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# THE POINTER

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT

## Celebrities bring election focus to campus

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College Democrats and Students for Barack Obama at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point brought two pieces of the West coast to central Wisconsin on Oct. 1, when actor Adam Brody and actress and model Joy Bryant visited campus.

Both Hollywood actors were at UW-SP to advocate voting for Democratic candidate Barack Obama in the upcoming presidential election.

The actors were scheduled to appear at UW-SP at 11:30 a.m., but hopeful students were in line long before it began.

"One of my girlfriends got in line at about 10 a.m. She was waiting an hour and a half to get in there," said junior Casi Burrows. "In line, I was waiting about 45 minutes to get in."

Inside The Encore, the nearly 300 attendees waited an additional hour. The actors had another appearance earlier in the morning at UW-Oshkosh. Some people became restless, but the time was used by College Democrats to pump up the crowd.

College Democrats President Zach

Vruwink explained the importance of voting for Obama.

"We cannot afford four more years of the same," said Vruwink. "Students the time has come. Yes we

country," said Brody. "This is two diverging paths. We can either get back on track or keep sliding the way it's been sliding."

Bryant met Obama right after his

tour the country to help Obama get elected. This has stirred up many arguments in the media as to whether they should be using their status to influence voters.

"I think it is as fair as a talk show, as fair as Bill O'Reilly. You have to be famous to get in some capacity to get ears to hear you," said Brody. "I feel like it is an obligation. The stakes are so high. I think that argument is kind of silly."

By the roar of the audience members whenever the two celebrities spoke, it appeared that no one was opposed to having celebrities visiting, though other controversy was found.

Though the event focused on support for Obama, students who planned to vote for Republican candidate John McCain were also present at the rally, which caused some unrest for Democratic supporters who attended the event.

"It kind of bothered me that a lot of the people standing in line were Republicans that do not even support Barack Obama. They are completely McCain supporters and were just there for the fact there was a celebrity in Stevens Point," said Burrows, "and that is not what it was for. It wasn't just a celebrity appearance."

"Overall, the event was a success," said Sam Braaten, Event and Membership Director for College Democrats.

"It went amazing. We were hoping to get 50 to 100 and we got three times that," said Braaten. People seemed really enthused to see someone that famous to come to our campus."



Photo by Katie Leb

Hundreds of students pack The Encore to see Adam Brody and Joy Bryant rally students to vote for Obama.

can. We are the change we seek. Yes we can."

Welcomed by the electrified crowd, Brody and Bryant waited no time to explain their purpose for going around not only Wisconsin universities, but also the nation to help elect Obama.

"Joy and I are both here to get the word [out] about Barack Obama. This is the biggest crossroads in our

highly acclaimed speech in 2004 at the Democratic National Convention.

"Wow, this is the kind of the person who I want to be my president, to lead me," said Bryant. "If he ever ran for president, which he's probably not gonna, That I would do whatever that I could possibly do to help get him elected."

Both Bryant and Brody are now using their celebrity status to

## Future of economy in hands of United States Congress

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On almost every news outlet, the economy seems to be in turmoil. The stock market is taking a beating, dropping approximately 777-points on Monday. The housing market is having its own share of problems with almost 10 percent of mortgages going into foreclosure. Banks are failing, businesses are closing and the overall outlook of the economy isn't looking that great. The real problems can often be hard to tell amongst all the talk of how to fix the problems and the economics terms.

"This problem stems from the collapse of the subprime mortgage market which has many financial institutions at or near bankruptcy," said Randy Cray, professor of economics at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "In other words, their

investments in mortgages and securities backed by mortgages are causing huge losses to these firms."

These losses are affecting banks and companies across the United States and the world. In the United States, credit has been basically frozen to businesses and could cause enormous financial problems to those that need them to survive.

"These losses and the threat of future loan losses have made many financial institutions less willing to loan money to each other. Our economy cannot operate smoothly unless credit is freely flowing among financial institutions," said Cray.

With the economy in trouble, students will also be affected now, will be affected in future semesters, and especially after graduation.

see **Economy** pg. 15

## Self-op food pending decision

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The University of Wisconsin Stevens Point is taking action now to prepare for the expiration of the current food contract with Chartwells come Aug. 20, 2009.

A request for proposal committee, comprised of faculty, staff and students has devised a proposition for the vice chancellor of student affairs, Bob Tomlinson.

"The longer we wait, the harder it will become," said Laura Ketchum-Ciftci, director of the University Centers.

The proposal is recommending the UW-SP food service become self-operating. This means the university

see **Food** pg. 15

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## News

## Students put hair on the line for breast cancer

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When University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Senior Jessica Kavanagh first heard the news that her grandmother had been diagnosed with breast cancer, she felt helpless. She was thousands of miles away from her grandmother, who resides in Montana, too far to be by her side as she began dealing with the reality. Instead of giving up, she decided that she would do what she could from Wisconsin.

This put Kavanagh on a path that would eventually inspire her to start Head Shavin' for the Cure with her best friend and fellow UW-SP senior Rachel Kuhl. Head Shavin' for the Cure's goal is to raise \$1,000 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. When the goal is met the girls have pledged to shave off their long locks as another way to honor Kavanagh's grandmother's struggle.

"[My family] felt helpless and saddened by the fact that we couldn't be by her side as she went through treatment," said Kavanagh.

She and her family began searching for ways they could help in the area after they received the news. They soon found out about the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, which was taking place in Minneapolis in May 2008.

"My mother, aunt and I participated in the Race for the Cure on Mother's Day in Minneapolis this spring, and it opened my eyes to how many people's lives are touched by breast cancer," said Kavanagh.

Over 40,000 people walked that day, many of them wearing names of loved ones on their shirts. Some shirts were in celebration of breast cancer survivors; many were in memory of someone that had passed on. As she walked, Kavanagh felt an urgent need to raise awareness and funds to contribute to ongoing breast cancer research, not just for her grandmother's sake, but also for the sake of the thousands of families affected by breast cancer every year.

That's when Kavanagh decided to take more action. She decided to participate in the Breast Cancer 3-Day taking place in Minneapolis Sept. 19 through 21, 2008. Breast Cancer 3-day is an event where thousands of men

and women come together and raise money for Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund.

"My goal was to raise \$2,500 for the cause before participating in the 3-day walk in September," said Kavanagh.

Struggling at first to receive donations, Kavanagh was able to find family members and local businesses to support her cause. She was able to raise a substantial amount, but was left with roughly \$1,000 yet to find. But Kavanagh pressed on and completed the 3-day, 60-mile walk confident she could get the remainder of the donations in the month afterward.

After the walk, Kavanagh began to worry that maybe she wouldn't be able to reach her goal. That's when she turned to her best friend Rachel Kuhl for help with the stress and together they came up with the idea Head Shavin' for the Cure.

"Jess was stressing out about raising the rest of the money so we were trying to come up with ideas that would really draw attention and raise a large amount of money in a short period of time," said Kuhl.

The girls put up a booth in the

Dreyfus University Center trying to bring awareness and collect donations. They sent out e-mails and made calls. They started a Facebook group and handed out flyers at local businesses to let people know what they were doing and what was on the line for them, their beautiful heads of hair. The work seems to have paid off, as the girls are only \$200 away from their goal and finally having shaved scalps.

"I was a little worried about the idea of shaving my head," said Kavanagh, "but then I remembered how my grandmother had felt embarrassed and nervous when she was going through chemo, and had no choice but to shave her head. I figured this would be another way to support her."

The girls will be teaming up with the Women's Resource Center at their Candlelight Vigil for Breast Cancer on Oct. 5th, and shaving their heads in celebration of meeting their goal. The girls will have a booth this Friday, Oct. 3, at the Green Tea concert on campus to collect the last few dollars they need. Donations can be made directly at the booth and online.

## Protesters defend their positions throughout campus

Jacob Mathias

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Shouts, chants, Biblical passages and oversized pictures of fetuses dominated the space between the Science Building and the College of Professional Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on Thursday, Sept. 25.

The cause of the commotion began as a silent anti-abortion protest collaborated by the Faithful Soldiers,

an evangelical school based in Milwaukee, Wis., and the Missionaries to the Preborn, a pro-life group also out of Milwaukee.

Jason Storms, the founder of the Faithful Soldiers, fueled both groups by shouting sermons to the crowd, instead of remaining silent as the Soldiers had originally planned to do.

"I thought you were for diversity," said Storms. He said later, "You don't want to accept the facts."

Storms and the other Soldiers



Photo by Becka Schuelke

Protesters battle for prime position on campus sidewalks.

continued to protest amid many students asking him to stop.

Storms and other members of the Faithful Soldiers chose to voice their opinions raucously, other members of the group were much more civil.

"We're here to educate on the truth of abortion," said Candace Knapschaefer, a member of the Faithful Soldiers. "We're not forcing people to change their minds."

Groups of UW-SP students responded to the protest by carrying banners and signs with messages about gay rights, pro-choice and religion. After much shouting, the protest turned from not only pro-life and pro-choice arguments, but also gay rights. This was because of a newly displayed banner, which said, "Homosexuality is a sin. Repent and be born again."

The cast of the upcoming theatre presentation of the musical "Hair" also joined the protesting by singing "Age of Aquarius," a song from the musical that expresses tolerance and freedom of ideas.

Along with the shouts and songs, there was much debate over whether or not the two visiting protestors were allowed to be on campus.

"It's against University policy," said Student Government Association President Katie Kloth. "State law states that they can be on public property. University policy states that if you're going to be on the property, you need a student sponsor or permit."

While campus security did show up, the visiting protestors were allowed to stay on campus.

## Brain Damage

The \$700 billion bailout plan could pay tuition for 225,818 students to attend UW-SP for a semester.

Despite weighing 3,000 to 5,000 pounds, hippos can run up to 30 miles per hour.

A man's beard grows fastest when he anticipates sex.

99 percent of the pumpkins sold in the US end up as jack-o-lanterns.

During WWII, because a lot of players were called to duty, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles combined to become The Steagles.

The Ottoman Empire once had seven emperors in seven months. They died of (in order): burning, choking, drowning, stabbing, heart failure, poisoning and being thrown from a horse.

Roses may be red, but violets are indeed violet.



## President Kloth proposes end to Thursday night classes

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Imagine a Thursday evening free to do whatever you wanted, no classes to be heard of all across the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus. That is what Thursday evenings would be like if an idea Student Government Association President Katie Kloth, is pushing around is put into effect. Kloth reported at the Sept. 17, 2008 meeting of the Faculty Senate the possibility of classes not being offered on Thursday evenings to allow for students to all be able to attend SGA Senate meetings.

"If we want to get students more civically engaged, we need fewer conflicts for students," said Kloth. "It is important to have a governing body that is more accessible to all students.

We want this proposal to make it so all people can come to public forum and express their views to us."

SGA Senate meetings occur currently at 6 p.m. every Thursday. The current public forum normally consists of two or three concerned students who are affected by policies on the agenda.

Kloth is also concerned about student senators who cannot make the meeting due to conflicts, especially those in ROTC which has classes during the beginning of senate meetings.

There are presently not any written proposals brought forth to SGA Senate or Faculty Senate, but the topic is still being talked about and research is currently being worked on.

"It turns out that on Thursday nights about 800 students are taking

classes. That means approximately 8,200 or about 90 percent of students are already free during that time period and able to participate in governance," said Chris Sadler, Faculty Senate Chair. "Cancelling classes to allow access to the other 10 percent and disrupting class offerings, lab space and the overall grid of when classes are offered for that extra 800 students is something that probably would, in my estimation, receive little support."

There has yet to be public discussions on how this would affect non-traditional students who may only be able to make evening classes or how this would affect the overall problems with students attempting to get into classes that they need to graduate. There have also not been any ideas proposed for moving the time and day of SGA meetings to a

more accessible one.

"Before we make any arbitrary decisions, we really need to research this one," said Speaker of the Senate, Zach Vruwink.

With so many students currently available to attend SGA, it is a wonder why many do not attend the meetings. Some students expressed their frustration with the idea of the proposal getting them to attend SGA meetings.

"[The proposal] is the dumbest thing I've ever heard. While SGA is very important, we're here for an education," said senior Jennifer Boyd.

"I don't think students would go to SGA meetings on Thursdays," said senior Alisha Neinfeldt. "They'd probably be too busy with other functions."

## Where they stand: Conflicts in the Middle East, Iraq

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This week we turn our eyes to an issue that has been up and down throughout the past five years: the

Iraq War. Many argue about why the United States ended up in Iraq or how the United States public could have been lied to, but when the new president steps into office, they will have to handle the Iraq war from

their current standpoint. Approximately 4,169 United States armed forces have died while in Iraq and almost 100,000 Iraqi civilians have died since the United States invaded. The Congressional Research Service even estimated the cost of the Iraq War to be almost \$200 million a day.

Republican John McCain focuses on the need for victory in Iraq. He believes that the United States must remain in Iraq until they are stable and able to govern themselves fully. He reminds citizens of the possible dangers of leaving Iraq if a civil war were to break out in the middle east, Iran were to invade Iraq, or even another 9/11 were to occur on United States soil. McCain supports committing more troops to Iraq and continuing the counterinsurgency strategy started by General Patreus.

McCain stated on CNN's Larry King, "[Obama] wants to set a date for withdrawal that means chaos. That means genocide. That means undoing all the success we've achieved and Al Qaeda tells the world they defeated the United States of America. I won't let that happen."

Democrat Barack Obama has also supported a withdrawal and has provided more specifics with how he would accomplish it. If elected, he would provide a responsible, phased departure in which one or two brigades would be removed from Iraq every month, extending the war until 2010. He supports a small contingent of soldiers remaining in Iraq for counter-terrorism missions as well as continued training and support to the Iraqi forces to help them protect themselves. Obama plans to support Iraq diplomatically as president, helping them with their political differences and working with the neighboring countries in the Middle East to work towards peace.

Independence and Ecology Ralph



Photo courtesy of Andrew Letson

Camels are often seen by our soldiers in Iraq.

Nader has also stated he supports a responsible withdrawal within the first six months of him being in office. He would work with the United Nations to send in peacekeepers to help with the stabilization of Iraq and the region.

Green Cynthia McKinney has proposed ending all wars, eliminating war funding, and removing United States military troops from areas all across the world. She has also proposed the end of government organizations plotting regime changes in other countries.

Libertarian Bob Barr has stated he supports a withdrawal from Iraq as soon as possible stating that the war was a mistake. If elected, he would plan a detachment from Iraq without an announcement of timetables to prevent it from being received by adversaries. He would withdraw both militarily and economically from Iraq.

Barr stated in a speech, "A continued U.S. presence in Iraq emboldens both insurgents and terrorists and discourages the Iraqi government from taking control of promoting peace and prosperity in Iraq."

With so many candidates, there are many strategies on what to do with Iraq. Voting for who will be President of the United States in November will without a doubt have an impact on the future of Iraq and its people.

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## Pointlife

## Students receive needed assistance from AIG

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Starting anew, it is difficult to form a foundation of consistency when having to co-exist with the daily stressors of college life. While many students rely on infrequent communication with Mom and Dad, nine students at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point have the support of more than 600 American International Group Travel Guard employees to help them navigate the constant variability that comes with being a college student.

The Noel Compass Scholarship Program, which was founded by John and Patty Noel in 1996, rewards

academic achievement, leadership and citizenship among students of color in Wisconsin's communities with an academic scholarship to UW-SP and a paid internship at AIG Travel Guard.

To reward AIG for its generosity it is suggested that the Noel Compass scholars work at their internship 10 to 15 hours per week during the school year. This allows for flexibility with their school schedule and extracurricular activities. During the summer months, the scholars work full-time and many choose to take summer courses.

"The students selected to participate in the program have already proven themselves to be role models in their own communities,"

said Megan Sedahl of AIG. "In the Noel Compass Scholarship Program they are brought under the wing of Sam Dinga, the full-time program director, board members, AIG Travel Guard managers and peer mentors. This provides a complete support system for the scholars both in and out of the workplace."

Former Noel Compass scholars have taken the skills they learned as a scholar and gone on to work in jobs all over the country. AIG feels especially lucky to have two of their former scholars presently working at the company for their Informational Technology Helpdesk and accounting departments.

It should be noted that students are not typically thrust into a position

of leadership for an activity, despite strong leadership skills in high school. Instead there is a careful introduction to leadership roles and full staff training like any AIG Travel Guard employee.

Sedahl believes that employees at AIG Travel Guard are very receptive to the students serving the internships. The Noel Compass scholars are fully integrated into the AIG Travel Guard culture. They work side-by-side with everyone else and are really respected and valued for their hard work.

This is only one example of the many synergistic relationships that help shape Stevens Point via its many local businesses and UW-SP.

## Obedience or independence: Whatever is a student to do?

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Upon entering college, most young adults get their first taste of independence and adulthood, but their actions may not be entirely self-motivated. While many students are looking to step out and do their own thing, some may be held back by parental wishes and guidelines that they may or may not abstain to obey.

According to a study published in the Journal of College Student Development, "In general, parents significantly underestimated the use of alcohol and other drugs by their sons and daughters."

The study showed that almost half of the parents surveyed believed that their children wouldn't consume drugs or alcohol during their first year at the university, while 36 percent of

students claim that they drink at least weekly or more often.

While this may be true in some cases, some students do choose to adhere to the preconceived wishes of their parents. Devin Woodruff, a senior at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, chose

to try and obey her parents' wishes upon entering her first year at the university.

"My dad didn't want me to



Life's pathway will be replete with many decisions.

Photo by Jake Johnson

drink. He disapproved of it," said Woodruff. "I was terrified of getting caught and letting my dad down. I would drink but I wasn't in Stevens Point. The chances of getting caught at a party were greater so I didn't drink at house parties."

Other

students at UW-SP choose to take a different route in their recreational affairs. These students aren't defying their parents, but rather they are trying

to adhere to a different philosophy preached to them.

"My parents said, 'Don't drink more than you study,'" said junior, Ryan Bachorz.

Other students had similar parental guidance.

"They just want me to be responsible about it," said junior, Richard Harding. "They told me to try not to overdo it."

While students may receive guidance and advice from their parents involving drugs and alcohol, many of them are likely to branch out on their own after discovering their newfound freedoms. Universities are currently implementing parental orientation alongside students to help educate about the realities of college student alcohol use and repercussions.

## Students called upon for hurricane disaster relief

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The hurricane season of 2008 has already been devastating to the Gulf Coast and Texas area with more storms to come. The American Red Cross is asking students to come to their aid in this difficult time to help with raising funds for hurricane victims.

As the aftereffects of Hurricane Ike are felt, estimates of insured losses provided by the catastrophe-modeling firm, Air Loss Estimates in Real Time Worldwide, range between \$8 billion to \$12 billion. This figure ranks Hurricane Ike as the fourth most expensive hurricane.

The American Red Cross anticipates that hurricanes of 2008 will cost the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund \$100 million. Financial assistance is the greatest need as of right now due to the June flooding across the Midwest, which caused the Disaster Relief Fund to be depleted. The American Red Cross is currently borrowing money to provide shelter,

food and water to thousands of families affected by the hurricanes across the Gulf Coast and Texas.

The national office of the American Red Cross launched a national fundraising campaign late last week in which Wisconsin is being asked to raise \$2 million to help with this current emergency. The American Red Cross is not government funded but is responsible for the well-being of those persons displaced by disasters. Unlike federal agencies, they do their work because of the American people.

Kathy Davies, the Financial Development Director of the American Red Cross for Stevens Point, is asking students to answer the call of raising money for hurricane victims. Although not the wealthiest of groups, students are nonetheless powerful messengers of important issues.

If you would like to get in touch with Kathy Davies to set up a meeting to discuss fundraising on campus, please contact her at (715) 344-4052, or daviesk@charter.net.

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# Ghost hunting: not just found in the movies

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Is there something strange in your neighborhood? Call Kyle Chivers.

The trip began with a long drive to what seemed like the middle of nowhere. When he finally arrived, the man recalled a walk up a dark dirt path closed in by trees on either side casting daunting shadows all around him. Reaching the cemetery, he walked into an atmosphere like nothing he had ever experienced before. The cemetery was set on a hill surrounded by trees, the graves were worn and brittle, and the full moon over head provided an unnatural aura to the grounds. Here at Glenbuelah Graveyard a ghost hunter was born.

Chivers, a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point majoring in history, political science and social science with a minor in anthropology, enjoys a good game of Settlers of Catan and is a ghost hunter. Chivers has read a slew of books on haunted locations in Wisconsin, investigated over 300 allegedly haunted sites, performed 40 thorough investigations, authored a 37-page Paranormal Investigation form and created a Web site documenting his findings, including a database of "haunted" locations.

Chivers' interest in the paranormal began when he as a child watching "Unsolved Mysteries." He was particularly interested in the stories about the existence of these intangible beings, ghosts. His curiosity peaked again three years ago when he visited Glenbuelah Graveyard in Sheboygan County.

"To this day, Glenbuelah sticks out as the most haunted place," Chivers said. "After that I really wanted to know."

Three years and \$5,000 dollars later, Chivers is still searching for the truth. When speaking with Chivers you find he doesn't half-commit to his endeavors and has engulfed himself in hunting for the truth about ghosts. He has designed his own process

mind I wouldn't be ghost hunting; it would be irrational."

An open mind is a key trait when accepting new truth, and the people who tag along with Chivers at any moment need to be ready to accept it.

**"If I didn't have an open mind  
I wouldn't be ghost hunting."  
-Chivers**

and personally purchased all his own equipment and, no, a Proton Pack is not on the list. Most interestingly, he owns a Geiger counter, which measures radiation levels, and a night vision scope, both of which were purchased from military surplus. The whole investigation process takes about an hour.

Before each investigation there is in depth research to be done, which he mainly performs himself. Before he can investigate a site he must know who owns the grounds, and what the history of the site is. He also researches the weather and the phase of the moon the night of the investigation to make sure he is investigating at peak times.

"There are peak times in the phases of the moon to ghost hunt," said Chivers. "There are also peak times of the night, particularly 2 a.m. to 5 a.m."

Chivers uses science to explain what he finds during the investigation process he created. This process however, cannot be completed by Chivers alone and he is always looking for the right kind of people to take with him on his adventures.

"You have to have an open mind," Chivers said. "If I didn't have an open

mind I wouldn't be ghost hunting; it would be irrational."

to do this if you've continually found evidence to the contrary of the existence of a paranormal state?

Chivers adjusted his body language and sat forward in his chair, his eyes lit up and he began to speak as if he were speaking to every skeptic to ever challenge him on the subject. "If ghosts were to truly exist it would give credence to religious beliefs, plausibility to some sort of afterlife, redefine science and for those reasons, change how we view our place in the world," Chivers said. "The 'why' questions drive me to ghost hunt; I don't think ghost hunting is ever out of reach the way we define it with empirics. One of humanities greatest feats and passions is to discover. Not so long ago we were filled with ideas of a flat earth and geocentric theory; for thousands of years those ideas guided how people lived until they were proven false and now we live in accordance with the truth."

Simple curiosity doesn't drive

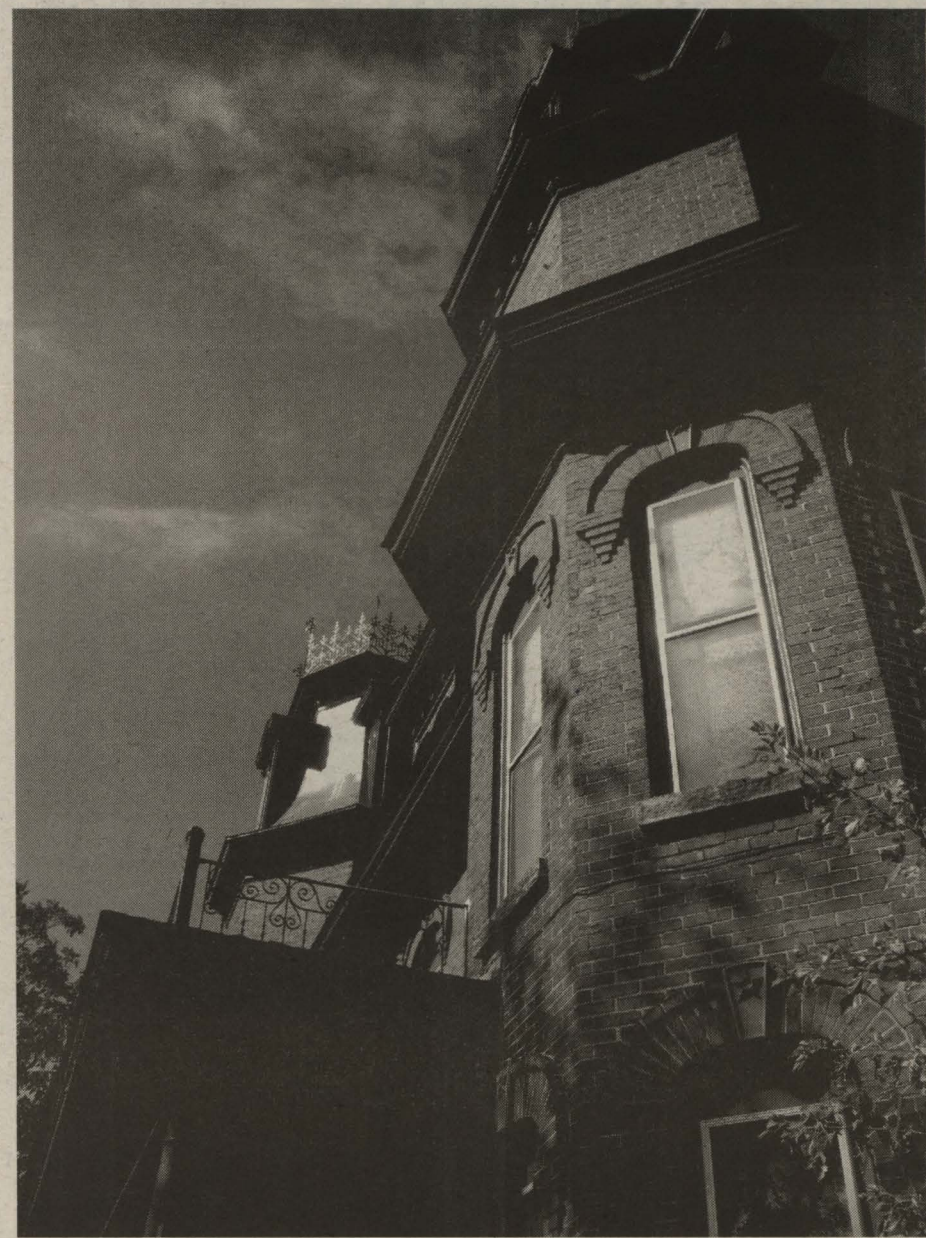


Photo courtesy of Sam Feld

According to some, ghosts and haunted houses are all around us. Could your home be one of the forsaken dwellings?

boards," Chivers said.

He seeks truth using what people know to be truth, science, to make his case.

"Based on experience, I can say 95 percent of the places I've been to were not haunted," Chivers said.

This has not deterred Chivers at all as he continues to actively pursue his goal. But, I had to ask, why continue

Chivers; his urgent ambition to seek truth in our world drives him. If he can prove that ghosts do exist, the world may change, our views could change.

Chivers Web site is down non-operational now due to lack of funding. If you do have questions you can email Chivers at kchiv898@uwsp.edu.

## Got Game? Prove it!



Sep 28th, 2008 12pm Shards of Alara pre-release.  
Don't miss this one!

Come to browse, come to shop,  
but most importantly, come to game.

Sep 26th, 2008 6pm Warhammer 40,000 open  
challenge. Free  
Sep 27th, 2008 12pm Dungeons & Dragons Minis,  
Dungeons of Dread, Sealed. \$25.  
Sep 29th, 2008 6pm Magic the Gathering Draft. \$10  
Shadowmoor/Eventide



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## Sports

## Running for the team

**Sam Krezinski**  
THE POINTER  
SKREZ305@UWSP.EDU

Cross country is viewed as a very individualized sport, but according to University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's and women's cross country head coach Rick Witt, cross country can be more of a team sport than people realize.

The team is only as good as the last runner's place in a meet when compared to the competing teams' runners.

This just held true for the UW-SP women's cross country team in their last meet at the Beloit Invitational on Sept. 27, 2008.

Coach Witt said that because UW-SP's fifth female runner outran the biggest competition on the other team by so much, UW-SP gained more points to boost their standings

than the other team.

At the Beloit Invitational only half of the women's team competed while the other half competed at the University of Minnesota Invitational. In Beloit, the women placed second out of 6 teams and at the University of Minnesota the team placed tenth out of 36 teams.

Most of the runners on the men's cross country team are returning from last year and that makes for an experienced group of runners.

This past weekend, the top 10 runners from the men's team did not run while the rest competed in the Beloit Invitational.

With the top 10 runners resting, the men still took first out of six teams, including the top seven slots.

John Pliska, a freshman, placed first in the Beloit Invitational.



Photo courtesy of Rick Witt

The cross country teams have been making waves so far this season.

"It was a tough race," Pliska said. "I had never run a race like that. It turned out good."

After 32 years of coaching cross

country at UW-SP, Coach Witt is still continuing to push the students to do their best and it shows in their results.

## Pointer golf travels to WIAC Championships: three days and 54 holes in Arkdale, Wisconsin

**Rochelle Nechuta**  
THE POINTER  
RNECH142@UWSP.EDU

The women's golf team finished the regular season schedule on Sunday with the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in their pocket.

played extremely hard for 18 holes."

Individual golfers from UW-SP have been gaining multiple accolades conference-wide this season. Sophomore Michelle Pascavis was named WIAC Player of the Week for

playing three days in a row. They have also gone a step further than the other teams they'll face.

"The girls worked extremely hard on their physical condition and we're one of the few teams that spend as much time in the weight room and on the track as we do on the golf course, so I'm excited about it," he said.

As reigning champion of the tournament in 2007, the Pointers are expected to defend their title in order to make their way to the national tournament next spring.

To the victor goes the spoils and to the champion of the WIAC Championship goes an automatic bid to the National Collegiate

Athletic Association Division III Championships in May.

That is what the Pointers have been aiming for. Last spring they traveled to Waverly, Iowa, for the national tournament and ended with a score of 320 points. They placed 12th out of 29 teams and look to go back this year.

"We're in a great position right now to go ahead and challenge for our conference championship," said Interbartolo. "Obviously there's so much on the line with the winner of our championship earning an automatic bid to our national tournament."



Photo courtesy of Matt Interbartolo

The Pointers broke school records in this tournament. They head into post-season play after winning the Stevens Point Invite last weekend.

After a second place finish on Saturday, the Pointers pushed their way through the final day of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Invitational at the Stevens Point Country Club.

They capped off the tourney with a two-day combined total of 637 points, which earned the first place finish with Danelle Olson's tie-breaking 169 points.

St. Thomas held the lead in day one, but their 328-point day two total was what gave the Pointers the chance at total dominance.

"They played remarkably well; the golf course was pretty tough at home just simply because of the weather they had to endure," said Coach Matt Interbartolo. "They bat-

ted the second time this season and junior Jessica Urban was named after leading the team last weekend.

Urban had 154 points after the two-day competition, which put her into second place behind University of St. Thomas' Laura Heck.

Now the team narrows its focus on the 2008 WIAC Women's Golf Championship, which will be held Oct. 3 through 5 at the Northern Bay Resort Golf and Marina. The tournament is hosted by UW-Eau Claire and will include 54 holes for the first time ever.

Interbartolo is confident in the team's ability to withstand the toils of extended play in the tournament. The Pointers play full courses on Fridays before tournaments and are used to

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## Women's soccer shuts out Eagles

**Rochelle Nechuta**

THE POINTER  
RNECH142@UWSP.EDU

With hat tricks from Kaylee Weise and Amanda Prawat, the Pointer women's soccer team dominated the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Eagles 7-0 on Wednesday night at UW-Stevens Point.

The Pointers scored the only goal in the first half and the Eagles kept up the pace until halftime. The next 45 minutes witnessed an onslaught of Pointer goals that were produced by aggressiveness and old-fashioned hustle.

"I think we threw numbers forward and I think it made a difference," said Coach Sheila Miech. "We had a tough loss against Wheaton. We know we didn't play our best and when you've got an experienced team. We have nine seniors out there you expect a lot."

Weise, the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference soccer Athlete of the Week for Sept. 23, was happy with the conference win that brought the team to a 3-0 WIAC record.

"We stepped it up a notch. We lost on Saturday so we knew we had to come back and bounce back with a win and we accomplished it," said Weise. "It's good for us because Eau Claire only beat them 2-0 so if it comes down to it we'll win the tie as of now."

The Pointers lost to Wheaton, Ill. last Saturday in their second non-conference defeat this season. Though the game did not affect their WIAC standings, it certainly made an impression on the team.

One of those seniors, goalie Pam Luckow, played the entire game between the pipes and earned a shut-out after capturing two saves. Senior forward Jennisa Koch added her first goal when her shot rolled off Eagle

goalie Brittnei Buechel's fingertips with two minutes left.

"I give La Crosse a lot of credit; they came out hard in the first half, played us hard and we just continued to dominate in the second half and it showed," Miech said.

The Pointers host their next game against UW-Platteville on Saturday afternoon. It is parents' day for the team and Miech said the team will have a little extra incentive to strut their stuff in their fourth WIAC match-up of the season.

"We're undefeated in conference but it's only the third game so there is a long way to go yet," said Miech. "We take it one game at a time."



Photo courtesy of Sports Information

Amanda Prawat scored a hat trick in the UW-LaCrosse game on Wednesday. She has 11 goals and four assists for the Pointers.



Photo by Sam Krezinski

The Pointers are undefeated in the WIAC conference and take on UW-Platteville on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 4 p.m.

## Davis and the darkness

**Steve Apfel**  
COLUMNIST

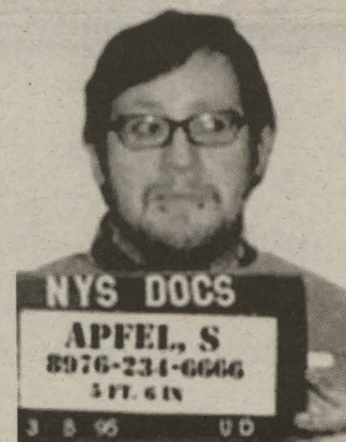
On Tuesday, Lane Kiffin became the latest in a long line of former Oakland Raiders coaches only four games into the season. Yes, the Raiders are off to another 0-4 start. Yes, Kiffin had a very public feud with most everyone in the Raiders organization. But something was telling me there was more to this firing. Then I saw a picture of Raiders' president and general manager Al Davis and it dawned on me. Al Davis is with the Empire.

Let's be honest here. Just look at him! Those beady little eyes and saggy skin, his ruthless takeover of the Raiders' organization and his firing of anybody who disagrees with him. Sound familiar? Picture him in a hooded robe. How about now? Does the name Emperor Palpatine mean anything to you? Al Davis is trying to destroy the Jedi Order!

I hear what you're saying. You're trying to tell me that he's just a crazy old man on a power trip in the business world. And all I can say is, tell that to the hordes of Jedi children

that Al Davis has had slaughtered! Tell that to Anakin Skywalker who was turned to the dark side by Davis and eventually became Darth Vader. If I was Darren McFadden, I'd try to get out of Oakland fast before a light saber duel in a lava pit left me horribly disfigured and in need of robotic parts.

Basically, Lane Kiffin is now free to join the Rebel Alliance and fight to rid the world of the evil of Al Davis. I hear Chewbacca and Han Solo are already enlisting in next year's draft.



## Senior on the Spot

### Luke Frisch - Football

**Name:** Luke Frisch

**Major:** Broadfield Social Science

**Hometown:** Nekoosa... a.k.a. Smellville

**Do you have any nicknames?** Stoogie, FriTCH, Bullfrog, Alfalfa

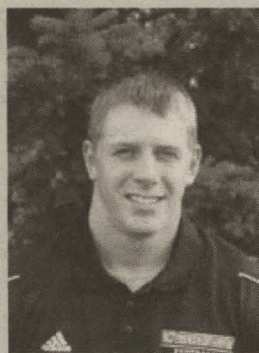
**What is your favorite Pointer sports memory?** When Beau Luce forgot his shoulder pads at Stout and had to wear XXXXL lineman pads. Too funny

**What is your most embarrassing sports moment?** I was embarrassed for Beau.

**Have any game-day rituals or superstitions?** I feed McDonalds to the homeless man that lives in the Schmeekle Reserve bathroom.

**Who is your sports hero?** Kirby Puckett.

**What is your sport philosophy?** Don't bite off more than you can chew.



## UW-SP

### Women's Soccer:

Offense- Leah Larson

Defense- Pam Luckow

Volleyball: Jennifer Rueter

Men's Cross Country: John Pliska

Women's Cross Country: Kelly Haen

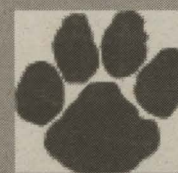
Women's Golf: Jessica Urban

### Football:

Offense-Jared Beckwith

Special Team-Brandon Stroik

Defense- Brian Bailey



## Athletes of the Week



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## Students given opportunity to learn about mushrooms

**Gregg Jennings**

SCIENCE & OUTDOORS REPORTER

Dr. Terese Barta held a mushroom identification workshop Sept. 20 and 21. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point had 11 students from various majors including biology, microbiology, and forest management attend.

Half a day was spent in the classroom learning the basic identification skills, followed by two days of collecting and identifying mushrooms.

Dr. Barta said she had taught a more in-depth mushroom course for many years. During that time she noticed the students were mostly interested in identifying mushrooms.

This was the first time she offered the mushroom course as a weekend workshop. Friday afternoon, Dr. Barta used a PowerPoint presentation as a visual aid in her instructions. Historically, the British had phobias about mushrooms and mostly avoided them. Asians, on the other hand, were on the other end of the spectrum. They saw all food as medicinal. The use of mushrooms and plants was being lost, so Dr. Barta decided to teach courses in mushroom identification to fill that niche.

Dr. Barta described the mushrooms as a fleshy fruiting body of certain fungi. She also said they are eukaryotic (have rigid cell walls), heterotrophic (ooze down to absorb nutrients) and produce billions of spores that are carried by the wind.

The toadstool image of a mushroom is what most people and mycologists see as mushrooms. However, slime molds and those that look like brains are examples that are lumped in with mushrooms, but are not. There are over 10,000 species of the fleshy fungi. Only one-tenth of one percent of mushrooms are poisonous. Mushrooms contribute to plant and human health and are used as dyes, food and medicine. Mushrooms are also used to break down the lignin in wood fibers into pulp instead of using chemicals. Then the pulp is made into paper. The students were introduced to the many different phyla of mushrooms, but the focus was only on two of them: basidiomycota and ascomycota.

Saturday and Sunday the class spent the mornings searching for and collecting mushrooms in Schmeekle Reserve and Standing Rock County Park, respectively. There were yel-

low, lavender, streaked, shelf like and shaggy varieties.

Picking a mushroom causes little harm to the overall organism. It does about as much damage as picking an apple from a tree.

After lunch both days the class



Photo courtesy of Gregg Jennings

Students identified many mushrooms such as this "Inky Cap" during Dr. Terese Barta's workshop.

met at the microbiology lab in the Trainer Natural Resources building to identify the mushrooms. There are many things to look at when identifying mushrooms. A person needs to look very closely at all the details including the size, the cap shape, habitat, gill pores or teeth, margin of the cap, scales if it has them, how the gills are attached, gill spacing and spore color and size.

Spores may need to be observed under a microscope. Other tests may need to be conducted to narrow a species down even further using the Melzer's reaction or the iron sulfate tests. With Dr. Barta's help, the budding mycologists identified their specimens and entered the information into their journals, complete with sketches and notes.

Dr. Barta sautéed Shitake, oyster, portabella and wild shaggy mane mushrooms for the students to taste. If you would like to know more about mushrooms or want to know when the next mushroom identification workshop will be, contact Dr. Barta at [tbarta@uwsp.edu](mailto:tbarta@uwsp.edu).

## the green beat

### Jordan Park offers something for all

**Katie Boseo**

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The school year is always an exciting but often stressful time for students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Though many students know about the opportunities for some rest and relaxation during their free time near campus, few know of the fun and enjoyment that can be experienced just two miles out of Stevens Point. Jordan Park, located northeast of Stevens Point on Highway Y, offers 271 acres of trees, beaches, campsites and water.

The most visible aspect of the park is the 85-acre Jordan Pond and the Plover River which flows through it. This aesthetically alluring waterway allows for canoeing, kayaking, boating, fishing and, though it may seem far off, ice fishing. A sandy beach occupies a small section of the waterfront, allowing visitors to swim or enjoy a lazy day of sunbathing.

Jordan Park boasts sand volleyball courts near their swimming beach. The park also offers a baseball field for your group. If you're still a kid at heart, the playground is the place for you.

There are four campgrounds at Jordan Park. One of those campgrounds is the main campground, with firewood available at an extra cost. If roughing it isn't your idea of

a good time, the main campground offers electricity for an extra fee. Free showers are available for all of the campgrounds. The other three are canoe campsites that are adjacent to the Plover River for easy access to the water. However, if you plan on camping, you must notify the park office seven days in advance. Camping fees are \$14 per night and campgrounds are open until Oct. 31.

If you are a person that enjoys learning outside of the classroom environment Jordan Park has a quaint and informational nature center. Watch bees make honey in an enclosed viewing case or learn about the varying soil types throughout the state and take your guess at identifying animal pelts. Much more is also available at the nature center and it can also be used as a great idea generator for environmental education majors, as many of the displays are geared for young learners.

For those seniors nearing the end of their college career, there are multiple pavilions that are available to rent for graduation parties. Numerous picnic benches adorn the park, making it a great location to enjoy a picnic lunch.

The Portage County Parks Office can be contacted at 715-346-1433 or [parks@co.portage.wi.us](mailto:parks@co.portage.wi.us) to make your reservations for campgrounds, graduation parties or any other requests you may have.

## New study abroad opportunity

**Ben Haight**

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Paper Science and Engineering Department is offering a new international program with the University of Applied Sciences-Munich, Germany.

After receiving a four-year grant from Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, UW-SP is the lead school in the Trans Atlantic Paper Science dual degree program.

Twelve students from UW-SP and 12 students from North Carolina State University will study abroad in Munich, Germany, and several other European universities. Consequently, there will be 24 European students studying at UW-SP in this student exchange.

The program will allow students to earn a dual Bachelor of Science

degree while gaining valuable international experience. Students will travel abroad their junior or senior year for one academic year. They will have one semester of study in Germany and one semester of study in Finland. Students will take part in an internship abroad and an online discussion forum that will include all students participating in the forum.

The TAPS grant will pay up to \$12,000 per student for travel costs, room, board and language classes. Interested students can contact the architects of the program, Dr. Gerry Ring at [gring@uwsp.edu](mailto:gring@uwsp.edu) or Bobbi Kubish at [bkubish@uwsp.edu](mailto:bkubish@uwsp.edu) and fill out an application. The program is also looking for someone to set up the online discussion for the student exchange program.



Photo courtesy of [www.co.portage.wi.us/](http://www.co.portage.wi.us/)

Jordan Park is a great place to relax from the stresses of school.



# Science & Outdoors

## Schmeeckle offers many opportunities for students

Jacob Mathias  
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The multiple hiking trails, abundant wildlife and visitor's center are what constitute the 275 acres that make up the Schmeckle Reserve and two-thirds of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point campus.

The Schmeckle Reserve was created to protect and restore native ecological communities, serve as an outdoor classroom for students and teachers and provide recreational opportunities to all visitors.

The Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center is located along Northpoint Drive and is the starting point for visitors to the reserve. The center provides multiple services and information resources for visitors to the reserve.

The center houses an information desk which provides visitors with basic information about trail conditions, upcoming public events and wildlife sightings in the reserve.

The Visitor Center also has a gift shop. The shop includes outdoor themed literature, stuffed animals, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and artistry from local artists. Local artists provide the gift shop with pottery, jewelry, woodwork, paintings and photographs.

Multiple interactive exhibits help to educate visitors about the reserve and the wildlife. The Visitor Center has a museum and other informational exhibits that range from topics of Native Americans, wolves and hunting.

The center provides the public with many educational public programs. Upcoming programs include "Constellations" at 7 p.m. Oct. 13, "Fall Migration" at 7 p.m. Oct. 15, "Fall Colors" at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 16, "Leave No Trace" at 5:15 p.m. Oct. 20, and the annual Halloween party at 7 p.m. on Oct. 25.

The Visitor Center also houses a meeting room that can be used for university classes or as a gathering place for large groups. The room is provided at no charge for non-profit and government groups.

Along with the visitors center, the reserve itself provides recreation and relaxation for its visitors. The reserve is crisscrossed with almost five miles of trails and connects directly to the Green Circle Trail, a 30-mile trail that loops around Stevens Point. The headquarters of the Green Circle trail are also located within the Visitor Center.

The trails are open for walking, jogging, hiking, snow shoeing and cross country skiing. To help preserve the area, motorized vehicles are not allowed in the reserve.

The Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day of the week.



Photo courtesy of Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center

Schmeckle Reserve is a great place for students to learn and relax.



Photo by Steve Seamandel

## "UW-SP Purple, Gold and Green" Sustainability Fair

Friday, Oct. 3 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. in The Dreyfus University Center Theater, Encore and Concourse

\* Chris Paine, director of "Who Killed the Electric car?" will speak at noon

\* Compost TEA machine demonstrations

\* Prize give-aways, including a Trek bike

\* Entire event will be carbon-neutral

\* Campus "green tours" and demonstration

\* Mock "green room" display

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**Belize and Mexico** - Explore the Yucatan Peninsula, biological reserves, national parks, rainforests, pine forests, a bat cave (over 10 million, 7 different species), Belize Zoo and Education Center, snorkel in the second largest barrier reef in the world and climb breathtaking Mayan temples

**Costa Rica** - Explore banana plantations and coffee fields, national parks, volcanoes and hot springs cloud, rain and dry forests, biological reserves, participate in a canopy walk, raft on the Sararapiqui River, stay and interact with a Costa Rican host family and camp on the beach of Santa Rosa while looking for sea turtles

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# Food, friendship and peace at the Festival of India

**Leah Gernetzke**  
THE POINTER  
LGERN177@UWSP.EDU

The public is invited to Stevens Point Area Senior High from 3 to 9 p.m. this Saturday, Oct. 4, to enjoy food, friendship and peace at "A World of Change: 21st Annual Festival of India."

Tickets are \$8 for students with an ID and can be purchased at six locations: the Stevens Point Co-op, Kindred Spirit Books, Point Motel, Econo Lodge, AmericInn hotel in Plover and Days Inn in Wausau. Alternatively, tickets can also be purchased online at [www.uwsp.edu/multicultural/SHAMA/](http://www.uwsp.edu/multicultural/SHAMA/).

All proceeds from the tickets go towards the festival's sponsor, Shama, Inc. Shama, which means "flame of a lamp," is a non-profit organization that primarily aims to empower low income Indian women and their families through scholarships and social programs.

According to the Web site, each letter in Shama also represents ways in which the organization hopes to spread light to some of the most poverty-stricken and destitute areas in India. S, for example, stands for scholarships, H for home industry, A

for activism, M for medical and AIDS awareness and A for America-India alliances.

"We are committed to eradicate world hunger and dire poverty by programs aimed at education and self-empowerment of poor communities ... through our joint grass root efforts," said UW-SP's South Asia Society co-advisor, Jyoti Chander.

One of Shama, Inc.'s most successful initiatives is Shama Women Empowered by Living Loans, or

growing," said Chander.

Two other programs that have enjoyed enormous success include ShamaKids and Women on Wheels.

ShamaKids matches sponsors with children. The sponsor donates money for a child's medical examinations, tutoring, meals and school supplies. This program has already benefitted 300 children from low income families that would not have otherwise been able to afford an education.

Women on Wheels trains low income women of New Delhi in machine repair and taxi driving. The ultimate goal is to start the first women's garage in New Delhi.

The people at Shama Inc., according to the Web site, "[F]ully believe that the Indian woman is strong, perseverant and very capable of responsibly leading and supporting the family. We work to help women develop a voice we consider essential in their political, personal and physical rights."

The festival is also a celebration of the 139th anniversary of Mohandas K. Gandhi's birthday. In commemoration, Professors Arthur Herman and James Missey will give a workshop entitled, "M.K. Gandhi on justice and non-violence: Some Gandhian solu-

tions to 21st century problems." Other features and events at the festival that celebrate this influential social leader include an essay contest, open readings and a film screening.

Other workshops include how to wear a sari and other Indian clothing, folk dancing, yoga, Indian cooking, henna painting and much, much more. A free pre-stage performance will be held as well, followed by several feature stage performances.

The menu includes tandoori chicken tikka, channa massala, navrat-tan korma (mixed vegetables with Indian cheese), basmati rice biryani, naan (flat bread), rayta (cucumber salad), chutney and achar, mango ice cream and assorted beverages.

For more information on this cultural experience, go to [www.uwsp.edu/multicultural/SHAMA/](http://www.uwsp.edu/multicultural/SHAMA/).



Photo courtesy of Jyoti Chander

Associate lecturer of dance, Pam Luedtke giving a workshop on Rajasthani folk dance.

ShamaWELL. This program donates interest-free micro-loans to Indian women to enable self-employment. When a woman repays the loan, the money is given to a different woman to enable her to become self-employed, thereby building healthy, connected communities.

"Our Micro-loan WELL program has made difference in the lives of hundreds of women so far and is



Photo courtesy of Jyoti Chander

Bhangra club performing for crowd.

## Next Term, Study Abroad in Paradise! UWSP's Semester in New Zealand



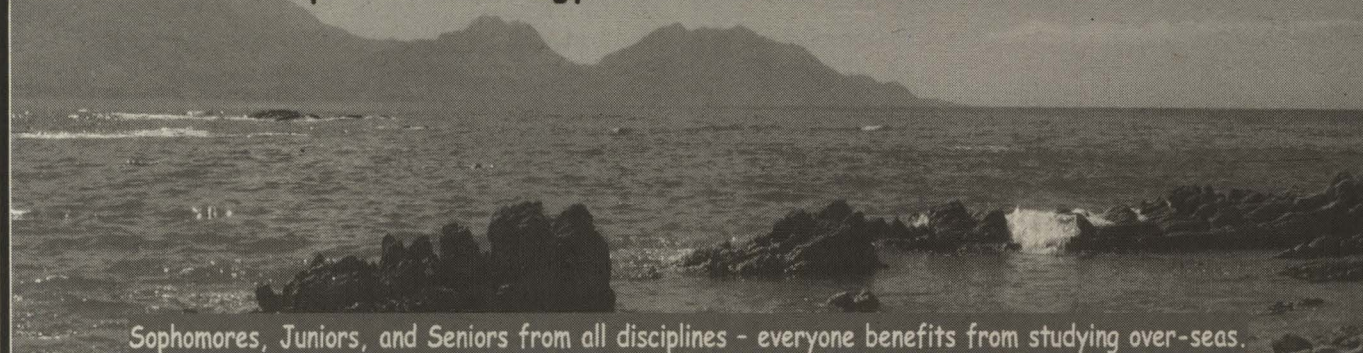
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### Other upcoming Arts and Culture Events:

#### Thursday, Oct. 2:

Indian taco sale, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., DUC. Sponsored by American Indian and Engineering Society.

Pasiflora with Russell Pederson, 8 p.m., The Encore. Sponsored by Centertainment Productions.

#### Friday, Oct. 3:

Green Tea Celtic music, 8 p.m., The Encore. Sponsored by Centertainment Productions.

Dozyniki Polish Festival, downtown Stevens Point.

#### Saturday, Oct. 4:

Dozyniki Polish Festival.

Chef on the Square, downtown Stevens Point square.

The Breakfast, 8 p.m. The Encore. Sponsored by Centertainment Productions.

#### Wednesday, Oct. 8

Poetry Slam, 8 p.m. The Encore, Sponsored by SGA.



## Arts &amp; Culture

## Add some swing to your step at Any Swing Goes

**Sam Krezinski**  
THE POINTER  
SKREZ305@UWSP.EDU

Swing dancing brings students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point together.

A few years ago dance aficionados created the student organization Any Swing Goes. Since then, students have carried on this passion to learn the fundamentals of swing dancing, mambo, tango, the waltz and more.

Alex Raabe, this year's president

and an instructor, said that it's a good social network for UW-SP students.

Raabe said he has almost four years of dance experience in swing, salsa, tango, hustle and more.

"I always teach, whether in class or in the real world," he said.

Amber Wuttke, the organization's secretary and an instructor, has years of dance experience as well, from musicals, ballet intensives and dance classes.

Wuttke got involved in Any Swing Goes her freshmen year. Now as a junior, she enjoys giving

more students the opportunity to learn simple social dances for free.

Any Swing Goes is not limited to dance majors. Raabe is a psychology major, Wuttke a theater major and the diversity continues.

The people involved in this organization connect and learn from each other as they are learning things themselves.

No matter what the background or previous experience in dance Raabe said "People are connecting while they're learning."

Raabe also encourages people to talk to new people and pair up newer dancers with more experienced ones.

"People get excited when they learn the steps," said Wuttke.

Practices are at 7:30 p.m. on

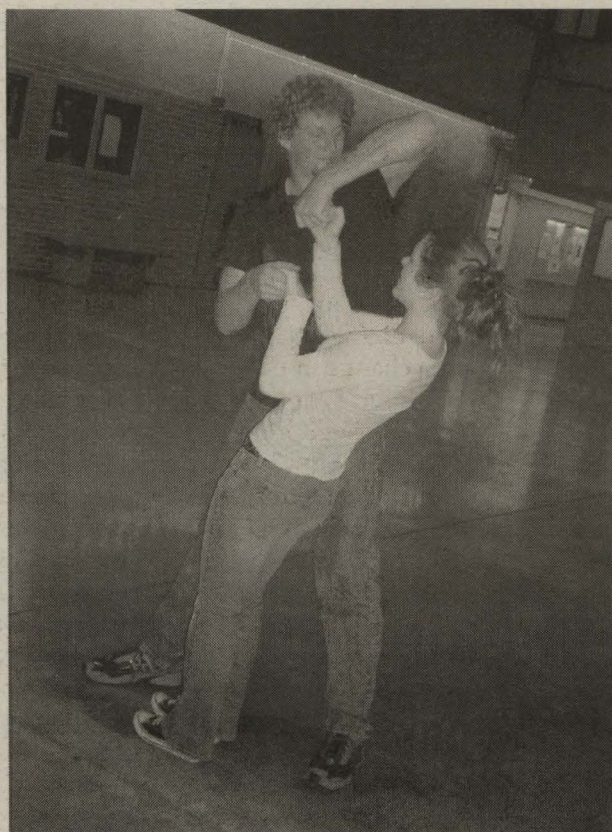


Photo by Sam Krezinski

Alex Raabe and Amber Wuttke add some swing to their steps on campus in the Allen Center.

Tuesdays in the South Laird room of the DUC, and 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays in studio B of the Allen Center.

## One-man band Unknown Component seeks to be known

**Chris Cahill**  
THE POINTER  
CCAHI417@UWSP.EDU

Unknown Component is a one-man band featuring singer/songwriter Keith Lynch from Des Moines, Iowa.

Lynch, classified under the indie rock genre by contemporaries, has released five albums over the past five years. His most recent release is "In Direct Communication" (2008).

Some reviewers place Unknown Component amongst Radiohead, Curt Cobain, and Elliot Smith, even praising Lynch as one of the Midwest's best rising artists.

Although particular parallels can be drawn between these more prominent bands, I think true fans of these bands would find this comparison misleading. I, for one, consider Lynch's voice more akin to an incredibly atonal and monotonous Bob Dylan cover.

In all honesty, my first opinion of the album was not one of praise, but after listening to it multiple times, I will say that this work did slowly grow on me.

"In Direct Communication" contains ten total tracks, most of which highlight Lynch's affinity for simple songwriting. Simple beats, guitar riffs and simple vocals are the common theme throughout the majority of the album.

For being an independently constructed album, it is apparent that the album is put together remarkably

well. The songs "Retrospectively Speaking" and "Somewhere a Light Has Gone Out" feature some nice keyboard riffs in conjunction with Lynch's decent guitar skills. Lynch's song "The Inconsistent System" features these guitar riffs in coordination with a nice bass line.

All in all, there seem to be many components (no pun intended) in each of Lynch's songs, which is impressive for a one-man band.

On another note, most of the lyrics to Unknown Component's songs are enjoyable and invoke thought in the listener.

The lyrics were creative as well and I think would have more potential if coupled with different musical themes. For example, the lyrics in the song "Into the Sun" are as follows:

"It's about the confusion in the messages now, who has won/ I feel like nothing's changing, there's just more aggravation/Cover your eyes to block the sun."

I would not recommend anyone to purchase the album without first listening to a few of Lynch's songs, which can now be done through iTunes or Unknown Component's Web site.

If you are interested in Unknown Component, go ahead and check out the Web site at [www.unknowncomponent.com](http://www.unknowncomponent.com) or the Myspace site [www.myspace.com/unknowncomponent](http://www.myspace.com/unknowncomponent).

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## Letters &amp; Opinion

# Letters

## to the Editor

### It's still the economy

The economy. It is always a key voting issue, but this election year, the need for a sea change in policy is more crucial than ever. Furthermore, it is essential that college students continue to have access to low interest student loans as well as affordable tuition in order to have a skilled workforce to fill the high-tech jobs that will take our economy forward.

In the past four years, we have seen the results of deregulation on every kind of business. Today, it is essentially up to the states to decide what interest rates can be charged on student loans. Thankfully, and in no small way this is a credit to several students who made their voices heard on this issue the interest rates on student loans in Wisconsin hover around 6 percent.

### Real world issues for young people include health insurance

After a summer of carefree fun, it's time for the class of 2008 to get back to work. Or, at least, to start looking for work. But with hard economic times, many young people, even those who have been out of school for a while, are finding that getting a job is hard work.

Often the last thing on the minds of the young and seemingly invincible who are searching for employment is health insurance. Yet, no matter how important everything else may seem, there is no question that health insurance should be a top priority.

What actually happens after the excitement of graduation when young adults realize they may no longer be covered by their parents' health plans? All too often, the answer is that many of them join the ranks of America's uninsured.

Unfortunately, some also will find that their perceived invincibility isn't enough to pay for unforeseen medical bills from an accident, illness or emergency that can quickly drain a small or non-existent bank account.

A national study just released found that more than half of all young people have gone without health insurance at some point in the past five years, including 75 percent of those who are now carrying medical debt.

In fact, young adults are among the largest and fastest-growing groups of Americans lacking health insurance today. According to 2006 Census Bureau data, nearly 30 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds have no health insurance. If you factor in the Americans age 25 to 34 who also are without health insurance, young adults represent over 40 percent of America's uninsured population.

In Minnesota, it is a different story. One of my cousins who attended college in the state is facing student loan interest rates of 13 percent. That is getting close to the kind of interest charged by credit card companies.

What makes matters worse is the other economic story, the one each person finds out for him or herself when they search for employment. In these desperate times, employers have a large pool of workers to choose from, but potential employees have fewer and fewer employment options to try for. This situation has made it very easy for employers to abuse their power over workers. More and more small business owners fail to pay their employees. In today's economy, knowing how to file a labor standards complaint with the state is essential. Labor organizations are being suppressed more and more, costing employees access to benefits and safe work conditions.

This election year, we need

to vote for our economic security. One candidate has taken a stance against deregulation, has promised to encourage labor unions, offers real financial aid with a plan that would ensure the first \$4000 of tuition for everyone wishing to attend university, and supports equal pay for equal work. That candidate is Barack Obama.

We simply cannot afford more of the same. We need to know that we can pay off our student loans through gaining meaningful employment. We need to know that a lending agency cannot simply raise interest rates at will. We need a leader who will create initiatives to create good paying jobs in renewable energy. We need Obama to win!

-Jennifer J. Dolan  
graduate student

reality today is that no one can afford to be without health insurance coverage, and there are choices in the marketplace. Certainly, the last thing a recent graduate with limited income needs is to be saddled with medical debt before he or she even has a chance to get on solid financial ground.

-Wendy Arnone is president and CEO of UnitedHealthcare in Wisconsin

-Rich Collins is CEO of Golden Rule Insurance Company and president of UnitedHealthcare's individual line of business

See page 14 for more  
Letters to the Editor.

### THE POINTER

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# Letters & Opinion



**Steve Apfel**  
COLUMNIST

## High Five: Steve does the crazy dance

Hey there, party animals! I'd really like to congratulate us on having the most successful party the Knights of Columbus hall has ever seen. Can you believe how wild and crazy we got? I'm still in disbelief myself! My special lady said everybody was even nicer than I had described. Avra said she got some great pictures of everybody, well at least when she wasn't showing off her mad breakdancing skills! I've never seen someone do that many headspins in a night! I've also heard through the grapevine that some of the better karaoke performances might end up on YouTube as well,

so watch out! The people over at the KC hall even said we did such a good job cleaning up after ourselves that we not only got our security deposit back, but they said to come back anytime! Great job everybody!

You'll have to excuse me this week, my dear friends. I'm afraid I'm in a bit of a mood. I had prepared to tell you all about the exciting things that have happened to me in the past week, but now I'm just not sure I'm up to it. I can't talk about how exciting it is that the White Sox are in the playoffs, not when I'm this riled up. All I can do is sit here with my angry music coming through my headphones. I don't think you'll want to talk to me when I'm listening to my N.W.A. I get pretty intense.

What has me feeling so acrimonious? You want to know what really makes me this irate? What on Earth could make me, your friend, so shirty, waxy, indignant and all of the rest of the synonyms listed under "angry" by Webster in his thesaurus? I'll tell you what really makes my blood boil!

Here I sit in the computer lab in

the LRC as I do several times every week. I'm minding my own business, trying to tell all of you about my week and I just can't concentrate. There is crunching. Loud crunching.

Apparently the young lady two computers down can't read the signs posted all over the lab saying that food and drink are not allowed. Or maybe she has the audacity to think that the signs don't apply to her and her baby carrots. Well friend, I've got news for you. Produce doesn't exempt you from the rules! And don't try to tell me that I'm only hearing the sound of you "crunching numbers." I thought of that joke already, but thanks to your incessant munching, I can't even enjoy comedy gold such as that.

I bet this goes much farther than your bovine-esque smacking. I'm getting the distinct feeling that you've been sullyng my world for some time now. This morning when I was crossing Portage Street, I bet you were the one driving the car that tried to run me over, weren't you? You fiend!

Let's not even begin to speak

about the horrors you've tried to exact upon the rest of humankind, as I've now figured out that you are pure evil. Cancer? Your fault. Starvation? Yeah, that's you too. The rise of Miley Ray Cyrus was your doing. How do you sleep at night?

These things don't even matter right now. All I can focus on is your crunching. And your cell phone that plays fifteen seconds of Avril Lavigne every time you get a text message that I'm sure only says "Lolz" because your friend, who is just as evil as you, thought your non-sequitur about your professor's clashing wardrobe was just uproariously funny. It wasn't.

I can't even stand how evil you are with your crunching. I'm sorry friends, but the rudeness of this student has driven me to ignore you this week. I'm sure this one bad apple can't spoil the whole bunch of students though. I'll make it up to you next week. And as for you, my crunching nemesis, I hope you take the time to learn some manners.



## Desperate? Maybe. Crazy? No!



**Lady V**  
LADYVUWSP@YAHOO.COM

A phenomenon that is called speed dating really made me realize the different types of people that are out there. Metrosexuals, freaks, geeks, just your all-around putzes and maybe one nice guy. I know after a while everyone I dated started to act the same, enjoy the same movies, even prefer the same positions in bed.

Speed dating is a great chance to meet new people in the area. Once in a while, there is even speed dating on campus. That's a great idea. Speed dating on campus is a great solution to the monotony. I find the deeper I get into my major, a lot of the guys are gay, which limits the chances of a quick slap and tickle.

I started finding the same types of people only because I was looking in all the same places. And because of the sticky places we have here in Point someone is less likely to find a soul mate in the nasty local haunts.

Every three minutes a new person sits down in front of me. We are

supposed to make a "conversation," including broad get-to-know-you questions, and vomit as much information about ourselves as we could. Is it realistic to make a judgment call about someone I have just met for three minutes, let alone, make a decision on if I want to see him again? Will he even mark yes to me?

Oops. We do this all the time: on the square, in church, sleeping in class. They are called first impressions. Is speed dating really all that crazy?

I personally think it can be kinky. No, not Pam Anderson or even Ron Jeremy freaky. I love meeting someone new that sparks an interest and make up dirty fantasies in my mind. Who knows what could come of this night? Speed dating is a lot safer than bringing home some random from the bar. You aren't even obligated to sleep with these guys. Score! Well, unless you want to...

Seriously, while on the dating scene, everyone should try this at least once. Or twice. You never know who will excite you down there. Who can pass up a chance to talk about themselves with someone who hopefully has no idea your last relationship involved something your mother doesn't even want to know? And just pray you don't know anything about him either. Well if you do, he doesn't have to know.

Think of it this way: you can meet a bunch of new people for free or pay for six months of e-Harmony.

## Your SGA: What's happenin'

The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Student Government Association is geared up for the 2008 presidential election in Nov! SGA has been working hard to register every student on campus, which is the goal of SGA's Get Out The Vote campaign. There will be plenty of opportunities to get registered as there will be people going around with clipboards, stopping by student organization meetings, and tabling in the DUC concourse up until Oct. 15, the last day to pre-register. Interested in registering or helping out? Stop by the SGA office in 052 of the Dreyfus University Center!

Student Activism Week is coming up Oct. 6 through 10! Activities throughout the week will include a World Habitat Day celebration, genocide letter-writing workshop,

open mic/poetry slam, Get Out the Vote and Support Your Local Skate Park concert, communication-related workshops and much more! See SGA newsletter or stop by the SGA office for more details!

On Friday, Oct. 3, there will be a large sustainability fair from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the DUC called "UW-SP - Purple, Gold and Green." Event activities will include keynote speaker Chris Paine, director of "Who Killed the Electric Car?", a mock "green room" display, compost TEA machine demonstrations, campus green tours, local vendors, free food and prizes (including a bike give-away) and much more! For more information, contact Erica Berg at eberg003@uwsp.edu.

## To the Editor:

Thank you for featuring the article titled "General Education Proposal Draft Released" by Jacob Mathias in *The Pointer* (Sept. 25, 2008). The article is informative and well-written.

I believe that a liberal education is a privilege and of utmost importance in the university of the early twenty-first century. To offer some perspective, I was an undergraduate at Ohio State in the early 1960s, earning a Bachelor of Science in music education. In addition to education and music, I studied general degree requirements in three areas - humanities, social science and natural science. Thus I got to study philosophy, art history, English literature, zoology, astronomy, sociology and psychology. I learned critical thinking in my sociology and

English composition classes. I feel that these subjects greatly added to my quality of education, and highly recommend a similar approach for the General Education Program at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

For example, music subjects that could add significantly to one's education would include computer applications in music, music theory, music history and music performance. My daughter, Sulina, is a senior majoring in biology at UW-Madison. She has taken several music courses and enjoyed them immensely. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

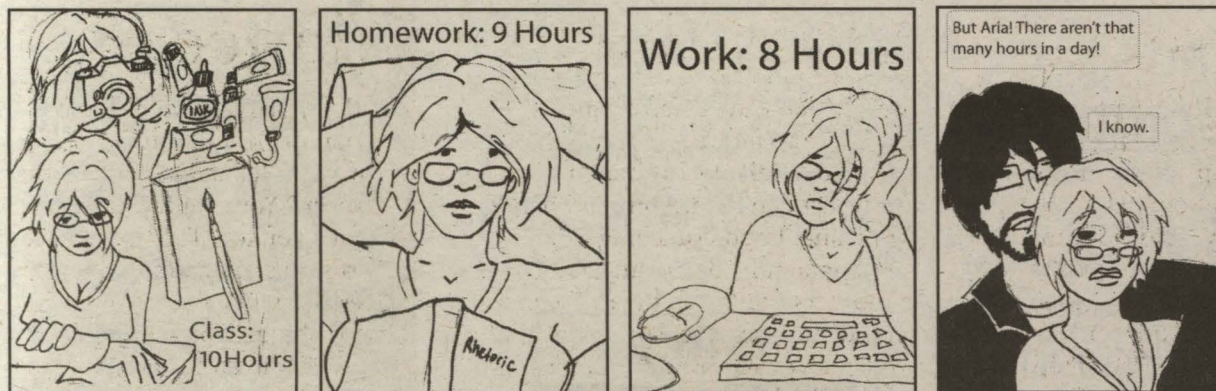
-Geary H. Larrick, D.M.A.  
UW-SP Retired Assistant  
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## Comics

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Joy Ratchman



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from **Economy** pg. 1

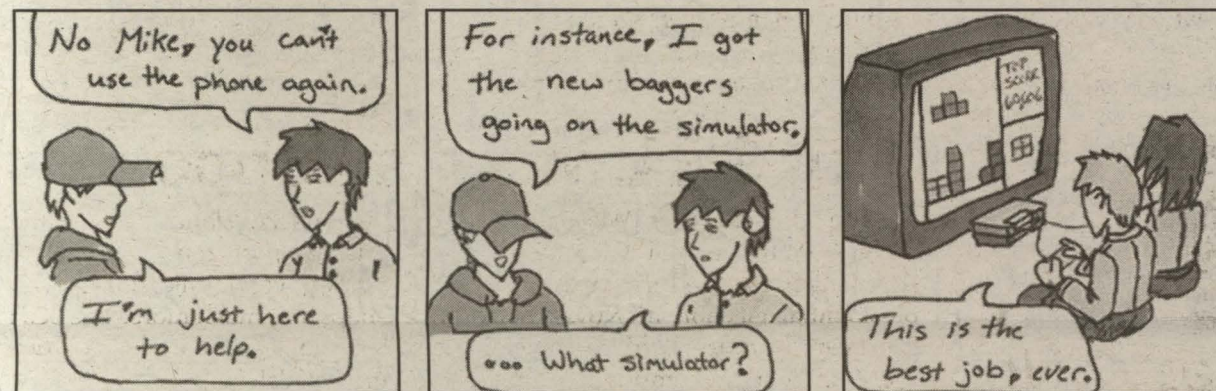
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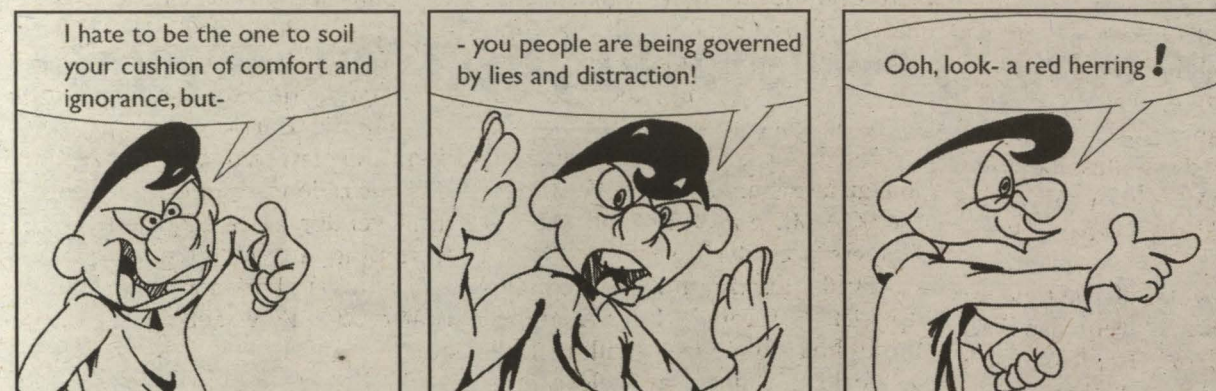
## Where I Come From

Bryan Novak



## Roach

Dustin Hauge

from **Food** pg. 1

will no longer be contracted with Chartwells. All food services would become internal.

"Nothing has been decided yet," said assistant to the vice chancellor of student affairs, John Birrenkott and member of the RFP committee. Birrenkott predicts the decision should be made in the next couple weeks.

"We were hearing from the students. They were looking for change," Birrenkott said. His "goal here is to have better service to the students."

"We don't have a bad relationship with Chartwells," Birrenkott said. "But the campus is moving towards sustainability. Going to self-operating would remove having to comply with the corporate regulations of a company the university has a contract with. We would be responsible for our own food ... Be our own boss [and] have our own control."

In the University of Wisconsin system, four other schools have a self-operating food service.

Madison, Milwaukee, Stout and Platteville have had this type of food service operation for quite some time.

Stout and Platteville are closer to UW-SP in size and can be utilized by the administration as a model for UW-SP. This would also provide an opportunity for a consortium of buyers.

If a self-operating food service were chosen, prices of the food for students would not change. Students would also account for 70 to 80 percent of the work hours each week.

"We aren't profit driven," said Birrenkott. At least breaking even or having a little bit of cushion for equipment and maintenance is ideal for the RFP committee. This option would also create a large amount of jobs available to UW-SP students."

UW-SP would have to solicit proposals from various food companies to provide food service on campus to begin next August if the self-operating option is not chosen.

"The contract ends no matter what we do," Birrenkott said, "[It is] lot of work either way."

"Getting loans, including student loans, will become increasingly difficult as banks aren't able to loan out as much money," said Ed Miller, professor of political science at UW-SP. "Many companies also need loans for paying employees when they don't have enough, with credit frozen, that won't be happening and businesses are always borrowing money."

Currently, the Congress of the United States is working to create a plan for a \$700 billion bailout that would bail out private firms of nonperforming loans and securities. The intentions of this plan are to free up money at institutions so that they may open up to providing credit again to the economy. The end result is to try to thwart any future bank failures or company closings especially to those companies and banks in which a loss would have too great of an effect on the economy.

"If this is voted down again, it could cause economic havoc far worse than what happened on Monday. Nobody knows though what will happen," said Miller.

On Wednesday night, the Senate voted 74-24 in favor of the bailout plan including additional incentives in hope that the House passes it on Friday.

Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl voted in favor of the bailout.

"The bailout plan is far from perfect, but failure to act would be disastrous. We cannot allow this crisis to worsen and bring down the country's economy and ordinary Americans whose jobs, lifelines, homes, college funds and retirements are on the line," Said Kohl in a statement. "As we move forward, we must put stronger regulations and oversight in place so we avoid a similar crisis in the future."

The other Wisconsin Senator, Russ Feingold, voted against the proposal.

"I will oppose the Wall Street bailout plan because though well-intentioned, and certainly much improved over the administration's original proposal, it remains deeply flawed," said Feingold in a statement. "It doesn't do enough to address the root cause of the credit market collapse, namely the housing crisis. Taxpayers deserve a plan that puts their concerns ahead of those who got us into this mess."

Students at UW-SP don't always see eye-to-eye with the issues brought up and proposed by Congress.

"When the government is willing to rescue me from drowning in my student loan debt, that will be the day when I support a government bailout plan," said Courtney Ryan, senior.



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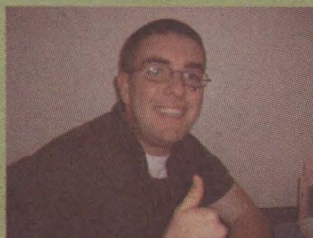
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## Pointer Poll

Do celebrity endorsements affect how you vote?



"Yes, if I respect them and look up  
to them, then I will want to vote for  
who they support." – Kelly Erdman,  
Freshman, Undecided



"No, because I am not a lemming  
and can make up my own mind." –  
Andrew Letson, Junior, Political  
Science



"No, but I think it's interesting what  
their opinions are." – Kristen Ross,  
Senior, Music Education



"They play a critical role in elections,  
because it gets students fired up  
and energized to get out the vote." –  
Zachary Vruwink, Junior, Political  
Science



"A celebrity will influence my vote as  
much as my ham sandwich will affect  
who I vote for." – Holly Ehrhardt,  
Senior, Public Administration



"I support Ron Paul." – Ham E.  
Sandwich, Sophomore, Wildlife  
Management



"Woof. The degradation of the politi-  
cal landscape into a battlefield of  
celebrity and hero worship only  
works to hurt and trivialize the integ-  
rity and ideals of democracy. Woof."  
– McKenzie Pointer, Live Mascot



"I'm afraid of Chuck Norris, therefore  
I heart Huckabee." – Courtney Ryan,  
Senior, International Studies