

the. pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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Community Handles Aftermath of Abduction Scare

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In the wake of the recent abduction scare on campus, the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point and local authorities are working hard to make sure everyone has an accurate understanding of the situation.

The most recent event in three similar situations took place on March 3, near the corner of Maria Drive and Illinois Avenue. An adolescent girl was jogging when a man beckoned her to his car and asked her for directions. While speaking with her, he grasped her arm. She became uncomfortable, pulled away and ran off. He got in his vehicle and drove off in the other direction.

The other two circumstances were very similar, according to Sergeant Tony Bable of the Stevens Point Police Department. One notable difference in the Prentice Street incident is that the girl stated the man followed her to the YMCA.

"Things get embellished a little bit," Bable said. "I've never even called it an attempt at abduction. I've called it suspicious. At this point, we don't know if the person is hard of hearing and just trying to pull the person closer, or if they were intoxicated and trying to get a rise out of the person. Nobody knows for sure what their intentions were, and we may never know until we find the person."

The Stevens Point Police Department is investigating leads from the community, checking sex offender registries to see if anyone in the area matches the description and checking with other agencies to try and locate the individual.

"We are checking everyone out," Bable said. "We want to make sure this doesn't get to the point of abduction."

The Women's Resource Center, a Student Government Association-funded, student-run organization,

is taking an active role in raising awareness. Kate Carson, a student at UWSP and the executive coordinator of the center, said she was disturbed and disappointed by the university's slow response to the incidents.

"I realized nothing had been said about these past three events, and I didn't have faith that the university was going to act, and it didn't," Carson said. "I feel like this campus isn't taking our safety seriously."

Carson waited several days after the incident occurred for the university to release information about the situation. Carson sent out emails with information gathered from the media and Protective Services' website about the events to as many people as she could. She also made posters containing the same information and hung them up across campus.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Al Thompson, who would normally be in charge of handling the university's response to this type of situation, was out of the state when the incident occurred. He returned early from his trip to help with the aftermath and ensure campus would be properly informed of the things that had happened. Thompson saw to it that an email with all available information was sent to the student body.

"If I had been here on campus, something would have gone out that day," Thompson said. "We were surprised just like everyone else when we saw the newspaper article about the third abduction attempt. We were not—even Protective Services—aware of the first two. We do work closely with the city, but we need to make sure that we are getting updates on these abduction attempts and anything that affects safety around the campus."

Thompson is working closely with the Women's Resource Center. He hopes to bring together various

other groups on campus to talk about the environment for women on campus and to discuss ideas for handling safety risks when they arise.

"We have to empower women to feel like they can fight back if they needed to—to walk with their heads up, shoulders back and looking like they have a purpose," Carson said. "When perpetrators have been interviewed and asked what they look for in a victim, it's the person who has the body language that says they are not confident."

The Women's Resource Center was already planning to hold a self-defense class in April, but after these incidents it plans to move the date up and possibly add another course.

"I think campus needs to be very careful to not downplay it, but don't go hyper-fear either," Thompson said. "It needs to be more of a happy medium where you're understanding your environment."

There have been many tips of possible sightings of the man from the incident, and the police and Protective Services take each one seriously. There has, however, been no verifiable sighting of him since March 3.

"We are not looking the other way," Thompson said. "Everything that comes to our attention, we look into."

Since the time of the incident, Protective Services has increased its patrols and the number of staff they have working at one time.

There are many safety features available on campus: the Blue Phones, which are treated similarly to 911 calls and will always elicit an on-scene response; the red emergency phones in all the buildings, which when picked up will connect directly to Protective Services; and 24-hour security.

THE POINTER

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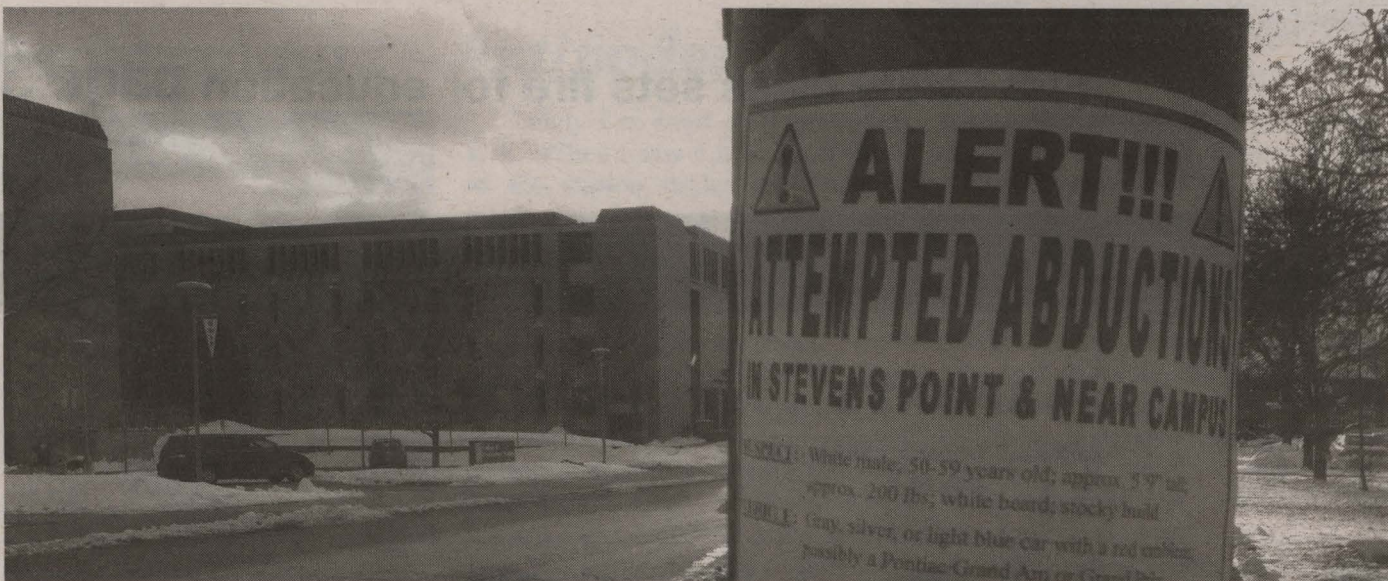


Photo by Samantha Feld

Women's Resource Center placed signs across campus after a recent abduction scare.



Photo by Samantha Feld

Fire Crew Offers Firefighting Certification Course

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Fire Crew and the Department of Natural Resources put on an outdoor training session last weekend, offering participants the chance to earn basic firefighting certification.

This class is part of wildland fire science, a new major that will be implemented at UWSP this fall, and an option in resource management.

The course was a two-part class. One weekend consisted of classroom work and the other of hands-on work learning how to use equipment on actual fires. Participants completed all their training in teams, learning how to work with each other to use the proper tools needed to fight fires.

"This is focused on wild land firefighting, which is very different from structural," said Erik Desotelle,

the public information officer for the Fire Crew. "In wild land firefighting, you have to move light, you have to be able to move quickly, and you have to cover large areas of land. Our techniques are focused on containing and controlling fires rather than putting them out."

One of the goals of the Fire Crew is to keep costs as low as possible in order to make the class affordable to more people. The fee for the course was \$125 per student, which is lower than typical costs for basic firefighting certification.

"Our goal is to get as many people trained as possible, not to make a lot of profit," Desotelle said.

The training session is run entirely by the UWSP Fire Crew and attracts participants not only from UWSP but also from UW-River Falls, as well as many not associated with a university who wish to become certified. It takes about 35 people to

run the class and involves a lot of teamwork from the students who put it on. The class is also offered for college credits in the fall to UWSP students.

"I work on a refuge at home, and this way I can go out on their prescribed burns. It's another resume booster, and it is something that is important to have," said Emilia Kenow, participant of the class and a student at UWSP.

The outdoor session was made up of four different stations. One station taught students how to use various fire vehicles and also how to systematically search for and extinguish spot fires. Another station taught how to use pumps and hoses used in firefighting. There was also a station dedicated to fireline control, where students worked in teams with hand tools to dig down to mineral soil, effectively creating a line that would help stop a fire. The fourth

station had live burn piles, which students had to break apart and extinguish.

"I think this is probably the most fun that anyone has in the course, but it is definitely worth it to get out here and practice all the techniques that we use," Desotelle said.

The courses in the wildland fire science major will focus on wildland firefighting, fire management, fire use, fire policy and fire ecology.

"We are building upon what has been in place," said Ron Masters, an associate professor of wildland fire science and advisor to the Fire Crew. "The basic fire operations that these students are getting today are part of the course."

Masters stated the Fire Crew is one of the most active student groups on campus and that he is amazed by how motivated they are to take part in everything.

Students Take a Stand on Human Trafficking

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From 9 p.m. March 10 to 12 a.m. March 12, over 100 students at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, along with many across the nation, stood for 27 hours to raise awareness about human trafficking.

Running with the slogan, "you may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know," the event was headed by the International Justice Mission, a non-profit human rights organization with the goal of eliminating modern-day slavery.

"I think that everybody on campus and in the community should

know about it, and just this simple act of standing for 27 hours can do that," said Ashley Majewski, the president of the mission on campus.

On March 11, students stood outside the Health Enhancement Center all day, holding signs saying "I Stand 4 Freedom." Even at 3 a.m., six students stood in the snow outside the Newman Catholic Center.

Majewski has an optimistic outlook on the students' ability to raise awareness.

"I think that it is an easy way for students to fight the issue because it is so big. Some students just get so overwhelmed by that, and they're like, 'How can I stop this issue?' And this is just one small way that the

students can take a stand which I think is just empowering for them," Majewski said.

The issue of human trafficking has sparked a wealth of events on campus, such as last semester's Justice Week. The event included a film and a speech by a survivor of human trafficking.

Juan-Diego Hernandez, vice president of the International Justice Mission, stood for the entire 27 hours because he is very passionate about ending human trafficking.

"There are a lot of problems out there, but the reason that we chose human trafficking is because this issue has been placed on each and every one of our hearts," Hernandez

said. "Slavery is something that was supposed to have been eradicated long ago, but now it is one of the largest industries in the world. We fight this because there are many other problems that stem from this issue as well. Some people fight against starvation and other against poverty. We fight to end human trafficking."

While the issue is large, there is hope in the students who stand. Hernandez quoted Martin Luther King Jr.: "When one person stands up, they are often unnoticed. But when thousands rise up together, they cannot be overlooked."

Campus Procedures for Crisis Situations

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In the event of a crisis or safety concern, universities across the country have procedures to ensure the well-being of students and faculty on the campus. Campuses plan for the worst-case scenario and respond accordingly.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has procedures concerning how to respond to crises or safety concerns. These situations range from a natural disaster to active shooters on campus. Bill Rowe, director of Protective Services, commented on the safety measures taken on campus.

"We work to complement risk-management policies at UWSP and work very closely with the risk-management staff dealing with public safety emergencies," Rowe said.

A public safety emergency is a broad definition for a college campus. Rowe explained that examples of a situation could be something like a fire on campus, a health-related problem or something of a higher magnitude that require outside responders.

Director of Risk Management Jeff Karcher, explained that the word "safety" encompasses thousands of policies, procedures, practices, controls, engineering

issues, work measures, behavior and designs. Every possible outcome is documented and planned for.

"UWSP is very concerned about the health and well-being of its employees, students, campus guests and visitors," Karcher said. "The university has responded to many problems and crises previously, and they have been handled very well."

UWSP provides safety opportunities for information sharing, training and direction setting to the campus and community through different methods like the Environmental Health and Safety Committee. The university in turn is responsible for the implementation of the procedures and training.

Under these current policies, Protective Services provides additional coverage with regard to crime prevention and personal safety work for campus. Residential Living staff, like Suites hall director Christina Lorge-Grover, also receives training to help with safety.

"Hall directors work directly with protective services and the director of Rights and Responsibilities to go through potential safety or crisis events and what typical response actions need to be taken," Lorge-Grover said.

In addition to the training, every department on campus has access

to a crisis management handbook to provide a guide for action in the event of a crisis. The handbook is found on myPoint and covers many procedures for different crisis situations.

"We have policies and procedures for any type of situation that may arise and have extensive training each fall and throughout the year to make sure everyone is clear on how to respond," Lorge-Grover said.

Lorge-Grover further explained that after the crisis situations occur and are taken care of, all affected offices on campus meet and debrief on what happened to make sure the current procedures in place are effective and efficient.

Following a crisis, the university has procedures for Continuity of Operations Planning, meaning that the primary critical operations would be kept up and running after an emergency strikes. The object of this procedure is to move forward until business can be resumed as usual or adequate other means are met. Continual training is provided to ensure this.

"Bomb-threat training was conducted this past quarter for key response personnel, and active short drills have been conducted by Protective Services and local response agencies," Karcher said.

There are many other extensive

training initiatives happening across campus that cover other topics other than bomb threats and active shooters. UWSP provides many opportunities for the staff and students to provide feedback on the safety of the students through new initiatives.

"UWSP is enhancing our communication capabilities, Karcher said. Beginning this semester, the university will be utilizing Pointer Alerts which will deliver messages to a student's email, cell phone and campus computer to provide information about an active emergency situation that requires immediate attention."

Through all the campus procedures and training, the general feedback received by staff and students shows that they feel safe on campus and would be well prepared to respond in an emergency situation with the training provided to them. Karcher agrees that the UWSP campus is safe.

"The university strives to continuously improve the campus environment through the best practices," Karcher said. "Safety must be part of everyone's daily life and we all have our share of responsibility."

Drunk Vandalism Creates Tension Between Students and Residents

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Drinking-related vandalism by students in the communities adjacent to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus has skyrocketed.

"We've talked with campus security, but they can't really handle things that are happening off campus," said Cindy Nebel, president of The Old Main Neighborhood Association. "The Stevens Point Police Department has begun to make rounds more often, but these type of things happen so quickly. No one usually gets caught."

As the first and only neighborhood association in Stevens Point, The Old Main Neighborhood Association, is devoted to enhancing the quality of life for all those who live in the campus community. According to Nebel, this goal is frequently hindered by drinking-related vandalism.

"You can't really sleep well at night when you hear someone yell, and you're not sure if someone is up to no good, or if someone is in some sort of serious trouble," Nebel said.

In a recent anonymous survey put out by the association, residents were asked to outline in detail past

issues that they've had with drunk passersby. "One time I found a person drunk on my couch. He had urinated on himself and the couch," said one individual.

"No one in the neighborhood can have anything in their front yard or porch they value," said another.

"I once found a drunk woman in our four-year-old daughter's room at 6 a.m. on a Sunday holding our daughter," said a third.

Notably, out of the 22 households which took part, nearly half made clear that they had legitimate concerns about the safety of their neighborhood due to groups of students drinking and partying.

For Diane Ramsey-Lalk, a Stevens Point resident who lives near the UWSP campus, destruction of property is an almost weekly occurrence. Ironically, the white picket fence, which Ramsey-Lalk erected to keep drunk students out of her yard, has in recent years become a target for vandalism.

"I had to put the fence up because they used to come into my yard, take all my flowerpots and bust them in the street," Ramsey-Lalk said. "They were vandalizing it as it was being

built six years ago, and they've never stopped."

Despite this and other similar accounts, opinions continue to vary between residents and students. Matt Sallinen, a UWSP senior who lives on the notoriously rambunctious College Avenue, believes that instances such as these are unavoidable.

"I feel like it happens, but I don't necessarily feel like it's a major issue," Sallinen said. "I could see where actual residents would be upset with the noise and litter and stuff, but if you live in a college town, it's something you should expect."

Nebel acknowledges this point of view. However, she feels that it does not excuse regularly occurring acts of theft and vandalism.

"I often hear people say things like, 'Maybe you should get a better job so you can move somewhere else,' or 'You should expect this living near a college campus,' but this type of behavior should never have to be expected by anyone, under any circumstance. There's a lot of people that choose to live here, and now things have gotten to the point where it creates a barrier between our community and the university,"

Nebel said.

Likewise, for residents like Diane Ramsey-Lalk, relocating simply is not an option.

"I've lived here 12 years, and I would've never bought this house if I would've known what I was getting myself into. Unfortunately, I'm a senior citizen—I can't just pack up and move again," Ramsey-Lalk said.

Ultimately, both parties agree that communication will likely be a key factor in determining future relations between students and residents.

"I like the idea of living next to students, but that doesn't mean that there shouldn't be some level of mutual respect," Nebel said. "We would just like people in general to keep their eyes open, be aware and speak up if they see someone doing something wrong."

Sallinen shared a similar outlook, urging residents to speak up if they are unhappy with neighboring students.

"Talk to us—we're students, but we're also your neighbors. If you want something done, or have an issue with something we're doing, come to us rather than immediately rushing to the police," Sallinen said.

Every Body Needs an Athletic Trainer

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March marks National Athletic Trainers Month, promoting a profession dedicated to treating and preventing injuries in thousands of athletes around the world.

"It's a really big thing for us to be called athletic trainers," said Beth Kinslow, Interim Head Athletic Trainer. "We are viewed as a healthcare profession and work with active individuals on a different level than what a personal trainer would."

Athletic trainers are different than personal trainers. As an athletic trainer, medical care is provided to individuals of many different activity levels and abilities. This could include recreational, little league, high school and university sports.

"What we do as an athletic trainer is help athletes come back from an orthopedic injury. We help students with muscle, bone, joints or any number of injuries and evaluate them. Sometimes, we help them with rehabilitation and sometimes help by referring them to a doctor," Kinslow said.

Kinslow has served as an athletic trainer for 10 years. She is a 2002 alumna of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and earned her master's degree at Oregon State

University. This is her fourth year in Stevens Point as an athletic trainer.

"I always knew I wanted to be in the healthcare field. And I always liked sports and wanted to be a part of a team. Ultimately, I wanted to help people and make a difference in their lives," Kinslow said.

UWSP has a nationally accredited athletic training program. The program currently has 34 students who help with the promotion of National Athletic Trainers Month.

"In Sports Medicine Club we decide what we want to do for the month. This year, we decided to focus on the education of preventing injuries and explaining why we do what we do on a daily basis," said Jon Pickos, senior athletic training major.

Pickos explained that Athletic Trainers Month is the perfect opportunity to advocate that athletic trainers are healthcare professionals providing the information and guidance to help with various medical needs.

"We've been hearing stories of athletes praising our profession and saying that we as athletic trainers need to be recognized for the work we do," Pickos said. "I plan on going to medical school, and from this experience I will advocate how important the field is."

With the small size of the

program, Pickos also explained that students are able to have a personal connection with all of their professors, who do everything with them step by step.

"Professors help us do all of our research. They teach, act as our advisor and even help us make decisions for what we want to do after we graduate. They are a great resource for us as students," Pickos said.

The theme for the month is, "Every body needs an athletic

trainer." The idea is to make sure that everyone has access to medical attention and highlight how athletic trainers provide that service to their students and patients.

"It's a very rewarding experience because I get to work with students and young adults daily and help them. Whether it's getting an athlete back onto the field or teaching a student a lesson they will be able to use the rest of their career, every day is different to us."



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

March is National Athletic Trainers Month. Athletic Trainers provide medical care to individuals of many different activity levels and abilities.

Will Hard Work Pay Off for Pointers Softball?

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Although the weather outside may not indicate it, the Pointers softball team's season is already underway.

Stevens Point played six games at a tournament this February in Marquette, Mich. The Pointers finished the tournament 5-1, leaving Head Coach Jill Millis pleasantly surprised.

"It was great to see how some of the new players handle

the games," Millis said. "A lot of players performed well, which is good because we have a lot of people competing for spots in the lineup."

Last season, Stevens Point finished the year at an unimpressive 14-24, but senior third baseman Katie Shulfer says that there is more to that record than meets the eye.

"We lost a lot of close games because we just didn't finish," Shulfer said. "We have worked on getting stronger, which will hopefully help us finish games this season."

Coach Millis also cited losing close games as a source for the poor

record. "I'm thinking that this year we will be on the winning side of those games," Millis said.

Both players and coaches for the Pointers have set expectations for the team's performance this season.

"There is no reason this team can't be in the top six in the conference and make the conference tournament," Millis said. "We have talented individuals, and they have been working really hard in the offseason."

"Our expectations for the season are to get better every game, compete in our conference and advance as far as we can," said junior outfielder Bekah Rennicke.

When asked who has to step up this season in order for the team to be successful, Millis said that a team effort would be essential for success.

"Everyone up and down the lineup has to step up," Millis said. "Last year, we were just inconsistent. We can't rely on one half of the order and we can't rely on one pitcher. There is a reason we put nine on the field."

Stevens Point has plenty of starters returning with experience. Of the eight players that had 100 at-bats last season, seven return for the Pointers.

A big part of the returning offense

is senior first baseman Katie Krueger. Krueger started all 38 games for Stevens Point at first base last season and finished top three on the team in batting average, runs batted in, hits and slugging percentage.

Pitching ace, senior Michelle Jones hopes to build off her stellar season last year. She posted a 2.89 earned run average, 102 strikeouts, and ten complete games.

Newcomers will also play a big role for the Pointers, with one player shining early on in the season.

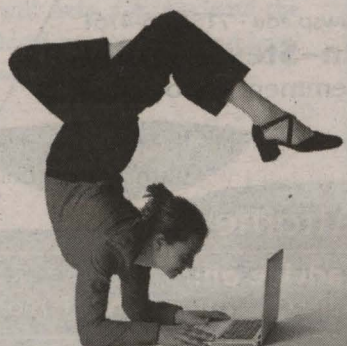
Freshman pitcher Kali Riddell was named Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference softball pitcher of the week after her performance in the Pointers' early season action.

Riddell won all five decisions for Stevens Point, racking up 24 strikeouts in 26 and 2/3 innings and posting a 2.10 ERA.

The Pointers have everything in place; a solid core of returning starters to lead the team, some fresh talent, and hard work and determination to get them far. It's just about execution now.

"If we all work as hard as we can, there is no reason we can't finish on top of this conference," Krueger said.

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Abrupt End to Season for Pointers Men's Basketball

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Calling the Pointers' loss in the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament to Calvin College a disappointment for the coaching staff, players and fans is an understatement.

"You work hard to get home games in the tournament, and having this as the end result is very disappointing for us," said Assistant Coach Kent Dernbach.

Stevens Point fell to the Knights 67-58, bringing their final record to 22-6. The loss was only the second home defeat for the Pointers this season.

"It was a tough way to go out losing at home," said junior forward Clayton Heuer. "Calvin was a good team that had size and hit some clutch shots."

The end of the season marks the end of guard Jordan Giordana's career as a Pointer. He finishes with 650 points and a 42.3 shooting percentage from beyond the arc. Over 68 percent of Giordana's points came from three-point shots during his career.

His shooting ability on the court was only matched by his leadership and professionalism off the court.

"In my two years here, he has just known how to carry himself on and off the court," Dernbach said. "He was a great role model for younger players, had a great attitude each and every day and was just a first-class individual."

Giordana was one of two players remaining from the 2010 National Championship team.

"I am proud of all the team success that we have had," Giordana said. "From winning a National Championship my freshman year to winning the conference my sophomore and senior seasons, it really has been fun."

Giordana said that he cherishes his experiences with his teammates.

"You get to see them every day for 7 months so you really become good friends, and it even feels like we are a family," Giordana said.

The atmosphere is also something Giordana will miss.

"The incredible atmosphere for our home games was really something special. When you play in front of 1,500 fans every home game, it really makes game days very exciting," Giordana said.

The crowds at Quandt Fieldhouse have been historically good during Giordana's career, and this season was no different.

"This year we outdrew 90 Division I schools in attendance," Dernbach said. "We, as a team, want to thank all of the students and fans that came out this year. Next year we hope to draw an even higher attendance."

With the season finished, it's time for the coaches and players to look back on the season and assess what the team did well and what they can improve on.

"This year we showed great resilience with all of the injuries we had," Dernbach said. "We were able to play with some very good poise and win some big games."

"The team can get better by getting stronger in the weight room," Heuer said. "Guys can always expand their game in different areas."

Next season, the Pointers will return

every player on the roster except Giordana, giving Stevens Point the advantage of experience.

"Guys will have more experience playing with each other. If we can stay healthy, we should be a tough team to compete against," Heuer said.

However, just showing up won't work.

"It will come down to having a great offseason," Dernbach said. "These guys are hungry to get better as individuals and as a team. Every team in this conference will be better next year. We just need to put in some hard work."



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

Junior Guard, DeVon Jackson shoots a layup in the NCAA Division III tournament game against the Northwestern Eagles.

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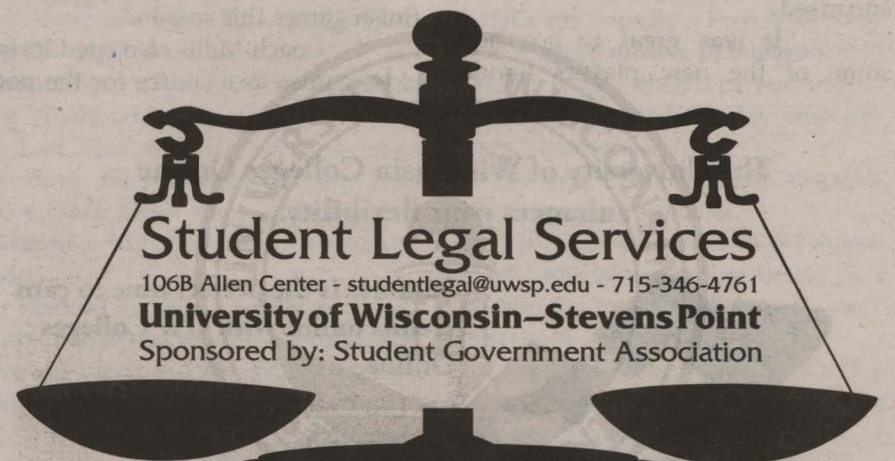
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CORRECTION: In last week's issue Max Frederick's name was printed "Fredrich."



Jan Roberts, Attorney

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Museum's Collection Crawl Inspires Younger Generation

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Saturday morning on any college campus is one of the quietest times of the week. Most students sleep in and yet early on March 9 the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point was filled with over 600 people, mostly families, learning about musk oxen, dinosaurs, tortoises, and all sorts of natural history.

The fourth annual Collection Crawl put on by the UWSP Museum of Natural History was a huge success. Free to the public, citizens of Stevens Point were invited to explore the vast collection the museum has as it was sprawled over campus. The event had many different faculties involved, with sections for holding tortoises, hearing a Tyrannosaurus Rex roar, and exploring exhibits on earth's long and illustrious history.

Perhaps the age group most excited about the event were young children, aged 5 to 10. The museum's main component was filled all morning with children's voices as they saw, many for the first time, life sized tigers, bears, oxen, and moose.

Laughter and excitement filled the air with questions like "What's a reindeer?" and gigantic smiles preceding, "Look how big that moose is!" Parents used this opportunity to teach their children about biology and natural history.

Tim Thornburg, an employee

of the museum, helped explain the purpose of the event.

"The collection crawl is a large community event to try to get the whole community and public in to check out the museum," Thornburg said. "Essentially the collection is a monstrosity of collections for the public."

Thornburg ran the museum's store during the event and was able to interact with many children. He viewed the event as being very important for the youth and their growth.

"It's very valuable for them to see different animals and learn more about the world they live in," Thornburg said.

The children, many of whom were initially apprehensive about going to a museum for a day, were pleasantly surprised.

According to Kacey Tait, a wildlife major and senior at UWSP, manned a station which allowed people to touch different fossils.

"A lot of times they think it's just a normal piece of rock or a piece of wood and you tell them it's a mammoth tusk or a dinosaur bone and their faces light up," Tait said.

Tait hopes that the event did more than just excite children and teach them a thing or two about history.

"I think a lot of times it's important to connect them with nature earlier. They're very curious, they're very willing to learn about things. And if you can get them excited about things

now they're going to be passionate when they're older and be able to be advocates for nature," Tait said. "Helping to protect the environment and helping to protect the things they love when they're kids."

So while Saturday mornings

may be uneventful for most college students, younger students can look forward to the fifth annual Museum Crawl next year, where new exhibits and exciting facts will be waiting for their eager and exploratory minds.

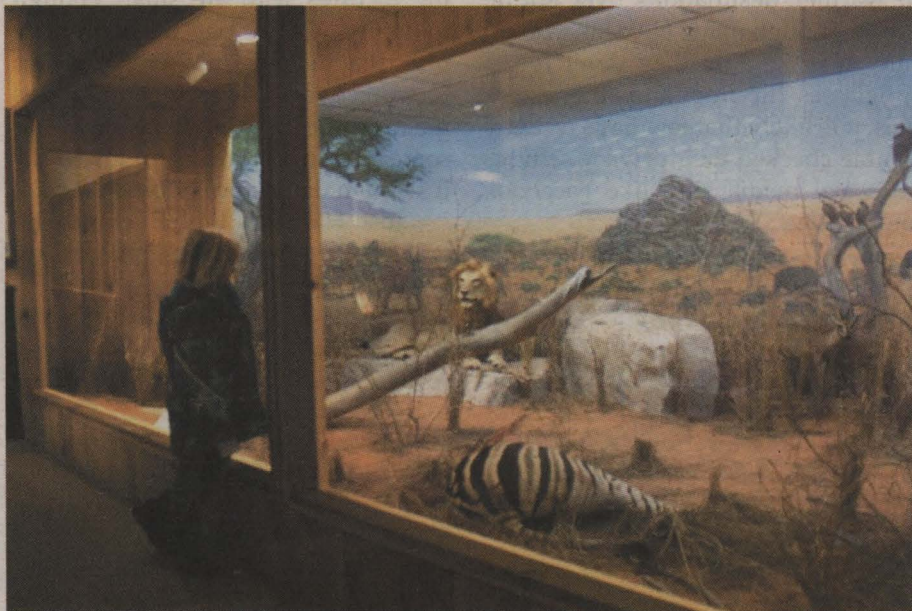


Photo by Zak Mixdorf

A child explores the UWSP Museum of Natural History during the fourth annual Collection Crawl, where over 600 people took the opportunity to learn about biology and natural history.

Spring into Fashion

RACHEL PUKALL
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The warm weather may seem like a distant dream, but with spring fever in the air, students are ready to break out their flip-flops and leave their jackets at home.

Karlyn Wormuth, a sophomore majoring in physical education, loves that all the different colors get brought back out in the spring.

"I think that light pastel colors and fringe will be really popular this year, and I'd really like to get away from crop tops," Wormuth said.

Wormuth may be out of luck. Exposed midriffs are an upcoming trend this spring, along with cutouts, lace and deep V-necks.

Allison Davis, a senior majoring in pre-physical therapy, agrees. She loves when winter is over and she is able to wear a sweatshirt with shorts.

"I feel like I can wear more of my clothes in the spring than in the winter and bring out all of my colorful clothes. They're always so bright and pop which really brightens my mood," Davis said.

Wormuth agrees and likes the fact that it is no longer necessary to wear jeans and a big jacket.

"I love wearing athletic shorts or capris," Wormuth said.

Rebecca Finger, a senior majoring in art, loves being able to get rid of all the bulky layers from winter and wear more flattering things.

"My favorite thing to wear would have to be skirts and cute rain boots or my TOMS shoes," Finger said.

Danielle Arndt, a senior majoring in healthcare administration, loves spring because it is closer to summer

weather, laying on the beach and having fun with friends. She also likes to start tanning in the spring.

"The sooner I can get my summer glow back, the better," Arndt said.

Lindsay Serakos, a senior majoring in art management, also loves spring.

"It's my favorite season. It's so fresh outside and crisp," Serakos said. "My absolute favorite part of spring is the tulips and flowers that start appearing. It just adds a fresh feeling to the world, and they smell wonderful."

Serakos also loves the array of colors people wear without having to wear so many layers.

"I would like the pastel colors to come back again, such as mint green and coral. I really enjoyed wearing those last spring, and I want to wear them again," Serakos said.

Besides pastels, it looks like natural tones and primary colors will be a big hit this season.

Davis would like to see more maxi dresses, lace, and colored capris and shorts this season.

Some must-have accessories this season are gladiator sandals, dangle earrings and a clutch.

Serakos's favorite accessory to have with her in the spring is a cardigan.

"They're nice to have on you just in case you get cold to throw it on," Serakos said.

Serakos also can't wait to wear sandals but has some requirements.

"For me to be able to wear flip-flops it has to be May and at least 60 degrees because otherwise my feet get too cold," Serakos said.

Spring is just around the corner, and people will be wearing shorts and sandals before we know it.

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Make Spring Break a Memorable, Safe Experience

KYLE FLORENCE
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In the upcoming weeks, many University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point students will join the 1.5 million students nationwide traveling to warmer destinations over spring break. Though many have taken extra care to make sure they don't forget sunglasses, flip-flops and other essentials, it is likely that few have recently double-checked their privacy settings on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter.

It is becoming more common for these checks to become a routine. According to a survey conducted by CareerBuilder.com, up to 37% of all employers regularly view prospective employee's social media sites before making a hiring decision. For students, this statistic serves as a grim reminder: what happens on spring break doesn't necessarily stay there.

Devan Tomchek, a senior graphic design major, explained that even with these risks, spring break is an event that she wouldn't miss.

"I went to Panama City Beach last year for spring break, had an amazing time hanging out with friends and meeting new people and want to do it one last time before I

graduate," Tomchek said. "Waking up every day and getting to drink on a beach doesn't hurt either."

According to Tomchek, social media will not inhibit her behavior on spring break.

"Most of the people I will be taking pictures with are smart enough to know not to put the extremely unappealing ones up. Worse comes to worse, you're wearing sunglasses most of the time anyway, so if for some reason you need to, just deny it's you in the picture," Tomchek said.

Josh Hames, a UWSP senior who will also be returning to Panama City Beach this year, had a similar opinion.

"I will make sure that I know who is taking my picture and using it," Hames said. "Most pictures of me will be taken from my camera or a friend's camera, and I can have a say in what happens to those pictures."

Conversely, not all students share these apprehensions. Cody Lenz, a UWSP junior traveling to Panama City Beach for the first time, maintains a more laidback outlook.

"I'm not worried about pictures. I plan on going hard, so if someone feels as if I'm doing something that's worth taking a picture of—what do I care?" Lenz said.

Aside from social media, alco-

hol consumption is another concern facing students spending their spring break outside of Wisconsin. According to the Journal of American College Health, during spring break the average male reported drinking up to 18 drinks per day, while the average female consumed roughly 10. Nearly half continued to consume alcohol until they got sick or passed out at least once.

Still, Hames is confident that this will not be an issue.

"We will all make sure to stay hydrated throughout the day and alternate alcohol with water to make

sure we don't get too drunk," Hames said.

Again, Lenz has vied for a more laidback approach.

"I plan on taking little precautions on my drinking other than eating ahead of time," Lenz said.

Regardless of outlook, Tomchek offered those planning to spend their spring break out-of-state with a piece of advice.

"Spring break is meant to be a fun time with friends—don't ruin your entire future by being an idiot for one week," Tomchek said.

St. Patrick's Day Festivities, Far and Near

RACHEL PUKALL
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In light of St. Patrick's Day, students are preparing for Irish festivities whether they have Irish heritage or not.

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17, is named after Saint Patrick, a recognized patron saint in Ireland. The holiday represents the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. Saint Patrick is said to have used a green, three-leaved shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to the Irish people. Over the years, the holiday has become more of a worldly celebration involving green attire, shamrocks and parades or festivals.

Taylor Borman, a senior majoring in communication, is Irish and wishes Stevens Point would have an Irish festival to attend.

"Point should really get it together and create something for us Irish folks," Borman said. "Instead, I will probably wear green, reminisce about my trip I had last summer in Ireland and maybe purchase some Guinness and have my own St. Patty's Day party."

Megan Grefe, a former student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, is planning on going to a huge celebration at Clancey's Stone Lion in downtown Custer, WI.

"There are three bars in the area who all participate, so it brings a lot of people out to celebrate St. Patrick's Day," Grefe said.

Last year was Grefe's first time attending the celebration, and she had a blast. Other than attending the celebration, she doesn't have any other traditions.

Lindsay Serakos, a senior majoring in arts management, doesn't currently have any plans, but she did last year in Minnesota.

"I went up north to Crosslake and watched the St. Patrick's Day parade," Serakos said.

Borman also spent St. Patrick's Day in Minnesota last year, watching her cousins dance at Irish Fest.

"It's always a good time and my uncle always goes to the event too

with a kilt and all. I got to watch him compete in the official 'Best Legs in a Kilt' show last Irish Fest in St. Paul, and that was pretty entertaining," Borman said.

Every year, Borman tries to attend the festival and see her cousins perform.

"Some of my family members even take the holiday to the next level, like my grandpa who would dye his hair green every year," Borman said.

Rebecca Finger, a senior majoring in art, will be traveling this year for St. Patrick's Day.

"I'm going to Milwaukee with my boyfriend and some friends to do a pub crawl," Finger said.

Finger has some Irish heritage on her father's side.

Hollie Raab, who is also 10 percent Irish, plans on traveling to New Dublin for St. Patrick's Day this year.

Serakos doesn't have any personal ties to St. Patrick's Day, but she doesn't think that you need to be Irish in order to celebrate the holiday.

"Since St. Patrick's Day represents the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, it doesn't really have anything to do with being Irish," Serakos said.

Monica Lenius, a junior majoring in communication, plans on spending the day with her sorority sisters.

"It's my sorority's Founder's Day, so we're going to have a Founder's Day celebration and then I'm not sure—probably just spend the day with my sisters," Lenius said.

Last year, Lenius spent St. Patrick's Day on the road traveling.

"I was on my way to PCB because it was right before spring break, so I was trapped in the backseat of a car," Lenius said.

Lenius thinks that St. Patrick's Day is a good holiday for Irish awareness and a good excuse to get drunk.

Raab agrees, adding that she likes how the bars dye their beer green for the holiday.

"Overall, I think that the holiday is just a reason to party more," Raab said.

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You Can Customize Your Major—Say What?

EMMA ST.AUBIN
estau255@uwsp.edu

If we could pick and choose classes to create a personalized major to fit multiple interests, why wouldn't we take advantage of the opportunity? Instead, we drift to popular majors on campus like biology, business administration, communication, elementary education and natural resources. A few students, however, stray from those popular courses of study to enroll as an Individually Planned Major and develop a personal major to fit their interests.

Megan Weinaug, a University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point alumni, graduated with an Individually Planned Major in 2011. Weinaug wanted to be a child-life specialist and was unable to find an accommodating major at UWSP.

"I felt that there wasn't a major that offered exactly what I was looking for," Weinaug said. "There are some colleges that offer a major in child life, but I was also a dance major and didn't want to transfer because of the amazing dance program in Point."

Although UWSP offers a degree in family life education, Weinaug wanted to take other classes that weren't

offered as part of the major.

"I was able to pick and chose the classes that would best benefit my career goals," Weinaug said. "I was able to take a bunch of psychology classes as well as some human development classes and even medical terminology."

The Individually Planned Major is for students who cannot meet their desired educational objectives through an existing academic program. It gives students the opportunity to coherently combine existing course offerings to create a unique major.

In order to declare an Individually Planned Major, the student must propose the program prior to completing the 75 credits, including transfer credits, to be sure the necessary courses are available and can be integrated into the desired major.

The proposal must include a title, a statement of the objectives of the program and a list of specific courses. It must be approved by the Individually Planned Major coordinator, Mark Balhorn, as well as the Individually Planned Major committee, composed of specific advisers appropriate to the topic.

"You need a clear idea in your head and a rationale to do it," Balhorn

said. "The major is for students who are looking for a major we don't offer and can't be accommodated for in any of our departments."

Although there are no current students on campus enrolled as an Individually Planned Major, students remain curious.

"About a half a dozen students come to me each year and want to do an Individually Planned Major," Balhorn said.

However, few of those students go through with an Individually Planned Major after discovering the possibilities of covering their interests with an already available major.

Weinaug is grateful that she followed through with the Individually Planned major. She is currently working as a nanny but plans on becoming a child-life specialist in the near future and hopes that her Individually Planned Major will give her a competitive edge in the work world.

"My major was crafted by me and therefore was something that no one else on campus was pursuing," Weinaug said. "It's a great feeling—knowing that I was creating my own path in a way."

SGA UPDATES

As the SGA elections are fast approaching, this is your opportunity to stay informed. Tuesday March 5th there will be a presidential and vice presidential debate held in the DUC theatre at 6PM. With questions monitored by SGA's finest, there will also be an opportunity for students to submit questions for the candidates. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the candidates and learn their position on different campus and statewide issues.

Senator seats for the SGA general assembly will also be determined by this election with availability based on the proportionate representation of each UWSP College.

The ballot for the spring elections also has the tobacco referendum through which students will be able to rank by preference the following: a smoke free campus, a tobacco free campus, or no change to the current campus policy.

Official elections will be sent out electronically March 15th at 8AM and close March 21st at 4PM so let your voice be heard and don't forget to vote!

As always, we welcome students to come voice their questions or concerns in our office at 052 DUC or e-mail us at SGA@uwsp.edu

OPINIONS

Miss Independent

EMMA ST.AUBIN
estau255@uwsp.edu
OPINION

I enjoy being alone, and I am not just saying that to make myself feel better about being single. I truly enjoy being an independent woman, and I think society puts too much pressure on finding a soul mate.

Don't get me wrong. I dream about getting married, having children and living a perfect scene from a "Leave it to Beaver" episode, but what's the rush? I feel like society is constantly making us feel the need to be in a relationship, shunning us into a future of cats if we're single. Being single right now does not foreshadow a life of loneliness. To me, it simply means I am free to discover myself while

checking out men as I please.

We tend to think of being alone as something that takes over you, making everything inherently less pleasant. It is feared because we are taught that if we are alone, we have reached a point where no one wants to be around.

We all have pity for the "alone." We see someone in the corner of a restaurant having a meal by himself, and our first response is always pity. However, this is strange to me because being alone somewhere can be a wonderful thing. Escaping the world and being in solitude can be incredibly peaceful and glorious.

It is in these moments of solitude where you realize how great being alone is. There is happiness in the simple pleasures found in solitude that are often hidden in the presence of

others: singing to yourself, cuddling with a teddy bear, eating an entire pint of Ben and Jerry's and farting without shame.

Quite frankly, I do not understand how people wouldn't enjoy being alone, especially as a college student. This is not only in terms of peacefulness and relaxation. As a single lady, I have the freedom to go wherever I want, whenever I want, with whomever I want. I can fall asleep in peace and quiet in my own bed, rather than attempting to block out snoring and a blanket-hogger. Most importantly, I don't have to worry about getting pregnant.

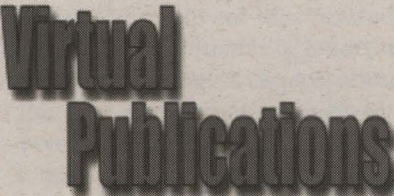
I will admit that sometimes I miss the goodnight texts and the long hugs, but hell, what are mothers for?

I have dated the clingy, the

athletic, the shy, the controlling, the charming, the smart, the demeaning, the handsome, the funny and the dull, but I have yet to find someone that I can simply relate to or see myself enjoying a full and exciting life with. After years of being in these relationships, I have learned that life is not simply about finding a partner—it's about finding yourself.

Maybe it's not aloneness that we most fear, but rather what leads to aloneness: the heartbreak.

But once you spend enough quality time alone, you will realize that being alone is not as dreadful as it is portrayed to be. In fact, you might just be in wonderful company.



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OPINIONS

Tobacco Free Campus Vote

Starting on Friday, UWSP students can vote to make our campus home tobacco-free – yet many or even most have no idea that we have this opportunity. We need to grab it.

The Student Government Association's March 15-21 e-mail referendum presents students with four options for UWSP: tobacco-free, smoke-free, designated smoking areas, or no change. Tobacco-free is the only good option, and here are the top 10 reasons why:

- Tobacco kills. There's no question about this. Not only users; non-users can also be killed (46,000 from secondhand smoke annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control).

- Tobacco is expensive for everyone. We all pay for cleaning up spit in the fountains or butts on the ground. Even more costly are the insurance rates and medical costs that get spread around to all, regardless of whether we use tobacco. See point No. 1.

- When you vote tobacco-free, you're not taking away anyone's right to use tobacco; users can go elsewhere. You're simply giving back a basic right to everyone else, starting with the air we breathe.

- You'll be helping those who do use tobacco. Tobacco

restrictions encourage users to quit. Study after study supports this idea.

- Career development. Many out-of-state organizations have clear policies against hiring tobacco users; help your friends get a job by helping them quit.

- Only about 10 to 12 percent of people on campus smoke. That's roughly the same percentage of people who suffer from asthma and are at risk of smoke-induced attacks – some of which can literally kill. Are you willing to support the "right" to use tobacco over the right to live in a healthy environment?

- A tobacco-free policy is clear. Smokers routinely ignore state law requiring a 25-foot distance from all building entrances, risking the health of everyone – students, faculty, and staff – who walks in a door. Many campus hall residents can't even open their windows in warm weather for this reason.

- Empowerment. Tobacco companies spend big bucks to target young people, using marketing gimmicks to hook us on their products. When we have kids, they'll try to hook them, too.

- Chancellor Bernie Patterson (whose leadership cabinet has written a letter in support of a tobacco-free policy) has

said his administration cannot pay for shelters in designated smoking areas. In addition, an SGA ad hoc committee voted against including the option of designated smoking areas for cost reasons, but the SGA let a few of its members convince the entire body to ignore that finding and add this option back in.

- If we don't vote tobacco-free, the issue will come back – despite the SGA's proposed post-referendum ban on SGA discussion of the issue until the end of the 2015-16 school year. Doesn't it make you wonder why the group would ban talk, but not tobacco? News flash for our elected representatives: you can't make people stop speaking up about the right thing to do.

More than 60 campuses across Wisconsin are already tobacco-free, and almost 800 nationwide. It's time for us to catch up. Vote tobacco-free now.

Allison Brueggen, a senior pre-physical therapy major, is a member of the Tobacco-Free Campus Initiative. The group is on Facebook at SparkUwStevensPoint and on WordPress at <http://uwspstillsmoking.wordpress.com>.

Hi my name is Andrew Beveridge and I'm running to be the next City Attorney of Stevens Point. As a Stevens Point native, this community is very important to me. After graduating from Stevens Point Area Senior High, I completed my Bachelors degree at the University of Wisconsin Madison and then earned my law degree at Lewis and Clark Law School in Oregon. After completing law school, I made the decision to raise my children in a community where people come first and good values are instilled in our youth, and returned to the great community that is Stevens Point, Wisconsin. This community means everything to me and I will do everything in my power to make it a better place for our citizens.

What can I do for you as the Stevens Point City Attorney? First and foremost, I will make our city ordinances simpler, easier to understand, more applicable to our community members, and updated to fit the society we live in today. Our taxpayers in Stevens Point deserve the best people in office, fighting for their rights and values. As City Attorney, my door will always be open to all members of our community and I will always be sure to communicate efficiently and effectively with all of you.

The city of Stevens Point deserves a City Attorney who will fight for the best interests of the community and always find the best possible solutions today for the problems of tomorrow. My name is Andrew Beveridge and I value your vote on April 2nd.

Sincerely,
Andrew Logan Beveridge
715 347 5554
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(JAL)

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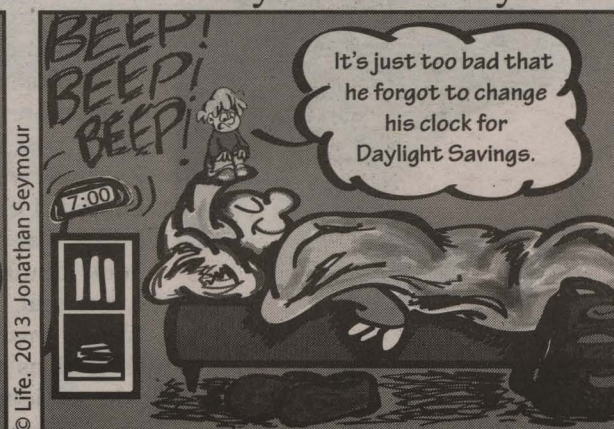
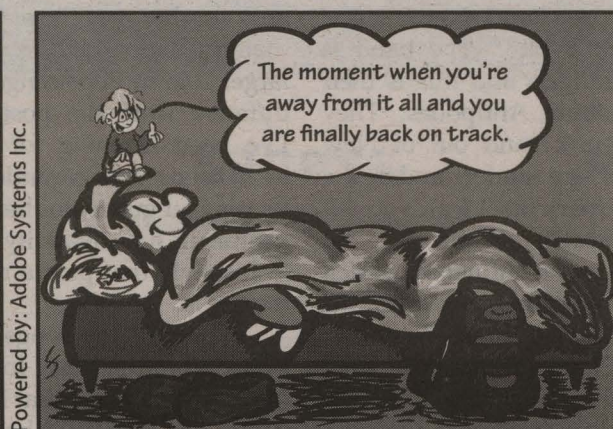
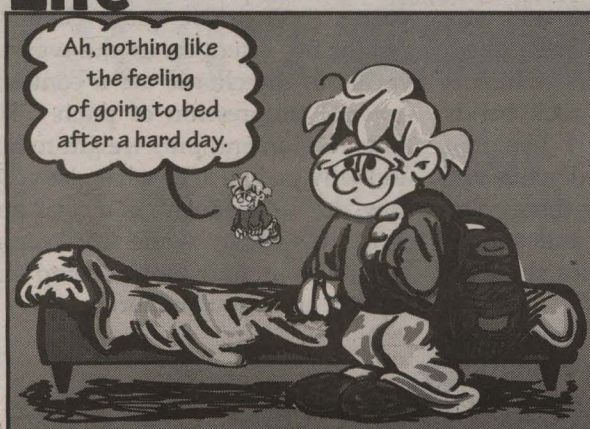
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COMICS

Life

By Jonathan Seymour



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ALBUM REVIEWS

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Drake – 5 AM In Toronto



STEVEN WOODWARD
swood172@uwsp.edu
90FM ALBUM REVIEW

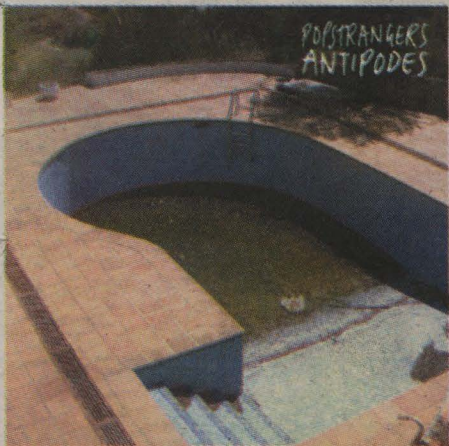
Like a parent watching his or her child grow up before their very eyes, Hip-Hip fans currently have a front-row seat to watch one of its most prominent artists blossom before their eyes. Just four years ago Drake was an up and coming Toronto artist with an acting background, a solid mixtape, and a Lil' Wayne co-sign. Now, the Toronto rapper has two platinum albums and a Grammy. Wheelchair Jimmy who? Whether it was 2011's "Lord Knows", or this past summer's "Stay Schemin'", Drake's had the game on notice that he's not to be messed with, and that any perception of him being soft, either as a rapper or person are just that, perceptions. "5 A.M in Toronto", the second single off of Drake's third studio album, "Nothing was the Same", should shatter these perceptions and end any debate about the greatness of Drake.

"5 A.M in Toronto", produced by Boi-1da, showcases the lyrical side of Drake listeners have known since

"Say what's Real", if not earlier, and then multiplies that to the nth degree. It's like the guy you play Call of Duty with who can't shoot so he just pulls the right trigger down and hopes to hit something, only in Drake's case, he headshots the game over and over again for just over three minutes, never running out of ammunition. "5 A.M in Toronto" is Ether without the focus. "Sinatra lifestyle, I'm just being frank with ya". The lifestyle he's alluding to is drowning out his detractors with the sound of cashing his checks and then stealing their women. Going on to seemingly overstate his influence in rap, Drake boastfully raps, "Give these niggas the look, the verse, and even the hook. That's why every song sound like Drake featuring Drake". But with his "gold trophy from the committee for validation", what would have been a laughable line not too long ago, especially given the heavily "808's and Heartbreak" influenced "Thank Me Later", has now become a real debate. After a summer that included a nightclub brawl, Drake also relays a sense of newfound focus this year on the track, not wanting to waste his time with things that won't get him paid. Comparing himself to LeBron James, Drake raps, "I'm on my King James shit, I'm tryin' to win here again".

While Drake has at times shifted in to a lane too poppy for most rap fans, there is no doubt he's maintained a lyrical quality on his solo projects that should place him in the discussion with rap's elites. And at a time when there is no clear cut heir to rap's throne, sleeping on October's Very Own would be an unwise decision.

Popstrangers – Antipodes



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90FM ALBUM REVIEW

Lately I've been on a post rock kick. When I saw a new band come to the station under the Carpark label, which houses one of my favorite bands (Cloud Nothings), I had to check it out. The band is called Popstrangers and this is their sophomore album, Antipodes. They are a post punk band out of New Zealand and are under under the US based Carpark label (can you tell I like that label?). While they list Sonic Youth as an influence, which I can hear, I feel their style sounds like a mix of Gordons, Deftones, as well as Cloud Nothings to give you an idea. The vocals have the same sound as Sonic Youth with the



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echo and distortion, but the energy and volume of their instrumentals is much greater. The guitar lines are borderline prog in the intervals and in the way it plays with the main themes. The bass plays a much larger role in Popstrangers which is different from the post rock bands I've been listening to. I like that as it keeps you grounded while the vocals and guitar do their thing. The drummer has creativity and energy in his style that puts a nice shine on the music.

While all the songs make sense in an album setting, for radio play there are just a few that I would keep an ear out for. "Witches Hand" is a

song with some pretty cool hooks, my favorite part is during the guitar breakout which juxtaposes the chaos from the guitar with the smooth vocals. "What Else Could They Do" caught my attention in the way the vocals in the chorus are a continual upward progression of pitch. This adds tension and puts weight to how and why people ask "what else could they do?" "Heaven" is a neat little song. It's catchy while still keeping you on your toes with its stop start rhythm and circular chorus.