Counter-protest overshadows "God Hates Fags" demonstration

By David Cohen

The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) arrived in Wausau March 15 to protest UW-Marathon County’s final night of production of The Laramie Project, but met with a broad based counter-protest from community members of central Wisconsin.

The play, which is about the murder of Matthew Shepard, a homosexual, is regarded as evil by the church in accordance with its belief that "God Hates Fags."

The WBC’s leader, the Reverend Fred Phelps, was not in attendance despite his announcement that he would be. The eight protesters who drove from Topeka, Kansas were all members of the Phelps family including a boy in his early teens.

A counter presence gathered in response to the protest, which included the Gay-Straight Alliance of UWSP and other UW schools such as Madison.

An area had been designated by UWMC’s Dean James Veninga for the counter demonstration on the other side of the campus, but the gathering took place directly across the street from the members of the WBC.

People in support of the play outnumbered the WBC approximately 10-1 and were on campus about an hour earlier.

Some members of the gathering See Counter-protest, page 3

Laird Day closes doors to UWSP students

By John Baeten

April 28 marks a somber day for many UWSP students not allowed to attend the highly anticipated Melvin Laird Youth Leadership Day (MLYLD).

Following its long history of limited access, and increased security measures due to the key note speaker Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, MLYLD will close its doors to the UW-Stevens Point community.

Entitled, "Proud to be an American," MLYLD brings together close to 400 high school students from 71 different high schools around the state and takes place in the UC Laird Room.

The event is stated as being "a celebration of leadership and a coming together of Wisconsin's young leaders — America's future."

The event takes its name from Melvin Laird, UWSP alumus and former Secretary of Defense.

Laird Day, page 3

UW System responds to budget cuts

JFC testimony and listening session demonstrate new sense of urgency

By Andrew Bloeser

The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) began hearings Monday, marking one of the last opportunities for the UW System to avoid the full impact of Gov. Doyle’s proposed $250 million budget reductions.

The JFC, which will render its decision on the state budget next month, convened in Rhinelander for a day-long session, receiving testimonies from interests affected by the budget proposal, including student and administrative leaders from UW-Stevens Point.

Update on local disc golf courses, page 11

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Thrower Eschenbauch wins national title, page 9

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THE POINTER
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
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:

Smoking shelters planned for fall semester

By Andrew Bloeser

UW-Stevens Point will become smoke free beginning this fall, but at a price.

Residential Living, the university department that championed the ban on smoking in the residence halls, announced Monday that "smoking shelters" will be erected on campus to coincide with the implementation of its new policy.

The shelters, which will each cost an estimated $3,500, will ultimately be paid for with student money.

"Residential Living, as a department, relies on program revenue to cover its expenses, and that means that student money is involved," said Bob Mosier, the director of Residential Living.

The department has not yet determined the cost or number of shelters it intends to create.

"We’re still investigating the possibilities," Mosier said.

Bob Tomlinson, assistant chancellor of student affairs, “The main reasons for the restrictions on the program relate to capacity in the Laird room and the individual meeting rooms, the Pentagon has also restricted access to the media as they consider this a program for the invited students, and not a public event.”

According to Bob Tomlinson, assistant chancellor of student affairs, "The main reasons for the restrictions on the program relate to capacity in the Laird room and the individual meeting rooms, the Pentagon has also restricted access to the media as they consider this a program for the invited students, and not a public event."
Local elections decided next week

Mayoral and state senate races go to the ballots April 1

By John Baeten
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

April Fool's Day is sure to pull no pranks on candidates running for local office in Stevens Point. A number of positions are up for grabs including the Mayoral seat along with a spot on the State Senate.

A mayoral election is running against incumbent Mayor Gary Wescott for the four-year term as elected official. If Heart succeeds, it will be the first time in history that Stevens Point elects a female mayor.

Heart's platform is based on having a sustainable community, an increase in local democracy, concern for the environment and support of the education system, including UWSP.

Smoking shelters from page 1

"At 10:00 am and 1:00 pm Tuesday 7:45 am to 11:00 pm Thursday 7:45 am to 11:00 pm Friday 7:45 am to 4:45 pm" costs," said Mike Zsido, head of building services, "but we'll try to accommodate what students want."

Plans for the construction of the shelters still remain in their infancy and await clearance from the Department of Facilities Development, but much must be approved before all building projects proposed by the university.

The proposal must also receive approval from the UWSP campus planner, Carl Rasmussen, who anticipates examining the issue in the near future.

"I'm still waiting to see what the proposal is, but this is something that will definitely be considered," said Rasmussen.

Rasmussen stated the proposal might be rejected if the concept behind the shelters fails to meet the established criteria concerning location, maintenance issues and durability, but that such concerns were remote at present.

"From what I've been hearing, they're looking for a structure that will have long term durability and that will blend in with architecture on campus," said Rasmussen.

"Those things will be taken into consideration."

Residential Living and building services currently plan to generate a survey to measure student sentiments on the proposed shelters and have also raised the possibility of creating a committee of student smokers to gain further insight.

Based on self-reports, 6-8% of residents living in campus residence halls identify themselves as smokers, a figure that encompasses 240 UWSP students.

Budget cuts from page 1

"At the high school, the budget cuts are deeper base budget cuts to UW System campuses."

"The historical record clearly shows that over the past two years, public education has played a role in resolving our budget deficit, which over the past generation we have seen a steady decline of state support for public higher education," said Richlen during her testimony.

"While the UW System can and will not shirk from its institutional responsibilities, helping the state during these troubled times, our hope is that the JFC will look at the historical record."

The proposed $250 million cut to the UW System budget for the 2003-05 biennium comes as just the latest chapter in the system's history of reductions, following a cut of $50 million that occurred during the current fiscal year.

The UW Board of Regents reacted to the severity of the reductions at a listening session held Tuesday afternoon in the Alumni Room, stressing the adverse effects that will be rendered upon enrollment rates and student access to programs and services.

A combination of budget reductions and a 24% increase in admissions across the UW System has forced many UW campuses to face the possibility of cutting enrollment rates and eliminating a number of academic programs and majors, which would ultimately bring less tuition revenue into the system and impair academic diversity.

"We need a truth in cutting policy," said James Veniga, the dean of UW-Marathon County, who attended the session.

"We need to be honest as to what the consequences will be if there's a cut of this magnitude."

"Our particular concern is that a university system that has built a reputation as one of the best in the country will lose that status."

The issue of financial aid also surfaced at both the JFC hearing and the board of regents meeting, as university supporters took an adamant stance that the JFC fund the governor's proposed $23.6 million increase for student financial aid from new general purpose revenue sources instead of drawing upon existing system auxiliary reserves.

Reliance on the UW system auxiliary reserves would ultimately translate into a reliance on using student fees to pay for financial aid to students and is something the system would rather avoid.

"Using the auxiliaries makes students pay twice," said Matt Kamke, speaker of the SGA senate. "It's taking money students already paid into the system and using to pay for financial aid to students to get an additional education in the system, which is not what the auxiliaries should be used for."

Kamke, also the president of the UWSP College Republicans currently has a meeting scheduled next month with Mary Panzer, the state senate majority leader, and members of the JFC, specifically intended to voice university interests to Republican leadership.

Kamke stressed that his involvement with Republican leaders will occur outside of his capacity as a student body officer and emphasized that the efforts of the College Republicans were separate from those of the United Council, a student advocacy group which also involved in budget lobbying on behalf of the university system.

"It's going to take more than just college kids with signs to influence legislators in this case," said Kamke. "It's going to take a discussion between groups with similar perspectives to reach a common ground."

United Council has organized its own effort to lobby state legislators and will hold its "Statewide Day of Action" in Madison on April 3.

The event aims to gather a mass of several thousand students on Madison's State Street for a march to the capital in protest of the current state budget proposal and its implications for student aid.

Students interested in traveling to the event can obtain further information by contacting the SGA, which has organized transportation to Madison and began taking reservations this week.

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New Help Desk Hours

Monday 7:45 am to 11:00 pm
Tuesday 7:45 am to 11:00 pm
Wednesday 7:45 am to 11:00 pm
Thursday 7:45 am to 11:00 pm
Friday 7:45 am to 4:45 pm
Saturday 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday 2:00 pm to 11:00 pm

The Information Technology Help Desk is located in the lower level of the library, Room 023.

Phone: 346-HELP (4357) or Email: helpdesk@uwsp.edu.
**Laird Day**

From page 1

under the Nixon administration, who played a role in promoting Vietnamization because of his term in the Pentagon. Vietnamization was the process of turning over responsibility for waging the war on the South Vietnamese government in order to implement withdrawal of U.S. military personnel.

After his four-year term as Secretary of Defense, Laird moved on to an array of business and civic activities. He presently sits on the boards of the SAI Corporation, a multi-billion dollar military technology corporation, and Lockheed Martin, a multinational aeronautics corporation. Both corporations annually generate over 90% of their income from government contracts according Corp Watch.

The Laird Foundation is funding this event, as well as currently donating close to $500,000 to the UWSP Foundation.

According to Tammi David, director of accounting for the UWSP Foundation, "These funds have been donated each year by the honorable Melvin Laird, his family, colleagues, friends and the Laird Youth Foundation."

Through his many acts of large monetary contributions to the UWSP and a few years ago Laird was honored by the renaming of the University Center's largest meeting room from Program Banquet Room to the current Laird Room.

MLYLD also features keynote speaker Donald Rumsfeld, who has been secretary of defense since 2001. Rumsfeld has an earlier stint as secretary of defense in 1975, becoming the youngest ever to hold that position. With the current situation in Iraq and the increased threat of terrorist attacks on the United States, added security measures are sure to be taken.

According to Tomlinson, "Obviously, there will be security issues that will be beyond the control of the university and the local law enforcement staff."

Rumsfeld's upcoming visit has brought about a mixed bag of emotions towards the secretary of defense from love to loathing.

According to UWSP student Ryan Drum, "It can be logically argued, by their own definitions, that Rumsfeld is working with a terrorist regime that is the center of an axis of evil, disregarding international laws and promoting further terrorism — ironically that regime is usually called the Bush administration."

However, former College Republican Christopher Tillman states, "Rumsfeld is speaking here for the Laird Youth Leadership Day which is specifically designed to be a gathering of high school students, with others, will help build a stronger America and a better world."

Or better yet, Rumsfeld should just come right out and say that we should be glad we were so lucky to be born into the most powerful empire in the world and don't ever have to worry about some imperialistic country doing to us what we have done to the whole world," said Matt Oldenburg.

Governor Jim Doyle, an NFL official, members from the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Chancellor George and a former chair of the Federal Trade Commission are all featured speakers at the MLYLD event.

UWSP students can catch MLYLD over closed circuit television, airing in the Encore room of the UC and over local college station STV on the day of the event.
Whatever...the world according to Steve

The media's gold mine: being on the idiot box doesn't make war any more justified.

By Steve Seamandel

Death tolls are mounting. Iraqi soldiers, civilians and American and British forces have all suffered casualties. Bush's war is here.

The definition of "here," though, is not a meaning to take lightly. War is not overseas. War is here. At home. You can watch it in your living room, 24 hours a day.

Last week, while many of you were sunning in beautiful lands far, far away from Stevens Point, I intently monitored the double-bill of War TV and the NCAA Tournament basketball coverage.

CBS had debated all week long what to do in case of a strike on Iraq on Thursday, the first day of Tournament games. ESPN stepped up and made a deal with CBS that they'd run any CBS Tournament coverage when a pressing issue warranted coverage.

The initial Thursday afternoon games were pushed to ESPN, although the Thursday night games were run on CBS as scheduled. The funny thing about the whole ESPN and CBS exchange was how the ESPN ticker read, "For latest news and coverage on the War in Iraq, tune in to ABC." Minutes later, the CBS sports ticker would chime in and push ESPN's off the screen, only to read, "Tune to CBS for latest war news." Nothing like the major powers collaborating to kill two birds with one stone, only to induce more unwanted competition.

With cable-all-news stations like CNN, Fox News and MSNBC, it's literally like tuning in to a ticker would chime in and push ESPN's off the screen, only to read, "Tune to CBS for latest war news." Nothing like the major powers collaborating to kill two birds with one stone, only to induce more unwanted competition.

With cable-all-news stations like CNN, Fox News and MSNBC, it's literally like tuning into a station with the call letters of WARTY. You can watch the bombs explode from the sanctity of your station with the call letters of WARTY. You can watch the bombs explode from the sanctity of your living room, 24 hours a day.

Third, never, ever, ever take that split-screen shot of the streets of Baghdad off your station. Even Something could happen. Also, timers and clocks help. Multiple all-news stations have the Baghdad time plastered in the upper left corner of their screen and MSNBC actually had a countdown clock for the Ultimatum Deadline for Saddam to leave Iraq. MSNBC would have received my true appreciation if they had included a tenth-second measurement too. I mean, really nail that deadline down to the millisecond. The cameras intently monitored the double-bill of War TV and night games were run on CBS as scheduled. The funny thing about the whole ESPN and CBS exchange was how the ESPN ticker read, "For latest news and coverage on the War in Iraq, tune in to ABC." Minutes later, the CBS sports ticker would chime in and push ESPN's off the screen, only to read, "Tune to CBS for latest war news." Nothing like the major powers collaborating to kill two birds with one stone, only to induce more unwanted competition.

It seems that these news giants have this war coverage thing down to a science. First, you need a title, like "War in Iraq," or could get real specific and say something like, "We're not sure exactly what is going on here, Baghdad, seemingly waiting for bombs to start exploding once the clocks hit zero."

Second, you need to constantly repeat things like "We're not sure exactly what is going on here, Baghdad, seemingly waiting for bombs to start exploding once the clocks hit zero."

And if you haven't learned yet, Fox News is not legitimate journalism. When you have to advertise against this by announcing that you're "fair and balanced" at every commercial break, it rings like Richard Nixon saying, "I am not a crook." Lastly, although casualties are never less than a serious matter, it's odd seeing a death toll. Thus far, the reported number of casualties from accidents and combat is 47. At every notice of a death, the respective news station airs a picture, if available, or at least the name of the casualty.

If war had been televised during World War II, Fox News and the likes would have had to put over 400,000 names and pictures of killed American soldiers. Imagine storming the beaches of Normandy or nuking Japan and seeing it unfold live.

Is the coverage necessary? No, but then again, declaring war wasn't necessary either, and that didn't seem to make much of a difference. Sadly and undeservedly, it's become the American way.

Thanks to the fans for a great season

It may be difficult to express my gratitude and thanks so close to the end of our season, but I want all our fans to know how much we appreciate you. Winning our fourth straight WIAC Championship and qualifying for the NCAA are things we cherish along with your support.

The ability to stay humble in victory and determined in defeat are lessons that truly are learned through intercollegiate athletics. We will miss Josh in large from our 24-4 team but with our returning nucleus and your backing we will go after our dreams in the 2003-2004 campaign.

Thanks again for being with us during the adventure.

Sincerely,
Coach Jack Bennett, UWSP Men's Basketball Coach

City needs Heart transplant

Amy Heart brings a fresh voice and a new vision to the Stevens Point mayoral race.

We can take heart that she will revitalize the sagging economic infrastructure of not only the downtown, but also the southside and northside businessess. She will work to create an environment where residents won't have to drive to the city fringes for essential goods and services. She will address pedes­ trian safety and traffic congestion in the city while working for alternatives to a bypass through our forests, wetlands and recrea­ tional areas.

Amy Heart is an experienced leader. She is a member of the Health & Human Services Advisory Committee, Portage County Hunger Prevention Partnership, Network of

Environmental and Outdoor Groups and Stevens Point Transportation Development Plan. Her managerial and orga­ nizational skills will provide guidance and leadership as Stevens Point faces tough new challenges in the future.

Most importantly, Amy Heart listens. She will be accessible by all segments of the city's population through an expanded open door policy and proposed neighborhood meetings.

The Pointer

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Are we freeing Iraq or American corporations?

Well, the war is on. "Operation Iraqi Freedom" is underway. The US sure has a funny way of freeing nations from tyrants. Our way of freeing people always seems to consist of bombing the hell out of both the military and civilian targets. Proposed plans for post-war Iraq include a military dictatorship set up by the US to oversee the "rebuilding of Iraq" by US corporations. Wouldn't setting up a democratic government (ran by the people of Iraq) be better way to free them?

Maybe, just maybe, the main focus isn't all about freeing the oppressed people of Iraq. I mean killing them isn't exactly freeing them, is it? Could US corporations be playing a part in our warmongering?

Halliburton (Vice-President Cheney was a top CEO between 95 and 2000 and still receives about $1 million a year in contributions) has already received a contract (which wasn't open to bidding) for $1 billion for various tasks in Iraq, including setting up the tent villages for our soldiers, fire extinguishing the oil fields and rebuilding them, for which they will receive some extra U.S. tax-dollars.

Other corporations that are profiting immensely are the two aeronautical giants Lockheed-Martin (Melvin Laird receives $1.6 million from them a year) and Northrop Grumman. These two corporations received a combined sum of $250 billion for military and civilian targets. The most expensive military contract ever awarded. It seems kind of funny that James Roche, the newly appointed Air Force Secretary who awarded the contract, served as a Northrop Grumman executive until this summer when he was nominated for the secretary position.

Not to mention, all weapons manufacturers have to demonstrate the capabilities of their weapons in battle before the Pentagon will award them military contracts worth billions of dollars. A few weapon manufacturing corporations proving their products in Iraq right now are Boeing, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems and Raytheon Co. I have to mention he sat on the boards of Kellogg and the holding company that prints the L.A. Times and the Chicago Tribune.

These are just a couple of corporate interests benefiting from our war in Iraq. But it gets even more interesting when you consider the corporate interests in the Bush gang that is currently running our "democratic" nation:

1. Rumsfeld (Secretary of Defense): former CEO of G.D. Searle, which is a major pharmaceutical company that is going to benefit from US contracts for smallpox and anthrax vaccinations, not to mention he sat on the boards of Kellogg and the holding company that prints the L.A. Times and the Chicago Tribune.
2. Andrew Card (Chief of Staff): former chief lobbyist for GM.
4. Mitch Daniels (director of the Office of Management and Budget): was vice-president of Eli Lilly, another pharmaceutical company.
5. The list goes on and on. Some more people with former corporate ties appointed to government positions include Paul O'Neill, Robert Card, Donald Evans, Ann Veneman and Elaine Chao.

Is it possible that our "democratic" system is no longer run by the people of the US? Could the only votes heard by our government be the ones cast by corporations? Are we willing to sacrifice our men and women of our Armed Forces to advance corporate gains?

-UWSP student

UWSP students take in German tradition at Octoberfest

In the city of stiletto shoes, thousands of bicycles and millions of people always on the go comes the opposite tradition referred to as Octoberfest. When most people hear the term Octoberfest, they think of loud, beer guzzling Germans in lederhosen. Well, they are absolutely right. I had never thought I would go to the 'Fest. Maybe the LaCrosse version, but never the real thing. When I signed up to study abroad in Munich, it still had not crossed my mind. It was not until many months later that the fest was brought to my attention; then I couldn't wait.

Before I get into the details, I think everyone should know a little bit of the history behind Octoberfest. Yes, there is one. It all started with the wedding of Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburg Hausen on Oct. 17, 1810. It was celebrated by a horse race that became an annual event up to the present: Few people know that the festival takes place the last two weeks of September to the first Sunday of October. That's enough history though.

Now for the excitement. My friends and I arrived at the Octoberfest grounds at 10:30 a.m. The place was already filled with thirsty people waiting for the mayor of Munich to tap the first keg and put back the first liter. That didn't happen until noon, and in the meantime, many people became anxious. I was just trying to take in all of the excitement and try to find a seat, which you need to be served. We ended up finding the opening day parade. We watched for awhile, but then found a seat at the Spanen beer tent while everybody else was up watching. By now it was past noon and all the wait staff had started serving giant liters of beer. Most waiters could carry at least six liters, some could carry up to twelve, but we lucked out and got the one waitress that could only carry three at a time.

Most people don't know that the beer is made special just for Octoberfest with a higher percent alcohol and is only served in liters. For some reason, I think it's a plan to make sure everyone gets drunk. By 3 p.m., the crowd starts to get rowdy and the line for two stalls in the bathroom is like running the gauntlet of horny men, not to mention the entire crowd sings the theme song about a thousand times and prosts (toasts) every five seconds. The famed chant from "The Man Show," "Ziggy Ziggy, Ziggy Ziggy, Oy Oy Oy," is chanted by everyone.

By noon on the second day, we had memorized all of the chants and joined in on the dancing on the tables. Everybody does it, especially the 70-year-old drunk men. We made about a hundred new friends that we will probably never see again.

Octoberfest was a blast, and I did have a great time. However, I can understand why many people don't.

For example, most people that live in Munich hate Octoberfest because people come from all over to get drunk and make a huge mess all over the city. I only met about five locals. They come out for the nightlife. There were many other Germans there, but I met more Americans and many Italians, who could only communicate with through song.

In comparison, American fairs are very similar to Octoberfest. They have all the stands and rides, but instead of having exhibits and animals, Octoberfest has every type of Bavarian beer.

I do recommend that you come and try it out for about three days, the first weekend. That should satisfy your craving for at least another year until the next one comes around. And that's the best thing to know: it does come back every year and it will continue coming back in the future.

-UWSP student

UWSP students Mary Skall and Chris Kaye enjoy a liter and a pretzel at Octoberfest.
Are students working themselves ragged?

Jobs lower student grades and morale

By Sara Daehn

A working student has little time for relaxation. A student who will be called Susan begins every day at 8 a.m. by taking a quick shower, getting dressed and grabbing a Pop Tart on the go. Then she rushes to her first class of the day, biology lecture. Susan’s first set of classes lasts until noon, when she gets a half hour lunch break. She then sprintes back to class and stays there until 2 p.m.

After all her classes of the day, Susan runs back to her dorm room to change clothes, then dashes off to work. She gets off work at 9:30 p.m., at which time she craves sleep to an unhealthy extent.

But this unfortunate soul can’t go to bed. She has to read extra curricular activity. On the other hand, bosses will not accept homework as an excuse.

Extra-curriculars differ from jobs because students can join them whenever they decide to. Unlike a job, joining a club or playing on an intramural sports team isn’t going to take away time from people’s studies. If someone is unusually bogged down with homework during a particular week, there is no obligation to attend an extra curricular activity. On the other hand, bosses will not accept homework as an excuse.

Scholars who hold outside jobs often have lower grades than those who can focus more time on studies. Even if university students who hold jobs spend as much time on their school work as those without jobs, the students with jobs have much higher stress levels because they have so little time for personal relaxation and time to themselves.

Although it may seem students need to hold jobs in this age of tuition inflation and national debt, those who work hard during the summer and other breaks will have an advantage over school year workers mentally, emotionally and physically.

Many UW-Stevens Point students work, whether it is through work-study or it’s off campus. Working gives students extra money in their pockets and the work experience they will need in the “real world.”

Allowing students to get the real experience they will need when applying for a job, working also teaches students responsibility, time management and communication skills. Students also learn about balance. Being able to juggle school, work and a personal life is a very useful quality.

During the rest of their lives, students will have to find that balance between their careers and their personal lives. The sooner they learn, the easier it will become.

Many employers like to see that applicants have had some work experience during their school years. Employers know that it is hard to balance work and school, so when students can do it, it is always impressive. I am not suggesting 40 hours a week, but rather a 15-hour a week job. That is all the time needed to gain some experience while concentrating on your studies.

It is probably best to find a job in the field in which you are interested. If you plan on getting a degree in mass media, look into an internship at the local TV or radio station. If you are obtaining a degree in education, look to get some experience by working at a day care. If you can find a practical job for your anticipated degree, not only will you enjoy the job more, you will be accomplishing two things at once.

Working is not all bad. The experience, the extra money and the people you will work with will make it a rewarding experience all around.

Honesty, integrity, hard work, common sense and passion for good public service are what Julie Lassa brings to the residents and the taxpayers of the 24th State Senate District. Julie Lassa has demonstrated these qualities in her service as a legislator and prior to that as director of area health care associations and a board supervisor. She’s shown courage in voting against expanded gambling, has voted to keep the lid on property taxes and help area schools stay strong.

Vote Julie Lassa in the April 1st Democratic primary for State Senate.
Student group speaks out about Big Tobacco

UW-Stevens Point student group is committed to teaching people about the danger of tobacco products

By Emily Nowak
By Anne Hoffman
By Katie Gaulin

Are students aware that they are being targeted by Big Tobacco?

This question provided the inspiration for the campus program PhotoVoice sponsored by the Student Health Promotion Office. PhotoVoice objectives are to identify ways in which Big Tobacco targets UWSP students to fighting big tobacco in a variety of ways.

The Health Advocates are peer educators who provide behavior interventions for UWSP students to help them achieve academic objectives. Health Advocates provide information on alcohol, sexual assault, tobacco, stress, fitness and nutrition.

Want to contribute to The Pointer?

Email us with ideas, articles or suggestions at: pointer@uwsp.edu

Organization of the Week: Women in Communication

By Nora F. Bates
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Women in Communication is an open group on campus and not just women, but men too. Women in Communication meets twice a month, with the next meeting occurring on April 6 at 6:30 in room 207 in the University Center.

Women in Communication is made up of president Sara Clauder, vice president Bethany Retzlaff, secretary Melanie Joseph, treasurer Leanne Hedrick; forum director Nicole LaReau and PR director Roberta Lind. The Women in Communication advisor is Karlene Ferrante.

Women in Communication is heading to Milwaukee this weekend to tour a major PR/advertising firm, with a possible tour of the Miller Brewing Company. They have been active around campus with their famous caramel apple and flower sales in the University Center, as well as a hot dog/brat sale at Wal-Mart. Next planned for Women in Communication is their end of the year picnic.

Women in Communication brings local business speakers in to talk about their successes and ways to be successful in a career. You can find upcoming events for Women in Communication on Student Message of the Day or on the white boards in your classrooms.

If you would like to be added to their distribution list you can email president Sara Clauder at sclau823@uwsp.edu.

A YEAR IN EUROPE!

Students have, in the past, combined a semester abroad, i.e. Germany and Britain, or Poland and France. But UWSP International Programs now introduces a Year in Europe. This program is designed specifically to couple with existing fall semesters in Europe: Britain, Germany: Munich and East Central Europe: Poland.

Students in London, Munich and Krakow can continue on to Szeged after the end of their fall term. Though it is not imperative to sequence Hungary with one of these trips, International Programs does enforce previous international experience for participation in the Hungarian program.

After your fall program ends you may stay on in Europe for personal exploration/travel. In this way you will save the costs of airfare and the Semester in Hungary program can be done for about the same cost as spending a term in Stevens Point!

A YEAR IN EUROPE 2003/04:
WITH A SEMESTER II IN HUNGARY

COST: $35,000-3,000 (approximate) This includes:

- 15 Weeks in residence at the University of Szeged
- Room and Board throughout the semester.
- UWSP tuition for Wisconsin Residents (Minnesota students qualify for reciprocity. Surcharge for other out-of-state students)
- Study tours within Hungary throughout the semester
- UW-System Health and Travel Insurance is provided.
- Plan your budget to cover international airfare and/or ground train to Szeged, passport, and personal expenses. If you are flying to Europe to start the program, International Programs can help you find a flight.
- A UWSP International Programs staff member will fly to Budapest approximately three days before the Szeged program begins; though not part of the program package, students are welcome to travel along from Chicago to Budapest and then on to Szeged with her/him. After seeing that the program is running smoothly, that staff member will return to the States.

CLASSES: Upper division classes concentrating on the Humanities and Social Sciences: Conversation/Survival, Intermediate and Advanced Hungarian Language (no prior knowledge of Hungarian is required), Art History, Culture, Civilization and History of Hungary, East European Politics, Geography, Literature, International Studies. Small classes, taught by Hungarian faculty in English, provide individual attention. Easy transfer of UWSP granted credit.
Fastpitch gets some spring break action

Team returns from Florida with a 6-4 mark

By Jana Jurkovich

Sports Reporter

Spring break is supposed to be a time to relax and regroup; however, the UWSP softball team didn’t relax in Florida. They got right to work and returned home with a season starting record of 6-4.

The Pointers started out the 2003 season with 10 games in five days, facing nine different opponents as they traveled to Fort Myers, Fla. Having so many games definitely pushed the Pointer women into gear and they were pleased to return home with six wins.

“We were happy with the week and with the performance of the new players,” said Coach Paul Caufield.

The week started out with a doubleheader as the Pointers faced Pine Manor (M.d.) followed by North Dakota. After thoroughly beating Pine Manor by a decisive score of 15-7, the Pointers lost a close game to North Dakota 2-1. The game, which stayed scoreless until the Pointers took the lead in the top of the sixth inning, was decided when North Dakota capitalized on a few Pointer mistakes in the bottoms of the sixth inning.

same song, second verse seemed to bode well for the Pointers as they obtained their second doubleheader split on March 17. This was the Pointers’ toughest day as they not only had another doubleheader, but they also faced the 12th ranked team in the nation, Wheaton, in their first game. The Pointers fell behind 1-0 in the first inning but then held Wheaton in check until the sixth inning, when once again the opponent capitalized on Pointer errors. The Pointers were unable to come back and lost the game 4-0.

“Although we lost 4-0, the team played well,” said Senior pitcher Karen Guckenberger, who pitched seven innings of shutout ball, striking out nine and walking none. Guckenberger also picked up the win, her second of the season.

The Pointers took two more losses, one on March 18 and one on March 20 before finishing the trip out with four straight wins. The 21-6 loss on March 20 was hard for the Pointers as they were dominated by Buffalo State (NY), but the team proved they had composure, bouncing right back to beat Endicott 3-0 in their second game of the day. The tripleheader on March 21 could have been rough for the Pointers, but they picked up where they left off the night before and swept all three games.

Nevertheless, the week was not all work and no fun for the women. They were able to escape to Sanibel Island to watch the dolphins and also got to soak up some sun and go parasailing at Fort Myers Beach on their day off.

With so many new players on the team this year, the trip proved to be a learning experience. Playing a number of games gave the coaches an opportunity to take a closer look at the newcomers. Freshmen Jenny Feidt, Jenny Van Cuyk and Liz Boeucher showed much promise during the week.

“We are excited about these three and they will be looked to as key players for the future,” said Caufield.

Senior pitcher Karen Guckenberger, who pitched extremely well throughout the trip, will be looked to for leadership and experience while having such a young team under her belt. "She [Guckenberger] will be a key player for us as the year unfolds," said Caufield.

Career Highlights

- National champion in the weight throw for the 2003 indoor season
- Second place in the weight throw in 2002
- Fourth place in the weight throw in 2001
Swimmers end season on a high
By Tyler Drummond & Alexis Sustman

The UW-Stevens Point men’s and women’s swimming teams have recently concluded their seasons with a trip to Atlanta for the NCAA Division III National Championships, held at Emory University.

Swimming

The women, who were in Atlanta Thursday-Saturday March 13-15, sent six women: Lindsay Correll, Elizabeth Janssen, Jennifer Randall and Jaclyn Menzel.

“We finished better in a lot of events than we thought we were going to do. So overall the girls swim great,” said Correll.

T he 200m medley relay that Correll swam on came in seventh, which was good enough to give that team All-American seventh, which was good enough only graduating one senior; so, I think we can just hope to travel to Atlanta March 20-22 where they place were Matt Sievers, Alex Eschenbach, and Megan Craig, a sophomore who qualified in the 1500m meter run and Jesse Baumann’s fifth place fin-

Ech tosses his way to a title
By Tony Bastien

While the majority of UWSP was sprinting off to various spring break locales, the Pointer men’s team took off to DelPauw University in Indiana for the Indoor National meet on March 14 and 15. The ten men who represented UWSP finished seventh out of over 80 teams with over 200 men competing.

men’s track & field

A major part of the men’s success can be attributed to Stevens Point’s eighth indoor track national champion, senior Noah Eschenbach. Eschenbach won the weight throw event on Friday with a toss of 62 feet 5 inches. That distance is the fourth longest in the 19 year history of the event. Of Eschenbach, coach Rick Win said, “We had expected Noah to win it. He was #1 (in the nation) all year and that made it that much harder to accomplish. I’m very proud of how he handled it.”

Also gaining points for the men were seniors Steve Gillespie with his eighth place finish in the 1500 meter run and Jesse Baumann’s fifth place finish to travel to Atlanta March 20-22 where they competed in the NCAA DIII National Championships.

The men, who only sent four swimmers to Atlanta, placed 18th. The four men who took place were Matt Sievers, Alex Anderson, Aaron Marshall and Thad Gunther.

“It’s a higher finish than last year and may be the highest fin-

Craig and NECHTA named All-American
By Jody Butkowski

Five women made the trek to Greencastle, Ind. to compete in the NCAA Division III track and field championships. The women earned two All- American honors out of three events and finished 20th overall.

Coach Hill said he was “both pleased and dis appointed - although the disappointment was out of our control with Megan’s illness.”

women’s track & field

Megan Craig, a sophomore who qualified in both the open 1500 and the distance medley relay (DMR), was not feeling 100% due to an illness.

Friday night, the DMR team consisting of junior Jeslyn Mahler, freshman Jenna Mitchel and sophomores Megan Craig and Leah Herlarge placed ninth with a time of 12:18, missing All-American honors by one place.

Although the relay members were disappointed with the results, the team consisted of three underclassman and one junior and has high expectations for both the outdoor season and next year’s indoor season.

Hours earlier, Craig ran the 1500m trials before anchoring the 1600m leg of the relay.

“My first race took everything out of [Megan],” said Hill.

Sophomore Amanda Nachuta proved her depth in Saturday’s competition in the shot put with a toss of 45’ 3/4” earning her sixth place All-American honors. Weeks after completion of an all-conference basketball season, Nachuta quickly stepped up to earn her first indoor All-American trophy.

“She had a solid performance in a very strong field of athletes and hasn’t really had much time to work on the shot put yet this season,” said Hill.

Craig, who competed with a stress fracture a year ago, replaced those bitter memories with a stellar fourth place finish in the 1500.

Her time of 4:35.93 was a personal best, and broke her own school record of a year ago. Although plagued by a sickness, Craig was happy with her fourth place finish.

As the outdoor season begins, the Pointer women hope to qualify several athletes in both individual events and relays for outdoor nationals in Canton, New York.

See Swimming, page 10
WISCONSIN pride will be in full force as fans of the Wisconsin Badgers and the Marquette Golden Eagles will be on hand to cheer for their respective teams as they play for a chance to move on to the Elite 8 on Saturday. The Badgers will face the top seeded Kentucky at 6:10 p.m. and Marquette will tip-off against the #2 seed Pittsburgh at approximately 8:40 p.m.

The Wildcats use a high-pressure defense to generate turnovers and turn them into offensive opportunities. They like to play an up-tempo game and are led by senior guard Keith Bogans, who is a quick and quick, the most talented player in college ball with guard Jason Williams. Bogans and Williams will give Arizona a game, they can't match up with the Wildcats' size. In the other game, Duke has the ability to be a class act. The Blue Devils are led by senior Dahntay Jones, but will have a tough time matching up with Kansas' big, Nick Collison and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

SEMMESTER, SUMMER & WINTER OVERSEAS STUDY PROGRAMS
Credit-based, Inclusive & Affordable

Here’s what two recent participants have to say about their experience with UW-SP International Programs:

Everyone @ International Programs...

G’day from Sydney, Australia!!! Just wanted to thank you all for your hard work that enabled me to have this amazing experience. I am truly having the time of my life and would consider staying here forever. The weather is really starting to heat up. Next week is our spring break. Heading to Cairns to do some diving at the Great Barrier Reef. Hope all is well back in Point!

Amanda Kiores

Hello Mark, Dave, Linda, & all,

Greetings from sunny Cinque Terra on the Italian Riviera! The Mannick crew is currently on Fall Break from our studies. My semester abroad has been such an incredible, monotonous experience for me; I have learned so much about life outside the U.S. and also about myself. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for making a dream come true!

Rachel A. Cohen

Make your own memories! Applications for the 2003 and 2004 terms Now being accepted!

Contact: INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS UW-STEVENS POINT * Room 108 CCC -- Stevens Point, WI 54481, U.S.A.
E-Mail: intlprog@uwsp.edu -- www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad
On March 10, the City of Stevens Point finance committee authorized Mayor Wescott to discuss purchasing land from Stora Enso on Patch Street where the old McDill Pond disc golf course used to be laid. Stora Enso contacted the Mayor to set up a meeting with him on the discussion of the Patch Street land in late February. Stora Enso is interested in the golf course prior to the pond getting dredged last spring and summer. Mayor Wescott studied the approval of the finance committee before discussing anything with Stora Enso. Currently, the finance committee is waiting for further information from the Mayor after his meeting with Stora Enso. Speculation in Stevens Point is that the land could be turned back into a disc golf course if the city decides to purchase the land. If the city does not purchase the land, it is not known what it would be used for. If you would like more information on the progress of the land purchase contact the City of Stevens Point Mayor Gary Wescott or the finance committee.

Stevens Point City Hall
1515 Strongs Avenue
Stevens Point WI 54481

Additionally, the current situation in Yulga Park is as follows:

Tuesday, March 25, I set out with three of my friends for a nice round of disc golf while the nice weather lasted— it'll be gone by this weekend. As we pulled into Yulga Park in the Town of Hull, we noticed the lack of cars in the parking lot, which was strange for such a nice day in early spring.

We walked toward the practice cage, but nothing was there. We walked to the first tee, but no basket was in sight. We then thought about the back nine, but still there were no cages. Then one of my friends decided to check the notices on the boards near the entrance of the park. It said something about sledding.

The trees are coming down.

Beginning this week, trees will be cut down that have been marked for destruction for several weeks, and now with the ing for several weeks, and now with the. The giant panda is the smallest baby born in relation to the center, you will receive a color graph of your adoptee and a newsletter subscription. Your adoption fee of $20 will provide a panda adoption kit will include an adoption registration card, a poster, an informational booklet, stickers and many other treats. After you fill out the registration card and return it to the center, you will receive a color photo graph of your adoptee and a newsletter subscription.

Drop donations off at the Wildlife Society office, CNR 359A. Include your name, home address, email address and a telephone number so that you may be contacted once the adoption is complete. Make checks payable to Friends of the Forest. For more information contact www.friendsfortheforest.org or email questions to sgran84@uwsp.edu.

OUTDOORS REPORTER

By Serene Granstrom

All those rascals coming back from the southland seem to have brought some sweet spring heat along with them. Just last week I was straining to drill through a foot of good ice, and now waves lap the sandy shores. With the river once again running free and inland lakes retaining the shorelines, it seems that the 2003 ice fishing season has ended for Portage County.

I'm not saying that it is impossible to get out, but I'd take great precautions in attempting the feat. Use the southern shore when crossing out to safer ice as the boulder water often melts away first. Walking slowly in a single file line helps to distribute weight evenly. Ice picks, a good length of rope and a few friends also help your chances if someone does fall through.

If it is possible to get out safely, I would be that the panfish are still biting pretty well; however, if this warm weather holds on, I would quit ice fishing after this weekend, or else head further north.

Now just because your favorite ice fishing hole is off-limits doesn't mean that you can't enjoy this great weather. In fact, many open water opportunities await.

Many of the better river spots are now wide open for hook and line fishing. Spots like dams and spillways have been rip-roaring for several weeks, and now with the recent heat wave, many of the best backwater spots and sloughs have loosed themselves of their icy shields. Boaters report very fast spring water and even large ice chunks still floating in the current. Stay safe out there, and we can all enjoy the return of open water.

By the way, remember that new licenses for 2003 are now on sale and will be mandatory at the end of March when the old ones expire. Don't be a fool and put off this necessity until the last minute! The DNR agents are real sticklers about this rule. Students from out of state can purchase adult licenses for the regular in-state price by showing a valid UW student ID card. The closest place to campus to buy one is the K-mart outdoors section.

OUTDOORS REPORTER

By Adam M.T.H. Mella

Let's go fishing

Hot weather scares ice off local waters

All those rascals coming back from the southland seem to have brought some sweet spring heat along with them. Just last week I was straining to drill through a foot of good ice, and now waves lap the sandy shores. With the river once again running free and inland lakes retaining the shorelines, it seems that the 2003 ice fishing season has ended for Portage County.

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Water you waiting for? Volunteers needed

First annual groundwater festival to take place at the beginning of May

The 1st Annual Wisconsin Groundwater Festival, Get WET and Energized, is quickly approaching! The Wisconsin Groundwater Festival will be a fun-packed two-day event offering hands-on activities, presentations and exhibit booths on May 9 and 10 at UWSP. Friday will be a "School Day" for Wisconsin fifth and sixth grade students and their teachers and Saturday will be open to the general public. The purpose of the Wisconsin Groundwater Festival is to enhance the ability and motivation of Wisconsin fifth and sixth grade students, their teachers, and the general public to understand and take responsibility regarding environmental issues affecting groundwater and energy. Wisconsin Groundwater Guardians are expecting participants from across the state with 600 fifth and sixth grade students and their teachers attending Friday (9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) and a minimum of 300 attendees on Saturday (10 a.m.-4 p.m.).

With an event of this magnitude, Wisconsin Groundwater Guardians need the support of many volunteers to help make this festival a success. At this point in time, Wisconsin Groundwater Guardians really need volunteers to help on Saturday. For Saturday, Wisconsin Groundwater Guardians need lesson leaders, Kid's Tent leaders (crafts and games), monitors for the exhibit area and presentation rooms, water lab guides to assist groups in finding the water lab, a clean-up crew immediately following the event and additional volunteers for other various tasks. Training will be provided for lesson leaders. On Saturday, you may volunteer for all day or for portions of the day. Please take a look at the proposed schedule for Saturday and Friday at http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian/wigg/fest.htm. Please review this volunteer form for a more complete listing of volunteer opportunities. Please let us know how you will contribute to the festival. Please forward this message on to others that you know of who would like to help. Please return your form as soon as possible.

Remember, the Groundwater Festival is not possible without you! On behalf of the Wisconsin Groundwater Guardians and the youth and adults of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Groundwater Guardians thank you in advance for your enthusiasm and support of the 2003 Wisconsin Groundwater Festival.

If you have any questions, please call Wisconsin Groundwater Guardians at 715-346-2722 or email dkilkenn@uwsp.edu or gwguardian@uwsp.edu. For more details on the festival, go to http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian/wigg/fest.htm. Wisconsin Groundwater Guardians could always use more help on Friday, too. Friday is a more demanding schedule, since Wisconsin Groundwater Guardians will have 20 lessons going on simultaneously. If you volunteer to be a lesson leader, Wisconsin Groundwater Guardians ask that you lead the same 45 minute lesson four times. However, there are many other less demanding volunteer opportunities, too.

Spring birdfeeder ogling

By Adam M.T.H. Mella
Assistant Outdoors Editor

Nothing says spring has arrived to me more than the spirited chirp of migrating birds sitting outside my bedroom window. Their sound of song is so very rich that I wonder why humans have generally stopped singing for their mates? Listening to those little winged mammals call in the early morning hour signals to me the beginning of life and the end of the winter bereavement.

That is where my appreciation for birds usually ceases. Aside from eating some of them, I find them to be nothing more that a shifty creature capable of dropping precision "smart feces" and building rough nests.

Oh, how wrong I was! Over the spring holiday I returned home for a visit. Like Stevens Point, the landscape of Cooperstown was teeming with fresh game. At our country estate, my family tends several feeders and actively records their bird sightings each day. And so, I learned a thing or two over the weekend about identifying Wisconsin's wild birds.

Local Live Music Schedule

The Mission Coffeehouse
Friday, March 28
Greenscene w/ Self Proclaimed Nickname

Wit's End
Friday, March 28
Greg Koch & The Tone Controls
Saturday, March 29
Burnt Toast & Jam

UC Encore
Saturday, March 29
Metal Salad (multiple metal bands)

Concert Review

The Gourds


It's a common misconception that Phish created the infamous bluegrass cover of Snopp Dogg's "Gin and Juice." However, the actual artists behind the gangsta-rap-turned-folk-rop rants don't play sold-out shows at the Mission Square Garden.

The Gourds played a two-set show at Steel Stage on Tuesday at Wit's End. Six strings, fiddles, mandolins and square-boxes abounded at the Wit's as The Gourds threw down an old-time rump.

While often labeled as bluegrass or folk, it's difficult to pin The Gourds' brand of music down. Sometimes sounding like country without the annoying twang or whiskey lampeting, their styles quickly changed pace from earthy walztes and tangos to zydeco and two step ditties.

Following two sets packed full of old-timey goodness that got more than a few toes tapping, The Gourds returned to the stage to unleash their trademark "Gin and Juice" upon the audience. To the yelps and shrieks of the storming crowd, The Gourds unexpectedly fused their famous mandolin-driven tune with a blistering version of the Rolling Stones "Miss You," a combination of mind-melting proportions.

I'm not venturing too far out on a limb by saying that no one went to Chicago this weekend, The Gourds portrayed what it means to be a musical group that knows the value of the classics such as "Eyes of the World" and "Eyes of the World," where they've been to one of the greatest. Roxie makes her husband Amos feel weak, but that's not the point. The highlights of Chicago are undoubtedly the 12 musical numbers scattered throughout the film, most of them illusions in the genre number.
Your Survival Guide: Truth, Justice, or the American Way

By Pat Rothfuss
POET, PROPHET, PISSED-OFF PATRIOT

If you're looking for funny this week, you can pass right off. This is no time for funny.

An open letter to the world, from an American.

Dear Everyone,

I apologize for my country which is right now invading a country, but many of these have had their minds poisoned by propaganda. In America we like to think that Truth and Justice are the American way. We like to think that our media is honest and unbiased. Unfortunately, this idealism makes us easy to mislead, and many of us have been led astray by appealing lies and half-truths endlessly repeated on the evening news.

Please forgive those of us who have been fooled. And, of course, there are those who genuinely support this war. They are loud and embarrassing, like a drunken relative. And, like a drunken relative, they irritate me. They ruin our already shabby reputation and frighten me. They make me ashamed to be an American. Let them know that calling an invasion "liberation" does not make it so.

Lastly, there are those responsible for the war. There are only a few of them, powerful, scattered through our government. They have twisted my country to their own selfish ends. They have betrayed our tenets of "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." They act for oil. For power. For votes. For vengeance. They say they act for "Freedom" and "Democracy" and "Liberation," but they are liars. They say they are a coalition engaged in a "preventative action," but their mentality is that of schoolyard bullies who think the world is their playground. Their decisions are monstrous. Their actions disgust me. They make me ashamed to be an American.

I apologize for them. But I do not ask you forgive them.

This letter is an apology. I wish it were a call to action, but I can think of no good action to take. I ask that you not place trade embargoes against us as punishment for our foreign policy. I ask that you not bomb us in order to remove our capability to produce weapons of mass destruction. I ask that you not invade us in order to assassinate our leader despite the fact that his regime has invaded another country.

In short, I ask you to treat my government with more civility, compassion, and temperance than it has shown the rest of the world. It is not fair of me to ask this. Still I ask.

I am not asking you to sit idle. I hope you shout, protest, march, and make your opinions loudly heard. Encourage your government to stand firm against mine. Let them know their actions are unacceptable. Let them know you are not fooled. Let them know that calling an invasion "liberation" does not make it so.

Here in America, I will do the same. I will encourage my fellow Americans to speak out. And, when the time comes, we will vote with our hearts and our heads. Our democracy still works sometimes, and I have faith in its ability to peacefully remove a tyrant from power.

As I prepare to sign this letter, I find I am afraid. A country in the throes of patriotism is terrifying, and while we still have the right to speak freely in America, speaking as freely as this is not necessarily encouraged. In sending this letter, I risk my reputation, such as it is. I risk my relationships, professional and personal. I risk my hope for a good job. I risk being thought of as un-American. Still, I am an American, and I am tired of biting my tongue for fear of being thought non-patriotic, or reckless, or treasonous.

So I am sending this letter out into the world. My message in a bottle. If it reaches you, as I hope it does, let it have passed through the hands of many like-minded Americans on its way. I am only one voice, but if you are reading this, know that there is a chorus of voices behind me.

I am sorry for what is being done in my country's name. I oppose my government's unjust war.

With regret,

Patrick James Rothfuss
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or Rob 715-342-1192

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