



True 'Maverick' speaks for Obama



Photo by Katie Leb

On Oct. 28 Students had the opportunity to listen to Sen. Feingold speak about issues pertaining to students. Sen. Obama's ideas was the main focus of the speech.

Polls, students, professors say numbers favor Obama

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There may be many excuses not to vote this upcoming election. College students traditionally have not had very high voting turnout rates, but that could change this upcoming election.

"In New Hampshire, last election John Kerry was up 12 points and lost it. This happened because the voters didn't turn out," University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point senior, Ashley Lemmer said.

Associate professor of political science John Blakeman believes that this election is essential for college students.

"College students are important in the sense that they're being ignored and maybe that will be a big wake up call four years from now," said Blakeman.

Another senior at UW-SP, James Owen, believes that the turmoil the country is in can be

aided by voting.

"I really see a need for people to vote in this election because this election is huge. With the economy being as it is, I think [Obama's] lead will increase," said Owen.

Obama leads in the U.S. by six points. His margin may continue in the upward trend as well in Wisconsin. Obama leads Wisconsin in some polls by 10 to 13 points.

"McCain has pretty much pulled out of Wisconsin; you're seeing fewer McCain television ads on TV; that should add the effect of bumping Obama up a little more in Wisconsin," said Blakeman.

Professor of political science, Ed Miller believes that Obama's lead will sustain until election day.

"The party of the administration is disadvantaged with a poor economy and a president with such a low approval rating," said Miller. "Further, Obama has inspired many people, as is illustrated by his large turnouts, and this has

attracted supporters."

Blakeman believes that Wisconsin doesn't have the same type of influence that Florida has in the electoral college.

"If McCain wins Florida, Pennsylvania or both it's going to be really close; that's where McCain is targeting his campaign money right now," said Blakeman.

Miller thinks that Palin at first stimulated the Republican Party, but now is becoming more of a nuisance to it.

"[Palin] has alienated moderates, such as independents, who have moved strongly for Obama," said Miller.

Lemmer knows that this election will decide which direction America will take next, and that it should be especially important to college students.

"With graduation coming, I think that if we don't take that step now, we could be in one

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WHERE THEY STAND 2008 Healthcare and prevention

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Healthcare is one of the most talked about topic in the election. According to the Institute of Medicine report, 18,000 Americans die each year because they cannot afford healthcare. The candidates have extensive plans to fight the rising prices and provide access for all to get the healthcare coverage that they need.

Republican John McCain believes in four pillars when it comes to healthcare: affordability, access and choice, portability and security and quality. He plans to use competition and promotion of a market strategy to fulfill these pillars of healthcare.

Also, he wants to establish a direct refundable tax credit of \$2,500 for individuals and \$5,000 for families, which would be sent directly to the insurance provider of their choice. Working with the states, McCain plans to make it so access to healthcare coverage is open for all. Also, to cut back

on errors and the cost, he plans to institute that all healthcare records be kept online.

"It really is the escalating costs of healthcare that's inflicting such pain on working families and people across this country," said McCain at the second presidential debate.

Democrat Barack Obama believes that America needs to work to strengthen employer coverage, make insurance companies accountable, ensure patient choice and provide affordable insurance for all. He wants to reduce by \$2,500 the cost of people's current healthcare and provide much lower premium healthcare for those without it.

If elected, he plans to require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions, create tax credits for small businesses to offer healthcare and create National Health Insurance Exchange with a variety of private insurance options and a new public plan to provide coverage equal to that which Congress receives at an affordable rate.

In his first year, he plans to

roll out a plan for combating HIV/AIDS in the United States and the world. He also plans to battle cancer by doubling the cancer research funding on cancer, improving the access to clinical trials and working to identify environmental factors that may be causing cancer.

"Well, I think it should be a right for every American. In a country as wealthy as ours, for us to have people who are going bankrupt because they can't pay their medical bills, for my mother to die of cancer at the age of 53 and have to spend the last months of her life in the hospital room arguing with insurance companies because they're saying that this may be a pre-existing condition and they don't have to pay her treatment, there's something fundamentally wrong about that," said Obama at the second presidential debate.

Independent Ralph Nader and Green Party Candidate

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News

Professor Bahr speaks on the economy and bailout

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Skip the rum; it's time to ask, where's all the money gone?

"I think this very important problem [to get] an understanding of," said speaker and professor of economics Kevin Bahr as he started his presentation on the economy on Oct. 28.

According to Bahr, problems in the economy began with the stock market. The stock market reflects the expectations of a company's profits. If the profits are expected to go up, then the stock goes up, but if the profits are expected to go down, then the stock goes down.

Recently, the main market that has taken a dive is the mortgage finance market. One of the problems is the sub-prime lending market has developed excessively, creating a very risky loan environment.

The homebuyer borrows money from the bank to buy their home; this becomes their mortgage. The banks then turn around and sell their mortgages to investment banks and corporations like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Sold mortgages are often split and sold as mortgage backed securities to investors.

Along of this lending and borrowing, the mortgage rates have decreased and the value of homes have increased. Now the value of a home when it's sold is most likely

less than what the people selling it had originally paid for it, causing hardship for many Americans.

All of this lead to a financial market fallout. Significant losses in the sub-prime market began in late 2007 and have continued. This led to the inevitable question of whether the government needs to step in and bail out these failing companies or not.

If the government does bail out companies using taxpayer's money, questions have been asked as to when they will stop and which companies they will bail out or leave out. On the other side, not bailing out these companies could cause greater economic damage and a lack of confidence in the United States' financial system.

"The bailout [idea] is so recent there is still much uncertainty with it," said Bahr. "Nobody really knows how this is going to play out; it's going to take some time."

Congress passed a \$700 billion bailout package to buy low valued mortgage elated assets on Oct. 3.

"There's a number of causes to this and the reason for the bailout is to get money back into the financial system," Bahr said.

Students came out for a clearer image of the current state of the economy.

"[Bahr's presentation] was really informative about how we impact the economy," said Jon Moravec, a senior business and economics major.

Revitalizations keep community state-of-the-art

Holly Ehrhardt
NEWS REPORTER

This past Monday, Oct. 27, members of the Portage County Finance Committee approved a \$100,000 allocation to the revitalization of Community Field at Goerke Park. If passed by the County Board at their general meeting on Nov. 3, the money will come from the reserves of Portage County.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point also sees the importance of the recreation center.

the gridiron.

Before the revitalization, many organized sports did not use Goerke because it lacked the condition and/or measurements of a proper playing arena for their respective sport. UW-SP soccer, rugby and lacrosse stuck to the university grounds. The YMCA utilized the field to the west of their campus located on Division Street. With new dimensions situated, multiple sports can utilize the new field.

The revitalization has received positive feedback from the UW-SP football team.

"In this day and age, kids are



Photo courtesy of Sam Feld

New field turf allows for a multitude of sports to be enjoyed by UW-SP and the community.

"One dollar of every ticket sold at a UW-SP game at Community Field will be the university's contribution," said Greg Diemer, UW-SP chief business officer.

Tim Schierl has advocated for the field's rebirth relentlessly by visiting community businesses, the Student Government Association, Stevens Point City Council and Portage County Board meetings since last year. He also has sold advertising space on the field to help increase needed funding. So far approximately \$1.3 million dollars have been spent on a new set of goalposts, a scoreboard and an AstroTurf field.

Since the completion of the AstroTurf, several football teams within Stevens Point have been given the opportunity to share the field for games that land on the same day, a liberty that was nonexistent while grass remained the main surface of

attracted to these types of facilities. I would go into homes and sit down with families, and our field was always an issue that was brought up," head coach John Miech has said. "People around the state were very knowledgeable that three teams played on this field."

Schierl is expecting the recreation economy of Stevens Point to blossom with the revitalizations. Having a field that sport teams are able to play tournaments on will bring people from other communities to Stevens Point. It is within the time of these events that visitors can also contribute to the local economy.

Other visions on Schierl's agenda are additional bleachers, upgraded lockerrooms and the possibility of a dome for year-round recreation. Community Field at Goerke Park held its first event on the AstroTurf on August 27, 2008.

Brain Damage

Halloween candy sales average about \$2 billion annually in the United States. It is the largest candy-purchasing holiday, bigger than Christmas, Easter and Valentine's Day.

Over \$1.5 billion is spent on costumes each year and more than \$2.5 billion on other Halloween paraphernalia.

The first Jack-O-Lanterns were actually turnips and originated in Ireland.

Pumpkins are not only orange; they come in blue, yellow, green and even red.

A 1995 law in Sandusky, Ohio prohibited trick-or-treating by anyone over the age of 16.

Happy Halloween! Good luck Great Pumpkin watching!!!



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Fashion bugs or dung beetles: Style on campus

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Professors sometimes notice a change in students' dress and behavior as the semester progresses. Some students throughout the semester will sit closer to another classmate. A gradual progression of different and better clothes can be apparent to professors and students alike.

"Students who have interest in a classmate will gradually start sitting closer and closer to that student and they'll start dressing nicer," University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point professor of social science Dorothy De Boer said. "I sometimes see that, and it's kind of cute. I can see classroom romances start to blossom."

There are many different sentiments with clothing, especially on campus. Some are content with clothing just keeping them warm, while others believe that it serves a different purpose.

"I only dress to impress if it's like a job interview or a presentation. Certainly your appearance does affect the way people see you, but going to

class, I want to be comfortable," UW - SP super-senior Linnea Weeden said.

Although clothes that are worn are often based on a student's temperament, there may be other factors involved.

"In my classes at 8 a.m., I have sweatpants on, and then later on I'll wear jeans and a t-shirt or sweat-shirt," said UW-SP senior Danielle McDonald.

Time and sleep are things all students try to balance and conquer, but many struggle to perfect at universities.

"Most of our students come roughly from similar social and economic backgrounds, so clothing decisions may end up being made due to time," said De Boer. "It also may come down to who made the sweatpants too."

The need to wear name brand clothing may not be as prevalent as it was in middle or high school, but this doesn't mean it has been erased completely.

"It's a vicious cycle. Everybody buys name brand clothing because they want to fit in with everybody else," said Weeden. "Name brand

clothing companies in return charge more because there is such a high demand for it."

McDonald agrees that these name brand clothing companies aren't a huge deal to her. She believes there is something else more important.

"I'm in higher level classes. Most of my classes are for those who want to be teachers; we want to look professional," said McDonald.

McDonald also thinks that as temperatures drop, sweatpants will be more widespread throughout the student body.

"I don't think students should be so focused on their image; we're here to learn," said Weeden. "I don't think it should be the most important thing. Go to class and be comfortable and not have to worry about getting up an extra hour early just to make yourself look pretty."

A lot of college students don't have a lot of money to go shopping for new clothes. Students resort to shopping at thrift stores to find "new" clothing.

"I think we should recycle our clothes; what's junk to one person is treasure to somebody else. If you

don't like it, pass it on to somebody else to enjoy it," said Weeden.

De Boer sees a lot more freshmen and underclassmen dressing nicer, but as students get older they tend to care less and less.

"When I was an undergrad, I cared my first year of school, after that I didn't care," said De Boer. "I care so little about fashion and clothes I don't even notice it; it's just never been a huge priority to me."

This is quite a change from 40 years ago, where all students would dress what we would call today 'professionally' all the time.

"If I'm feeling lazy, I'll just throw sweatpants on, or sometimes you have to dress up for something specific," said McDonald.

This is common for most students on campus. Professors generally notice when a student dresses in business attire, such as a suit and tie or a dress or skirt.

"Occasionally someone shows up very well dressed up, and I might notice that and comment on that," said De Boer.

Bicycle parking not intended for university ramps

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Handicap ramps around campus are being blocked by bicycles locked up alongside the rails. As the peak season for biking to classes comes and goes, students are urged to abstain from locking their bikes up anywhere other than the bike racks.

The biggest area of conflict is the ramp on the west side of the

Learning Resource Center. The west ramp is already too steep and narrow for wheelchair users to navigate, much less without the added clutter of handlebars sticking out from both railings.

"Sometimes there are up to five bikes in a row locked up on the ramp. Even on the outside they still pose a problem," said Axel Schmetzke, head of the Independent Media Center at the LRC.

Parking on the disability ramps

is a violation of Wisconsin Chapter 18.06(8) which states, "No person may park or store his or her bicycle in buildings, on sidewalks Bicycles shall be parked so as not to obstruct free passage of vehicles and pedestrians."

"Sometimes the bike ramps are too full in the fall and spring, and in the winter they're usually not shoveled," said senior Eric Frese.

Students should be reminded that the east bicycle racks are always open



Photo courtesy of Sam Feld

A different meaning for "riding the rails."

during the winter, and the Dreyfus University Center boasts a large amount of bicycle racks as well.

In a late September meeting of the University Affairs Committee, Protective Services Director Bill Rowe indicated that enforcement was difficult because of lack of staffing, but stated that if specific complaints are made, then appropriate action will be taken. Signs were also suggested to warn students to not park on the ramps. However, Rowe agreed that signs would be helpful, but that Facilities wanted to keep the number of signs associated with buildings to a minimum.

The problem is likely to worsen as the winter moves in, the university which is centered around diversity and fairness to all students, will have to further review their guidelines regarding care of handicap students and accessibility to the LRC.



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Build your resume or GPA?

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Students involved in extra-curricular events here on campus deal with keeping the balance between their organizations and their schoolwork everyday. Is there a breaking point? Do extra-curricular activities offer any additional value to the college experience? Why take on the extra responsibility of leading an organization when it could hurt your grades?

The Student Involvement and Employment Office at University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point lists involvement as participating in college-related activities outside of the classroom and benefiting from that experience. Some of the most common reasons to get involved are: growth, recognition, achievement and enjoyment. The benefits that students receive from their involvement are invaluable and infinite. Things like developing interpersonal skills, working with different groups and learning and practicing leadership skills are all valuable characteristics to be learned outside of the classroom.

However, how do students cope with leading a double life of participating in student organizations while going to class, working and studying?

Is taking on the responsibility of leading a student group an unwise decision compared to focusing on schoolwork 24/7?

"I don't have anything against students who do schoolwork all the time, but they are missing out on the opportunities clubs have to offer," said Pat Martin, president of the ski and snowboard club.

Martin is in charge of setting up a trip out west every year for more than 70 students. Dealing with travel agents, the Student Government Association and advisors may seem like an overwhelming task, but Martin says, "It helps me to delegate my time more wisely, trying to get everything ready; it's very time demanding."

Although schoolwork and activities may conflict when being a leader in a campus group, many members cope with time management. However, it doesn't always work out as planned; conflicts inevitably occur, and it is left up to the clubs to deal with them.

"There'd be times when we'd schedule meetings months in advance, and I'd have an exam the next day," said Ben Uvaas, president of the Ace Holes, UW-SP disc golf club.

Kim Bauknecht, captain of the UW-SP dance team, has a unique outlook when it comes to dealing with her duties on the dance team and handling her schoolwork.

"I find that the busier I am, the better I am using my time. It gives you part of an experience not included in college," said Bauknecht.

Being heavily involved in extra-curricular groups and keeping up with classes is an important issue many students face. Students that are able to withstand pressure in these situations will be more able to cope with stress in the long run.

geeks' corner

Mikel Rysk
GEEK TO THE STARS

Welcome to the first edition of Geeks' Corner. Here I will try to answer all the mysteries from the geek world and transcribe them onto paper for the masses to read. This section will also answer questions about geeks, dorks or nerds and what makes them "tick" in a certain aspect through examples that I have witnessed over the years. I will also talk about the things they do and why they do them. This week's topic:

How does this new digital TV thing work?

To answer the question of how this new digital TV thing works is simple, well not entirely simple. First, the old analog TV channels were sent to peoples homes via radio waves. The new digital TV works similarly. DTV has three ways to be received by the masses. The two that are obvious are by digital cable or digital satellite; both of these incur monthly fees and payments. The third is by using radio waves to transmit the DTV signal to people's homes. Most new TVs come with the digital converter built into the television set; look for the "built-in" label on the TV. Now, that is not the only piece of equipment you will

need. You will also need an antenna.

Based on your proximity to the broadcast tower, which is the TV station's way of broadcasting the DTV signals through the air using radio waves, you may only need the more traditional rabbit ears antenna; usually within 20-30 miles of the broadcast tower depending on the broadcast tower's transmitting power (how many watts they put out). If you are not within this range, you will want to purchase a powered antenna; a powered antenna plugs into an AC wall outlet and powers up the signal amplifier that is built into the antenna.

Most powered antennas supply a gain to the signal; this gain is measured in decibels. If the dB rating is higher than 20, some are higher than 40, the antenna has a high gain and means the antenna is directional. Directionality simply means that the antenna must be pointed in the direction of the broadcast tower in order to receive the signal. The amplifier inside the antenna boosts the signal from weak to strong.

If you still have a weak signal for that station, it means that either there is significant interference from another station, appliance, etc. or there is something in the way between your antenna and the broadcast tower. These blockages can be anything from a large hill or tall building to something as simple as a tree.

Smart antennas are another alternative to receiving DTV signals. Smart antennas, either switched beam or adaptive array, can track down the DTV signals that you want to receive. Switched beam smart antennas allocate several fixed beam patterns in which to choose from at any one time. Adaptive array smart antennas allow the antenna to steer to any broadcast tower within range and simultaneously null out interfering signals.

Old TV sets will need to be used with digital converter boxes. Coupons are available online via local TV station Web sites or on some government Web sites. After receiving the coupons, you will have 90 days to use them. Remember, before going into the store to pick up the converter box, you will want to know what kind of connections your TV has. Coaxial and audio/video (the red, white and yellow connectors) cables are the most common. Keep in mind that you might need an antenna to receive any DTV signals.

If you want to submit a question, just send an inquiry to the Pointlife co-editor Mike Baumann at mbaum925@uwsp.edu.

He will pass along all requests to the geek zen master.

Just a reminder, be safe this Halloween. Don't forget
trick-or-treating is Friday, Oct. 31, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



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**** This is for currently registered UWSP STUDENTS ONLY ****



A "typical" day in the life of a forester

Gregg Jennings
SCIENCE & OUTDOORS REPORTER

David Czynsz is a forester for NewPage in Rhinelander, Wis. NewPage is a landless paper company, and it is his job to obtain the wood pulp needed for their paper mills. A landless paper company is one that owns no land, but contracts with private landowners.

Czynsz obtains the wood pulp by contacting private landowners, who make up 60 percent of the Wisconsin forested lands through his established networking system. Referrals from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Managed Forest Law participants and reputable logging crews are a couple of his sources.

Czynsz began establishing his forest industry network as an undergraduate student at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. After graduating, he worked for Nekoosa Papers as a forester, managing the company's land for 16 years. Nekoosa Papers was purchased by Georgia Pacific and Czynsz took the severance package and returned to UW-SP.

He graduated with a Master of Science in natural resources and was

hired as a procurement forester by a saw mill. In 1992, Czynsz was hired by Consolidated Papers to manage their greenhouses near Monico, Wis.

When Consolidated phased out their tree planting program, Czynsz was put in charge of the machine shop, site prep equipment and capital purchases budget.

Stora Enso bought the company and sold the landbase. Czynsz became a stumpage buyer working with private landowners which he continues to do for NewPage after they purchased Stora Enso.

He is an active member of a number of organizations such as the Society of American Foresters and the Tree Farm program, where he receives other referrals.

New foresters with stumpage buying responsibilities need to work harder and make more cold calls for their potential wood suppliers than ever before.

After contact with a landowner, Czynsz will look at the property with or without the owner and do a preliminary cruise of the property. During a cruise, he will estimate volumes, costs and prices and then present these to the landowner. If the landowner accepts the proposal, Czynsz writes a contract.

He looks at soil types, wildlife and, if threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species in the area. He also uses Best Management Practices for water crossings. Property lines are verified, harvest boundaries are established and timber is marked. However, a phone call or the weather can change the plans Czynsz has made for any particular day. A forester needs to be flexible.

Czynsz looks for hardwoods such as oak and maple. However, other species of timber that can be used are spruce, poplar, balsam and some pine. Whatever wood NewPage does not use, Czynsz looks for other markets to sell them to. Bolt material and saw logs can be sold to saw mills and, depending on the quality, these can be used for veneer, flooring or lumber.

NewPage uses loggers in the Master Logger Program for their timber sales and Czynsz, and foresters like him, supervise the loggers. Czynsz makes sure the timber sale is conducted according to the NewPage Environmental Management System. That system is audited by a third party certification program that makes sure the logging is conducted in an environmentally sound manner. When the timber sale is completed, Czynsz



Photo courtesy of Gregg Jennings

Czynsz measures pulp roadside for NewPage.

makes sure the roads are left in better shape than they were originally.

The day I visited with Czynsz, we scaled roadside timber for a sale that Enterprise Forest Products of Rhinelander was logging. It had to be done in that sequence in order for the loggers to have an income during spring break-up. Normally the loggers haul the wood directly to the mill and the logs are scaled there. It is obvious that a forester's life is anything but typical.

"Building Communities" webinar stresses sustainability

Angela Frome
SCIENCE & OUTDOORS REPORTER

The first session of the "Building Communities" webinar series, "Setting the Stage: Sustainability and Sustainable Community Development," took place on Oct. 21, 2008.

Greg Wise, the director of the Center for Community and Economic Development, served as the moderator for the session, relaying questions and comments from the audience to the presenter, Kelly Hawke Baxter.

Baxter began her presentation with a description of the Natural Step Framework, which is a plan that helps members join together and organize a plan to make their community more sustainable.

Baxter is currently the executive director of the Natural Step Canada, a non-profit organization that helps individuals, businesses and communities prioritize their environmental decision making.

"We address the root causes of

our unsustainability," Baxter said. "Having a plan allows communities to reflect on their unique situations and discover innovative solutions."

Baxter also outlined the process of creating a successful community plan. The five phase process included structuring, creating a shared understanding, analyzing strategy areas, action planning and ongoing monitoring/implementation.

Sustainable community planning should be a democratic process in which a "wide spectrum of community participants are involved in shaping the program," Baxter said.

Another main point Baxter stressed was backcasting, or "beginning with the end in mind." Communities should have a vision of what they want to achieve, then relate that back to where they are in achieving that goal.

"Identify the gap between where we are today and future success," Baxter said.

Baxter cited Whistler, British

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Science & Outdoors

An essential Wis. winter survival guide

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It has been so long now since I saw it as nothing more than a faint memory that kept my lofty dreams of year round sun in check. Then on Monday Oct. 27, it happened again; little white soft snowflakes were falling outside my window. That's right, snow is back in the big picture for all of us inhabiting Wisconsin for the next few months.

Now, in order to keep all the winter complaining to a minimum this year, I've decided to offer a few helpful hints to get through this cold time. I'll share with you a few of the things that have allowed me to stay warm, healthy and happy.

First and foremost, let's talk about staying warm. Let's face it, the worst part about winter in Wisconsin is Jack Frost's nasty cold breath, biting at your nose. If only we could provide him with the warm zest of a cinnamon Altoid, then winter would be a more desirable time. Since no lozenges are available to help us in our time of need we must resort to other measures.

I suggest first investing in a winter jacket, thermal underwear, stocking hat, gloves and a scarf. I know it seems like these should be things every good Wisconsinite owns already, but let's not forget that not all of us have grown up dealing with the winter winds tickling our faces.

There is one item that personally is the cornerstone of warmth for me in the winter: thermal underwear. I used to think these champions of undergarment warmth, with their cotton-polyester blend fabric and box-weave

texture, were only for hunting, but I was oh-so-wrong. I suggest purchasing something that will wick sweat away from your body to keep you comfortable throughout the day.

So now that you're staying warm, lets stay healthy. Start with the obvious suggestion: wash your hands, people. I see too many guys leaving the restroom who stop to look in the mirror but not to wash their hands. Sorry, guys, but that beard you've let grow far too long may keep ladies away but it won't keep germs at bay. Viruses and bacteria can live for hours on surfaces touched by an infected person, so wash.

Start taking a multivitamin if you don't already, something that will keep up your vitamin C levels. As college students, our diets already suffer as we try to cram meals between presentations and tests.

Which brings me to my next point, get plenty of sleep. If you just finished your term paper and its three in the morning on your third day in a row of two hours of sleep, take sleep over the celebratory drink at Guu's. Your body will love you for it.

Now that you're warm and healthy, let's get happy. Happiness is loosely defined by the dictionary and really means something to all of us, but I'll let you in on my secrets to keeping this smile on my face October through March.

Do those things you've wanted to do that you're still able to do in winter, like read. It seems I'm always giving reading suggestions but never find the time to sit down and explore these literary areas. It doesn't have to be reading though; it can be anything. Harmonica lessons, snake

charming, basket weaving or whatever floats your happiness-filled boat.

For those real risk-takers, go out and enjoy the snow. Not everyone gets to experience this white wonder. grab a sled and dive in.

I hope this helps future bearers of the cold. I'm sure I'll still see a girl or two walking down the street at one in the morning on a Friday wearing nothing but a puffy white jacket with fur around the hood, a skirt that barely leaves anything to the imagination and a drunken smile.

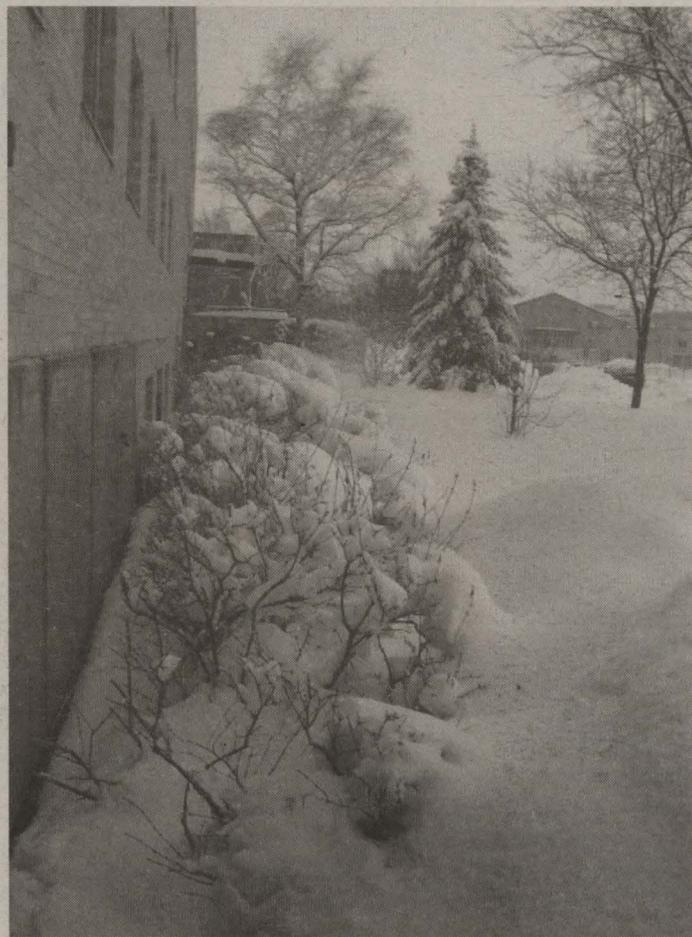


Photo by Katie Boseo

It won't be long until UW-SP campus is once again covered in mounds of white, fluffy snow, so be prepared to combat the winter weather.

From "Communities" pg. 5

Columbia, as an example of a community with a successful sustainability plan. According to Baxter, Whistler citizens hope to be fully sustainable by the year 2020.

Dr. Anna Haines, an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, said that Baxter's presentation covered some of the same concepts that she teaches in her natural resources and land use planning classes.

Joe Kottwitz, a student of Haines' who was also in attendance, said many of the topics he heard about in Baxter's presentation were familiar to

him. The Whistler example was news to Kottwitz, who said he had not heard about the town's plan before and thought the concept was interesting.

"I like to learn from case studies, things that have been done before," Kottwitz said.

The next session of the "Building Communities" ebinar on energy efficiency will be held Nov. 18. The presentation will be shown at 11:30 a.m. in room 104 in the College of Professional Studies. For more information contact Anna Haines at ahaines@uwsp.edu.

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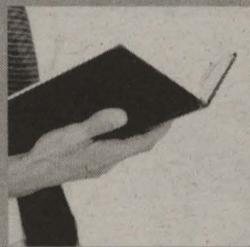
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Sports

Soccer ends regular season undefeated in WIAC

Rochelle Nechuta
THE POINTER
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After finishing a record-breaking, star-studded regular season, the Pointer women's soccer team is ready to rip up the field this weekend in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Quarterfinals against the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

After winning the conference outright, the Pointers bring the party to town and host the first level of the WIAC tournament on campus here at the UW-Stevens Point on the Point Bowl field on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 2 p.m.

"Some of our losses were disappointing but that's made us a better team and good practice is what we need to improve on, to get us ready for the WIAC tournament play," said Coach Sheila Miech.

Seniors Kaylee Weise and Amanda Prawat scored single goals during the Senior Day game against UW-River Falls and Jackie Spees added her own

unassisted point to the scoreboard.

Prawat steadily broke UW-SP records this fall as a forward. She became the school's all-time leading goal scorer in career points and is also the school's all-time leading goal scorer.

UW-River Falls could not put anything past Pointer goalies Pam Luckow or Brittini Buechel during the game. Luckow stepped into the goal this season as a senior and stayed solid between the pipes in 10 shutout games. The Pointers combined their efforts and allowed no goals in the 8-0 WIAC sweep.

"That's a tribute to our defensive backs and our whole defensive unit, our goalkeeper and then great team defense," Miech said.

Nine seniors led the team this season and will lend their expertise in the games beyond the regular season. The Pointers are striving for the National Collegiate Athletic Association bid that comes automatically with the WIAC championship title so they have a

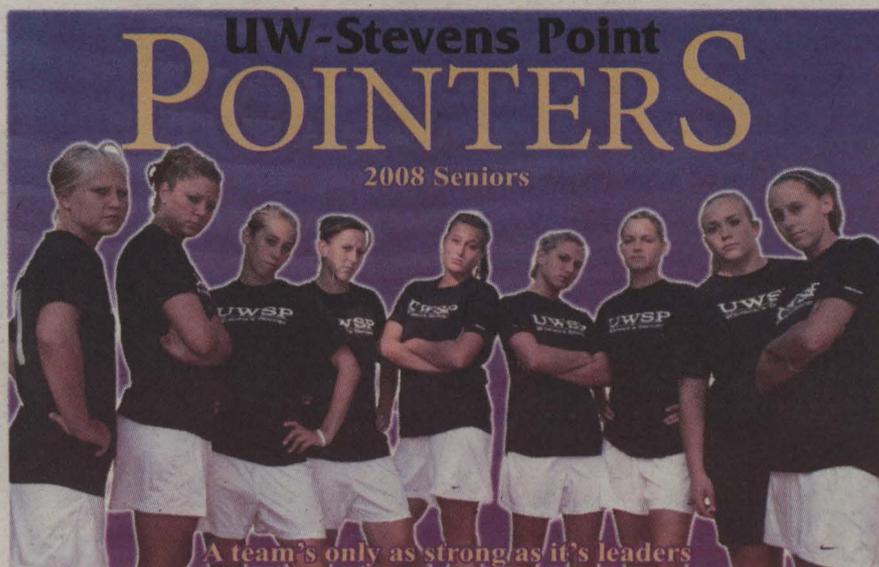


Photo courtesy of Sheila Miech

The soccer team's seniors will lead the team into post-season play. (L to R): Leah Larson, Emily Walsh, Jennisa Koch, Meghan Vanden Heuvel, Mehgan Musback, Amanda Prawat, Katie Waterman, Pam Luckow, Kaylee Weise.

long and important road to travel yet.

"We've got a lot of seniors on the team, a lot of experience, but I expect great things from this team and I think

the results show, so I'm pretty excited about postseason," said Miech, who also hopes the team will have an impressive community audience this weekend.

Pointers edge past Whitewater in gutsy win; UW-Oshkosh up next in schedule

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The decision to go for a two-point conversion within the final 15 seconds of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point football's match-up brought the Pointers their sixth victory of the season.

For their third win in a row, UW-SP defeated No. 2 UW-Whitewater on Saturday, Oct. 25. It was a huge win for the Pointers, who moved up in online polls over the weekend. They currently stand in the seventeenth

spot in the D3football.com poll and are 3-1 in Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference currently.

"Every game in this league is really tough and you've just got to realize that they were highly ranked because of what they did last year," said Miech. "The difference from top to bottom sometimes is just a few goals in this league but it's a confidence booster as long as you don't get overconfident."

Whitewater jumped ahead after a 35-yard touchdown run from Levell Coppage and completed extra point in the second quarter.

It was kicker Ryan Graboski who once again kept the Pointers within

scoring distance and earned two field goals in the first quarter and another in the fourth.

With less than a minute in the game, quarterback Brad Beckwith connected with tight end Jared Jenkins for a ten-yard touchdown to bring UW-SP within a point of the Warhawks' lead.

"We scored the touchdown; the kids ran out there. They were setting up for the extra point and I was talking to our offensive coordinator," said Miech. "You have the Homecoming crowd out at Whitewater, close to eight thousand people. We fought hard the whole game and they're number two in the nation."

Miech ordered a timeout to make a decision between kicking the extra point or going for the riskier conversion play. He thought earning two points after a long, hard struggle with the Warhawks was the only option the team had to ride away happy.

"I thought it really wasn't a gamble. It was the right thing to do," said Miech.

Beckwith and Jenkins paired up once again in the conversion attempt and won the game 17-16 with a quarter of a minute left.

The Pointers bring the game to Goerke Field this Saturday. They kick off at 1 p.m. against UW-Oshkosh, who are 3-3 overall and 1-3 in WIAC play.



Photo by Becka Schuelke

UW-SP football players show their skills during practice. They are preparing for the UW-Oshkosh showdown at Goerke Field this Saturday.

NFL tricks and treats



Steve Apfel
SPORTS COLUMNIST

It's the end of October and there are clearly plenty of things to dress as this year. There's Dracula with his cape and fangs, Frankenstein's monster with a tattered suit and neck bolts and Sarah Palin with the red horns and forked tail. Clearly some NFL teams have been playing dress-up this year already. Let's take a look at some of this year's top costumes from around the league:

Arizona Cardinals Anquan Boldin has been playing Terminator pretty well thanks to the titanium plates implanted in his face to correct an injury sustained earlier this season. The metal man showed he is still a threat to lay waste to modern day defenses this past weekend by giving the Carolina Panthers' defense a headache. The Cardinals still managed to lose, though. Perhaps they need a few more T-3000 players.

The San Diego Chargers and Indianapolis Colts have opted

See **Tricks** pg. 10

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Sports

UW-SP women's tennis finishes season fifth in conference

Nick Meyer

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's tennis team finished in fifth place at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference women's tennis championship held over the weekend. This was their



Photo courtesy Karlyn Jakusz

The tennis team finished in fifth place in the WIAC championship last weekend in Madison.

best finish since 1999 and was a step up from last year's sixth place overall finish. It brought a close to a season in which the Pointers went 7-5.

"We only finished with one non-conference loss," said Head Coach Karlyn Jakusz. "The season went really well."

The top four placing teams in the fall standings advance to play in the spring for a berth to the NCAA Division III tournament. The Pointers only missed fourth place by four points, which amounted to one or two wins at the WIAC tournament. UW-Whitewater finished as the first place team, their second straight WIAC women's tennis title.

"We fell a little short of our goal for this season," said Jakusz. "Our goal was to finish fourth in the conference."

Top finishers for the Pointers included No. 3 seeded Chelsea Allbaugh,

who finished second at the No. 2 singles position, being dealt a loss at the hands of UW-Whitewater's Ingrid Stensvaag. Allbaugh and teammate Rachel Benn also finished second at the No. 1 doubles, defeating the number two and three seeded teams in big upsets. Senior Kaylei Sorensen finished fourth at No. 4 singles and along with teammate Emily Riordan finished fifth at No. 2 doubles.

"Chelsea Allbaugh had an unexpected second place finish at No. 2 singles," said Jakusz. "She defeated the No. 2 seed in a big upset."

Jakusz was pleased with the way the team got along and pushed one another along this season. She seemed determined to take this year's successes right into next season and accomplish their team goal which will again be to finish fourth at the WIAC Championship. As a team they'll work on mental toughness and consistency in the offseason. According to Jakusz, strength training and agility conditioning will be a must to achieve their goal.



Photo courtesy Karlyn Jakusz

Conference winners (L to R): Junior Rachel Benn, senior Kaylee Sorensen, freshman Chelsea Allbaugh.

"We were so close in a lot of matches, but we didn't come through in the clutch," said Jakusz. "We need to work on staying mentally tough throughout a match."

The Pointers will compete in a few matches in the spring to keep up their confidence and skills. It will provide the Pointers with more match experience for the players.

"Some of our players are really young, so they need to continue building confidence," said Jakusz.

From **Tricks** pg. 8

for ghost guises this year, namely by being ghosts of their formerly fortuitous selves. The Chargers fired their defensive coordinator this week in hopes of reanimating their pitiful D. If it works for them, perhaps the Colts should take note and look into playing zombie football instead of just remaining in the grave.

The Detroit Lions and Cincinnati Bengals have been donning their costumes since week one of the season. Any guesses? Yes, both of these teams are continuing their time honored tradition of dressing up like football teams! You have to give them style points but then again both teams have been dressing like for so long, they're bound to do pretty well.

For more ghoulish fun and scary gridiron monsters, watch this weekend. Things could get very ugly, very fast for one unbeaten team and one team that wears green and gold.

Cross Country WIAC championships in town

Rochelle Nechuta

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Coach Rick Witt will have his hands full this weekend at the Wisconsin River Golf Club. He will watch both of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Cross Country teams as they compete for the forty-eighth Men's and thirty-first Women's Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles.

"We are excited to host the WIAC championships. It is always fun to have a championship competition at home in front of your fans," Coach Rick Witt said.

Witt is excited to bring the WIAC Championships to town and said the tournament will be a great chance for community members and students alike to support the team as they fight for conference recognition.

"We get the chance to run on an excellent facility at the Wisconsin

River Golf Club," he said. "The course itself is the most spectator friendly course you will ever see a meet run on; you can see the athletes for 90 percent of the race and they will pass by you six times during the race."

Runners on the men's team will be major competitors for the title this season after utilizing a powerful mix of talented players. Among those are stand-out seniors Dominick Meyer, who ended 2007 in eleventh place, and Corey Towle, the fifth place finisher last season.

"We have a very experienced men's team who are going into the championships with the goal of winning the meet," Witt said.

The women's team enters the competition with different goals.

"We are not yet ready to challenge for the championship, however, I know that we are ready to move up in the conference standings from last year," Witt said about the lady harriers. "Our ladies are excited to prove that our women's team will be

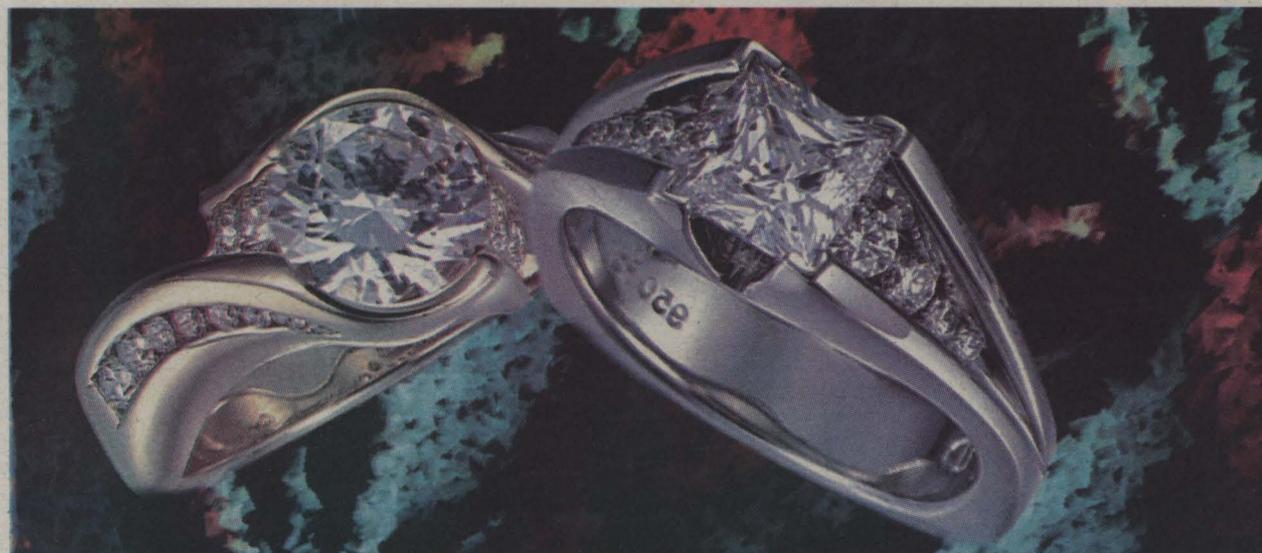
someone to be reckoned with in the next few years."

An antecedent for the conference tournament, both the women's and men's teams traveled to UW-Oshkosh for their final competitive practice run of the regular season.

Five runners from the men's team ended the tournament in the top 10 at the UW-Oshkosh Cross Country Open and Abby Ausloos led the Pointer ladies in seventh place.

"Oshkosh was without a doubt the best and toughest DIII meet in the country," said Witt. "The meet showed me that our teams are right where we needed to be as we head into the championship portion of the season."

The WIAC championships will take place Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Wisconsin River Golf Club. The men begin the races at noon and the women race at 1 p.m. Cost is \$5 per automobile and \$3 programs will be available.



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Arts & Culture

Popular talk show "The Joy Ride" cruises through Stevens Point campus

Leah Gernetzke
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Wisconsin Public Radio Talk Show Host and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point alumna Joy Cardin broadcasted her show, "The Joy Ride," live from UW-SP in the Dreyfus University Center last Friday, Oct. 24.

After the broadcast, Cardin also had a meeting with the UW-SP media organizations in which she shared insights about her career in the television and radio industries.

Cardin said her career was first shaped by her education at UW-SP. As a communication major, she said she received a broad liberal arts education that, along with working at the student radio station 90FM and her internship at Channel 7 in Wausau, left her well-equipped for the professional world.

"I hosted my first calling show at UW-SP ... called 'Two-Way Radio,'" said Cardin. "It was supposed to be

a call-in show, and I say 'supposed to be' because no one really did. That prepared me very well for hosting my own talk show."

After graduation, Cardin contin-

ued to work at Channel 7 in Wausau, where she was offered a job as an editor. Cardin said that while the job was a great first experience, she felt television posed some limitations.



Photo by Katie Leb

Joy Cardin hosts her morning talk show on Wisconsin Public Radio, "The Joy Ride" from the UW-SP campus with guest Bob Williams.

"Sometimes you just didn't do a story because it didn't have the visual," she added. "So maybe some issue on budgeting was important but it didn't get done because it didn't have a fun visual way to spice it up."

She said her gender also posed some limitations, though it was not a hindrance to her overall career.

"I remember after doing what I thought would be this magnificent story ... on some great issue that was going to change everyone's life, people would say, 'wow you really look tired, can you do anything about those rings under your eyes?' or, 'I really don't like your hair that way.' There was a lot of comment on what you look like rather than what you reported on," she said. "I don't think I'd call it a roadblock, though."

These frustrations led her to more aggressively pursue a career in radio. In 1986, Cardin applied and was chosen for a position with WPR in Green Bay as a morning edition host

See **Joy** pg. 12

Wis. artist displays talent in Carlsten Art Gallery

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Rafael Salas, a painter from Wisconsin and professor at Ripon College, gave a lecture on his work last Friday, Oct. 24, to coincide with his and Eddy Dominguez's upcoming

show in the Carlsten Gallery.

Salas is influenced by landscape and the power of objects to evoke emotion.

"I want my subjects to take on a sense of longing and nostalgia," said Salas.

His artist's statement, which is a short text composed by an artist and intended to explain, justify and contextualize his body of work, helps

the viewer to further understand where the artist is coming from.

It states, "Places, past and present, are always haunted, ghost stories. My art portrays these places, and the people that inhabit them. They are at first glance the most pedestrian of realities. But like memories, detail is slowly replaced with things less tangible. They become filled with emotion and mood with sighs and

with longing."

Salas has 12 pieces in the exhibition, painted between 2005-2008, with the majority being from this past year.

Salas' paintings that deal with the Wisconsin landscape, such as a retirement home, old barn or wildlife, help viewers to relate to his paintings, especially if they're from Wisconsin.

However it is his isolation of moments in time dealing with past, present and future that catch the viewers' attention and evoke emotions and meaning.

Salas is an artist that believes his audience should interpret his work for themselves—he even refrains from titling his pieces, so as to make viewers think more about the painting.

Salas also uses a unique form of abstraction that induces further thought into his paintings.

"My abstract work is a new development; it's one of my current goals to instill a mood of magic through painting distractions," said Salas.

The Magic and Power Exhibition, featuring paintings from Rafael Salas and Eddie Dominguez, runs for only one month until Nov. 26. The hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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Arts & Culture

Country music concert puts some swagger in steps

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The Quandt Fieldhouse was screaming as country music stars Josh Gracin and Jimmy Wayne graced the stage at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point on Sunday, Oct. 26.

Jimmy Wayne opened the show, singing hits from his first self-titled album as well as his latest album, released in August, called, "Do You Believe Me Now."

Both of these albums include a multitude of hits including "I Love You This Much," "Stay Gone" and his first number one hit, the title track off his latest album, "Do You Believe Me Now."

Wayne's difficult childhood, growing up in and out of foster homes and living on the streets at 16 played host in his underdog anthem, "Kerosene Kid."

He also played his current single, the second off his latest album, "I Will," which is currently making its way up the charts.

"This song, 'I Will' is rockin' up the charts really fast, and it's already within the top 40 within three weeks," said Wayne.

After the initial success of his first album, Wayne disappeared from the

charts for a while. After the collapse of his first record label, DreamWorks, he had to re-establish himself. After three-and-a-half years, he finally released his current album under Valory Music.

"What happened was the realization of no matter who you are or how many records you sold, this could all end tomorrow, and you just don't take any of it for granted," said Wayne. "I had so much momentum, four hit songs on the radio and it was just rockin', and it stopped. In one month it was over."

After a crowd pleasing performance by Wayne, Josh Gracin took the stage with his catalogue of hits including, "I Want To Live," "Brass Bed," "We Weren't Crazy" and his current single, "Unbelievable," written for his wife, Ann Marie.

Gracin's energetic stage presence, talented band and upbeat songs made him a crowd favorite.

An encore by Gracin consisted of a stunning performance of "Ain't Going Down 'til the Sun Comes Up" by Garth Brooks, one of his greatest influences. He finished the show with "Nothing to Lose," which was the first number one single of his self-titled first album.

Currently on tour for his latest album, "We Weren't Crazy," Gracin

has come a long way since taking fourth place in season two of "American Idol."

"We're just touring and doing a lot of writing now," said Gracin. "Because it took so long to get the second album out, we're just looking at this as a way to get out there and get momentum back."

Gracin's duty in the Marines made it difficult to record once he was signed with Lyric Street Records.

While he was in the Marines, Gracin's music gives little evidence of the experience.

"I never wanted to put that out in the forefront and kind of use that to propel my career and move it to the top," said Gracin.

Flying back and forth to record while on leave slowed production of his second album and he is looking forward to having more time to record, write and perform full-time now that he is a civilian.

"I have a lot more time. I think that's one problem that we had getting out the second album," said Gracin. "They were planning on getting it out a lot quicker."

The lengthy production of the second album, due to his career in the Marines, gave Gracin a chance to be more involved in its content. He co-wrote two songs and has one of his

own songs on the album.

"'We Weren't Crazy,' I wrote that and had the album come out; I wouldn't have that single and that was a top 10 single," said Gracin.

"Unbelievable," the final track on "We Weren't Crazy" was written solely by Gracin in the late hours of the night. Gracin's support from his wife is evident in the lyrics to the song.

Currently with three kids, and a fourth along the way, constant touring provides its own challenges to an artist with a family.

"Keeping your phone on you one hundred percent of the time and waiting for a call, and if you don't you get yelled at. There are a lot of challenges that come with that," said Gracin.

"It's always a challenge. It's going to be even more of a challenge with a fourth one on the way. We finally got a nanny to help her out though. So hopefully that eases the stress."

Gracin's busy schedule, life at home, and his previous life in the Marines has helped him to become the artist and performer that he is today.

"Like everything that has gone on in my life, what seems to be a bad situation somehow, somehow turns around to be a good situation as long as you keep moving forward and learn from it," he said.

Jazz music classes up a Saturday evening

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Students at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point and members of the surrounding community had the chance to hear from and dance to the Wisconsin Jazz Orchestra on Saturday, Oct. 25.

The group performed in The Laird Room of the Dreyfus University Center. The orchestra is made up of 17 members.

They played music ranging from classics such as Duke Ellington, Huey Louis, Count Basie, Stan Kenton and Benny Goodman to more modern jazz pieces.

The musicians also performed a variety of genres, from jazz swing, to bebop, Latin and jazz funk.

The performance was made up of two sets. The second set was specifically for those in the crowd who wanted to dance.

from **Joy** pg. 11

and reporter. Eventually, she became WPR talk show director, which paved the way for her current position as a talk show host.

Her show focuses broadly on current affairs, mainly political in nature, that affect the public. Each topic is chosen by Cardin and her producers, all of whom discuss the angle of the next show and the guests.

Some past well-known featured guests have included the governor and presidential candidates like Bill Richardson and Ralph Nader.

"We try to bring in a wide variety of guests that bring different viewpoints on the issue, like healthcare,

environment or energy," Cardin said. "We try to focus on the public policy issues that are being debated on the campaign trail and not so much the polls and horse race."

Now, Cardin says she thinks her current position is one she can grow with, and that through it she hopes to engage even more listeners in the future.

"I think it is a profession worth loving," she said. "You can help inform people and help them make informed choices as voters. I don't know if you can change the world, but you can change part of the world with your reporting."

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Letters & Opinion



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What's the point?: Your Halloween nudity scares me

"Trust me, if a guy wants to get a girl, he is not paying attention to what she is wearing. No matter what she is wearing he'll do her anyway."

My friend Jim told me this about two weeks ago when I began pondering what I was going to dress as for Halloween. I had told him that I absolutely refused to be scantily clad, contrary to what is supposedly the requirement for females on Halloween. Though the comment from Jim was wrong on so many levels, I must say that I found myself agreeing with him.

Really, what is the point of wearing next-to-nothing on Halloween?

I have worked in the retail

industry for over six years now, and Halloween is the one holiday that I absolutely despise. All holidays are dreaded by retail workers; check back in a couple weeks for that story. However, during Halloween season, which of course begins at the end of August, everyone finds it necessary to play with the masks and the fake weaponry. This year, I found it less disturbing because I realized the people who bought a mask would actually be more covered than some of the people who purchased the female costumes.

Honestly, I cannot believe how much women (and sometimes men) pay for a costume that involves almost nothing in material. The cost of making that costume is minuscule in comparison to what the consumer pays. College students tend to complain about never having money, yet when Halloween is near, forking over \$80 for a "costume" is acceptable. Wouldn't you rather be

able to afford food?

Yes, I understand that Halloween allows for women to be socially accepted dressing in less than what they wear to bed, except, of course, for those who like to really feel the softness of the sheets. And yes, it is fun to be someone you normally are too afraid to dress up as, maybe to fulfill some kind of fantasy?

But, you must remember that we are all in Wisconsin, not Hawaii. It gets very cold here on whatever day it feels like screwing with our minds, and I am sure that Halloween will be no exception. Please, at the very least, for the sake of your comfort, do not feel obligated to dress suggestively just for the sake of attracting a man. If someone walks by you and you feel the breeze in places you did not know you had, chances are you do not have enough clothing on.

So please cover up; I want to be scared by ghouls and ghosts, not your naked body.

THE POINTER

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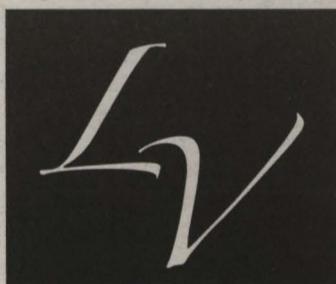
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Lady V
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Schooltime with Plato's playmates: What they should have taught you

I often find myself asking, "Why am I trying to learn this? When am I ever going to use this again besides to pass the damn exam? Ooh, that boy is real cute... I wonder how I can shove myself into his life. What projectiles do I have with me...?"

Anyway...

Fellow students, when haven't you asked yourself these questions? How is learning about the Phaedrus really going to help me in life? And I already know that smoking is bad for my body (thank you, healthy American).

I mean, seriously. We do not learn anything cool in school. Like how to date, interact with those we are attracted to or how to handle the awkward morning after. Who taught you how to gnaw your arm off from your one-night-stand after seeing him

in the daylight? Not Plato! All we are taught is what all those funny little organs do to pleasure us, produce Xerox copies of us and, as we all know ladies, bring Aunt Flow to town.

These life-threatening situations should be the ones we are warned about and properly trained to handle. I already know that I am unhealthy and pretty much doomed, so what I want to know is what I should do when someone actually looks past that and wants to sleep with me. Hopefully,

before I die. I mean, I don't want to 'screw' it up. This may be my only

See **School** pg. 14.



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Letters & Opinion

High Five: Halloween



Steve Apfel
COLUMNIST

Greetings boils, ghouls and all my special fiends! Yes, it's that most devilish time of year this week, and Steve has some very special goodies for you for your tricks and treats. But before we get to that I'd like to send out my thanks to all of you who have offered me your vehicles or offered tips on where to get a good deal on a new automobile of my own. You're all a class act, and I mean that. The search to replace the Golf continues, but progress is being made! With any luck I'll be mobile on my own in no time!

With tomorrow officially being Halloween, I know one thing is on the minds of a great many of you. You're in that desperate mad rush to figure out that fabulous costume idea so you won't be stuck throwing on your blaze orange again and saying you're a hunter. I'm sorry, friends, but that is capitally LAME. Don't worry, Steve is coming to the rescue again. I've got some top notch costumes that may just impress and increase your

chances with that cute ghost or goblin on All Hallow's Eve.

How could I have such magnificent ideas just bouncing around inside my brain? It's easy friends. All you need is a theme. I'm choosing an early 1990s theme this year. Why? Because it's so easy to be hip while dressed like you party like it's 1992!

Here's an idea for you to try on for size. Take your pants and your shirt (a shirt with buttons preferably) and put them on backwards! Who are you? Obviously you're either Chris "Mac Daddy" Kelly or Chris "Daddy Mac" Smith, better known as everyone's favorite underaged hip-hop duo Kriss Kross! If you really want to get authentic, wear your hat backwards, too. Not too tough, right?

If donning your slacks backwards isn't for you, how about putting on your favorite acid-wash jeans and an ESPERIT t-shirt? I'm sure both can be found at nearly any thrift store!

All right, here's one for a group of five guys that can only be explained

in five magical words: New Kids on the Block. Think about it, guys! This one is easy! To save you time, I'll tell you how to split yourselves up. The most badass one of you (no fighting over this one) is clearly Donnie Wahlberg. No lighting the carpet on fire! You'll just need to dress like you're on the fringe of hip-hop culture. The guy in your group who looks the most like he's on steroids will need to dress approximately like a pimp in a bad 70's movie, and he shall be Danny Wood. Vests, more acid-wash jeans and loafers will be required for the two of you designated to be the brotherly duo of Jordan and Jonathan Knight. And either the member of your posse who looks the most like a 12-year-old boy or the one you simply like the least will be designated Joey McIntire. Just dress like a 12-year-old. It's timeless! A bonus of adopting this idea is that Avra will probably fall madly in love with all five of you. She's a huge NKOTB fan. She's borderline fanatical.

I hope those three ideas really help to jumpstart your imaginations. I'm sure you have plenty of good ideas, and there are so many more from the early 1990s. It was like the 80s, only a little more silly. This year I hope we have the best costumes this campus has ever seen and for one

very special reason: the first annual Pointer High Five Costume Contest!

What? What is the prize? How does one enter the contest? What is the deadline? Why hasn't this been done before? Take a deep breath, reader. I'm about to answer all of your questions. First of all, the prize is fabulous. The winner of this year's contest will get to go on a romantic and fun-filled date to the Dreyfus University Center with a staff member of The Pointer! What could possibly be better than that? So here's how to enter this fabulous contest, friends. You'll need to send a picture of you wearing your costume and the name of the staff member you're seeking a date with to my campus e-mail by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 2. Judging will be done by yours truly, and the winner will be announced in next week's column! The excitement is almost too much to bear! I look forward to seeing all of your fabulous costumes!

Also, my friends don't forget that next Tuesday is Election Day and responsible adults like us really need to exercise our right to vote. It doesn't matter who you vote for, but please get out to the polls and do your civic duty. And remember, friends don't let friends vote Republican!

Don't Let Halloween Play A Trick on You

Halloween is around the corner and as much as fun as the treats can be, don't let drinking become the trick. Not everyone at college wants to drink...and the numbers clearly point to the consequences. Take the quiz below to see if you can correctly guess the impact alcohol can have.

- Nationwide, _____ college students were victims of an alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape last year.
 - 27,000
 - 57,000
 - 97,000
- Nationwide, approximately 400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 had unprotected sex – and more than 100,000 say they were too intoxicated to know if they consented to having sex. In 2007, _____ Wisconsin college students got chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis or herpes.
 - 11,245
 - 12,285
 - 13,430
- One in three 18 to 24 year olds admitted to emergency rooms is intoxicated. It takes about _____ hours to eliminate the alcohol content of two drinks, depending on your weight.
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
- True or False: A cold shower or coffee can help me sober up faster.
- _____ college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes.
 - 1,500
 - 1,600
 - 1,700

EXTRA CREDIT: _____ college students drove under the influence of alcohol last year.

- 258,000
- 475,000
- 2.1 million

ANSWERS: (1) c, (2) b, (3) b, (4) False – nothing can speed up the process, (5) c. EXTRA CREDIT is c.

This quiz was brought to you by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services based on information from the College Drinking – Changing the Future Web site at www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov.

From **School** pg. 13

chance!

I shouldn't have to learn how to erect monuments from an advertisement-infested tabloid with perfume samples. I am paying good money for an education, why do I need to pay more for a crappy magazine only to find that the information doesn't always work for me?

Not only did I have to re-teach myself how to play my flute in middle school when I got braces, but I also had to teach myself how to give scrape-less blowjobs. That sucked. Literally! Hello, Mr. Orthodontist, this is crucial to my existence.

In psychology and philosophy classes we are taught that one reason humans are on this earth is to interact with each other and reproduce to continue the ancient race. This, to me, is rather discouraging. Perhaps we should be taught real life experiences rather than how to comprehend, regurgitate and repeat.

Since I had mentioned some thank you's earlier, I would like to thank you, Counterpoint, for exemplifying how your writing professors have succeeded in teaching you to write. Yeah, right... psych!

It is you who make me, a struggling journalist, look like an unreliable writer. As you may already know, readers pay more attention to controversy. At least make your controversy intelligible and not littered with expletives. And I don't care what your uncircumcised penis looks like.

Rabble Rousers

Joy Ratchman



From **Polls** pg. 1

of the worst situations we've ever been in," said Lemmer. "Then we can't do anything about it, it's too late."

As for Stevens Point and Portage County, Blakeman makes it clear who he thinks will win.

"Within Stevens Point, they will go for Obama, but out in the county it's pretty Republican, so McCain will probably win there," said Blakeman. "Obama will ultimately win Portage County based on the turn-out in Stevens Point."

Voting is often seen as the glue that holds the American democracy together.

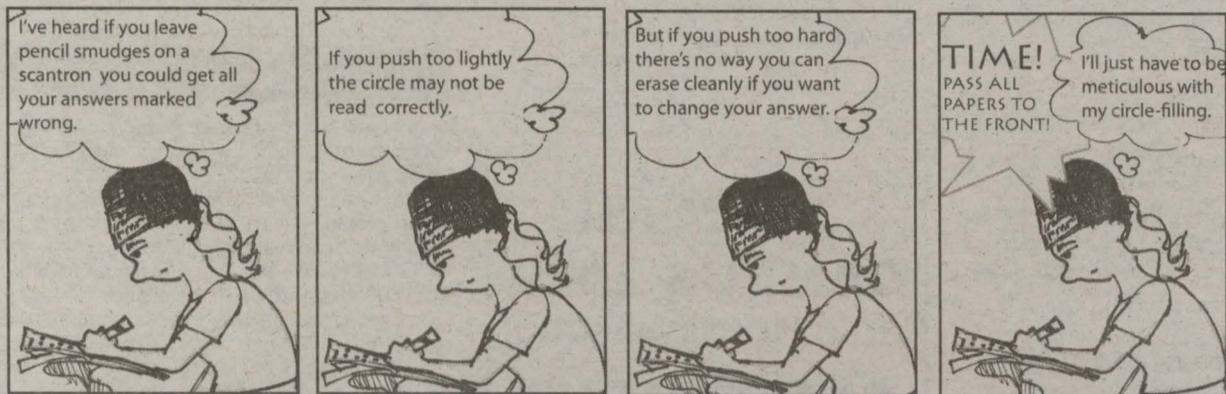
"It's always crucial to go and vote, whether it's this election, last election or next election especially for students because it's our future," said Lemmer.

Besides the presidential election Nov. 4, Prof. Miller believes that students should also be concerned about who has control of Congress.

"Congress is in charge of determining U.S. policy," said Miller. "Areas such as jobs, healthcare coverage, education policy, including the availability of loans and grants, among others would affect students and new graduates."

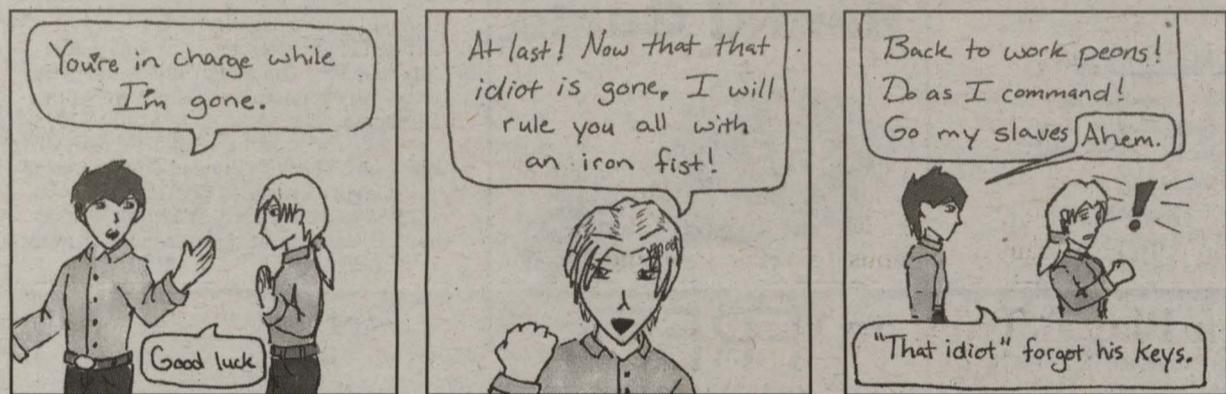
Neverland

Lo Shim



Where I Come From

Bryan Novak



From **Healthcare** pg. 1

Cynthia McKinney believe in a single payer public healthcare system plan. If either is elected, all Americans would be covered for all necessary medical services. This system would remove the private healthcare insurance industry completely from the picture. Nader often points out that the United States is the only industrialized nation to not have universal healthcare and his plan is to change that. They would also both institute that citizens would be allowed to go to any doctor and any hospital they wish with this plan.

Libertarian Bob Barr believes access to insurance is more limited than it should be. He also believes that the medical industry itself is way too limited by the government. If elected, he is proposing a consumer-based healthcare system in which all regulations on healthcare and insurance would be ended, allowing for the market to set the premiums.

"Today's healthcare problems are complex, but the solution is not socialized medicine in any form," said Barr according to his Web site. "Countries that have nationalized their medical systems inevitably ration care through the political system; costs are driven down only by denying needed care."

Roach

Dustin Hauge



WEEKLY SUDOKU

4			9					1
9		2					4	
3	6							9
			9			6	4	
	2		5	1	6		7	
	9	6			3			
	3						8	6
		8				9		3
6				7				4

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8	2	3	5	4	7	1	9	6
9	6	5	3	1	8	2	7	4
4	7	1	6	9	2	5	3	8
6	3	9	2	5	1	4	8	7
2	5	4	8	7	6	9	1	3
1	8	7	9	3	4	6	2	5

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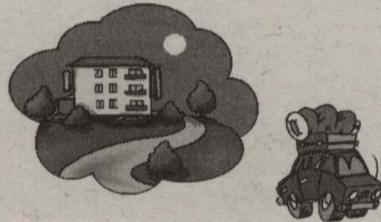
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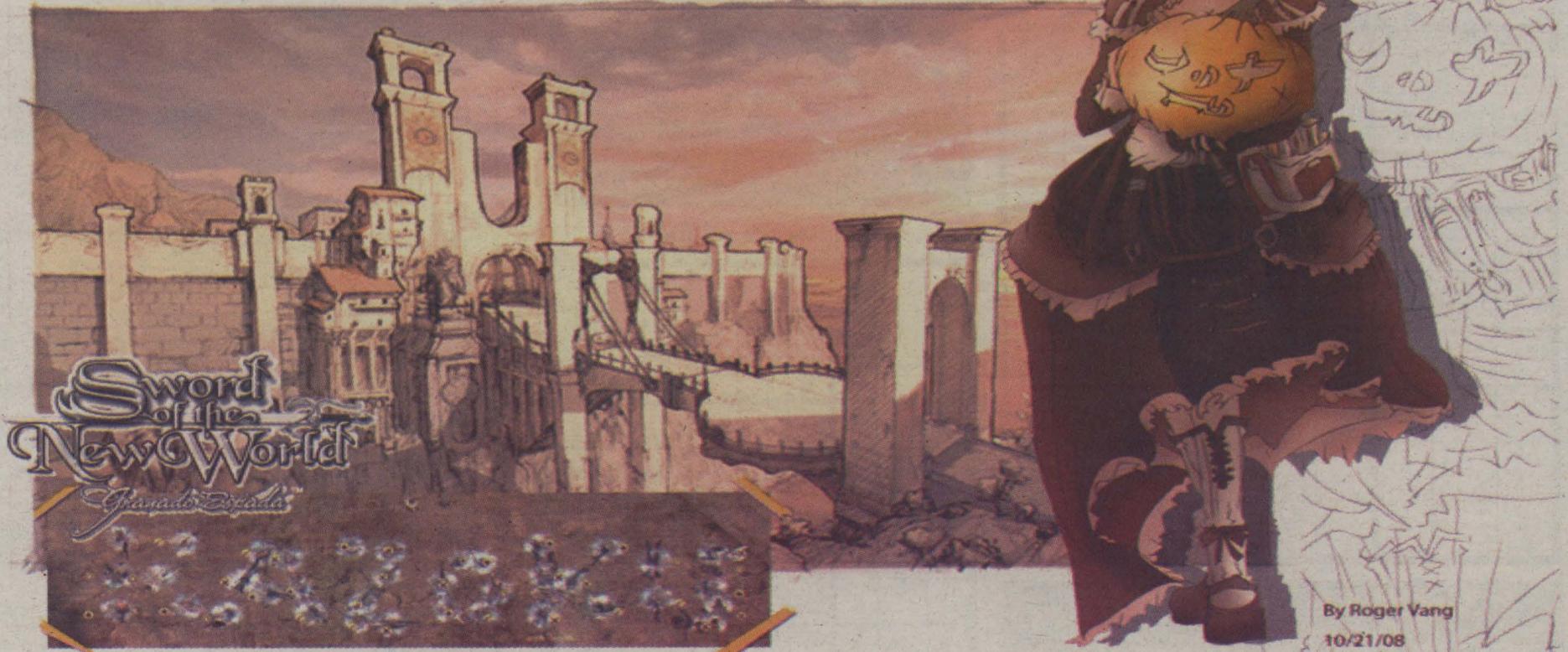


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By Roger Vang
10/21/08