being protected too much by the leagues they play for. I, for one miss Chuck Cecil, the former Packer safety that used to blow up opposing receivers and running backs on a regular basis. How long do you think Cecil would last in today's NFL? Probably about the time it takes to bury him next to Jimmy Hoffa in the Meadowlands is my guess.

Looking at this, it makes me wonder how we can discourage violent acts when we are a culture that bases much of its entertainment on that very thing. These players know what they are getting themselves into when they sign their contracts, if not much before. They should realize that big hits are part of the game. If someone gets injured, they get injured.

So when it comes to sports video games that glorify violence, I'm up in the air. If the NFL and other professional sports want to tone down violence, you have to go to the bottom, to little Jimmy that is playing NFL Blitz and knocking players clear across the field. Don't blame the player for doing what he's supposed to, blame the society that teaches it.

Till next time, GO POINTERS!!!

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## The Week Ahead...

**Men's Basketball:** Coe College, Fri., 7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball:** Carroll College, Sat., 5 p.m.

**Men's Hockey:** UW-Eau Claire, Fri., 7:30 p.m.

**Women's Hockey:** at UW-Superior, Fri., 7 p.m.

**Wrestling:** UW-Platteville, Thurs., 7 p.m.

All home games in BOLD

## Speaker discusses an ocean of possibilities

By Leigh Ann Ruddy  
OUTDOORS EDITOR

In a crowded Laird Room Wednesday, Ocean Robbins addressed 240 high school students and 40 high school teachers about the necessity of making a difference for the environment at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education's (WCEE) conference entitled, "Waste Not, Want Not: Choices in Consumption and Sustainability."

**"...we have a capacity to make a difference, to take a stand and to change the world."**

WCEE of the CNR at UWSP holds an environmental conference each year for Wisconsin high school students to educate them about the environment and make them more aware of the things they can do to help change the present status of the environment.

Robbins' message entailed a sense of responsibility for these young students, saying that there is "a sense of hope that we have a capacity to make a difference, to take a stand and to change the world."

In his speech to the young students, Robbins included many of his life stories and the changes he made as an exceptional young kid.

By the age of 7, Robbins assembled a peace rally at his grade school. At age 10, Robbins ran his first marathon and at age 17, he started up the group Youth for Environmental Sanity (YES!). At this time, Robbins and other members of YES! conducted a national tour, spreading their message of environmental sanity and key contributions that high school students could make toward the betterment of the environment.

By using himself as example, Robbins instilled a message to these young students that they are capable of making changes in the environment and the whole world by taking steps towards ecological sustainability.

"At times of fear," Robbins said, "sometimes people step back and sometimes people step up to make a



Photo by L. Zancanaro

*Ocean Robbins, spreading his message to the 240 Wisconsin high school students at the WCEE environmental action conference on Wednesday.*

change. That's what a leader does, to make changes whether it's the popular thing to do or not."

Robbins was quick to throw out the normal stereotypes many people may have about an environmentalists. He acted out the roles comedically of a nerdy, science-type relaying information about global warming, an overzealous environmental-type and a tree-hugging, peace loving hippy-type for all of which, Robbins does not fit the bill.

Through his personal stories of growing up on a small island off the coast of Canada to triumph stories of YES! and other organizations, Robbins showed the audience the ease of taking a stand and the outcomes that come with being involved in progressive action.

Robbins relayed countless statistics, warning the young students that their choices become environmental impacts for the rest of the world. Robbins highlighted facts about environmental racism saying that three out of five African-Americans and Latinos in this country live in a neighborhood with a toxic waste site.

Robbins also mentioned military spending in the U.S. compared to other nations saying, "We need to consider our country's priorities. What are the impacts of this spending?"

According to a statistic Robbins read to the crowd, America spends \$343 billion on the military annually. Russia spends \$60 billion and the countries of Cuba, Iran, Iraq and Syria combined spend a total of \$14 billion per year.

Along with his membership to YES! and other organizations, Robbins has written a book along with co-author, Sol Solomon, *Choices For Our Future, A Generation Rising for Life on Earth*. The book emphasizes the message of Robbins' speech, helping high school students to realize adopting a more ecological responsible lifestyle will help curb some of the negative environmental impacts humans create. The main themes of the book are over-consumption, waste reduction, vegetarianism, energy-efficient living and peaceful living.

Near the end of his speech, Robbins described conditions of factory farming. A hush came over the crowd as Robbins portrayed factory chicken farming conditions. Robbins depicted the chickens' claws growing over the chicken wire. Chickens' beaks are clipped off so they can't fight or peck at each other and Robbins said most of the time, chicken coops are stacked on top of each other and the feces from other birds drops down on top of other birds' heads. Robbins also discussed the conditions for veal calves as they are raised in factory farms. As the 240 high school students listened intently, the mood in the room changed and there's question to whether some of these kids will ever eat meat again.

For the rest of the day the high school students participated in environmental education presentations and programs according to the conference's title.

## Old style sandy mountain breakdown

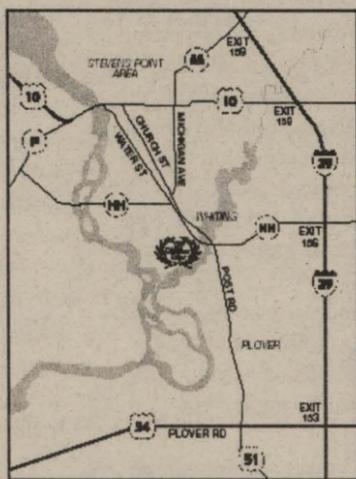
By Adam Mella  
ASSISTANT OUTDOORS EDITOR

Earlier this year the Trans-McDill Pond Fault's tectonic plates began to shift and spewed sandy dredge onto the former disc golf course. Over the course of this fall, the dredge accumulated at such a severe rate that before our very stunned eyes, an entire mountain range composed mostly of sand, muck and rock formed.

While nobody knows the exact height of this ever-changing heap, it has been recently concluded by *The Pointer's* outdoors staff that the sand mountain is now the highest peak in Stevens Point and perhaps all of Portage County.

As the mountain continues to grow, officials at both Rib Mountain and Timm's Hill fear that the sand mountain may soon surpass both of them to claim the title as Wisconsin's highest point.

Reports from local climbers claim



*The location of this mysterious sand mountain.*

that the continued spewing of dredge results in exhilarating climbs to the summit, overlooking the train yard. *The Pointer* staff warns that the mountain is entirely on private property and attempting the dangerous ascent may result in trespassing fines, altitude sickness, sand inhalation and a general sense of euphoria.

DO YOU WANT TO WORK FOR THE POINTER?

Stop by The Pointer office, Room CAC 104 to pick up an application.



### OUTDOORS ACTIVITIES



Buy one, get one FREE @ the climbing wall in the MAC until Dec. 13.



Contact the Bill Cook Chapter of the Izaak Walton League about the upcoming Ice Fishing Annual in January.

Remember kids, homemade gifts are even more appreciated—Doing this will also help reduce waste this holiday season. Happy Holidays!

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# My Christmas request for Santa

Dear Santa,

I know I'm kind of old to still believe in you, but I still do and know that you'll make everything turn out all right on December 25th.

Let me explain my predicament, Claus. A few months ago, I asked my dad and mom for a pair of snowshoes, but I think they forgot. When I said something about snowshoes, they kind of just ignored me, and I got no response from either of them. A few weeks after that, my dad and I were at Fleet Farm and we walked past the snowshoes. I started looking at them, making gestures of excitement to maybe give my dad some kind of clue that I really wanted snowshoes. My dad seemed kind of receptive, but he's getting old and he often forgets things after five minutes.

So, my Christmas wish for this year is, could you help my folks out with the snowshoe bit?

I know I often kid with my mom because she still signs our presents "from Santa", and I tell her there's no such thing as you, but it's all a cover up to deny to my brother that I still believe in you.

You see, Santa, my brother ruined your zeal for me when I was in 2nd grade. When all the other little 7-year-olds were getting super excited about Christmas and you visiting, my brother had already told me that you didn't exist. Secretly, I still believed and still do.

So I hope you can come through for me this year. It's been a while since I've written or spoken to you, so I hope my name hasn't been crossed off of your list. I've been pretty good this year. My grades are getting better and better every semester and I've tried to be good to my friends and family.

I'm not sure what your policy is on kicking people off of your special list and I question whether I'm too old to even be on your list, but I just really want a pair of snowshoes and have a bad feeling in my stomach that my parents completely forgot.

I have another request, and I'm not sure what you're all capable of, but it'd be super cool if you could maybe bring some snow our way. You see, my sweet boyfriend who's living in Mexico is coming back over the holiday and I want to take him snowshoeing because he's never gone.

Well, I guess the only way that would work out is if you consider my first request of snowshoes. But, in regards to the snow, I just want enough for us to hike around a bit (me in my new snowshoes and Bjorn in one of my parents' many wooden pairs).

I wish you, your reindeer, the elves and Mrs. Claus the best of the holiday season, and hope you have a safe trip while delivering toys and snowshoes.

I'll be making cinnamon cookies and will most definitely have milk out for you when you come to our house (snowshoes in tow).

Love,

Leigh Ann Ruddy

## Holiday Special



The Holidays are coming and so is Christmas Break. Get yourself a really cool gift and rent an apartment for next school year. Save yourself some holiday cash and bring in this coupon for \$15 off your monthly rent, a limited savings of \$180 over a year lease. It's not much, but are any of the other guys giving discounts for the holidays? Call 341-2120 for a tour.

### VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Happy Holidays!

OFFER EXPIRES: JANUARY 31, 2003



By Adam Mella  
ASSISTANT OUTDOORS EDITOR

# Let's go Ice Fishing

Fishing or finals? Tough choices on the horizon

I simply can't believe another semester has sneaked by once again. What have we accomplished so far? Somewhere along the way, I let my straight A's dream fall from my memories, flew to Europe, rolled a few games at Skipp's and still managed to do my share of fishing in between. Thankfully, the angling has been steady throughout the fall and now as the semester closes, we fisherpeople face a terrible, harsh choice. Saving our grades with a miraculous final charge through the university's final exam brigade, or taking the more relaxing approach to finals week by going off into the countryside like wildmen looking for tasty freshwater fish. A tale as old as time itself, indeed. So then, let's hear what these tiny Mr. Mellas on my shoulders have to say.

### Advantageous Mr. Mella

Now listen here! You have put in all sorts of hard work and studious hours at the library this semester toiling to get good grades. You have been fishing all along and getting by just fine, but this is the time of the year to buckle down, finish the job and seal the deal, kid.

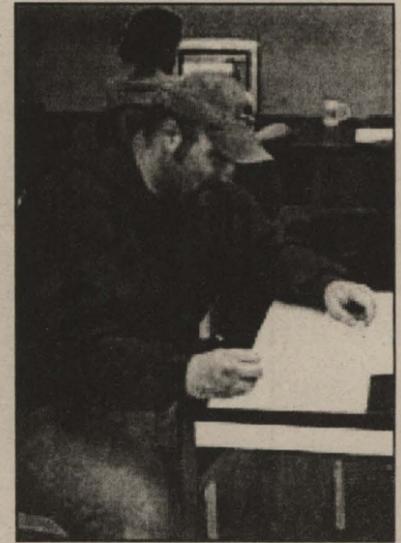


Ice fishing in mid-December is important, too.

What happened last time you went out fishing, anyway? You didn't get one certain bite and ended up warming yourself by the bottle. I know the fish are out there and the weather has been so pleasant lately; however, you must remember why you are even in Stevens Point. Not for the fishing and not for the exciting nightlife, but for the academic pursuit of knowledge and the acquisition of the abilities and skills you will need to succeed in this tough world. Hunker down and do what you've got to do for one honest week and then, kid, you can fish as much as you want for the entire month of winter break.

Just think, one more week of learning. For a whole month of relaxation, it's not so bad, guy. That's right, agree with Advantageous Mr. Mella; I'm your friend, and I'm just looking out for your best interests.

Grab a Five Alive and your geography book.



Studying hard for finals is important.

### Pure Evil Mr. Mella

Now listen here, over on your left shoulder. Hey, you're not going to listen to that other guy are you? When was the last time he did anything good for you? Sure he told you about the dangers of hula-hoop scuba diving in November, but remember the time he told you to wake up early to go over some notes last Tuesday, or the time he told you I was the devil? That guy is a dick!

I'm the one that told you to skip class when you caught those keeper walleye and I'm the miniature self that planted the idea of two-man-saw secret ops in your feeble, feeble mind.

You know that finals are just a sick, perverted hoax on college students put on by the government to distract you from the real issue...man! To hell with it; the fish are biting and there is a sweet deal on whiskey at the liquor store this week. You can study tomorrow when that cold front moves through. The fish are going to be slamming those glow-jigs today for

sure! Wait now and the opportunity may already have come and gone, dude.

Remember what Johnny Tuitel said about taking life by the beating, live, bloody heart and eating it with your bare teeth? Just think, one more day of fishing, a few hours of studying, some wimpy finals and then a whole month more of relaxation.

That's right; agree with Pure Evil Mr. Mella. I'm your friend, and I'm just looking out for you best interests. Grab your fishing bucket and your Creek CD.

### Original Mr. Mella

Well there you have it folks; I've got to stop eating those moldy tuna salad subs, seriously. Whatever you do decide to do with your finals week, good luck to you all. Enjoy your winter break and always remember, through the end of this year, and into the next, "Let's Go Ice Fishing."

# Mr. Winters' two cents

Hey kids, how's the action been on the ice lately? I've heard that it has been pretty damn decent. As far as myself, I really haven't been able to get out much. That's right; at this old age, I'm still a slave of the system and of the ripened egg-nog.

However, over the weekend I sat and talked awhile with a couple of my buddies. They said they'd been hitting the pan fish in the morning time primarily. They said that the best action was on mousy jigs, especially for bigger, friable tasties. Tip ups have been doing well too, with lots of Northern starting to really drop the tooth down during their favorite season of the year.

Some people may be leery of the ice with the

splendidly warm weather as of late, but I assure you folks that almost all the area lakes and backwaters could support a grizzly bear on an ATV.

Lastly, I'd like to simply mention, have an illustrious yuletide, Packers vs. Vikings (told you so), and "Go on and Git."



Mr. Winters

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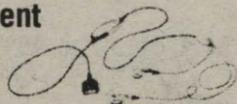
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# Words of Wisdom From the Senior

Why does Christmas entertainment always have to be so piss poor?

By Josh Goller

ARTS & REVIEW EDITOR

Trick or treating is over and the turkey has been eaten. That can mean only one thing: the airwaves are officially packed full of crappy holiday specials. Corporations sponsor one annoying TV Christmas special after another while recording artists cash in by cutting holiday records for widespread consumption.

The saddest thing about the holidays is that most Americans settle for this mass-produced garbage. For example, many people are content to accept Christina Aguilera Christmas albums as legitimate holiday music. I, on the other hand, think that Christmas carols lose some of their sanctity when sung by a whore. Meanwhile, last year's Christmas album by Destiny's Child proves that midriff-flaunting sex symbols can bump and grind one minute (detailing how "bootylicious" their bodies are) while crooning a festive rendition of "Silent Night" the next. And though their castrato voices lend themselves nicely to the high note in "Oh Holy Night," I really can't stomach another N'Sync Christmas carol (what's next, a Fatboy Slim remix of Jingle Bells?). I don't want to go on a Dennis Miller-esque rant here, but what about that Whitney Houston? Come on! She's too busy experimenting with ways to snort her figgy pudding to produce any kind of quality holiday music.

As bad as the recording industry can be, television is the real devil when it comes to crappy holiday entertainment. TV producers are quick

to select struggling stars to take part in their lackluster Christmas specials. My questions are how many times can a tragic waif save Christmas and why do these specials always incorporate the voice of Vanessa Williams?

But deep down, I'm actually not all doom and gloom when it comes to the mother of all holidays. I realize that (on rare occasions) I have a tendency to sound a bit sarcastic and cynical in this column. But in reality, like many people in this country, I love Christmas. The food. The family togetherness. The rad gifts. The ooshy-gooshy feeling I get when I set out a plate of Snackwell's wafers and a glass of soy milk for Santa on Christmas Eve. Hell, I'm more warm and fuzzy toward this holiday than those Hallmark Hall of Fame specials I despise so much.

But just because I turn into a big softie the closer it gets to Dec. 25, doesn't mean I have to lower my entertainment standards. I've found it's completely possible to maintain an elitist status while still enjoying some holiday fun.

Like most every year, this Christmas I plan to sit in a pile of unwrapped wrapping paper and watch at least six straight hours of *A Christmas Story*. Despite the fact that he's the antichrist's love slave, I do owe Ted Turner some props for TNT's annual 24-hour marathon of Ralphie's BB gun quest in this timeless holiday classic.

And as far as holiday music is concerned, I refuse to listen to anything not recorded by Mannheim Steamroller. There's no changing my mind, I'm set in my ways. Although, I do admit that if Eminem ever came out with "I Saw Drunk, Abusive Bitch of a Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" or Marilyn Manson ever recorded "Santi-Claus Superstar," I'd probably buy it.



after this, the corporate ladder  
will be a piece of **[cake]**.

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## Local Live Music Schedule

### The Mission Coffeehouse

Friday, Dec. 13

Skeptic  
Partly Cloudy  
Dumah  
Spittle

Saturday, Dec. 14

#### Christmas Party

featuring:

Jeff Hunter  
Filamant  
DJ Serby  
Fader  
Matt E  
Imaginary Friend  
Brody Wan  
David Seven  
Jon S

#### Witz End

Friday, Dec. 13

Hoodwinks  
&  
Brick Shithouse

Saturday, Dec. 14

Day Old Bread

#### U.C. Encore

Thursday, Dec. 12

Know Boundaries

#### Clark Place

Friday, Dec. 13

Dave Steffen Band

Saturday, Dec. 14

Louise Taylor  
&  
Bob Hillman

#### Amherst Coffee Company

Friday, Dec. 13

Jeff Erickson Trio

Saturday, Dec. 14

Tommy Bentz

# 2002 in review:

An unofficial record of the the year's top releases

By Mike Kerkman  
ARTS & REVIEW REPORTER

In no particular order, here's some of the best music releases bearing the copyright of 2002.

**The Breeders – Title TK (4AD)**

Well worth the long, long wait, *Title TK* is less pop, far weirder and even better than *Last Splash*. Kim Deal's voice is like no other, and the quiet and sparse "Off You" highlights it at its best. "The She" has a pace that's hard to pin down, and "Huffer" and "Full On Idle" are out-and-out punk rock. What a fantastic album!

**Mr. Lif – Emergency Rations (Definitive Jux)**

Hearing this for the first time just a couple months ago, I was blown away. Hearing this again today, I still am. 1) Killer hip-hop beats. 2) Scathing, politically-left lyrics with seamless flow 3) Great artwork 4) A live video of the EP's best cut "Home of the Brave". I told everybody I know about this disc, so tell everyone you know about this disc



**Sonic Youth – Murray Street (DGC)**

Sonic Youth are everything music should be. That's no small statement, but damn, they just make such perfect music. Experimental, loud, catchy, noisy, beautiful, weird; I love every second of it. "Murray Street" is a fine addition to their expansive, legendary catalogue.

**Sleater-Kinney – One Beat (Kill Rock Stars)**

The best political commentary on the current state of blind patriotism and civil rights violations since...well, since Mr. Lif. And it just rocks. What I wouldn't give to see this group in concert. P.S.: the insert tops my list of coolest band photos.

**...And You Will Know Us By the Trail of Dead – Source Tags and Codes (Interscope)**

This is just good, loud rock and roll. Some hear elements of Sonic Youth; I hear elements of Rocket From the Crypt. But the most prominent element is just the good, loud rock and roll.

**Blackalicious – Blazing Arrow (MCA)**

Gift of Gab is straight-

up the best rapper I can think of. Check out "Chemical Calisthenics" and try to tell me there could be better. This is a solid and consistent album, with an array of collaborations including members of Jurassic 5 and Rage Against the Machine. "It's Going Down" is a number one single in some parallel universe.



**Tom Waits – Blood Money (Anti-)**

This record could not have been from 2002. I can't figure out, though, if it's because it sounds like it was released ages ago, or because it sounds like it is from ages to come. Who makes music like this?! If I cut and paste comments people I know have made about the album, it's "cookie monster singing the carnival soundtrack to Hell." Rock on!

**Jim O'Rourke – I'm Happy, and I'm Singing, and a 1,2,3,4 (Mego)**

OK, technically this is a 2001 release, but Drag City didn't release it stateside until '02 so I think it counts. Plus, it's just that great. Jim is now an official member of Sonic Youth (there's a theme going on here, isn't there?) but before that, he was releasing his own amazing stuff. This is one of his "Powerbook" releases: experimental music composed entirely on computer (as opposed to his "Pop" releases, which are equally genius). These three pieces are gorgeous. It's given me chills. Plus, the disc gets the year's award for best title, hands down.

**The Flaming Lips – Yoshimi Versus the Pink Robots**

Competing for that "best title" award, the Lips have scored again. This is spacey, trippy, over-the-top and shimmering. It's some sort of story about Yoshimi (the same Yoshimi of the Japanese band Boredoms) and a band of robots programmed to feel emotion. Or something. Whatever it's meant to be, it came out great. This is bound to be on many a year-end favorites list.



# Movie Review

## They

By Geoff Fyfe  
ARTS & REVIEW REPORTER

The tagline for *They* states, "First comes the warning. Then comes the mark. Then comes the terror." A more accurate line would read, "First comes the tedium. Then comes the boredom. Then comes the sleep." Except for a few admittedly suspenseful moments (especially the opening and ending scenes), *They* is the latest in a long line of boring, underachieving horror flicks.

*They* has a promising premise, concerning the childhood fear of the dark and the concept that the creatures we suspected to be hiding under our beds and in our closets might



not have been make believe. The protagonist, Julia Lund (the wafer-thin Laura Regan), suffered from night terrors as a little girl, but is now studying for her master's degree in psychology. One night, she is torn away from her E.M.T. boyfriend Paul (Marc Blucas) to meet her old friend Billy (John Abraham). The hysterical Billy informs her that the creatures from their childhood dreams are real and that "they" have come back to claim him. Before she can make sense of it, he kills himself rather than be taken by these creatures.

At Billy's funeral, Julia meets Sam (Ethan Embry) and Terry (Dagmara Dominczyck), who also suffered from night terrors as children. After showing Julia the circular marks on each of their bodies (which Billy also acquired), the duo voice their concerns that "they" marked them during childhood and are returning for them. Soon, Julia starts seeing strange shapes in the shadows, lights start flickering out around her and people around her start dis-

appearing. She even receives a mark of her own. It seems that the light fearing, inhuman "they" are after her too.

Amazingly, even though "they" fear light, Julia and friends never think to hightail it to someplace bright, but instead go poking around every dark corner they can think of, including a duct and a subway tunnel. But, it's futile to expect anything

less from horror film characters. It's never explained exactly what "they" are, why "they" have chosen certain kids or why "they" wait so long to get them. We never even see a full glimpse of these creatures. When we do get a peek at them, the special effects look like the filmmakers ran out of money.

The actors are not going to qualify for Oscars anytime soon. Regan is an unappealing and rather stupid heroine and her obvious anorexia doesn't help. Blucas, as her jerky boyfriend, emotes with all the facial expressions of an Easter Island statue. Only Embry (*That Thing You Do, Can't Hardly Wait*) makes his paranoid character quirky and likable. Otherwise, I was rooting for "they" the entire time.

To its credit, *They* does have the courage to conclude with a downbeat ending, one that will send a chill up your spine. However, it's too little, too late to save the film. As for the added "Wes Craven presents" title, don't hold your breath. Craven had nothing to do with this film, but only whored his name out to give it credibility. *They* joins a long line of similar "Wes Craven presents" films, all of them mediocre at best. But hey, at least this film is better than *Dracula 2000*.

# The "Net Nerd's" Nook

By Josh Goller  
ARTS & REVIEW EDITOR

Few people recognize website construction as an art form. However, there are plenty of individuals who spend countless lonely hours working on this craft. For those who enjoy the artistry of seemingly pointless websites, here's a short list of fun places to start. Happy browsing.

**Combovers Experience**  
www.combovers.co.uk

As notorious as the mullet, the combover hairstyle is represented at this site with five photo galleries packed full of actual combovers.

**The Official Ninja Webpage**  
www.realultimatepower.net

Written in the verbage of a third grader, this website is a testament to the "Real Ultimate Power" that ninjas possess. This site offers a wide range of fun features that focus primarily on how ninjas "flip out all the time

and chop heads off without thinking twice about it." Also testifies to how "sweet" and "totally awesome" ninjas are.

**MC Hawking**  
www.mchawking.com

Pokes fun at artificially voiced Nobel prize-winning physicist Stephen Hawking by spoofing songs with an electronic voice, which are accessible on MP3 format. Highlights include the a Led Zeppelin medley and a spoof of Ice T with "F\*ck the Creationists."

**Stop Clown Porn Now**  
www.stopclownpornnow.org

Detailed account of this organization's honorable mission along with protest pictures. And if you want to get involved in the progressive movement, there's plenty of contact info too. Apparently, even the circus has a dark side. Free Bozo!

**Bert Is Evil**  
www.spacecat.com/bert/bert.htm

Once you read all the evidence the webmaster has compiled (and view the damning photos) you too will realize that *Sesame Street's* Bert is indeed quite evil.

This website chronicles Bert's reign of terror from his Nazi involvement during WWII to his recent assault on Prairie Dawn.

**Impaled Garden Gnomes**  
www.bifrost.com.au/hosting/gnomes

It's exactly what it sounds like, a moderately-sized photo gallery of various gnomes run through with everything from arrows and pickaxes to screwdrivers and meat cleavers.

That's it for this week. Remember fellow internet nerds, there's nothing wrong with whacking to it, but don't hack into it.

If you know any wicked-fun websites like those above, please e-mail the links to jgoll992@uwsp.edu.

**TOPS AT THE BOX OFFICE**

1. Die Another Day
2. Analyze That
3. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
4. Empire
5. Treasure Planet
6. The Santa Clause 2
7. 8 Crazy Nights
8. Friday After Next
9. 8 Mile
10. The Ring

**UPCOMING DVD RELEASES**

- Like Mike
- Stuart Little 2
- Contempt
- Halloween: Resurrection
- K-19: The Widowmaker
- Unfaithful
- The Crocodile Hunter
- Contempt
- Halloween: Resurrection
- K-19: The Widowmaker

### tonja steele

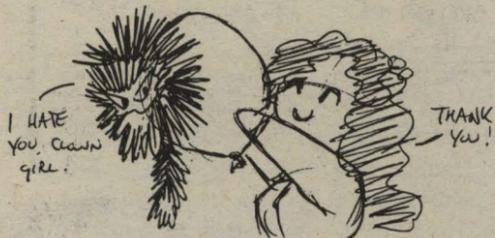
by joey hetzel

Catball & Clown Girl



### jackie's fridge

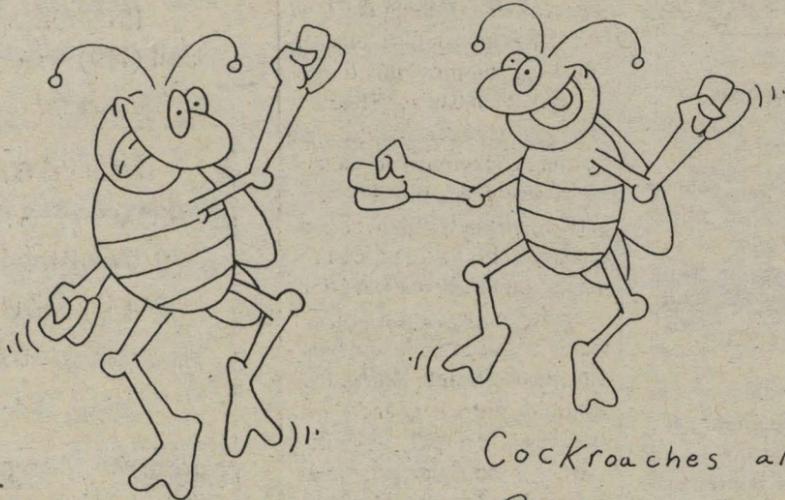
by bj hiorns



### SPARK it.....

by: Mel Rosenberg

Upon receiving News Concerning President Bush's threats of Nuclear War on Iraq,



Cockroaches all over Baghdad rejoice in Anticipation. *Roar*

## Jobeth!

Fit to a T.

by BJ Hiorns & Joey Hetzel



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He 102

J

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Dear Classifieds Section,  
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Cheryl Tepsa-Fink

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