



The Pointer

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Fox Theater to reopen pending referendum

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Many students walking downtown after coming back from having a scoop at Belt's or going to Jim Laab's to buy some strings for their guitar notice the sign of the Fox Theater, but see the windows boarded up.

It's looked this way since 1985, but soon, its doors will be opened once again for movies and live entertainment.

"Our hope has always been to bring this theater back to life," said Ada Sanders, the owner of Fox Theater. "We want to restore the elegance of our great-grandfather's opera house."

It appears that she will get her wish. The theater is part of a development plan that will tear down the nearly vacant Centerpoint Mall and allow Mid-State Technical College to move into the vacated and rehabbed JC Penny building.

Recently, the project received \$750,000 in federal aid to help fund the project totaled at \$9 million. The theater project could be hindered if the referendum fails on the Feb. 15, to approve the project and allow developers to begin work on the project.

The reason the project affects the theater is because land was lost by

the development of the mall and in order to reopen it, it will need to be rebuilt and renovated.

The plans include a 600-seat cultural center and opening a restaurant on the second floor of the building.

The original opera house was built by Sanders' great-grandfather, G.F. Andrae, and opened in 1894.

"There is one way, and only one way to bring the Fox back to life," Sanders said. "And that is to vote yes and pass the referendum on Feb. 15."

The project will potentially benefit students potentially as an alternative to see concerts and shows in a location other than the Sentry Theater at the Sentry Home Office building north of Campus.

It could also serve as an attraction for downtown development and economic growth if all goes to the plans of Sanders.

Students can vote at their polling locations if they are registered. If students are not registered they can do so by presenting their student ID if they live in the dorms; if off campus they can present a copy of a lease, or a utility bill. Information on voting can be found on the Stevens Point website at www.stevenspoint.com under "elections/voting."



Photo by Samantha Feld

The Fox Theater in downtown Stevens Point could reopen pending a referendum vote Feb. 15. The theater has been boarded up since 1985.

Wilson opts to pay back 20 hours of overpay

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Last week the Student Government Association Senate got the ability to question President Mike Wilson on allegations of theft via Kronos hours.

Wilson had reportedly given himself an extra 70 hours of pay during the months of June, July and August, equaling to a total of \$630.

Wilson didn't want to deal with the questions during the open senate meeting Feb. 3 and asked, through

email, that members of SGA come to his office privately during his regular office hours.

"I hope the rest of you will come and personally investigate this matter," Wilson stated.

Wilson further explained his reasons at the meeting.

"I don't want to waste this assembly's time," Wilson exclaimed. "I have a document signed by the budget director, which has been approved by the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs in his investigation."

At the end of the 2009-2010 school

year there was several thousand dollars in SGA's salary budget that went unused during the year for a variety of reasons. At the beginning of the summer, Wilson requested to interim SGA Budget Director Kirk Cychosz allow that unused money to be reallocated as extra hours for the president above and beyond the 15 that were already allocated, Wilson said.

University of Wisconsin System policy states that any previously allocated segregated fee money that is not used at the end of the academic year go back into the general fund

for the system to use as they see fit, according to current SGA Budget Director Ashley Riederer.

However, even with the signing of this document, if validated and accepted by senators in SGA, Wilson admits billing the university for an additional 20 hours over that document.

"I went over on my budget by 20 hours," Wilson stated. "If you want this information I'll pull the budgets for you."

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NEWS

Why democracy matters in Egypt

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Commentary

With the protests in Egypt against autocratic ruler Hosni Mubarak already entering their third week, there is a collective holding of breath in the international community over the eventual political outcome of the conflict.

For the United States, it is a crucial moment for us to remain honest to our principles and ideals. For a country that professes to spread freedom and democracy, it is ironic indeed that one of our most stalwart allies in the Middle East has been Mubarak.

Mubarak's regime, which has been in power since 1981, has been seen as one of the more corrupt administrations in the world. The Economist's Democracy index ranked the country 138th of 167 countries as far as political freedom goes.

Mubarak has imprisoned dissident activists, violated his citizens' privacy, maintained illegal detention centers, and, as many know, has been complicit in rigging elections for his party. The Egyptian government, as a measure to try to appease the protestors, pledged on Monday to investigate charges of election fraud that were committed on the part of Mubarak's party.

Although the regime's military has helped the region remain relatively stable, the widespread problem of Egyptian poverty has not been addressed, as half of the population subsists off of \$2 a day. This is despite

record economic growth for the country over the past few years, which only serves to highlight the growing disparity between the rich and poor in Egyptian society.

Many in the American political realm have joined in the common theme of calling for the immediate removal from office of President Mubarak. Whether politicians are doing this for political points or because they sincerely believe Mubarak does not have his people's interests in mind is perhaps unknown.

What is known is that this Egyptian president has been one of the most helpful to U.S. interests in the Middle East. In exchange for substantial U.S. military aid (\$1.3 billion to be exact), Egypt has safeguarded American interests in the region such as supporting U.S. counterterrorism efforts, keeping a peace with Israel, and allowing the U.S. to utilize the Suez Canal for military purposes.

Though politicians aren't talking about these things, it is a definite fact that, should the Mubarak regime fall, these stipulations may be subject to change. The dialogue that should occur over political change in Egypt should stress the pre-eminence of democracy and free and open elections over everything else. The people of Egypt have spoken, and any attempts to push aside democratic reforms could serve to only inflame opposition groups further.

The political crisis in Egypt also brings into question the size and scope of the U.S. military. The existence of an autocratic ruler such as

Mubarak can be viewed as a by-product of the overwhelming U.S. military presence in the Middle East.

Look at it this way: Egypt is a crucial buffer state that stands between Israel, the largest recipient of American military aid, and the many international terrorist groups that are hostile to both the U.S., whose forces are widespread, and Israel itself, which is armed almost exclusively by the U.S.

Thus, it is beneficial, if not necessary, based on the extent of America's military presence in the Middle East, that Egypt is sympathetic to their interests. And, of course, over the past 30 years, that has meant supporting an autocratic ruler such as Mubarak. This crisis provides the perfect opportunity for the United States to reassess their foreign policy in the Middle East which, all too often, has helped to inflame the very opposition groups it has tried to defeat.

The Muslim Brotherhood, one of the primary groups calling for the removal of President Mubarak from office, is dedicated to democracy in Egypt. The group, although misunderstood in the West, is non-violent and has a high level of support amongst Egypt's citizens. To bring about positive change in Egypt, the international community will have to listen to groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood as well as Egypt's citizens.

If the United States truly believes in the idea of democracy, they will put theory into practice and support free and open elections in Egypt.

THE POINTER

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor can be mailed or delivered to *The Pointer*, 104 CAC, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or sent by e-mail to pointer@uwsp.edu. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit letters for inappropriate length or content. Names will be withheld from publication only if an appropriate reason is given.

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Wilson/SGA senators may still investigate further

from page 1

Advisor Stephanie Aleman agreed that Wilson had gone over his hours and would, as the disciplinary officer of the organization, recommend that he pay those hours back by taking five hours a week off of his pay throughout the four weeks of February.

Wilson nodded in agreement to Aleman as she spoke to the issue.

Senators still have the

option to investigate the matter on their own, said Senator Owen Landers, at the senate meeting. SGA senate has disciplinary procedures they follow mandated by their constitution, if they choose to use them.

SGA meets every Thursday in the Dreyfus University Center at 6 p.m. in the Legacy Room. Students may voice opinions or raise issues during the open forum period on the agenda.

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Teacher tenure at risk?

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Republican governors around the nation have issued calls to reform K-12 education and do away with teacher tenure. Rick Scott of Florida, C.L. Otter of Idaho, Chris Christie of New Jersey, Brian Sandoval of Nevada and Mitch Daniels of Indiana are but a few of those who have called for the abolishment of tenure for K-12 teachers. There are even proposals in Wisconsin that would modify the state's current teacher pay system.

Currently teachers earn tenure after a probationary period that typically lasts between two or three years. This allows them to a hearing before being dismissed. Professor Ed Miller, who teaches an educational policy class here at UWSP, says, "Teachers usually view tenure as a protection against personal attacks and favoritism."

The calls for the abolishment of tenure are seen as a way of getting rid of underperforming or incompetent teachers. Lawmakers want to move towards a more merit-based system where teachers are rewarded for performing well and those who underperform are removed. However, Miller believes that this is going to be a tricky prospect, saying, "Getting rid of tenure is a good idea in the notion of rewarding on merit, rather than on seniority. The problem is in the implementation of the merit system."

"How do you measure merit? There is currently no good way of reviewing teachers. The obvious person to review their performance would be the school's principal, but they usually are not that good at evaluating teachers. They see teachers actually teach so infrequently, and often times it is just superficial."

Standardized tests are another form of evaluating teachers that legislators are considering. This was

the cornerstone of "No Child Left Behind," the federal law requiring school districts to meet standards on standardized tests. Miller says, "If teachers' jobs are on the line, why would they want to take the students who need the most help?"

Standardized tests are also not immune to pressure from teachers as documented by economist Steven Levitt and journalist Stephen Dubner in their book *Freakonomics*. In the book, they analyzed standardized tests in Chicago and determined that some teachers cheated or helped their students cheat on the tests.

Amy Hetzner reported in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that there are currently legislators in Madison that are considering proposals that would identify those qualities that make an effective teacher and institute a merit system in Wisconsin schools. State Sen. Luther Olsen (R-Ripon) was identified as one of the leading legislators working on education

reform this assembly session.

Erin Richards of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported this past Tuesday that the Wisconsin Education Association Council has come out in support of a move towards a merit-based system. WEAC is the state's largest teachers union.

The current proposal would mandate that new teachers undergo a peer review system for the teacher's first three years. After being certified, teachers would then be responsible for submitting a video of them teaching once every three years along with a written commentary.

Mary Bell, WEAC's president, said that the need for a new system that rewards high-performing teachers was needed and that the current system based on seniority was an "outdated model." State Sen. Olsen was quoted in the article saying "WEAC's announcement [was] a 'huge move.'"

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article published in last week's *Pointer*, "Wilson denies allegations of misconduct." As one of those senators who listened to President Wilson's ill attempt at stand-up comedy, I found no humor in his remarks. While many in SGA thought President's Wilson's speech was comical, I was dismayed and outraged as he addressed the senate.

The allegations against the president are no laughing matter; I find them to be very serious. As the elected representative of over 9,000 students I would expect better from our president. The allegations brought before President Wilson should not be laughed off and taken as a joke. Two weeks ago, I tried to form a committee to investigate any wrongdoing but, due to new legislation, the motion failed by one vote. The Judicial branch of SGA can't be used because up until last week President Wilson failed in his executive duties to form a functioning court. To complicate matters, President Wilson discussed his case with members of judicial branch, which completely throws out any chance of objectivity.

I also find it rather interesting that President Wilson, Vice President Schmid, and SGA Advisor Aleman formed a personnel committee, without senate approval, to deal with the fact that President Wilson violated University policy by working more than twenty hours a week, and getting paid for more than was allocated for the president for the summer work hours that was approved by senate in the Spring

semester of 2010.

Furthermore, I find it out of the ordinary that President Wilson is all too eager to side with the administration that he did nothing wrong, especially since he has spent most of his term telling students that he was going to fight the administration "tooth and nail." But when the SGA Senate called for an investigation over any wrong doing he cited that the administration already looked at the issue. Once again, President Wilson is sorely mistaken; administration is taking a closer look into this issue, as should the SGA Senate.

When President Wilson was campaigning he told students that he wanted a more open and transparent government. Instead, we now have a president who would rather make a mockery of our institution. I believe the students of this university deserve better. At a time when we, in the senate, are about to pass a historic reform package to allow students to have more control over their segregated fees and influence over budgets, President Wilson is more concerned about spewing off-colored remarks about his own wrongdoing.

I believe it is time for real leadership to replace the failed leadership we have now, which is why on Monday, February 14th, I will begin collecting signatures from students around campus to initiate a recall election of President Wilson.

Best regards,

SENATOR PATRICK TESTIN
Caucus Chairman of the College of Letters and Science

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SPORTS

Packers welcome home Lombardi trophy

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In a showcase of the culmination of a season defined by talent, potential, injuries, and pure resilience, the Green Bay Packers marched into Dallas to win Super Bowl XLV. Defeating the AFC powerhouse Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25, the Pack proved what few thought possible. Now the Vince Lombardi Trophy, named for the green and gold legend himself, is back at home in Green Bay.

In their 92nd season, the Green Bay Packers entered the Super Bowl riding on a five game winning streak and a narrow berth into the playoffs as a 6th seeded Wild Card team. They weren't favored to get into the playoffs, much less win the Super Bowl, but the resilience that defines what it is to be a Packers fan propelled them to victory.

Already fitted for their championship rings, the Packers brought their best under head coach Mike McCarthy, an offense led by young but already almost legendary quarterback Aaron Rodgers, and a defense that is notorious throughout the league. Opposite them, on the gridiron was a team equally notorious with two Super Bowl victories in the past five years under head coach Mike Tomlin and led by quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

Starting the game on a sour note following Christina Aguilera's attempt at the national anthem, the action picked up right away as these two teams with everything to gain and everything to lose fought for the fame.

The first quarter showed Packers domination. Aaron Rodgers found wide receiver Jordy Nelson on a 29-yard pass to give both players their first Super Bowl score and an early lead.

Not to be outdone, the defense kept the momentum swinging on one side. Nick Collins intercepted Ben Roethlisberger's throw intended for Mike Wallace and ran it back 37 yards for a touchdown, only 24 seconds after Rodgers and Nelson's touchdown.

The Packers continued to dominate the first half, making this comeback team's chances of victory only two quarters away. But this is the Packers, and no victory comes easy for Green Bay.

The second quarter ended hopes of a blowout when Green Bay defensive leader Charles Woodson's collarbone shattered. Veteran wide receiver Donald Driver and defensive back Sam Shields also sustained injuries in the second quarter. Shields would be the only one to play in the second half. With the defense crippled, Roethlisberger and his offense managed to get 10 points on the board before half.

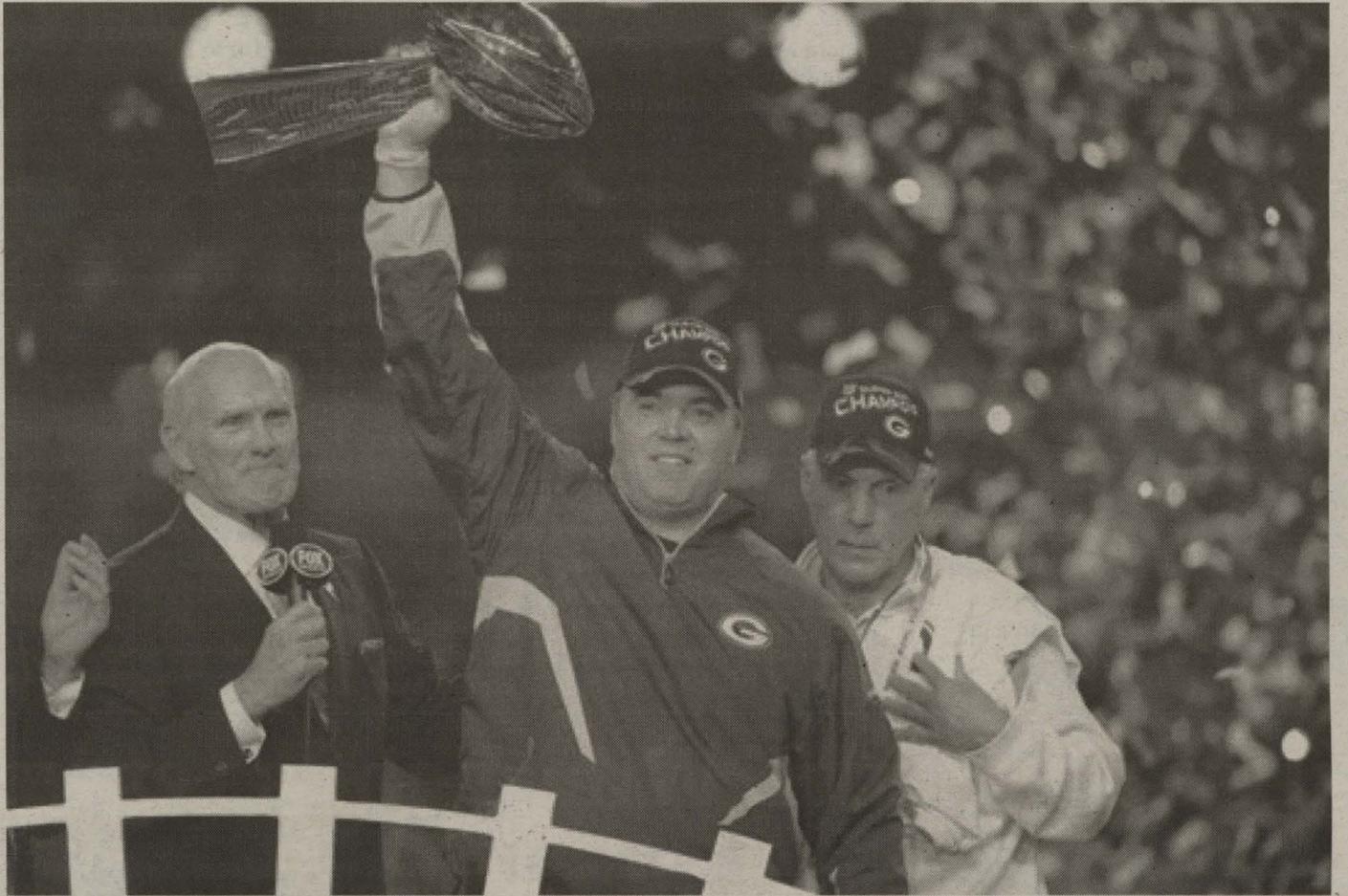


Photo courtesy of Packers.com

After the Black Eyed Peas and surprise guest Slash played to this crowd of 103,219, the Packers and the Steelers came back in the second half and proved that this is anybody's game.

The Packers, a team crippled by injuries all season, were slow to rebuild the momentum from the first half until later in the 3rd and 4th quarter. This is what football is all about. Consistent with the season's struggle and recovery, the Packers proved that it was a strong team that got them to the Super Bowl, not a few star players, and it was a strong team that won them the Super Bowl.

Despite a rallying attempt at a comeback by the Steelers and a two-point conversion in the fourth that nearly set up a Pittsburgh victory, it was the Pack who prevailed.

Winning 31-25, the Pack claimed

their 13th NFL Championship Title, four of which are Super Bowl Victories, and their first Super Bowl victory in 14 years. The Mighty Clay Matthews summed it up well, "You pray to be world champions, and that's what we are today."

There has been a lot of talk surrounding the young and talented quarterback Aaron Rodgers who filled the shoes of football legend, well, you know. In three seasons starting for the Packers under the shadow of the most recent Green Bay dynasty, he proved not only his own worth, but he proved the worth of his team, of our team, of the Green Bay Packers.

Donald Driver, who has been around to see two of the great quarterbacks of one great team said on the Rodgers-Favre comparison, "You can stop it now. Aaron's proved that he's one of the best, if not the best, quar-

terback in the game today."

Rodgers on his first Super Bowl victory and the epic journey from 24th pick in the draft to world champion said, "That's kind of been my career there, waiting for an opportunity and making the most of it -- high school, junior college, Division I, being a backup, gettin' overlooked on draft day, three years as a backup, finally getting an opportunity...This was another opportunity last night. They don't come around that often, so I just wanted to make the most of it. We did as a team. It was a great team win and a great group of guys in the locker room."

While eyes may have been on Rodgers and him solidifying his own legacy, he was the first to give credit to the team. All this cheesecake can tell you is that this is only the beginning.



Photo courtesy of Packers.com

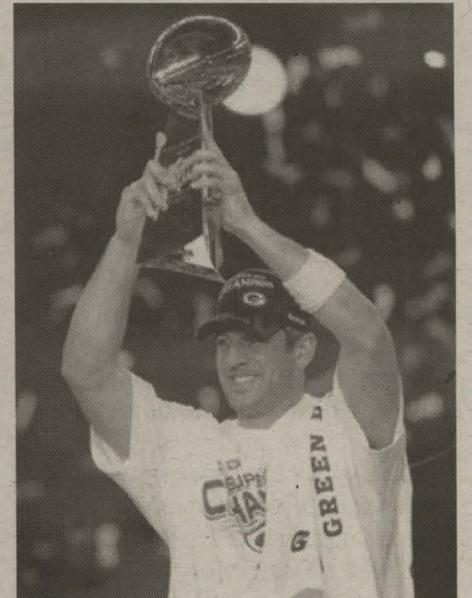


Photo courtesy of Packers.com

SPORTS

Life after the King

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When Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert took to the web following "The Decision," he sent out a message to the people of Ohio and Cavs fans everywhere. He took it upon himself to apologize to them for their "former hero" deserting them to take his talents to South Beach. Gilbert went on to rant about betrayal and disloyalty, making the entire situation sound more like Shakespeare than the free agent dealing that it was.

"I PERSONALLY GUARNATEE THAT THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS WILL WIN AN NBA CHAMPIONSHIP BEFORE THE SELF-TITLED FORMER 'KING' WINS ONE" Gilbert boldly stated.

A bitter owner, a city scorned by its greatest asset and a vacant throne which was virtually impossible to fill. Put on your best Cleveland, you're going to Broadway.

This performance, however, is not one which will have ladies swooning and critics raving, though it certainly is a sight to behold. This play has something for everybody. It is a gentle mix of comedy and tragedy, but if you like a nice happy ending you may want to skip this theatre and go to the next. I think "Much Ado about Nothing" is playing.

You see, when "The King" bailed for greener pastures and sandier beaches, he took his Sprite and Nikes with him, leaving behind his court jesters to watch over his former kingdom. These jesters have been performing at Quicken Loans Arena all season.

Gilbert may make good on his promise of getting a championship before LeBron, but he and the Cavs are off to a less than promising start. In the first season of the post-James era the Cavaliers, at 8-44, have the worst record in the National Basketball Association. After LeBron averaged 29.7 points per game and also led the team in assists and steals, the Cavaliers now must rely on the offensive output of twelve year veteran Antawn Jamison, who is chipping in 17.2 per game.

In Gilbert's message, he talked about the "curse" that had hung over Cleveland and now that James had moved on, so had the curse. While it is true the Heat had a rocky start, those early chemistry issues have seemingly been worked out, as Miami has come closer to what people thought they would be. The Cavs, on the other hand, seem to be suffering from a serious LeBron hangover and it's never been more evident than it has been in the past week.

After Monday's disappointing 96-99 loss to one of the West's sexi-

est teams, the Dallas Mavericks, the Cavaliers managed to step into a realm of futility all their own. The jesters left in charge have managed to lose their way into the record books by setting a new losing streak mark. Their 25 straight defeats breaks the all time record for consecutive regular season losses by an NBA team. This streak surpasses the former NBA record of 24, held by none other than the Cleveland Cavaliers, set during the span of two seasons by the 81-'82' and 82-'83' Cavs.

These 25 consecutive L's are the second longest losing streak in the history of professional sports. Only the Tampa Bay Buccaneers shamefully boast a longer streak. During the 1976 and 77' seasons, the first of the Bucs existence, Tampa Bay lost 26 consecutive games.

Gilbert raved that LeBron's "shameful display of selfishness and betrayal" had "shifted our motivation to previously unknown and previously never experienced levels." It seems he correctly predicted something. The Cavaliers have sailed into uncharted waters, and Dan can't row fast enough.

If Gilbert honestly thought that the addition of former NBA Coach of the Year Byron Scott was enough to patch the 6'8" hole in the Cavs' castle wall, than he is a bigger joker than he seems. With the exception of bringing back Wilt Chamberlain and Doctor J in their primes, no off-season acquisition would have been sufficient in his crusade to replace the best

player in the game. So he shouldn't be surprised if his once promising world turns into a performance of Julius Caesar.

As for LeBron, he has faced the Cavaliers three times this season. In each game LeBron has proven that he is to Cleveland what Hamlet was to his treacherous uncle. In the first meeting between the two, James dropped 38 on the Cavs, in Cleveland. The next two meetings he eased up on his former countrymen and put up 21 and 24, letting new floor mate Dwayne Wade run most of the show.

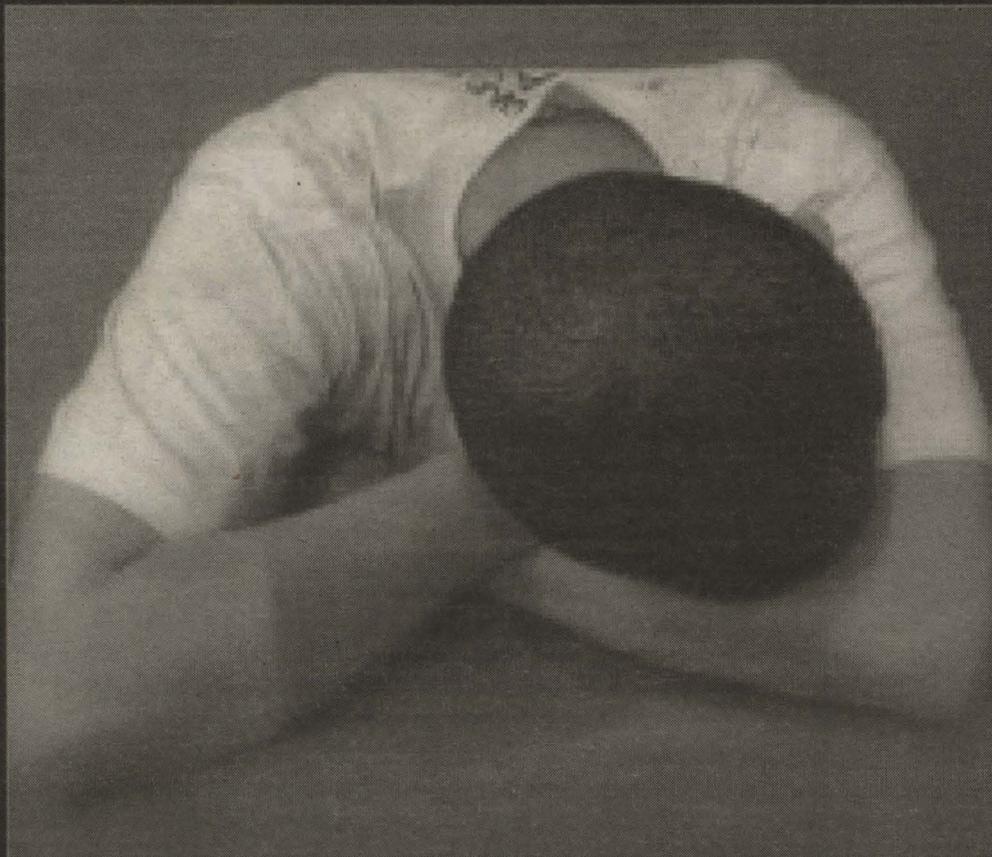
"Like I said, I have nothing bad to say about the players that I left and the team. I wish the organization the best," James said before his most recent game against his new foe.

LeBron doesn't need to say anything bad. His record with Miami speaks for itself. Will the Heat be the automatic championship team many people dubbed them? We'll have to wait and see, but one thing is certain: the road to the Eastern Conference Championship no longer runs through Cleveland.

The once promising kingdom that was the Cavaliers is now a shell of its former self. Gone are the electrifying nights where the people would come from miles around to see their king rule. In their place is a court full of former royal subjects, and not one heir among them. All Dan Gilbert can do is lift his drawbridge and hope no one gets in.

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SPORTS

Wisconsin takes a holiday

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Seconds after the Green Bay Packers defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLV 31-25, the state of Wisconsin found itself in a state of pure elation, celebrating the team's first Super Bowl victory in 14 years.

For Packers fans, even a pre-season victory is cause for celebration, but to compare this victory to that of a pre-season game would make me not only a terrible sports writer, but a terrible Packers fan. After a season of ups and downs and a Wild Card berth caught by the skin of our teeth, this victory is unparalleled by any in the teams 92 seasons, and the victory dance that ensued proved just that.

With the reputation of being the most loyal and die hard of fans in all professional sports, cheeseheads everywhere threw their cheddar head wear into the air in a cathartic release of what will go down in history as one of the best seasons by one of the best franchises in history.

This victory was significant for many reasons. Going into the season,

the Packers were expected to be the king of the hill, the top of the heap. These expectations quickly turned south as the Packers were plagued by injuries and close contest losses. While many outside of the green and gold kingdom gave up hopes of the Pack bringing back the Vince Lombardi Trophy back to Tiletown, the Packers did not.

I don't want to quote Journey, but I will anyway. This season's mantra for the Packers was "Don't Stop Believing." And they didn't. And they won. They won it all.

There were many obstacles on the field in the way of the Packers achieving this unthinkable task. They had to win their last two regular season games to even make it to the play offs. They did. They had to beat the Philadelphia Eagles and the recently released (from prison) Michael Vick. They did. They had to beat the Atlanta Falcons, the favored team in the NFC who, as one Fox Sports commentator said, "Never made mistakes." They did, oh boy did they. They had to beat their long time rival and NFC North Champs the Chicago

Bears in the NFC Championship game. They did. And they had to beat the notorious Pittsburgh Steelers, who are no strangers to the biggest game in football. They did.

While on the field, the Packers proved to meet and beat any obstacle in their way, off the field there was a shadow hanging over the team. A lingering doubt in the future success of this young team by those less faithful at least. This shadow cast over the Packers focused not only on the future success of this young team, but particularly bared a burden on the shoulders of quarterback Aaron Rodgers who filled the shoes of his predecessor. This predecessor holds nearly every record in the book, including throwing the most interceptions. You know who I'm talking about, but this article isn't about him.

If Aaron Rodgers hadn't won over Wisconsin in his three seasons before Sunday's victory, he certainly has now. In his first Super Bowl appearance, he threw for over 300 yards, and it would have been over 400 if it were not for a few dropped passes (don't worry Jordy, you made up for it). He

also threw three touchdown passes and no interceptions. While the numbers speak for themselves, the true mark of a good quarterback is doing the impossible and making it look easy. In all measurements of greatness, Rodgers has set the standard.

In Stevens Point, post game celebrations reflected the challenges and expectations the team shattered this season. Instead of watching the new episode of Glee after the game, many took to the streets, uniting all who bled green and gold in a frenzy of fist pumps, chants, fireworks, and pure elation. Crowds of the loyal reveled in their victory, because as many Packers put it: this is not only Aaron Rodgers victory or Mike McCarthy's victory, but this is a victory for those who bleed green and gold.

Monday probably saw record decline in the state's GDP, but that doesn't matter. Because the Packers won the Super Bowl, and the Vince Lombardi Trophy is home. With all of the celebration, there is only one question that remains in everyone's mind. What are we going to do until next season?

Pointers Stonewall Stout

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The UWSP Pointers continue their winning ways as they go over the 100 point mark in a routing of UW-Stout. Point combined hot shooting and stifling defense to bully the WIAC's highest scoring team and run away with a 101-50 victory.

The Pointers allowed Stout a 7-6 lead with 16:28 remaining in the first half but took back the reigns after senior forward Louis Hurd drained a jumper to put his team up 8-7. From that point on it was all UWSP.

Point shot their way to a 38 point lead going into the locker room for halftime. Sophomore guard Jerrel Harris fueled the first half fire. In the opening possession of the game Harris sank his first jumper of the game and continued to hit, going 8-8 and scoring all of his game high 20 points in the first half.

The Pointers shot 54 percent from the field during the contest but the story of the game was perhaps their defense. Stout came into the game as the highest scoring team in the conference averaging 80.7 points per game. Point held the Blue Devils to just 50 points, their lowest output of the season. SP scored 24 points off of 13 turnovers in the first half and forced 20 turnovers in the whole game.

Stout shot just 28.3 percent in the game. Freshman forward Alex Oman scored 13 points in the game to lead the Blue Devils as the only player in double digits. Senior guard Eric Hostetter came in to Point as the

Blue Devils leading scorer and the third leading scorer in the WIAC. The Pointers responded to this by bottling Hostetter up for nearly a full 40 minutes and holding him to two points on 1-9 shooting.

Freshman forward Adam Abegglen scored the final points of the game with just two seconds remaining in the game to put Point over the century mark. Abegglen finished with five points. His last second layup marked the first time the Pointers have gone over 100 points this season.

The last time Point crossed the Chamberlain Line against a conference opponent was back on January 17, 2009 after a dominating performance against UW-Superior led to a 104-60 victory.

Harris' 20 points led the way for the Pointer's offensive attack. Sophomore guard Tyler Tillema and senior guard Vinny Ritchay each dropped 12 to add to the output. Senior forward Scott Hoelzel grabbed a game high seven boards and added eight points of his own.

With a 10-2 conference record, Point trails only UW-River Falls who beat the Pointers earlier in the season and stand atop the WIAC with a 12-1 record. With just four games remaining in the regular season, the Pointers couldn't have picked a better time to be hot. After the upcoming game against Eau Claire, Point will square off Saturday the 12th against River Falls at home in a must win game if UWSP plans to win conference.

The Pointers will be on the road against the Eau Claire Bugolds who own the second worst record in the WIAC. Tipoff is set for 7:00 p.m. in Eau Claire.

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POINTLIFE

Cranes and Culture: A UWSP Grad Student's Return to Cuba

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Tall, loud, noble, majestic. These words come to mind when one thinks of a crane. They are a species of bird that have oftentimes bordered on extinction, and one student is using the awe and wonder these creatures inspire to show children in Wisconsin and Cuba the importance of treating our environment with respect.

Korie Klink, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will be embarking for Cuba for her tenth time on Feb. 10 as part of her program entitled Children Are the Hope (CATH).

CATH is a year-long academic environmental education program that involves partner schools in Southern Wisconsin and Cuba. Children from 4th to 6th grade engage in outdoor and classroom-based learning activities aimed at showing them their importance in the global community. The children also participate in nature-related art exchanges, with many of the works depicting cranes.

Klink started CATH back in 1998, when her work with the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo inspired her to use cranes to achieve a much broader goal.

In Wisconsin today, the Greater Sandhill crane is a very common species that, thanks to the work of Aldo Leopold in the 1930s and 40s, was lifted from the brink of extinction. A similar situation is now occurring in Cuba, where the Cuban Sandhill crane has become endangered. Only 650 of the birds are thought to be in existence in the country today.

Klink views the predicament of the Cuban Sandhill crane as an opportunity to help Cuba bring the population of the bird back to a stable level, while communicating valuable environmental knowledge and skills to the children of the country.

"We really have this unique story that can be shared in a really special way with the Cuban people," Klink said.

The classroom instruction pro-

grams in Wisconsin and Cuba utilize diverse subjects such as art, science, social studies, and math in a broad effort to teach the students more about various environmental issues.

"This isn't just the science, but this is very much an internal, a very personal experience with nature," Klink said. "The kids are not only learning about their local culture and their local resource, but they're also learning about this global resource."

Cranes have not been a great subject of study in Cuba until quite recently. After the Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro in 1959, fewer scientists were allowed access to Cuba to study the birds. It was not until the mid 1990s that research began to pick up and cranes started to become a global concern.

The particular area of the country that CATH is conducting research on is in north central Cuba on what



Photo courtesy of Korie Klink

Korie Klink, a graduate student studying at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will travel to Cuba for the tenth time with the organization Children Are the Hope (CATH).



Photo courtesy of Korie Klink

Klink uses the wonder of the crane to inspire children in Wisconsin and Cuba the importance of treating our environment with respect.

is called the Grand Wetland of the North, a wetland of national importance which contains a known Cuban Sandhill crane population of 102.

Klink believes in using cranes as tools to address larger environ-

mental issues, and stresses the additional effects that saving wetlands for cranes could have.

"If you save wetlands to save cranes, you're saving wetlands for all of these other little species that can't necessarily talk for themselves," Klink said.

Klink's hope is to make Children Are The Hope its own non-profit organization, and thinks its project model could be used elsewhere in the

world. She hopes to expand CATH to Ecuador and China in the near future.

Driven by a love for both Cuba and environmental education, Klink is optimistic about the future of the crane population based on what she sees as political and cultural changes between the United States and Cuba.

When asked what she loves most about her career field, Klink responded, "The thing that I love most about environmental education is the moment you realize that someone has made a connection. When you are working with a person, be it a child or an adult, and you look in their eye and they look back at you, and you know that you've helped them discover something new about their world that they never knew before."

New course to teach farming to beginners

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Farmshed Farmers will be holding their annual Beginning Farmer course February 12-13, and February 19-20 from 4-9 p.m.

The Crystal Rivers Farmshed, much like a watershed in principal, is a network of farmers, restaurants, businesses, organizations, and productive lands dedicated to the strengthening of relationships between Central Wisconsin farmers and their local community food markets.

The Beginning Farmer's course is

a four day class, spread out over two weekends. It teaches the basics of sustainability in agriculture and the benefits of locally grown foods, strategies of irrigation, grazing tactics, and marketing ideas among many other topics.

The course, taught by a group of experienced farmers, is meant to instill the ideas of locality and sustainability into the next generation of farmers or to those interested in beginning a food garden.

Topics covered by the instructors range from growing and marketing styles to rotational grazing, urban

farming, and Permaculture.

Over thirty students, some without any previous farming experience, have graduated the course over the past three years.

The course fee is \$200, which includes locally grown lunches and the class textbook "New Organic Grower" by Elliot Coleman.

Beginning Farmers is a part of the Farmer Incubator Program, which is a larger group that unites to raise the level of sustainability in the Central Wisconsin area. The program also includes an internship on a local farm for the growing season to get hands-

on experience.

Fifteen students have interned with Farmshed Farmers since 2008, some of which have gone on to work on those same farms or now own their own, but the internship program is not a prerequisite for the Beginning Farmer Course, and open to the public.

For more information on future classes, registration, and other events involving Crystal Rivers Farmshed and local food markets visit www.farmshed.org

POINTLIFE

Café 27 to expand historic building, hours

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Café 27 has received permission from the Historic Preservation Commission to go ahead with plans to expand their current building. The owners' plan is to expand the front section of the building so that it is flush with the other half of the current structure as well as expand the back towards their greenhouse.

The owners had to receive permission from the Historic Preservation Commission because the entire downtown district of Stevens Point has been designated as a Historic District. The Commission has to approve any plans for renovation or construction before any building downtown is modified.

"It would have been a lot easier for us to build to suit our needs, but we wanted to keep the historic nature of the building," said co-owner Thomas Wolf. The building that Café 27 is currently in used to be an ice cream shop as well as an A&W Root Beer stand.

Once the expansion is complete, the bakery counter will be moved up front to better accommodate those customers who come in to buy their baked goods. Currently, the bakery counter is in the back of the café, which causes some congestion during busier times.

"More and more people have been inquiring about our baked goods," said Wolf. "We do not want to define ourselves as a bakery. We want to be known as a café that happens to have great baked goods. Stevens

Point had a lot of bakeries in the past. History is doing its full circle thing again, and a lot of bakeries are coming back. We are happy to be a part of that."

The sentiment that Café 27 produces delicious pastries seems to be shared by their customers.

Ginger Dempsy says she has been eating there since they opened their doors and that "they hands down have the best desserts in Central Wisconsin, maybe even the state. Taste, quality, portion sizes are all great."

Café 27 is only open for breakfast, lunch and tea as Wolf puts it, but during summer they are open during evenings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Wolf said they would like to stay open during the evening in the winter after the expansion is complete.

Customers also seem to be excited to see the expanded hours of operation. Dempsy said she often finds it difficult to make it to the café before they close.

"Being open later is also a plus because it enables me to be able to go and eat there or pick up food from there more frequently since I am not always available to eat there as much as I would like in their current hours," said Sam Glenzer.

Wolf said the motto for the café has been "Food You Can Trust." This means that the café uses local food from local farmers. Wolf also said that during the summer they grow a lot of their own produce, ranging from

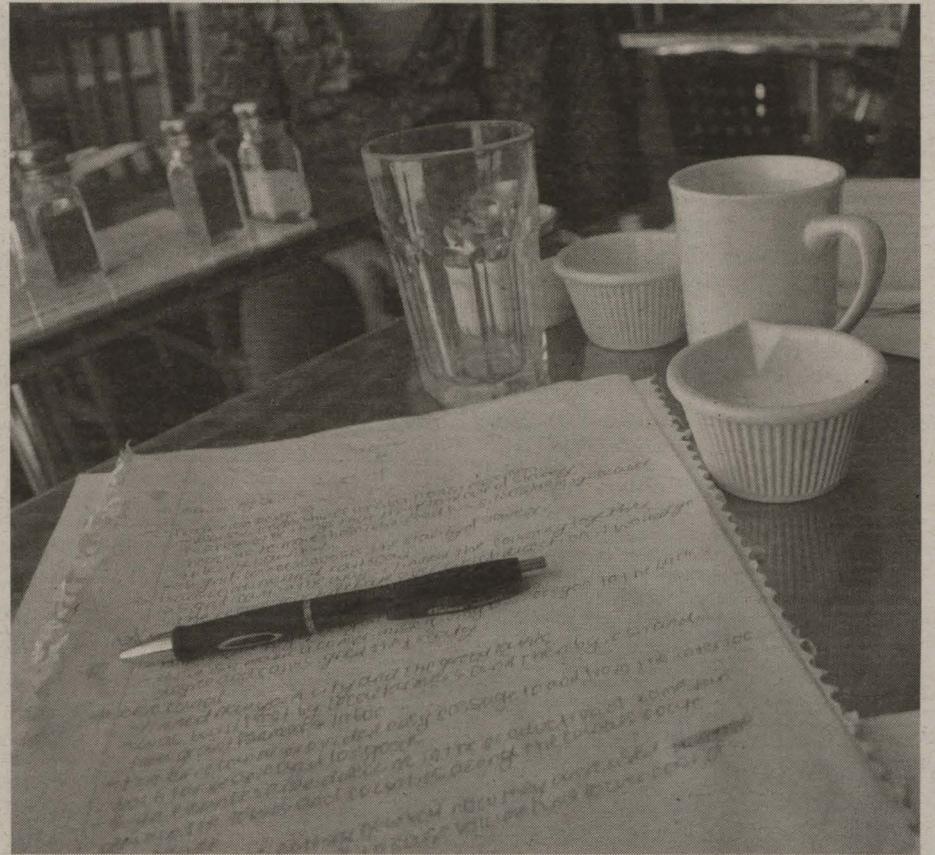


Photo by Samantha Feld

Café 27 has received permission from the Historic Preservation Commission to go ahead with its plans to expand their current building. Café 27 provides a warm and welcoming environment to enjoy its wide array of dishes and pastries, made using locally grown food.

tomatoes to broccoli. "We grow a lot of herbs, especially basil because we use a lot of pesto," said Wolf.

Dempsy says that this is one of the main reasons she eats at Café 27. "It sets them aside that they grow their own food, buy local, and make things from scratch," Dempsy said.

Lisa Pett also shared this sentiment, saying, "I especially like that

they use local produce and ingredients. It makes me want to eat there more often knowing I'm eating from the local foodshed and supporting sustainable agriculture."

Wolf said that the café currently employs seven people and that after the expansion goes through they hope to hire an additional three to four people.

Children's Museum holds Autism Night

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Every first Monday of the month, the Central Wisconsin Children's Museum opens its doors specifically for autistic children and their families. The museum has been offering this night for four years.

"A lot of parents will come and network with each other and swap ideas or therapies that worked for them," said Tonya Kowalski, the education director at the museum.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, one in every 91 Americans has an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ASDs have a wide range of characteristics depending on the severity of the autism.

One of the more common diseases on the Autism Spectrum is Asperger's Syndrome, which has symptoms of poor social interaction skills, difficulty reading the body language of others and repetitive motor mannerisms.

The Central Wisconsin Children's Museum opens up its or specifically for children with ASDs to make the experience of going to a children's museum less overwhelming.

"Others [children] might be outgoing and that could be very hard on the autistic children," said Dr. Debbie Palmer, associate professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP).

Children with an ASD benefit from

academic support throughout their educational career.

"When a parent learns their child has Autism, their whole world changes and will never be the same," said Mable Voelker, the special education department chairperson at Stevens Point Area Senior High School (SPASH).

The support for students depends on where they fall on the Autism Spectrum. Some students need modifications and accommodations with class content while others need help with social interactions.

"We believe we need to teach more than academics. We need to teach the whole child," said Voelker.

At UWSP, the Office of Disability Services helped 393 students last year. Two percent of those students had an ASD. The number of students with ASD attending UW schools has been gradually increasing since 2003.

"More kids with autism are now starting to see that they can succeed in college," said James Joque, the Coordinator of Disability Services at UWSP. Disability Services at UWSP provide accommodations that are appropriate to the disability and the individual needs of the student.

For further support on campus, students with an ASD can go to a small support group run by Pam Terrell, an instructor at the School of Communicative Disorders, with the help of graduate students.

"Faculty and staff need to try to learn more about Autism. It's a matter of educating campus to be more welcoming," said Joque.

Doctors and scientists still don't know what causes an ASD, but the latest research disproves an early theory that early childhood vaccinations can cause Autism. Scientists are now researching genetics and brain development to find the cause and therefore perhaps find a way to prevent or minimize the chances of getting an ASD.

For resource information about ASD, go to the Autism Society of Wisconsin's website at <http://www.asw4autism.org/>

Adults with an ASD can look to the Midstate Independent Living Consultants for further support. Autism Night at the Central Wisconsin's Children's Museum is free every first Monday of the month from 5-7pm.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Logo courtesy of <http://www.cwchildrensmuseum.org/>.

POINTLIFE

Pointer of the Week: Andrea Boehlke

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On February 16, a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student will be appearing on "Survivor: Redemption Island."

Enjoying Survivor is a family affair for Andrea Boehlke, a senior acting major at UWSP.

"I've seen all of the seasons because my parents and I are big fans," Boehlke said. "My mom and dad even sent in a tape once."

Their interest in "Survivor" isn't surprising, she grew up in a lifestyle that would prepare her for an experience like this. "I grew up on a farm in Random Lake, Wis., and my Dad took us fishing and camping which prepared me for the physical aspect," said Boehlke. "I've done theater and I'm very friendly and outgoing and very social, so that helped with the social aspect."

She got the idea to send in a tape when her dad's friend sent in a tape as well. She took a straight-forward approach to the video she sent in.

"I did a clip of me doing chores around the house and farm and talked about my strategy. I just had fun with it," said Boehlke.

When she found out she had made it onto the show, it was time to start preparing to spend about 39 days in Nicaragua. No matter when a contestant is kicked off, they spend the entire 39 days on the island until the winner is picked.

"I'm a perfectionist and I was doing every little thing I could think of [to prepare]," said Boehlke. "I practiced knots and even studied birds that are from Nicaragua."

In addition to that, she made sure to keep in shape by running and biking often. Her motivation to be on the show is not what everyone may think. "I didn't do the show just to be on television," said Boehlke. "It's a great adventure if you make it to the end or if you're voted off first."

Doing the show, she said it was a positive experience. There were definite highs and lows. There is one fact about this experience that many people may not know.



Pointer of the Week Andrea Boehlke

"I'm watching the show when everybody else is watching it," said Boehlke. "That part's a little weird because I don't know what they're going to show."

She said she will have to record the premiere, though, because she is performing in a play that night.

"I'm in the play here called 'Almost, Maine', and I said 'Nobody text me or call me until the play is done,'" Boehlke said, because she doesn't want to hear what happens in the episode until she sees it.

"Survivor: Redemption Island" premieres Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 7:00pm on CBS. "Almost Maine" will be at the Center Studio Theatre in the Noel Fine Arts Center Feb. 11-13 and 16-1

Dawgs eat dogs: UWSP hot dog eating contest

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Students gathered at the Encore room in the Dreyfus University Center to cheer on their friends competing in Centertainment's Hot Dog Eating Contest on Feb. 4.

First place, out of a total of 13 con-

testants, was devoured by University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student Dan Necker who won a \$100 gift card from Wal-Mart. Noah Salmeri won second place, gaining a \$75 gift card, and the controversial third place was ultimately taken by Matt Sallinam, winning him a \$50 gift card.

"Wal-Mart gift cards worked best

because the winners would have had to go through a sea of paperwork and wait about two weeks for their winnings," said coordinator Jeff Eryant of Centertainment.

After the main 10 minute contest was over, third place had been a tie. Therefore, the two contestants had to face off in an extra side contest lasting three minutes. The winner, Sallinam, needed to keep the dogs in his stomach for a minimum of two minutes to qualify.

Immediately after the two minute marker, Sallinam threw up his 'fast meal' and took the third place winnings.

"I could have eaten more, but it's the time and how fast you have to eat them," said Sallinam.

The contest rules stated that they had to eat as many plates of five hot dogs, buns and all, within 10 minutes, in any manner they wanted.

Smashing, mashing, dunking, and tearing methods were allowed. Hiding and "Chipmunking" or stashing food in their mouth after the 1 minute buzzer was a disqualification.

There were no disqualifications or foul play. All the contestants were supported by the cheering crowd.

"I felt it went pretty good, the crowd made the event," said Eryant. For future events by Centertainment or Jeff Eryant, visit their website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/centertainment/events.asp>

Sustainable Natural Resources & Community Development: Nyumbani Village, Kenya, Africa

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LEADERS: Dr. Holly Petrillo, Assistant Professor, Forestry, 346-4230, Office: TNR 363, hpetrill@uwsp.edu & John Sheffy, Agroforestry Consultant

ALTERNATE CONTACTS: Bobbi Kubish, CNR, Int'l Programs Coordinator, (715)-346-3831, Office: TNR 192, bkubish@uwsp.edu

UWSP International Programs Office, Collins Classroom Center Room 108, (715) 346-2717, intlprog@uwsp.edu

Limited to 20 students! Applications can be picked up from Bobbi Kubish, TNR 192 or at the International Programs Office, www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad.

The application deadline is February 15, 2011. HURRY, HURRY, space is limited to 20!

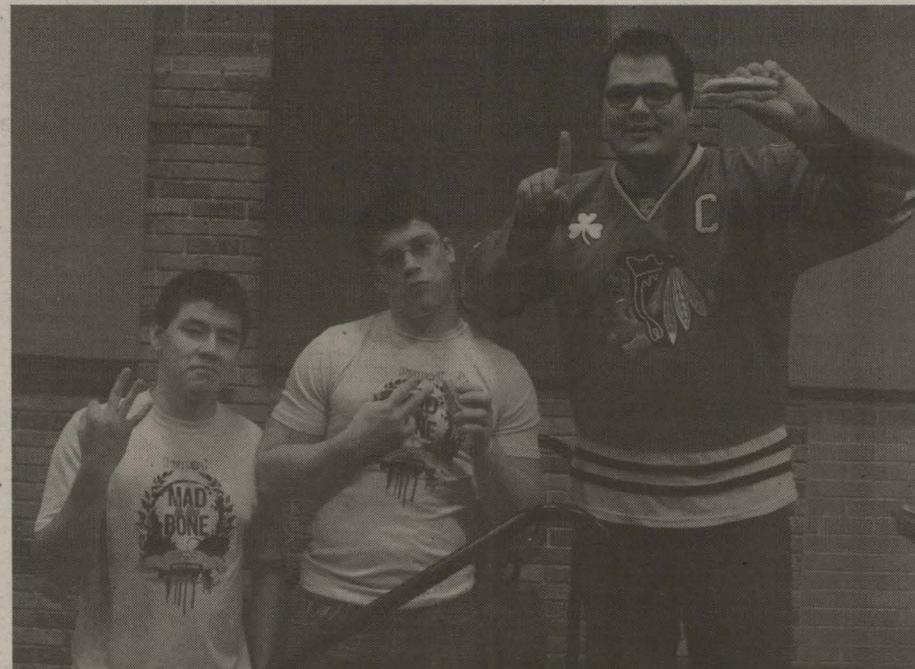


Photo by Nate Enwald
Winners of the Hot Dog Eating Contest were Matt Sallinam, winning third place, Noah Salmeri, taking second place, and finally Dan Necker took the first place prize.

POINTLIFE

Puzzles

Sudoku 6x6 - Puzzle 3 of 5 - Easy

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13				14						15				
16			17							18				
19							20		21					
22					23	24		25						
			26				27		28			29	30	31
32	33	34		35				36		37				
38			39		40				41		42			
43				44		45				46		47		
48					49		50				51			
			52			53		54				55	56	57
58	59	60					61			62				
63						64		65	66					
67						68						69		
70						71						72		

			3											
									1	4				
3	1								4					
												2	5	
6	5													

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

ACROSS

- 1- ABSORB, AS A COST
- 4- CHOOSE
- 9- EXPOSED
- 13- BLACK BIRD
- 14- LESSER
- 15- OLD NICK
- 16- HASTY FLIGHT
- 18- SATIRICAL DIALOGUE
- 19- SINGER JOHN
- 20- ANTIUTOPIA
- 22- LARGE SPOTTED CAT
- 25- BEFORE LONG
- 26- GROUP CHARACTER
- 28- POTENTIAL MATE
- 32- SOVIET SECRET POLICE
- 35- CONGER CATCHER
- 37- LOITER
- 38- BUST MAKER
- 40- DETECTIVE PINKERTON
- 42- LEGAL CLAIM
- 43- MORE OR LESS VERTICAL
- 45- MORE CUNNING
- 47- SUGAR SUFFIX
- 48- DECORATIVE CORNICHE
- 50- MOVE STEALTHILY
- 52- BRIC-A-___
- 54- RARE METALLIC ELEMENT
- 58- RAGING
- 62- RICH CAKE
- 63- EAT AWAY
- 64- BELITTLE
- 67- PENDING
- 68- BRING OUT
- 69- HANOI HOLIDAY
- 70- BRISTLE
- 71- SATURN'S LARGEST MOON
- 72- HESITANT SOUNDS

DOWN

- 1- ART SUPPORTER
- 2- SLENDER PART OF THE LEG
- 3- CONNECT WITH
- 4- ORIGINATE
- 5- COVER
- 6- BREAK OFF
- 7- CHILLED
- 8- LOW CARDS
- 9- FIT FOR A MAGNATE
- 10- LOOKING DOWN FROM
- 11- HINDU PRINCESS
- 12- "ORINOCO FLOW" SINGER
- 15- SKIP
- 17- NARCOTIC
- 21- BRILLO RIVAL
- 23- GREEK FERTILITY GODDESS, FLIGHTLESS BIRD
- 24- KIDS TOYS
- 27- VENDS
- 29- SMALL COMBO
- 30- MINE FINDS
- 31- BASEBALL'S SANDBERG
- 32- SACK STARTER
- 33- OPEN WIDE
- 34- SONGWRITER JACQUES
- 36- COMING DOWN
- 39- REPUBLIC IN SE ASIA
- 41- DEPILATORY BRAND
- 44- CORE
- 46- HEAVY NAPPED WOOLEN FABRIC
- 49- MAI ___
- 51- MCDONALD'S FOUNDER RAY
- 53- A TRAINEE IN A PROFESSION
- 55- ANGRY
- 56- ABSOLUTE
- 57- CONFRONTS
- 58- ___ EX MACHINA
- 59- SEA EAGLE
- 60- FEMINIST LUCRETIA
- 61- BASIC MONETARY UNIT OF GHANA
- 65- PLACE
- 66- NIPPER'S CO.

Sudoku 6x6 - Solution 1 of 5 - Easy

2	1	3	4	6	5
6	4	5	2	3	1
5	3	6	1	4	2
4	2	1	6	5	3
1	5	4	3	2	6
3	6	2	5	1	4

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Answers from the Feb. 3rd issue.

1	S	A	L	E		5	C	A	P	E		9	F	U	E	L		
13	A	L	E	C		14	O	N	E	N	D	15	O	S	S	A		
17	N	O	A	H		18	L	O	A	C	H	19	R	E	A	P		
20	D	E	S	I		21	D	D	T		22	U	23	T	E	R	U	S
			24	D	A	L	E		26	P	R	O	P					
		27	B	E	N	N	Y		29	F	O	R	M	A	L	L	Y	32
33	A	L	G	A	E		34	C	A	L	I		35	W	I	L	E	
36	S	I	R			37	M	A	M	I	E		38	C	A	N		
39	K	N	E	E		40	A	M	E	S		42	G	A	I	N	S	
44	S	I	T	U	A	T	E	D		46	R	A	N	T	O			
			47	D	I	A	L		48	T	O	R	Y					
49	B	E	H	E	L	D		52	B	U	B		53	T	O	T	S	
57	P	R	I	M			58	O	R	A	L	B		60	I	T	O	O
61	O	S	L	O			62	R	U	B	L	E		63	M	I	D	I
64	E	T	O	N			65	N	E	E	R		66	E	C	O	L	

OPINION

Republicans' deficit plan hurts more than helps

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Two weeks ago, Congressman Paul Ryan from Janesville gave the Republican response to the State of the Union. This self-proclaimed "young gun" of the Republican Party was an interesting choice to deliver their official response, because in effect it was an endorsement of Ryan's radical plan to deal with the deficit that the nation is faced with.

On a night when the President's speech was full of hope and optimism for the future, Congressman Ryan spoke of only the despair he sees this country facing. He described our future as "approaching a tipping point" in time. A day of reckoning is fast approaching in Congressman Ryan's eyes. We are facing a hazard that "threatens not only our livelihoods but our way of life." Those are some pretty dark statements.

It was the debt and the deficit that Congressman Ryan devoted much of his speech towards, yet he offered up no particulars on how to achieve the promises of fiscal restraint. The one specific he did mention was the Republicans' vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act that was passed last year. Yet, as the Congressional Budget Office reports, the facts remain that the deficit would only increase if the ACA were fully repealed.

Congressman Ryan was also wrong in his assertion that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

failed in creating jobs and stimulating the economy. The CBO issued a report in November detailing their findings on the impact that the stimulus had on our economy. They reported the stimulus "increased the number of full-time-equivalent jobs by 2.0 million to 5.2 million compared with what would have occurred otherwise." When Congressman Ryan says that the stimulus failed in its goals, he is either devoid of the

spending to be paid for by either tax increases or a cut in spending. Paul Ryan voted no. In 2010 there were two more bills that were introduced with this as a central part of the legislation, Paul Ryan voted no both times. How does Congressman Ryan really think the country should solve the deficit and debt problems facing it? After all, his address to the nation was lacking in specifics. One would only have to look as far as his "Roadmap

privatized accounts that would be tax-free and wholly backed from loss by the federal government. Take a minute and think about that. The federal government would protect them against loss, but they would be exempt from any form of taxes. Imagine the cost to the government in the event that the stock market crashed like it did not less than three years ago.

Congressman Ryan's "roadmap" would also revamp our current income tax structure. He would reduce taxes for anyone making more than \$100,000 to 25%. His plan also calls for the elimination of all taxes on capital gains, dividends and interest; or in other words, all the taxes for how the rich make their money. The Tax Policy Institute looked at Congressman Ryan's plan and reports that those making over \$1 million would on average pay 13% of their income in taxes, while those making between \$75,000 and \$100,000 would pay 21%. This shift in tax burdens is simply unacceptable.

To me, this is a very scary prospect for the country to face. Maybe Congressman Ryan mistook his plan for the bleak future he envisions for our country. By promoting Congressman Ryan to be their spokesman to the nation following the State of the Union, Republicans were in effect endorsing this plan, in part or in whole. It is a possibility that the Republicans would have been better served by elevating Congressman Bachmann instead.

When Congressman Ryan says that the stimulus failed in its goals, he is either devoid of the facts or lying.

~Carlson

facts or lying.

For as much as Congressman Ryan railed against the budget deficit and the debt, one would think that he would be a fiscal conservative. When taking a look at his voting record one would realize this is simply not the truth. Between 2001 and 2006 he voted for 97 bills that dealt with the budget, taxes and appropriations compared to 25 votes against. So he voted for 80% of the bills that would later end up doubling our national debt during President Bush's two terms in office.

In 2007 the House Democrats introduced a bill that would require the House to institute "pay as you go" rules. For all intents and purposes it would require any tax cuts or new

for America" to find out.

In his "roadmap" he proposes the elimination of all current entitlement programs in their current form. Medicare would disappear and in its place would be a voucher program for seniors to purchase their own health insurance plans, or as Rachel Maddow put it "here's a coupon, now go buy health insurance." This voucher would receive no additional funding as healthcare costs rise, and would eventually disappear over time as funding would be slowly decreased. Millions of kids would also lose their health insurance as his plan calls for the elimination of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Social Security would also disappear. It would be replaced with

Obama brings greed to the state of the union

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A couple weeks back, President Obama gave his State of the Union address to the audience of a nation. As always, Obama was elegant in his speech, but hopefully the nation took a minute to look past the well-written sentences and Obama's strategically placed pauses to hear what he was really saying.

Throughout the speech, Obama continually compared us to other countries, as if we were all in some kind of competition, a competition that we needed to win. Obama talked about winning, saying, "We need to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build...that's how we'll win." He mentioned the Soviets and how they beat us with launching the first human object to orbit earth, Sputnik, and how we need to beat them with renewable energy. He talked about

other countries and how their students are smarter than ours: "We also have to win the race to educate our kids." And then he compared us once again to another country, this

that they're better at some things, we should look at our country and fix what we're doing wrong. Instead of feeling that we have to "beat" other countries, can't we be happy for their

said, "It's time we treated the people who educate our children with some respect." So to make teachers forget that Obama just insulted them, he quickly complimented them.

Obama also outlined a huge support plan for future technology and scientific research, to make us better than everyone else. He stated that he was "handing out money" and "issuing a challenge" to researchers. Later, however, he said that we as a country needed to make sure that we weren't buried under a mountain of debt. So, handing out money is a good solution for that? I'm pretty sure spending money means more debt.

Obama ended his address talking about foreign affairs and how he wants to forge new alliances with countries around the world. However, his desire to be on top and to be better than other countries will prohibit him from doing so.

Greed and the constant need to "win" are not going to fix our country.

Greed and the constant need to "win" are not going to fix our country.

~Luckow

time South Korea, telling us that they have more Internet access than we do. What a horrible thing!

I personally wasn't aware that we were in some kind of race with other countries, a race to be better than them. The State of the Union address was an example of the idea that American's need to be superior and better than everyone else, feeding their superiority complexes.

Instead of looking at other countries and worrying about the fact

advancements?

The State of the Union address was also interesting on a more political science end too, of course. Obama talked about America's education system and how our education was failing and that teachers weren't doing a good enough job. But of course, teachers are a large part of Obama's and other Democrat's voting pool. So to make sure that he didn't lose a great majority of his voters, Obama waited a few minutes and

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