



Tsunami relief drive this weekend

The Normal Pointer was established in 1895 by the Press Association. The Stork first appeared in 1902 and continued to grace the cover for the following year.



The UW-SP women's hockey team is currently unbeaten in conference play. Find out more in Sports, page 10



Have some confusion about the competing high definition DVD formats? Don't have the slightest clue what a Blu-Ray disk is? Have other questions of a technical nature? Be sure to check out the grand inauguration of Science & Technology, page 3



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Campus groups combine efforts to raise money for humanitarian relief in devastated region

By Adam Mella
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The majority of the campus population was away on break when a massive tsunami devastated vast portions of nations in the Indian Ocean region. Although student and community response to the event was hindered by this fragmentation, an all out effort to gather monetary donations was immediately organized once the spring semester convened. The bulk of tsunami fundraising will occur Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Stevens Point chapter of WISPERG has assumed the leadership for the effort on campus. Karen Rodgers, chapter president, oversaw the multi-organizational think-tank last week.

"We as a student body, have a great chance to make a really big impact," said Rodgers, "especially with so many organizations coming together."

All funds raised on the UW-SP campus will be equally divided between three charitable organizations – The Red Cross, Oxfam and the United Methodist

Committee on Relief. The Red Cross is working towards general relief; Oxfam is focusing on providing fresh-water tanks and anti-biotic medication while UMCOR is donating to the local Methodist churches in Bandar Aceh, who have become refugee camps for entire communities.

James Duquette, SGA president, who also attended the planning meeting, said, "I know this campus cares. The faculty, students and staff will do anything they can to help. The most effective way for us to accomplish this task is by sending money."

In order to gather the funds, several donation-based events have been scheduled for this weekend. Additionally, dozens of area businesses agreed to donate food or money for these events.

WISPERG has donation booths ready for all UW-SP basketball and hockey games this weekend, as well as the Point Brewed Talent performance at the Encore on Thursday evening.

On Friday, a movie and food event is planned for 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in the Encore. *Team America*, pizza and other goods for sale are on the menu. A donation of \$5 is appreciated.

A dodgeball tournament is in the works for Saturday, from noon until 4 p.m., in the MAC. There is room for 16 teams of five people, with a \$5 registration fee per person and prizes for the top finishers.

TSUNAMI FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Thursday, February 4:

8pm in the Encore, Phase Three, Point Brewed Talent (contribute as you head into the show)

Friday, February 5:

Movie Night – Come see "Team America" at 7pm or 9:30 in the Laird Room. The movie is free, but for a \$5 donation, you can have pizza, cookies and other food while you watch the show!

Saturday, February 6:

Dodgeball Tournament – noon to 4pm at the MAC (room for 16 teams of 5 people) \$5 to play – PRIZES
Collection tables at the Basketball and Hockey Games

Sunday, February 7:

Superbowl Party – 5:30pm in the Encore, bring a donation and enjoy free food

Graphic by Holly Sandbo

Numerous student groups have reacted strongly to the human toll of the epic tsunami and are working together to help ease some of the suffering in affected areas.

On Sunday, Superbowl XXXIX will be shown on the big screen in the Encore, with doors opening at 5:30. For a donation, you can enjoy free food while watching the game.

There is additional fundraising activities in Thomson,

Knutzen, Baldwin, Watson, and Pray-Sims halls by way of penny wars that will contribute to the overall goal. The total project's monetary objective is set around \$7,000 for the weekend.

U-pass system shows signs of use



Photo by Holly Sandbo

Since the launch of the U-Pass system last semester, city bus drivers have noted an increase of student use. Credit is given in part to an aggressive ad campaign.

Student use of bus pass system shows promise after first semester

By Joe Pisciotto
NEWS REPORTER

The U-Pass system is showing a significant increase in student use after one semester in existence.

According to tallies taken by bus drivers, student use of the U-Pass system has increased from 3,304 rides during the program's inception month of September 2004 (with the last two days of August included in that tally) to 5,144 rides taken in December 2004.

Each month has brought an increase in utilization, with a sharp increase of over 800 rides

by students from November to December. The increase "comes from getting the information out to the students," said Tom Carroll, operations supervisor for the Stevens Point Transit Department.

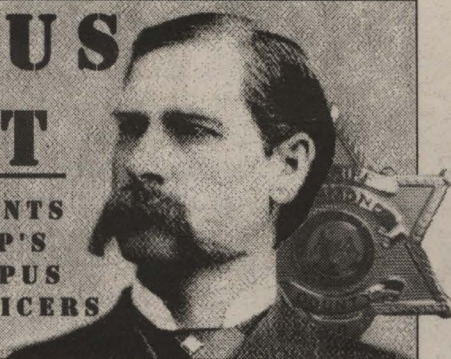
The transit department and the UW-SP Student Government Association (SGA) have spread the word about U-Pass over the past few months by utilizing *Student Message of the Day* and by printing up and handing out brochures to new students during the orientation period in January. The goal is to continue to make students aware of the U-Pass system.

Lisa Bahr, Student Life Issues Director of SGA says that the U-Pass system is doing "good, so far." She looks forward to future developments for

see U-pass, page 2

CAMPUS BEAT

TRUE ACCOUNTS
FROM UW-SP'S
FINEST CAMPUS
SECURITY OFFICERS



Sims Hall

Thursday, Jan. 27 2:20 p.m.

Type: **HARASSMENT**

A student requested the filing of a notice of complaint to Protective Services about harassment

Knutzen Hall

Thursday, Jan 27 6:57 p.m.

Type: **HARASSMENT**

A female reported that an unknown male had followed her to her room at midnight the previous evening.

Hansen Hall

Sunday, Jan. 30 2:18 a.m.

Type: **DRUG POSSESSION**

At 2:18 a.m. two Protective Services officers were dispatched to the hall in regards to suspected marijuana use.

College of Professional Studies

Sunday, Jan. 30 1:07 p.m.

Type: **ARSON**

Protective Services officers were dispatched to the CPS first floor women's bathroom concerning a fire that had been lit in one of the sinks.

Student Services Center

Tuesday, Feb. 1 8:30 a.m.

Type: **COUNTERFEITING**

The Bursar's Office notified Protective Services that they were in possession of a counterfeit 10 dollar bill.

**THE CAMPUS BEAT IS PROVIDED BY UW-SP
PROTECTIVE SERVICES. ALL NAMES**

U-pass

from page 1

the system.

"I think once we get students introduced to it through freshman orientation, and once students see it as a daily part of campus life," said Bahr, "they will be more aware and make the system better every year."

The transit department continues to monitor feedback from students and citizens. As a result, the East Campus Connection was altered in the middle of the fall semester to extend the route further eastward to the apartments on Doolittle Drive. According to Collins, changes like this have also helped to

reach more students.

"We don't want to settle. We are constantly looking for comments from students," said Collins, "and hope to extend the service in the future."

One idea that the transit department considered was to run a late night bus line from the campus to the downtown area. Fallout from the death of an intoxicated student in LaCrosse brought the idea to a halt. According to Bahr, "people blamed his death on the [late night] bus."

The next thing the transit department would like to look at is extending service to the southern parts of the city, which are currently underrepresented.

Office life becomes art work

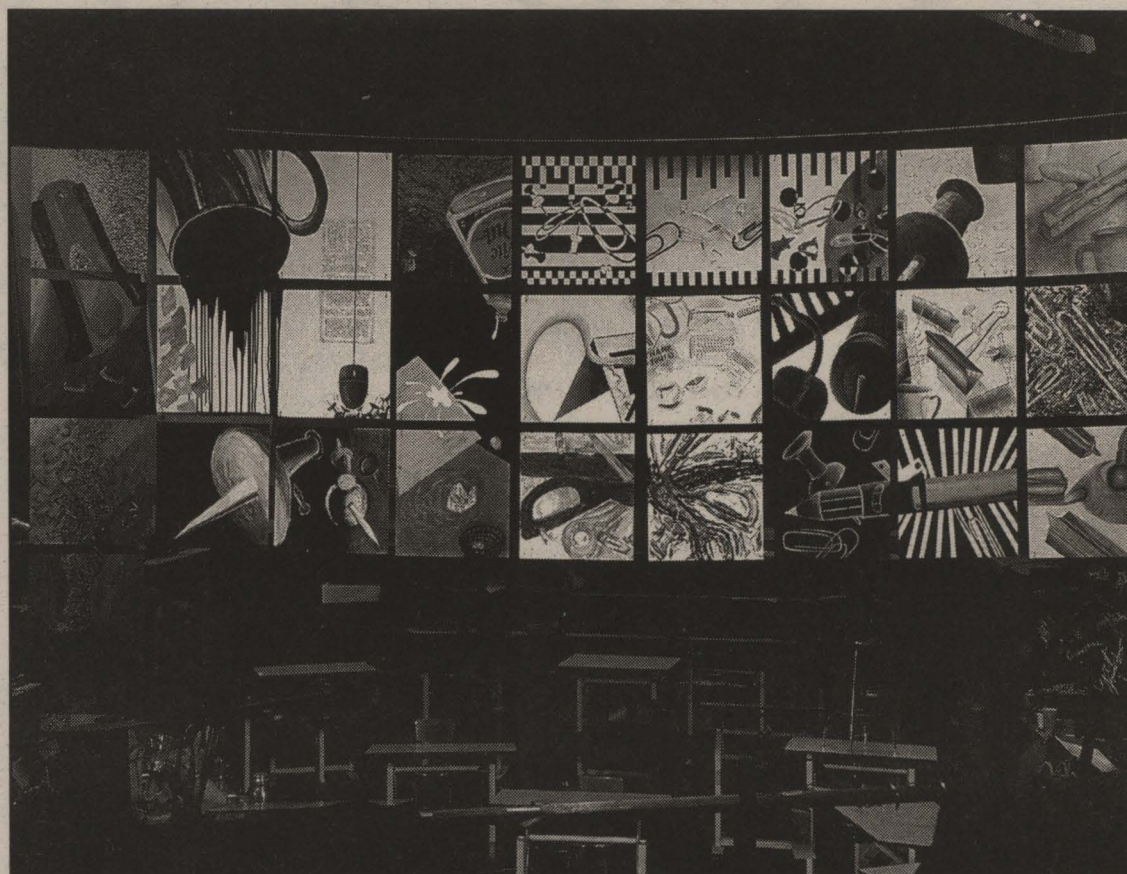


Photo by Doug Moore

Last semester, students of Prof. Susan Morrison's Art 103 class unveiled their homage to office supplies in an attempt to take routine supplies used on a daily basis and turn them into a work of art. Prof. Morrison remarked that the project came together due to the "quality interaction between students and their willingness to try new things."

Budget could have impact

**State finances
could have poten-
tial impact on
affordability of
higher education
for students**

By Martin Grosse
NEWS REPORTER

On Feb. 8, Governor Jim Doyle will release his budget proposal. This is a document of great importance to the faculty and students of the University of Wisconsin System, as well as all Wisconsin residents.

There is no way to predict what this will mean for UW-SP students, but Gov. James Doyle did give some insight in his State of the State Address on Jan. 12th. When commenting on the status of the UW system, Doyle said that though money is tight, he plans on "adding faculty, and increasing financial aid".

Previous comments on the budget have pointed to the potential of a 4-percent increase in tuition for students in the next budget, a small amount compared to the double-digit increases of previous tuition hikes.

This could result in more jobs in the system, and make it easier for students to afford college expenses. Also, to help ease the cost of tuition, he plans to increase the amount of

money that families can deduct from their taxes from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.

Doyle concludes his college concerns by saying that "the UW system is the best in America, and we need to keep it on top."

In response to the State of the State address, Kevin P. Reilly, president of the UW System, states that he is pleased with the Governor's allocation of funds to the UW system. He praised the Governor for recognizing the wisdom of investment in higher education, stating that increased spending will provide, "talent, expertise, and ideas to businesses around the state" as the number of Wisconsin residents with four-year degrees increases. Reilly also shows concern for faculty and staff, saying he hopes the Governor and legislature will increase funding for faculty and staff compensation.

Lauren McGrath, the SGA legislative issues director agrees with Reilly, emphasizing that money provided to colleges produces highly trained graduates to benefit the state's workforce.

She also notes that at this time, Wisconsin's prisons receive more funding than our colleges, yet, needless to say, produce a much less employable output. McGrath is concerned that the Governor may try to pay off the state's \$3.2 billion deficit by, "not raising taxes, but cutting [funding for] higher education."

The Student Government Association is providing ways for all students to voice their budget concerns to the state legislature this month. On February 9th, students will be able to sign their names on wooden doors that will be delivered to state legislators in Madison. Government officials feel that students are not vocal about their costs and experiences in the UW system. This is a great opportunity for students to get their opinions heard by officials.

On Feb. 24, students may attend a rally in Madison concerning the budget. Before the rally, SGA will show students how the budget affects them, and the current status of the state's budget.

These students will attend the rally, be trained by an official lobbyist, and then meet with state legislators to discuss the budget's effect on the UW system.

All students are urged to attend these events and speak their mind. The chance exists for students to make a difference for not only their own college experience, but that of future generations. Students are encouraged to contact SGA and be heard by the people who control your money.

For more information on these and other upcoming events, contact the Student Government Association at UC 028, call at 715-346-3722, or email Lauren McGrath at lmcgr565@uwsp.edu.

Betamax vs. VHS II:

The looming HD-DVD format war

John Larson
NEWS EDITOR

So I know what you are thinking: I just spent a fortune converting my VHS collection to DVD, and now I have to buy them all over again! Although the quality of a typical DVD is superior to a VHS cassette, if you have a High Definition (HD) TV set, or watch DVDs on a computer monitor, you are not getting your money's worth, again. If you have watched a film on an HD channel, you have seen the difference in picture quality between that broadcast and DVD version.

However, studios and manufacturers have clearly not learned their lessons from the Betamax vs. VHS fiasco. While both offer a high-definition picture for someone with a plasma TV, the differences stop there.

The Blu-Ray format, pioneered by Sony, Pioneer, HP,

Dell, Samsung, and most of the other major manufacturers of DVD players and discs uses a disc that comes in a translucent blue protective cartridge that protects the disc from scratches and general wear and tear.

The Blu-Ray discs uses a laser that operates in a blue spectrum (hence the name blu(e)-ray) reads the smaller data pits of the disc with more precision, resulting in an error-free read of the disc and a storage capacity upwards of 50 GB. This could allow for discs to carry over 20 hours of standard-definition video and 4.5 hours of HD video.

The super high capacity means while the format is likely to cost more, the storage capacity will be around far longer than the current generation DVD. Since the disks can store high amounts of data, a film or TV box set that occupies multiple disks with current technology could be condensed onto one or two Blu-Ray discs, which could result in savings for the consumer.

Unfortunately, for players to read current generation DVDs and CDs, a separate laser would have to be installed, which will result in players that will cost more than the HD-DVD format. Some players could be equipped with just a blue laser, but to have serious consumer support, the players will have to support current DVDs.

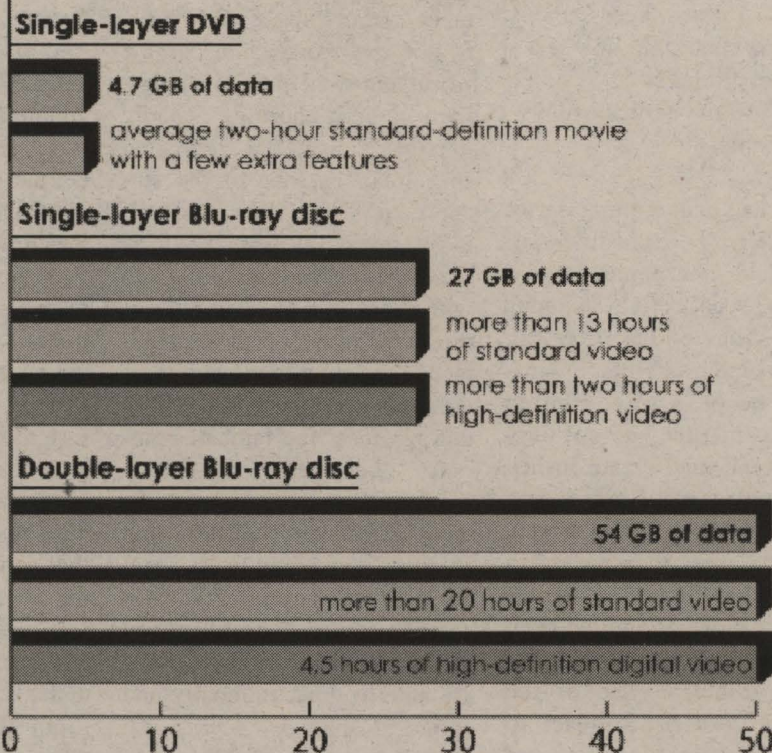
On the plus side, Sony has announced that their upcoming Playstation 3 console will be

based upon Blu-Ray technology; this could be good news for gamers and people who side with this format. Sony has also recently purchased MGM studios, and its film catalog which will release exclusively in Blu-Ray format.

The HD-DVD format uses technology based upon the current

Blu-Ray HD format, resulting in players that will cost far less, initially, than the Blu-Ray format players. HD-DVD enjoys the support of many of the major studios, such as Warner Brothers, Universal, New Line, and Paramount, all of which have pledged to release their films in

Blu-ray vs. DVD Capacity



generation of DVDs but utilizes a much higher storage capacity. A current DVD stores 4.5-8.5 GB of data. The new format uses a disk with 15-30 GB of storage space, which allows it to store HD video that requires large amounts of disk space. The HD-DVD format uses a red laser, same as current disc players, meaning that manufacturing costs will be cheaper for this format as factories will not have to switch production to the costlier blue lasers used by the competing

this format. Unfortunately, HD-DVDs will be plagued by problems of their predecessors such as scratches and a lower capacity than the Blu-Ray format.

Both formats are expected to enter the market later this year, and nervous videophiles will have to take their chances and choose one format over the other, while the rest of us who don't have \$600 to spend on the first generation HD players will have to play the waiting game to see who wins. Sony is counting on avoiding a repeat of its Betamax fiasco of the early 1980s, where despite the technical superiority of the Betamax format, the cheaper VHS won the cassette format war and consumers had to live with a sub par format for 20 years.

Here is a sincere hope that consumers make the right choice in the HD wars, as whatever they decide to go with, it is the format that you will have to use to watch the next three *Star Wars* box sets that Lucas will throw at us in the years to come.

Planetarium voyage to look at Saturn voyage

News Services

"Ring World," a program about the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft's seven-year mission to Saturn, will be shown during February and March at the Allen F. Blocher Planetarium at UW-SP.

Showings are at 2 p.m. on the Sundays of Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6 and 13. The hour-long programs are free and open to the public. Planetarium doors open one-half hour before scheduled programs.

"Ring World" will give an overview of the planned study of Saturn and its moons while the spacecraft is in orbit during the next few years.

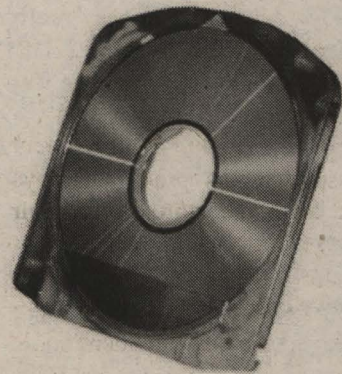
It also will outline the results of the Huygens probe attempted in January 2005. An overview will be presented of what has been learned about the planet in 400 years of telescopic viewing and the three previous spacecraft fly-bys done more than 20 years ago.

The program will conclude by considering some of the questions scientists hope to address with this new look at the solar system's spectacular ringed planet.

"A Night Sky" program with details about objects in the current night sky is presented at 8 p.m. Mondays at the planetarium. If the weather is clear, participants may make an optional observatory visit to view through the telescope. A forecast of viewing conditions and a statement about whether the observatory will be open is available by calling (715)-346-2208

Planetarium programs are designed for a general audience and to appeal to all age groups. Seating is not reserved in the 70-seat planetarium. Groups of 15 or more may schedule a special showing of any planetarium program by (715)-346-2208; cost is \$15 per group.

The planetarium is located on the second floor of the UW-SP Science Building at the corner of Reserve Street and Fourth Avenue.



Don't be confused by this disc's appearance; you may be watching all of your movies on Blu-ray discs soon.

Research Corner

Liz Bolton
MANAGING EDITOR

So what kind of research are you doing here at the university?

Our main focus here is studying deer ticks and the diseases they carry. Deer ticks can carry bacteria such as HGE, which affects the immune system; babesiosis, which causes malaria-like symptoms; and Lyme's disease. This fall we collected samples from Schmeekle, but we also collect from Nine-mile forest, and Stockton.

What have you found?

We have found that the tick population has increased by four times this fall, and 25 percent of these ticks were carriers for Lyme's disease. We haven't completely tested all of the samples yet, and we will be working into the summer via a summer UEI grant which the new dean of Letters and Sciences, Dr. Lance Graham, has initiated.

Are you looking for assistants in your research?

I have plenty of help right now and in the summer, but I could use another assistant in the fall.



Dr. Diane Caporale, associate professor of molecular biology and genetics at UW-SP, was gracious enough to sit down and discuss her research after training the new guy.

Insect repellent is ineffective against ticks, so if you plan on visiting Schmeekle in the fall, wear light-colored clothing to easily see any ticks which may be on you, and try to avoid loose, baggy clothing which ticks can easily crawl inside of.

90 FM
Watch it and
Rock out

THE POINTER

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John T. Larson
News EditorThe Dao of Homer:
The threat posed
to the republic by
ignorance"Are they getting louder or just
dumber?"

-Mayor Quimby

"I think both sir."

-Aid of Mayor Quimby

"What we need right now is a
do-er, not a thinker."

-Vigilante Leader

Homer Simpson

In the long running series *The Simpsons*, the town of Springfield has come to represent the collective thoughts and emotions of the American public condensed into a half-hour of people acting rashly to situations that they do not fully comprehend, and create rushed solutions that, while based upon good intentions, often create more of a mess than the original problem did. (The quotes provided above are pulled from two episodes where the citizens of this troubled slice of the American experience react to separate situations, taxation and escalating crime rates, and react in ways that do little to alleviate the actual problem. In these instances, blaming illegal immigrants and forming a vigilante group that actually causes more crimes than it solves.) A similar attitude seems to be forming amongst the youth of the nation: If there is something that we don't understand or know a lot about, it must be bad. A recent study undertaken by the John S.

and James L. Knight Foundation identified a disturbing set of attitudes formulated by high-school age students towards the First Amendment. According to the study, a significant number of students thought that the amendment goes "too far" in the protection it offers to the media and citizens to report on or speak against acts by the government they feel are not in the best interest of the republic. Some students felt that government censorship of the media is not the worst thing in the world and some protest actions, such as flag burning, should not be considered protected speech. In defense of the students, the study illustrated that indifference towards the First Amendment has much to do with a lack of education of what the actual text of the amendment consists of and what freedoms are guaranteed under it. In this instance, the fault of ignorance about this cornerstone of American democracy lies with an education system that is more concerned with standardized test results than with creating minds that are trained in the democratic process and are able to think rationally and come to logical conclusions. However, even when informed of the actual text of the amendment and the rights it provides, a number of students were still ambivalent about the freedom it provides to the press. Only half of the 100,000 students that participated in the study, conducted in early 2004 by researchers at the University of Connecticut, were of the opinion that newspapers and other media outlets ought to publish without government approval

Pointer Staff Editorial

of stories. If this attitude is as widespread as the data sample would suggest, this ignorance about the First Amendment, or negative attitude towards it could pose a threat to the republic in the long term once. These students become eligible to vote in large numbers, one has to pose the question: What type of lawmakers are likely to be elected based upon such attitudes by the voting public? "These results are not only disturbing, they are dangerous," said Hodding Carter III, president of the Knight Foundation. "Ignorance about the basics of this free society is a danger to our nation's future." The founding fathers were of the opinion that one of the ways to ensure that government was to stay responsive to the whims of the people was to give them and the so-called fourth estate, the free press, the express permission to criticize members of the government and to hold them accountable for their actions as they would be aware of the fact that someone would be watching them. Of all the amendments, the First Amendment has been the first one to fall under scrutiny in times of crisis. From the Alien and Sedition Act passed by the Federalist Party to bolster their control on the Federal Government to the Espionage Act during World War I to the limiting of protests at political conventions to tiny "Free Speech zones," the First Amendment has weathered assaults from those in positions of power. The question now is whether or not it can survive indifference from the common citizen who might not fully be aware or appreciative of the

rights that it provides. Are we to continue our role on earth as a beacon of democracy and freedom, or are we to degenerate into a panicky Republic of Springfield where we react in fear to everything that we do not understand, and allow people of action and not much thought to tell us what we can see and hear about the decisions being made that affect our daily lives.

This is your Pointer
Soapbox. Use it.

Have something to complain about? Want to voice an opinion? Give a shout out? Need information?

E-mail your message, up to 30 words in length, to pointerssoapbox@yahoo.com. Each week, the Pointer editorial staff will compile these messages and print them unedited (no cursing or advertising, please) for the entire world to read. Yes, it's really that simple. Here's some examples:

Coffee is probably the best thing that ever happened to me on a Wednesday.

Is toilet paper really paper? Made from trees? That seems really bizarre, in a way inescapably rough.

Does anybody know where I can get some white headphones? I don't want to buy an I-pod; I just want to look like I have one.

Whoever thought changing the name of the Friendly bar was a cool idea is an idiot. It'll always be the Friendly bar for me.

The Pointer Editorial Policies

The Pointer is a student-run newspaper published weekly for the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. *The Pointer* staff is solely responsible for content and editorial policy.

No article is available for inspection prior to publication. No article is available for further publication without expressed written permission of *The Pointer* staff.

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Letters to the editor can be mailed or delivered to *The Pointer*, 104 CAC, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or sent by e-mail to pointer@uwsp.edu. We reserve the right to deny publication for any letter for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit letters for inappropriate length or content. Names will be withheld from publication only if an appropriate reason is given.

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The Pointer

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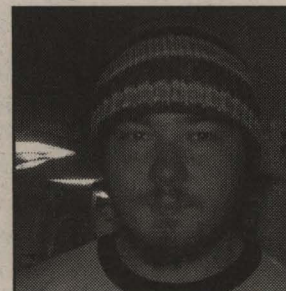
Pointer Poll

Photos by Trendelina Spahija

What would you change about *The Pointer*?

Kristi Freier, Fr. Comm. Disorder

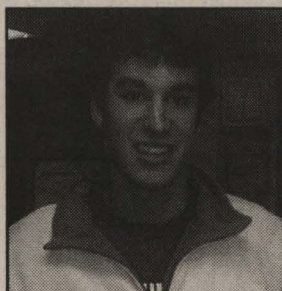
More pictures.



R.J. Kleman, Jr. Poli Sci.

More Pat Rothfuss and
less of everything else.

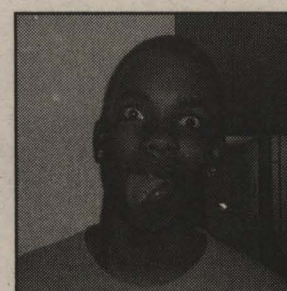
Sarah Walczak, Sr. English Ed.

The articles don't relate to
student interests.

Jason Bertrand, Soph. Health Promo.

Having papers available in
the dorms.

Anne Marie Vanderhoof, Sr. Natural Sci.

More jokes and student-
related issues.

Thomas Smith, Fr. Business.

Pointer should be on the
Internet.

Your College Survival Guide: The new deal

By Pat "Punctual" Rothfuss

WITH HELP FROM GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Dear Pat,

Spring semesters finally here and I was wondering what you were planning on doing for your girlfriend for Valentine's Day. Even more I'm wondering if you can give me some advice on what I might do for MY girlfriend. I don't have any real good ideas and I'm worried that if I don't come up with something good she'll ditch me.

Nate

Y'know what your girlfriend probably wants for Valentine's Day, Nate? Punctuation. I bet she wants, like, a question mark, a couple apostrophes, and a whole bunch of commas. Chicks love commas dude, and they love guys who know how to use those commas, if you know what I mean.

But all mocking you aside, Nate, I'm not doing a thing for Valentine's Day. Nothing. No-Thing. Nada.

Don't misunderstand me, I'm not one of those lonely sad-sacks that hates V-day because he's single. No indeed. I got me a girlfriend. A sweet, honey-limbed lovely.

Neither do I hate Valentine's Day because it is a pointless, contrived holiday designed to sell Hallmark cards, plush toys, and fruit-flavored condoms.

No. The reason I hate V-day is that I'm tired of paying what amounts to a yearly girlfriend tax.

You see, it irritates me that when Feb. 14 rolls around I'm suddenly obliged to prove I love my girlfriend by buying her something or, at the very least, take her out to dinner.

This, to put it plainly, is bullshit.

First off, I don't have anything to prove. Maybe some of you guys out there (*ahem* Nate) don't treat your ladies with the attention and respect they deserve

year-round. Maybe some of you slackers need the relationship equivalent of extra credit points.

I don't. You see, I am quite possibly the most awesome boyfriend ever. Seriously, I do it all. I'm an excellent cook, I've got a sense of humor, and I give a two-hour backrub that'll make your eyes roll up into the back of your head. When I go over to my girlfriend's house I peel grapes for her to eat, fan her with a big leaf, then I wash her dishes, clean the bathroom, and rotate the tires on her car before I go home.

"This year we're going to do Valentine's Day Sadie Hawkins style. Ladies, you plan the date. You take us out to dinner...."

Most importantly, I can punctuate. Hell, I know all the grammar rules. In fact, when it comes to flat-out mastery of the English language, you'd be hard pressed to find a more cunning linguist than me. Women like that sort of thing, Nate.

But hey, don't take my word for it. Just check out these rave reviews from some of my ex-girlfriends:

"Unbelievable!!!"

"... an emotional roller-coaster..."

"He's ... like an animal."

"Refrain from ... physical contact with Plaintiff. Remain at least 300 yards from ... Plaintiff. Refrain from contacting Plaintiff...."

But seriously folks. My biggest beef with Valentine's Day is that guys get consistently screwed by the arrangement. I'm tired of it. It was fun for the

first 10 years, but now I'm thinking it'd be nice if someone bought me flowers and candy for a change.

I'm not saying that no one's ever given me a Valentine's Day present. And I'm not implying that you ladies are just using this holiday to score free meals and obligation-free backrubs.

What I am saying is this: In my dating history, Valentine's Day has mostly been about me giving, and only slightly about me receiving. I know I'm not alone in this, and I know I'm not the only guy who feels like he's getting the short end of the stick.

But these days are at an end. This year we're going to do things Sadie Hawkins style. Ladies, *you* plan the date. You take *us* out for dinner, and bring some flowers and candy while you're at it.

Wait... screw that. I don't want any of that crap. Ladies, tailor the date to your boyfriends, give them the sort of evening they'll enjoy. Bring over some tacos and let him beat you a couple times in Halo 2. Or buy a pair of cat ears and have a friendly yiff. Or you could rent *The Ring* and then spend the next six hours trying to coax him out of his hiding place under the kitchen sink. Whatever floats your boat.

Personally, I think the perfect romantic evening involves Season 5 of *Angel* on DVD, sushi, and some spooning on the couch. Hint. Hint.

Hell, throw in a bottle of wine with a little backrub and who knows, you might even get some.

Located next to Family Video, Games People Play (JadeCo Hobby) provides a valuable community service. By giving various geeks, freaks, and strange persons unfettered access to the games they crave, they keep these people off the streets and away from our children. I, personally, salute them in their quest to protect our nation's youth, and encourage you to show your thanks by patronizing their lovely establishment.

Damnation

By John T. Lason and A.M. Mella

The evolution of The Pointer

Fifth-year seniors and faculty members on campus will most certainly recognize a definite evolution of *The Pointer* as the years wiz by. Younger students may not see such a distinct transformation; however, they will in time. The truth is, your *Pointer* is being constantly remade, year after year, cyclical in nature. Kind of like ... the universe.

Style, leadership, staff, student input and direction are constantly undulating on a mysterious circuit. And while the staff determines a great deal of that evolution, it is the community input that best controls the direction and content.

In my first semester as editor in chief, I oversaw several changes - an overhauled staff and style among them. But my biggest goal was to increase student and community input.

"What can I do to be a good community member?" you may ask. Good question.

Send more letters. The Letters and Opinion section is more than a Pat Rothfuss column and a poorly drawn political cartoon. The heart of the section is the letters we receive from the readers. And the kicker - they can be written about

almost anything. If you read some of the madness we printed last semester, you'll instantly absorb what I'm saying. My policy on letters boils down to this: If you send us one, I'll do everything in my power - which is quite immense and shiny - to get that letter printed for all of Portage County's reading pleasure.

The other great way to democratically voice your opinion, without the hassle of writing an entire letter, is to use our new Pointer Soapbox feature, also found in L&O. Peeved at parking services? Think the university should build an underground network of moving walkways? Like the frito-pie at the Wooden Spoon? Hate middle-named Garys? E-mail any concerns or praise to pointersoapbox@yahoo.com, in 30 words or less, and let the entire community hear it.

Aside from the soapbox, we will be adding editorial essays from all *Pointer* staff members. Most of them are intelligent and harbor differing opinions from myself, so it can only benefit the community to manifest that diversity on paper. We will also be courting guest columnists to lend their valued opinions on various pertinent subjects as seen fit. If you, or someone you know is well-learned in a particular field - science, medicine, technology, voodoo, politics,

religion, economics or anything else worth reading about - give us a hoot. We'll do our best to work them into the section.

Aside from the L&O section, we're making many stylistic changes again this semester. For starters, we've changed some fonts, cleaned up the pages and changed the Features section name to Pointlife - it seems a better descriptor of the content, after all, "features" is more of a writing style.

Then comes the big enchilada - The three-year-old baby of our driven Managing Editor, Liz Bolton - The brand new Science and Technology section. Seeing as how we don't technically have a budget for this section, we will be running it every couple of weeks here and there for the duration of the semester. So if science or technology interests you, that could be a great way to contribute and get published material in return. Just something to keep in mind, folks.

So remember, the evolution of *The Pointer* is in all our hands, and things seem to be moving in the right direction. Personally, I'm keeping my fingers crossed for a hairless, telepathic, hydrogen-breathing *Pointer*, by 2019. That'd be hucky-duck.

- A.M. Mella
Editor in Chief



Tackling that mid-winter slump

Students put snow football at the top of the list for fun winter activities

By Adam Rodewald
POINTLIFE EDITOR

It's cold, it's slippery, and those little hairs in your nose freeze within seconds of stepping outside.

Welcome to winter in Wisconsin.

We are all too familiar with the trials that this season puts us through, and, in a stance of defiance, we are often tempted to secure ourselves indoors with the companionship of soft blankets, radiating heaters, and steaming mugs of hot chocolate or coffee.

As we watch in post-holiday nostalgia at the snow piling up outside our windows, the notion of putting our lives on hold and following the squirrels into hibernation becomes excruciatingly inviting.

Everyone is guilty of such innate lethargy at some point or another. Sticking to the indoors during the winter is, in general, a preference whether you are a musician, a social butterfly, an athlete, a writer, or anyone else.

Many people, however,

have overcome this passiveness by engaging in winter activities. In particular, snow football ranks right up at the top of the list of backyard winter sports.

One needs only to take a single glance at the football field behind the Health Enhancement Center to know that restless students have waged football war behind the silver fence. There are footsteps fossilized into the frozen snow leading up to the locked gate, a short gap, then a chaotic mess of prints and divots embedded in the ground.

"It's the perfect leveling field," said sophomore Dave Fredrick, a frequent player of snow football. "I usually play ... probably, once a week. It's a fun workout."

Fredrick gathers anywhere from 10-20 guys at a time to play during the late afternoon or on weekends when nothing else is going on. It has a tantalizing element to it that many people find hard to resist.

Andy Wagenbach, a self-proclaimed winter sports enthusiast, shared one of his most memorable experiences with

enthusiasm. "I was on a team from Burroughs Hall, and we were playing against Knutzen Hall," he began, eyes ablaze with excitement as he recounted his tale.

"My buddy Seth shouted, 'Andy, go deep. We're going to loft it out to you,' and let me just say that I am not a quick person, so I took off as fast as my little legs could take me! I got to the end-zone, and he lofted it way, way too far. So, I just dove straight out, stretching to my limit, but I totally didn't get there."

"The funny part about it was that we were playing in the field in the middle of all four halls in the North Debot quad, and I landed on the sidewalk. This is when there was like, six or seven inches of snow. It was like in the movies when someone hits the ground. They just stop, and their feet fly over their head."

"I came to a skidding stop because the ground doesn't give way, but all the bones in my body did ... That was all pretty insane."

The popular sport undergoes a powerful transformation when fresh snow is brought into the picture. It acts as a cushion that alleviates the pain of brutal tackles, and it adds a significant handicap to even experienced football players.

"It evens out the playing field," explained Fredrick. People who can run fast find themselves hindered by the thick snow. Athletes with high endurance find themselves weighted down, and nobody can obtain satisfactory traction.

Many people prefer playing football in the snow as opposed to the grass, but it is difficult to put a finger on why. "You know, it has that appeal ... like the Polar Plunge," commented Ben Morris, a resident of Burroughs Hall.

No matter what your reason for enjoying games in the snow is — be it the even playing field, the soft ground, the change in atmosphere, or the opportunity to expel that store of excess energy — a consensus seems to agree that it is an enjoyable pastime.

Walking in someone else's shoes

A lesson in diversity well-learned

By Valerie Polacek
POINTLIFE CONTRIBUTOR

Multiculturalism is a difficult concept to grasp for many people. However, no one understands it better than DuWayne Brooks, the director of multicultural student services at Bradley University in Peoria, IL.

"Multiculturalism means walking in someone else's shoes," said Brooks.

Brooks held an interactive, informative presentation to a small crowd in the Alumni Room in the University Center on Tuesday, Dec. 1 in celebration of the 'Take Affirmative Action Week.'

"I had heard that DuWayne's style was to do participatory workshops, and was delighted when that was the direction he took," said Karlene Ferrante a UW-SP professor and audience member for Brooks' presentation.

Brooks had an energetic demeanor as he shared his passion for multiculturalism with his attentive listeners.

"I am not a minor; I am not less than you. Do not refer to me as that," said Brooks to his audience during the workshop.

Brooks continually stressed the importance of keeping a broad perspective when it comes to multiculturalism.

alism.

"We do not judge. Everyone has a right to their decision, whether we feel it is right or wrong," said Brooks.

He included many interactive simulations that allowed his audience to explore themselves as individuals. Most of the activities were to teach people how they can have so much in common with someone, even if they don't necessarily look the same or have the same cultural backgrounds.

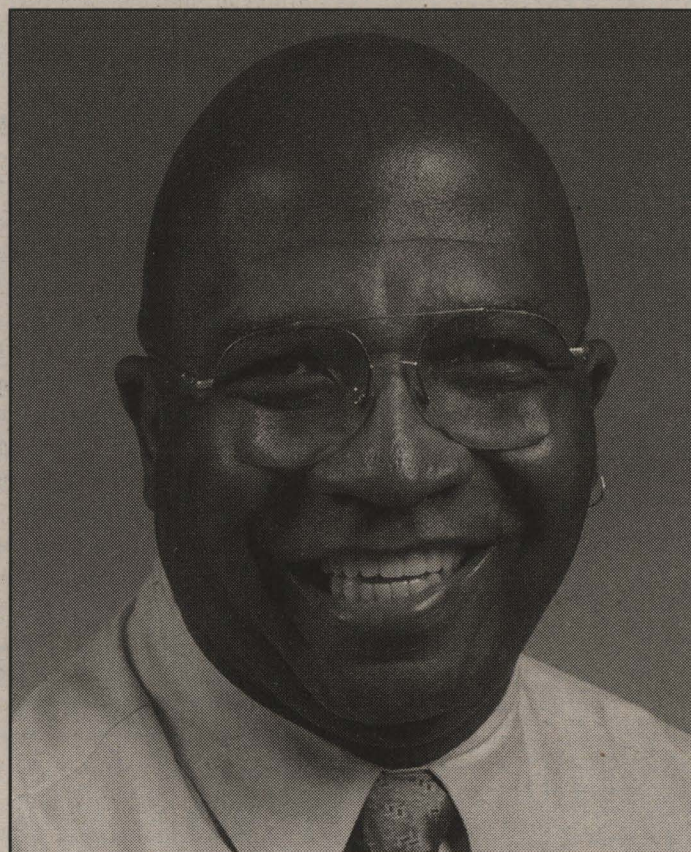
"You've got to get below the surface to see who the Lexus's are and who the wild flowers are," said Brooks in response to an activity he developed for the workshop.

In this exercise the audience was to identify with one of two inanimate objects. Then they were to explain why they thought this way as Brooks chose some participants to share their feelings.

There was one game in particular that stood out among audience members like Ferrante.

"I was most impressed by one exercise in which participants all stood in a line in the back of the room and stepped forward momentarily if our answer to the question posed was 'yes,'" said Ferrante.

The game included a series of random personal



DuWayne Brooks may return this spring for another eye-opening workshop on multiculturalism.

questions to the audience. They were simple "yes or no" questions that were designed to set the audience apart by personal experiences, not by their cultural differences.

"It was amazing to see who stepped up when you did, and how much more aware you could become of shared experiences, with people who may look so different," said Ferrante.

The participation of the crowd was great; however, the turnout was disappointing. The Alumni Room was filled with chairs, but only seated a crowd of roughly 20-30 people.

"This is a very busy time of year, and I'm not sure there was enough advance publicity

see Brooks, page 7

*Ash
Wednesday
at Newman*



February 9

8:15 AM
Mass with
ashes
Newman Center
(next to Pray-Sims)

Noon
Liturgy with
ashes
Newman Center

6 PM
Liturgy with
ashes
St. Joseph
Convent Chapel
(1300 Maria Drive,
near County Market)

9 PM
Liturgy with
ashes
Newman Center

*Sundays
of Lent*
Mass at
5 PM
Saturday
10:15 AM
Sunday

6 PM
Sunday
St. Joseph
Convent Chapel

Newman
The Roman Catholic
Parish at UWSP

NEWMANuwsp.org

The female orgasm comes to Stevens Point

Sex education is covered in an entirely new and comedic way

By Alli Himle
POINTLIFE REPORTER

The topic of discussion: the female orgasm. A topic neither frequently discussed nor acknowledged resulted in an overflowed Laird Room Tuesday evening. Laughter and comedic light came to the forefront as the subject of human sexuality, specifically, female arousal, was discussed openly and freely.

Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller - two married sex educators who have given over 150 presentations around the country covering an array of topics from sexuality, relationships, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues - were the evenings presenters. Both Solot and Miller became interested in the subject of sexuality while students at Brown University. What began as a women-only event has transpired into an event encompassing all genders, as men began to express their interest in the program as well. Together, their topic of the female orgasm has encouraged countless students across the country to no longer shy away from an issue that they are frequently taught to repress.

"Orgasms are a fun topic to talk about in terms of sexuality as well as for health reasons."

"Orgasms are a fun topic to talk about in terms of sexuality as well as for health reasons," Solot said as an intro into their presentation. By beginning so openly,

Solot and Miller had captivated the audience with a simple, yet true, phrase. In fact, the subject of the female orgasm is a topic of interest to a great many, as was evident by the over 700 students in the audience at this event.

In order to understand the female dimension of sexuality it must first be realized that sex and sexual stimulation is not something to shy away from. Girls are often taught how to say no. Frequently girls are educated on sexual assault and negative and/or unwanted sexual experiences. Yet, it is often never mentioned to these girls that sex can also feel right and be enjoyable for them. Eventually these women get to the point when they want to say "yes". And it is at this point that a woman must embrace her body and realize what it is that she needs in order to feel sexual fulfillment, whether that be by themselves or with a partner.

Towards the middle of the presentation, Solot and Miller separated the males and females by relocating the males into the Encore. It was at this point that both genders were given an open forum in which to discuss their own personal experiences and misconceptions related to both masturbation and the female orgasm. After a period of roughly 15 minutes, the audience reconvened to discuss what had been brought up in the two forums. Hands began to rise as members of both genders wanted the opposing gender to hear them out in regard to their misconceptions. The males seemed to come to a consensus that communication and honesty are the fundamentals in a successful and sexually fulfilling relationship. Women, on the other hand, seemed to emphasize the importance of what takes place prior to intercourse, as one woman voiced in the crowd, "Foreplay, foreplay, foreplay."



photo by Holly Sandbo

Students packed themselves into the Laird Room by the masses to discuss orgasms.

Solot and Miller concluded their presentation by detailing the phases of arousal in addition to Solot detailing her own helpful steps to the perfect female orgasm. As they mentioned, it is of particular importance that males and females realize that both reach orgasms and sexual fulfillment in entirely different ways. The average male takes only two to five minutes to reach an orgasm. On the other hand, the average female can take upwards of 20 minutes. Often what is depicted on television and in movies in terms of both partners reaching orgasm at the same time is generally not the case. Yes, it can occur, but both partners are stimulated in different ways. Partners need to take the initiative to be open and discuss what it is that their partner needs to do or, better yet, what they are doing right.

As Jami Kaiser, a senior at

UW-SP said, "I don't think there is enough information for women on orgasms. It is commonly a hush-hush subject."

"Solot and Miller are well-known and highly respected speakers. They bring new light to a subject that most do not even acknowledge," said Christopher Johll, president of the Gay/Straight Alliance, one of the organizations sponsoring this event.

It goes without saying that human sexuality was certainly covered in a new light at this program. Students felt comfortable in sharing their own experiences and raising their own questions in hopes of gaining insight into a topic that is often avoided.

Miller had one final wish to offer to the audience members upon leaving, "Good health and plenty of orgasms." For, in the end, all forms of sexuality became embraced - from those that would be practicing what they learned that very night, to those that were waiting for marriage.

The Female Orgasm was sponsored by Centertainment Productions, Gay/Straight Alliance, the College Feminists, the Women's Resource Center, and Infinity Syndicate.

Brooks, from page 6

to fill the Alumni Room," said Ferrante.

Despite the lack of audience members, the people who did attend seemed to enjoy what Brooks had to say.

"Preaching to the choir is not a bad thing. It lets me know there are interested people out there and that makes me feel like I'm doing my job," said Brooks.

For those of you interested in learning more about diversity and multiculturalism, plans for Brooks' return were discussed for this spring. He expressed his thanks to the audience and hopes to see everyone back in the Alumni Room this spring along with those who missed his presentation.

Brooks concluded his multicultural workshop with some very powerful words for his listeners.

"Knowledge without action is only information."

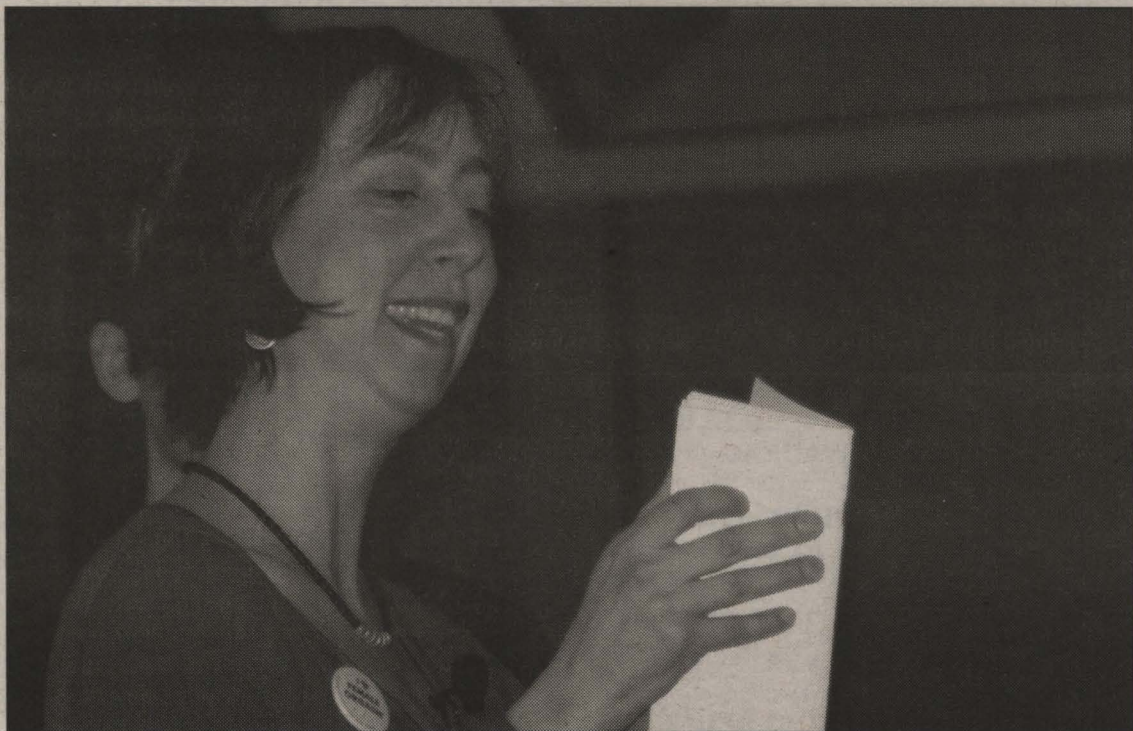


Photo by Holly Sandbo

Dorian Solot speaks to the hundreds of men and women eager to discuss their sexuality. Solot, along with Marshall Miller encouraged them not to shy away from the subject.

Check out next week's Pointlife page for full coverage on hot events such as The Seven Deadly Sins, Centertainment's Fear Factor based challenge.



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Super Bowl Preview: The odds are stacked against virgin eagles

By Adam Wise
SPORTS EDITOR

With the Super Bowl this Sunday and all the game footage broken down, Adam Wise analyzes the Philadelphia Eagles' chances to defeating the New England Patriots.

Why they will win:

Congratulations Philadelphia Eagles, the hard part is over. That's right, after finally getting past the NFC Championship game after a fourth try, the Super Bowl should be a piece of cake. Wrong.

While it may not be the popular pick, there are several ways for the Eagles to become victorious on this night that isn't expected to be overshadowed by anyone's right breast.

On the heels of his best effort yet, the 04/05 season was one to remember for Donovan McNabb. His 3,875 yards passing, 64.0-completion percentage, and 31 touchdowns are all career bests. Add to that, he threw only eight interceptions despite throwing downfield more this year than ever before, and you have a quarterback that is playing pretty well.

McNabb is one of the few quarterbacks in the league that will elevate the play of everyone around him even if it is just average talent.

Which brings me to the story of the month: Will he or won't he play?

I am referring to Terrell Owens, naturally gifted, freak of nature, stud wide receiver

that was a main reason for such an ascent for McNabb this season.

Just because Owens might walk onto the field wearing the proper padding and protective gear that is required to battle for the Lombardi Trophy, that doesn't necessarily increase the Eagles' chances of winning. Owens must compete at a high level to become the difference maker he proved to be so many times during the regular season. If he runs a couple routes on one foot and it is visible to everyone he isn't near 100 percent, then Bill Belichick and Romeo Crennel will be able to concentrate on other facets of the Eagles offense.

That other facet being Brian Westbrook. There are

already reports coming out of Jacksonville that Westbrook might be placed into one of his old positions and will return punts during the game. While Westbrook hasn't returned punts for a few years, this is the Super Bowl and you have to compete with your most talented players.

Why they will lose:

There are probably many things I could single out as leaning towards favoring the Patriots in this battle between the NFC and AFC, but let's stick to the basics.

The New England Patriots have won two out of the last three Super Bowls. This is a fact that cannot be disputed, but what is interesting is that in each of those successful sea-

sons, the teams' starting running back was Antowain Smith.

While Smith proved to be a serviceable running back (he does have two rings, doesn't he?), you could say the Patriots locked up a return to the Super Bowl soon after last year's season finale when they completed a trade for Corey Dillon.

Dillon had career highs in attempts (345), yards (1,635), and touchdowns (12) this past season on just what was the NFL's best returning team.

Some of the personal accolades can go to Tom Brady as well.

I've been a University of Michigan football fan since I was a child and I never saw this kid amounting to so much so quickly in the NFL during his career.

A man that can make the 40-yard dash against some of the larger defensive linemen in the NFL seem like high drama doesn't grade well into becoming an accomplished quarterback at the next level.

Yet, the man is undefeated in the playoffs and proving his critics wrong every single time they bet against the kid.

Beyond Dillon and Brady, the team is littered with talent that just seems to max out and produce every single Sunday.

But, the Patriots go farther then just individual players playing a team's game to perfection. It is all about the system. How else can you explain it?

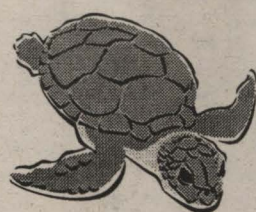
When a team inserts a wide receiver into their defensive backfield due to a rash of injuries to the position and still annihilates the greatest offense the NFL has ever seen (they proved that they were on a completely different level of execution when they played the Colts a few weeks ago), somebody knows how to study game film and prepare their team to play each and every week.

Prediction:

I'm a believer. I picked against the Patriots three years ago and again last year, but I won't make that mistake again. The Eagles have a very good blitzing defense, but a blitz doesn't help if the other team is able to run the ball. I believe Corey Dillon will take control of this game and the Patriots begin to cement their places in history (with possibly a few more Super Bowl victories on the horizon as well). Also, Tom Brady will draw even more comparisons to Joe Montana as one of the game's best clutch performing quarterbacks in the history of the NFL.

Final score: New England - 34 Philadelphia - 27

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Pointers keep on rolling with two non-conference wins

By Steve Roeland

SPORTS EDITOR

The UW-SP women's hockey squad is no stranger to success. With a trip to the Frozen Four last year, the Pointers know what it takes to win.

Women's Hockey

More recently, UW-SP has been on a tear, going 8-2 since Jan. 1. At 7-0 in the NCHA, the Pointers remain unbeaten in conference play.

Last week, the Pointers squared off in two non-conference games. The first contest was a match up with Augsburg College at Ice Hawks Arena on Jan. 29. Three of the Pointers'

four goals came on the power play, as UW-SP pulled out a 4-3 win over Augsburg.

Ashley Howe collected two goals against the Aggies, her 12th and 13th of the year. Howe's goal at the 18:18 mark in the third period was the game-winner for the Pointers.

Kim Lunneborg and Liz Goergen assisted on two goals apiece for UW-SP as well. The Pointers out-shot the Aggies 38-15 in the game.

In the second game over the weekend, UW-SP took on rival Gustavus Adolphus College. The Pointers defeated the Gusties last year in the NCAA quarterfinals, but lost to them on Jan. 9, 6-4. The two teams ranked as the best two



Kim Lunneborg (No. 14) skates away from the opposing defender. Photo by: Holly Sandbo

squads in the West region.

The Pointers took the lead early in the contest on a goal by Goergen at the 11:25 mark of the first period. Both teams were held in check through the

rest of the first.

In the second, the Pointer offense erupted, accounting for three scores in the period. Jackie Schmitt and Katy Lankey each scored a goal and notched an

assist in the second period, and Howe collected her 14th goal of the season to round out Pointer scoring in the second frame.

Kelly Crandall scored the only Gustie goal of the game in the third period and the Pointers added a score as well to take the win by the score of 5-1.

The Pointers moved to 17-2 overall with the victories and move up one spot to fourth in the USHO Division III poll. The Pointers look ahead to this weekend's home battles with conference foes UW-Superior and UW-River Falls. Superior is currently ranked ninth in the nation and UW-RF is currently placed second in the NCHA standings.

Pointer Athletes of the Week



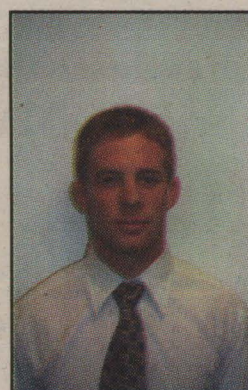
Kranz

Chelsea Kranz Women's Basketball

Kranz scored a career-best 15 points against UW-Stout. She was six-for-seven from the field, and made three of four free throw attempts. She also had three rebounds, one block and one steal.

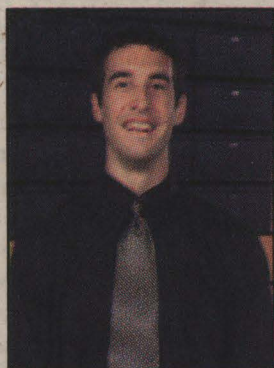
Joel Burdick Wrestling

The junior defeated Larry Silva of UW-Parkside 9-3 in the Pointers' dual meet victory on Wednesday. He then edged sixth-ranked Nick Karls of UW-Whitewater 3-2. Karls had defeated Burdick twice last season.



Burdick

Senior on the Spot Nick Bennett - Basketball



Bennett

Career Highlights

- 2004 Division III National Championship
- Receiving the Final Four MVP
- Scoring 1,000 points
- Earning all-conference honors

Major – Broad-Field Social Studies

Hometown – Stevens Point

Do you have any Nicknames? – Beezie, Benito, Big Poppa, Nickka, Pickerbutt (as my ma).

What are your plans after graduation? – Get Gruszczynskied and find a good job.

What has helped you become such an accomplished basketball player? – Working hard in the off-season. I needed to because according to a Houston Rockets scout I am the best non-athletic basketball player he'd ever seen!

What is your favorite Pointer sports memory? – Winning a nat'l championship and just holding that beautiful gold trophy, and just that feeling I get every night before I run onto the court to play a game.

What's your most embarrassing moment? – Jacko chasing me down in practice and hearing the eight dollars in change coming after me. Thanks Kalsow for the wolf call though. Also I can laugh at it now, but after scoring my career high having my pops threaten to fight me on the bench, I would beat you up old man.

What CD is in your stereo right now? – Led Zepplin and The Stones.

What DVD is currently in your DVD player? – Mean Girls.....Just kidding, Top Gun.

What will you remember most about UW-SP? – Krajnik impersonating Jack, Semling always making us late, eating Kwik Trip after we played Marquette, Bauer's outrageous hunting stories, TREL always fighting, and Krull sweating, Muraski.

What are the three biggest influences in your life? – My family, especially my best friend, Jay, my friends, and proud to say, the No. 1 on the list is Jesus Christ.

Pointers rebound against Stout

By Adam Wise

SPORTS EDITOR

Three days after relinquishing the second-most points of the season (73, Marquette scored 78 in the exhibition opener) against UW-Platteville where sharpshooter Brad Reitzner scored 31 points, UW-SP had to square off against the other team they were tied with in the WIAC.

Men's Basketball

Having already beaten UW-Stout once this season, the Pointers figured to have the psychological advantage heading into the game. That advantage seemed to take 20 minutes to show up.

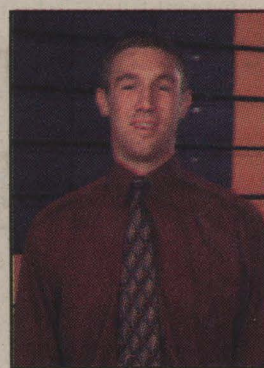
The game, which featured seven ties and four lead changes, was close for the majority of the game until the mid-way stages of the second half when the Pointers took the lead for good on a Kyle Gruszczynski jump shot with 12:28 left in the second half to obtain a 43-41 lead.

UW-S, who shot nearly 43 percent in the first half, was only able to convert on 27 percent of its field goals in the second half.

Ryan Stengl and Adam Chandler, UW-S's leading scorers this year, were held to 9-25 from the field for only 26 points.

Meanwhile, the Pointers were led by 27 points from Nick Bennett and 21 points from Jason Kalsow. Eric Maus tied for his season high of 11 rebounds to go along with eight points.

The Pointers have a week off before their next contest against UW-Eau Claire this Saturday at 5:30 p.m. This will kick off a two-week homestand for the Pointers which will contain four home games before ending the conference season against UW-Oshkosh on Feb. 16.



Kalsow

The D3hoops.com top 10 through the week of January 30:

1. Illinois Wesleyan,
2. UW-SP,
3. Wooster,
4. Amherst,
5. Albion,
6. Trinity (Texas),
7. St. John Fisher,
8. John Carroll,
9. Wittenberg,
10. Puget Sound.

UW-SP continues to battle for home ice advantage

By Kelly Vant
SPORTS REPORTER

After dropping a pair of games on the road to St. Norbert and Lake Forest College, the UW-SP men's hockey team was able to come away with one win this past weekend in a home series rematch to improve to 9-9-3 overall and 4-5-1 in the NCHA.

Men's Hockey

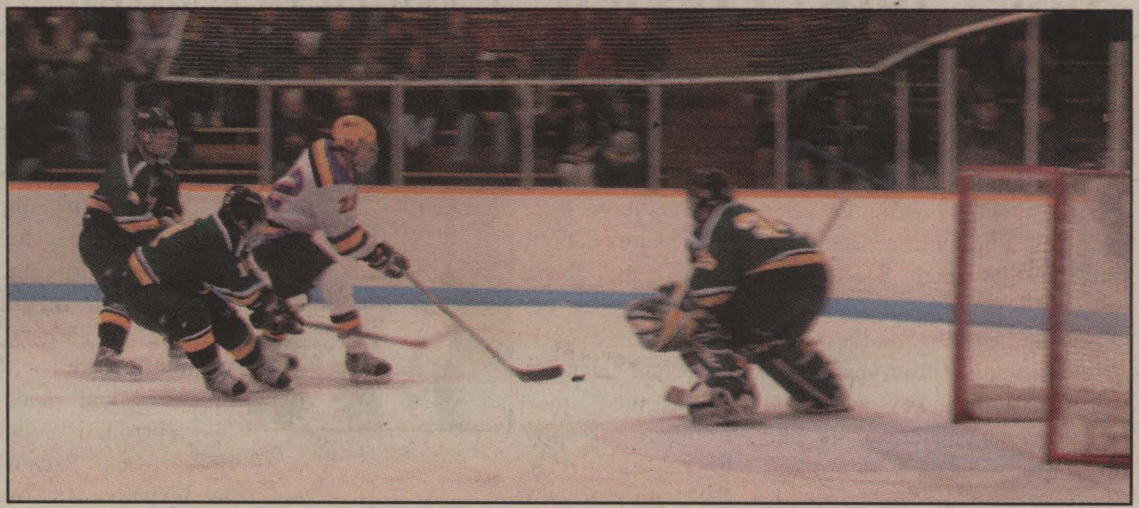
The Pointers fought hard to earn their win against Lake Forest 3-2 on Friday night. Freshman Tom Vernelli, assisted by seniors Ryan Kirchoff and Mike Brolesma, scored the game-winning goal early in the third period.

The Pointers faced off against rival St. Norbert and swallowed another tough loss 6-2 on Saturday night. St. Norbert

took an early 5-0 lead midway through the game before UW-SP's Vernelli was able to get the Pointers on the board in the second period.

The tempo of the game shifted early in the third period with fights breaking out between the two teams, resulting in a total of 50 penalty minutes being issued in the third period alone. Ryan Kirchoff was able to notch a second goal for UW-SP midway through the final period, before freshman goaltender Bryn Davies gave up SNC's final goal with 18 seconds remaining.

UW-SP remains in fourth place with nine points, just one point ahead of Lake Forest in the NCHA standings. The team looks to improve on this past weekend as they close out their regular season home schedule this weekend hosting the College of St. Scholastica on



Brent Halverson (No. 22) attempts a shot against the opposing goalie.

Photo by: Holly Sandbo

Friday night and UW-Superior on Saturday night.

Superior scored in the final three seconds of regulation to slip past UW-SP 4-3 in their previous meeting back on Jan. 14 in Superior. UW-SP has the potential to sweep their final home series.

Saturday is also Senior Night for the Pointers, who have already lost senior forward David Lee due to eligibility rules. Senior forwards Adam Kostichka, Mike Brolesma, Nick Molski, Ryan Kirchoff, and defenseman Derrick Johnson will be capping off their college

careers at UW-SP.

Come on down to the rink at 7:30 p.m. this weekend to cheer on your men's hockey team as they bring their regular season to a close and look ahead to hosting a round of the playoffs.

Nechuta becomes all-time leading female scorer

By Steve Roeland
SPORTS EDITOR

The UW-SP women's basketball team started off strong last week with a WIAC win and a personal accolade, suffered a tough loss against a ranked conference rival, and bounced back with a commanding victory over a non-conference foe.

Women's Basketball

As the Pointers embarked on last week's schedule, senior forward Amanda Nechuta set her sights on becoming the leading scorer in UW-SP's history. In last Tuesday's contest with UW-Platteville, Nechuta, needing only seven points for the record, earned the top spot as the Pointers claimed victory with a 68-48 win.

The Pointers dominated the post in the game, scoring 50 points in the paint. UW-SP shot an impressive 57.1 percent from the field in the game compared to the Pioneers' 27.6 percent. Nechuta notched 19 in the contest, as well as eight rebounds while Natalie Lechault also finished in double figures for the Pointers with 10 points.

Nechuta is also competing for the all-time WIAC scoring crown. She trails the current record held by UW-Eau Claire's Arlene Meinholz by 155 points. Meinholz played for the Blugolds from 1991-1995.

Next up for the Pointers was UW-Stout who were ranked 25th coming into the contest. UW-SP had also made an appearance on the D3hoops.com top 25 list,

showing up at the 22nd spot.

The Pointers held a 14-point lead in hostile territory with just over 10 minutes left in the second half, but couldn't hold off the persistence of the Blue Devils. A last second shot by UW-S's Molly Hendricks took the game into overtime, where the Blue Devils connected on 9-13 shots from the charity stripe to pull away and collect a 76-68 triumph.

Cassandra Schultz and Chelsea Kranz earned 15 points each for UW-SP in the losing effort.

The Pointers rebounded from the WIAC loss with a convincing victory over the Northland College Lumberjills. UW-SP responded by rolling over Northland with a 33-point win, 78-45.

The Pointers never trailed in the contest and jumped out of the chutes with a 10-2 run to start the game. To close the first half, the Pointers again mounted a streak, finishing the half with a 10-4 run. UW-SP led at the half 33-19.

A 23-1 scoring spurt by the Pointers in the second half finished off the Lumberjills. The drive was led by UW-SP's center Amy Scott, who scored eight points and collected six rebounds during the run. Scott finished the game with 16 points and eight boards.

The Pointers now stand at 16-4 overall with an 8-3 record in conference. UW-SP welcomes UW-Eau Claire on Alumni Day this Saturday and takes on UW-Whitewater next Tuesday at the Berg Gym.

A Look Ahead at Pointer Athletics

Men's Basketball - Home vs. UW-Eau Claire - Feb. 5, 5:30 p.m.
Women's Basketball - Home vs. UW-Eau Claire - Feb. 5, 3 p.m.
Men's Hockey - Home vs. St. Scholastica - Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Women's Hockey - at UW-Superior - Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
Swimming - at Gustavus Adolphus - Feb. 5, 3 p.m.
Men's & Women's Track - at UW-Oshkosh Invitational - Feb. 5
Wrestling - vs. Itasca C.C. (at Eau Claire) - Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.



Coach Boelk preaches speed to his swimmers

By Matthew Inda
SPORTS REPORTER

The Pointer swim and dive teams were in rough water this weekend in conference rival La Crosse's pool. The Pointer men's team emerged with a 145-96 victory, but the women

Swim and Dive

fell to the Eagles, 78-165.

Aaron Marshall led the men's team after claiming first in both the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyles. Marshall, along with Matt Grunwald, Tyler Eloranta and Alex Anderson teamed up to claim victory in the 400-yard freestyle relay. While finishing second, Head Coach Al Boelk believes that both women's relay teams as well as the other men's relay swam exceptionally fast and with strong effort.

The men's diving team got the job done as well. Chad Pettis took two first place finishes and along with Jack Riley and David Hayes, the Pointers finished in the top three spots for the one-meter and three-

meter events.

For the women's boards, Raene Burgarske finished third and Jen Wood claimed the fifth spot on the day in the three-meter event. Burgarske and Megan Pringle went to finish fourth and fifth place, respectively, in the one-meter boards.

Alissa Colbert, Jean Hughes, Alex Anderson, Lindsey Correll, and Matt Grunwald all finished the meet with first place victories in their individual categories.

"We had lots of great performances," Boelk said. He praised Ben Gensler's victory in the 200-yard breaststroke and Jerica Crook's win in the 200-yard freestyle saying they both performed better than they had all season. Boelk also said that the team is right on track in achieving the early season goals of working hard and improving as well as just having fun.

"The goal now is to focus on top-end speed," said Boelk. "The work has been done since September and now we focus on speed-work."

He also said that this is the truly fun part of the year when all the hard work pays off. "It's fun as a coach to watch people focus, pull things together, rest up, and kick ass."

To open the start of the 2005 season, the Pointers hosted the "Get to the Point Invitational" in which the men competed with six other schools and were named champions at day's end, while the women showed a strong performance, they finished second once again to La Crosse.

"We were a little flat at Point Invite - it took a few swims for the kids to remember how to race," said Boelk. He said that the month and a half break is like a double-edged sword. The team can practice, train and rest. "But on the other (hand)," Boelk said, "it's not racing. There is no substitute for racing."

This coming weekend the team heads to St. Peter, Minn. to challenge Gustavus Adolphus on Feb. 5 in the last regular meet of the season before the WIAC Championships.

Super Bowl Preview: Experience alone may lead Pats to another title

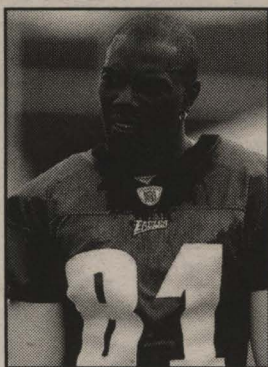
By Steve Roeland
SPORTS EDITOR

The word 'dynasty' has been thrown around a lot after the New England Patriots routed the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC championship game to earn their third trip to the Super Bowl in the last four years.

Many of the key players on the previous Patriot squads, like Tom Brady, Adam Vinatieri and Tedy Bruschi, are still members of the team and are looking

for the third title in franchise history.

While dynasties of old may have a more nostalgic aura about them, the New England Patriots have the experience and talent to claim the Vince Lombardi Trophy once again in Jacksonville this coming Sunday evening.

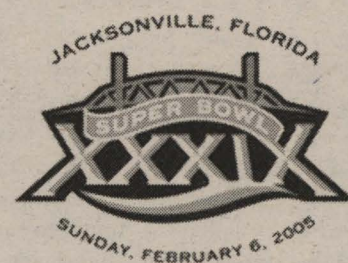


Terrell Owens

The strength that the AFC champions possess over the Philadelphia Eagles is the fact that the players and coaches from New England have been down this road before and will be able to handle the pressures and media that surround Super Bowl week. Patriots quarterback Tom Brady has two Super Bowl

MVP awards under his belt, while kicker Adam Vinatieri has drilled two game-winning field goals in past championship games.

The Pats also have more overall talent than their opponents, something that usually gets overlooked. The Patriots are often viewed as a great team with players who mesh well together, but lack the talent to excel in another system. This argument can be debated with stats alone. Brady has passed



for over 3,000 yards in the past three seasons, collecting 79 touchdown passes and only 40 interceptions in that same time span.

The off-season acquisition of running back Corey Dillon has given the Patriots a balanced offensive attack. Dillon, in his first year in New England, piled up career-highs in yards with 1,635 and rushing touchdowns with 12.

Off-the-field, the Patriots are guided by some of the best coaches in the game today. Bill Belichick heads a staff that runs a very successful system and keeps his players in order. Coordinators Romeo Crennel and Charlie Weis are both heading to head coaching jobs this off-season. If the staff can keep their minds on the game and off of new opportunities, the coaching advantage leans toward the New England Patriots.

The glaring weakness for the Patriots is the injury-depleted secondary. Cornerbacks Ty Law and Tyrone Poole are both on injured reserve. Their replacements, rookie Randall Gay and Asante Samuel, have performed well in past weeks, shutting down the high powered Indianapolis Colts in the divisional round of the playoffs. Still, the inexperience of the corners will be tested once again, especially if Terrell Owens is able to compete at a high level for the Eagles. The more T.O. spoke as the week wore on, his confidence in being that playmaker he sees himself as is wavering. He seems to be a little concerned about how the team will use him if he is, in fact, available for the big game.

Many people in the media are claiming that Super Bowl XXXIX will be highly contested and may come down to the wire. If the game is a nip-and-tuck battle, the Pats won't mind: That is how they won their last two titles after all.

The Patriots look too tough to beat and are more experienced than the Eagles. Owens' leg has been talked about more than anything else in Jacksonville this week. Despite being seven point favorites, the Patriots seem to be an underdog of sorts in this game. After the final whistle sounds, however, the "underdogs" may become the "dynasty."

Prediction: Patriots - 31
Eagles - 16

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New semester offers new “Edventures”

By Joel Borski
OUTDOORS EDITOR

UW-SP outdoorsmen and women, fear not! The fun of winter break does not have to be just a distant memory. Though classes may slightly affect our ability to get out and enjoy the second half of the season, there are a multitude of opportunities for fun right at our fingertips. As has been reported in previous issues, Outdoor Edventures, is a great place to start. Veteran Pointers are likely already aware of what “Edventures” offers, but for any new students, allow me to shed some light on the subject.

Located in the lower level of the Allen Center, right here on campus, Outdoor Edventures offers UW-SP students and faculty a multitude of outdoor rental equipment, courses and trips to choose from and partake in. If you’re looking for anything from skis to skates, or tents to canoes, you’ll likely be able to find it there.

Here’s what’s on the agenda for the upcoming weeks:

Ice Skating

Feb. 5, 1-3:30 p.m. Learn how to ice skate, and spend a relaxing afternoon ice skating at the Allen Center Rink. Price includes skate rentals, and refreshments.

Price: \$3 with skate rental, \$1 w/o skate rental.

Snowshoe Weaving

Feb. 10, 5-9 p.m. and 16, 7-9 p.m.

Relax and learn to weave your own snowshoes! Choose from Bearpaw, Alaskan, Ojibwa, or Huron styles. Price includes the snowshoe kit of your choice, instruction, hot beverages, varnish and a warm atmosphere.

Price: \$130.

Sign-up deadline: Feb. 4, 6 p.m.

Porcupine Mountains Winter Camping

Feb. 11-13

Come along on an adventure into the snow-covered hemlock and yellow birch forest of the Porcupine Mountains. We’ll be instructing y’all on how to stay alive in nature’s worst (or best?) while camping in and snowshoeing through the pristine wilderness of “da U.P.” The trip will be physically demanding, tolerating the extreme winter weather conditions. No previous winter camping experience necessary.

Price: \$65.

Sign-up deadline: Feb. 9th, 6 p.m.

Granite Peak Snowboarding

Feb. 24, 5-10 p.m.

Enjoy an evening on the slopes. Perfect your 270 and rail, or enjoy cruisin’ the long, winding trails. Experience is required as we will not provide formal training. The price includes only van transportation. Lift tickets (2 for 1 price at \$12) and rentals (\$38) are extra.

Price: \$9.

For more information e-mail Ashley Atkinson at aatki122@uwsp.edu or call 346-3848.

193,000 permits issued for 2005 spring turkey season

DNR Press Release

MADISON - More than 193,000 permits have been issued for the spring 2005 Wisconsin wild turkey season. Postcard notifications to successful applicants are in the process of being mailed. Only successful applicants receive notification of their permit via postcard. Hunters who do not receive a postcard by mid-February can check the DNR web site or call a DNR Service Center to find out the status of their permit application.

The spring hunting season will run from April 13-May 22. The season is divided into six, five-day (Wednesday through Sunday) time periods. A total of 43 zones, 15 state parks and Fort McCoy will be open for hunting.

There were 185,369 permits issued for the 2004 spring season. Hunters harvested 47,477 turkeys for a success rate of about 25 percent.

Hunters are reminded that Fort McCoy runs a separate spring turkey hunting season, different from the state of Wisconsin spring turkey hunt. Hunters who do not receive an authorization to hunt turkeys in a Wisconsin turkey hunting zone for the spring 2005 season are eligible to apply for a spring permit at Fort McCoy. Applications can be obtained from Fort McCoy by calling (608) 388-3337 or visiting their Web site: <http://www.mccoy.army.mil>.

“Winter survival should be good this

year,” said Andrea Mezera, assistant upland wildlife ecologist for the Department of Natural Resources. “Snow cover and cold have been moderate and as long as there is access to ample food supply, turkeys can handle nearly any Wisconsin winter.”

Mezera says turkeys can remain in roosting areas for up to two weeks during especially severe weather and can lose up to 40 percent of their body weight before dying of starvation.

“Biologically,” she said, “artificial feeding is not the best approach to helping wild turkeys. Long-term habitat management aimed at increasing the suitability to turkeys year-round as well as during extremes of winter is the best investment.”

Three new state park properties will again be open for this spring’s turkey hunting season. This includes Interstate, Willow River, and Newport State Parks. Successful applicants for the spring 2005 drawing in zones 34 and 37, time periods A-C are eligible to apply for a second drawing by March 1st for a limited number of access authorization permits. Eligible applicants will be mailed drawing information. If selected, they will be allowed access to the park during the time period in which they hold a valid permit/carcass tag. This does not authorize the harvest of an additional turkey.

For more information check out the DNR web site or call Andrea Mezera at (608) 261-8458.

Mercury - The "new lead"

By Hilary Bulger
OUTDOORS REPORTER

In November, Joel Borski wrote an article about the dangers of mercury contamination. In the fabulously written article, Borski reported that both the Department of Health and Family Services and the Department of Natural Resources recommended limiting fish consumption, the main source of mercury in human diets. The recommendations are based upon safety guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA’s current safety guidelines are largely based on data from an extensive mercury study in the North Atlantic’s Faroe Islands. A recent, more sophisticated analysis of the data from the study has raised questions about the EPA’s guidelines.

Scientists have long known that people who eat a lot of fish generally have higher levels of mercury in their bodies, but it was only recently that they became concerned about it. The increasing mercury levels exist because of industry, especially coal-burning power plants. Though mercury does exist naturally, levels have more than doubled over the last 200 years. Microbes found in water react with mercury emissions to form methylmercury, which is the most toxic type of mercury. The methylmercury is then passed up the food chain until it reaches humans.

Once in humans, mercury affects the brain, as lead does, leading some scientists to dub mercury “the new lead.” Like lead, mercury impairs intelligence and brain functions and the effects are permanent. Mercury can also cause hair loss, headaches, difficulty concentrating and cardiovascular problems. In developing fetuses, mercury causes lower IQs and learning disabilities. The EPA reports that in the United States as many as one in every six children is exposed to more mercury than the current safety levels recommend.

The current safety levels may not actually be safe at all. The more scientists study mercury, the more they are finding that it subtly affects the brain at lower and lower levels. A re-evaluation of the Faroe Study data found that substantially lower amounts of mercury can cause fetal damage than previously thought. Dr. Philippe Grandjean, head of the Faroe Study, thinks the EPA should cut its recommendation for the amount of mercury a person can ingest each day in half. Two members of the National Academy of Scientists also recommended that the EPA consider changing its guidelines.

There is a proposal on the table in Washington that would reduce mercury emissions 70 percent by 2018, but the EPA reports that complications will delay results until 2025. Other critics of the proposal say it would be possible, with existing technology, to cut emissions at least 70 percent by 2010.

Until emissions are reduced significantly, be aware of how much and what kind of fish you eat. Shark, swordfish, some species of tuna, and other larger, predatory fish contain the highest levels of mercury and should be avoided. The EPA recommends eating no more than one can of “albacore” tuna a week, though the Environmental Working Group recommends no more than one can a month. Canned “light” tuna has less mercury than canned “albacore” and is a much better choice.

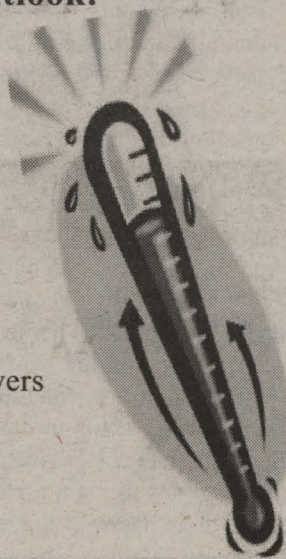


Weekend Weather Outlook:

Friday: Partly Cloudy
High: 40
Low: 22

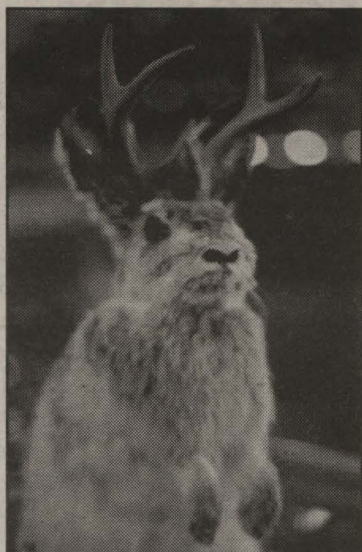
Saturday: Partly Cloudy
High: 40
Low: 31

Sunday: Rain/Snow Showers
High: 38
Low: 20



OuTdOoR OdDiTiEs

Officials in the town of Douglas, Wyoming, receive roughly five requests per week for hunting licenses. Not unusual? Consider this. The animal the applicants seek to hunt is none other than the elusive, wily, ever-dangerous... Jackalope.



Fast as fast can be...

Wisconsin's "new" state forest

By Hilary Bulger
OUTDOORS REPORTER

For the first time in 30 years, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is creating a new state forest. The Peshtigo River State Forest was created in 2001 unanimously by the Natural Resources Board, and the DNR is now in the master planning stage. This planning is being coordinated with the planning of the adjacent Governor Thompson State Park, which is also a new addition to the state parks and forests system.

Located about 60 miles north of Green Bay, Peshtigo is over 9,000 acres of land, with 3,000 acres of water, and 70 miles of shoreline. Peshtigo is made up of the waters and islands of the Peshtigo River including the Caldron Falls, High Falls, and Johnson Falls flowages and surrounding forests. The main trees found in the forest include aspen, northern pin oak, red pine, white pine and jack pine. These particular trees dominate the forest because they can all thrive in the dry, sandy soil that Peshtigo offers. Aspen and northern pin oak make up approximately 60 percent of the forest, but is the red pine that usually steals the attention. Red pines can grow very large and are beautiful, stunning trees.

The master planning process includes defining public use and forest areas and developing special use areas, amenities, campgrounds and marked trails. The DNR is paralleling planning of Peshtigo and Governor Thompson to ensure the forest and the park are compatible and complimentary. The master plan for Governor Thompson was approved by the Natural Resources Board in September.

The DNR's goals in development include "managing the shoreline zones to maintain and enhance their natural, undeveloped scenic quality, especially those visible from the Peshtigo

River and its flowages; protecting the shoreline of the flowages and the lands down river from any future development; and guaranteeing that the area will be maintained in its predominately natural condition."

Peshtigo is open for hunting deer, bear, turkey, grouse, and waterfowl, as are most state forests. There are sixteen boat landings which make the river accessible for fishing, water-skiing, rafting, canoeing and kayaking. Horseback riding is permitted on forest roads, and ATVs are allowed on some of the forest's snowmobile trails. Until the planning is done and campgrounds built, camping is not allowed on forest ground except for at the few canoe campsites along the river. There are several private and public campgrounds nearby that day users of the forest can stay at.

The DNR property manager for Peshtigo, Dan Mertz, reported that, "Some visitors say the unspoiled vision of wilderness in the forest is reminiscent of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of Minnesota." Like the BWCA, Mertz said one of the best ways to enjoy the forest is through canoe or kayak travel on the river. The river offers both quiet and white water, as well as some of the more scenic fly fishing in the state.

Peshtigo is a great addition to state land and will be a treasure enjoyed for generations. The river stretch through the forest is free of development and the DNR will make sure it stays that way. Take some time later this year and go check out the newest addition to the parks and forests, especially deer hunters looking for that trophy buck. Just make sure to remove all stands at the end of each hunting day and do not damage or cut any of the beautiful trees.

\$4.8 million in habitat projects approved along Fox, Wolf rivers and Green Bay

DNR Press Release

MADISON — A total of more than \$4.8 million has been approved for nine habitat protection and restoration projects along the Fox and Wolf rivers and Green Bay to maintain and improve habitat for waterfowl production, fish spawning and other wildlife under a multi-agency agreement reached earlier this month. The project funding comes from the Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) claim settlement for the discharge of polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs) into the waterways by paper companies.

The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council approved funding for the 2005 natural resource restoration projects at its Jan. 11 meeting in Keshena. The Trustee Council is composed of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, the Michigan Attorney General, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The council manages the restoration activities, including the selection and management oversight of projects, as a result of the NRDA claim for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay PCB cleanup.

An important aspect of the projects, according to council members, is the use of matching funds and services to enhance the viability and scope of the projects. In 2005, seven of the eight projects approved involve matching funds and, since project funding began in 2002, nearly \$12.8 million in matching funds and services have been added to the \$24.6 million in NRDA settlement funds committed to restoration projects.

According to Bruce Baker, DNR representative on the council, "By being able to use NRDA funds to match funding from other sources, the agencies and our local governmental and other partners can accomplish projects that any single funding source would have difficulty putting together."

The funds being used by the

council come from NRDA settlements reached with Appleton Papers, Inc./NCR, Georgia-Pacific Corp., P.H. Glatfelter Co., and WTM1 (formerly Wisconsin Tissue Mills).

The projects approved for the 2005 funding cycle include:

-A \$1 million restoration project that will protect approximately 600 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and wetland in the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area. The acquisition of land and conservation easements in this project area will reduce the impacts of rural residential development to the watershed and provide for the improved and continued production of waterfowl, heron, egrets and other fish-eating birds and spawning habitat for walleye and northern pike. Matching Wisconsin State Stewardship funds of approximately \$1 million have been requested for the project.

-A \$200,000 wetland restoration project in the Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area to provide improved habitat for waterfowl and state threatened species such as osprey and great egrets. The funds will be used to renovate the dike system in the wildlife area that is used to maintain adequate water levels for the benefit and protection of the waterfowl that use the wildlife area.

-An \$881,000 habitat protection project along the west shore of Green Bay that will protect approximately 380 acres of critical habitats. These areas have been identified as significant habitat for waterfowl nesting and resting areas as well as fish spawning habitat. Federal and state matching funds will be requested to complete this project.

-A \$626,000 habitat protection project in Door County that will protect approximately 85 acres of wetland, riparian and upland habitat. The project will also improve and restore breeding habitat for northern pike and other fish species along the east shore of Green Bay. Matching Wisconsin State Stewardship funds of approximately \$219,000 have been requested for the project.

-A \$1 million island habitat

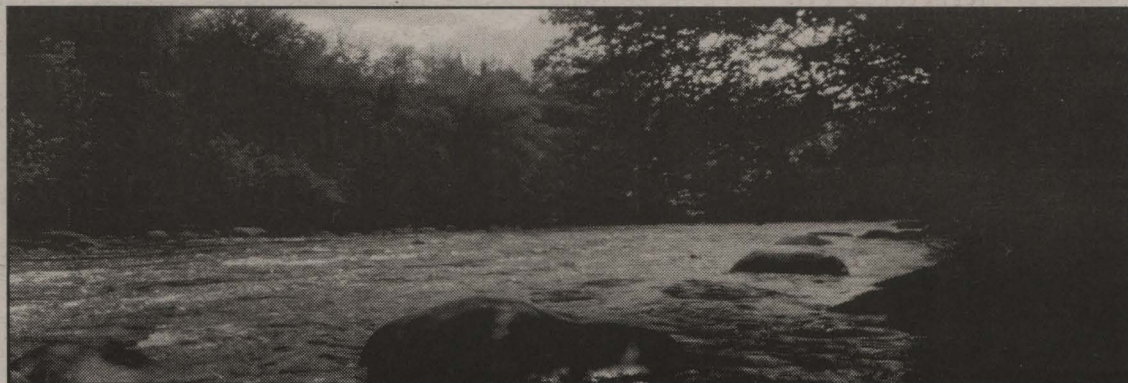
protection project that would restore and protect important island habitat that supports waterfowl and colonial nesting birds that have been injured by the release of PCBs into the environment. Federal and state funds will be requested to complete this project.

-A \$400,000 habitat protection project that will protect approximately 140 acres of wetland and riparian areas along Baird Creek, including the Greenway, a forested corridor within the City of Green Bay. The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation will be expected to raise matching funds to complete this project.

-A \$200,000 northern pike habitat restoration project in the Suamico and Little Suamico watersheds. The project will establish permanent conservation easements to create riparian buffers along streams in the watersheds that have high potential for spawning and rearing areas for northern pike. Staff and staff time for the project is being provided by the Brown County Land Conservation Department.

-A \$500,000 restoration project that will protect approximately 200 acres of wetland along the Upper Fox River in Waushara and Winnebago counties. These wetlands will become part of the FWS Waterfowl Production Area and managed as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System to provide opportunities for waterfowl breeding, nesting and as a migratory stopover. The land will be open to the public for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation activities. Matching federal funds will be provided to complete this project.

"It is wonderful to see good restoration projects brought to the trustee council for approval," stated Charlie Wooley, FWS representative to the council. "The restoration projects we and our partners have developed will provide important habitat for natural resources injured from PCBs, and to the Green Bay watershed as a whole."



\$4.8 million will bring welcome restoration to both the Fox and Wolf rivers and also to Green Bay.

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The 5th Annual Mardi Gras Weekend

THURSDAY

CROWD CHALLENGE KICKBOXING

Winners: 2 Guys & 1 Girl (+ 15 of their Friends) will walk away with an all access pass to the **FREE BEER**
Balcony Party Saturday Night - **Registration:** 10:00-10:30 P.M.

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50¢ TAPS or RAILS 9 P.M. - 1 A.M.

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10 'till 11 P.M.



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Winners: 1 Female winner (+ 15 Friends) will walk away with an all access pass to the **FREE BEER**
Balcony Party Saturday Night - **Registration:** 10:00-10:30 P.M.

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\$1.50 CANS, RAILS and SHOTS 'til MIDNIGHT
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To(ta)lerance to be performed on UWSP studio stage

UW-Stevens Point News
Release

A unique theatre experience that portrays a world in which impersonation has been outlawed will be presented Wednesday through Friday, Feb. 2-4 and Sunday, Feb. 6 in the Studio Theatre at the Noel Fine Arts Center (NFAC) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

To(ta)lerance, a drama written by UWSP Theatre Assistant Professor Kyle Bostian and directed by Lecturer Robert Radkoff Ek, will be the final show staged in the current studio theater before the advent of a new black box studio space in the NFAC addition to be used next fall. For mature audiences only, the production will give viewers "an experience they've never had," said Bostian.

The show will be performed at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday in the studio adjacent to Jenkins Theatre in the NFAC. Admission, including a ticketing fee, is \$10 for general public and senior citizens and \$3.50 for UWSP students with ID. Tickets are available on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the University Box Office, Room 103 of the University Center, by calling (715)-346-4100 or (800)-838-3378. Visa, Mastercard and Discover are accepted.

To(ta)lerance is set as a fictional country where the Declaration of Total Tolerance has been passed so that everyone lives peacefully. Impersonation is illegal and everyone has to be themselves at all times. "The idea that people can ever be themselves in an authentic and verifiable way just doesn't hold water," Bostian says.

The play centers on a gay couple at odds because of the declaration. One is a radical puppeteer who challenges it; the other is a former actor who now does voice-over work in promotional ads for the government.

"The two sides of this issue impact their relationship," said Bostian. The story also touches on how much individuals are willing to pay for the sake of social, political and personal freedom, says Radkoff Ek.

"The concept of 'being able to trust others to be who they appear' jumped out at me as visual spectacles began to form in my mind's eye," said Radkoff Ek. The use of four actors, a seven person chorus, live musicians and live video creates sensory overload, he said, in which dreams and distorted realities are seen through puppets and masked characters.

The experience is heightened through the intimate setting of the studio space, said Bostian, where scenery design by junior Amanda Baker of Hudson requires the

"The idea that
people can ever
be themselves in
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just doesn't hold
water."

audience to become part of the environment. The audience also will have the opportunity to provide feedback to the playwright during talkbacks after each performance, says Bostian, who developed To(ta)lerance last year while involved with the Timber Lake Playwrights Colony.



A moment of high drama from UW-SP faculty member Kyle Bostian's *To(ta)lerance*. Photograph from UW-Stevens Point News Release

Poetry and art exhibition set for Women's History Month

UW-Stevens Point News
Release

University and community members are encouraged to submit writing and art work for a poetry and art exhibition titled, "The Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women," to be held in March at UW-SP.

In recognition of Women's History Month, the Department of Foreign Languages, plus other departments and colleges will sponsor the exhibition, a panel discussion and a display of films and books. Guest speakers will be Professor Nela Rio, an Argentine-Canadian artist and writer, and Barbara Reynolds, a UNICEF representative in Nigeria.

The Best Cds of 2004: An Overview

By Andrew Burt
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

TV on the Radio-*Desperate Youth, Blood Thirsty Babes*

Hands down--the most original record of the year. TV on the Radio has ambient flourishes like Mission of Burma (loops, fuzz, etc.), but backs them up with an amazing soul sensibility. Leonard Cohen sadness permeates this recording. Tunde Adebimpe's vocals sound far away, but still immediate, lulling the listener into a false sense of security. But maybe it isn't so false. His creaking voice-equal parts Tom Waits and Otis Redding-seems young, yet wise beyond his years. David Sitek and other musicians provide the background vibe. Guitars and keyboards meander throughout this record creating a satisfying musical feeling that has you humming long after the record is over.

Post punk meets 60's

Motown shouldn't work, but TV on the Radio makes these disparate styles seem like best friends. The listener is left with deep, dark landscapes that are more friendly than scary. Lyrically these songs are simplistic, but that is why they work. In "Dreams," Adebimpe sings "all your dreams are over now and all your wings have fallen down." This isn't true for TV on the Radio. Their dreams and uniqueness are just finding a foothold. The lyrics, next to the rich, thoughtful music, project a stark and not so positive reality. Our country is falling inward on itself and our generation is trying to find a place in the post 9/11 world. "Staring at the Sun" and "You Could Be Love" both deal with the sadness and confusion and utter hopelessness of modern life. Politically charged songs are prominent on *Desperate Youth, Blood Thirsty Babes*, but personal politics are the focus. "Oh my own voice cannot save me now," Adebimpe confides in "Staring at the Sun," but in the next song he reminds us gentle listeners that (We) "could be held so warm in these arms" that are so ultimately strong.

Maybe there is hope for the future, but there is definitely hope for the future of music, when it is in the hands of capable and truly original artists like TV on the Radio. I can't wait to see where they go from here. They have already carved a niche for themselves. Now they just need to find the audience that they so richly deserve. "Bomb your country," indeed.

Sparta-*Porcelain*

Porcelain is a great record, because it transports the listener back to a simple time before The Used sold out stadiums and Dashboard Confessional was on TV. Sparta's blend of guitars, Jim Ward's all too familiar vocals, and muscular time shifts harkens back to the time when their former band, At the Drive-In, were kings of the hill. Back to that penultimate point before ATDI toured with Rage against the Machine and exploded all across the map. ATDI did explode, and separated to form separate bands: Sparta,

searching for the more commercial route, and Mars Volta, opting for guitar-noodling and experimentation.

But for one brief moment, they were the top band in the land, and I think this new Sparta record comes awfully damn close to making them one of the top bands again. The guitars never fail and Jim Ward's vocals wail and rage in a manner both sincere and sure. Emo-tinged rock never felt so good. This record is purely pleasurable with no hang-ups. Even your death metal cousin could find something to like in this record. Not too commercial, even though it is on Geffen, and not too constrained by fans, because ATDI fan boys are still raving the Mars Volta, the record stands alone. It bleeds through the map in a year when there weren't that many original or great records and grabs the torch that ATDI dropped.

Musically, it's not that different from *Wiretap Scars*, but as a whole, *Porcelain* is much stronger. Whereas *Wiretap Scars* had great songs, this is a great record. Overflowing with excellent song writing and taut angular guitar lines, it leaves all the other pretenders to the throne lying in the dust. Sparta was allowed to make a record that relies on major label money, but is very far removed from major label ideas.

Sonic Youth-*Sonic Nurse*

What can I say about Sonic Youth that hasn't already been said far too often? They continue to be an amazing and challenging band. *Sonic Nurse* doesn't change that, but it does mix up their artistic palette a little bit. Both experimental and more commercial, *Sonic Nurse*, which also should win awards for worst album title of the year, may be the best album, Gordon, Moore, and company have released since the difficult but stellar *A Thousand Leaves*. Just like *A Thousand Leaves*, *Sonic Nurse* takes a few listens to really understand.

The record starts out with a brilliant Kim Gordon song, "Pattern Recognition," that rocks in all the right places. Quieter

Continued on page 17

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continued from page 16

songs like "Dude Ranch Nurse" find Gordon in a more contemplative place. "Kim Gordon and the Arthur Doyle Hand Cream" takes a stab at ex-media darling Mariah Carey and her constant squabbles. Gordon is deft and sure in her songwriting and her maturity is refreshing in contrast to her previous moments of lyrical naivete. *Sonic Nurse* allows her songs to really make their mark, and for once Gordon actually has the strongest songs on an SY record.

Lee Renaldo's "Paper Cup Exit" (sadly his only song on this album) is trashier. It is clearer and more focused than the rest of *Sonic Nurse*. Renaldo's "beat poetry" set to music never sounded so good. A glorious wash of sweet guitar leaps from the speakers, making this the high point of a record rife with high-points.

All in all, Sonic Youth's 14th proper studio album leaves them still making the transcendental guitar epics of their youth, but mixing it with more creative lyrics and maturity. It is not a return to form, because that would imply that Sonic Youth had a template. Sonic Youth continues to trash expectations and makes a thoroughly satisfying record that continues to expand their sonic horizon even in middle age.

A Wilhelm Scream-Mute Print

This is the kind of record that kicks you in the teeth, helps clean you off, and then kicks you in the teeth again. A solid musical uppercut to the jaw leaves you reeling and senseless, but still wanting more. A Wilhelm Scream makes the kind of punk that should be more popular these days. Sure, they like to have screaming parts followed by singing parts, but there is no whiny emo progression here. They have developed an amazing synthesis of good lyrics combined with technical parts that are slightly metallic, but don't really verge into the metal core territory. A speed-fire rhythm section moves the songs along. Sing-along choruses, catchy anthems that don't lose their appeal, and a definite Hot Water Music by way of D.B.S. feel instills their post-hardcore with new energy. It also doesn't hurt that Bill Stevenson (of the almighty All) produced this record.

The songwriting is so good that it creeps up on you. What right does a band on Nitro have to make a record this good? Nuno Periera's vocals are harsh, but seductive. The double guitar attack isn't subtle and before you know it you are a fan. Trevor Reilly plays the fretboard like it has never been played before. (Okay, like it's never been played in hardcore before.) This record has the subtlety of a jackhammer. It makes you want to pummel all those kids who listen to Blink-182 and the Ataris. Actually, it makes you wonder why bands like A Wilhelm Scream aren't considered the greatest bands in

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According to their website, their name comes from a high-pitched film sound effect that originated in the 50's for the film *Distant Drums*, in which a character is dragged underwater by an alligator. If you haven't already felt the effects of A Wilhelm Scream, don't worry, you will.

Grant Lee Phillips-*Virginia Creeper*

Everyone who knows me has heard me rave Grant Lee Buffalo, the rootsy rock trio from Stockton, Ca that made better records in the 90's than most bands that received all the attention. Even though Rolling Stone once voted Grant Lee Phillips as male vocalist of the year all their ogling was lost on a music audience that clamored for a new Smashing Pumpkins or Hootie record. Even so, Grant Lee Buffalo's *Mighty Joe Moon* ranks as one of the top records of the 90's.

That said, the new record by Phillips is not as amazing as *Mighty Joe Moon* or even his first solo record, *Mobilize*. But it is better than most records that came out in 2004 on the virtues of Phillips's song-writing and his incredible voice. A country music vibe creeps in and Phillips uses it to full advantage. He uses sparse instrumentation to transport the listener into an unreal America that may have existed or will exist. I'm not exactly sure. Slide guitar and sweet harmonies drift in and out. Phillips' country influences are more folk-oriented. He

prefers Buck Owens and Gram Parsons to the Dixie Chicks, Toby Keith, et. al. In fact, he covers a Gram Parsons song, "Hickory Wind," at the end of the record. His country touches make the vibe more like returning home for mom's apple pie than some imagined south where the flag flies high. Phillips has no time for that. He is making music not to sell records, but to explore his own soul.

The characters that appear throughout this record are stark, believable types. Phillips makes the listener ache and yearn for them. By the end of the record, you want to meet "Josephine of the Swamps" and really understand the trials and tribulations of "Susanna Little." The only down side is the aforementioned cover. It provides a little more loneliness and heart to a record already full of it and pales in comparison to Phillips' own songs. Tacked on the end, it is little more than a bonus track that Phillips should have released somewhere else.

On *Virginia Creeper*, Phillips continues his legacy as a great songwriter and storyteller, much like Bob Dylan or Bruce Springsteen, celebrating the dark and redeeming side of America. It seems like only a matter of time before he makes a truly engaging concept record that is more fully realized and powerful than *Virginia Creeper*. This record is a must for all fans of truly inspired songwriting.

Movie Review: *The Phantom of the Opera*

by Rebecca Conn
ARTS AND REVIEW EDITOR

dir. Joel Schumacher
starring Emmy Rossum, Gerard Butler, Patrick Wilson, Minnie Driver

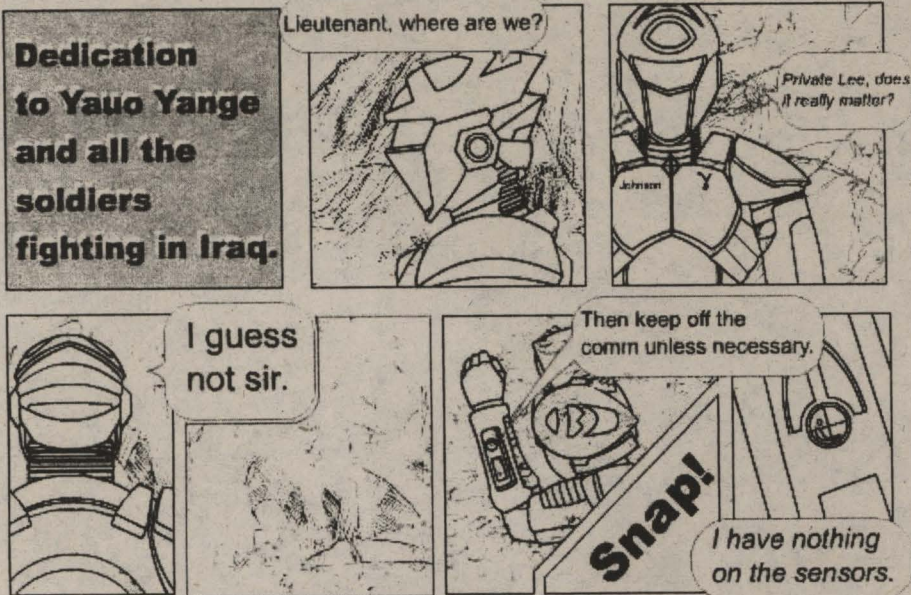
This Joel Schumacher-directed film adaptation of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's famous stage musical of the same name could have been a decent piece. It has everything a big Hollywood movie should have: a simple but pithy plot lifted from a popular novel, fancy sets and special effects, and an eager, largely unknown young cast. In fact, several Phantom movies with most of these elements have been made over the past eighty years, some of them quite good. Yet Schumacher somehow misses the mark. The Phantom of the Opera is stilted and joyless, a coldly commercial bid to wrench some more cash out of Lloyd Webber's show that is vacuous at its best, unwatchable at its worst.

The rather diffidently-handled plot tells the story of Christine (Rossum), an orphaned young singer at the Paris Opera of the late 19th century who is given voice lessons by a disembodied presence she thinks is an angel but others call a ghost. Of course, it's the Phantom (Butler), a dis-

figured musical genius who hides away in the bowels of the theatre. His obsessive love for Christine incites the ire and concern of her tin soldier of a childhood sweetheart, Raoul (Wilson), and trips to the Phantom's New Romantic lair, a highly anachronistic sword-fight, and overwrought mask-and-rose symbolism ensue. Through it all, Rossum pouts and sings with all the beauty and charisma of a bisque doll, while Butler, an unnervingly pretty Phantom, sneers and furls his cape.

There is some good in all of this. The film does a fair job of highlighting Christine's confliction between her religious and professional obligations and her personal desires, and some of the musical numbers, like "Prima Donna," are genuinely fun. Even the Phantom's disappointing makeup helps promote the idea that Christine rejects him not because of his looks, but because he's a dangerously obsessed stalker. This doesn't do anything to preserve the coherence of the second act, or to make anyone care about what happens in the end. The film is too calculated, right down to the crushed chandelier. Better to shell out for the musical, or read the book and stay home.

3050 and Beyond



Artist: Blong Khang

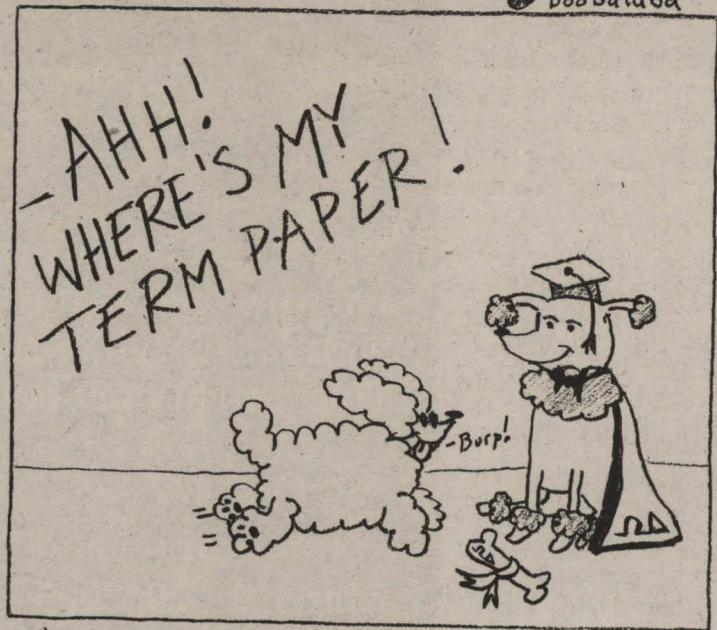
Writer: Joshua M. Erle

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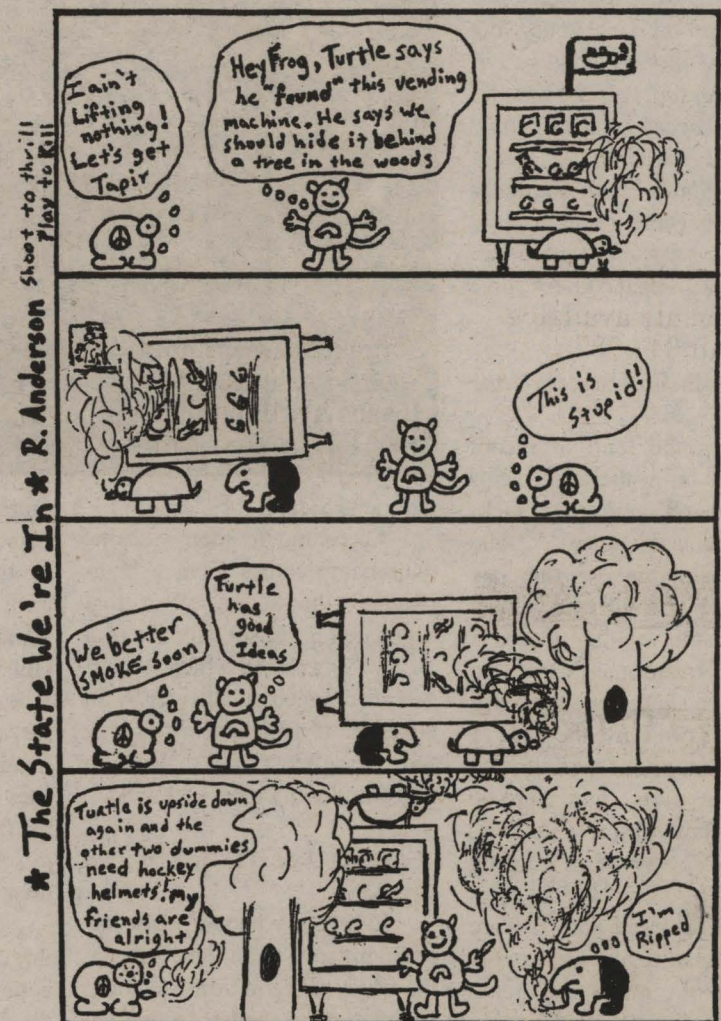


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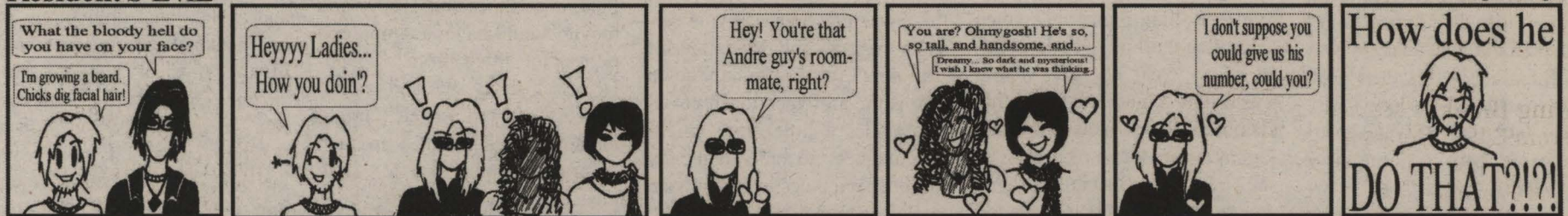
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* The State We're In * R. Anderson

Resident's Evil

By Joy



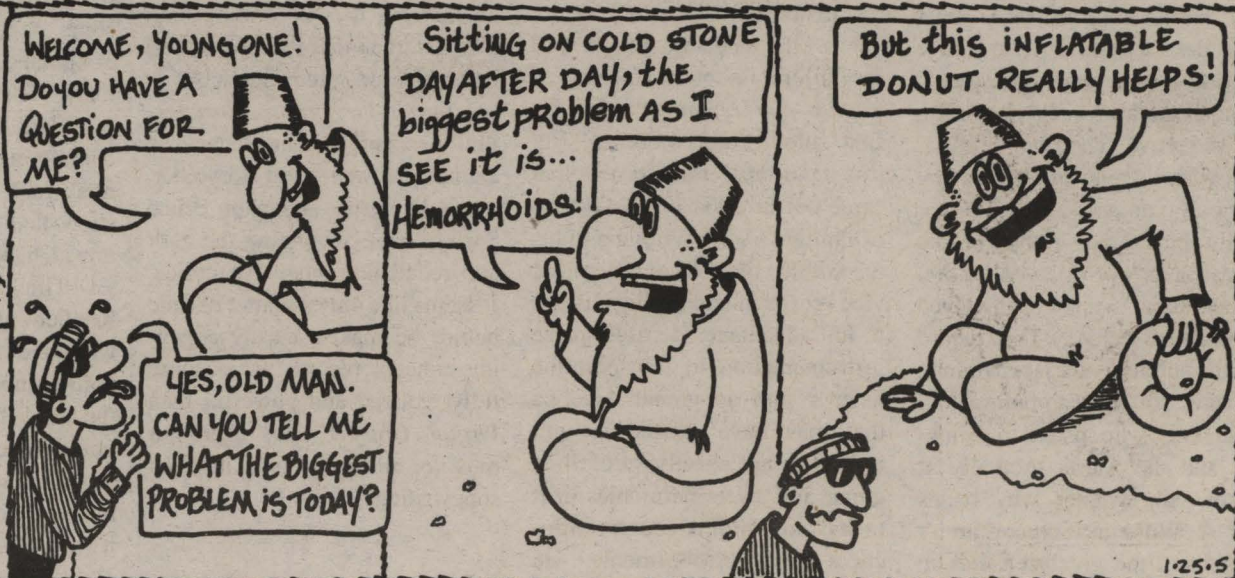
THE OLD MAN

by JERRY LEE

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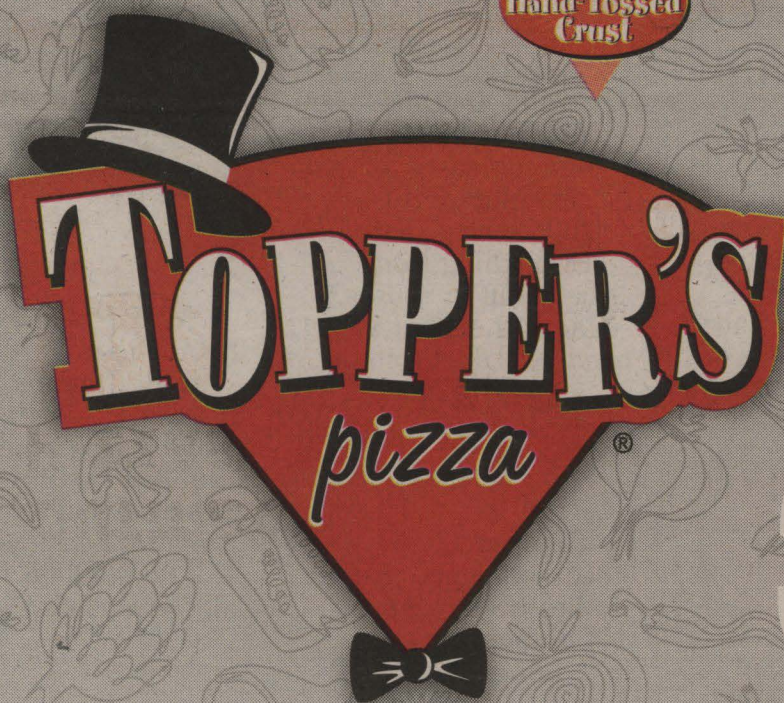
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