



# The Pointer

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## Wilson denies allegations of misconduct

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Student Government Association President, Mike Wilson, has faced some challenges this year. According to his statement at the last senate meeting, Wilson has been investigated for a wide array of issues.

His pay has recently come under scrutiny after he worked and billed the university for 70 extra hours over the summer, totaling to \$630.

"Even if you think that I'm ethically capable of stealing money, that I'm not stupid enough to do it through a process that needs different levels of approval, and which is as easily traceable as Kronos," Wilson said.

Those remarks were part of a statement Wilson made during SGA's weekly senate meeting. In that statement, he opened with remarks that he thought lightened the situation.

"It's true I'm a rapist, I'm a Latin American dictator, I'm a drug peddling murderer, I let my staff do and sell drugs in the office, I'm a Chihuahua dog. I unilaterally fired Laura [Ketchum-Ciftci] and Dustin Klein. I sexually harass my staff, I'm a terrorist. I've been accused of the most heinous crimes," Wilson said.

The audience, including professors, stood by in silence as the majority of senators and Advisor Stephanie Aleman laughed.

Wilson acted as if the accusations were a conspiracy against SGA's attempts to integrate segregated fee

the evidence, said Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Brad Van Den Elzen. He explained there was a period over the summer that the SGA time cards were being approved by no one.

"The guiding philosophy from the payroll office is for student work-

"At this point were taking a look at the records to ascertain the details of the situation, at this point I don't have any conclusions to share," Van Den Elzen said.

Wilson spoke with upper administration last week, and told SGA senators that he was assured nothing was wrong.

"If Vice Chancellor Van Den Elzen saw wrongdoing he would be compelled to act," Wilson said.

During the senate meeting, Senator Pat Testin proposed forming an ad hoc committee to investigate the allegations against Wilson. The committee failed to be created due to recent legislation that requires a two-thirds vote of all sitting senators for passage.

"I will also continue to investigate President Wilson over any wrong doings he has committed while he has been in office," Testin said. "We, as a governing body, have an obligation to our constituents to restore integrity and bring back transparency into the Student Government Association."

Wilson told SGA that the committee wasn't needed to find his side of the story true.

*It's true I'm a rapist, I'm a Latin American dictator, I'm a drug peddling murderer, I let my staff do and sell drugs in the office, I'm a Chihuahua dog. I unilaterally fired Laura [Ketchum-Ciftci] and Dustin Klein. I sexually harass my staff, I'm a terrorist. I've been accused of the most heinous crimes.*

*- Mike Wilson, SGA President*

allocation under one branch of student government.

"They've thrown everything they can at us to divide us, to distract us," Wilson said.

While Wilson may be able to laugh off the allegations, administration is taking a more serious look at

ers - we want to get the folks paid," Van Den Elzen said. "So it's tradition to go ahead with payment and follow up with signatures later."

Without saying anything conclusive, Van Den Elzen said university administration was looking into the issue.

See **Wilson**, page 2

## Want to Vote? Photo ID, Please

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The new Wisconsin Voter Photo Identification Act has been getting a lot of attention over the past few weeks, especially by college organizations across the state that see it as a move towards student disenfranchisement.

To review, the bill would require all voters to show proper photo identification at the polls when they come to vote. Three forms of ID would be accepted: a Wisconsin driver's license, a Military ID, or a state-issued ID card.

The outcry from campus groups has arisen because many college students do not have a driver's license,

and those from out of state may not have a state ID at their Wisconsin address. Those in either category would have to get a state ID in time, assuming they are even aware that they need one.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student Government Association recently released a statement about the bill, calling the efforts "of legislators in Madison to disenfranchise student voters unacceptable."

The photo ID bill also plans on abolishing same-day voter registration, which is the way most college students vote on Election Day. SGA called this move "a direct assault against the voting rights of citizens statewide."

The bill hopes to be passed in

time for the April 4 election, but some worry that many voters will not be able to get a photo ID by then.

Rep. Kathy Bernier (R-Chippewa Falls) expressed that concern when she said, "The difficulty...will be to assure that the folks who don't have a photo ID will be able to obtain one by then."

The intended purpose for this bill is to cut down on voter fraud; however, a recent state task force investigation revealed that, in the 2008 presidential election, only 20 people in Wisconsin were charged with voter fraud. Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen started looking for voter fraud in July of 2008, when he helped form the Election Fraud Task Force, which focused in on specific counties to ensure voting procedures

were being followed correctly.

The bill has had other opponents, such as Rep. Joe Parisi (D-Madison), who sees no voter fraud "problem" in the current system. David Canon, a political science professor at UW-Madison reacted to the bill and said, "It would not prevent felons or non-citizens from voting. The only type of fraud it will catch is impersonators."

It is uncertain at this time what photo identification cards will end up costing the state, but regardless, the Republican Legislature hopes to have the bill passed and in place for the April 4 election.

This gives all college students yet another thing to remember to do on Election Day. Just try not to forget once that day comes.

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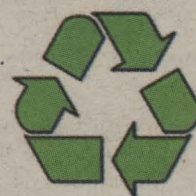
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NEWS

Wilson / SGA plans to investigate allegations

from page 1

“You don’t need to create a committee, you just need to read the constitution,” Wilson said in reference to the SGA constitution.

Senators are likely to pursue options that are on the table following their investigations into both sides of the story and impeachment is an option that they could explore, Testin said.

Wilson could face other repercussions from administration, but Van Den Elzen was unable to say what those would be.

“That depends on upon who’s enforcing, I don’t know whether I’m ready at this point to say what those will be if any,” Van Den Elzen stated. “I’m talking with Mike later this week and hopefully we can resolve this quickly.”

Van Den Elzen hopes that SGA will be able to police itself on this matter, and said that the administration will help in any way that it can.

SGA meetings are every Thursday in the DUC Legacy Room at 6 p.m. There is an open forum for any students to talk about an issue of their choice.

**Editor’s Note:** Dustin Klein, government and general news reporter for The Pointer was the Vice President of SGA from May – July in 2010 when he resigned for personal reasons.

NEWSBRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL

Protests in Egypt Intensify

Protests in the Egyptian capitol of Cairo have intensified, as thousands in support of President Hosni Mubarak have taken to the streets, attacking anti-Mubarak protestors with whips while riding horses and camels. Both sides have been engaged in stone throwing as well as other hostile behavior.

On Tuesday, Mubarak refused to follow demands that he step down immediately, but agreed not to run for re-election in September. The ten thousand protestors rallying against him didn’t think this was enough, however, and continued their demands that he step down immediately.

Military forces have been present to protect the central square, but did not intervene when conflict broke out between the two sides. The largest number of people amassed in opposition to Mubarak has been 250,000, all of whom gathered in Cairo’s Tahrir Square.

Protests still continue, and are being reported on internally through social media outlets such as Twitter.

Letters to the Editor

After reading the article on Michael Wilson in yesterday’s Pointer, I felt the need for a response. I served with Michael Wilson on the Equity and Affirmative Action Committee and found him to be respectful, thoughtful, and engaged about student and campus issues. I feel that he is being singled out in this article for an honest mistake and didn’t over report hours with a malicious intent. I have employed many UWSP students over the past fifteen years. And yes they do make frequent honest mistakes on timecards. Michael Wilson works hard for the students on this campus and deserves an apology.

**LISA BAXTER-EBERT**  
Academic Department Associate  
School of Health Promotion and Human Development  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Oh please, aren’t there more important issues for The Pointer to be covering than how many hours a student employee works and records. On Michaels’ behalf I have known him for over 4 years and worked with him on more than one occasion and he has been nothing but honest and hard working. I personally saw Michael at many freshman orientation sessions this summer trying to recruit new SGA members, something I have never seen any other SGA president do before. If anything the Michael that I know has probably worked more hours on this campus on various events and committees than he has ever recorded or been paid for. This whole thing sounds mean spirited and political to me... find some real news.

**LAURIE GRABOSKI BAUER**  
Student Outreach Specialist  
Multicultural Resource Center

Dear Editor,  
SGA would like to thank you for taking the time to report on our organization. However, last week the article entitled “Wilson violates SGA rules by working more hours than approved” was lacking in honesty, thorough reporting and accurate investigation. There were various sources that could have been interviewed, as well as an on-going internal investigation into the matter that suggests that this article is premature in development and lacking in professionalism. Before any official investigation has declared Wilson guilty or innocent, the author established a verdict in print. That is purposely a defamation of character. Both the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and the Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs have conducted their own investigations and have indicated that there is nothing illegitimate about President Wilson’s summer hours, given that these hours were approved by the SGA Budget Director, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Tomlinson, and the payroll

offices on campus and in Madison.

To clarify a few things, Wilson has not been charged with embezzling money from the students and as mentioned before, it is currently under investigation, as requested by President Wilson, by the Judicial Branch of SGA. Wilson mentioned in his interview that going through Kronos, the student payroll, would be the worst way to misappropriate money because of the various tiers of approval that a student has to go through before their hours are approved. Kronos is easily traceable, there is a paper trail, and mistakes are common and easily corrected.

At the beginning of the summer, Wilson requested to Vice Chancellor Tomlinson and to the SGA Budget Director that he be allowed to take on the Vice President’s hours until the SGA Senate could confirm a new Vice President. Otherwise, the SGA office would be severely hampered and unable to fulfill its responsibility to the students. Then-Speaker of the Senate Hans Schmid agreed to this.

During The Pointer’s interview with Wilson, it was never mentioned that “SGA employees fiddling with their hours happens on a regular basis.” The statement taken out of context was that STUDENTS overall in the UNIVERSITY, “are overpaid and underpaid, but it’s a quick fix in the system,” which was expressed by the UWSP Payroll Specialist. It is not in President Wilson’s job description to know what the fix in the system is, that’s what Advisors and Pay-Roll Offices are for. However, it is the job of The Pointer’s report team, as thorough investigative journalists, to go through the correct avenues of finding the truth and not to independently decide on a verdict.

SGA has mentioned many times before that it values the The Pointer’s service as a media outlet to the students of UW- Stevens Point, but it’s about time that accurate reporting begins to trump false accusations and agenda-driven reporting. SGA would appreciate if said reporting were accurate in its representation of the organization and the university as a whole. While important and distressing issues such as violence against women, and other issues that involve the suppression of student rights continue to escalate, The Pointer chooses to neglect these in favor of attempting to “expose” President Wilson for working too much on behalf of the student body and their rights over segregated fees.

**LYBRA OLBRANTZ**  
SGA Communications and Public Relations Director

**Editor’s Note:** The Pointer stands behind all of its reporters. Our article was neither an accusation nor assault on President Wilson’s character. The Pointer reported information thought to be important for the student body to know about their SGA president.

THE POINTER

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Letters to the Editor

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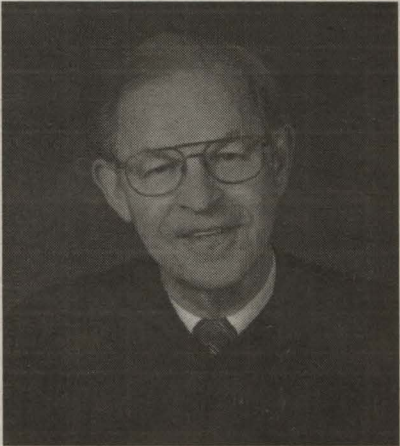


## NEWS

# Wisconsin Supreme Court primary election on Feb. 15

■ On February 15 Wisconsin will hold its annual spring primary elections. The voting across the state will narrow down to the top candidates for the state supreme court. The two candidates will then move on to the spring election on April 5. The election does not involve political parties as the state supreme court and other elections of local officials is non-partisan.

**David Prosser**



Prosser is the incumbent up for re-election. His experience is 12 years on the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. Prior to that he was an 18 year veteran of the State Assembly serving as a minority leader and the Speaker for the Republican Party. Prosser has not been endorsed by a Democrat, but has a slew of Republican endorsements. His website does not include any data on his judicial record as it is still under construction.

[www.justiceprosser.com](http://www.justiceprosser.com)

**Marla Stephens**



Stephens served as Chair or Vice Chair of the Appellate Procedure Committee from 1997-2010. The committee is an independent judicial agency that studies and makes recommendations dealing with court procedures. Stephens is endorsed by several notable Democrats including Joe Wineke, a former Democratic Party of Wisconsin chair and candidate for Dane County Executive. Her website lacked positions on her issues she would like seen taken to the court or her positions on previous cases.

[www.stephensforjustice.com](http://www.stephensforjustice.com)

**JoAnne Kloppenburg**



"Assistant Attorney General Kloppenburg has been a litigator and prosecutor at the Wisconsin Department of Justice since 1989, serving under Attorneys General from both parties: Don Hanaway, Jim Doyle, Peg Lautenschlager and JB VanHollen," Kloppenburg's website outlines. Kloppenburg is planning to make a stop at the Democratic Party meeting this upcoming Tuesday at 6:30 pm at the Democratic Party Headquarters on Main Street.

[www.kloppenburgforjustice.com](http://www.kloppenburgforjustice.com)

**Joel Winnig**



Winnig is the only candidate with a website outlining his stance on a few positions. Winnig focuses on ethics in the judicial system such as disallowing those involved in the 2002 caucus scandal involving Republican Scott Jensen. He also thinks that campaigns in the past have violated the trust Wisconsinites hold in the judicial system, focusing too much on special interests and too little on the Wisconsin Constitution and law.

[www.winnigforjustice.com](http://www.winnigforjustice.com)



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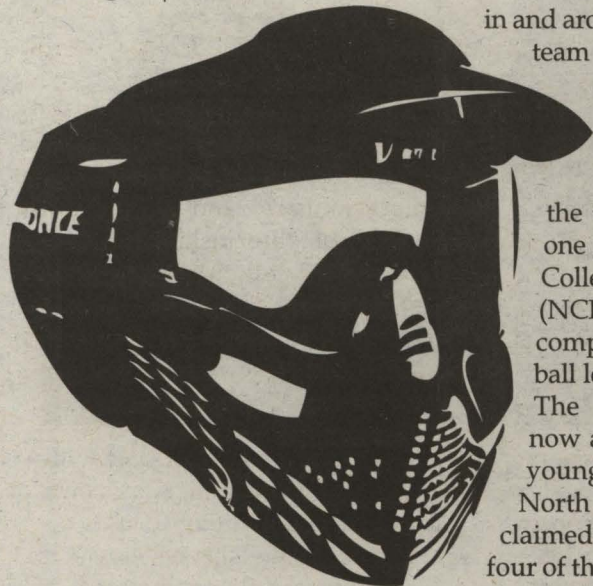


# SPORTS

## Paintball Club brings Pointball to National Level

SETH HOFFMEISTER

shoff583@uwsp.edu



The UWSP Paintball Club has yet to celebrate its first birthday, but they are already making waves on the national scene. Last spring, six students decided to form a paintball team on the campus to provide students the opportunity to play paintball, both recreationally and competitively. Only two of those students had tournament experience, but they all shared a determination to play the game of paintball, to bring paintball to the students of UWSP, and to bring UWSP to the national paintball level.

And they did just that.

After playing some tournaments in and around Wisconsin, the paintball team generated a lot of interest and rapidly grew. With success in tournaments against some of the states best teams and a drive to win, the team realized they had only one goal: To get into the National Collegiate Paintball Association (NCPA), the largest and most competitive college-level paintball league in the nation.

The UWSP Paintball Club is now a member of the NCPA. The young team joined the Midwest North Division, whose teams have claimed the national championship four of the last five years. Considering they jumped into the deep end facing the country's best teams, they still have made a tremendous impact on the game and are currently ranked 49th in the nation. The NCPA has around 250 teams.

The team has represented UWSP in two NCPA tournaments. The first was in September in Fairabout, Minnesota, and they played pretty well, but knew they could do better. They came home having learned a lot, but more importantly they came home with a drive to go back the next

time and do better.

Their second tournament was in Mukwonago, Wisconsin. The team faced off against not only the best teams in the Midwest, but against near freezing temperatures that made paintballs brittle and guns hard to control and fire. Despite these obstacles, the team finished 12th out of 32 teams. This team that has yet to see its first birthday brought home the glory, beating out many teams, some of which have been around for ten years.

"It's very intense, high paced. It's all about the attitude," says Robb Jones, vice president of the club, about the sport and the mindset they take to each tournament. He continued by saying, "Paintball is about the attitude. If you have the desire to play, to spend all of your time and money on this sport, then the only thing you're missing is a team to play with. And we're the team for you."

Although competitive and successful on the national level, the UWSP Paintball Club is not about recruiting only the best players, but in providing an opportunity for students to play the game no matter the skill level.

"The team will coach you to the level we're at," says Jones about the commitment his teammates and three coaches have for the game. And if you

have time but not the money, the club has purchased equipment for anyone interested to use. The team also has inflatable bunkers for their practices.

While paintball is a sport often dominated by men, the UWSP Paintball Club welcomes and encourages women to play. Carolyn Faust, a member of the team, sees herself at an advantage against the guys.

"It's great because I'm smaller and can blend in easier behind bunkers," Faust said.

The team will be holding tryouts for their Varsity and JV teams in the spring. The Paintball Club has meetings every Wednesday at 7pm in DUC 235, and they encourage students to show up anytime if they have any interest.

They will also be hosting a Valentine's Day paintball event in Wausau later this month, where anyone who wants to play can show up and play. Whether playing competitively or for fun, this is truly a great sport. President Mike Bicanic sums it up saying, "It's the only game you can go shoot your friends and then laugh about it afterwards."

To learn more about the team, you can go to their website [www.pointerball.webs.com](http://www.pointerball.webs.com) or look them up on Facebook.



Courtesy of Robb Jones



## SPORTS

# Catching the big one Pointers Keep Rolling

SETH HOFFMEISTER

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In the summer, Wisconsin's 15,081 lakes provide recreation to everyone. Whether fishing, swimming, boating, snorkeling or logrolling, our lakes provide hours of genuine entertainment and enjoyment. It is no different in the winter. Even the cold can't keep Wisconsinites indoors.

Although I've never met someone who logrolls in the winter, when the lakes freeze it means one thing to many in Wisconsin-Ice Fishing season.

When December comes it brings the cold, and it isn't long before our many lakes and rivers start to ice over. Once there is two or three inches of ice, the lakes of Wisconsin start to become dotted with tip ups, ice fishing shacks, cars and groups of people huddled around not only for warmth, but to claim their catch from the icy depths of their favorite fishing spots.

Many might ask why someone would subject themselves to the elements to catch a fish. One avid ice fisherman thinks it's simple.

"It's about the camaraderie," said sophomore Eric Duffey, UWSP. Ice fishing is a social sport, and a celebration of the culture of this frigid region. Not only that, but it is three or four extra months to catch the trophy fish of your dreams, whether to eat, mount, or toss back.

Duffey describes a normal ice fishing trip. They get out on the lake. They drill the holes, set up the tip ups with some live bait, usually maggots, and then wait for a bite. That's where the camaraderie happens. While waiting for the flag of the tip up to go up that indicates a bite, there is time to just hang out and enjoy the outdoors. Whether shooting the bull with the guys, tossing around a football, or enjoying some good, warm food, there are hours of enjoyment and relaxation that come from this Wisconsin tradition.

While having a good time might be a big aspect of ice fishing, it is still about catching the big one. Duffey recounts a story about a buddy of his.

"He somehow got his foot stuck in the hole and had three guys trying to help him out," he said. He shouts FLAG and the three guys trying to get his foot out immediately run towards the bite to see what they got. They eventually got his foot unstuck."

Once the ice is thick enough, 14-18 inches as recommended by Duffey, the ice is strong enough to hold a car, so on those days where the wind is howling and the temperatures are dropping, the cars are a sanctuary of warmth.

"And if we're out during a Packers game, we get our stuff set up fast and go listen to the game on the radio," he said. It doesn't get much better than that.

Ice fishing does have its risks. If it is early or late in the season, the ice may be thin in some places. Every year people fall through the ice and need to be rescued.

In December, one Wisconsin man drove his truck onto the ice only to realize, a little too late, that the ice wasn't thick enough to support the weight.

Despite the risks, it is a great way to spend a day. And even though the coldest of winter is (probably) behind us, the season usually goes until mid-March. Although Duffey wouldn't give up his best fishing spots, he said that Lake Joanis, Lake DuBay, inlets and bays of the Wisconsin River, and the river itself offer great fishing for those brave enough to stand the cold.

If you're looking for an opportunity to go ice fishing, the Student Law Enforcement Club of UWSP will be having an ice fishing derby at the Tiki Bar on Lake DuBay this Saturday, February 5th from 8:00am-3:00pm. They are selling raffle tickets and you have a chance to win many great prizes.

AGUSTUS MARCELLINO-MERWIN

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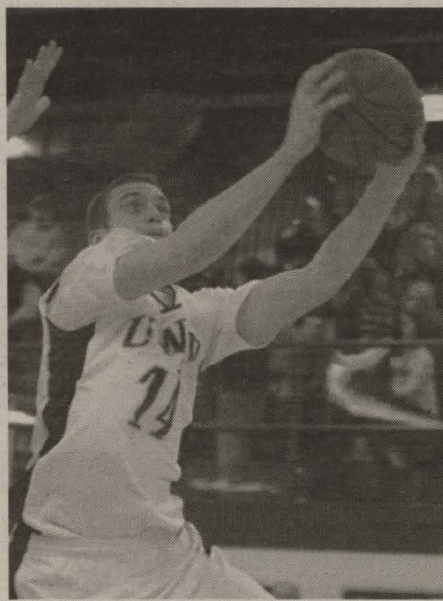


Photo by Mark Kinslow

Dan Tillema goes up for a shot at the hoop.

The Pointer men's basketball team didn't leave many opponents feeling jolly over the holiday break. After a disappointing loss to Saint Paul's University of Saint Thomas on December 22, UW-Stevens Point rattled off seven straight wins. The Pointers faltered versus UW-Platteville but recovered quickly to win their next five.

Of their 12 wins, Stevens Point won all but one by double digits. The Pointers came out of both of their holiday invites undefeated and twice ran up a score of over 90, including a season high 93 points against Linfield College from Oregon.

The Pointers fought to the final buzzer in each of their losses. They lost to Saint Thomas by five, and then dropped a heartbreaker to the Platteville Pioneers, losing by just one point. With Platteville down by one and Point in the bonus, junior forward Dan Tillema missed the front end of the one and one and Pioneer Eric Wall grabbed the rebound. Tillema then fouled Wall and sent him to the line. Wall then sank both freethrows to put Platteville up by one. Point's Jerrel Harris had four seconds to get off one final shot but missed the potential game winning layup, allowing the Pioneers to escape with a 57-56 victory.

Sophomore guard Jerrel Harris

led the Pointers in scoring seven times through their 14 game span including 22 against Ramapo College and a career high 25 in Point's most recent game against UW-Whitewater.

Dan Tillema and junior center Jordan Brezinski have also turned up their offenses and proven themselves to be major scoring threats. Tillema dropped 24 points in the Pointers' January 22nd game against UW-Oshkosh. Brezinski was named WIAC Athlete of the Week during the first week of the 2011 year.

In Point's 93-60 routing of Linfield College, five of Stevens Point's players were in double figures. Sharing the ball has not been a problem on this team, considering five different players have led the team in scoring during the season.

The Pointers are shooting 51 percent from the field this season. Their 77.7 points per game average is second in the WIAC conference and the 1,476 points the boys have scored is the most by any conference team so far. On the other end of the court the Pointers have been just as efficient, holding opponents under 40 percent and they are leading the conference in points off of turnovers.

Point's next game against UW-Stout could shape up to be a high scoring affair. Stout is the only team ahead of the Pointers in points per game and they are leading the WIAC in three pointers made. However Stout is last in the conference standings with a record of 3-8, while Stevens Point is second to UW-River Falls with a 9-2 mark. The game will come down to whichever team has the hand. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. at Bennett Court.

## Pointer Place Town Homes

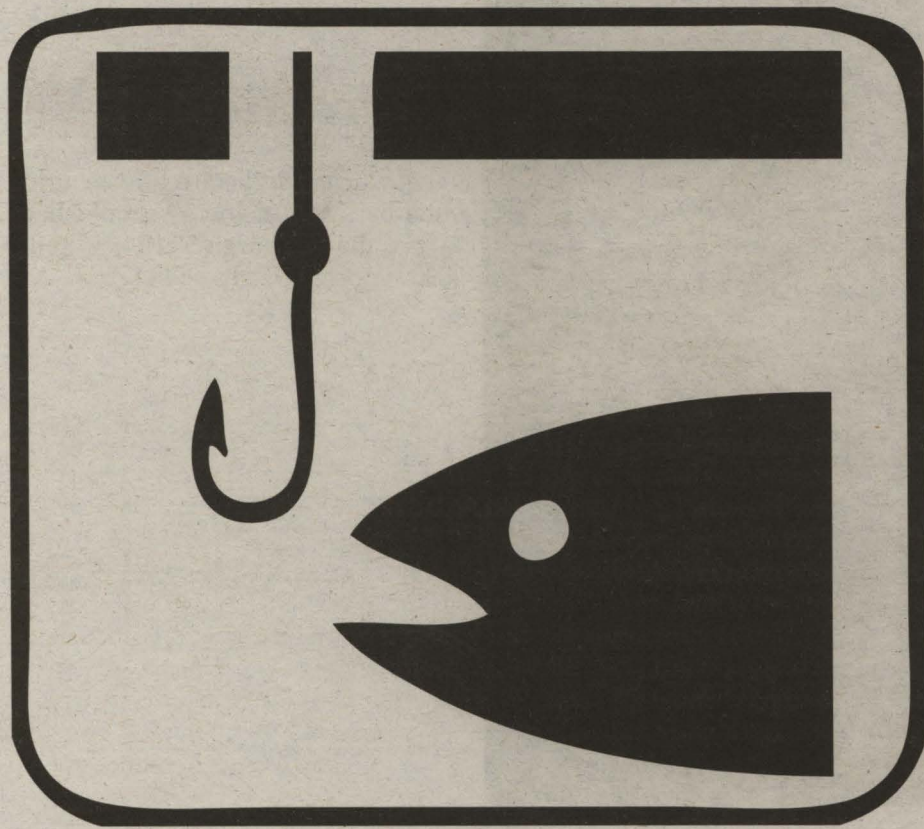
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## SPORTS

# For Packers Fans, Lambeau is Mecca

SETH HOFFMEISTER

shoff583@uwsp.edu

Commentary

For Catholics, it's the Vatican. For Muslims it's Mecca. For kids, it's Disney World. For Beatles fans, it's Abbey Road. Religions and cultures all have that one sacred location that everyone should see at least once.

In Wisconsin, the pilgrimage to Lambeau Field is something every Packers fan has either done, or intends to do. Just as the Packers have a rich history and tradition that is unmatched in all pro sports, the place the Packers have called home for 54 seasons is the location of legend.

It's not just Packers fans that say that either. In 1999, Sports Illustrated named Lambeau Field the 8th best sports venue in the world, the only NFL stadium making the list.

In 2007 and 2008, Lambeau was voted number one in overall game day experience. ESPN Magazine ranked Lambeau as number one in stadium experience in all pro sports in their 2009 Ultimate Standings.

I was lucky enough to be in Green Bay last weekend, and whether it is the week before the Packers play in the Super Bowl or not, Lambeau Field is my number one destination.

Driving down Lombardi Avenue, named after the coach who first made the Frozen Tundra the place of legend, I felt the same as I did when I was 8 years old driving to Lambeau for the first time.

Walking into the Atrium, the 366,000 square foot room with a five-story glass wall as the front door, I saw the two men that built Title Town. Packers founder and head coach from 1919-1949, Curly Lambeau, who the stadium is named after, and Lombardi, both tower over everyone coming to the stadium in 14-foot tall bronze form, reminding visitors of the legend of the Pack.

Dedicated in 1957, Lambeau Field saw the Lombardi years and some of the best moments in pro football, including three NFL Championship games, the last of which was the infamous Ice Bowl against the Dallas Cowboys where the hall of fame quarterback Bart Starr snuck the ball in for a last second touchdown giving the Packers a trip to Super Bowl II. Lambeau was also the venue of the Favre years, where football found new heights.

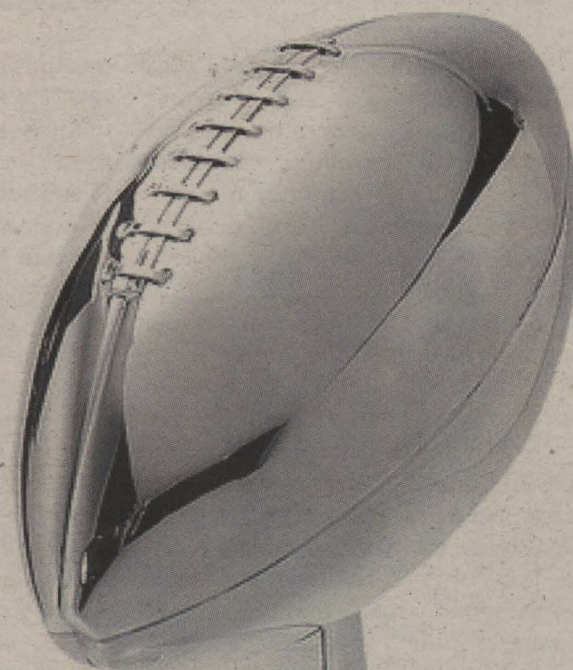
In 2000, the hallowed ground was structurally lacking in comparison to the newer stadiums of the NFL. A decision had to be made: Renovate Lambeau or build a new stadium.

"Our fans overwhelmingly asked us to save Lambeau Field," then-president and CEO Bob Harlan said. "This plan accomplishes that while giving the Packers an economic base to build for the future in Green Bay. We want this to be the No. 1 destination in Wisconsin. We're going to build a stadium that the rest of the National Football League wished it had."

Thus history continues to be made. While the outside is new,

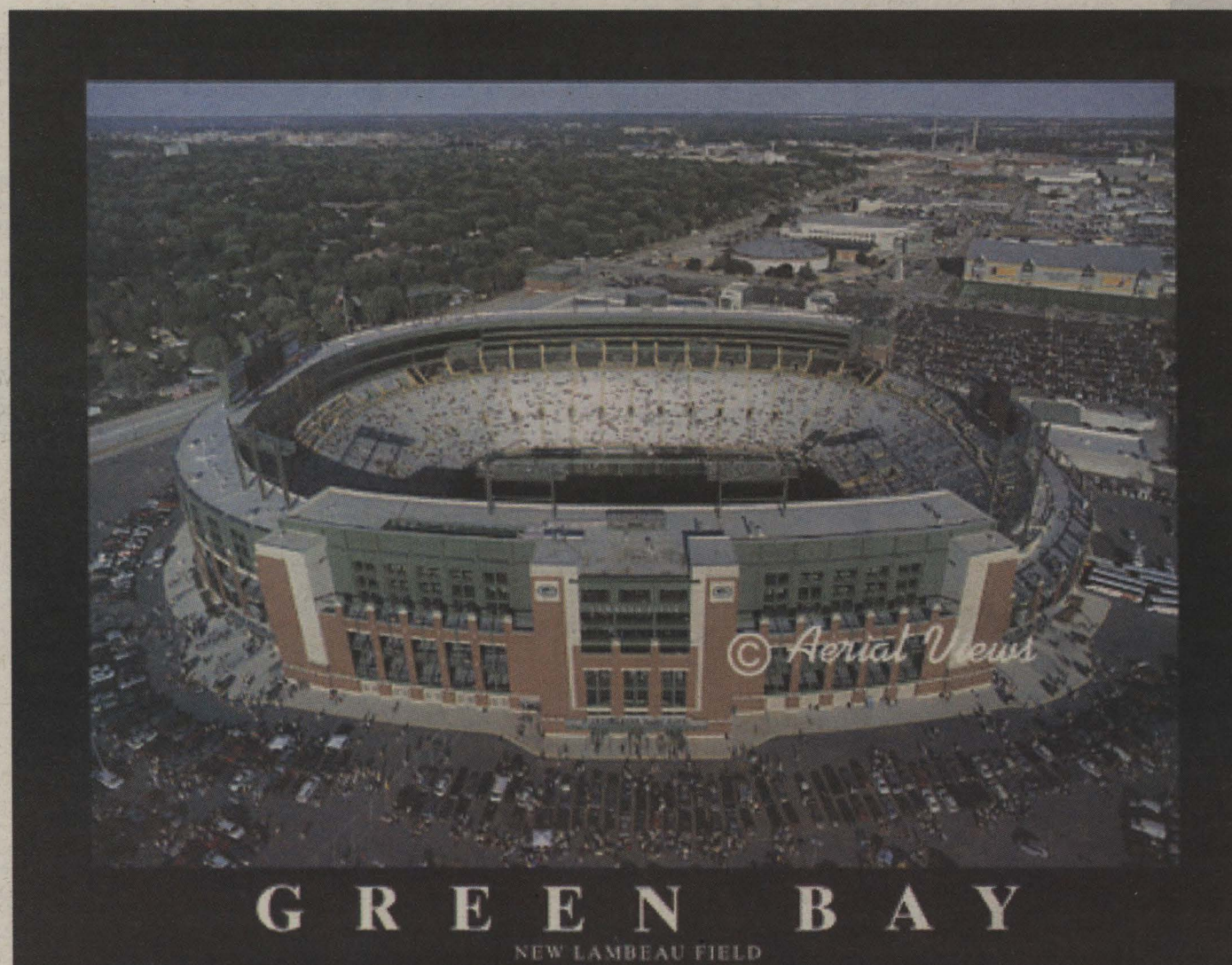
improved, and to put it most eloquently, freaking awesome, the stadium's bowl is left unchanged. As a reminder, the names of the 21 Packer players and coaches in the NFL Hall of Fame, the 12 NFL Championships victories, and the five retired numbers displayed around the field on the luxury boxes to reinforce players and spectators that it really doesn't get any better than this.

Go Pack.



## Correction

The article "Packers ready to bring title back to Titledown" should have stated the Pittsburgh Steelers won the 2005 superbowl as a sixth seed.





# POINTLIFE

## Politos Pizza challenges Man v. Food

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Classic Rock from the radio filling the room, the trotting of children's feet on the rustic hardwood floor, the smell of cheese bubbling in the ovens-this is the heart of Polito's Pizza and the possible site for a future Man v. Food episode.

Polito's Pizza, owned by Kevin Polito, has challenged Adam Richman, host of Travel Channel's Man v. Food, to complete their Monster Pizza Challenge for charity.

The challenge traditionally consisted of a team of two set against a 12 pound 28 inch pizza, with a reward of \$500 should any team be able to conquer its foe. Over 300 teams have attempted such a feat over the past 3 years with none being able to complete the challenge.

"It's huge, absolutely huge, I honestly think it may be impossible," said former contestant Nick Moure.

A worthy enough challenge for the popular Travel Channel host Adam Richman, who makes his living traveling around the United States defeating previously established restaurant food challenges such as devouring a seven pound burger or facing off against habanera hot dishes.

Along with competing in food challenges, Richman visits local landmarks to give insight into the community the show visits.

For Polito's to officially enter the ranks of Man v. Food, the restaurant must compile and submit a video of the food, people, and community surrounding them to the Travel Channel for review.

There is no finite deadline for submission but simply stops accepting videos when they have enough acceptable and qualified challenges to begin filming a season.

Should Richman take on the challenge,

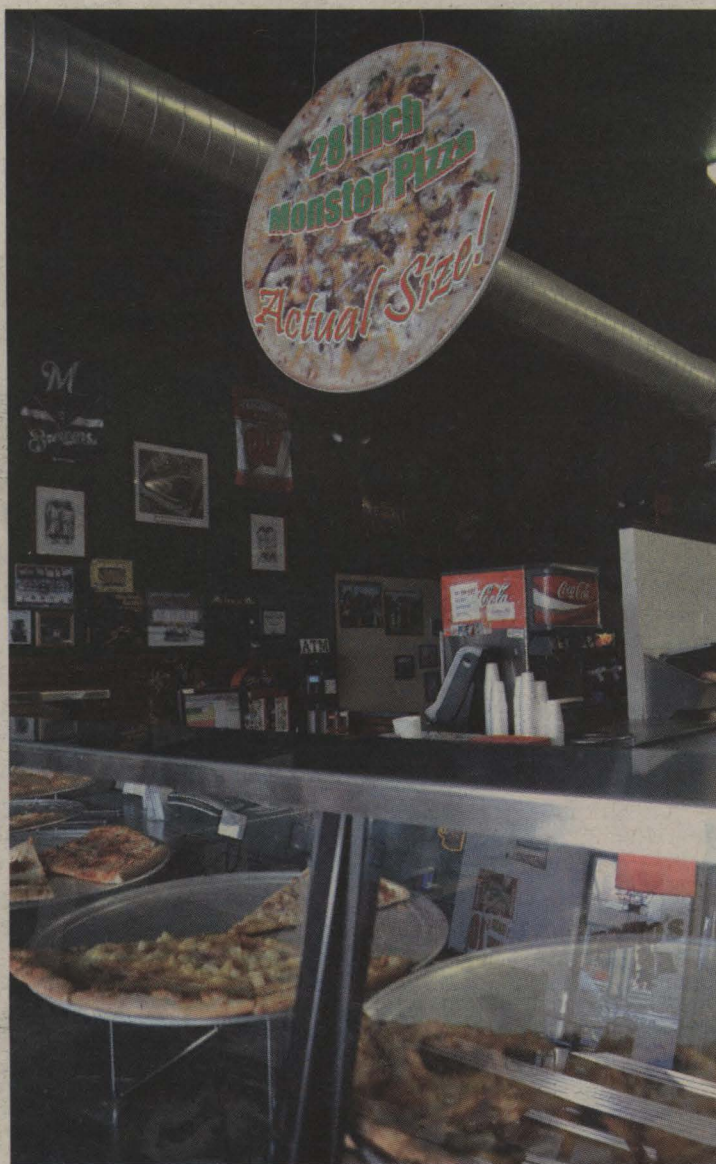


Photo by Samantha Feld

Politos Pizza, in downtown Stevens Point, could be the site of a future Man v. Food episode, a show on the Travel Channel.

Polito's has said they will raise the reward to \$2,000 to be given to a charity of Richman's choice. If he is unable to tackle the colossal pizza, Polito's has also said they would donate \$100 per pound eaten.

"Everyone here is really excited about this," said Owner Kevin Polito.

The Monster Pizza contest is intended for two people, so it would have to be amended to fit the show's parameters.

Polito prides his restaurants on having a pleasant atmosphere, an atmosphere that is to be captured by the video captured by the community of the community. The goal is to film the essence of Polito's, how it fits in the world around it, and tidbits about the city of Stevens Point.

"We've had a number of people from the University Film Department contact us wanting to help us shoot it," said Polito.

Polito plans to meet with them this week to begin the film project with hope of completion within the next few weeks.

The presence of a popular TV series in downtown Stevens Point, once known as Relocate-America's Top 10 Best Places to Live in 2007 and 2008 for the United States, could be the boost it needs to bring attention to its central square.

Brian Duebner, a Polito's cook, is heading up the project and looking to start the video production as soon as possible. Any interested in participation in the community project can contact Duebner at [brian.t.duebner@uwsp.edu](mailto:brian.t.duebner@uwsp.edu) or visit their website, [www.politospizza.com](http://www.politospizza.com) or the restaurant in downtown Stevens Point.

The Travel Channel has yet to comment on the challenge, which is standard pre-video submission procedure.

## Stevens Point hosts residence hall conference

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will be hosting the Wisconsin United Resident Halls Association's annual spring conference from Feb. 18-20. Approximately 300 students will be attending the conference from 18 member schools throughout the state.

"WURHA is a great conference involving leadership, legislation, recognition, and community building amongst other schools in the state," said Katelyn Spooner, one of the student tri-chairs in charge of the budget, registration, housing and programming areas for the conference.

"Stevens Point had the great honor of hosting it this year and is excited to have representatives from the different schools come to our campus. Our school has put in much time and dedication to see this happen."

There are many events planned for the conference. Bob Tomlinson

and Ron Strege will both be speaking at the opening ceremonies on Friday night. Each participating school will perform a skit during the opening ceremonies that represents the theme for the conference. The theme for this year was chosen to be "Back to Basics."

"Leadership should be about the

to local fire departments through "Animals to the Rescue," that will be given to young children and the elderly in times of emergency.

Saturday will feature programming workshops and presentations. These workshops will feature "anything from program planning to leadership skills to diversity/social justice

UWSP was chosen to host this year's convention after a successful bid process was put together starting back in September 2009. The bid was presented at WURHA 2010, which was hosted at UW-Eau Claire.

"The bid is voted on by boardroom members, which includes 1-2 representatives from each school attending. We were selected by the voting members of the boardroom to host WURHA 2011," said Spooner.

**WURHA is a great conference involving leadership, legislation, recognition, and community building amongst other schools in the state,**

*- Katelyn Spooner, one of the student tri-chairs in charge of the budget, registration, housing and programming areas for the conference.*

fundamentals," said Mandy Walsh, a sophomore and conference tri-chair in charge of hospitality, sponsorship and philanthropy. Mandy said she "likes that students that have an idea in their mind and the organization will help them fulfill it."

Friday night will also feature a casino night, the use of the HEC's rock wall and swimming pool, as well as a dance for attendees. There are also plans to conduct a build-a-bear project on Friday night. WURHA plans to donate over 200 teddy bears

to community service ideas," said Julie Zsido, an assistant director of residential living and one of the conference advisors.

Zsido believes that overall, students have learned a lot and enjoyed the experience. "I think this experience has given them a bigger picture of putting on a state-wide conference and all the details that go into planning something of this magnitude. They have also learned a lot about teamwork, communication, and resources on campus."

Zsido believes "it is a great honor for us to be able to showcase the talents of our students and the wonderful campus we have."

The budget for the conference has been around \$35,000. Each member of WURHA pays fees to attend, which goes towards the budget.

Approximately 15-20 core students have been working with six professional staff to plan this year's conference.



## POINTLIFE

# Project helps kids create music

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In an effort to connect children to music, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point music department has become involved in a relatively new and intriguing program.

Very Young Composers (VYC) is a program that was created by Jon Deak about ten years ago. He is a well-educated music scholar, and has always had a large interest in educating children in music.

Professor Robert Rosen, who is Associate Professor of Percussion in the music department of UWSP, knew Deak and became interested in his endeavor.

He received a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, and was sponsored by the Stevens Point Area Public School District, department of music, COFAC, and the Vice Chancellor's office.

VYC gives children in the fourth and fifth grade the chance to orchestrate their own piece of music, and hear it played by UWSP Music majors.

"The kids don't need instruction, they need opportunity," said Rosen. "They are totally good to go; they just don't know some things about music."

There are 36 children registered

for the program, and 14 teaching artists that are music majors at UWSP.

"One third of the children have virtually no music background, and have no prior instruction [in composition]," said Rosen.

The program

has two phases, and they are currently in the first phase.

In the first phase, their musical creations are played by a small, varied group of instruments.

In order to create their pieces, the children try to convey their ideas to their assigned teaching artist.

The children use drawings, sounds, and their imagination to show the teaching artist what they want their piece to sound like.

Charlie Calabria, a senior music edu-

cation major, is one of the teaching artists involved.

"For two weeks, the children convey their ideas to the teaching artists, and we try to scribe it the best we can in actual notation."

"They are getting invaluable experience, and it is a testament to the qualities of our students [at UWSP]," Rosen said.

form," Calabria

said.

For Calabria, this experience is invaluable for his future. "As a music education major, I really liked the opportunity to work with the kids, knowing that the skill of music composition in music classrooms is generally different to fit in," said Calabria. "I wanted to see how this program could give the kids opportunities."

The 14 music majors who are serving as teaching artists are doing it for no credit, and even stayed over a portion of the winter break to work with the kids. Rosen is proud of the extent of the students' involvement.

"They are getting invaluable experience, and it is a testament to the qualities of our students [at UWSP]," Rosen said.

All of their hard work will be showcased Thursday, with the small ensemble of instruments playing the children's final pieces. The performance times are 4 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. and 5:35 p.m. - 6:50 p.m., with an intermission between and a reception to follow.

Once those performances are finished, phase two will begin. The kids can choose if they would like to move on and have their piece orchestrated for the Stevens Point Area Senior High orchestra or UWSP campus and concert bands.

Rosen is happy a program like this is at UWSP, and is raising the level of knowledge of music composition.

"We want to increase what they know, without diminishing imagination," Rosen said.

For more information about Very Young Composers, visit <http://www.uwsp.edu/conted/conferences/vycp/>.



Jay Cutler...  
The Pointer's  
pick for big-  
gest 'dip' of  
the Super  
Bowl.

## Dips to put in your 'Super Bowl'

### Pizza Dip

- One 8 oz. package of cream cheese
- 1 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese-shredded
- 3/4 cup parmesan cheese-shredded
- 8 oz. pizza sauce

- :: PREHEAT oven to 350 degrees
- :: Combine cream cheese and Italian seasoning, mix well.
- :: Spread bottom of baking dish with cream cheese mixture (10 inch round dish, approximately)
- :: Combine cheeses
- :: Sprinkle half over the cream cheese mixture
- :: Spread pizza sauce over cheese
- :: Top with remaining cheese (chopped up peppers and onions optional)
- :: Bake 15-18 minutes or until bubbling

### Lime Dessert Dip

- 1 egg beaten
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 tbsp. fresh lime juice
- 2 tsp. grated fresh lime peel

- One 8 oz. package cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/2 tbsp. milk

:: Combine egg, sugar, limejuice and peel in sauce pan. Cook and stir over low heat 2-3 minutes or until thick. Cool.

:: Beat cream cheese and milk together until smooth, gradually add lime mixture.

:: Serve in bowl and dip with grapes or other fruit.  
(Grapes are preferable.)

### Hot Spinach and Artichoke Dip

- 1 cup thawed, chopped frozen spinach
- 11/2 cups thawed, chopped frozen artichoke hearts
- 6 ounces cream cheese
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan

- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

:: Boil spinach and artichokes in 1 cup of water until tender and drain.

:: Discard liquid.  
:: Heat cream cheese in microwave for 1 minute or until hot and soft.  
:: Stir in rest of ingredients and serve hot.

### Green and Gold Guacamole

Dan Neckar

- 3 avocados
- 14 oz. of corn-strained (about one small can)
- 1 finely diced onion
- 1 or 2 cloves of garlic (to taste), crushed or minced
- 3 tablespoons of chopped cilantro
- Juice from 1 lime
- 1/2 teaspoon of table salt
- 1/2 teaspoon olive oil (optional)
- 3 tablespoons of salsa (optional)

This one is as easy as the extra point. The avocados bring the green,

the corn brings the gold, and you only need to bring the chips...and maybe a beer or two.

Start by rolling the avocados against a cutting board or counter with your hand in an up and down, back and forth motion. Push down firmly (don't squish 'em too hard!) and roll them until you feel them loosen up and become soft. This will make it easier to scoop out the good stuff.

Next, slice the avocados in half. Remove the giant seed and discard it. With a teaspoon, scoop out the gooey green goodness and put it in your mixing bowl.

Next combine the avocado with crushed garlic, diced onion, chopped cilantro, lime juice, and salt. For chunkier dip, mash and mix by hand. If you're looking for a smoother consistency, put it in a food processor.

Stir in the corn and any other optional ingredients you'd prefer to keep whole and chunky.

Enjoy!



## POINTLIFE

# Food fair supports local farmers and food

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On Feb. 10, members of the Stevens Point community will have the chance to take part in the 3rd annual Local Food Fair at SPASH.

The Central Rivers Farmshed is putting on the food fair. Central Rivers Farmshed is a volunteer based non-profit organization. The event will give members of the community the chance to meet local farmers, eat food, and learn more about local food.

"It's essential that we support farmers who grow our food in ways that nourish the land and us," said Central Rivers Farmshed volunteer Jeremy Solin.

According to the Director of Didactic Programs in Dietetics at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Dr. Jasia Steinmetz, when food is processed through corporations,

farmers only receive nine cents for every dollar sent. The rest of the dollar goes to marketing, packaging, processing and distribution.

Due to corporate consolidation,

cerned about the use of antibiotics in animal feed. The antibiotics contribute to antibiotic resistance in humans.

"Learn where your food comes from and buy food from farmers

everyday lives. To buy local produce and meat, Stevens Point has a farmers market year-round. People can eat at restaurants in the area that use local ingredients, or grow their own garden.

"We're the leaders in the movement to make local food more available," said Welling.

The Local Food Fair is on Feb. 10 at SPASH from 5:30-8:45p.m. Events include a Local Food Potato Bar, showing of the film "Nourish: Food and Community," and a raffle drawing.

"Local farmers are our guarantee of good food now and for the future, not only for ourselves but the next generations," said Steinmetz.

For more information about the event, contact Jeremy Solin at jeremy@farmshed.org. If interested in volunteering for the Central Rivers Farmshed, go to their website at www.farmshed.org

**"It's essential that we support farmers who grow our food in ways that nourish the land and us,"**

- Central Rivers Farmshed volunteer, Jeremy Solin.

consumers have less of a choice. For example, only four companies control 83.5% of the beef market. This consolidation of food production can lead to less expensive food.

"But cheap food is an illusion since it is costing us in poor health," said Steinmetz.

The American Medical Association, World Health Organization and American Public Health Association are currently con-

who grow food the way you want it grown," said Solin.

Buying locally helps to solve these issues. "I trust the food. It gives you peace of mind knowing where it comes from and who produces it," said BJ Welling the president and owner of Welling Woodworks Inc. Welling Woodworks Inc. is one of the many sponsors of the Local Food Fair.

There are a variety of ways people can support local farmers in their

## Delta Phi Epsilon prepares for sorority recruitment week

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During all-sorority recruitment week, the groups are buzzing with preparation for the days to come. Delta Phi Epsilon is one of those sororities getting ready for the excitement.

Delta Phi Epsilon is a sorority that has been around since 1917. It made its way to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1993, under the Beta Lambda chapter.

Kayelin Glasspoole, a junior Communication major, joined in the first semester of her freshman year. She has taken many different positions, but has ended up as vice president of recruitment and scholarship chair.

"This is a social sorority and it is purely for friendship and fun," Glasspoole said. "We try to be well-

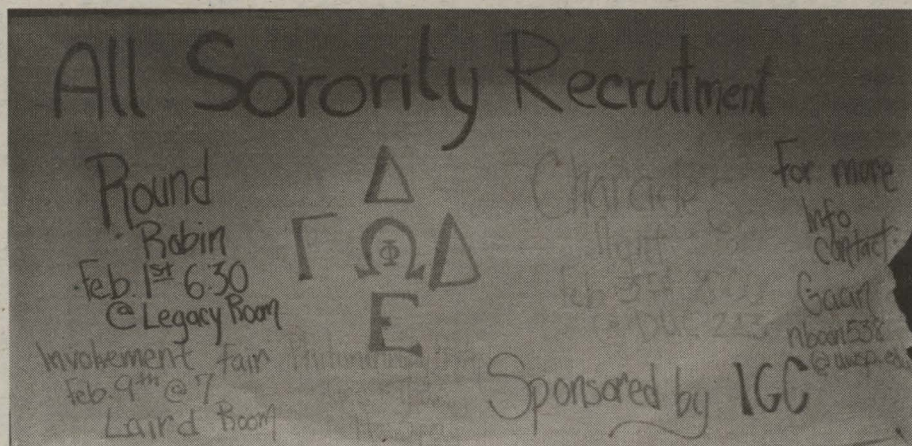


Photo by Samantha Feld

Delta Phi Epsilon, among other campus sororities, will participate in all-sorority recruitment week to recruit new members by hosting various events such as an ice cream social.

rounded and focused on different sectors of what a girl might need."

In addition to their focus on fun, they have a requirement of a 3.5 GPA, and they are also an alcohol-free sorority.

Delta Phi Epsilon members try to adhere to the five S's, which are sisterhood, scholarship, service, social and self. In addition to the companionship of the other members, the sorority is also involved in service

and volunteering.

"We like to be involved and help people," Glasspoole said. "It's a fun way to be involved and grow personally."

Glasspoole had many great things to say about the sorority that she has been dedicated to for about three years.

"[Delta Phi Epsilon] is a great place to build a family and make friends that will last for a while," said Glasspoole.

This week is recruitment week, which involves a round robin event, an ice cream social and other events to recruit new members.

Recruitment week is used to try and get to know all of the sororities so it is easier to decide which one matches the best.

If interested in Delta Phi Epsilon, or any of these sororities, a great way to get to know them is by attending the involvement fair on Feb. 9.

## Winter Fest brings celtic music to Central Wisconsin

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The 7th Annual Winter Fest will be returning to the Lettie Jensen Center in Amherst on Saturday, Feb. 5. The festival was founded by headlining band Green Tea.

The band wanted to create a festival that brought Celtic music to the Central Wisconsin area. "It was fall and I noticed that Stevens Point didn't have much going on during the winter. So what the heck, why not?" said Green Tea guitarist Trevor Rourck.

When asked why they chose Stevens Point as a venue for a musical festival, Rourck said, "This is our home turf and there is a vibrant music and arts scene both on and off campus here." Winter Fest's former home was Clark Place, but due to the venue closing down in 2008 they needed to

relocate to the Jensen Center. The band expects a total of 300-400 people to attend the event.

Rourck said that Green Tea would describe their sound as "mixing Celtic music with rock, folk, funk, jazz, and pop. The energy of Celtic music and dance draws all of us towards performing this style of music."

The other musician performing at Winter Fest is Ian Gould, an Irishman and world traveler that has landed in Milwaukee. He has traveled as far east as Moscow and as far west as Los Angeles.

When asked why of all places he decided to settle in Milwaukee he said, "I met a wonderful American woman while I was recording with a band in Spain. When I was visiting, she locked me in the house and I missed my flight. I have lived here ever since."

"I always had a love for music and was always interested in it; it is stereotypical but true. Music is a part of the culture back home. In fact at one point in my life it was almost all I thought about." He later added, "it was a great way to impress girls!"

Also performing at the festival will be The O'Dell Irish Dancers. The dance troupe features dancers of all abilities throughout the Central Wisconsin area. They will also be holding workshops for the public during the festival.

A portion of the proceeds raised from Winter Fest will go to benefit the Arts Alliance of Portage County.

Rourck said that it made sense to support the AAPC because they are "a great non-profit organization that promotes and helps sustain many art forms in Central Wisconsin."

Otis McLennon, the Executive

Director of AACP, says that the goals for AACP are to be "involved in community development via the arts. Successful, sustainable communities are ones in which the arts thrive."

McLennon says that the partnership between the AACP and UWSP is strong. "90 FM is a major sponsor of our Trivia Unplugged event which is held in the fall. To score points, the answer has to be in your head."

The event will feature performances from Green Tea, Ian Gould and the O'Dell Irish dancers at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a matinee at 1:30 p.m. as well as workshops at 4 p.m.

Trevor wants students to know if they are interested in attending the event but do not have a ride, that there is a carpool being set up. Contact Zach Hubert on Facebook or call Trevor at 715.570.1961.



Puzzles

Sudoku 6x6 - Puzzle 1 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
57					58	59					60		
61					62						63		
64						65					66		

ACROSS

- 1- AD WORD  
5- CLOAK  
9- COMBUSTIBLE MATER  
13- ACTOR BALDWIN  
14- CONTINUOUSLY  
16- GREEK PEAK  
17- ARK BUILDER  
18- SLENDER FRESHWATER FISH  
19- GATHER, HARVEST  
20- HE LOVED LUCY  
21- BANNED INSECTICIDE  
22- WOMB  
24- BROAD VALLEY  
26- PLAY THING  
27- AMPHETAMINE TABLET  
29- HOW TO DRESS FOR A BALL  
33- POND SCUM  
34- COLOMBIAN CITY  
35- TRICKERY  
36- HIGHLY RESPECTFUL WAY OF ADDRESSING A MAN  
37- JACKIE'S PREDECESSOR  
38- ABLE TO  
39- CHILD SUPPORT?  
41- IOWA CITY  
42- PROFITS  
44- LOCATED  
46- COST  
47- CLOCK FACE  
48- MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY  
49- WATCHED  
52- MAC  
53- SMALL CHILDREN  
57- PRISSY  
58- TOOTHBRUSH BRAND  
60- LANGSTON HUGHES POEM  
61- CAPITAL OF NORWAY  
62- MONETARY UNIT OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION  
63- CALF-LENGTH SKIRT  
64- COLLAR TYPE  
65- NOT E'EN ONCE  
66- EARTH DAY SUBJ.

DOWN

- 1- QUARTZ GRAINS  
2- BURN SOOTHER  
3- MEADOWS  
4- SPINY ANTEATER  
5- ICILY  
6- BATTERY TERMINAL  
7- HEATING FUEL  
8- SASE, E.G.  
9- THE PAW OF A FORELEG  
10- CONSUMER  
11- BIBLICAL BIRTHRIGHT SELLER  
12- DRINKS (AS A CAT)  
15- NONPILE COTTON RUG OF INDIA  
23- MALE CAT  
25- HYDROCARBON SUFFIX  
26- ANCIENT GREEK CITY-STATE  
27- SMALL YEAST-RAISED PANCAKE  
28- EVERGLADES BIRD  
29- NOTED  
30- LAWFUL  
31- GRASSY PLAIN  
32- CRAVINGS  
33- INQUIRES  
34- HUMPED RUMINANT  
37- BULLFIGHTER  
40- GOOD SPIRIT  
42- NEEDLEFISH  
43- WHENEVER  
45- AFFLICT  
46- PERSON WHO ROBS  
48- SILK FABRIC  
49- LODGE LETTERS  
50- FORMERLY, FORMERLY  
51- HAWAIIAN CITY  
52- SMALL CHILD  
54- AURICULAR  
55- COMMOTION  
56- EARTH  
59- FLEE

2				4		5
			5		3	
5			6			2
4						3
	6					

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Sudoku 9x9 - Solution 3 of 5 - Easy

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Answers from the Jan. 27th issue.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
A	M	I	S		T	A	B	L	E		S	O	S
13	R	A	N	K		14	A	R	O	U	N	D	15
17	I	N	V	E	18	S	T	I	G	A	T	E	19
20	S	T	E	E	P				21	U	R	A	22
23	E	R	R		24	O	P	U	S		28	A	29
30	S	A	T	U	R	A	T	E		32	P	H	O
			33	S	T	R	E	A	K			35	L
	36	37	P	R	A	Y	E	R		38	R	O	39
42	A	R	E				43	O	R	A	T	O	44
45	N	E	S	T	E	A			49	N	U	T	50
53	I	N	T	E	N	T			54	S	T	O	55
	56	A	L	L	O	T	S			58	O	L	59
60	U	T	E			61	C	H	E	S	H	I	64
65	M	A	S			66	H	A	T	T	E		67
68	A	L	S			69	T	H	A	N	E		70



# OPINION

## Making every vote count

**KAITLYN LUCKOW**  
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Forms of identification have been part of our society ever since identity fraud became an easy crime. On a day to day basis we need a form of identification to drive, attend school, withdraw money from a bank account, gain access to a building or even something as small as renting a movie. So why are people opposed to needing an ID for something with such importance as voting?

Requiring an ID while voting will help prevent voter fraud.

On Jan. 27, the Texas State Senate passed legislation requiring most citizens to present a form of identification before being able to vote during elections. Following a trend, a more stringent bill is being proposed in the Wisconsin state assembly, where it is predicted that it will pass.

Opponents of the voter bill say that it prevents the poor, minorities, and elderly voters from voting. But that is not the case. For example, in Indiana, the voter ID is free for people without a driver's license. The voter bill passed in Texas this year exempt people with certain disabilities and people 70 years old and older.

Many opposed to the bill are com-

paring the new form of ID to the poll taxes of the 1800s. This is absurd. The poll taxes in the 1800s were a tactic to prevent African Americans from voting. This is not a tactic to prevent anyone from voting, but a way to ensure that everyone is voting in a fair manner to make every vote count.

Voting fraud is an issue in America, though the opposition to the bill won't like to admit it. In Milwaukee alone, there were 96 voter fraud cases investigated between Dec. 2008 and Jan. 2009.

A Supreme Court case in 2008, showed that of the recent voting in Indiana, more than 40 percent of Indiana's entries were bad, consisting of people who had died or moved.

Voting is the privilege we get as American's to choose our leaders and our laws. As American's we get a voice in our government, and with voting fraud that voice becomes tainted and a lie.

No one is entitled more than one vote. Anyone who commits an act of voter fraud takes away the privileges of us all.

Voter fraud is dangerous to our country and everything that it stands for. It drives honest citizens out of the process and brings distrust into our government.

## You might be loud, but I'm more intelligent

**DUSTIN KLEIN**  
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This past week I wrote an opinion piece outlining my concern for journalism in this country. I got a few e-mails in response. One of them really stuck out though.

In the e-mail I was called "a leftist moronic Jew turd." It went on to say that all liberals should die.

Now I don't mind getting e-mails about the pieces I write or what I have to say. But it's all part of something bigger. America's discourse is dying.

While there are those of us who struggle to keep the discussions civil there are those out there who like to be loud and ignorant.

The person that e-mailed me didn't have the guts to use a real e-mail address or sign it.

It's something that we've heard a lot lately, but this kind of rhetoric is what is destroying America.

Conservatives and liberals alike have the same duty as our elected representatives at upholding the Constitution. We disagree over how to do that, but it doesn't mean that we should wish death or ill upon our own.

I have a great many friends that are conservative, some that I've known since I was little and some that I've met while here in Point. And I can tell you that they are some of the most outstanding people that walk this earth.

It is discourse like the one displayed in the e-mail I received that belittles and diminishes all of the valid arguments that the conservatives have to offer to the discussions happening all over the world.

We need to stand up and say that this can't be tolerated.

Being loud doesn't mean that you're right. Being inflammatory doesn't get your point across, it only hurts your argument. Calling for violence or revolution doesn't accomplish anything. If you're not willing to work with others that disagree with you, nothing ever gets done.

But alas, there are even worse things that can happen. Let us remember the events of the 1960s. The assassinations of John Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy. Do we really want to relive the days where it was an unsafe political atmosphere? Or have we already reached that point with Congresswoman

## Fighting against voter ID

**LOGAN CARLSON**  
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The decision by state legislators to go ahead with plans on implementing a voter ID bill is a catastrophic decision that will ultimately disenfranchise minorities, the elderly, students and low-income voters of their constitutionally protected right to vote in elections.

The bill would require all those who wish to vote in an election to produce a Wisconsin issued driver's license, ID card, or a military ID to do so. This bill goes above and beyond requirements in similar bills in other states. Some forms of identification that would be banned include passports, university issued ID cards or other forms of government issued identification.

The argument in favor of enacting such a law is that it will cut down on the amount of voter fraud that occurs in our state currently. However, there is no evidence to support that there is widespread voter fraud going on.

Matthew Iglesias, a former U.S. Attorney for New Mexico, was fired in 2006 after he allegedly refused to prosecute cases involving voter fraud. He claims that out of the thousands of cases that have been prosecuted by U.S. attorneys in the past few years, only 14 have been cases involving voter fraud.

Wisconsin's own Government Accountability Board, which oversees elections and cases of voter fraud, has reported only six criminal complaints where voter fraud has been alleged during the 2008 general election.

The Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School has done many studies related to voter fraud and the effects that voter ID laws would have on the electorate. They have found no evidence of extensive cases where voter fraud has occurred in our nation's elections.

The center found that during the 2004 General Election, there were 26 substantiated cases in Wisconsin where individuals knowingly or unknowingly participated in voter fraud; the majority of those cases involved felons. However, they also report that a photo ID at the polls would have prevented none of these

people from voting at the polls on Election Day.

In this country it is a felony for someone to knowingly vote fraudulently. Every instance of voter fraud is associated with a maximum of a five-year prison sentence and a \$10,000 fine. That is a pretty steep price to pay for adjusting the results by one vote. You will not find many people who are willing to pay such a substantial price for such little reward. No recent election has ever been decided because a handful of people orchestrated a scheme to vote more than once.

What does sway elections is the systematic plan of preventing otherwise eligible voters from that right. That is exactly what this bill would do and it is a purely political move to ensure Republicans have an easier way to get elected in future elections.

Most Americans have access or possess a government issued ID card of some sort. However, as the Brennan Center reports as many as 12 percent of Americans do not do so. This percentage is concentrated among seniors, minorities, those with disabilities, low-income voters and students. All of these constituencies generally vote more Democratic than they do Republican.

The bill would require that the state provide ID cards free of charge to anyone who requests one. It also requires that the Government Accountability Board to conduct a massive public education campaign on the effects of the new law and requirements for voters to meet if they wish to vote in the next election. Both of these requirements would require a substantial amount of money from a state that is currently facing a budget deficit. For a party that stresses its fiscal discipline, it seems hypocritical to push through a bill that would further hurt our fiscal standing.

State Republicans are using the masquerade of election fraud as a cheap ploy to pass a bill that's main purpose is to disenfranchise voters who are more likely to vote for their electoral opponents. Yet they insist on passing this bill that will do absolutely nothing to stop the small number of cases that are reported each year at a pretty hefty price to the state that cannot afford it.

Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona attempted assassination?

These are the kinds of questions we need to be asking ourselves before we use violent remarks. These are the kinds of things we should be thinking about before we put a crosshair over elected official's districts. These are the kinds of things we should be thinking about before we say or do things that have any implication of violence or hate.

I'm sure that I'll still receive e-mails. But I wanted to share with you the kinds of things that are going on, even at this stage in my career. It's not something that we can disassociate from and it's in our hands to make sure it stops.

I don't care if you're a conservative, liberal, republican, democrat, socialist or libertarian, we all have a duty to ensure civil discourse throughout this nation of democracy.



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

UWSP International Programs Office, Collins Classroom Center Room 108, (715) 346-2717, [intlprog@uwsp.edu](mailto: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](http://www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad).

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

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## Welcome back students!

SPRING SEMESTER 2011

# February, how we loathe you

## EDITORIAL BOARD

With the residual effects of Christmas and New Years already worn off by early January, our spirits are slowly downtrodden throughout the bulk of the month, leading us to develop a sense of general despair with the inevitable coming of the ultimate low – February.

Even writing about February reminds us how we even loathe how the word is spelled.

The once winter wonderland has been tainted by humankind. Now it looks like an Oreo milkshake, just don't eat it.

The month is just a tease; it's not even thirty days! It's full of lies. It presents the promise of a warmer tomorrow that never comes soon enough.

February is the in between misfit child of the year. Most months dictate what you want to eat. December tells you to eat warm stews and hot drinks while July inspires you to eat ice cream and fruit salad.

The cheesy hallmark holidays

don't make the month any better. Presidents Day is thoroughly meaningless; we don't want to spend a

full day dedicated to celebrating the likes of Andrew Jackson and Richard Nixon.

Valentines Day takes the flag as the most superficial holiday of the year. Your feelings for someone should not be dictated by whether or not you buy chocolates for them on a certain day of the year—you should buy them chocolate every day.

Valentines Day also takes over television. There are countless repetitions of cookie-cutter love stories that always have a happy ending that we could predict without even watching.

Valentine's Day is dualistic. Either the people that are in a relationship are very happy or the people that aren't are peeved and whiny the whole day.

If you're a student, it's one of the only months that doesn't have a break in it which makes it that much longer.

The entertainment industry is at a standstill during February. There are no exciting new movies, no new albums, and no good concerts to go to.

February hasn't even started yet and it needs to end ASAP.



Photo courtesy of liewcf.com