

Danstage 2007 brings innovation to the stage

Press Release

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Danstage 2007 will be staged by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Department of Theatre and Dance on May 4-6 and 10-12.

The production will be held in Jenkins Theatre in the Noel Fine Arts Center beginning at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 4, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, Thursday, May 10, Friday, May 11, and Saturday, May 12. A matinee show will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 6.

New faculty member Michael Estanich, an assistant professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, will make his Danstage premiere as choreographer of "The Lost Hive," a post-modern work

for 14 women that investigates ideas of communication, being lost and the urgent need to connect with others. Images of community, struggle and reverent searching filter through the work, staged to an electronic violin score by Zoe Keating. An original costume design by senior theatre major Rebekah Eske enhances its visual richness.

Andrew Cao, a 2004 alumnus now working in New York City, returns as a guest choreographer to present a new episodic work that features hip hop, jazz and theatrical scenes.

Pamela Luedtke, an associate lecturer in dance, created "Mad Rush," a piece in which each dancer represents 10,000 people. The work explores the dichotomy of being both

an individual and a member of a crowd and is staged to Phillip Glass' score of the same name. Stephen Radtke, a senior music major, will play the piano score at each performance.

Professor Joan Karlen, dance program coordinator, choreographed the ballet "Handel Variations," highlighting the Baroque elegance of George Frederick Handel's "Water Music." Throughout four distinct movements, 12 dancers interpret Handel's score as they glide and jump through curved and geometric patterns. The work premiered at UW-SP in 1994 and has been restaged for Danstage 2007 with a cast that includes dance majors from every grade level.

Karlen is also presenting



Photo courtesy of University Relations and Communications

Be sure to go to Danstage 2007 May 4-6 and 10-12.

a new work, "Watching Your Beat," in which six dancers delve into the complex terrain of the human heart. Moved by the visual of an electrocardiogram, Karlen began creating images connected to the beauty and function of the human heart and created a landscape in which dancers navigate relationship and solitude. Guest designer Jason Anderson's lighting patterns and projected images of DNA frame the choreography's quiet interactions and athletic partnering. The sound score includes compositions by Bang on a Can, the Canadian electro acoustic group I8U, the British group Lamb and

Gyorgy Ligeti's "Sonata for Solo Cello."

"Something Old, Something New" is a three section tap dance choreographed and arranged by dance faculty member Jeannie Hill. The first section is a combination of classic tap that brings together Bill Bojangles Robinson's famous steps used in "Doin' the New Low Down" and the Tap Dancer's National Anthem, the Shim Sham Shimmy. Section two uses the music of Dave Brubeck and his take on Mozart's "Rondo

see **Danstage** pg. 2

Guster graces Stevens Point

Katelyn Smith
NEWS REPORTER

The alternative band from Boston traveled all the way to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point May 1, 2007, as one of their stops on their Campus Conscious Tour. With opening act, This World Fair, Guster brought together both an original sound and a message to their audience.

Lead singer, Adam Gardner, and his wife, Lauren Sullivan, as a part of their project, Reverb, created the Campus Consciousness Tour. Reverb, founded in 2004, is a

non-profit organization aiming to create awareness about the threat of the environment by creating a unique bond between the musicians and fans.

The show brought in a full house, with many students visiting from neighboring UW schools, high schools and even members of the community. The show began at 7:30 p.m. in the Quandt Fieldhouse and left the crowd screaming for encores.

Reverb has toured with many other groups as advocates in protecting the environment. Sheryl Crow and

Laurie David are currently touring with the help of Reverb promoting an end to global warming. UW-SP was honored to have a band in correspondence with Reverb play on campus, because as a university the environment is crucial for many majors and recreational activity.

Students of UW-SP enjoyed a great night of music with This World Fair and Guster through Centertainment Productions. Although the year is coming to a close, look for more great entertainment opportunities through Centertainment.

Re-Energize with the Women's Resource Center

Angela Frome
THE POINTER
AFROM244@UWSP.EDU

This is the time of year when everyone is stressed out: exams and final projects dominate the time and energy of every student here at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The Women's Resource Center is hosting Re-Energize Night on Wednesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. to give students a chance to relax and unwind during this time of chaos.

The event, to be held at the Allen Center fire pit, is meant to give students a relaxing night before the pressure of finals week. The night will feature a bonfire, food and live music, according to the Women's Resource Center

web site.

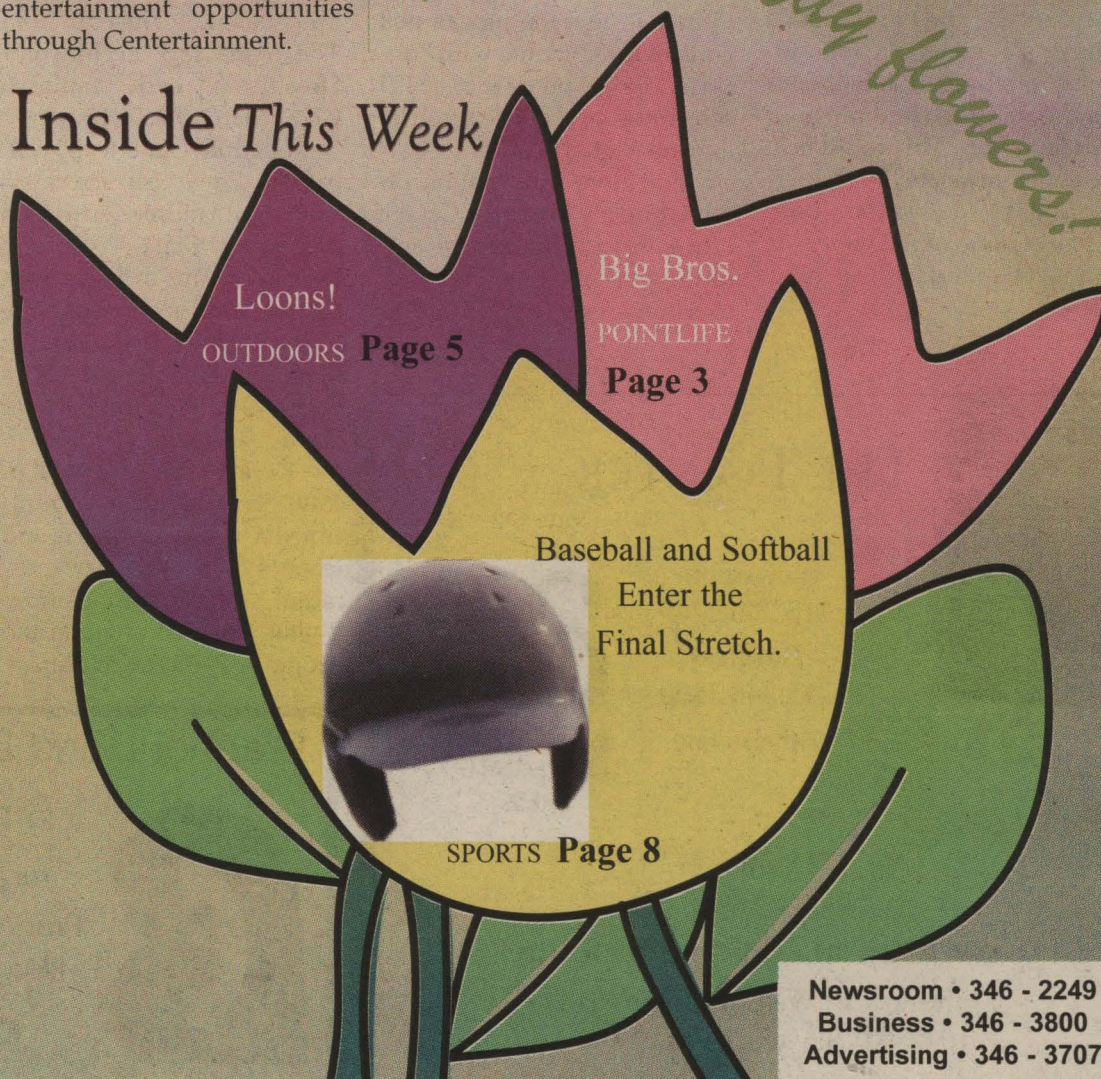
This is the fifth semester that the WRC has put on Re-Energize Night, said Holly McKee-Clark, the Outreach Coordinator for the organization. She said that the event is one in a "Design Series," which are promotions to get more people familiar with the organization.

McKee-Clark also said that Re-Energize Night is a way of "getting men more comfortable" with the Women's Resource Center, since most of the other events and services are directed toward women.

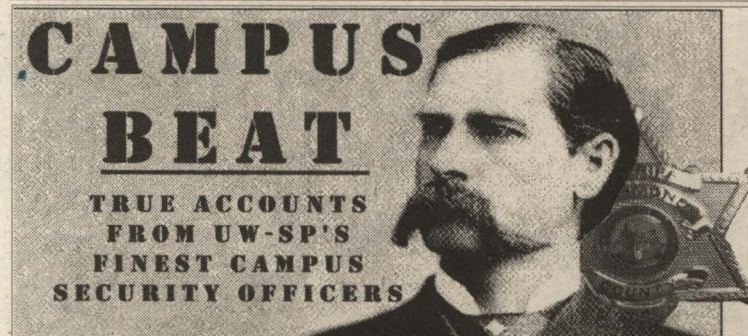
Re-Energize Night is one of several events that the

see **"Re-Energize"** pg. 2

Inside This Week



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Campus Security was too busy bustin' bad guys to send us the campus beat this week.

from "Re-Energize" pg. 2

Women's Resource Center has put on throughout the semester. Earlier in the year, the Center hosted Take Back the Night 2007, which raised awareness of sexual assault and domestic violence on the UW-SP campus and in the community. The goal of the occasion was to let people know that everyone has the right to feel safe regardless of their gender, race or appearance, according to the Center's website.

The Women's Resource Center is devoted to much the same objective. The website asserts that the Center "dedicates itself to educating and raising awareness on gender and women's issues." The group takes part in programs and activities pertaining to the cause, and provides a library of materials for students to browse that will educate them on a wide range of gender issues. This could be a valuable resource for paper-writing, said McKee-Clark, because some of the materials cannot be found in the regular library.

The organization is student-run, and operates with the help of volunteers.

"We're always looking for volunteers, if you're looking for ways to get involved on campus," McKee-Clark said.

Another end-of-semester event coming up is the Copper Fountain Festival, put on by Centertainment, which is May 11 from 4-11 p.m. WRC will be setting up a booth and selling baked goods as a fundraiser from 5-8 p.m., said McKee-Clark.

The Women's Resource Center also provides their newsletter, "The Women's Press." The newsletter, put out twice a semester, also deals with gender and women's issues. Coverage of current events is featured, as well as article, poetry and photo submissions from students.

The Women's Resource Center is also the on-campus contact for students with concerns about pregnancy, STD screenings and abuse resources, said McKee-Clark.

For more information on the Women's Resource Center office, or to volunteer for any of their events, send an email to womenres@uwsp.edu.

from **Dancestage** pg. 1

Turca," which sets the stage for the scene of an empty club where friends meet for an after hours jam session. With flash, flurry and funk, the third section fuses something old and something new.

Hill's premiere of "Catch It!" finds a group of individuals plodding through their work-a-day world. They are taken on eventful detours when "it" catches them and changes their perspective. With a vernacular jazz, lindy hop dance vocabulary and swinging arrangements from Mary Stallings and Woody Herman, the dancers are swept up in the relentless drive of a pulse that activates.

Estanich joined the UW-SP dance faculty last year after completing his master's of fine arts degree at The Ohio State University. His professional affiliations include performing with Rebecca Rosen and Asimina Chremos, with Molly Shanahan's Mad Shak Dance Company in Chicago and presenting his own choreography in site-specific and traditional venues throughout the Midwest.

Cao works in theatre, dance, commercial, film and television in New York City. His recent professional performance credits include "Romeo and Juliet" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" for the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and "The Backyardigans" for Nickelodeon Studios. He has acted in commercials for Hamilton Watches and the American Astrological Institute and created choreography for "Beauty and the Beast," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Luedtke came to UW-SP in 2004. Previously she was a soloist with the modern dance company Mary Anthony Dance Theatre in New York City for nine years. She is the founder and artistic director of Point Dance Ensemble, a nonprofit dance company in Portage County.

Karlen came to UW-SP in 1988. She specializes in multimedia work for dance and teaches ballet and jazz technique, dance composition, digital video editing and the program's interdisciplinary

seminar. She has received the University Leadership Mentor Award, the UW-SP Teaching Excellence Award (twice), the UW System Teaching Scholar Award and Who's Who Among American Teachers Award (twice). She has presented her video and computer generated dances throughout the United States, Portugal, England, and Argentina.

In addition to her work at UW-SP since 2004, Hill is associate artistic director and principal performer with the Chicago-based Jump Rhythm Jazz Project, with whom she has been touring and teaching since 1990. She has toured with Manhattan Tap, "The Knee Plays," Mike Gordon and enjoyed a ten-year career as a comedienne and singer with The Chalks. Her choreographic commissions include Decidedly Jazz Danceworks of Calgary, Tappers With Attitude and Legacy Dancers in addition to creating dances for several universities.

Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$16 for senior citizens and \$12 for youth. UW-SP students may purchase tickets for \$4.50 or receive them free the day of the show if seats are still available. Tickets may be purchased at the University Box Office located at 200 Division Street, by calling (715) 346-4100 or (800) 838-3378 or at <https://tickets.uwsp.edu>.

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Pointlife

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Portage County needs you

Katie Leb
THE POINTER
KLEB524@UWSP.EDU

Somewhere there are children in need of a friend, tutor or good listener. Among these children there are also many college students wanting to lend their services and be of any assistance they can. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is fortunate enough to have Big Brothers Big Sisters of Portage County work with its students to help children in the Stevens Point area and have a lot of fun along the way.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) works to help children improve in different areas of their life including confidence, social skills and, in some instances, academic performance. In Portage County, students at UW-SP are matched up with either a "little" brother or sister to assist in these areas.

Dustin Engevold, a 2004 UW-SP sociology graduate began working with BBBS shortly after graduation and now works as a match specialist for the organization. He has seen firsthand how much impact can be done by simply helping a young child.

"I have seen what a couple hours a week can do for a child, and it is amazing how much I also gained from the experience!" said Engevold. "I cannot say enough about how rewarding it is to see matches come together and grow into a fun and long-lasting friendship."

While it may be a great resume builder for the college students, many of the students do it because they want to help and have a couple hours of fun each week where they can be a bit of a kid again.

"[It] can be a great learning experience for the student or Big," explained Engevold. "Many Littles or children in our program truly look up to college students."

The benefits gained by both the Little and the Big can only increase as the program develops. BBBS has many goals of expansion for the upcoming years and hopes that by participating in the program students at UW-SP can help accomplish them.

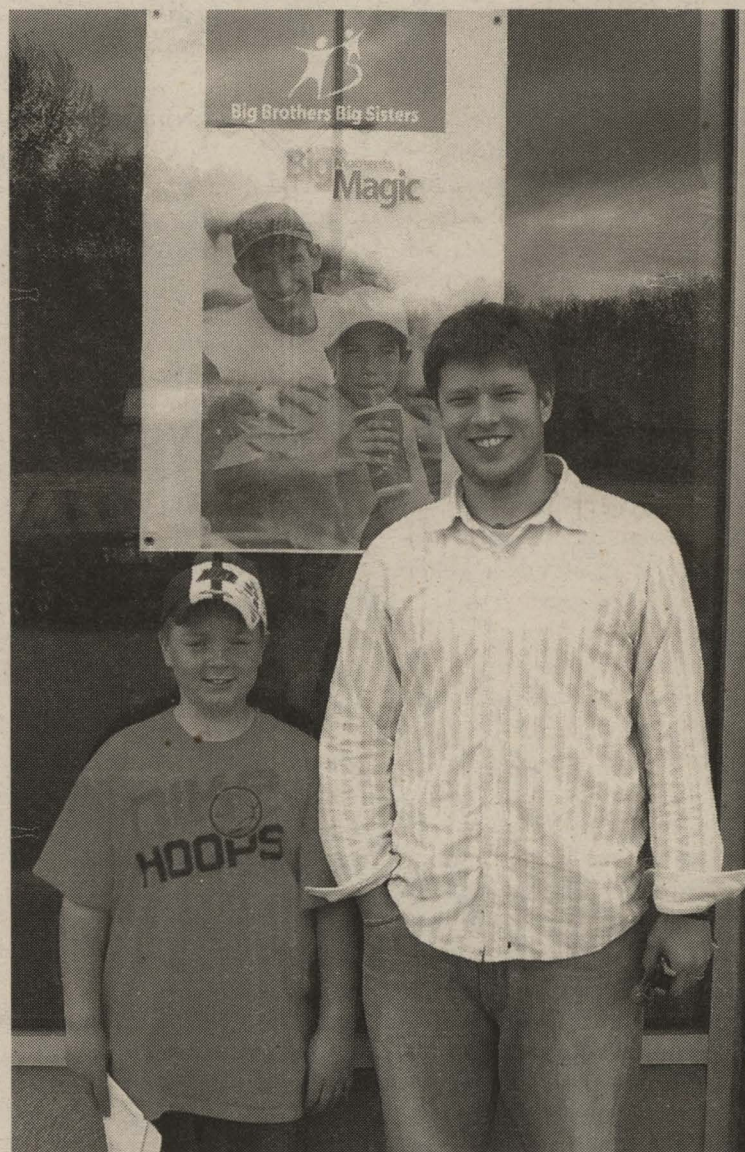
BBBS is committed to reaching more children with mentors. A specific goal for BBBS is to serve one-half of the 2,000 children estimated to need a

mentor by the year 2016. Since the end of 2005, BBBS has grown 36 percent, well on their way to reaching that goal. As of the end of March 2007, 337 one-to-one matches have been facilitated by the organization. However, there are still 134 children in need of a big brother or big sister.

The children are looking for some stability in their life, and by being a consistent role model, the children have a little something to look forward to. Local BBBS outcome surveys have shown great improvements in children after being matched with a mentor. In 2006, 80 percent of the children matched with a big brother or big sister have had an increase in self-esteem and self-confidence. Also, 64 percent of children have improved relationships with others, while 54 percent have improved their performance in school.

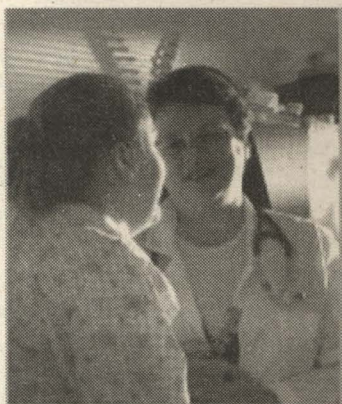
As Engevold said, "little" things make a 'big' impact in a child's life and they talk about it years later."

It is easy to get involved. Simply call BBBS at 715-341-0661 or e-mail bbbs@bigimpact.org for more information.



Courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers and Big Sisters provides college students the opportunity to be a kid again, while helping Stevens Point area youth.



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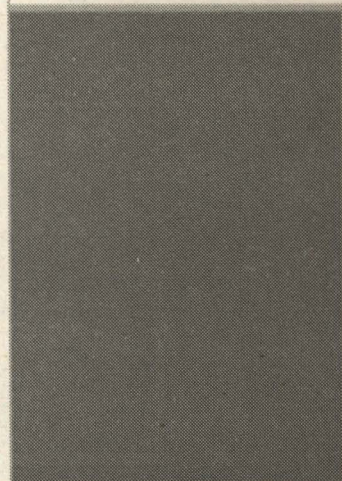
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Dan Barker shares his journey from Christian to Atheist

Ashley Schlosser
POINTLIFE REPORTER

Dan Barker, co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), spoke to students and locals about his journey from a Christian minister to an active atheist on Thursday, April 26, at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Students For Freethought (SFF) hosted this presentation, called "Losing Faith in Faith".

Barker's parents raised their family as extreme evangelical Christians. When he was fifteen years old, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior by confessing his sins. As an energetic and young Christian, his religious involvement increased rapidly. Each day he would try to 'save souls' and convert non-believers. One day at church he heard a call from God, telling him to preach the gospel. He began to preach by playing gospel music, doing missionary work in Mexico and creating children's musicals.

"I believed it [Christianity]. I put my life on the line. I loved Jesus, God, and my Christian life. I would have given my life for this Lord I loved and talked to. People would come to me to get saved. I had proof," Barker said. He proceeded to get a degree in religion and a minor in biblical Greek. Over time, he was ordained in ministry

by the Standard Community Church in California. He was the associate pastor in three different California churches, belonged to the Assemblies of God and did an eight year tour to preach in the United States while only living on what God gave him.

While touring, Barker discovered different types of Christians. "As a consequence, I started to bump into different flavors of Christians... Christians that were not strictly as narrow fundamentalists as I was. The fundamentalist mindset is absolutistic. There is no grey area. It's either right or it's wrong. It is a very comfortable way of thinking because you do not have to wrestle with degrees. You just know what's true. The Christians I ran into had slightly different theologies from mine, which made me uncomfortable."

The first step he took into the "grey area" was accepting Christians with slightly different theologies than himself. "To me that was a big step. It was a huge step towards liberalizing by saying that I don't have to be right about everything." He admitted to himself that the grey area did exist. This began his five-year journey of slowly integrating into an Atheist.

The questioning of Christianity increased when Jesus kept not showing up to take all His followers to

Heaven. "After awhile I stopped looking over my shoulder wondering if He was going to come tonight."

He realized he had to start taking thought for the morrow, contrary to what the Bible said. No longer was saving souls a priority, but raising his kids and thinking about the future became first in line.

After studying philosophy, science, theology and humanism on his own, he began to study the Bible, looking for the core Christianity. Using the metaphor of peeling an onion, Barker said "I thought that if I kept peeling away the onion of all the stuff that's not essential, there would be a core Christianity. I kept peeling and pretty soon it was all just gone. The summer of 1983, I became this brand new baby atheist in my own mind."

Barker finally sent letters to his Christian friends, co-ministers, co-missionaries, publishers, relatives and everyone he could think of explaining that he was no longer a believer. He found out who his true friends were by the responses he received back. He became a staff representative for the FFRF in 1987 and now is co-president. He also is extremely active in separating the state from church.

When it comes to the future of religion in America, Barker's thoughts leave an interesting hypothesis.



Photo courtesy of Freedom From Religion Foundation

After being raised in the Christian faith, Dan Barker became an Atheist and co-president of Freedom From Religion Foundation.

"Something happened in Europe after centuries of bitter religious divisiveness and fighting with Protestants and Catholics killing each other for many years. Look at Europe today. They're almost thoroughly non-theistic. Most Europeans are either agnostic or indifferent or atheistic... And it wasn't because some movement like ours went over and said we're going to change you into atheists. It was a social thing that happened. They sort

of grew out of religion from its past history. And a lot of people think, and I think that we are starting to see the beginnings of that in the United States of America."

If you'd like to hear more about Barker's life, you can read his book "Losing Faith in Faith" or visit www.ffrf.org where you can also listen to Barker on Freethought Radio.

Off the Radar Bello's Wine & Cheese Boutique

Joy Ratchman
ARTS AND REVIEW EDITOR
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"Wine is bottled poetry," says a painted phrase above the bar at Bello's Wine and Cheese Boutique. Located in downtown Stevens Point, the restaurant's poetic atmosphere is apparent from the moment you step inside.

Formerly known as Dairystate Brands, Bello's is a classy wine and cheese boutique. Its art-lined walls, subtle jazz background music and café-style seating make it perfect for an elegant date, an upscale evening with friends or a birthday party. Bello's also hosts wine tastings and office parties.

Guests at Bello's can choose from an extensive list of carefully selected wines. Wine is available by the glass

or by the bottle, with prices ranging from around \$2 dollars a glass up to \$15, and over \$50 for an expensive bottle of fine wine. Bello's also offers beer and non-alcoholic drinks.

Guests can pair their wines with suggested cheeses or create their own platters from any of the selections available in the showroom. For the devoted Wisconsin cheese-lover, Bello's offers a large selection of cheeses, all of which can be purchased for either restaurant consumption or later enjoyment. Bello's serves its wine and cheese with complementary savory crackers. Special emphasis is placed on wines and cheese at Bello's, but the establishment also serves a variety of sandwiches.

Bello's offers a variety of seating options, from comfortable couches to small

café tables, accommodations at a larger bar-style party table and seats at the bar. A curtained area at the front of the store can be screened off for privacy. Bello's also boasts a small bakery set off from the bar area and showroom. This bakery café serves a limited variety of soups, sandwiches and desserts.

For a classy evening, stop by Bello's for a taste of cheese and a glass of "bottled poetry."



WRC takes back the night

Avra Juhnke
POINTLIFE REPORTER

Empowerment, Enlightenment and Education was this year's theme for "Take Back the Night," the annual event sponsored by the Women's Resource Center. This year's event took place on Wednesday, April 25, from 4-8 p.m. on the Sundial.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's 10-plus piece improvisational band Reaching Clarity, headed by Bart Kuhlman, emceed this year's event and also filled the night with music between speakers and skits. The skits and speakers were people from the university and members of community. All of this is to peacefully rally against sexual assault.

"The goal was to raise awareness and empowerment through 'in-your-face' tactics," said Holly McKee Clark of the Women's Resource Center.

This year, Hyer hall director Alisa Garbish spoke in regards to sexual violence and safety in co-ed dorms. A variety of skits were presented including an informational skit

put on by CAP services, which houses Sexual Assault Victim Services and the Family Crisis Center for the Stevens Point area. Valerie Barske, a women studies professor, was another speaker. She discussed international sexual violence to show that rape is not something exclusive to Caucasian, middle-class Americans. Professor Barske and her Women's Peace Studies class presented a history and testimonials of abused Asian women, as well as showcasing their artwork to create awareness.

The night ended with a candle-light vigil and the pleasant sounds of Reaching Clarity's sitar to honor those who have been affected by sexual violence and domestic abuse and also to remember those who never spoke out against their oppressors and bore the heavy weight of those crimes committed against them alone.

On Thursday there was a follow-up question and answer forum led by trained counselors and was geared towards anyone who has been personally affected by sexual violence.

Outdoors

Locals eager to keep loons at Sunset Lake

Volunteers build nesting platform to aid breeding loons at Central Wisconsin Environmental Station

Anne Frie
THE POINTER
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Looking through the dining hall window at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) in Amherst Junction, Wis., Scott Johnson directed the volunteers' attention to a pair of common loons resting on Sunset Lake a few hundred meters from the hall.

For the past two years since he's served as director of CWES, Johnson has seen many loons stop at Sunset Lake, but there have been no records of loons nesting on the lake.

On Wednesday, May 2, a group of volunteers that included CWES staff members, students from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point and area neighbors helped build

an Artificial Nesting Platform (ANP) to help attract breeding loon pairs on Sunset Lake.

"We are building the loon nesting platform because there is a lack of nesting areas for the loons that are here," said Johnson. "We have a deep lake here with relatively undisturbed habitat, so I thought this would be a good opportunity to help."

Johnson received funding through a grant from the Central Wisconsin chapter of Safari Club International.

The design of the ANP comes from the Loon Watch program, which originated from the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute located in Ashland, Wis.

The Loon Watch program involves volunteers that educate and monitor the behavior

and population status of common loons in Wisconsin and throughout the Upper Great Lakes region.

The idea behind ANPs is to create a "mock" nesting area for loons. But it's not as easy as it sounds.

The legs of a loon are placed far back on its lower body (near its rear), which makes it great at diving, but extremely clumsy on land. For this reason, loons tend to nest on the edges of islands or on floating vegetation where they move around easier.

A variety of materials, such as piping, insulation boards, mesh, anchors and snow fencing are used to make sure the nesting platform stays afloat, while still providing protection from predators.

"Eagles and snapping turtles are the main predators of the common loon on this lake, so we've added an 'eagle guard' to the platform as well," said Johnson.

It took the volunteers several hours to assemble

the platform, but many were eager to help.

"I like watching the loons out on the lake. It's very exciting that we get to see them," said Jenny Pomeroy, a local resident who lives on Sunset Lake. "I think this is a good thing," she said.

But there are a few concerns about the high level of activity on the lake and how it will affect a pair of nesting loons.

Each year the 63-acre Sunset Lake attracts around 8,000 campers and visitors. Motorized boats are allowed on the lake (with a no-wake policy enforced) and evening fishing is a popular hobby for many lakeside residents.

"What we don't want is too much attention to the nest-

ing platform," said Johnson. "We plan on educating everyone that comes here about the loons. We want them to respect the wildlife and keep their distance from them."

Rick Wilke, a UW-SP professor who also served as first director of CWES in 1975, agreed.

"It will be a great challenge with the high level of activity on this lake," said Wilke. "But I hope this works. It doesn't hurt to try. With the lack of nesting areas on the lake, it would certainly help."

The platform is expected to be out on the lake on Friday, May 4. For more information about ANPs, visit www.northland.edu, or e-mail Scott Johnson at sjohnson@uwsp.edu.

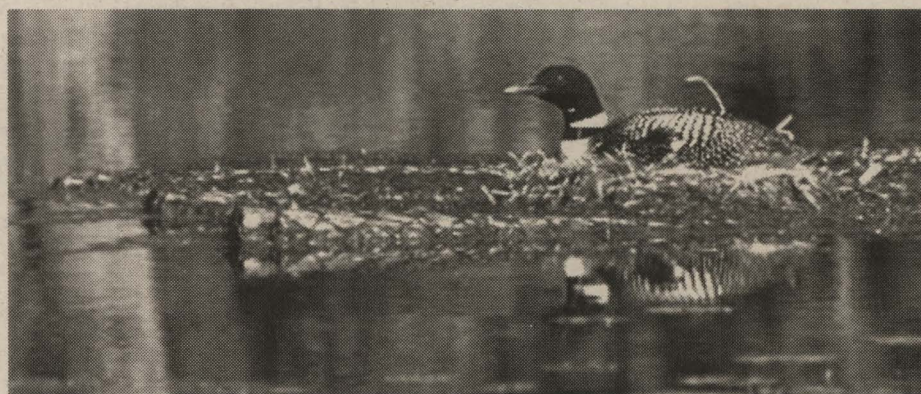
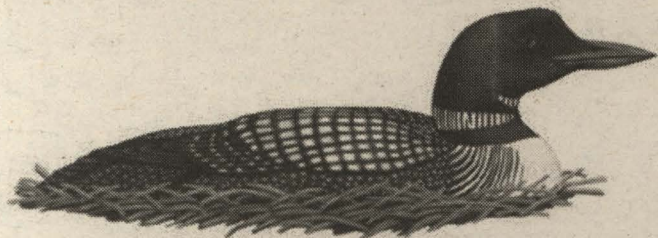


Photo courtesy of www.rideau-info.com

Volunteers worked to build an artificial nesting platform for loons on Sunset Lake in Amherst Junction, Wis. The platform looks similar to this one.

More about loons



How much does a loon eat?

Loons eat approximately two pounds of fish each day.

How small of a lake will a loon use?

Minimum lake size for nesting loons is reportedly 10 acres, but on rare occasions loon nests have been found on smaller lakes.

When do loons arrive in Wisconsin?

As soon as the ice leaves in mid-to-late April. Most loons in Wisconsin are nesting by mid-to-late May, with eggs beginning to hatch one month later in mid-to-late June. Loons typically lay only two eggs per nesting attempt.

Where do the loons go during the winter?

In the fall, loons migrate south to spend the winter on the ocean along the Atlantic coast and the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

Are loons protected by the law?

Yes. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects loons and all migratory non-game birds from harassment. In Wisconsin, please report intentional loon harassment to the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-TIP-WDNR.

How many loons live in Wisconsin?

Wisconsin lakes are the summer home to approximately 3,100 adult loons.

Information attained from the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, a part of Northland College in Ashland, Wis. For more information visit www.northland.edu/.

Outdoor•Ed Ventures Tip of the Week

Paul Bell
STUDENT MANAGER

In celebration of last week's thunderstorm, this week's tip addresses lightning. Did you know that lightning raises the temperature of the air immediately surrounding it to as high as 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit?

This expansion and contraction of air is what causes thunder. Since we know the speed of sound travels roughly one-fifth a mile per second we can estimate the distance of a lightning strike to your current position.

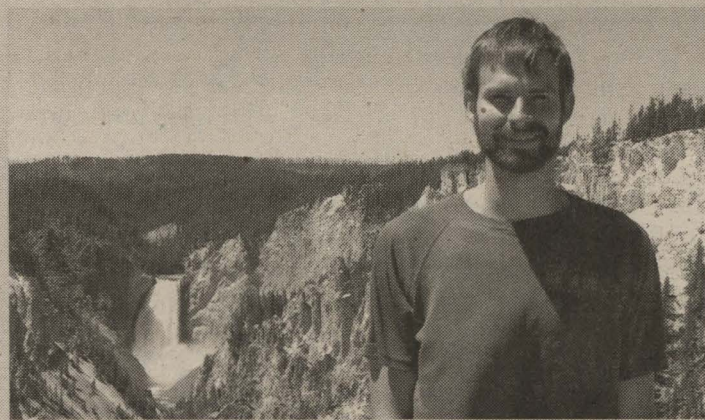
When you see a flash of lightning, begin counting. Once you hear the thunder, stop, take the number of seconds and divide it by five. This will give you roughly how far the lightning strike was away from you in miles. Despite the distance it is most important when in the great outdoors to seek a safe zone during a thunderstorm.

Get off ridge tops or high point, stay

away from tall trees and most importantly get off any body of water. If a tree is your only refuge, take half the height of the tree and remain that distance away from the base.

Then take the lightning position, which is sitting on a pack, or pad, in a crouched position with your hands over your knees, and hope the storm passes quickly!

For other great tips stop by Outdoor Edventures in the lower level of the Allen Center.



Science, Health & Tech.

UW-SP Strength Center to renovate this summer

Sara Suchy
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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Strength Center will be closing its doors on May 10 at 2:30 p.m. to begin renovations that are slated to be completed in July of 2007.

During the renovation, the Strength Center will be housed in the balcony of the Quandt gym.

"Our attendance goes down during the summer so the move shouldn't be too much of an issue for our members," said Lee Olson, student manager of the Strength Center.

When the Strength Center members come back to school in the fall, they will notice many improvements in their old facility.

"We are updating almost all our equipment. We're getting new cardio equipment for the cardio balcony, new flooring, stretching mats and new strength equipment," said Olson. "We have about \$150,000 invested in this project."

The renovations are to keep their machines up to date with changing fitness trends and technology.

"We are getting new strength equipment with newer designs and models that are more efficient," said Chad Adamovich, assistant student manager of the strength center.

"When this is done we'll be able to have more sports teams using the facility at one time as well as community members working out at the same time," said Adamovich.

In the past, only one Pointer athletic team could use the Strength Center at a time due to the limited space and machines available.

The Strength Center will close on Thursday May 10 and re-open at 6 a.m. on May 11 with most of the equipment and machines moved to the temporary location overnight.

"We have most of our staff helping out as well as some of the football players," said Olson.

The temporary room will have all the amenities of the old Strength Center



Photo by Drew Smalley

The Strength Center dumbbells will have to find a new home during renovation.

including the televisions and air conditioning.

"We're all hoping that it will be a

smooth transition," said Olson.

The newly renovated Strength Center will re-open in mid to late July.

GEM aids Oaxacan residents

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This time of year, it's hard for most students to think beyond the next test or paper due, but outside our little bubble that is college life, there are people on campus trying to make a difference whose day to day worries are if they will have food on the table that night.

The Global Environmental Management (GEM) center is working toward alleviating these worries in one of the poorest indigenous populations in the world: Oaxaca, Mexico.

Dr. Ernesto Casteñada, gave a talk Tuesday, May 1 about the extreme poverty in the state of Oaxaca and what is being done to help, as part of the GEM critical issues seminar series.

"Two point five million people in the state are living with food insecurity," said Casteñada. "They are living on a basic diet of corn, beans, chilies, sugar, coffee, tomatoes and onion."

Forty-one and one half percent of the population lives in extreme poverty and 26.5 percent of all infants struggle with malnutrition.

"Our goal is to build sustainable communities for the people of

Oaxaca," said Casteñada.

With help from the UW-SP GEM department, Casteñada has been able to create several community projects to help the people of Oaxaca. Some of the programs are home and community gardens that provide nourishment for each family and community. Chicken and eggs programs provide chickens that give the communities eggs and meat. There are also projects that teach the community how to build microwaves and ovens so they can cook, teach the community how to harvest water and build and maintain greenhouses.

"We are training the people in sustainability [which will] improve their skills and capacity for food security," said Casteñada.

The state of Oaxaca has also plagued political unrest due to the dire poverty and the lack of local government response.

"These are some of the poorest people in the world. The government offers no solutions, they only send the police and the army to deal with the people," said Casteñada. "There are no jobs and no food, so there are a lot of hungry and angry people."



Photo by GEM Department

UW-SP students in the GEM department work with developing states to promote sustainable living.

Microsoft brings gaming to the "Elite"

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Technology giant Microsoft released their newest iteration of the Xbox 360 videogame console last Sunday, April 29. The Xbox 360 Elite hit store shelves with several new components that previous versions were lacking.

This makes the Premium's 20 gigabyte hard drive pale in comparison. The Core version of the 360 fails to even provide a storage unit for game saves.

The Elite's huge storage capacity makes it easier for gamers to save downloadable movies, television shows and other game content to the system, while leaving enough room for game saves.

Another thing sure to make high-end technology enthusiasts salivate over the Elite is the inclusion of a high-definition multimedia interface (HDMI) output. HDMI allows both audio and video to be sent over one cable. HDMI also allows for the highest available high-definition video formats, including 1080p, which is one of the highest resolution formats available.



Microsoft releases their newest waste of time, the Xbox 360 Elite.

Directed at those gamers who have yet to jump on the next-generation videogame bandwagon, the Elite boasts some of the most advanced technology available on game systems today.

One of the most noticeable differences between the Elite and the other Xbox 360 consoles is the color. The Core and Premium versions of the system are gray, while the Elite shows off its shelf appeal with a matte black casing. Microsoft is also releasing accessories to match their new console, including controllers and hard drives.

Speaking of the Elite's hard drive, the brand-new version of the 360 comes with a massive 120 gigabyte hard drive.

Of course, this all depends on what television set a gamer has. Even HDMI won't supply any real advantages on a 20-inch standard-definition set.

Out of the box, the Elite includes everything a gamer needs to enjoy their system. The Elite comes with the console, the hard drive, a black wireless

see "X-box" pg. 7

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from "X-box" pg. 6

controller, a matching wired headset for communicating online over Xbox Live (Microsoft's online gaming network), component/composite audio/visual cables for use on standard- and high-definition TVs, an HDMI cable, an optical and component audio dongle and an Ethernet cord.

Despite including some the newest technology available, the Elite has drawn criticism for what it fails to include. All Xbox 360s are capable of playing high-definition DVDs, so long as the 360 owner purchases an HD-DVD add-on player for

\$199.99. Most critics feel that, in order for the Elite to live up to its name, it should include an HD-DVD drive or add-on player.

Another criticism comes from Microsoft's use of the 1.2 version of HDMI output instead of the newer and more advanced 1.3 version, which is supported by the 360's rival system, Sony's PlayStation 3. The PS3 also has a built-in Blu-Ray disc player, the main competition for HD-DVD.

The Xbox 360 Elite retails for \$479.99, an \$80 increase in price over the Premium system (\$399.99) and an even larger increase over the Core (\$299.99).

UW-SP's Dombeck to receive Haverford College honorary degree

Press Release

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

University of Wisconsin System Fellow and Professor of Global Conservation at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP), as well as former chief of the U.S. Forest Service and former director of the Bureau of Land Management, Michael Dombeck, will be receiving an honorary degree from Haverford College in Pennsylvania. A native of Wisconsin, Dombeck's honorary degree will be conferred during Haverford's commencement exercises on May 20.

Dombeck received his bachelor's degree in biology and master's degree in biology and education from UW-SP. He also received a master's in zoology from the University of Minnesota and a doctorate in fisheries biology from Iowa State University.

Traditionally, Haverford awards four honorary degrees annually to individuals who have distinguished themselves in the sciences, letters or the arts.

"I am delighted to receive such an honor from one of America's most prestigious liberal arts institutions," said Dombeck. "My hope is to live up to this honor and to the high ideals of Haverford."

A member of the UW-SP faculty since 2001, Dombeck is a nationally renowned conservationist with over 25 years experience in managing federal lands and natural resources. Dombeck has focused much of his efforts on sustainable forest ecosystem management, watershed health and restoration, fisheries management and countless public speaking engagements both nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of the prestigious Lady Bird Johnson Conservation Award, the Audubon Medal and the Distinguished Executive Award, the highest award in federal service.

A prolific author Dombeck has authored, co-authored, and edited over 200 scholarly and popular publications. Two of his personal works are "Watershed Restoration: Principles and Practices," and "From Conquest to Conservation: Our Public Lands Legacy." He led the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service from 1997 to April 2001 and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management from 1994 to 1997. Dombeck is the only person ever to have led the two largest land management agencies in the United States, involving nearly 500 million acres of public lands.

Biochemistry degree on track to be offered at UW-Stevens Point

Press Release

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

At the recent UW System Board of Regents meeting at UW-Oshkosh, the full board authorized an undergraduate, bachelor of science degree program in biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. This four-year interdisciplinary program of study will be part of the College of Letters and Sciences and administered jointly by the chemistry and biology departments.

According to James Brummer, professor and chair of chemistry, a biochemistry major will combine the knowledge of chemistry and biology to explain life processes in terms of chemical and molecular structure within living cells. The facilities, equipment, staff and budget necessary to offer the

major already exist in the departments and no additional taxpayer resources are being requested at this time.

"A biochemistry major will prepare students for graduate studies that serve as the gateway to careers in research areas that deal with some of society's most pressing problems," said Brummer. "Graduates from this program will be well prepared for jobs in Wisconsin's emerging bioscience laboratories and biotechnology-driven businesses."

According to the Wisconsin Association for Biotechnology Research and Education, in 2003 Wisconsin had 338 bioscience companies employing over 22,000 workers, and 193 biotech manufacturing companies employing over 17,000 workers. Since 2003 biotechnology employment in Wisconsin has grown at a rate of 16 percent annually. Graduating

biochemistry majors from Point will likely have employment opportunities at the Marshfield Clinic and Wisconsin's other research hospitals. They will also be well prepared to apply to dental, veterinary, pharmacology and medical professional schools and biochemistry graduate programs.

There is a significant demand for a biochemistry degree among students. There are typically more than 650 biology majors at UW-SP. Approximately 60 of these students graduate with a biology major and a minor in chemistry, according to Brummer. "We anticipate that the program will grow to 90 - 100 majors with a graduation rate of 20-24 students per year," said Brummer.

UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-La Crosse and UW-Eau Claire are the four UW System campuses that currently offer a biochemistry major.



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Questions?

Contact University Relations and Communications at 346-3548.

Sports

Pointers split with weekend series with UW-Oshkosh

Baseball

Nick Gerritsen
THE POINTER
NGERR519@UWSP.EDU

With the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point baseball team's four-game split against first place UW-Oshkosh on April 28 and 29, the Pointers were unable to gain any ground in the season's most crucial series.

Realistically, the Pointers would have needed to sweep all four games against Oshkosh for any chance at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season title. But with their two wins over Point, Oshkosh clinched its first WIAC title since 1999 and has now won a league record 28 conference titles.

In the opener, Point earned a 6-5 win thanks to ace Jordan Zimmerman, who recorded his fifth win of the season without a loss. Zimmerman went seven innings and gave up

four earned runs on eight hits to get the win.

Point's offense did most of its damage early, scoring three runs with two out in the first inning. Six of the Pointers' eight hits came in the first two innings. Adam Evanoff went 2-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Brandon Scheidler had three RBI and a run scored.

In Saturday's second game, Oshkosh clinched the league title in dramatic fashion, holding off UW-SP 14-13 in 11 innings. Point held a 5-1 advantage into the sixth inning when Oshkosh's offense got started. The Titans put up four runs in the sixth.

Point rallied with three in the seventh before Oshkosh scored four more in the eighth for a one-run lead. Zimmerman pulled through with a dramatic solo home run in the bottom of the ninth to force extra innings.

The game went into the eleventh inning where Oshkosh tallied five runs in the top half, only to see the Pointers answer with four

runs before Oshkosh finally shut the door and escaped with a one-run victory.

Brad Archambeau led all hitters with four hits while Zimmerman and Justin Bushong each added three hits. Evanoff added two hits, each home runs, and had four RBIs.

Sunday's first game was a low scoring pitchers' duel that turned into a 9-3 win for the Pointers. Starter Brandon Hemstead went eight strong innings, allowing three runs (all earned) while scattering eight hits.

The game went into the bottom of the eighth tied at three when Point's offense ral-

lied for six runs to open up the game. Jeremy Dunnihoo pitched a scoreless ninth to secure the victory.

Evanoff homered for the eighth time this year, taking starter Adam Roos deep to lead off the sixth inning. As a team the Pointers banged out 14 hits.

In the series finale, Point fell behind 9-1 by the fourth inning en route to a 14-11 loss. They cut the lead to 10-7 after eight innings before surrendering four more Oshkosh runs in the top of the ninth.

The Pointer's biggest bright spot came from second baseman Tim Schlosser, who went 4-5 with three home runs

and seven RBIs. Zimmerman and Scheidler also homered for Point, who now has 42 home runs as a team, 17 more than they have allowed.

Despite losing their chance at a regular season title, the Pointers remain in second place. They have four games left in the regular season, all against UW-La Crosse. They are already almost assured a spot in the four-team conference tournament in Wisconsin Rapids on May 11-12. A successful weekend against La Crosse will secure one of the three remaining openings in the tourney and provide a little momentum heading into the postseason.



Photo by Drew Smalley

UW-Stevens Point catcher Ben Warwick fires the ball back to the pitcher on Saturday's opening game, in which the Pointers squeezed out a win over the WIAC regular season champion UW-Oshkosh Titans, 6-5.



Photo by Drew Smalley

UW-Oshkosh first baseman Brad Demmin holds a UW-Stevens Point runner close on a pickoff attempt during a four game split on April 28 and 29 at University Field.

Senior on the Spot Ryan Byrnes – Baseball

Major – Wildlife Ecology, Biology.

Hometown – Beaver Dam.

Do you have any nicknames? – Byrnes, Byrnesy, Byrnes?, Whitney.

What are your plans after graduation? – Going to California to work for the Forest Service.

What has helped you become such an accomplished athlete? – Hard work and great teammates there to push you to your limits and pick you up when you're down.

What is your favorite Pointer sports memory? – Chuck Brehm hitting a home run his last AB at the World Series.

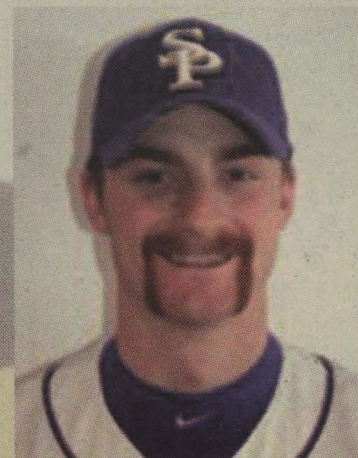
What's your most embarrassing moment? – Singing songs at the Sky Club.

What CD is in your stereo right now? – Green Day.

What DVD is currently in your DVD player? – Band of Brothers.

What will you remember most about UW-SP? – Big days in the Athletic Training Facility.

What are the three biggest influences in your life? – Friends, family and Coopers Hawks.



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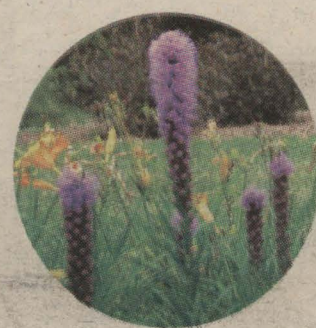
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Four victories punch Pointers' ticket to the tourney

Softball

Rochelle Nechuta
SPORTS REPORTER

The last four regular season games ended in victory for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point softball team resulted in sweeps of UW-Whitewater and St. Norbert College in doubleheaders.

Achieving an overall record of 30-6, and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference record of 13-3, this is the first year since 1999 that the softball team has had 30 wins in a season.

The opening game on April 25 against Whitewater started off quickly with the Pointers leading 4-2 before and then shutting out the Warhawks completely in the last three innings. The second game exhibited strong defense from UW-SP. The Pointers did not allow a Warhawk run until the top of the fifth, and the winning score for the Pointers was 7-4.

UW-SP played St. Norbert College in a non-conference doubleheader last Saturday, April 28, and pulled into a strong lead in the fifth inning of the first game for a 9-5 win. The second game was a bit closer with teams tied 1-1 until the sixth when the Pointers pulled ahead with one run, and then with three more in the seventh. Though St. Norberts tried to rally back at the bottom of the seventh, they still fell short two runs with a 5-3 score in favor of the Pointers.

The month of April held a strenuous schedule for the Pointers, especially in the last two weeks when the team pounded out 12 games in six doubleheaders. Out of those twelve match-ups, ten were WIAC games. The team had an additional doubleheader against Edgewood College scheduled for April 29 that was cancelled.

Leading the team to success this season were Pointers' batting leaders Laura Van Abel with 40 runs, a .432 batting average and 37 RBIs, Korrin Brooks with a .422 batting average

and 36 RBIs, and Mandy Jellish with 34 runs and 49 hits.

UW-SP pitcher Stephanie Anderson also helped to pave the way with a 1.15 ERA and 17 wins, while pitcher Hope Krause recorded 13 wins and a 2.72 ERA.

In their next game, the Pointers take the second seed spot of the WIAC tournament held in Eau Claire. The first matchup begins May 4 at 11 a.m. against UW-La Crosse as UW-SP battles for the WIAC 2007 title. UW-SP was victorious in both games in a doubleheader against La Crosse earlier in the season.

The most challenging team that the Pointers could face in the WIAC tournament would be UW-Oshkosh. The Titans are the top seed in the nine team conference. UW-SP fell to the Titans twice this year and have yet to beat them in 2007.

"We have to take it one game at a time in the tournament series," said Brooks. "You need to win the first one to get to the second one."



Photo by Drew Smalley

Mandy Jellish is one of the impact players in the UW-Stevens Point lineup, as she scored 34 runs and collected 49 hits during the 2007 regular season.



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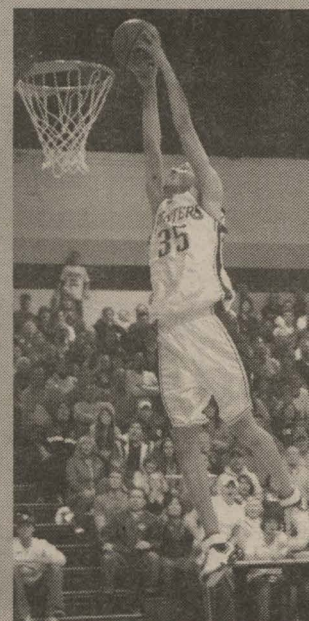
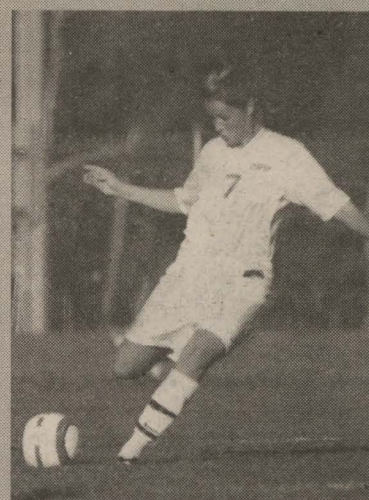
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Arts & Review

Composition duo: students to premiere original songs at recital

Joy Ratchman
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Sara Suchy and Joseph Stillwell have prepared a recital's worth of music by American composers. Many students in the voice department sing songs by American Composers for their recitals, but this one has a twist—Stillwell himself is one of the featured composers, and he wrote two of the songs for Suchy to sing.

Voice majors and minors in the music department hire accompanists to assist them

with their lessons, studio classes and recitals. Stillwell, a music major who studies composition, is Suchy's accompanist. During their practices together, Suchy and Stillwell began to work on music Stillwell had written. The pair began to discuss the possibility of a recital and began to gather music about a year ago.

"We said, 'When are we going to have another opportunity to do something like this,' so we started to put it together," said Suchy.

Juniors and seniors in the voice department give required recitals as part of

their grade. Stillwell and Suchy's recital, however, was an independent project. The pair talked to voice professor Susan Bender and piano professor Michael Keller, their respective instrumental instructors. They also enlisted the help of Dr. Charles Young, professor of composition. These three instructors helped Suchy and Stillwell to obtain the music department's approval for the recital.

Stillwell wrote two art songs for Suchy to sing. The songs are typical of 20th Century music. One is very atonal, and the other is very melodic. In addition to these vocal works, Stillwell will also premiere one of his piano pieces, a work in three movements. The recital will feature works by other American composers, including John Corigliano, Samuel Barber and John Musto.

Suchy's favorite pieces are those written by Stillwell.

"He's one of the most sensitive musicians I've ever worked with. He's brilliant," she said.

Suchy and Stillwell's recital will take place on Sunday,

The UWSP Department of Music presents the World Premiere of

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Photo courtesy of Sara Suchy

Sara Suchy and Joe Stillwell will star in an upcoming recital.

Bright Eyes: Cassadaga

Zachary Krogman
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Connor Oberst of Bright Eyes is one of the best songwriters working today. On his last album, 2005's "I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning," he churned out instant classic after instant classic. Not since Beck's "Odelay" had there been an album with such memorable lyrics from beginning to end. The songs were catchy, poignant and haven't gotten old after two years on the shelf.

As a follow up to "I'm Wide Awake," "Cassadaga" makes sense. Its songs boast Oberst's trademark solid construction, but the production has been beefed up a bit. Oberst has also added a few vocal tricks. Rather than an increase of volume during emotional parts, it has a bit more nuance than previous efforts. This works fantastically on "If the Brakeman Turns My Way," a rollicking song that recalls Billy Joel at his strongest.

This daring pays off as well on "Make a Plan to Love Me," where Oberst mines a soft rock sound to great effect. However, Bright Eyes has always been a band that lives on the edge, always threatening to careen off of its new nuances. The extra gloss on "Cassadaga" unfortunately exists to allow Oberst to cover up mistakes that crop up upon repeated listens.

The most glaring weakness of this album is its lyrics, which border on inane. This is a bit surprising, given "I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning's" poetic strength. Oberst seems obsessed with typical left wing complaints when

he gets political and his humor chemical dependence issues when he gets personal. He's evolved from the artist who created the heartbreaking "Poison Oak" into the loser older brother figure who has all kinds of good advice about all the wrong things. In the end, his so-called "depth" is just annoying and a little sad.

Oberst's lyrics would be more tolerable if played for jokes. He's serious when he says, "I've been loved / I've been f***ed / So what". The effect is akin to putting Matthew McConaughey's "I'm in my mid-twenties but still hanging out with high-schoolers" character from "Dazed and Confused" into "American Beauty."

The lyrical weakness is a shame, since "Cassadaga" sounds so good. The album's musical sound is at the same time classic and fresh. It's at its best when it breaks from the Americana mold, but even the countrified songs work well. Sometimes even the ridiculous lyrics fit the song perfectly, like in "Soul Singer in a Session Band." Yes, its about a musician that's forced to sell out. But before the listener can get around to vomiting, the song soars majestically and reveals itself as a great character sketch.

"Cassadaga" is a rollicking good time musically, just try to ignore the lyrics. Hopefully, Oberst will discover how to marry the evocative nature of his music with great lyrics, or least lyrics that aren't flat out embarrassing. He did it with "I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning," and he even managed on the "Four Winds" EP, released this year. "Cassadaga" proves he's got to get over this loser older brother phase to truly shine.

Phase Three returns to the New Mission Café

Brian Bednarczyk
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Phase Three will play at The New Mission Café on May 4 at 10:30 p.m. They will be one of five bands performing that night. Captain Moonlight will start the show at 6:30 p.m., followed by The Gunship at 7, Rendered at 8 and Shattered Red at 9:30.

Phase Three's musicians are Elliot Niesl on lead vocals and guitar, Jon Tomcek on bass, and Brandon Aarrestad on drums. Niesl and Tomcek are current University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students and Aarrestad is a UW-SP alumni.

The members of Phase Three have been friends since their years at D.C. Everest Senior High School. After high school, they all went their separate ways, but were brought together when a mutual friend asked them if they would like to help make a demo tape. Their friend moved back to California after making the demo tape, but the three felt that some-

thing clicked when they played together and decided to become a band.

Niesl had already written a number of songs over the years, and Aarrestad played drums.

"I just had all these ideas lying around and it seemed wrong to just let them fade away," said Niesl.

Niesl and Aarrestad created a demo tape and gave it to Tomcek, who then added his bass guitar to the mix. After they made their demo they started playing live shows. They played at the fall 2004 and the spring 2005 Battle of the Bands at UW-SP. They came in second at the fall show and were winners of the spring 2005 contest. They also played at such venues as The (old) Mission Café, Clark Place and various others in the Wausau area.

By May of 2005, Phase Three had to put everything on hold. Niesl was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He would be gone for about a year and a half. Before Niesl left, the band made a studio demo, but

won't have to worry about understanding a foreign language," said Suchy. "It's probably music unlike what you've heard before, so it will be a very interesting experience."

"It's all in English, so you

they decided it didn't represent their music the way they wanted it to.

"It was more like a marker of progress," said Aarrestad.

Since Niesl's return in November the band has been working hard on a new demo and they are back in shape for performance. Their last show was a brief performance at the Faux-Core in February.

Phase Three is influenced by such bands as Jimmy Hendrix, Pearl Jam, Rage Against the Machine, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Jamiroquai. Niesl has always enjoyed rock music, Aarrestad enjoys funk and jazz and Tomcek likes Rap and R&B music. They have mixed their musical backgrounds to come up with a unique and original sound.

The show at The New Mission Café on May 4 will start at 6 p.m. It is open to all ages and will have a \$6 cover fee. Go to www.NewMissionCafe.com for more information and a \$2 discount coupon.

CINEMA CRITIQUE CORNER

with NELSON CARVAJAL: "NEXT"



Nelson Carvajal
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Philip K. Dick's novels have been adapted into some masterful films, such as Ridley Scott's "Blade Runner" and Steven Spielberg's "Minority Report." In an unfortunate turn for the worse, director Lee Tamahori ("Die Another Day") has adapted Dick's novel "The Golden Man" into the film "Next," a mild, flat, wannabe summer blockbuster. To think that this film had a production cost of \$70 million is an insult to aspiring filmmakers everywhere—including myself—who seek their own modest break at a career debut.

"Next" stars Nicolas Cage as Cris Johnson, a Vegas magician (Frank Cadillac is his handle), who was born with the ability to always see two minutes into his future. If by now you're already pointing out some faulty logistical issues of such a setup, I'll beg you to stop. The real problem with the film isn't its science; the problem lies in its execution of the screenplay.

I'll stop here to talk about Cage. Cage is an Oscar-winning actor. He comes from a Hollywood family. This guy can act, as seen in "Leaving Las Vegas," "Adaptation," and "Matchstick Men." He can bomb too, as shown by "National Treasure," "Gone in Sixty Seconds," and "Con Air." Sadly, he can be as terrible as he is in "Next" while still convincing himself that he is actually doing a good job. Poor guy.

Back to the screenplay: the grouping of scenes, from the opening dream montage to the flaccid third act surprise is doggedly assembled. It's like watching a story written by an angry bully during detention. The story has Julianne Moore, who plays Callie Ferris, as a two-dimensional agent. Ferris is rigidly convinced that Johnson is the sole key to locating a sto-

len nuclear device in the Los Angeles area. Since he can see two minutes into the future, he is, of course, the best candidate to find out where and when the device will detonate! I know—I'm shaking my head right now too.

The film would have worked fine if it had played itself straight, as a silly sci-fi romp ("Total Recall" for example), but it is determined to stage itself like a cataclysmic Michael Bay epic, and that's never a good thing. More alarming, much of the running time is given to a wasteful romantic subplot involving Jessica Biel's

character at a cabin. These scenes are just plain creepy and weird. But there's got to be action right? Yes and no. The action scenes are so over the top (Cage dodges a bullet aimed at his head at one point) and so fake-looking, that I wonder where the overblown budget went. It may have gone to food catering or, more likely, Cage's hairstyle.

It is impossible to capture just how terrible this film is. In fact the only time the audience had any sort of emotional response during the screening was when a father sitting behind me chuckled when I made a disparaging comment

about the root beer smoothie I was drinking at the time.

Late in the film, Cage's character says to himself, "I made a mistake," and coincidentally I found myself muttering the exact same phrase to myself. During the car ride home I caught myself thinking about the power of seeing into the future, and I realized how much I envied it. If I could have seen how stupid "Next" was really going to be, I could have prevented the cataclysm of viewing it from ever happening.

Excellent!



Good



Okay



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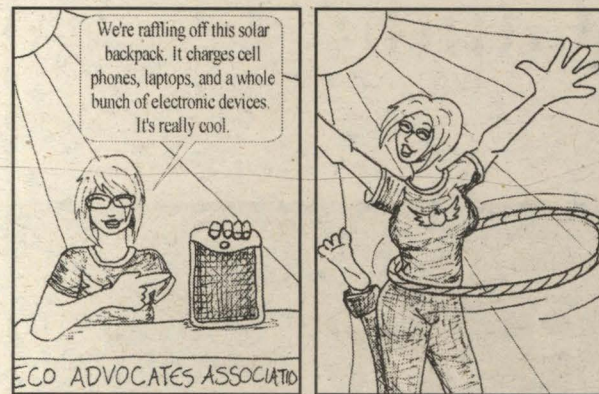
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Resident's Evil



Joy Ratchman



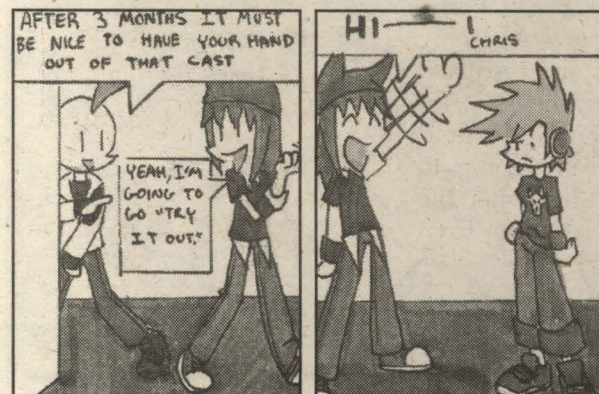
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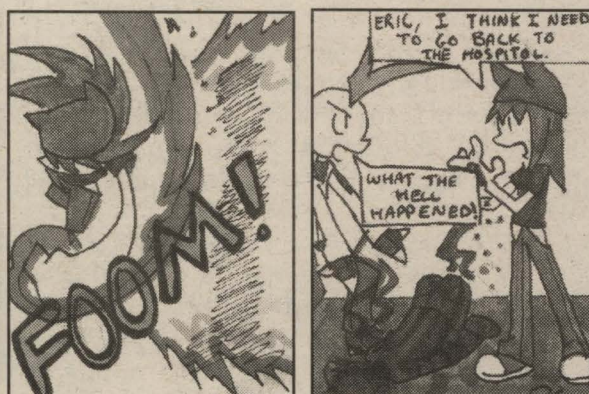
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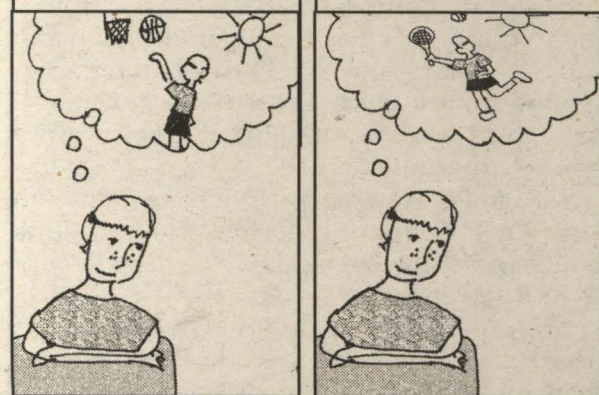
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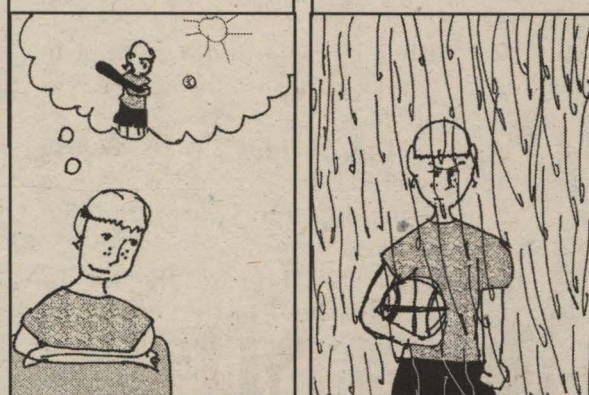
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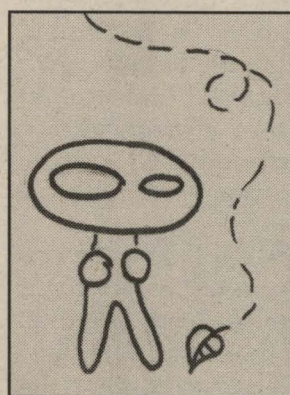
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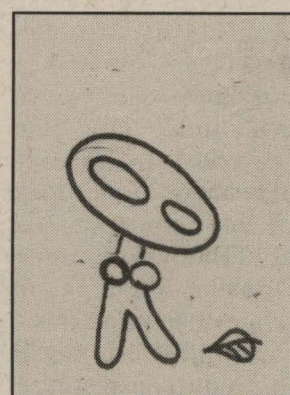
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Letters & Opinion

Your College Survival Guide
Cheating

By Pat Rothfuss

WITH HELP FROM THE MISSION COFFEE BAR

Dear Pat-

So, I have this wonderful boyfriend -- he's cute, funny, puts up with my shit and is very committed. Sounds perfect, right? Yeah, he is. But that's a big part of the problem. I have this great guy, whom I love, but I have a crush on another guy. Now I don't know if I should ignore the other so that I don't mess up my relationship or if I should start hanging out with him so I can see how I really feel about him.

Oh yeah, and I was thinking about experimenting with girls before I settle down. But if I fool around with a girl, doesn't that give my boyfriend the right to fool around with another girl?

-Each Relationship Kindles Equal Doubt

Alright, before we delve into this letter for real, I need to clear up a misconception. ERKED, if you make out with another girl, your boyfriend has the right to fool around with another guy. That's how it balances out. So if you're feeling experimental AND you've got a bit of a yaoi fantasy, then you might be in a position to score a twofer.

But seriously, everyone who has read this column more than once knows that what I dispense here at the College Survival Guide is anything but actual advice. In fact, our lab technicians recently discovered that the College Survival Guide is composed primarily of broken glass, sarcasm, Aristotelian syllogisms, and industrial-grade bullshit.

That said, I do occasionally get a letter where I feel the person is genuinely asking for advice. And in those cases, I try to add a sprinkle of truth to the mix, with a garnish of genuine concern for my fellow human beings.

However, to give good advice, I usually need to gather more information than the initial letter provides, such as in this case.

This week, I thought I would give you a behind-the-scenes glimpse of how exactly I go about gathering this delicate information. The following is several dozen e-mail exchanges collected and edited down for your viewing pleasure.

ME: Hello there. This is Pat from the College Survival Guide. I need to ask some follow-up questions before I write up a response to your letter.

ERKED: Why?

ME: There are I things I need to know if I'm going to do a good job answering your

letter. How old are you?

ERKED: I'm not going to tell you my birthday.

ME: Are you afraid I'm going to send flowers or something?

ERKED: You could steal my identity.

ME: Yes. That's what I want. Your identity. You've discovered my insidious plot. I am hoist on my own retard.

ERKED: Ha. I thought so. Wait. Is that a typo, or did you just make a pun?

ME: Listen, I don't want your identity. I like being Pat Rothfuss. If I were you, things would be too confusing. I wouldn't know how to deal with the underwear for one thing.

ERKED: What?

ME: I'm saying if I were you, I wouldn't know how to put on your underwear. As I'm a boy-type and you are not. It's a joke, you see. With the humor stemming from the implication of gender confusion.

ERKED: How do you know I'm wearing underwear?

ME: Well, either I've planted a camera in your room, or I have superior inductive reasoning. Take your pick.

ERKED: No, I'm serious. Why would you assume I wear underwear? Why are you attempting to tie me down to your outmoded patriarchal morality system?

ME: I would like to state for the record that I have never attempted to tie you down: figuratively, literally, or morally. Can we please get back on topic? I don't want your identity. I can barely handle the one I've got. All I want to know is how old you are.

ERKED: Okay. Fine. I'm 21.

ME: How long have you been in your relationship with Mr. Perfect?

ERKED: Two and a half years.

ME: How's the sex?

ERKED: What?

ME: Please. Let's not be coy. You're an adult, possibly sans underwear, in a long term relationship. You're mature enough to consider cheating and "experimenting" with women. Now unless you suddenly got a Dr. Science chemistry set and we're engaged in a nexa-level misunderstanding here, then you know what sex is and you've probably had it once or twice with Mr. Perfect. I'm asking you how it is with him. Draw me a picture if you need to.

ERKED: The sex is good. It's fun.

ME: Is he managing to ring the bell, to use the parlance of our times?

ERKED: The bell gets rung. If he doesn't manage it, I do.

ME: Good for you. Rate the sex overall with Mr. Perfect on a scale from 1-10.

ERKED: Seven.

ME: Where do you live?

ERKED: None of your business.

ME: If you live in the dorms or an apartment it's a different situation than if you live with your parents or in a house with friends. I need to know.

ERKED: Oh. XXXXX Fourth Ave here in Point.

ME: Okay. I lied. That question was actually to judge your gullibility. You should never give out your address to a stranger over e-mail.

ERKED: You dick.

ME: Sorry, but I needed to know. Have you ever been with another woman?

ERKED: Emmm.... no.

ME: Now is that a real no, or drawn-out portentous no? Specifically, are you lying to me?



ERKED: I've never had sex with another woman. But there have been a few parties where a few girls have compared boobs and stuff like that. And I've kissed other girls a couple times. Once at a bar and once at a party. But I've thought about it. That's why I want to experiment a little.

ME: Man. How come I never get invited to the boob comparing parties? Do you think about sex with women a lot?

ERKED: Some.

ME: You're being dodgy. Give me some specifics. When you're walking down the street, do you check out other women in a sexual way?

ERKED: Yes. Sometimes.

ME: Ever had sex dreams about other women?

ERKED: Um... Pass.

ME: Huh. I'll take that as a yes too. What are you wearing right now?

ERKED: O_o

ME: Did you just send me a smiley in an attempt to convey a complicated emotion? Let's see, I'm guessing that it indicates... dis-oriented perplexion?

ERKED: No, it's a picture of what I'm wearing.

ME: Hmmmm ... a set of mismatched manacles? I understand. Someone has chained you in your room. If you're in danger use the word "banana" in your next e-mail.

ERKED: You are the strangest guy ever. Plus I suspect you're a pervert.

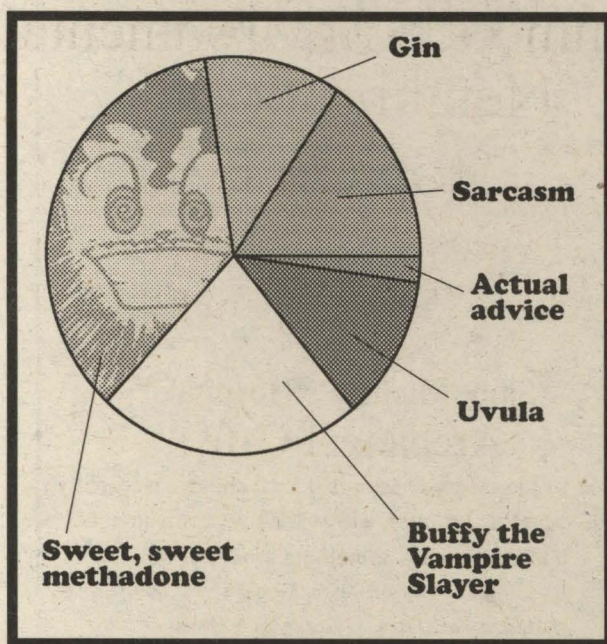
ME: Says the girl without underpants. I'll assume you're safe unless I hear otherwise. Anyway, I think I have everything I need now. Thanks much.

ERKED: Thanks Pat. You're a freak, but you're fun.

ME: Likewise. Thanks for the letter by the way.

Now that you know all the sordid details, do you have any advice for ERKED? I'd especially appreciate word from women who have "experimented" with other women, and are willing to share the results with your less experienced sister.

Send the messages along to proth@wsunix.wsu.edu. If I get good ones, I'll post them up with my own reply next week. Stay tuned....





Point of View:

Packers make little progress in 2007 draft, off-season

Steve Roeland
THE POINTER
SROEL908@UWSP.EDU



Last season, the Green Bay Packers were the youngest team in the National Football League. The Packers started five rookies for the majority of the season, with linebacker A.J. Hawk, offensive linemen Darren Colledge, Jason Spitz and Tony Moll and wide receiver Greg Jennings starting at least 10 games each. Last year's youth movement

helped the Green and Gold to an 8-8 record and the Packers dominated divisional play in the NFC North. Against the Detroit Lions, Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears (the NFC representative in the Super Bowl), the Packers were 5-1.

Green Bay's 8-8 record was a four-game improvement over the Packers' 4-12 campaign in 2005. The team showed signs of success late in the season; enough for quarterback Brett Favre to return to the team for his 17th NFL season - 16th as the leader of the Pack.

This off-season may interrupt Favre's hope in the future, as the Packers signed only one notable free agent (cornerback Frank Walker) and apparently sleepwalked their way through the 2007

NFL Draft, held April 28-29.

In the first round of the seven-round selection meeting, the Packers took defensive tackle Justin Harrell from the University of Tennessee. If you responded to this with a "Huh?" you are not alone. ESPN, who covers the NFL Draft with the same intensity that draft guru Mel Kiper uses when he slicks back his hair every morning, showed the Packer faithful at Lambeau Field. The fans eagerly anticipated the Packers' first selection of the draft, but their high hopes were soon to be deflated.

When Harrell (who missed 10 games last season due to injury) was announced as Green Bay's selection, the fans stood wide-eyed. People began to look around for an answer. Then came the most

poignant visual of the draft; the enthusiastic booing that erupted. Even young children chimed in, vigorously giving the ESPN cameras thumbs-down.

Welcome to Green Bay, Mr. Harrell.

Ted Thompson, Green Bay's general manager, had to deal with criticism all weekend. But the issue that may make or break Thompson's entire career as a GM was his alleged decision to not pull off a trade with the Oakland Raiders for veteran receiver Randy Moss. Sending a fourth-round pick would have sealed the deal, allowing Moss to become a playmaker in the Packers' offense. Instead, Thompson held on to the pick, drafted Allen Barbre, an offensive lineman from Division II Missouri Southern, and allowed the New England Patriots to steal Moss, trading away their fourth-round selection.

In Thompson's defense, the Packers did make some moves to bring in more prospects. Thompson's wheeling and dealing gave Green Bay 11 picks in total. Also, the Packers filled holes at running back with Nebraska's Brandon Jackson, at safety

with Virginia Tech's Aaron Rouse, at tight end with Rutgers' Clark Harris and at wideout with San Jose State's James Jones.

Even with some talented additions, the Packers could still use another offensive threat. When the Carolina Panthers released aging possession receiver Keyshawn Johnson last Tuesday, another option for Green Bay became available. With a big frame and Super Bowl experience, Johnson could add significant production to the Packers' offense. Despite his age, Johnson hauled in 70 catches last year for Carolina, gaining 815 yards and reaching the end zone four times. Signing the former University of Southern California standout could give fans a sign that Thompson has some concern about winning sooner than later.

Packers' fans came into this off-season with hope for a playoff run in 2007. A lackluster free agency period and less-than-stellar draft weekend has made 8-8 look like a stretch.

Unless another move is made, 2007 could be a long year at 1265 Lombardi Ave.

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