

Thursday

April 13,
2006

Volume 50 Issue 24

THE POINTER

A Student Publication

Recording Student
Voices Since
1895

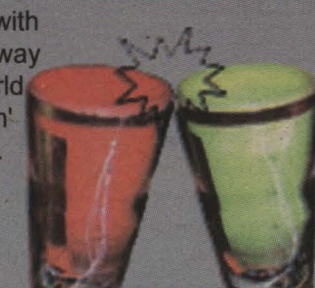
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - STEVENS POINT

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Share a drink with
someone half-way
around the world
with some lovin'
cups. Page 12.



Campus-wide art
exhibit begins
Monday, April 17.
You can't miss it!
Page 8.



Softball
team wins
four games
in two
days.
Page
10.



Newsroom • 346 - 2249 Business • 346 - 3800 Advertising • 346 - 3707

Bottle of water in hand, Oz brings home Trivia without caffeine

By Brandi Pettit

THE POINTER
BPETT318@UWSP.EDU

Those who have watched "The World's Largest Trivia Contest" on Student Television often see Jim "Oz" Oliva wildly playing air guitar and jumping around in front of his microphone.

It's not just a show for the cameras - he really is a maniac.

In the final minutes before Trivia 37: The Odd Contest began on Friday, Oz was racing around the 90FM WWSP studios, carrying boxes, moving papers and giving last minute instructions to his assistants.

He finally took a moment for himself to dance around in glee as he looked through the record selection for the weekend, which included novelty songs from the past few decades.

Though trivia questions are written throughout the year, preparation for trivia starts months in advance. Lining up sponsors, preparing a theme and coordinating volunteers are all part of the work leading up to the station's biggest event of the year.

"We started preparing for this (trivia) in January," said Denise Conrad, Business Director for 90FM. "Things are pretty crazy here today (Friday), with the start of Trivia. (Last) Monday was really busy too with registration."

Everyone involved with the project was bursting with excitement, including Oz's question writing partner, John Eckendorf.

Eckendorf has been writing questions with The Oz for 18 years and was a participant for 12 years prior.

The 41-year-old trivia veteran said the final questions are written

answer to which is always "Robert Redford," or sometimes, simply "Bob."

players.

Now, this first question always follows the popular Steppenwolf song "Born to be Wild" as an annual tradition, which was heard on radios around the state, including those located at the "Pastafarian Phrogz" team headquarters.

"We've got radios in every room," team member Luis Casanova said.

He and his girlfriend, Laura Melvin, have played with this team for three years.

"We've also got the three computers," he said.

Casanova's house was filled with every manner of fake frog one can think of - including stuffed animals, cookies and spinach dip inside frog shaped bread.

"We found out about Pastafarians on the Internet," said Casanova. "Some guy invented a religion that connected pirates and global warming, hence our pirate outfits."

Casanova and Melvin hosted about a dozen teammates throughout the weekend and devised a system for sleeping right away on Friday.

"We've got one girl upstairs right now - it's her turn to nap," said Casanova, "but we'll be going all day and all night."

With the Internet available in
see Trivia pg. 2



Above: Phone operators enjoy free food while waiting for callers. Left: Shawn Connelly reads a trivia question on 90fm.

about three weeks in advance.

"We need that leeway to re-read the questions a few times because we can always have a mistake in there," said Eckendorf.

One past mistake is directly related to every year's initial question, the

This tradition comes from a question Oz asked several years ago, "In 1976, who was appointed sewer commissioner of Provo, Utah?"

Oz was convinced that Robert Redford was the correct answer, but the name of the city was wrong, and now, Oz keeps Redford in mind each year - a long-running joke with trivia

CNR department acquires land in Portage County

By Adam Wise

THE POINTER
AWISE955@UWSP.EDU

UW-SP's College of Natural Resources (CNR) has acquired a 45-acre parcel in eastern Portage County that will become a permanent addition to their Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES).

The acquired parcel is located at the northeast corner of Sunset Lake Road and County MM and has a long history of conservation stewardship, thanks to over a century of ownership by the North New Hope Lutheran Church.

According to the CWES Web site, the station's mission is to, "foster in adults and youth the appreciation, understanding, skill development and motivation needed to help them build a sustainable balance

between environment, economy and community."

"Everybody wins in this acquisition, including the general public," said Randy Champeau, CNR associate dean for outreach and extension. "Preserving this special piece of green space for CWES users and central Wisconsin residents will yield benefits for years to come, thanks to excellent cooperation between the church, UW-SP Foundation, the county and the state. This will strengthen CWES programs and help build its reputation as a leader in environmental education."

A unique and environmentally sensitive property, this area features land surrounding Minister Lake, which consists of a natural pond and wetland area just east of Sunset Lake.

CWES has enjoyed an excellent relationship with the church in the past. Various groups served

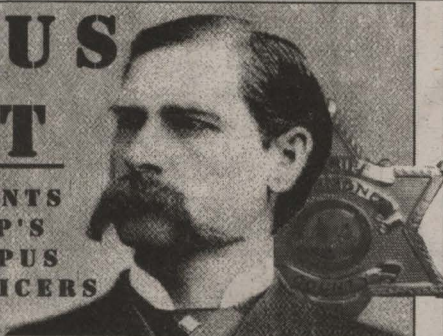
by CWES, including youth, school, UW-SP and adult groups, have been allowed to use the property for education, research and recreation. The deal ensures that those uses will continue for the foreseeable future.

The \$212,500 purchase was made possible by grants from the state of Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Land Preservation Fund administered by Portage County and donations from friends and alumni to the UW-SP Foundation, which will hold the deed.

The transaction had been discussed for many years, but serious negotiations between the university and North New Hope Lutheran Church began nearly two years ago. The deal was finalized on March 15.

CAMPUS BEAT

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



Steiner Hall

April 7, 2006 3:11 a.m.

Type: PUBLIC DISTURBANCE

Report of a group of male individuals yelling outside of the west wing of Steiner Hall. Four separate complaints received from Steiner residents. The individuals were asked to lower their voices before heading towards Taco Bell.

Steiner Hall

April 7, 2006 3:26 a.m.

Type: PUBLIC DISTURBANCE

The Steiner Hall CA called to report that the individuals that were previously outside of the west wing were back, yelling at residents and possibly poking holes in resident window screens on the first floor with sticks.

Baldwin Hall

April 9, 2006 9:16 p.m.

Type: VANDALISM

A caller reported that their passenger sideview mirror was broken off their vehicle.

Pray/Sims Hall

April 10, 2006 1:22 p.m.

Type: THEFT

A caller reported that her purse was stolen.

Student Services Center (SSC)

April 11, 2006 8:06 a.m.

Type: THEFT

Report of theft of items from a desk in room 103 SSC.

Collins Classroom Center (CCC)

April 11, 2006 10:32 p.m.

Type: VANDALISM

Custodian from the CCC building called to report graffiti on university property.

from Trivia pg. 1

almost every house, questions have been getting tougher each year. But that's not stopping any of the teams from doing their best.

Jody Baganz was holding court in his east side home where his team, "Home of Norm's Stool," a reference to the popular television show "Cheers," was headquartered.

"Well, we're unexpectedly low. We're in the mid-twenties right now," said Baganz of his 20-year-old team's standing late Sunday afternoon.

Almost a dozen manned computer stations were set up in Baganz's basement, where Baganz says his family hosted about 34 players for this year's contest.

"Home of Norm's Stool" has members from several areas of Wisconsin and other states, including Arkansas, Minnesota and Michigan.

To keep morale high, Baganz said his team hands out awards to various members who have acted in some noticeable way. Some of the awards deal with who accidentally crashed a computer system and who has had the most sleep.

"I've had about 4 or 5 hours of sleep, myself," said Baganz.

This year 420 teams registered for the trivia contest, with over 11,000 team members on hand. Teams like the "Home of Norm's Stool" and "Pastafarian Phrogz" rely heavily on the Internet, and need every edge they can get.

When asked if Eckendorf had any advice for this year's trivia teams, he answered, "Notes. Keep your eyes peeled."

Eckendorf laughed. "The players will know what that means."

Come Sunday, the 90FM

studio was busier than ever, where dozens of volunteers were working to help bring this year's trivia contest to a smooth and efficient end.

Conrad was pleased with this year's event, saying that nothing out of the ordinary had happened all weekend.

"Things are going good," said Conrad, a UW-SP freshman.

Oz sat in the back office, thumbing feverishly through a pile of papers.

"I've had two hours and about ten minutes of sleep all weekend," said an energetic Oliva.

So what's his secret for being his usual bright-eyed self during the 54-hour contest?

"It's all mind over matter," said Oz, who was manning the trivia complaint line.

"I haven't had any caffeine in eight years," he said, holding up his trusty bottle of water.

While many 90FM volunteers looked haggard and were looking forward to some much needed sleep after the contest ended at midnight Sunday, Oz was wired with energy, anxious to help the studio staff and volunteers with any questions they had.

"All things trivia emanate through me," he said.

The same teams have ruled the top spots for the past several years; this year's top five were certainly no surprise. Final tallies awarded fifth place to "Basementality: Google My Oz" with 8,285 points, fourth place went to "Graduates of a Lesser God" with a score of 8505 points, "Tin Man" swiped third place with 9,195 points, "Knights of Neek" came in second with a score of 9,610 points and "Oddly Enough It's Network" won this year's contest, with a score of 11,070 points.

THE POINTER

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PRESS



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Sunday Bloody Mary Buffet Bar (includes Kettle One and 1 jumbo shrimp). Buy a pizza get a **free** pitcher of soda or dom. Beer

Monday Buy a pizza get a **free** pitcher of soda or dom. Beer

Tuesday "Make Your Cash Fly" Every dollar spent will earn you a **free** chicken wing. Also, grilled cheese and tomato soup for \$2.00

Wednesday "Slide over the hump" special on our bite size mini slider cheeseburgers. Music video DJ

Thursday Perfect Margarita special and .99 chips and salsa. Over the Top DJ

Friday Famous beer battered or baked Fish Fry

Saturday Live music video DJ

Monday-Thursday Happy Hour 3pm-6pm, .50 off all drinks.
Central Wisconsin's Premier Video Viewing!

Letters & Opinion

Your College Survival Guide:

Name your tune

Pat Rothfuss

WITH HELP FROM THE MISSION COFFEE HOUSE

Greetings, oh wise one!

I come before you in humble supplication. Something has been irking me to no end of late and I seek a rational explanation. Or at least one that will stop me from screaming at my car stereo.

Why is it that all the radio stations I like always run their commercials & newscasts at the same time? I surf and surf, seeking music, and all I hear is talking. If I wanted talking I'd put on NPR!

I've been listening to the same 7 mix tapes for the last 8 months and am now hopelessly out of touch with the current radio set list. Is there any hope for me? Or will my discovery of new songs and bands now be totally dependent on random chance and the kindness of others?

I'm too young to feel this old! Help!

~Kessa

Honestly Kessa, people who know me are going to laugh their asses off when they see you've sent me a music-related letter. You see, I have a reputation for being profoundly musically stupid. I'm the musical version of illiterate. Illyricate maybe.

That's me: functionally illyricate.

It all started back when I was just a little kid. One day at school I heard everyone talking about a super awesome song: "Karma Chameleon." So I went home that night, taped it off the radio onto my boom box, then listened to it over

and over until I knew all the words.

The next day I show up to school, ready to hang out with the cool crowd. But what do I discover? The song wasn't cool any more. In the space of about 15 hours the song had gone from awesome to lame.

It was right then that I decided that I didn't give a damn about music, or about the cool kids, or about trying to impress people. It wasn't until I was a sophomore in high school that I listened to any music at all. The song that got me started was Simon and Garfunkel's, "Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, and Thyme."

Still, never let it be said that I let my own overwhelming ignorance keep me from giving advice. Let's have at it.

In response to your first question, Kessa. The radio ads and news only line up for you. It never happens to me, and I talked to everyone else in the world just yesterday and it doesn't happen to them either.

Why does it only happen for you? Well, it's pretty obvious that you've angered God somehow. My best guess is that you've been touching yourself in your forbidden areas. Incessantly.

Is there any hope for you? Generally speaking: yes. As Sam's old gaffer used to say, "Where there's life, there's hope; and need of vittles."

Specifically, there is hope of new music in your life. I'm not going to make you a new mix tape, but I can steer you in the direction of some stuff you

might enjoy....

Imogen Heap: New-ish artist on the scene. Just bought the CD a week ago. Female Vocal. Nonstandard, interesting sound. Good lyrics.

Barenaked Ladies: Great lyrics, catchy tunes and a surprising amount of musicality underpinning otherwise light and fluffy songs. The only thing that could make this band better is if the songs were actually performed by naked women, as their name suggests.

Fade to Bluegrass: An entire album of Metallica songs done bluegrass style. It's a total trip. You really haven't lived until you've heard "Enter Sandman" played on a banjo....

The Decemberists: Any band that uses the word "palanquin" in a lyric is cool by me.

Tenacious D: If you laugh at my column, you will in all likelihood enjoy Tenacious D. It's like inappropriate humor and hard rock had a baby.

I also threw out a call to my Myspace readership to see if they had any advice for you. Here are some recommendations from my intelligent, music-savvy readers in their own words.

Kaddisfly: an indie Myspace band. Well-written music, artsy sound, great male vocals and lots of talent.

Hot Action Cop: Not for the easily offended. They have a humorous white rap/ alternative style. Catchy tunes. Fun and energetic.

Bond: Four gorgeous

Need to slake that new music thirst? Check out some of these websites:

Imogen Heap (www.imogenheap.co.uk)

Goldfrapp (www.goldfrapp.co.uk)

--female vocals with lush electronica

Clutch (www.pro-rock.com)

--THE best groove rock

The Young Dubliners

(www.youngdubliners.com)

Brother

(www.brothermusic.com)

--Great Celtic/Rock fusion

Stromkern

(www.stromkern.com)

--Midwest industrial

And you have to download the best band you've never heard: Splashdown
<http://www.sadena.com/music/splashdown/>
I'm serious. It's free.

minxes (or minxi) playing various electrical stringed instruments to amped-up classical and rock-turned-classical music like Kashmere, Adaggio and the James Bond Theme Song. It's like musak on ecstasy.

Michael Buble: Frank Sinatra reincarnated? A crooner in the best definition of the word.

Sleater-Kinney: While I am addicted to all of their albums, their latest, "The Woods," is a total mind-numbing, teeth-clenching orgasm. The best rock without the cock.

Chad VanGalen: Chilled-out and mellow with creepy introspection and morbid tendencies. Lyrically and melodically compelling.

TV On The Radio: Just different. Best consumed live, but a CD will do the trick as well. Intelligence plus grooves = TVOTR.

Electric Six: very awesome alternative-sometimes-electronic craziness. They do songs like "Danger! High

Voltage" and "Gay Bar." The videos for these songs are completely mind-blowingly hilarious.

The Urge: finally a unique ska band! While I love ska in general, not every band needs to sound like the Skatillites. This has more of a rock feel to it.

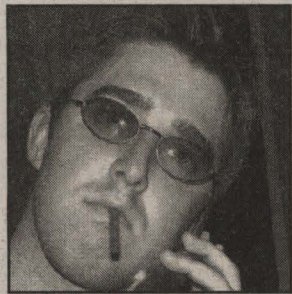
Bitch and Animal: a wondrously political and blunt queer duo. They do amazing songs like "Best Cock on the Block." Their sound is kind of an edgy, alternative rock.

If you want the rest of the recommendations, check out the College Survival Guide online at www.myspace.com/ycsg.

The good news is that the Mission Coffee House is getting a major face-lift. The bad news is that it's going to be shut down while that's happening. They'll still be open for some weekend shows though. For pictures of the reconstruction and details about the weekend's shows, check out their page at www.myspace.com/missioncoffeehouse. And remember, you have to add them as a friend if you want to see the event calendar

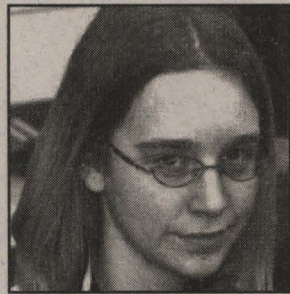
Pointer Staff Poll

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT FACEBOOK?



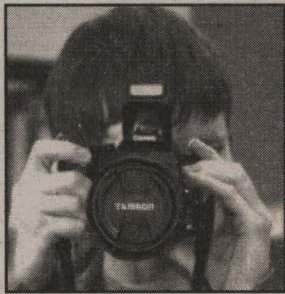
Joel Borski, Sr. Communication

"I made 66 friends in four hours last night, which is



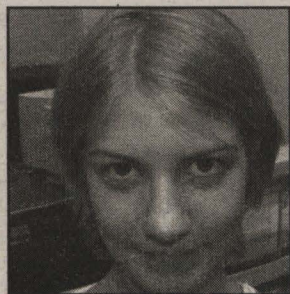
Joy Ratchman, Jr. English

"I keep a low profile."



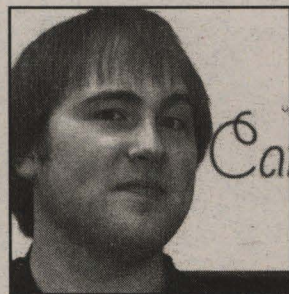
Aaron Hull, Sr. Astrology

"Ask not what facebook can do for you, but what you can do for facebook."



Mae Wernicke, Jr. Mass Media & Biology

"Facebook is a lame excuse for a stalker directory. But I indulge..."



Jake Eggener, Sr. Communication

"Ich bin ein facebook."



Erica Schulz, Sr. English

"I have more friends than Joel."

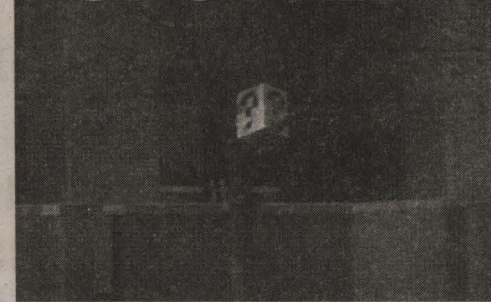
Dear Editor,

Early on Monday, April 10, students began to notice strange, yellow-colored boxes hanging from the trees around campus. The boxes were wrapped in yellow paper and spray-painted on four sides with a large black question mark. Any old-school Nintendo fan would be able to tell in an instant that these blocks are what one might call a "signature" of Nintendo's most successful franchise to date, the Super Mario Brothers games.

Just like in the games, the boxes were located high above the ground level. Some blocks resided in the branches of trees at heights of 20 feet or more. However, this obstacle didn't stop students. According to UW-SP student Justin Belant, the boxes were worth the trouble.

"My friend Adam climbed up the large tree near Debot and

SPOTTED!



got this one down. We shook it around and realized there was something inside." When asked about the contents of the box Justin produced a DVD which was bundled inside the box along with a note that instructed the reader to make boxes of their own and continue the cycle.

As of this time there are no leads as to who posted the mysterious boxes, but keep your eyes open. You never know when more boxes will reappear!

Derek Baker
UW-SP student

Don't forget about Brokeback at the polls

Dear Editor,

"Brokeback Mountain" failed to nab the Best Picture award at this year's Academy Awards, but that doesn't mean the movie is unworthy of being seen. In fact, if there was ever a time to see a film such as this one, to hear the message that it has to offer, it would be now.

As I'm sure most of you are aware, "Brokeback Mountain" is the story of two young ranch hands that fall in love with one another during their time together in the mountains of Wyoming in 1963. Their forbidden love must be an ever-kept secret throughout their lives from everyone, especially the close-minded small-town folk, who would persecute the men, or even kill them, should they find out. I think about the film's story in terms of its presence in time and setting in the 1960s, and then think about the same situation if it would happen in 2006, and I can't help but wonder—has

that much changed in our society since then? We say we've come so far, but I feel that the story of "Brokeback Mountain" is a social wake up call, and one that's long overdue.

In November, the citizens of the great state of Wisconsin will be voting either to approve or not approve a ban against gay marriage and civil unions, and each time I think about this proposed ban I can't help but think about Ennis and Jack, the main characters of this heart-wrenching tale. Although they are fictional, the characters themselves and their story represent the hardships that gay and lesbian couples have faced throughout history, and will continue to face as long as injustices like the proposed ban on marriage still linger in this world.

"Brokeback Mountain" highlights the passionate, unbridled love a couple—gay or straight—can possess, and the intense heartache and dire

consequences of what happens when that love and passion are stifled. When it comes to love, it shouldn't matter if you are attracted to males or if you are attracted to females, but rather if you have that kind of never-ending love that you can share with someone else. People are people, and love is love, no matter what your sexuality is. The love homosexuals have for one another is no different than the love heterosexuals have. Instead of smothering the spread of love, why don't we take the heartbreaking, realistic story of "Brokeback Mountain" and allow love to be shared and expressed by anyone who has a heart, regardless of sexual orientation. I encourage all of you to see this film and take to heart its message, and keep it in mind when you vote this November.

Dan Richter
UW-SP student

Eating contest winner rebuffs protester

Dear Editor,

An open letter here last week criticized the eating contest sponsored by Centertainment, but offered a very ineffective, uncreative way of protesting it. Centertainment is only trying to do their job, by offering amateur access into a growing sport that is making new fans every day.

Sport, you say? While I personally don't believe competitive eating is a sport, it does have the elements of one. As someone who has trained for (and won) the Centertainment contest this year, I can tell you that it takes concentration to keep your stomach from ejecting its contents, superior jaw strength to chew as fast as possible for minutes at a time, and the ability to stretch your stomach beyond its normal capacities. Most professional eaters have intense training regimes.

Competitive eating is taken more seriously in some

European countries, where prize money is enough to earn a living on. Like many people, I agree that it's tasteless to make a contest out of eating when people are starving worldwide. But it is ridiculous to believe that competitive eating is the cause of hunger. People can criticize gluttony as much as they want, but it won't make a dent in the world hunger problem.

There was a crowd of at least 30 people watching this particular contest, and someone could lecture these people for hours, but I doubt people would leave an entertaining event such as this.

If you find things like this distasteful, you should donate some money to an appropriate charity. What better way to protest this event than winning it and giving the money to charity? If nobody with such intentions had entered the contest, that money would have had no chance to feed hungry people. If you want to make a difference in the world, loud protesting isn't usually the answer, but personal sacrifice is.

And why does everything these days have to be so political? Caring about hunger and poverty is in no way a "bleeding heart liberal" cause. The most liberal thing about Firkus' letter was that she writes in to a newspaper to complain instead of actually trying to do something about the problem. If you have a problem with this contest, enter it next year and try to make a difference.

Joseph Pehoski
UW-SP student

EMMA, a vibrant 5-year-old, like so many others fighting cancer, received blood as part of her treatment for Leukemia.

GIVE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

DONORS LIKE YOU ENSURE BLOOD IS THERE WHEN A LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

UWSP Blood Drive

Tues., April 18, 10 am - 4 pm

Wed., April 19, 10 am - 4 pm

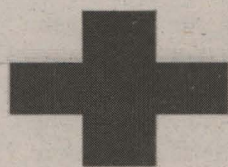
UC Center/ Laird Room

Appts. call 346-2260

Sponsored by A.C.T./UWSP

The Red Cross provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply. The efforts of the American Red Cross span our community, our nation and our world. No matter where you call home, the Red Cross will be there to help.

WHEN YOU HELP THE AMERICAN RED CROSS YOU HELP AMERICA.



**American
Red Cross**

125 YEARS

The year 2006 marks the 125th Anniversary of the American Red Cross serving the American public through times of war and peace with disaster assistance, blood collection, safety training and countless other community assistance services. Through the dedication and self-sacrifice of employees and volunteers, as well as the generosity of the American public, the Red Cross has helped save and improve the lives of millions. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

Advertisement

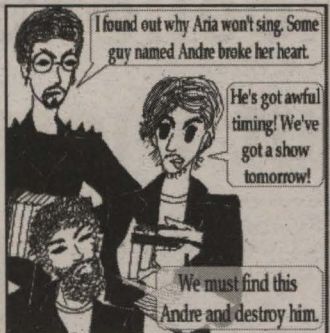
The School of
Education is
hiring
Graduate
Assistants
for Fall 2006.

**Deadline for
application is
Monday, April 24**

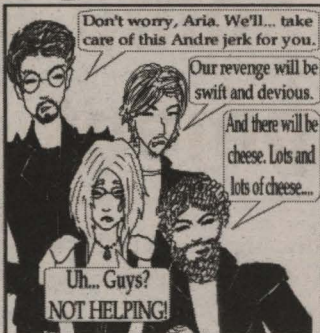
Interested
graduate students
should pick up an
application in CPS
470.

Comics

Resident's CIVIL



By: JOY MUSE

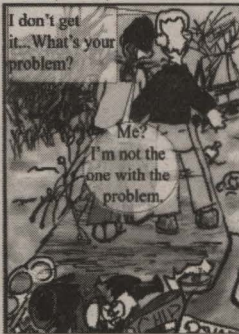
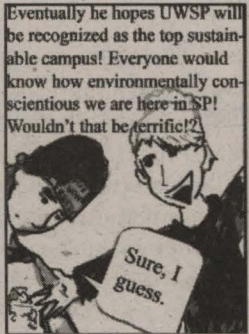
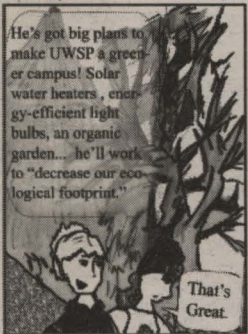


MUSE

BY: RYAN TIDBALL



NEVERLAND



By: LO SHIM

Here We Are

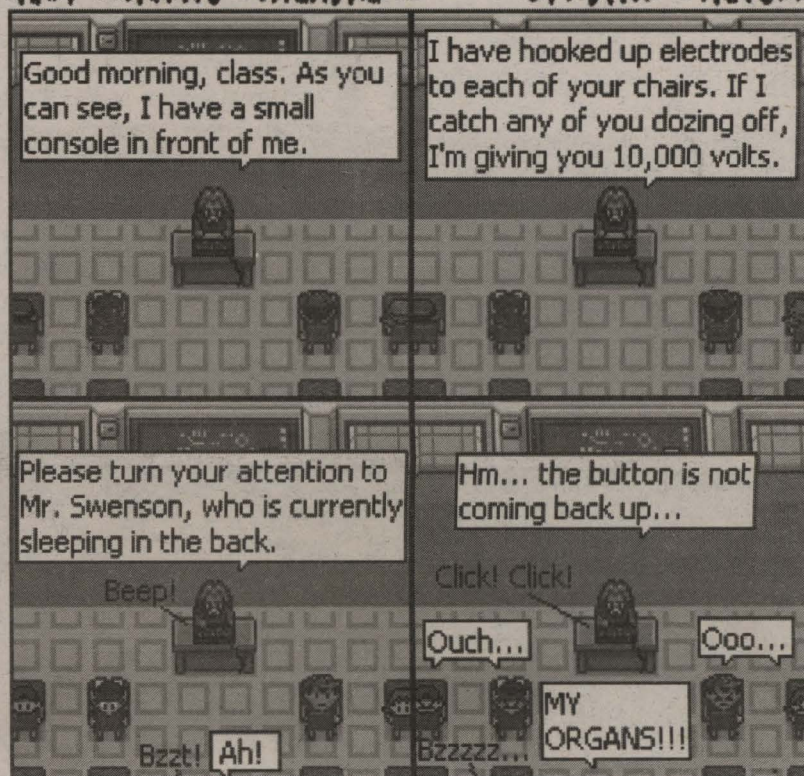


E.H. FERGISON



EARLY MORNING CONUNDRUMS

BY: DAVE STANGEL



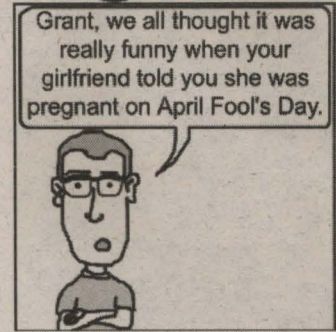
KENTO ANIME SOCIETY



BY: ROGER VANG



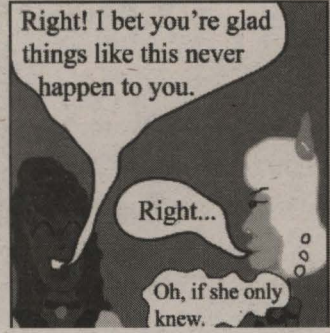
Magic Mike



By: MIKE CYPUL



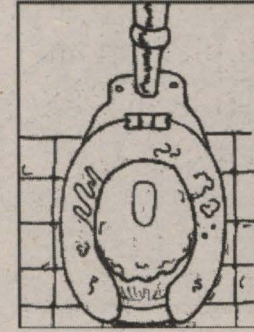
Venus di PSYCHO



By: JEN MILLER

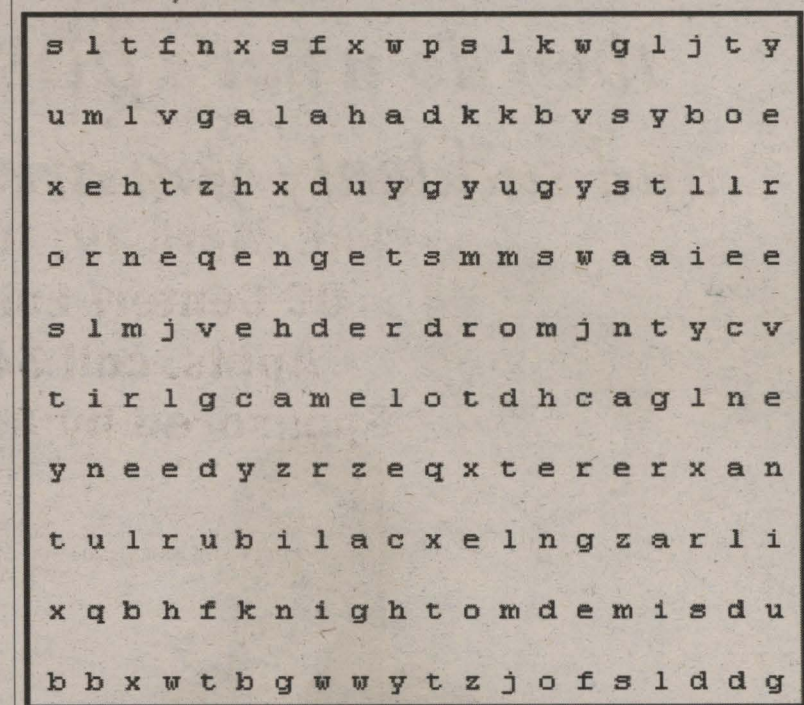


COUNT JAMES



BY: JASON LOEFFLER

Word Search: KING ARTHUR



King Arthur, Excalibur, Grail, Lancelot, Guinevere, Galahad, Lancelot, Camelot, Merlin, Mordred, Legend, Knight

Outdoors

Get geared up with some excellent advice about the best equipment out there

By Josh Spice

OUTDOOR EDVENTURES STUDENT
MANAGER/TRIP LEADER

It's that time of year again - time to get your camp on. Whether you enjoy backpacking or just straight-up car camping, here is some of the best gear on the market that'll have you burnin' to get out more.

The Pack: Comfort vs Weight Savings

Osprey Aether 70/Ariel 65

Problems getting the right fit out of a pack? Check out Osprey's revolutionary design on their Isoform-Series. With gender-specific sizing and two torso-range sizes for men and women, the Aether and Ariel will fit nearly anyone's body with comfort, even when hauling 45+ lb loads. The Isoform hipbelt is custom-moldable. Place it in Osprey's special hipbelt oven and fit it to your hips. Each torso range size for both men and women are customizable down to one-inch increments, allowing for a perfect fit. Backpacker Magazine claims the Aether and Ariel to have the "best in class comfort and carrying control."

Not only does this pack feel good on your back, but it incorporates impeccable design. The airscape suspension keeps your back cool while supporting heavy loads. Straightjacket compression straps ensure proper gear dispersal throughout the pack on shorter hikes. A recessed head cavity at the

top of the pack makes a perfect spot to rest your head and allows for unhindered viewing overhead. Deep outside pockets hold gear and water bottles for easy access. Hydration compatibility keeps you hydrated on the fly. The top pocket detaches in conjunction with the hipbelt for use as a fanny pack.

If you're looking for an all-around great pack that carries heavy loads with extreme comfort and won't break the bank, this is your ticket. But don't just take my word for it - backpacker gave it a 4.7 out of 5 rating and labeled it as a "best buy."

MEN'S AETHER 70 - \$239 / 4200 cu in / 4lbs 9oz / 2 torso sizes

WOMEN'S ARIEL 65 - \$229 / 4000 cu in / 4lbs 8oz / 2 torso sizes
www.ospreypacks.com

Osprey Atmos 50*

Looking for a pack that will let you be light on your feet and hit that 25 miles-in-one-day milestone? This ultralight model carries up to 35 lbs

comfortably and does so in style. The airscape suspension keeps air flowing over your back, while a floating top pocket, deep external pockets, water-resistant zippers, internal hydration sleeve and mesh pockets on the hipbelt make this pack a joy to wear. Daisy chains with removable shock-corded clips and removable sleeping pad straps make packing and carrying gear a breeze.

Only gripe: the open air space along your back that the Airspeed Suspension creates requires a little more thought and planning when packing gear on the inside of the pack.

Always remember, half the weight = twice the fun!

ATMOS 50 - \$199 / 3000 cu in / 3lbs 1oz / 3 torso sizes
www.ospreypacks.com

Tip: Don't forget to line your pack with a heavy duty trash bag to keep all your gear dry.



Osprey Aether 70

Sidenote: No need to fret over the "Made in Vietnam" label on Osprey packs - the owner of the company and head designer, Mike Pfotenhauer, moved himself and his family to Vietnam to ensure quality control and adequate working conditions. The move had to be made to compete with other companies, like The North Face, etc., who switched their production to overseas. See www.backpacker.com for more information on the topic.



*Start by doing what's necessary...
then do what's possible...
and suddenly you are doing the impossible.*

— St Francis of Assisi

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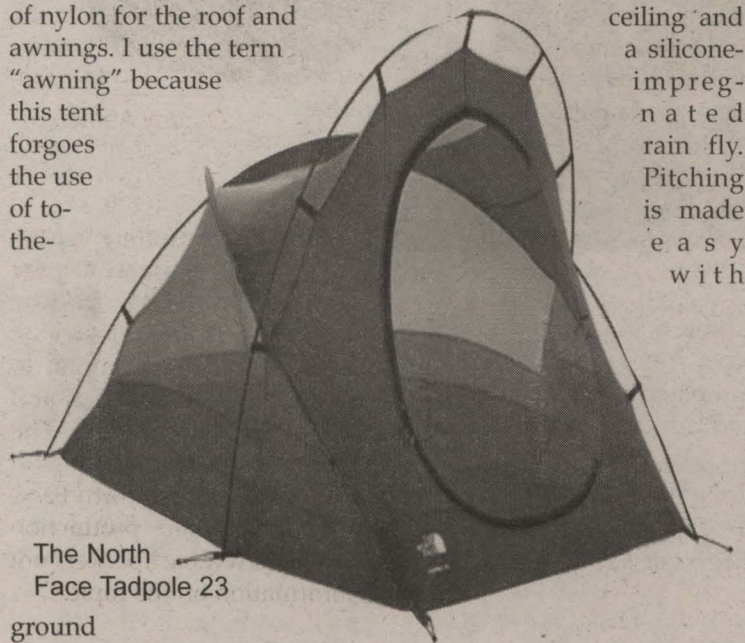
The world needs you. God calls you. We invite you.

FRANCISCAN SISTERS
of Christian Charity

The Shelter: Light vs Luxe

Tarptent Squall*

If you need a superlight tent to go along with your new pack, get ready to meet your maker. Barely fitting the definition of a "tent," the Tarptent Squall is one of the lightest and most spacious two-person tents on the market, serving perfectly as one hell of a "keep me dry and the bugs off me" shelter. Essentially a bugproof tarp, the non-freestanding Squall consists of a piece of nylon for the floor, sewn to no-see-um mesh sidewalls, door, and foot, which is in turn sewn to a silicone-impregnated piece of nylon for the roof and awnings. I use the term "awning" because this tent forgoes the use of to-the-



The North Face Tadpole 23

ground vestibules to maximize airflow through the tent and reduce weight. (Something to keep in mind is that if airflow through the tent is intended to be high to reduce condensation, this tent may not be your best bet for cool/cold weather. The tent is designed to keep you dry and the bugs at bay, giving you the feeling of sleeping out in the open.) The silicone-impregnated nylon sheds water like a duck's back and the mesh that circumnavigates the tent near the ground keeps condensation to an absolute minimum. Use a trekking pole to support the door end of the tent to save weight, pitching it high for headroom and living space or low for storm-worthiness. Reflective Kelty Lightline is standard issue for guylines. Check out reviews and other models at Tarptent's website.

SQUALL - \$225 / 2 person / 3 season / 2lbs
www.tarptent.com

The North Face Tadpole 23

An all-around favorite in the three-season world is the freestanding Tadpole 23, weighing in below five pounds. But don't limit it to three seasons; with ample support from multiple guy-out points and an intuitively designed pole system, this tent can handle light winter duty. Condensation is trumped by

a nearly all no-see-um mesh ceiling and a silicone-impregnated rain fly. Pitching is made easy with

sleeves and clips positioned and designed for strength and weight reduction. The D-shaped door and large vestibule make entering and exiting, along with storing gear, simple as pie, which is crucial in mosquito-infested environments. Looking to save some weight in a bug-free area? Pitch it with the fly only for huge weight savings. The Tadpole 23 is a standard on any outfitter's gear list.

TADPOLE 23 - \$229 / 2 person / 3 season / 4lbs 14oz
www.thenorthface.com

Tip: Remember to seam seal all sewn seams on your tent to ensure 100 percent waterproofness.

(* part of my own gear arsenal)

OUTDOOR EDVENTURES' TIP OF THE WEEK

Josh Spice

MANAGER/TRIP LEADER AND OUTDOOR EDVENTURES AND RENTALS

When it's raining in the backcountry and you're getting wet, don't reach for your dry clothes. If you can't avoid getting your clothes wet, deal with the inconvenience until you absolutely need the dry ones - for warmth, sleeping, etc. Dry clothes are gold in the backcountry - employ whatever means necessary to ensure a dry set at all times. To learn more about this tip, along with many other tricks and techniques to improve your outdoor experiences, stop in Outdoor EdVentures, located in the lower level of the Allen Center.

SGA DIRECTOR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Applications will be made available April 5th.

And are due at 4pm in the SGA office on April 19th

To access applications log on to the SGA website or pick an application up in the SGA office, located in room 26 Lower UC.

For questions e-mail Ross Cohen or
SGAEXEC@UWSP.EDU.

Be sure to check next week's outdoor section for Josh's review on sleeping bags and sleeping pads.

Get geared up for your next adventure with Outdoor EdVentures & Rentals, located in the lower level of the Allen Center.

Check out OE's Open House on May 1 from 7-8:30 p.m. and Demo Days at Lake Joanis in Schmeeckle Reserve on May 5 from 1-4 p.m. all part of "Groovin' with Allen" week.

UW-SP student's campus-wide photo exhibition about more than just art

Jen Masterson
THE POINTER
JMAST959@UWSP.EDU

In the summer of 2005, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point art student Joseph Quinnell began a 30 day photojournalistic research project inside the sex trade and illegal prostitution that plagues the country of Thailand and makes up an estimated 25 percent of the country's economy.

But what began as a project turned into a passion. During his 30 days in Thailand, Quinnell gathered intelligence for the International Justice Mission in an attempt to rescue two young girls being sold in a brothel that also served as a convenience store. He also interviewed numerous prostitutes in an attempt to understand the horrible phenomenon of why the women were doing this to themselves.

Not only was this a physical journey, but it was a mental journey as well. Throughout his 30 days, Quinnell would often get depressed, especially when a woman in a storefront offered him a 12-year-old girl for what would be an estimated 15-20 American dollars.

However, Quinnell's efforts were successful when he rescued a young woman who had been working in a brothel as a prostitute for three years. He was able to help her change the direction of her life

in a whirlwind of eight days. By guiding her to the director of Development and Education Program for Daughters and Communities, S o m p o p Jantraka, she was able to get a job teaching dance and kindergarten at the school Jantraka has created for children he rescued from prostitution.

Quinnell's 30 days in Thailand will be displayed in an exhibit entitled "An Allowance of Dream," and it is a photojournalistic awareness campaign that documents Quinnell's incredible

"Throughout his 30 days, Quinnell would often get depressed, especially when a woman in a storefront offered him a 12-year-old girl for what would be an estimated 15-20 American dollars."

and surreal experiences. The bright and colorful images of Thailand's landscape and people are stunning while the innocent faces of the country's children and young women

are beautiful yet heart-wrenching.

The exhibit has been split into six categories, and

each category will be spread throughout campus, appearing in the University Center's Centercase, the Collins Classroom Center, the College of Professional Studies, the



COLOR: The Faces of Thailand.

Photo By: Joseph Quinnell

THIRTY MINUTES TO BURN:

Sloggin' through the rough continued...

Aaron Hull
THE POINTER
AHULL192@UWSP.EDU

By now I had given up on the game and had resorted to playing with the lighting capabilities on the camera. I hung back and waited to see how well the guy behind us would do. He had finished his breathing exercises by now and sat cross-legged in the grass. He looked focused.

"Mind if I get a shot of your drive?" I asked him. He looked me over and twirled his driver the way I thought someone with a lot of skill might.

"Sure, so long as you don't use a flash," he said. I said it wouldn't be a problem.

He stood up quickly and seemed to center himself. He walked up to the launch, rubbed his palm sensually over the driver and, with a casual backhand flick of his wrist, whipped his driver down the fairway. It curved immediately toward the bushes to our right, picked up some hidden air current and sliced down and left like a tomahawk, crashing into the chains and settling comfortably into the basket.

"That was amazing!" I shouted. "How did you do that?"

He glanced over at me, smiled slyly through the crease near his mouth and gestured back toward the tee box. "You should've seen me last year."

Enjoying St. Patrick's Day and Irish culture in Dublin and Belfast

Jennifer Wilcher
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

Dia guit (pronounced dee-a gwit), as they say in Irish, or hello. It is the end of the eighth week of classes and I'm beginning to see that the sun actually does come out once and awhile inbetween long periods of constant drizzle.

During St. Patrick's Day weekend I took a trip with the International Society to Dublin and Belfast. St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, so we did not have classes on Friday, March 17. Dublin on St. Patrick's is nuts. The streets were packed with people just waiting to see the parade. It was a very interesting experience trying to take pictures over people's heads in the freezing rain. It wasn't until the parade was almost over that I managed to get to the front. However, I would have to say the most interesting part of the whole parade was a guy dressed as a bunny

who kept walking by, and the woman in front of me kept saying "It's not Easter!" every time he passed us. Next stop after the parade . . . Belfast, Northern Ireland in the Ulster region.

Despite past conflicts between Protestant Loyalists and Catholic Republicans, we ran into no trouble while in Belfast. However, the differing views between the two sides can be seen on the murals along two famous roads: Shankill Road where most of the Protestant Loyalists live, and Falls Road where most of the Catholic Republicans live. The two roads are separated by what is called "The Peace Line." The Peace Line is a green gate that runs the length of where the two roads meet. The gate was put up in 1970 and was supposed to be temporary. Having been up for over 30 years now, it has outlasted the Berlin Wall.

Another way to separate

which road you are on is to look at the taxis. Shankill Road taxis have orange license plates while Falls Road taxis have green license plates.

Shankill Road gets its name from two Irish words put together: "sean" meaning "old" and "chill" meaning "church." While murals on Shankill Road are not as colorful or optimistic as those on Falls Road, they still get the Loyalist message across clearly. Murals along Shankill Road are generally made of shades of white, grey and black with little color. Some sayings on these murals include "Ulster will always remain British" and "My Ulster blood is my most priceless heritage."

While I enjoyed seeing the murals on Shankill Road,



One of the colorful murals along the side of the Falls Road in Belfast, Ireland.

Photo By: Jennifer Wilcher

I would have to say I liked Falls Road better. The murals were made from much more vibrant colors with a more optimistic feel. Also, there were more than just murals on Falls Road including a memorial and what is called the "Solidarity Wall." The memorial, called "Garden of Remembrance," was made by Falls Road residents in dedication to those in the Irish Republican Army who lost

their lives "in their quest for Irish freedom." The Solidarity Wall is a whole wall of murals in which Irish Republicans express their sympathy for various religious groups. Sayings include "Palestine: The largest concentration camp in the world!!!" and "Fight Bigotry, Fight Racism." Again, despite the past conflict, my fellow students and I enjoyed our time in Dublin and Belfast.

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Senior on the Spot

Jenny Feidt – Softball

Career Highlights:

- Started all 41 games and earned honorable mention all-WIAC honors last season.
- Received second-team all-region accolades in 2005.
- Named the Conference Player of the Year and first-team All-State as a senior in high school.

Major - Elementary Education

Hometown - Kimberly, Wis.

Do you have any nicknames? - "Fighter."

What are your plans after graduation?

Teach and buy a dog.

What has helped you become such an accomplished softball player?

My dad and Laura Van Able.

What is your favorite Pointer sports memory?

The Wall, Skiddies and the mud puddle, C.B., Wonder Bread and Spring trips to Florida.

What's your most embarrassing moment?

Two years ago, I struck out three times in one game against Northland.

What CD is in your stereo right now?

None, but if there was one it would be something country.

What DVD is currently in your DVD player? - "The Hurricane."

What will you remember most about UW-SP?

Life in the Village with my neighbors (Troy, Neighbor and Parr), and team bonding at 302.

What are the three biggest influences in your life?

My mom, dad and brothers.



Track teams claim five titles at Oshkosh Invite

Press Release
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND
COMMUNICATIONS

UW-Stevens Point had four individual champions and a winning relay as the men's team placed second and the women's team finished third at Saturday's UW-Oshkosh track and field invitational.

The men had 153.5 points to finish behind UW-O's 234.5 points in the 11-team meet. The women had 98 points and placed third with UW-O totaling 302 points to claim the 12-team event.

Mitch Ellis won the men's high jump with a leap of six feet, 9.5 inches and Bryan Buechel won the men's 200-meter dash at 22.65 seconds. The men's 400-meter relay was also victorious in 42.05 seconds. Peter Prusinski was the top collegiate finisher in

the discus with a throw of 149 feet, seven inches. He also placed second in the shot put at 49 feet, 0.75 inches.

The women's team had two champions with Jenna Mitchler winning the 3000-meter run in 10:02.32 and Teresa Stanley edging teammate Ashleigh Potuznik by five seconds for the 5000-meter run title with a winning time of 18:30.46.

The men had runner-up performances from Nick VerDuin in the 400-meter dash at 49.30 seconds and Adam Baumann in the 100-meter dash in 11.32 seconds. Beth Richter was second in the women's long jump at 16 feet, 10.75 inches and the women's 1600-meter relay team lost a tight race to UW-O by 27 hundredths of a second, posting a time of 4:01.65.

Favre and away, No. 4 should be given all the time he needs

Steve Roeland
THE POINTER
SROEL908@UWSP.EDU

What do 15 years, six division titles, three consecutive NFL MVP awards and one Super Bowl championship give to Brett Favre? Mostly criticism and flack from those awaiting his decision on whether or not to return for the 2006-07 season, apparently.

The Green Bay faithful have been clinging to their Cheeseheads and bratwursts since the end of an ugly 4-12 season, hoping that Favre would wear the Green and Gold for another year. Speculation and deadlines have done little to provoke a decision from the future Hall of Famer. This past weekend, Favre hosted a charity golf event in his home state of Mississippi. Many members of the media made their way to the Gulf Coast, hoping to hear a decision from Favre.

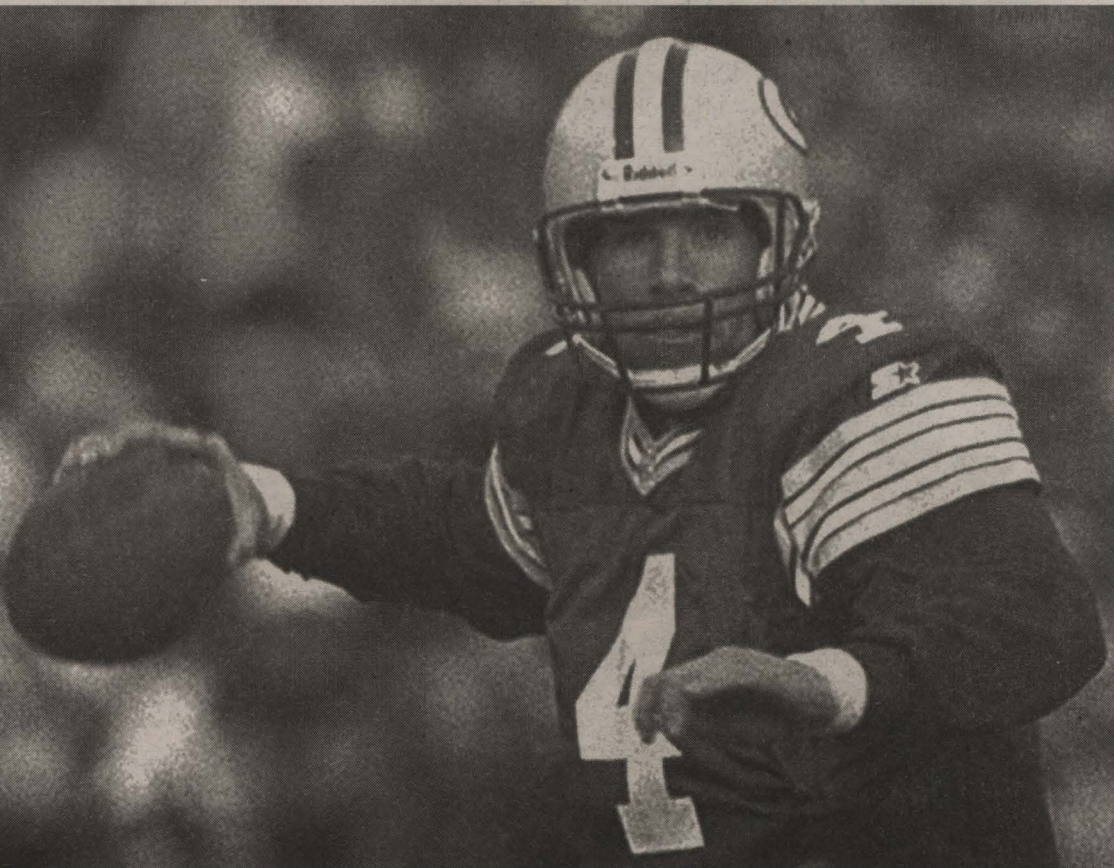
"The fact that we're sitting here today at this press conference, to me, is a joke because I don't have anything to tell you," Favre told the Associated Press. "Somebody assumed that I would."

The reporters present

were anticipating a decision, thanks to a spokeswoman for Favre's family, who claimed there would be a "scoop" at the press conference.

No matter what pressures come from fans or media members, Favre should be given all the time he deserves to make a decision. Some feel Favre and his penchant for delaying a decision hurts the team because a future quarterback may not be able to get reps in under center. For the past few seasons, however, Favre has been excused from mini-camps and workouts, so backup quarterback Aaron Rodgers and other potential replacements for the 36-year-old signal caller have been able to participate in drills.

Favre made it clear that, in order for him to return next season, the Packers' management would have to make the team competitive again. General Manager Ted Thompson had the funds to make a big free agent signing this off-season. So far, the Packers' key free agent signings include defensive tackle Ryan Pickett, safety Marquand Manuel and kick-



Packers' fans have been waiting to hear if Brett Favre will retire since the end of last season.

er Billy Cundiff.

Not exactly like signing Reggie White.

The Packers are still in the hunt for free agent cornerback Charles Woodson, formerly of the Oakland Raiders. Signing a solid player in a position that the Packers have been less than stellar at recently could bring Favre back.

Still, the group of individuals protecting No. 4 while

he drops back in the pocket looks more like a sieve than an offensive line. After losing guards Mike Wahle and Marco Rivera before last season, Green Bay failed to resign center Mike Flanagan and guard Grey Ruesch this off-season. The Packers did re-sign tackle Kevin Berry in hopes of keeping a semblance of a solid line in tact, but the tackle position is not the problem area. Getting

solid guards on the line could coax Favre into coming back.

No matter his reasons for deciding not to decide yet, Favre has earned the right to take his time. After all Favre has given to a team and a loyal fan base in the past 15 seasons, the least Packers fans can do is give the man some time.

The least the Packers organization can do is give No. 4 a winning team.

Eagles soar over UW-SP, use solid pitching to hand Pointers first conference losses of the '06 season

Steve Roeland
THE POINTER
SROEL908@UWSP.EDU

After opening the WIAC season with a three-game sweep of the UW-Platteville Pioneers on April 1-2 and following up with a two-game sweep of UW-Stout last Wednesday, the UW-Stevens Point baseball team experienced conference defeats for the first time this year last weekend in La Crosse.

The Pointers won only once in the four-game series against UW-L, losing 6-2 and 9-6 on Saturday and winning 14-1, then falling 5-2 on Sunday.

The Pointers took an early lead in game one on Saturday, as Chuck Brehm slammed his third home run of the year in the top of the first. The Eagles answered the Pointers' early score in the bottom of the frame, scoring on an unearned run thanks to two UW-SP errors.

UW-L added a run in the bottom of the third on a double by Tony Peterson,

who went 3-for-4 in the game. The two-bagger drove in Andy Podmolik and put the Eagles up for good.

In the following inning, UW-L scored four more runs to add some insurance. Eagles shortstop John Stetzenbach drove in all fourth inning runs on a grand slam off Pointer pitcher Josh Perkins.

UW-SP was hard-pressed to manufacture any offense in the first game, as UW-L hurler Röss Benitz threw a gem. Benitz went the distance, throwing nine innings, allowing two runs, scattering seven hits and striking out seven Pointer hitters. The complete game was Benitz's first win this season.

Perkins went seven innings, allowing eight hits and six runs, five of which were earned. With the loss, Perkins fell to 1-2 on the season.

Unearned runs again hurt the Pointers in game two, as a huge inning by UW-L put the contest out of hand early.

The Pointers once again took the early lead, scoring a run in the top of the second on a throwing error by the UW-L second baseman. UW-SP failed to maintain the advantage, allowing seven Eagles to cross the plate in the bottom of the second. Six of these runs were unearned. An error, three walks and a hit-by-pitch gave UW-L plenty of opportunity to drive in runs. Three Eagle hitters collected two RBI in the inning. The Pointers' attempt at a late comeback failed, as UW-L won game two 9-6.

The Pointers arrived at North Campus Field on Sunday, hoping to start the new week on a new foot. UW-SP looked to be back on track in game one, pounding the Eagles 14-1 in seven innings.

Brehm led the offensive charge, going 2-for-4 with two homers and five RBIs. The Pointers took their turn at a seven-run inning on Sunday, doing so in the seventh inning in game one. Nat Richter drove in three runs in

the seventh, with Brehm and Brandon Scheidler adding two RBI apiece.

Jordan Zimmermann pitched all seven innings for UW-SP, allowing only four hits and striking out eight in picking up his second win.

The final game of the weekend came down to one UW-L hit in the seventh inning. With the game knotted at 2-2 with one out and two men on base, Eagles first baseman Matt Sampson connected on his only hit in the game, a three-run homer. The Pointers failed to answer and lost the game 5-2.

UW-L pitching turned in another complete game, as Joe Bemis finished what he started in the final game of the series. Bemis surrendered only five hits, while striking out four to earn his second win of the season.

On Wednesday, the Pointers swept a non-conference doubleheader against Lakeland, 15-9 and 15-5.

After last week's action, the Pointers stand at 12-8 overall and 6-3 in WIAC play.

Pointers sweep MSOE, Northland in dominating fashion

Robert Lucas
SPORTS REPORTER

"Everyone just wanted to put those games behind us and play at the level we are capable of playing at," said centerfielder Mandy Jellish, referring to Platteville's sweep of the Pointers last Tuesday.

They did. The Pointers swept Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) on Sunday and Northland on Monday, dominating both teams.

The Pointers rolled over MSOE by scores of 10-1 and 12-0, amassing 24 hits in the

two wins. Five Pointers had two hits in the game, while MSOE compiled only three as a team. Shortstop Laura Van Abel had three RBIs and Jellish scored three runs, leading the Pointers' attack. Hope Krause pitched five strong innings, striking out two.

In game two, leftfielder Rebekah Bauer and catcher Kristin Konieczny matched Van Abel's RBI total from game one. Pitchers Ashley Tobalsky and Michelle Holberg combined to pitch a two-hit, five-inning shutout. Van Abel and Jellish collected two more hits in the victory as well.

On Monday, the Pointers continued their hot hitting and sizzling pitching. Jellish and Konieczny each collected three more hits in the game and Bauer knocked in three runs.

Tobalsky kept Northland off-balance all day, yielding just three hits in seven innings. She struck out eight, which helped to offset the seven free

passes she gave up. Tobalsky improved to 7-3 on the year.

Game two saw more Pointer fireworks, as five more Pointers collected two hits apiece. Konieczny and right-fielder Jackie Berger each had two RBIs in the win. Krause pitched 6 2/3 innings in the win, bringing her record to a perfect 3-0 on the season.

"(The games) were

important for us because we have two tough games at Whitewater on Wednesday and it made us believe in ourselves," said sophomore outfielder Amanda Buss. "When we do the little things right, everything falls into place."

The Pointers return home for doubleheaders against Ripon and St. Norbert this Friday and Monday.



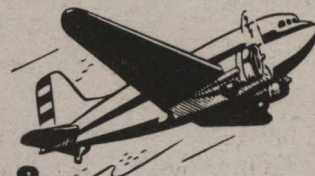
Photo by Eva Heule

Jackie Berger (2) slides in safely in last Sunday's sweep over the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

International Programs: Big Fall Workshop is Saturday, April 22 ~ So Sign up Now!

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Science, Health & Tech.

Mumps outbreak hits Iowa, spreads to Wisconsin

Sara Suchy
SCIENCE REPORTER

Do you remember being restrained in your mother's lap getting those horrible kindergarten booster shots? It turns out that one of them was not quite as effective as hoped. The state of Iowa has recently been hit with a full-blown mumps epidemic, which has put the Iowa Department of Public Health into a frenzy.

As of April 5, the Iowa Department of Public Health has confirmed 365 cases of the mumps virus. Of these 365 cases, 209 of those people infected had received the mumps vaccination. The median age of those infected was 21 years old and 21 percent of the people infected were college students.

The mumps is a conta-

gious viral infection for which most public school children are vaccinated before they start kindergarten. The virus causes a painful swelling of the Parotid gland (located at the back of the throat). It is spread the same way a flu or cold virus is spread, by the infected person coughing or sneezing, as well as contact with contaminated items such as drinking glasses, tissues or hands.

Mumps manifests itself through flu-like symptoms, swollen cheeks, abdominal pain and in men, swollen testicles. In severe cases, mumps can become life threatening in adults and cause men to become sterile. Twenty percent of people infected with mumps do not have symptoms.

So far, the outbreak has

been isolated primarily in Iowa, but there have been confirmed cases in every bordering state, including two cases in Wisconsin, according to Fay Tetzloff, a Registered Nurse and Portage County Public Health officer.

At least nine campuses in Iowa have been infected, and while health officials still don't know the exact cause, much of the investigation has focused on college campuses.

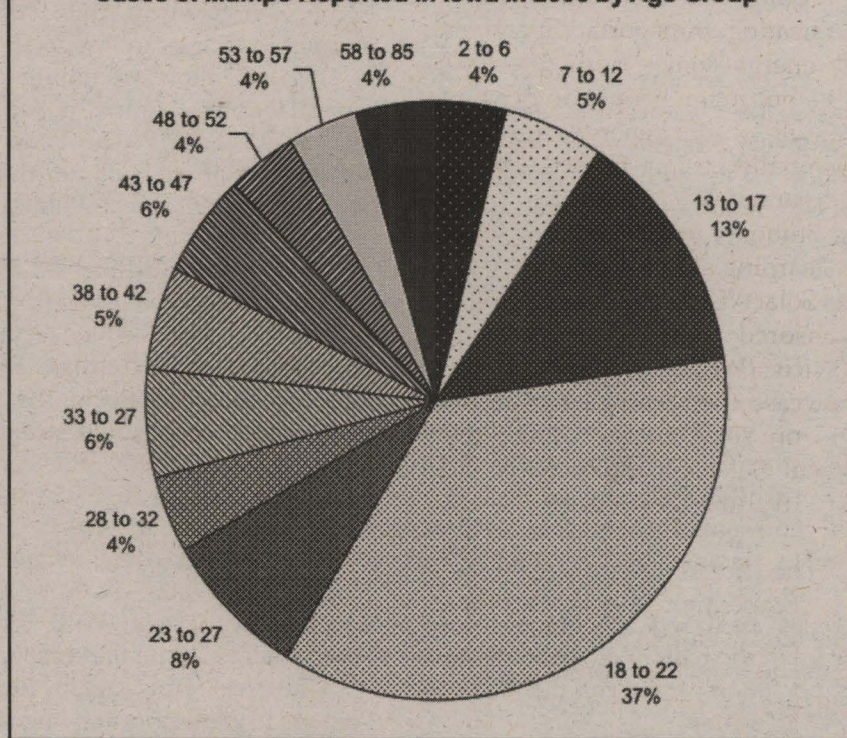
Meghan Harris of the surveillance department of the Iowa Department of Public Health was quoted in an April 5 Chicago Tribune article saying that, "Our best understanding is that the exposure is initially occurring in college settings... people living in close proximity and fraternizing... Those are the kinds of things that spread disease."

Also, the strain of mumps found in Iowa closely resembles a strain that caused some 56,000 cases of the mumps in the United Kingdom. Some medical professionals have speculated that perhaps a student studying in the U.K. brought the virus back with them.

With this epidemic's close proximity to our campus and considering how contagious it is, the Portage County Public Health Department has been given specific instructions regarding how to handle cases that may pop up on our campus.

Tetzloff explains that if someone thinks they have

Cases of Mumps Reported in Iowa in 2006 by Age Group



Source: Iowa Dept. of Public Health

Graph by Mae Wernicke

contracted the mumps virus they will be given a form to fill out that asks how long they have had symptoms and who they have been in contact with since their exposure.

"If it turns out that they do have the virus we ask them to go into isolation," said Tetzloff. Isolation, unlike quarantine, is on a voluntary basis.

"We ask them to limit their exposure to other people while they are contagious... we wouldn't want them going to class where they could potentially infect other people. We also ask that their meals be brought to them," said Tetzloff.

There are still many unanswered questions regarding the outbreak. For instance, why hasn't the mumps vaccine been effective in many situations?

Statistics show that 68 percent of the people infected had previously received two doses of the mumps vaccine

and 13 percent received one. According to Tetzloff, none of the doctors on the case have any idea how such a large amount of cases appeared in such a small area.

"Why Iowa and why now are some of the questions they are looking to answer," said Tetzloff. As for the likelihood that it will spread to central Wisconsin: "There is no way to speculate how far this will go," she said. It is a highly contagious virus and has the potential to spread to anyone anywhere.

Right now, all doctors can do is treat the people who have already contracted the virus, try to contain it and hopefully figure out how the outbreak occurred in the first place.

If you think you have contracted the mumps virus contact Student Health Services immediately at 346-4646.

TECH TIDBIT

Joe Pisciotto
THE POINTER
JPISC779@UWSP.EDU

Don't like to drink alone? Whatever your preference, soon you may never have to go solo again, thanks to the Lover's Cup.

The brainchild of MIT grad students Jackie Lee and Hyemin Chung, the Lover's Cup takes beverage drinking to a whole new, and quite quirky, level. The basic premise is that two people will be able to drink together at a great distance using these wirelessly connected cups that inform one partner when the other is drinking.

Each acrylic cup comes wired with a sip sensor, a liquid sensor, a "vibrate motor" and LED lights that correspond to your partner's sensors.

The process works like this. Say you bring a Lover's Cup to class while your special someone stays at home. You predictably get tired of taking notes on Descartes or derivatives or some other nonsense, so you pick up your cup and have a sip.

Back at home, thanks to the magic of wireless communication, your supposed friend sees their cup light up a gentle red when you pick up your glass and a bright white at the rim when you are taking a sip. Your friend then has a sip, which lights your cup up in return. Shake your cup, and your friend's cup will shake. Ah, sweet connection. Now you sit back and relish the moment, right?

It gets better. The cups also function in a real human-to-human setting. If you and your friends own a set of Lover's Cups you can toast with them, after which the cups will "remember" each other. As you drink, whoever toasted with you previously will see their cup light up or shake.

Multiple people can toast at once, creating numerous simultaneous cup connections. One can see how this might contribute to certain games involving fermented beverages, if one is into that sort of thing. No worries, if one of your friends is a lush, just toast with someone else to break the previous connection.

According to the inventors, the cups can also aid parents in encouraging and monitoring their children's imbibing habits from afar. Likewise, they plan to pitch the invention to the medical community for use in monitoring a patient's liquid consumption.

Lee and Chung say preliminary tests indicate that the cups do enhance the drinking experience for people. They will officially unveil their invention later this month at the CHI 2006 human-computer interaction conference in Montreal.

It's unclear when these good excuses for drinking may hit the market, or how much a set will cost.

What's Happening at the Allen Center...

Chelsey Ross
CARDIO CENTER

Think you can dance? Come try Bollywood, a new class being offered as a part of the Holistic Health program at the Cardio Center. As an introduction to the latest dance and music craze popular in Indian culture, Bollywood incorporates folk, film and contemporary dance styles. This energizing class will teach you to move to unique beats and styles. The cost for a series of six classes is \$20 and the classes will run from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday and Thursday from April 17-May 4. Space is limited so sign up now.

Don't forget, the Student Health Promotion Office is sponsoring the first co-ed Spring Volleyball Tournament. It is coming up on Saturday, April 29 at the Allen Center Volleyball Courts. The first eight teams to sign up will receive free t-shirts, and it is free for all UW-SP students. You can pick up a roster form and more information in the Student Health Promotion Office, 004 Lower Allen Center, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Campus to host solar technology competition

Rebecca Buchanan

THE POINTER
RBUCH723@UWSP.EDU

Today, less than 0.1 percent of our heating, transportation and electric energy comes from direct sunlight, but many people do not know that all of our energy needs can potentially be met from this renewable source.

Students from area high schools are learning about solar energy from the SolarWise for Schools Program sponsored by Wisconsin Public Service (WPS). Students plan to showcase their knowledge and talents on solar energy at the tenth annual Solar Olympics to be held May 10 at the UW-SP sundial.

The Solar Olympics is a competition in which selected schools form teams to construct products that use solar energy.

Sara Windjue, Energy Education Resource Specialist, is helping coordinate the event. Windjue said that there will be eleven different activities that will all incorporate a solar theme project. These activities range from building a solar cooker to a solar car and will test students' knowledge on solar energy.

Windjue said that 24 northeast and central Wisconsin high schools plan to participate in this year's Olympics and were invited to attend by WPS.

Each school involved in the competition had solar panels installed at their school as part of the SolarWise program. Teachers use the solar panels as part of a curriculum that educates students on saving energy.

Competing teams of up to 10 students along with a coach will work to create solar-related projects in 10 events that embrace a variety of academic disciplines. This year's events include Solar Cooker, Solar Car, Solar Water Heater and Solar Building Design.

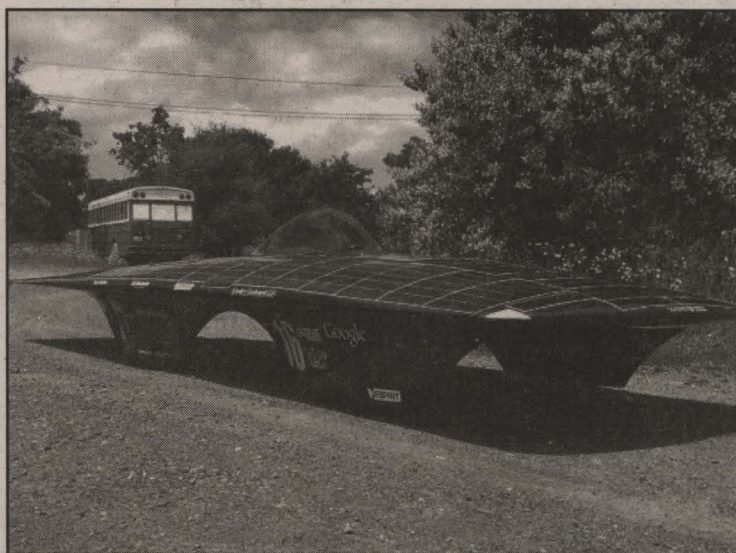
The Olympics are judged on a points-based scale incorporating several criteria. Is the design innovative or copied from a book? How is the quality: sturdy or unstable? Is it nice to look at?

"The top three will receive gold, silver and bronze medals," said Windjue. "And all contestants will receive a t-shirt."

Windjue said that the judges will ask the teams about their creation and students must demonstrate knowledge of how the device works, how it uses solar energy and why the device is beneficial to use.

"All the students are excited to come show off their inventions, and it's a fun day because students get to get out of school," said Windjue.

The community and university students are invited to come watch the competition. The event will be held from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on the sundial, weather permitting. In case of rain, it will be held in the Laird Room of the University Center.

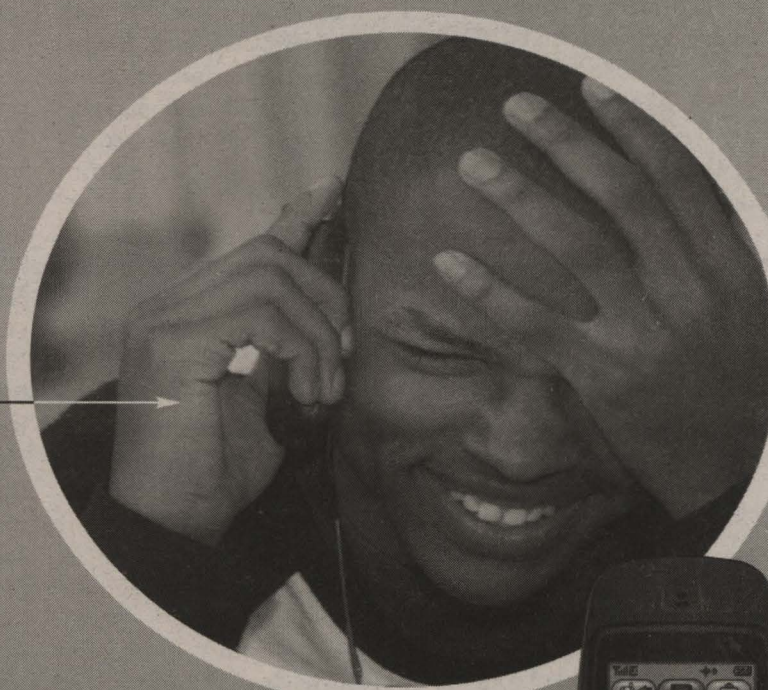


A solar car built at Stanford University

Photo from www.stanford.edu



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Arts & Review

Mogwai's "Mr. Beast" is a winner

Aaron Schulz
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Mogwai is one of those bands that one never knows what to expect of and that is one of the reasons they are enjoyable. The Scottish rockers' new album "Mr. Beast" came out March 5 and it shows the band returning to their roots of loud rock and roll, after experiments with lighter sounds and electronics on 2001's "Rock Action," and 2003's "Happy Songs for Happy People."

Founder guitarist/vocalist Stuart Braithwaite explained the album's impetus thus: "We consciously tried to have louder music on this album, because we had begun to realize that there was a big difference between our live shows and our records, and there was no reason for that." He went on to say, "We wanted to make a record that we were going to enjoy playing live, because when we're on stage, we like the songs where we're really going for it more than the ones we're just kind of plinking away."

A quote like this shows that the band does not confuse image with reality. They realized that people who went to their shows were hearing two very different sounds and that a return closer to home was needed.

The opening track to this ten song collection is "Auto-Rock," which starts out with a sweet piano motif that repeats louder and louder; eventually guitar and the pounding marching drums of Martin Bulloch come in to bring the

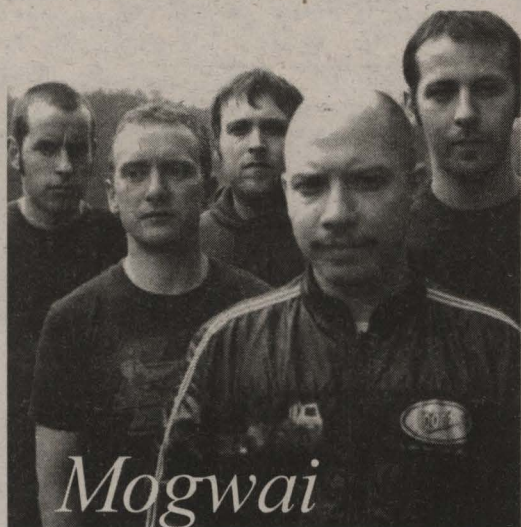
track to a bone-shattering conclusion. Track two, "Glasgow-Mega Snake," is a heavy guitar affair that takes us on a trip back to their earlier years when they were more of a

a very satisfying conclusion with guitars shimmering while fading out.

Fans of Mogwai's earlier work will be somewhat disappointed with the running time of this album, which clocks in a little over 43 minutes. They might also be bothered by the fact that there are no real long, epic tracks; three of the tracks on this album are five minutes plus. So listeners will not be getting something like the sixteen-minute-plus "Mogwai Fear Satan" (off their debut "Young Team"). Fans can be assured that although the tracks are shorter than usual they still pack a punch and make their statement the way the band wanted.

There is also a nice DVD that goes with the special edition CD that contains interviews with band members, behind the scenes footage of recording sessions, and some live footage of the band. It was a pretty revealing look at a band during the recording process, as well as putting a face on a band that you hear but don't see. Unfortunately, it might take a couple of viewings to get what they are saying with their extremely thick Scottish accents, but it was enjoyable all the same.

"Mr. Beast" shows Mogwai going back to their roots and if they keep churning out records of this quality they will be around for a long, long time.



www.matacorecords.com/mogwai

heavy rock act. Very loud and spontaneous, the track just suddenly stops, leaving the listener wondering what could have been.

Track three is a lighter song called "Acid Food" and features nice vocals by both Braithwaite and Barry Burns. It is a nice departure from the first two tracks and a genre that is new for them: country music gospel with drum machines. It is mixed very effectively here though with nice use of pedal-steel guitar, especially towards the end.

Other notable tracks include an interesting poem monologue spoken by Tetsuya Fukagawa (lead-singer for a Japanese hardcore band called Envy) "I chose Horses," which is very pretty and slow. Unfortunately, the poem is spoken in Japanese so it is difficult to understand.

The album closer, the psych-driven "We're No Here," brings the record to

Brokeback Mountain: Momentous

Blair Nelson
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

In the spring of 1963, in a small Wyoming town, a rugged ranchhand steps off a semi he has hitchhiked in on. Towering mountains surround him. Another man, a Texas rodeo rider "in training," stands by his old truck. Both will work together as sheepherders. What happens to them on Brokeback Mountain will forever change their lives.

"Brokeback Mountain" had its foundation in a short story by E. Annie Proulx, published in New Yorker magazine back in 1997. That same year, Pulitzer prize-winning author Larry McMurtry, along with his writing partner, Diana Ossana, wrote the treatment for a motion picture screenplay. No one would touch it, due to the story's controversial storyline. But allegedly it was dubbed the best screenplay that could not be made.

The manuscript floated around for years, until finally director Ang Lee got a hold of it. He seemed the perfect choice for this highly personal "avant-garde" tale, given the track record of his heavily dramatic films such as "The Ice Storm" and "Ride With the Devil." What he's done with "Brokeback Mountain" is nothing short of incredible.

When Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) head up to

Brokeback Mountain for work, their initial moments together are restrictive and small. Ennis is the stereotypical laconic cowboy. It is Jack who brings the life out of him. Each actor brings out the greatest attributes in their characters. They begin a shocking relationship that is even unexpected for the two of them. Jack is tender, but Ennis has an angriiness he exhibits early on. And he will have none of showing his affections to Jack in the open for fear that it would place them in utmost danger. They conclude their relationship must be kept secret.

"I ain't queer," Ennis says with a tint of uncertainty.

"Me neither," Jack counters halfheartedly.

Jack knows the truth, but Ennis cannot accept it. And so, Ennis marries Alma (Michele Williams, real life wife of Ledger) and has children; Jack finds love later, but his wife (Anne Hathaway) and marriage are one of necessity.

"Brokeback" is aided by its outstanding and serenely breathtaking look: from the scenery and landscapes, to the countless sheep and rushing waters. The many shots of the lush skies are a marvel, displaying the mood of the film at that particular time, whether it's a clouded-over moon, sunrise, or a fireworks display in the background as Ennis's temper flares. That standout shot is paramount in the mov-

see **Brokeback** pg. 15

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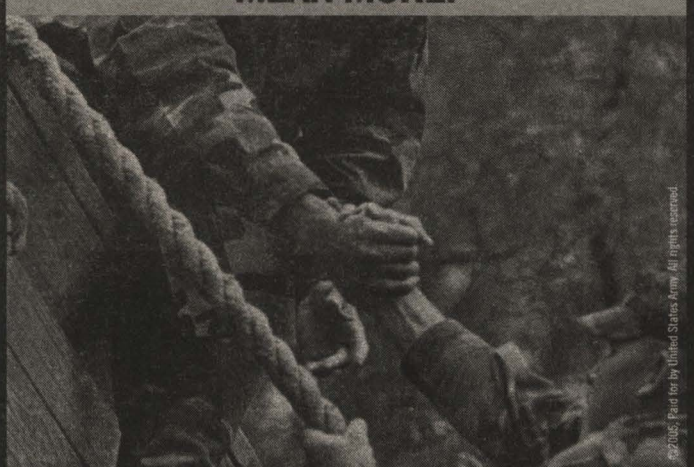
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Who: Staff Sergeant Gorman

Fine Arts Quartet to perform in Michelson Hall

The Performing Arts Series is set to host one of the most recorded ensembles in history on Thursday, April 20 in Michelson Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Concert stops include New York, London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Madrid, Jerusalem, Moscow, Tokyo, Mexico City and now the Fine Arts Quartet can add Stevens Point to the list of cities on their world tour. Artists-in-residence at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, the string quartet has recorded and performed internationally for over half a century.

The Quartet will be performing the works of Mozart, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn.

Their award-winning talents have enabled them returning appearances at prominent festivals such as the Festival Estival de Paris, City of London, Festival of Evian, La Grange de Mésley and

more. The past few years, the Quartet has recorded 40 masterpieces for Swiss, French, German and American labels.

This is the final event for this year's Performing Arts Series and thanks to the series, students of UW-SP can attend this performance free of charge if tickets remain the day of the event, or may buy their tickets in advance at the University Box Office for \$3.50.

Come and show your support and take pleasure in the musical talents of Ralph Evans (violin), Laurie Carney (violin), Yuri Gandelsman (viola) and Wolfgang Laufer (cello)—members of the Fine Arts Quartet.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Michelle Pliska
(715) 212-7800



from **Brokeback** pg. 14

ies of recent memory.

Over the years Ennis and Jack meet during the year: once, twice, sometimes three times, at the place where they can always be themselves—their mountain. It is here where they turn every characteristic of what it is to be a man on its head, while the depth of their feelings precariously intensifies. They talk about having a life together, with their own spread, doing what Jack calls a "cow/calf operation."

"Brokeback Mountain" is last year's most passionate, but tragic, beautiful yet complicated love story to cross cinema in years. It has been unfairly labeled the "gay cowboy movie." That title says nothing as to what the film really stands for: it breaks boundaries that could not be broken before, the same way that "Boys Don't Cry" did in 1999; it shows the misfortune of two men who fear for their lives because of the constraints of society during the film's time period. The writers and director have said it also honors the core of Proulx's short story.

The overriding theme the film asks is to see Jack and Ennis as two human beings in a transcending love story that will shatter audiences' hearts, in the same manner the film's musical theme accomplishes. Not just as two gay men.

For some, that breaks all the rules in the world.

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