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A Student Publication

Recording Student
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT

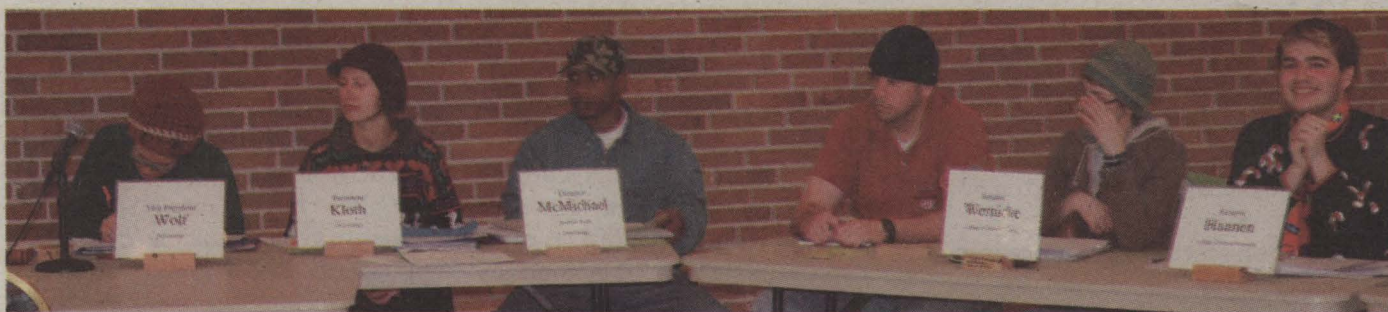


Photo by Justin Glodowski

SGA representatives speak out at their weekly senate meeting, where Kirk Cychosz was chosen last Thursday as the new vice president.

Cychosz selected SGA vice president

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student Government Association senate voted in a new vice president for the remainder of the semester last Thursday during their weekly meeting.

Kirk Cychosz, with a vote of 12-1-1, was voted in as vice president, leaving his post as Legislative Issues Director vacant.

Cychosz was recommended by President Katie Kloth, and was voted in by the required three-fourths vote of the senate according to the constitution.

"He's the right person for the job. I know I have said it before, from a personal level we differ ideologically," said Kloth during the meeting. "He is really interested in embodying the spirit of shared governance and actually utilizing people's input and doing what the vice president is there to do in terms of organization and representation on committees."

Cychosz will replace Vice President Erika Wardle who resigned

before the beginning of the semester for unknown reasons.

According to Kloth, Wardle supported the recommendation of Cychosz in her resignation letter.

However, dissent came from Senator Sam Glenzer who spoke against Kloth's recommendation.

"I will remain stubborn on this. I don't think the guy has enough senate experience to do it," said Glenzer. "I have no other propositions because it's Katie's job to appoint someone and I just don't agree with the appointment."

Cychosz has been involved with senate and has served as Legislative Issues Director since the middle of last semester.

In the first round of voting, a senate member cast a vote for "Kirk" as opposed to the required "yay" or "nay" votes. This vote was considered invalid after a recess was taken to analyze the situation. The speaker of the senate Saul Newton called for a recount.

A second vote was cast resulting in an 11-2-1 vote. This did not meet the required three-fourths vote of the entire senate which was needed for the approval.

A third vote was cast due to

a motion to reconsider made by Glenzer.

"I realize we are in a situation where we really... need someone to step in as vice president," said Glenzer. "I think that if everyone helps him out I think that he'll be fine. Because the point is we need the position filled. It's more important to have someone in there now than to just dilly daddle about qualifications."

Discussion continued on the floor.

"I just really want, either way you vote, it's because you think that he's the right one. Not because the position needs to be filled," said student senator Rod King.

Cychosz said, "I am here to do the work. I've already spoke[n] to it. This isn't the way anyone wants to be vice president but we need to fill the position, and we need to do the work."

The election process for SGA student body president, vice president, as well as senators for next school year is currently under way. Applications can be found at the SGA Web site at <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/sga>.

Campus shaken by death of student

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At 2:22 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, Andrew Woods, 19, was pronounced dead at Saint Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point. He died in the emergency room after he was found unresponsive in Thomson Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus.

"It is a real tragedy," said Bob Tomlinson, vice chancellor of student affairs. "My own feeling is the way the staff in Thomson Hall and the way Protective Services responded is a real example and a tribute to the way people care about students on this campus."

According to the coroner's report, "The manner and cause of death will not be determined until all studies are completed and reviewed by this office. Trauma was not a factor in the death and foul play has been ruled out. Alcohol had been consumed the night before. However, alcohol has not been determined to be a primary cause of death at this point in time."

The Portage County coroner's office conducted an autopsy over the weekend according to a release from their office. The toxicology findings are predicted to take up to four weeks while other tests may take up to three months.

Students seemed shaken by the sudden news over the weekend.

"I had only met Andrew a few times during the semester, so I couldn't really call him a good friend of mine because I barely knew him, but he was a nice guy every time I did see him. I know he had a bright future ahead of him and it's sad his life was taken so soon," said Ashley Tabaka.

Tabaka also looks at this situation as a waking point to reflect on life and hopes others do as well.

"It just really hits hard that it happened in a place where I live, where you think you're safe, and you take the next day for granted because you're living for the moment," said Tabaka. "I really hope Andrew's death won't be viewed in vain, and

Last Friday: the day free music died

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Free music downloading came to its premature culmination on Friday, Feb. 7. Thousands of students across the United States suddenly found themselves without their connection to the music world that had been provided for free from Ruckus, an ad-supported online music streaming service that was aimed directly toward college students.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was one of numerous campuses that promoted and supported Ruckus. Over 2500 students at UW-SP were

signed up to receive this free service through Ruckus.

"We had contracted with Ruckus.com to provide cached music on our campus network for our resident students to take advantage of and our contract ended without notice at the time the Ruckus Web site went down last week," said Colleen Andrews of Information Technology.

Ruckus was acquired by TotalMusic, the joint venture between Sony and UMG, with the intention of starting their own music service through it last year.

"I only hope that someone else figures out how to crack this music-on-the-Web nut in a way that is a win for everyone in the value chain," said

Jason Herskowitz, TotalMusic's vice president of product management on his blog after the unplugging of Ruckus.com. "The problem is that to make a music service a win for everyone, then all of the famished participants, have to sit at the table and be content to let all the others have a little bit to eat, even though they are still hungry themselves."

Ruckus faced certain flaws but was still well-used across the university community. Students using Macs could not use Ruckus as well as students with iPod technology.

Alternatives to the free music

See **Ruckus** pg. 2

See **Shaken** pg. 3

Inside
This Week

News	1-3	Sports	8-10	Comics	15
Pointlife	4-5	Arts & Culture	11-12	Classifieds	16
Sci. & Outdoors	6-7	Letters	13-14		

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News

Student Involvement and Employment Office to host bone marrow drive

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On Mar. 10, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., a life saving opportunity in the form of a bone marrow drive will be offered to the students, faculty, staff and community at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.

The Student Involvement and Employment Office, along with the Community Blood Center of Appleton, Wis., is offering a chance for those wanting to save a life to do so in a unique way by registering to donate their bone marrow to a match in need.

"Be the Match" is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to be put on the National Marrow Donor Program Registry.

"Everyone knows what a blood drive is, and they have that image in their head," coordinator Ruth Welhouse said. "Bone marrow drives are not the same. To my knowledge we haven't done it on this campus before, and it's something we'd like to give students the opportunity to do."

Interested volunteers will visit Be the Match and will be asked to fill out a health history. A cheek swab is then done for later DNA and HLA testing.

"That is all the drive actually entails," said Welhouse.

The tests are then done based on the sample taken from the cheek swab to determine if one will be a match for someone.

Patients needing marrow transplants go to the registry to find a match for them. Matches are then contacted for further testing and decisions are made on whether or not one will be a match and be willing to donate to the patient.

The match-determining process can take from one-to-six weeks. If a decision is made to donate, the donor will be brought to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, Wis., for the extraction of bone marrow.

Two different donation procedures are offered to the donor, so the donation can also be made at the Blood Center in Milwaukee, Wis.

"It's not this terrible, scary procedure that everyone perceives it as," said Welhouse.

During the most well-known donation procedure, the patient is put under anesthesia and then has a drill inserted into their hip where the bone marrow is extracted.

The patient can be sore for a few days after this procedure, but it can be moderated with pain medication.

"There are people who have gone to work the next day after the procedure," said Welhouse.

The other way to donate is called PBSC, which is a type of stem cell rejuvenation. Injections are given to the donor for five days to make the bone marrow multiply quickly. After the five days, the donor is hooked up to an aphaeresis machine at the Blood Center. The machine filters out the newly formed bone marrow cells.

"They actually prefer that over a hip procedure," said Welhouse.

The PBSC injections will give the donor flu-like symptoms for about a week after donating.

"It's an awesome way to be able to give back and to heal if you're looking for something a little more unique than just donating blood," said Welhouse.

SIEO will also be hosting a blood drive in The Laird Room of the Dreyfus University Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on February 16 and 17.

UPDATE: Christine Walters fundraising events

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Students across campus are coming together to support the search for Christine Walters, the former University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student that went missing last November.

Toni Oseicki and Katie Kloth are organizing a fundraiser event to collect money to pay for search efforts, including a private investigator, search dogs and a psychic.

There have been prizes donated from throughout the city and university to support this fundraiser. Prizes include services from Adventure 212, Sunny Sky Farms,

Outdoor Edventures and the Stevens Point Co-op.

Donations can be made and information about the prizes can be found in the Dreyfus University Center concourse area where Oseicki and Kloth will be tabling for donations.

They will also be hosting a gathering at 753 Franklin Street at 7 p.m. Feb. 20, where prizes will be drawn and food will be available.

More information about the gathering and prizes can also be found on Facebook.

For more information on the missing person case surrounding Walters, read the Feb. 6 issue of The Pointer and stay tuned for updates.

From **Ruckus** pg. 1

service provided by Ruckus are basically none.

"ResNet is researching other options, but there is no other service currently available like Ruckus," said Andrews. "The one service that was somewhat like Ruckus - CDigix - pulled their music service for colleges in the spring of 2007 as well."

Even though the Recording Industry Association of America has said they are curtailing lawsuits against college students, they continue to send Digital Millennium Copyright Act Violation Notices to campuses that still included carry the threat of lawsuits.

"UW-SP received eleven DMCA notices during the fall 2008 semester and has received seven this semester already," said Andrews. "Most students and employees have been caught for illegally sharing music or video files from LimeWire or bitTorrent or Aresware peer-to-peer file sharing software."

Andrews provides advice to students on how to avoid facing legal troubles as well as advice for those who do receive notices.

"Students and employees would be wise to avoid using these particular applications or risk getting caught for illegal file sharing," said Andrews. "Illegal file sharing violates U.S. copyright laws as well as the campus network use."

**UNFORTUNATELY THE RUCKUS SERVICE
WILL NO LONGER BE PROVIDED.**



THANKS

Graphic courtesy of Ruckus

The final graphic appeared last Friday on ruckus.com signifying its demise. Students will no longer be able to access this service and will be forced to find different ways to meet their music needs.

Students: Give this some very serious thought and then apply!

International Programs has openings for YOU in its fall 2009. Semester Abroad Trips to:

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Professor presents lecture on love, sex and romance

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Why do humans have sex? Which sex is more romantic? What do humans find attractive in certain people? What draws two seemingly different beings of male and female together?

These questions and more have been researched and theorized throughout the academic realm of psychology.

Just in time for Valentine's Day these questions were the topic of Prof. Erica Weisgram's lecture on Feb. 10, 2009, given before a packed room of students.

"There is a lot of interesting topics when talking about sex, romance and mate preferences," said Weisgram.

She began the lecture by talking about how the media portrays gender differences pertaining to these topics, emphasizing that this is the popular view despite psychological research that points towards men and women being more similar.

"What the media says about sex, dating and mate preferences is that gender differences are large," said Weisgram. "They will try to sell you on how you can attract an opposite sex mate. The media says that men and women have these different rules

for dating. These different themes or ideas about relationships are really popularized by books about relationships that are usually targeted towards women."

Research shows that gender differences pertaining to romance and mate preference are relatively small, and surprisingly, the same results can be found when looking at the topic of sex, which is highly divided by the media, often online, in magazines and throughout the American culture.

"There are more similarities than differences when men and women are conceptualizing relationships," said Weisgram. "Why are we not talking about the similarities? Because it is not sexy. Nobody wants to hear that men and women are the same on this trait or that men and women believe the same thing."

There are, of course, some exceptions to this rule and individual cases do differ throughout all the studies.

"Men have more positive attitudes towards casual sex than women," said Weisgram. "Yet, again we have some women that are more positive towards casual sex than some men. So there are those individual differences, but on the group level, you can find a large sex difference."

Recent research by Cindy Meston and David Buss asks the question 'why do people have sex?' This

research took over 1,500 college students and found that there were 237 distinct reasons that humans have sex.

The top three most popular reasons for both men and women consisted of 'I was attracted to the person,' 'it feels good' and 'I wanted to experience the physical pleasure.' The rest of the top ten also showed similar ties.

"When you look at this, men's top ten reasons and the women's top ten reasons are really, really similar to one another. In terms of sex, men and women have similar reasons for having sex," said Weisgram.

Weisgram went on to discuss romance and finished with the topic of mate preference, pushing the same idea that men and women are not so different.

When looking for a mate, men and women look for many of the same attributes and requirements. Those attributes that are often seen to divide preference, such as money or

attractiveness, actually fall to the back burner when people evaluate what attributes they see in their dream mate.

"Men and women basically want the same things," said Weisgram. "People in general are looking for someone who shares their sense of humor, someone who is affectionate, someone who shares their interests and someone who is romantic. They are also looking for someone who is honest, kind and have shared activities. More so than the resources, more so than the attractiveness, this is something that tends to pop up when you ask men and women what they want in a relationship."

Research in the field of psychology really shows that men and women aren't all that different when it comes to the topics around love.

Possibly psychology can help you when writing that last minute valentine for your sweetie as to how to say why you love the one you love.

From **Shaken** pg. 1

I hope students at UW-SP view their lives differently after this tragedy. We can only pray that this won't happen again."

The Student Government

Association and Residence Hall Association will hold a moment of silence at noon on Thursday, Feb. 12, for Woods, and the university's mourning flag will fly in his memory as well.



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Thursday, February 19th
5 p.m.
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Room 122



Life is calling. How far will you go?

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Brain Damage Valentine's Day Edition

Research indicates that just about 9,000 romantic couples take out marriage licenses each year and then fail to use them.

The Philadelphia International Airport finished as the number one best airport for making a love connection, according to an online survey.

After Christmas, Valentine's Day is the single largest seasonal card-sending occasion.

James Belshaw and Sophia Severin hold the Guinness World Record for the longest kiss which lasted an incredible 31 hours, 30 minutes and 30 seconds.

6 percent of men proposed to their girlfriend over the phone.

Romance novels are becoming more and more popular every year. 53 percent of all mass market paperback books sold in this country are romances.

Only 4 percent of men ask for the parental approval for their bride's hand in marriage.

In 1946, the first full year after the second World War, the number of divorces in America soared to 610,000. By 1950, over a million veterans had been divorced.

Pointlife

Magazines and newspapers survive in modern times

Katie Holden
POINTLIFE REPORTER

Despite exponential growth of online media in recent years, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students still use print media. While online media has its benefits, students who relied on print media before continue to do so today.

An exception to the popularity of print media is online articles. Many students feel that online newspapers are much more convenient than the print version.

Ben Krahn likes that he has the ability to seek out which source to get his information from. He also prefers the instant newsfeeds rather than waiting for the next day's paper. And of course, for a college student, nothing beats the free price tag on online newspapers.

Another aspect to online media is the ever-popular social networking sites, such as Facebook and MySpace. While some students feel these sites are distracting, most agree that they provide a much-needed escape from study and work. These Web sites aren't replacements to reading. Instead, they are an alternative leisure activity.

Aside from online articles from newspapers and blogs, UW-SP students agree that it is most convenient to read a newspaper or magazine in paper form.

Magazines allow for minimal time commitment, as readers can skim however many articles that time permits. For busy college students this is ideal.

Although magazines often provide articles on their official Web site, the time it takes to sift through each month's features to get to the new stuff doesn't win over any fans.

Also, Krahn notes that the need for information right away dissipates when the article isn't news-related.

"When I read online it's because I want new information about my favorite sports team or to keep up on politics, but if I want to read a magazine it'd be better just to take that time to relax...it doesn't need to be instant," Krahn said.

High school English teachers should rejoice that most students continue to read "real" books. Those interested in reading as a pastime have not replaced this activity for online reading using engines such as Google books and Twitter.

Sure, the addition of online media helps to minimize unnecessary paper waste, but sometimes there just isn't a substitution for reading print media.

Angela Steingraber, an English

education major, simply prefers reading a print book over reading online.

"I do believe that [reading online] is a more 'green' way to go by using the Internet, but I prefer newspaper, magazines, etc...," said Steingraber.

Sitting at a desk and continuously using the scroll bar can get annoying. Even mild headaches can occur from eye strain due to staring at a screen for too long. Basic discomfort seems to rule out any online reading that extends beyond a quick article or online posting.

While online media seems to be favored among college students for social networking, articles and other informational inquiries, nothing beats the experience of reading an actual print magazine or book. The addition of online media is a positive one. It helps students stay informed by being

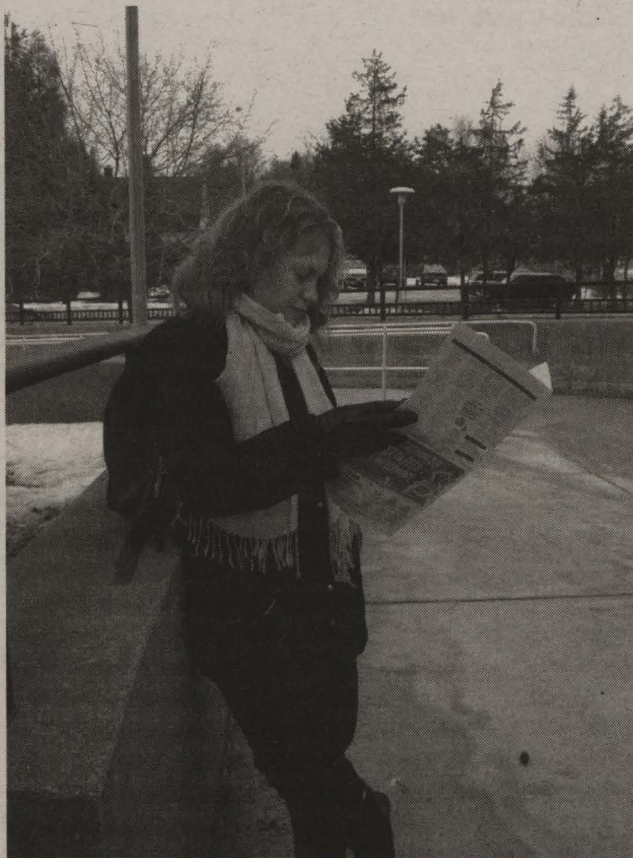


Photo by Becka Schuelke

Students, such as Amanda Franzen, still find it to be a fruitful endeavor to review events of the world outside of a computer screen.

more available than print forms.

For now, the print media is managing to stay alive, proving the two mediums can both work in unison for the benefit of all readers.

geeks' corner

Mikel Rysk
GEEK GAMING AFICIONADO

Dear Geek Guru,

I have recently heard that Pray-Sims is called the gamer hall. Why is this? What is D&D? Why do people talk about it so much? Where else do people play this?

Thanks, Confused

Dear Confused,

It is true that Pray-Sims is called the gamer hall. This is mostly due to the fact that most of the students in Pray-Sims play all kinds of games. I have known plenty of gamers from Pray-Sims, and most of them either play video games like Halo or World of Warcraft. Some play other games; D&D is one of them.

D&D stands for Dungeons and Dragons. D&D is what is referred to as a role-playing game. Basically, players choose a character that is set in a fantasy setting such as Forgotten Realms or Greyhawk. The players choose to give these characters equipment and certain powers. The characters have a class that is

picked by the player depending on the character's statistics or ability scores. Some classes are Fighter, Cleric, Rogue, Druid, Barbarian, Ranger, Wizard or Monk. The player picks one of these classes for their character and portrays that character through acting or talking. Basically, the players are acting out what they think the character can and would do.

These games require players, probably four to six, but they also require a dungeon master, storyteller or game master. DMs, STs or GMs are the most important aspect of the game; without them, the game doesn't exist. These players step up and tell a story, make a quest and make it fun for the players under them. This makes them unique. DMs, STs and GMs are hard to find. The art of telling stories is an art that most people just cannot handle.

Dungeons and Dragons, has different editions which players can participate in. The current edition is fourth. Most players are still playing third edition or 3.5, which has advantages over fourth, but fourth is gaining momentum.

I know that people play these games mostly to take a break from reality. The main reason for playing,

though, is fun. Playing these games is fun, relaxing and enjoyable for all who partake. Some play because they are addicted, and this is a serious problem, but most gamers are willing to overlook this.

The reason people talk about it so much is because they want to share their experiences with other people in order to inspire them to try out the games they play. They feel superior to non-gamers because they have added more words to their vocabulary in one game session than most people learn in the span of a semester.

Being a gamer means that you have joined an elite group of people, who could survive an apocalypse because they have experienced an apocalypse already through their character and won't freak out because aliens or monsters invade. In essence, these people are survivors and most of them have a strong resolve.

Survivors tend to want to share this experience with people they care about and want to have fun with. Most of these gamers would probably think that a monster or alien invasion would be the coolest thing ever.

If you want to play or see these games being played, there are a few options. First, there are local gaming stores like Galaxy Comics, Games

and More or Gaming Generations. Second, there is a gaming group on campus called Gamers' Alliance of Stevens Point or GASP. They hold a game night every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. in lower Debot.

Lastly, you can play these games with anyone who has the requirements such as books or video games, or anywhere that allows you to sit and play. You might need your own dice however, which can be purchased online or from your local game stores.

Remember, have fun and good gaming.

The Geek Guru

More questions about
gaming or something
else in life that
confuses you to no end
send your requests to
mikelrysk@yahoo.com

Are you being watched?

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As the weather turns dreary, wet and cold Pointer student activities continue to provide some relief and entertainment to students looking for something to do. But how many of these activities actually receive student attention? Is it just the sporting events? Do students watch plays put on by the theater program?

"I believe students attend more sporting events than recitals and band concerts. I don't even hear about band concerts so I never know when they are . . . as well as other concerts and performances," said Jenissa Koch a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

It's easy to see that the center of attention is particularly basketball and hockey in the winter months, but there is a wide array of activities that may go almost unnoticed by the general student population. Events such as dance recitals, indoor track meets and art shows seek more student attendance, but may not always get it.

"Sporting events are really the only events that really interest me. But if one of my friends asked me to go to one of their recitals, concerts or other events, I would make an effort

to be there," said Dan Fuhs, a UW-SP junior.

However, there are just 12 home sporting events in the month of February, which is dwarfed by

"I don't even hear about band concerts."

-Koch

the number of music, recitals and plays put on by the College of Fine Arts. However, most students don't necessarily lend their support to the Noel Fine Arts Center, based on the thoughts of musical theater major Michael Gastaldi.

"It really depends on your major. I don't think that those that don't have at least a class in the NFAC pay attention to what goes on there. I think it's really just how much free time that our class and work schedules allow that dictates how much support students can offer," said Gastaldi.

This holds true across campus, as most students are supportive of activities and events in their specific majors and interests; however, if it's a rainy day and you're looking for something new to do, take a look at the UW-SP events calendar. On any day there could be up to six or more separate student activities going on, and every bit of support helps.

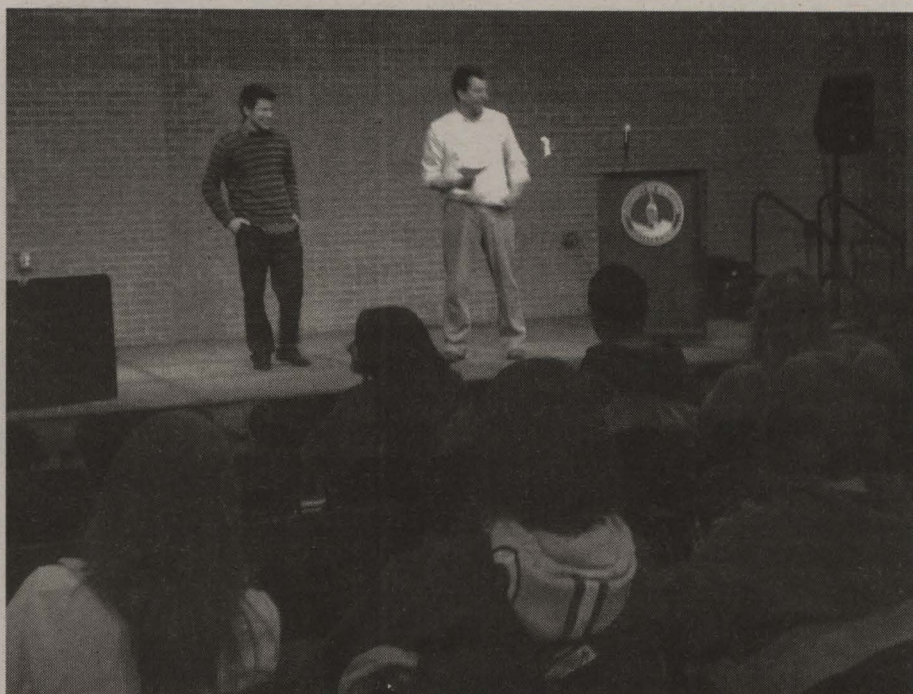


Photo by Justin Glodowski

Students at UW-SP often find difficulty acquiring information as to the correct time and place for events such as the You Bid on Cupid - Date Auction (pictured here) as they are not always affiliated with the fields of study students are engaged in.

Students overlook opportunity on campus

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wall and track and tennis courts. An aquatic center and two full-sized gymnasiums, in addition to a Strength and Fitness Center, are also available for the 25 intramural sports and 22 club sports that are offered.

In addition to these student-created teams, the HEC, as well as other facilities, supports eight men's sports and 10 women's sports which are recognized in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association.

For students who make plays on stage, instead of on a court, Players, a student-run theater and dance organization, is open to all students. Productions in dance and theater are also available for viewing through the Performing Art Series at the Noel Fine Arts Center, a building which contains practice and performance facilities, as well as a recording studio and the Carlsten Art Gallery.

Other venues in entertainment are offered through the campus newspaper, radio and TV stations that are student-run and host the World's Largest Trivia Contest every April.

Let's not forget the brand-new Dreyfus University Center as a large attraction, which is also home to the Basement Brewhaus, a popular student hang-out.

Though these attractions are only a few of the many accessible on this campus, they are some of the many reasons that 8,800+ students chose to attend the UW-SP.

Revealed by tour guides every year, these attractions will continue to run strong; that is, if students do not forget the reason they chose this university in the first place.

Visiting a prospective college can play a big role in the decision process, offering insight on the programs and accomplishments of the university. But after arriving at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, do students soon forget the opportunities at hand and just follow a repetitive routine that disregards a lot of what this campus has to offer?

For some students, the answer is yes. Therefore, a reminder of what that tour guide explained oh-so-long ago may be necessary to jump-start student involvement at UW-SP.

Starting with the scenery, Stevens Point attracts people with its parks, streams, restaurants and shopping locations. Home to the Schmeeckle Nature Reserve, 275 acres available for fishing, walking, hiking, boating and wildlife watching, Stevens Point was ranked as one of the "Top 100 Places to Live" by Relocate-America.

In this city, populated by around 25,000 people, UW-SP boasts 400 acres and is home to campus activities, athletic programs and facilities that are utilized by the student body enrolled at the university.

Housing over 180 student organizations, including student government, academic and professional clubs, community service organizations and multicultural groups, students have the opportunity to be involved in many programs and to utilize many facilities.

The Health Enhancement Center is home to 54,000 square feet, lodging a multi-activity center with a climbing

16th Annual Soul Food Dinner

Date: Sunday February 15, 2009

Time: Dinner starts at 5:30pm
Doors open at 5:00pm

Location: Dreyfus University Center Laird Room

\$5 for UWSP Students/ 12 and under
\$10 for Adults

Tickets will be sold at the UWSP Ticket Office Located in the DUC

Entertainment: African Dance Group and UWSP Students

Come and join the UWSP Black Student Union in celebrating the black culture of the United States.

Bring your whole family to a night of Unity

"United we stand; divided we fall"

Sponsored by Black Student Union

Science & Outdoors

New student organization formed at UW-SP

Gregg Jennings
SCIENCE & OUTDOORS REPORTER

Aaron Sedgwick, a biology and fisheries major, got the idea for a new club after taking Introduction to Plant Biology with Professor Virginia Freire. Sedgwick developed a strong interest in how people interact with plants and the role people have in the ecosystem.

Sedgwick thought he might be the only student that was interested in sustainable living, but he also thought there was a good chance he could find other interested students in a university known for its natural sciences such as ecological restoration, wildlife and fire management, here at the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point.

It was first going to be called the Society of Ethnobotany, but it was decided that Society of Ethnobiology would be more inclusive. Matthew Furry, a student that had an interest in wildlife and plants, agreed to help Sedgwick start the club.

After the two students fleshed out the constitution, Sedgwick remembered that Professor Freire had talked about ethnobotany in her classes. He and Furry approached her

about being the faculty advisor for the new club and she agreed.

"I am happy to be the advisor," Freire said. "These students are very independent and creative."

Freire was happy the two students were taking the initiative to start the society.

The officers for the society were

recruited from friends of Furry's that he knew would be interested in ethnocultural pursuits. The officers of the club are Katherine Tesch, treasurer and Brianna Soroko, web weaver. The club will be looking to fill the secretary position.

The fledgling student organization started in the middle

of the fall semester, but Sedgwick is happy with the member turn-out so far. Last semester, Sedgwick gave presentations on wild edible plants and how to use all the parts of an animal. Another society member gave a presentation on various shelters, such as the teepee. Professor Freire gave a presentation of her botany experiences in Guatemala, her native country.

The club has had a brainstorming meeting already this semester. Plans to bring in speakers such as Sam Thayer, a wild edible plant expert, were discussed. Tentative presentations on topics such as ethnoecology, animal tracking and heirloom variety of vegetables are planned. Workshops on how to make baskets, bows and flint knapping were also discussed. The group is also looking into field trips to Sandhill Wildlife Area for wolf tracking, teaching drum school, and the Menomonie Indian Forest.

Sedgwick says the club is all about learning from each other and sharing knowledge, not one person dictating to the others. Interested ethnobiologists can contact Sedgwick at asedg242@uwsp.edu or attend a meeting held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Trainer Natural Resources 359.



Courtesy of Gregg Jennings

Matthew Furry, Aaron Sedgwick, Prof. Virginia Freire, Brianna Soroko and Katherine Tesch make up the leadership team of the newly created Society of Ethnobotany.

Portage county lakes planning project

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Lake management plans are currently being processed for Portage County lakes with help from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education.

Teaming up with the Department of Natural Resources and local municipalities, planning sessions for residents of these lake areas are being organized in order to update concerned citizens on the current issues facing the 29 lakes of Portage County.

"We want to get as many people involved in the planning process as we can," said communications specialist Jen McNelly.

The citizens of these areas play a key role in the water management of the lakes. The purpose of these planning sessions is "to have enough informed citizens around the county to monitor and protect the lakes and make informed decisions in the lake and land," said Nancy Turyk, water resource scientist.

With these plans in place, "we'll have healthier lakes for people to enjoy," she said.

The Portage County Lakes Planning Project initially began in

2002 with a study done by UW-SP faculty and students of the 29 lakes inhabiting the county. The data is now being used to inform the public of the conditions and habitats of the lakes to evoke proper decisions for the management plan.

Conditions such as water quality and invasive species are hot topics, along with shoreland and fish habitats.

Deterioration of shorelands occurs when residents or lake users undertake similar actions to the lake shores and lands as they would their residential lawn. This destroys the natural habitats, including the homes of frogs and turtles, surrounding the lake.

Invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil, an aquatic plant, are being found in freshwater areas throughout the county, such as McDill Pond.

"A lot of recreational users lake hop. If they don't watch [their equipment] they can spread invasive species pretty quick," McNelly said.

It is also important for the plan to balance endangered species like the Fassett's locoweed, which has been found in Wolf and Pickerel lakes. The plant depends on the fluctuating water levels occurring in these lakes.

"It's really not found a whole lot of other places in the world," McNelly said.

A season for self-esteem

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Welcome to the second half of the month dedicated to feeling great, improving mental health and boosting confidence. February is the national month for self-esteem.

According to the National Association for Self-Esteem, self-esteem is "the experience of being capable of meeting life's challenges and being worthy of happiness."

NASE recognizes self-esteem in individuals who have tolerance and respect for others, accept responsibility for their actions and take pride in their accomplishments; people who are self-motivated, willing to take risks and capable of handling criticism.

Self-esteem, according to NASE, can also be easily misinterpreted and associated with egotism, arrogance, conceit or a sense of superiority, characteristics that should not be credited to authentic, healthy self-esteem because they are typically defensive reactions to a lack of self-esteem.

Those who lack self-esteem typically demonstrate actions that focus on trying to prove themselves or to impress others. They generally lack confidence and frequently doubt their value.

Low self-esteem can potentially lead to serious self-abuse such as alcoholism, drug use, eating disorders, school dropouts, low academic achievement and suicide.

This is precisely why over 20 years ago NASE began to incorporate self-esteem into the framework of humanity so that every individual experiences personal worth and happiness no matter what age, race or background.

As part of NASE's mission to reduce the number of people with low-self esteem, February is devoted to building self-esteem in a healthy way. Suggestions for improving self-esteem on the NASE Web site involve taking action. This includes being on time for everything, saying supportive things to yourself and doing what you say you'll do.

Freshman Bethany Seeds says she plans to boost her confidence by taking time for herself every week. She wants to spend time getting ready and treating herself to some nights out with friends.

Another popular way on campus to build self-esteem during this cold month is taking time each week to work out. Sophomore Alex Johnson likes taking part in intramurals and also working out at the Strength Center.

NASE believes a person cannot have too much self-esteem and asserts that a person with high self-esteem reaps benefits such as feeling good, smiling, having lots of energy and being positive.

TECH TIDBIT

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Imagine a cell phone with no bluetooth capabilities, no camera, no video player and no Wi-Fi. Most students couldn't fathom the idea of a cell phone without these "essential" attributes. The thought of such a low-tech phone may take students back to the time when they received their first cell phone with merely a few games and an address book as features. What kind of company would market a phone with such limited capabilities? Motorola took that risk, but with a twist.

This basic phone is the first cell phone to have its casing be made entirely of recycled water bottles. The

RECYCLED PLASTIC RENEWS CELL PHONES

Renew comes packaged in a post-consumer recycled cardboard box and offers nine hours of talk time before needing a charge. Compared to most phones, Renew's nine hours



Courtesy of infosyncworld.com

of talk time is quite a bit longer than the average cell and was designed to reduce the amount of time needed to

charge the phone, saving energy.

Motorola left no path uncrossed when developing the cell. They even included a pre-paid envelope so buyers can return their old phone for recycling. However, the reviews are still out on whether the Renew is a quality purchase. Some reviewers claim the phone has slow Internet browsing capabilities and "old style" graphics, but commend Renew for its up-to-date MP3 aptitude and clear, loud call quality.

Being the first carbon-free phone on the market, it is certainly one of a kind and makes an environmentally friendly statement that other cell phone companies will surely emulate.



Courtesy of infosyncworld.com

The Motorola Renew offers environmentally conscious buyers an opportunity to own a phone made partially of recycled water bottles.

Do you have a cold that won't go away? Are you wondering what that rash is that recently appeared? Send your health and medical questions to:

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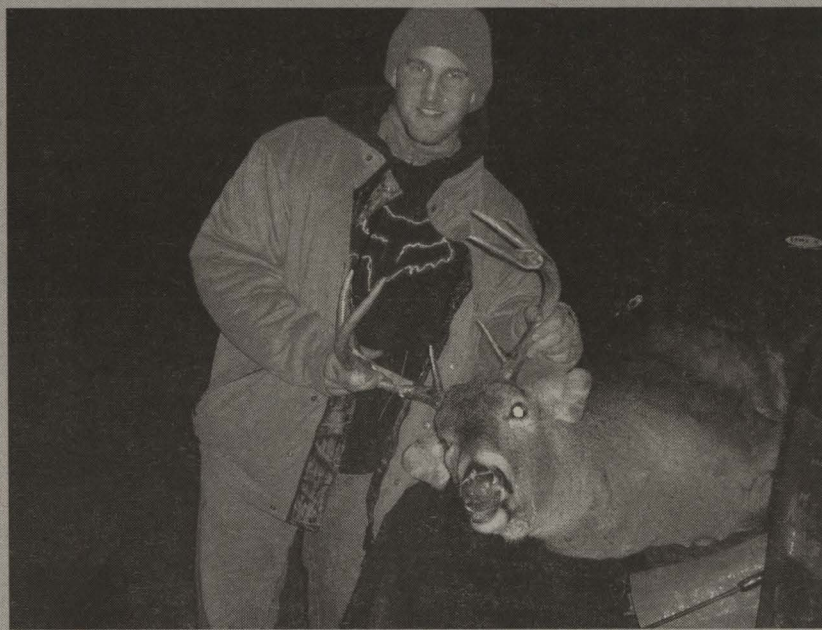


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TOP SHOTS



Kevin Orlando shot this eight-point buck with a 15-inch spread the day after Thanksgiving on his home farm in Crivitz, Wis. The buck had a live weight of 210 pounds.

From **Portage** pg. 6

Planning meetings for Wolf, Pickerel and Fountain lakes are currently being held. Surveys from these lakes have been processed and the results will be posted in March on the Portage County Lakes Web site: <http://www.co.portage.wi.us/> Anyone can take the surveys.

The surveys are a "good way for us to figure out what things we need to educate people on," said CJ Boettcher, research assistant to Turyk. "It's possible that, maybe, they see something and we don't."

The second meeting for Wolf,

Pickerel and Fountain lakes will be held at the Belmont Town Hall in Almond on Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. Professionals and specialists will be brought in to discuss the results of the surveys.

A shoreland restoration workshop at UW-SP is being held on Mar. 28, in Trainer Natural Resources room 122 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. It's open to the public and will include speakers Nancy Turyk, UW-SP master gardener and a lakes specialist from the UW-Extension.

Sports

Pointer men's basketball pulls through tough win

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Number three ranked men's basketball team gave the hometown crowd an exciting victory Wednesday night against the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The Pointers earned their eleventh straight win in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with a 61-58 victory over the Blugolds, maintaining their unbeaten conference record.

Louis Hurd, the WIAC men's basketball Athlete of the Week, said University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point knew it was in for a challenge coming into the match-up.

"We knew Eau Claire was playing pretty well lately and we knew it was going to be a battle," Hurd said. "There's probably going to be more games like that down the road; we're going to have to grind it out to have that pre-tournament mode."

The Blugolds cut away the Pointers' lead when they tied at 56 points late in the fourth quarter. UW-SP's Bryan Beamish and Pete Rortvedt each scored a pair of free throws to help the Pointers finish off their opponent.

Rortvedt led the team with 24 points and Beamish added 12 points.

"I thought we were up and down; I thought we had good stretches of defense and then all of a sudden we had a few letdowns," Semling said. "[The Blugolds] are a good enough team to take advantage of that."

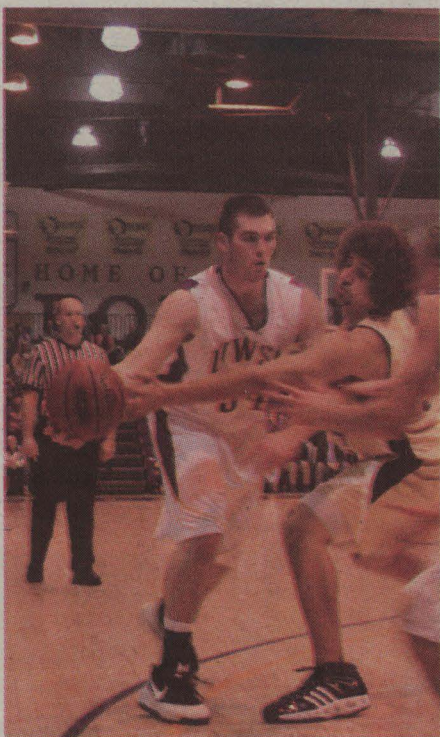


Photo by Rochelle Nechuta
Pointer Louis Hurd passing the ball during Wednesday night's game.



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

The Pointers edged over UW-Eau Claire 61-58 in their twelfth straight win. Senior Pete Rortvedt led the team with 24 points and went 6-for-6 at the free-throw line.

Semling said the game was exciting and that the energy really pumped up the team.

"Those four seniors really understand big, tough games and they like that pressure down the stretch," Semling said. "You're so engaged because the crowd's into it, the drama is so great at that point."

The Pointers travel to UW-Whitewater and UW-La Crosse in conference games during the next week. They return home to host their

final regular season match-up against UW-Platteville on Saturday, Feb. 21.

Semling said that these games in the upcoming championship stretch are very meaningful because it's the point in the season when "the marathon turns into a sprint."

"I told our men in the locker room afterwards, I said this is a good win, make sure you enjoy this," he said. "It's ok to struggle because it makes you tougher."

Wrestlers nearing regular season's end, nationals in sight

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point wrestling team prepares to enter their last weekend of competition with meets against Augsburg College on Saturday, Feb. 14, and UW-Eau Claire on Sunday, Feb. 15.

The UW-SP team holds an overall record of 15-4-1 and 3-1-1 in the WIAC conference. The team has proven itself worthy of a legitimate shot at nationals, tying the nationally fifth-ranked UW-Whitewater last

week before placing second at the UW-Eau Claire Invitational, only 14 points behind first-ranked Augsburg College.

Senior Chase DeCleene tallied four victories en route to his first place finish that included a 3-2 decision against Justin Garcia of UW-La Crosse this past weekend at the UW-Eau Claire Invitational.

DeCleene, a senior from Ashwaubenon, Wis., is currently 21-10 this season with just three losses since the start of January.

"For the remainder of the season, I'd hope to make it to the national tournament, become an All-American, and help my team place high in the nation," said DeCleene.

The Pointer grapplers will get

a taste of the challenges they could potentially face in the upcoming post-season competition this weekend against Augsburg.

Unbeaten in NCAA Division III wrestling, the only loss came from a Division II University of Nebraska-Omaha 28-9 dual meet victory over the Auggies. What does DeCleene have to say about the upcoming meet?

"We are a confident team. Augsburg would be silly to think we are just going to lay down for them," he said. "None of us enjoy losing, so we are going to do all we can to prevent us from losing. We plan on working hard all week to prepare for two very difficult matches."

However, the day after their big

meet against Augsburg, the Pointers return to the mat against conference rivals UW-Eau Claire, but senior DeCleene has seen this before.

"It's a little wearing mentally, but we had the same scenario last year, and we did well the second day. We just have to keep our heads on straight and keep focus to wrestle well," DeCleene said.

The UW-SP team clearly has their work cut out for them, but DeCleene gives a clear veteran statement in his thoughts on the postseason.

"I think we will have a great conference tournament and place high in the nation. We've worked too hard for that not to happen."



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Sports

Women's hockey gears up for season's end, playoffs

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's hockey team went 1-1 over the weekend against the University of Wisconsin-Superior Yellowjackets at Ice Hawks Arena. The Pointers fell just short on Friday, falling 2-1 after Yellowjacket keeper Melissa Kunzelman managed 32 saves, but they came out swinging on Saturday holding the Yellowjackets to no goals and getting the 2-0 victory on Senior Day.

The first period went scoreless Friday night and UW-Superior was the first to capitalize in the second period, scoring the game's first goal seven-and-a-half minutes in. The Pointers answered back quickly with a goal by Rachel Graves 22 seconds later to tie the game, but that's as close as the team would come to the victory. UW-Superior added on another goal late in the second and the tough goal play of UW-Superior kept the Pointers from tying it up after five separate tries.

The game put the two teams in a tie for second place in the NCHA, but the Pointers would not go quietly into the night. On Saturday they wasted no time with senior Michelle Sosnowski scoring the only goal of the first period around the half-way point. The Pointers sealed the deal with a goal in the second period by Dana Carothers and the solid play of d'Andra Phillips as she worked her way to 22 saves and her third shutout game.

"We outplayed Superior both games but on Friday night we made more crucial mistakes which they capitalized on," said Head Coach Ann Ninnemann. "We made fewer mistakes on Saturday and also buried our chances that we had."

With the win the Pointers improved to 11-4-5 overall, 8-4-3 in NCHA play while the loss dropped Superior to 12-7-2 overall, 8-4-2 in NCHA play, putting the Pointers alone in the second place seat in the conference. The Pointers, who were picked to finish number two in the conference this season behind UW-Superior, have five more games to go before heading to the playoffs with two games against Lake Forest coming up this weekend.

"We are taking the last five games one at a time," said Ninnemann. "Our last two conference games this weekend against Lake Forest are huge."

The Pointers then go on to play Gustavus, who is currently ranked number one in the country. After the test of Gustavus, the Pointers will play two games on the road against Adrian to finish out the season. Then it will be time to think about the playoffs. The seniors on the team are trying to do all they can to keep the team on track.

"We have many new kids and, yes, playoffs are big, but if we keep everything light and play like we can and stay on the same track that we are currently on with a little more hard work, everything should go our way," said senior Michele Sosnowski.

"It is going to take a whole team to be successful in the post season," said senior Rachel Graves. "We are staying positive and focusing our thoughts

and actions as a team and not just individuals or upperclassmen."

The team is looking to build on the strengths it's developed throughout the season, and are trying to pick apart what they did wrong in close games to prevent those things from hindering their playoff run.

"We are still practicing and working on many of the same concepts we have all season, just trying to perfect them a bit more," said Ninnemann. "We are also focusing a lot on special teams as a lot of games have come down to special teams."

Another key to the Pointers' success in the playoffs will be defense. Many games this season came down to whose defense stood the length of the game.

"We are looking to play great team defense for the final five games and into the playoffs," said Ninnemann. "Staying tough in the defensive zone and staying out of the penalty box."

The Pointers will undoubtedly face number one seed UW-River Falls in the playoffs if they continue to excel and succeed. The Pointers grabbed one victory against River Falls while falling in two contests during the season. To accomplish their goal of winning the National Championship the Pointers will first have to pass this test.

"We will most likely face River Falls in the playoffs and we will need to bury our opportunities in front of the net which we struggled to do in the two losses against them," said Ninnemann.

The Pointer women's hockey team season is far from over and things will really begin to get interesting in the next few weeks. The team will take to the ice again on Feb. 13, in Lake Forest, Ill. to take on the Lake Forest Foresters. The game starts at 7 p.m.

Bennett brothers attend honorary celebration

Rochelle Nechuta

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Brothers Dick and Jack Bennett stood on the newly named Bennett Court on Saturday, Feb. 7, amid a large, supportive home crowd at the Quandt Fieldhouse.

"I know this for a fact, and I daresay that there aren't too many courts named after brothers, so we'll share that forever," Jack said.

At halftime during the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball game against the UW-Superior Yellowjackets, Athletic Director Frank O'Brien introduced the two distinguished ex-coaches. The athletic department unveiled floor plaques that will be placed in the Quandt during renovation this summer.

"There are days in your life that you'll always remember," Dick said. "Some are connected with your personal life, particularly marriage and your children, but then after that, it's this kind of day you just never forget- very special."

Numerous Pointer basketball alumni that had played under the Bennetts attended the ceremony to celebrate the occasion.

"To be able to spend even a half-hour, whatever it was, with these guys brings back a lot of memories and the fact that they would show up shows you that this was an important part of their lives," said Dick.

The Bennetts had served as coaches at UW-SP during different points in their careers.

Jack, who came to Stevens Point after years coaching at the high school

level, said that Stevens Point holds a definitive spot in his heart.

"I don't want to diminish any of my other experiences, but this is the highlight for me, coaching at UW-Stevens Point," he said. "The way those teams played those last

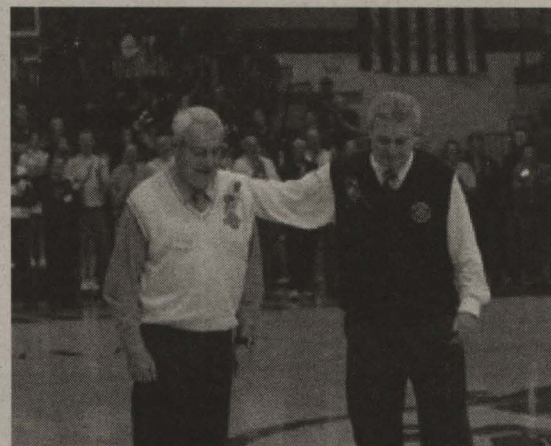


Photo courtesy of the Athletic Department

Dick Bennett (Left) and Jack Bennett (Right) admiring the new Bennett Court sign.

couple of years, you always dream about grabbing that brass ring and they did it, and they came back and did it again."

Following in his big brother's footsteps, Jack said he never would have expected to go as far as he did. He won back-to-back NCAA Division III Championships with the Pointers in 2004 and 2005.

Dick began his own collegiate coaching career at UW-SP and went on to coach for Washington State, UW-Madison and UW-Green Bay.

"When coaches and athletes say that they don't think about things like this, they're telling you the truth," Jack said. "You don't think about it during your career, but afterwards when you look at the sum of all that has happened, it's something you are really grateful for."

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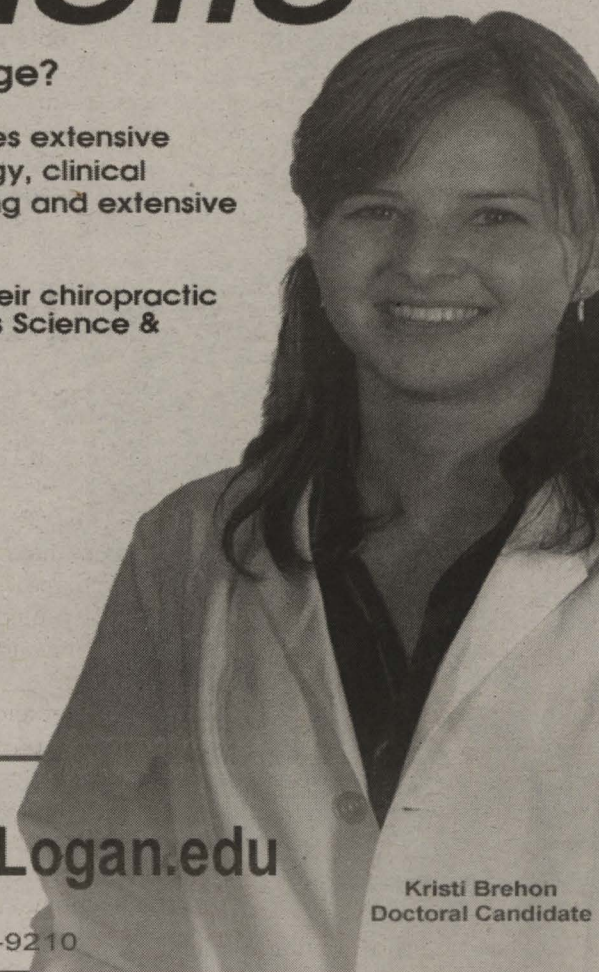
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Kristi Brehon
Doctoral Candidate

Arts & Culture

Need a break from ramen?

Leah Gernetzke

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Variety is the spice of life, so shake up your usual culinary routine and celebrate Black History Month at the 16th annual Soul Food Dinner this Sunday, Feb. 15, starting at 5:30 p.m. in The Laird Room of the Dreyfus University Center.

The dinner is one of the many events sponsored by the Black Student Union, which promotes diversity and cultural understanding of minorities throughout the community.

"We constantly have the chance to eat Chinese food or Japanese food, but we don't really have, especially in Stevens Point, a restaurant of African American food," said Martina Spears, BSU's public relations representative. "We put on Soul Food Dinner to have our university and people of Portage county to have the opportunity to feel what we look for in a meal and what we eat on a daily basis."

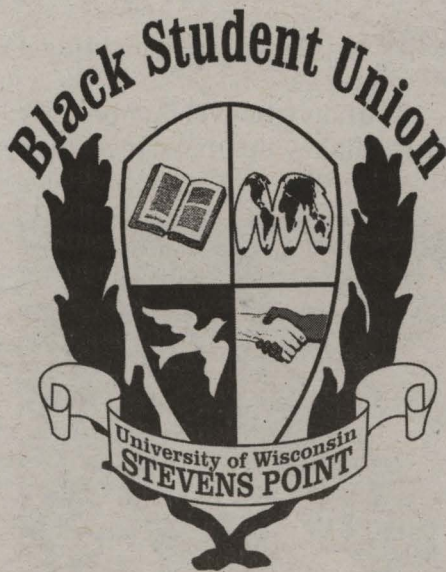
Menu items include catfish, yams, collard greens, jambalaya, mac and cheese, chicken, corn, sweet potato pie, peach cobbler and cornbread. Members of BSU do all of the cooking.

The event is as much about celebrating the past as well as the present. As a BSU Soul Food Dinner brochure quotes writer Sarah Ban Breathnach as saying, "Soul food is our personal passport to the past. It is much more about heritage than it is about hominy."

But the festivities don't end with the meal. Besides a welcome speech by Ebony Rhodes and Charmario McMichael and the singing of the black national anthem by Timothy Fair, the event also includes an award ceremony and music by Nick Claudio, Chris Dalzell, Ben Hedquist and Matt Andres.

Although the feature after the dinner is usually poetry, this year Ko-Thi will perform instead.

"This year is a bit different because we will have African dancing, which pushes our main goal even more," Spears said.



Logo courtesy of Martina Spears

Part of that goal is to promote BSU, whose mission statement, according to the BSU Soul Food dinner brochure, is to focus on creating a welcoming environment for students. They also strive to break down stereotypes associated with the black community by serving as educators and representatives of their heritage, working with all cultural backgrounds and appreciating the similarities and differences between them.

Their hope is to receive the same level of respect and support from the community.

"Our biggest thing for this year's Soul Food Dinner is we want people to come together as a whole with their family and friends," Spears said. "We call it a night of unity, or united we stand, divided we fall. We just want everyone to come together and enjoy a good time."

Tickets for the Soul Food Dinner are available at the University Information and Tickets Center in the DUC or by telephone at 715-346-4100 or 800-838-3378. Prices are \$10 for general admission, \$5 for UW-SP students and children 12 and under.

Other upcoming events sponsored by the BSU include Gospel Fest on Sat., March 28 in Michelson Hall and Cultural Fest on Sat., May 2 at the Stevens Point Area Senior High School. Contact Martina Spears at 414-793-5204 for further information.

Photographs of the Future

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Every once and a while a band comes along that makes you do a little bit more with your head than just nod, making you thank existence for consciousness, grabbing your most organic of senses and sending your mind on a ride to familiar places under new skies.

Indie-folk band Photographs of the Future does just that. Gracing an intimate crowd at Stevens Point's newest music venue, The Garage, on Saturday night, the band played an hour of original tunes along with their personal rendition of "3rd Planet" by Modest Mouse.

The band consists of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students Joel Harbury on guitar and Daleth Mountjoy on mandolin, Ethan Klassen on upright bass, Erin Ribble on violin and Brad Steckart on drums.

The group recently started after an attempt to play the board game Risk fell through and the guys decided staying home and playing music would be more fun (and probably easier and less time

consuming as well).

"We went back to my dorm room and put down two tracks, "Freedom is Contagious" and "Emily," said Mountjoy, "and it went on from there. It just really clicked that first time."

The guys pulled the name from a random page in "A Farewell to Arms" by Ernest Hemingway and Photographs of the Future was born.

The original members also expanded the group to include new members, which filled up the overall sound. According to Mountjoy, they couldn't be happier with the results.

"They're all music majors so they know how to come into a song and we're doing pretty simple stuff," said Mountjoy. "They can use those building blocks and they know a million different ways to go."

The band played for the first time as a five-piece group for the concert. Harbury greeted the crowd by thanking them for coming, instantly grabbing everyone's attention with a short poetic statement about how far they traveled to come and how lucky they felt to be there.

The band instantly elevated the energy in the room with their



Photo courtesy of Kelsey Madsen

Photographs of the Future band members serenade the crowd

See **Future** pg. 12

UW-SP students dance with star Billy Siegenfeld

Jacob Mathias

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The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point dance department performed excerpts from Emmy Award winner Billy Siegenfeld's "god of dirt" on Feb. 7, in the Noel Fine Arts Center.

Siegenfeld is the founder, artistic director, principal choreographer and ensemble member of the Jump Rhythm Jazz Project based in Chicago who choreographed "god of dirt."

Jeannie Hill, a UW-SP dance instructor and associate artistic director with the JRJP, along with

other faculty, brought Siegenfeld and the JRJP to UW-SP to hold a two-week teaching and choreographic residence here.

The JRJP is a company of dancers that celebrate the core of jazz performance.

"I wanted our students to have an opportunity to work with him," said Hill.

Siegenfeld's approach to his choreography is a rhythm first approach to dancing which isn't always the case, according to Hill.

"Because he has in-depth musical knowledge, the rhythmic structure that he comes up with is really exciting and inventive," said Hill. "At the same time, he's a really compelling

story teller. All of his choreography is infused with humanity and deep exploration of the human condition."

The UW-SP students performed three excerpts from Siegenfeld's five-part "god of dirt."

The dancers came together with fluid, swinging body movements and singing voices which turned them into moving percussion instruments, celebrating the rhythm and movement of the music.

"Those three sections work together in a complete dance," said Hill.

The music of the narrative was based on "Tales and Songs from Weddings and Funerals" by Goran Bregovic, a film composer originally

from Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. The title "god of dirt" comes from Mary Oliver's poem "The god of dirt."

"I've always loved folk music," said Siegenfeld. "I wanted to make a folk dance that had a transboundary feel to it."

The excerpts from "god of dirt" will be performed again at the UW-SP's theatre and dance department's annual Danstage production.

The Jump Rhythm Jazz Project will be performing the full version of "god of dirt" on March 28 at the Sentry Theater.

Arts & Culture

90 FM's fit-to-print selection; Animal Collective music review

Dirk Gunderson
ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Becoming immersed in Animal Collective's latest offering, "Merriweather Post Pavilion," is the aural equivalent of diving into a brilliant ocean of color and sound.

Undulating bass lines, skittering percussion and shimmering electronic details form the backdrop for what is the most fantastic and well-executed journey that pop music has taken in some time.

While the past has found Animal Collective dallying in the immediacy and intimacy of acoustic instrumentation, "Merriweather Post Pavilion" is an almost entirely electronic endeavor, sparing the practiced vocals of Avey Tare and Panda Bear and the bits and pieces of percussion.

The album is distinctly Animal Collective; the vocal interplay, dreamlike headspace and boundless playful energy of the group have reached new

heights while still remaining recognizable.

Taken as a whole, the album flows remarkably well together, though certain tracks cannot

help but stand out as stronger offerings.

The house revival number "My Girls" lights up the dance floor of our collective subconscious,

"Summertime Clothes" carries us along on its own driving wings of pop reverie, "Bluish" melts hearts with sweet lyrics and comforting layers of noise and "Brother Sport" ends the album with the opposite of the typical curtain closing. Instead, Animal Collective throw the curtains wide open and reveals a dizzying world of sunshine, ass-shaking and life-affirming melodies.

Predicting where Animal Collective will end up next is an exercise in futility; the band has traveled many musical paths in their own inquisitive manner, and it is safe to say that any type of music is fair game.

To look at "Merriweather Post Pavilion" as just another step in a path is a grave mistake however. The album is a warm and inviting experience, channeling dance and pop music so well that the songs feel more like things that we already had in ourselves rather than an offering from the band. Trekking past the album and writing it off as mere experimentation is to ignore one of the most wholly unique and engrossing experiences in music at the moment.



Members of Animal Collective

Photo courtesy of googleimages.com

From **Future** pg. 11

opening number. The rhythm of the song bounced steadily along like a long lost Modest Mouse song as Harbury poured the interpretations of his mind's eye into stanza after stanza with his unpolished vocal delivery.

With lyrics that question what happens after death, like "we live and die but we don't know why/it's really kind of sad when you think about it" and "for all we know this could be it," the band challenges you to do more than just sit back and listen.

The engaging lyrical content was one of the high points of the night, and Harbury sang a particularly insightful song about collecting data through life as though it were a science experiment.

Like a scientist, he presents his theories in the song, yet leaves room for interpretation. Rather than making one think, "Should I consider this?" it entices one to ponder, "What haven't I considered?"

Harbury and Mountjoy have a number of musical influences, but Modest Mouse and Neutral Milk Hotel were two bands most central to their style. Particularly demonstrative of this influence is Mountjoy's six-song story, written after a winter stuck in the residence halls.

The band has also been inspired by thoughts of freedom, revolution, the writings of anarchism and other outside-the-box literature; they're definitely not afraid to share the thoughts that develop out of that inspiration either.

Throughout the night the band kept its folk-indie fusion vibe alive, playing song after song that left fans with new thoughts in the head and soreness in the hip.

The addition of the new instruments provided new foundations to the backbones of the songs. The bass lines carried songs through transitions, the violin added another layer of depth to bar after bar and Mountjoy's mandolin lay softly behind the guitar lines, thereby adding texture and color.

But despite the band's strengths, a few songs chugged along like a train that could fall apart at any moment, with each band member looking like the unsuspecting train conductor. Perhaps because it was their first time playing as a five-piece group, or perhaps the venue's sound system wasn't exactly ideal for a band of this number, but the band was less than consistent at points; some songs even seemed to almost come apart at the seams with undulating tempos.

Although the mistakes were unintended, they did lend the band a raw kind of style. And the band members danced and smiled their way right on through regardless.

"Photographs of the Future" put forth questions that just might put listeners on the path to answering if given the chance. And that chance will be coming soon, as the band will be playing at The Garage again on Feb. 20, and can also be seen most Mon. nights at the Open Mic Night in the Basement Brewhaus.

Want to make a difference on your campus?
Learn more about governmental procedure?
Become an effective student leader?
Then SGA is right for YOU!



The UWSP Student Government Association is currently looking for applicants for its 2009-2010 president and vice president. Applications are due February 20, 2009 and voting will occur March 6-12. If you are interested in applying, stop by the SGA Office (052 DUC), check out the SGA Web site, or check your SGA weekly newsletter for an application.

SGA is always looking for new senators! If you are interested in becoming a senator, please stop by the SGA Office or check the SGA Web site for an application.



Katie Leb
THE POINTER
KLEB524@UWSP.EDU

What's the point: Demoralizing democracy

With Valentine's Day just days away, concerned parties are gearing up for the commercial holiday and all of its cutesy-wootsy creations. On the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus, Cupid showed up more than a week early this year. Though you could not visibly see the love floating through the halls, it certainly was hovering around The Legacy Room on Thursday, Feb. 5 when Kirk Cychosz was voted in as the Student Government Association's vice president.

If you read the meeting minutes posted on the SGA Web site or the article written by Avra Juhnke in the news section of "The Pointer," you

would know that Cychosz was voted in after having to take three separate votes.

As I sat at the senate meeting, I realized that Cupid must have struck Senator Sam Glenzer, causing a sudden change of heart. When the motion was initially made to approve the vice presidential appointee, Glenzer stated in discussion his reasoning for not voting to approve Cychosz. He claimed that he was "stubborn" on the issue and was "going to stick with that." In listening to his point, he sounded convincing. However, after Cychosz's appointment was defeated by one vote, it was Glenzer who made the motion for a revote.

Glenzer claimed he did not want to approve the nomination of Cychosz as vice president, but changed his mind when the vote failed; he seemed to only want a revote for the sake of filling the position.

This is where I have to ask, what is the point of voting? There are senators who work hard at their job

and try to do the best they can. But, what is the point of voting three times on the same appointment if in the end you will approve the man anyway?

Accept the vote for what it is; sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. But it must be indicated in a single, fair vote, not a vote that continues until it finally passes.

I am not implying that Cychosz will be an ineffective vice president. I am asking that if our senators are going to make decisions that will affect the rest of the student body, they vote for what is best, not what will take the least amount of effort to resolve. Author J.K. Rowling wrote it best in her novel, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire": "There will be a time when we must choose between what is right and what easy."

I encourage my fellow students to let their senators know how they feel they want to be represented. Come to senate meetings on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in The Legacy Room. Speak your mind!

Letters to the Editor

Students, consider answering the Peace Corps' call to service.

Did you know that UW-SP has produced 384 U.S. Peace Corps volunteers over the years?

A representative of the Peace Corps will soon visit our university to encourage and inspire a new set of prospective volunteers to enter this wonderful form of global community service.

We are a leader, not just in the UW System, but among all American universities, in the percentage of our students who take part in international programs. In these days of financial uncertainty, the need for service across the globe only grows stronger. I would encourage any of our students to consider service in the Peace Corps as an excellent way to gain a life-changing experience abroad.

The upcoming visit, February 18-20, continues what another national Peace Corps staff member recently told us is one of the strongest university-Peace Corps relationships in the nation. UW-SP embodies the dream President John F. Kennedy held for American men and women to serve, even to endure hardship, on behalf of peoples across the globe.

Peace Corps volunteers venture into the developing world to engage in long-term community development, educational, business development, environmental, agricultural or information technology projects. They represent the very best American values and bring home

priceless experiences that help shape and guide the rest of their lives.

Currently, 17 UW-SP graduates are in the Peace Corps, at work in 13 different countries including Guatemala, Lesotho, Namibia, Paraguay and Vanuatu. Our volunteers typically enter their service right after graduation.

Our university has also committed to continue its nearly 20-year relationship with the Peace Corps' Masters International Program, in which College of Natural Resources

students take graduate classes here on campus for a year and then leave for 27 months of work overseas, for which they earn their remaining graduate credits.

It is a great and particularly American quality to answer the challenging call to serve others. If you meet a UW-SP

alumnus or a faculty member who has given a portion of his or her life to the Peace Corps, be sure to say "thank you" for their service to the world. And please give your own consideration to service in the Peace Corps. Find out more at www.peacecorps.gov.

-Chancellor Bunnell

THE POINTER

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Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.



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Letters & Opinion



No worries on SAD 2009



LADY V
LADYVUWSP@YAHOO.COM

Dear Lady V,

I'm a single 19-year-old guy who has been at UW-SP for two years now and I haven't met anyone. I know that this is partly my fault; I have social anxiety problems and I find it hard to go out and meet new people, but I still find it hard to believe that I haven't met anyone yet. I have trouble telling if a woman is just being friendly or if she is actually interested. I have been told by all my friends, especially my female friends, that I'm a great guy who has a lot of what women are looking for. Yet I always seem to be the friend and never the boyfriend. It seems that anyone I meet is only interested in good-looking guys who are complete assholes. I would really like to meet someone and have an honest and real connection with them, but the longer I'm here, the less I think its going to happen. I now find myself very lonely and feeling like I should just give up. Do nice guys really finish last? What do you think I should do?

Looking for enlightenment,
Lonelyboy

Thank you for your letter Lonelyboy. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, I am sure you are feeling the burn of Singles Awareness Day.

I like Valentine's Day when I have someone to spend it with, but I mean, who doesn't? I have a friend who pleaded me to find him any hot friends with loose morals and a panache for fat, hairy guys (yeah, his vocabulary is that good). If there are any takers, please e-mail me at ladyv@uwsp.edu and no, this should not be some pathetic way of trying to figure out who I am. Your time will come ... I promise.

Anyway, I do not have an answer on whether or not nice guys finish last because I know that I am searching for that nice guy and I never seem to come across one. And that may be because they are very similar to you. Shy and quiet.

One thing I know from a woman's perspective is that we find confidence enticing, which is probably why it seems women always fall for the "bad boy" type. But I have experienced that confidence is commonly disguised arrogance.

Don't ever "give up." But don't try too hard either. You may be missing someone great right under your nose. When you don't try too hard is usually when you find someone.

You need not give up, but we are all at UW-SP to learn and acquire a degree. Why are you really here? Not to put a ring on someone's finger, although it may seem that way because that is all people talk about. That you can blame on the media. The media is constantly filling our minds with the idea that we need to be dating someone (or someones...) We don't.

It seems from what you have already told me, you have a solid friend base and support group. To me, that should be most important and things may just fall into place. It is very uncommon to find your soul mate right away. Why would you want to though? There are many interesting people to meet and have a that connection with. I am thankful for the strong support I have in my friends. Being able to sit in the Brewhaus and shoot the shit about nerdy stuff with my closest friends is one of the most rewarding things I have experienced in college.

I know what it's like to "just be a friend," except I always end up being "just one of the guys." So just be glad you aren't in my shoes.

You are 19 and still young but seemingly very mature for your age (Have you ever thought about dating older women?). Do you watch Scrubs? JD and Elliot are years out of grad school and still searching. I look at that and think that is very realistic. Being in college is an OK time to work on yourself. You spend all of high school being what your parents want you to be, and now that you are finally here, you should fine tune to your liking.

Obviously one of the things you would like to work on is being more outgoing and being able to read people, especially women, better. Have you been diagnosed with a social anxiety disorder? This may be something else to consider looking into. There are plenty of counseling and therapy opportunities for concerns like this.



High Five: For smart valentine shopping

Can you smell that dear readers? That's the sweet smell of romance permeating the campus, accompanied by the harmonious strains of sweet vocal harmonies. I knew some of you would jump on the idea, but the response has really been overwhelming. I think the group formed by "The Pointer's" very own Jacob Mathias shows the most promise. Should they stay together past this weekend's wooing period, be sure to check out Vince and the ShamWows.

I was going to send a Pointer valentine to all of you but I didn't get my request submitted in time and you do not mess with Rod King about deadlines. You just do not do it friends!

It was brought to my attention after last week's column that while harmonization is all well and good for showing how you feel, I left out a key ingredient to successful romantic endeavors. I am, of course, speaking of that nourishment of the gods: chocolate.

I hear you asking en masse, is it really that easy? No, my friends, it is not. Different chocolates send different messages, and if you are not careful, the wrong chocolate choice will lead to a long, lonely February 14.

Before you find yourself in a deep pit of worry and despair, take a deep breath. I wouldn't throw you to the wolves like that! I've done your homework for you by consulting world-renown gift expert Breanna Speth. Together we form a super team the likes of which the confusing Cupid has never seen!

The first and most important thing Ms. Speth says to remember is that bigger is not always better. Buying the most enormous box of chocolate does not automatically correspond to the most enormous amount of love displayed. In fact, it could be considered in very poor taste. The midsize box will do just fine. The same size rule can be applied to stuffed

animals, flower arrangements, cards and many other Valentine standbys.

Also, don't wait until the last minute to buy any gift, but certainly not chocolate. Proper planning and preparation are essential for success.

Say you wake up on Saturday morning and remember that your beloved is still without a gift from you. This will lead to a panicked rush through store aisles and a purchase of a large Russell Stover assortment that will sit in your car all day while you fulfill employee duties. That evening, you present your dearest with what you think is your ideal gift, but, when opened, you find you've given them a heart-shaped melty, brown sludge. Even if they hadn't melted, you bought the nut lover's variety and your beau has a severe allergy. You have failed so catastrophically that no amount of poetry or back rubbing can reverse the effects.

Speth has many more horror stories such as these that would teach you well the pitfalls to avoid, but I told her my readers are a smart crowd; they wouldn't need endless examples. Don't make a fool of me now!

I have a really neat contest for you this week. I want to hear your best love mix CDs! Just drop them off in "The Pointer" office and I swear that I will listen to each and every one of them thoroughly. I will determine who the campus' best love DJ is and invite them to rock their romantic grooves at my next mixer. Are you up to the challenge? Can you make the honeys swoon and the fellows groove? Prove it!

Finally, I know many of you were disappointed to see that I was not available for the bidding at Wednesday night's date auction. I was looking forward to it as much as you were but I was "mysteriously" eliminated from the lineup. Between you and me, readers, it was no mystery. Avra was acting out. You may blame her. Have a safe and happy VD everyone!

Happy Valentine's Day Everyone!
(and singles awareness day)

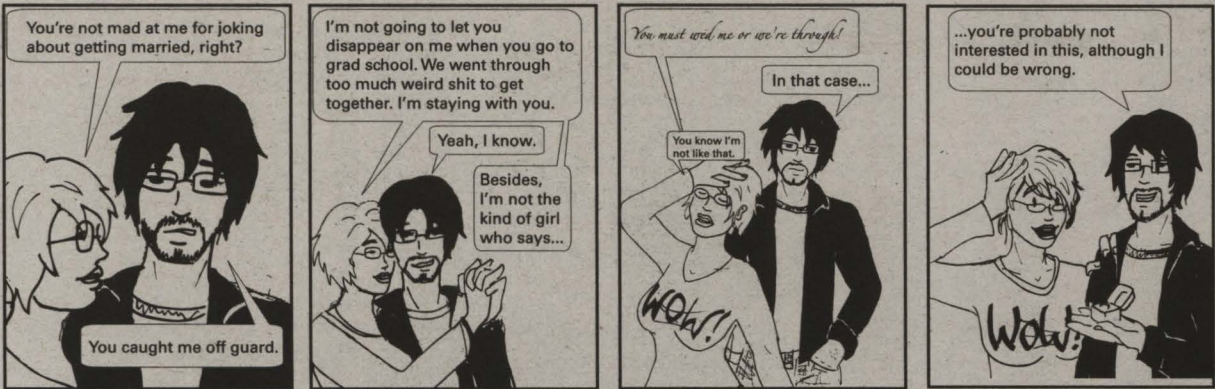
get caught reading

THE POINTER

Junior Elizabeth
Faulkner likes to read
"The Pointer" for the
brain damage section.

Comics

Rabble Rousers



Joy Ratchman

Roach



Dustin Hauge

Where I Come From



Bryan Novak

WORDLE

Create as many words as you can out of these 6 letters.
Spaces are provided below.

F D F H E U

Check back next week for answers.

Last weeks answers:

GIN	NIL	LION	LINGO
ION	OIL	LOIN	OILING
LOG	NOG	LONG	

Not Laughing? Send a funnier comic to jratc567@uwsp.edu



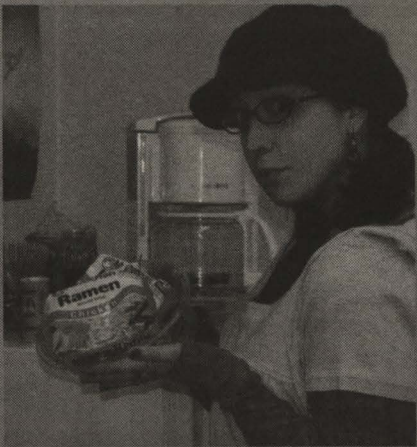
Have another piece of cake; I don't like to see you that thin.



I don't need a reason to bring you flowers.



As long as I have these strong arms, I will carry our books for you.



How about a romantic dinner for two?



1+1=Us Nerd love



Let me Shamwow your kitchen for you!

Lovestruck

Concept by Avra Juhnke

Classified

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then enjoy a book on your own private
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SCHOLARSHIP

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To Tom,
...For letting me talk about you in class
even though my students only know
you as "Sweetie..."

I love you!
Sunny

Jeffy,
You are really really tall but I'll
always catch you if you fall!

Love,
Your Shawty

I want to say to you my dear Jake,
I like you like a fat kid likes cake.

I heart you.
Katie

Avra Jean,
I care about you immensely.
Your beauty and talent astonish me.
I'm so glad we're together,
Happy Valentine's Day.

Only Yours,
Love J.M.

Bob,
You watch TV or sleep while I read,
but you are the only thing I'll ever need.

Marcbear,
If Heaven and Hell decide
That they both are satisfied
When your soul departs
Then I'll follow you into the dark.

Love, Erbear

Love always,
Maritze