

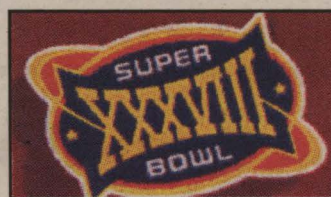


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POINTER

Volume 48, No. 15

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

February 5, 2004

UW System President Lyall Announces Retirement

System President to stay on until Sept. 1 2004 or until replacement is selected

University of Wisconsin System President Katharine C. Lyall announced her retirement at a press conference in Madison today (Feb. 4), marking the end of one of the longest and most productive presidencies in the history of the UW System.

Lyall, 62, said she would stay until her replacement arrives or until Sept. 1, 2004, at the latest. In September, Lyall, an economist, will begin a year's appointment as a visiting senior scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in Palo Alto, Calif.

"It has been extremely exciting to lead the world's best university system and a great privilege to serve the people of Wisconsin in that role," Lyall said. "I leave with a great sense of pride in all we have accomplished, especially in the more than 300,000 students who have graduated from our four-year campuses during my tenure."

Lyall was named president of the UW System in April of 1992 after serving for eight months as acting president, replacing Kenneth Shaw who went on to become chancellor of Syracuse University. She served as executive vice president for five years under Shaw, having come to the UW System as vice president for academic affairs and professor of economics from The Johns Hopkins University in 1982.

"Our university community cannot thank her enough for what she's accomplished, including putting virtually all our current UW leadership in place," noted Toby Marcovich, president of the UW System Board of Regents. "She has led the UW with wisdom, integrity, wit, common sense and a wonderful collaborative spirit and our campuses are the richer for it."

"I know she had hoped to retire a year ago, and I appreciate that she was willing to stay on this year to help our regents chart a future course for the UW

System and prepare for the 2005-07 state budget process," Marcovich said.

Lyall's tenure has been marked by many firsts and financial milestones.

During her presidency, UW System sources of revenue diversified; though the university's state budget grew \$200 million, its budget from other sources more than doubled to \$2.3 billion annually. This growth enabled new majors and programs, growth in research, including at the undergraduate level, new study-abroad programs and many new campus facilities. She also cheered the Badgers through several Rose Bowl wins during her presidency.

Lyall became the first woman ever to serve as UW System president. Her 12-year term as president represents one of the longest tenures of any university system president in modern times. The average tenure in such posts nationally is now less than five years.

During her presidency, the university forged new partnerships with Wisconsin's technical colleges and K-12 community, helped to revitalize the university's 13 two-year campuses, instituted many technological innovations including online courses and degrees and instituted the first annual accountability "report card" to citizens, measuring progress in important areas like access to the university, graduation rates, retention rates and progress toward achieving a more diverse student population.

"Wisconsin has no more skillful, accomplished or dedicated public servant than Katharine Lyall," noted Wisconsin Governor James Doyle in a prepared statement.

"I have known her and worked with her for more than a decade, and she has my deepest respect and gratitude for her contributions, including her work to

See **System President**, page 3

Large snowfall covers Stevens Point



Photo by Liz Bolton

A snowstorm covered many of the roads around Stevens Point until Monday morning. Some students noted that some roads around campus had not been plowed until nearly Tuesday morning.

MYDOOM worm attacks UWSP email accounts

Email worm stages largest internet slowdown since SOBIG worm

By John T. Larson
NEWS EDITOR

The MIMAIL/MYDOOM worm has made its way to UWSP e-mail servers. Over the past two weeks, students have received messages with the innocent subject heading "Hi" or "Hello" with an attachment that has been deleted as the message contained a file infected with the MIMAIL/MYDOOM worm.

The worm, also known as the Norvarg worm or the Shimgapi worm, infects the computer of the user that opens the attachment carrying the worm, and then forwards itself to every user in the user's e-mail inbox.

The worm also infected peer-to-peer networks, such as KAZAA, and infected computers through the downloading of an infected file. The worm does no damage to the infected computer, but can clog network servers with thousands of messages and make email and web servers function slowly, if at all.

Microsoft and computer software group SGO Group were targets of a variation of the work known as MYDOOM_B. Microsoft's website survived the attack and was still functional, but the SGO Group's website was still down as of Tuesday, Feb. 3.

The worm forges the e-mail address of the sender, making a direct trace of the origin point of an infected file and the true sender difficult.

"There were 94,000 copies of MIMAIL disinfected from our email system," says UWSP Email Administrator Jane Dumke. "The vast majority of which are MIMAIL.R variants or

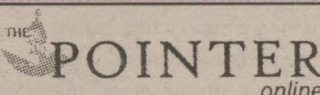
later starting on Monday, 1/26/04 at 5:00 pm."

When asked how UWSP was combating the virus, Dumke stated that, "At UWSP we not only disinfect the mail before it is delivered, but if the virus is an uncleanable virus, such as this one, we remove the originally infected message altogether to avoid the intended recipient from having to wade through potentially hundreds of disinfected copies of messages."

Due to the sheer volume of messages that have been deleted, and the unreliability of the sender's address being a correct address, the sender and recipient of the virus will not be sent notification that an infected message was removed from the user's inbox.

According to data provided by the UWSP IT department, 94,269 attachments carrying the virus have been deleted. This

See **MYDOOM worm**, page 3

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Blood Drive coming soon to UWSP

The Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin will launch its UWSP blood drive on Monday, Feb. 16 and on Tuesday Feb. 17.

The event will take place in the Laird Room of the University Center from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The donation comes at a time when due to the recent cold snap, blood donation has decreased, lowering the reserve of blood needed for medical use. "Blood donation helps save lives," stated Vicki Bohman, Account Representative for the Blood Center.

"Blood is a major component of medicine that we cannot manufacture so every donation is of great help, but only a small percentage of the population donates."

Blood collected from donors is used to treat patients suffering from such ailments as bleeding disorders, accident victims, major surgery recipients, severe burn victims and those undergoing treatment for leukemia and cancer.

The blood collected from the mid-February drive will be used locally for patients undergoing such treatments at Saint Michael's Hospital.

Prospective donors are required to be at least 17 years of age, with no current upper respiratory infections such as a cold or flu. They are asked to be well hydrated prior to donating and are advised that eating a well balanced meal can prevent some of the post-donation difficulties, such as nausea and light-headed feelings.

"Some of the problems that we encounter," Bohman stated, "come from donors, especially younger ones, who don't eat a well-balanced meal prior to donation." A photo ID, which can include a driver's license or a student ID that includes both name and picture are required.

For further donation eligibility questions, those interested are advised to come to the blood drive and consult with a donation staff member or to contact the Blood Center at 1-888-310-7555.

New Voters Project starts campus voter registration drive

By John T. Larson
NEWS EDITOR

The New Voters Project, a grassroots organization dedicated towards increasing voter registration and voter turnout in the 18-24 year old age group began its registration drive on campus during a Wednesday night meeting.

The event, hosted by several state and local organizers, was attended by 20-25 students, along with several interns who had started working with the groups prior to the meeting. Also onhand was Stevens Point City Clerk Victoria Zdroik, who was present to deputize students to grant them the ability to register other students to vote.

The goal of the organization is to do more than just generate awareness of voting, but to get students in their target age group to register and vote. "Young people are often ignored by the political process as they don't vote," stated Monica Groves, the UWSP Campus Organizer for the New Voters Project. "Less than 36% of those in the 18-24 year old age group vote, compared with almost 70% in higher age categories."

The group is focused on data that has shown that since the voting age was lowered in the 1970's, the number of voters in the younger age category has declined every year. Groves also stated that the primary function is not to just create awareness of the voting process, but also to have

student members of the New Voters Project assist others in their age group get out and vote.

"Other organizations, such as Rock the Vote, have made students aware that they should vote, but our goal is to register students and assist them to ensure that they are voting.

The students that attended the meeting will be divided into several committees dealing with aspects of the voting drive such as Public Relations, registration and outreach programs to high school students within voting age and coalition building amongst other campus organizations."

"Part of this drive is to combine the efforts of various groups on campus into a single effort to get students to vote," said Jessie Token, the State Campus Director for the New Voters Project, who gave a presentation outlying the structure of the project.

During her presentation, Tolkan went on to stress that other groups on campus had done much of the work that the New Voters Project is planning on doing, but she stated that "By combining the efforts of all groups on campus by way of the unifying efforts of students involved in the New Voters Project, we should come closer to our voter turnout goal."

In addition to unifying the efforts of various campus organizations that are already involved in voter registration efforts, the group plans to blanket areas that

Dean supporters gather to hear message



Photo by Patricia Larson

Supporters of Howard Dean gathered at the University Center on Saturday to listen to campaign workers about the progress of the efforts of Dean to capture the Democratic Party nomination in the weeks leading up to the Wisconsin Primary

students populate, such as sporting events, tables stationed around campus, restaurants, and bars with members that will have the power to register people on the spot.

The groups plans to have the registration efforts be totally run by students in a non-partisan manner, with the various committees that make up the core of the group making every

See New Voters, page 3

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MYDOOM worm figure comes close

to but pales in comparison to the SOBIG worm attack that a total of 291141 messages through the UWSP email server.

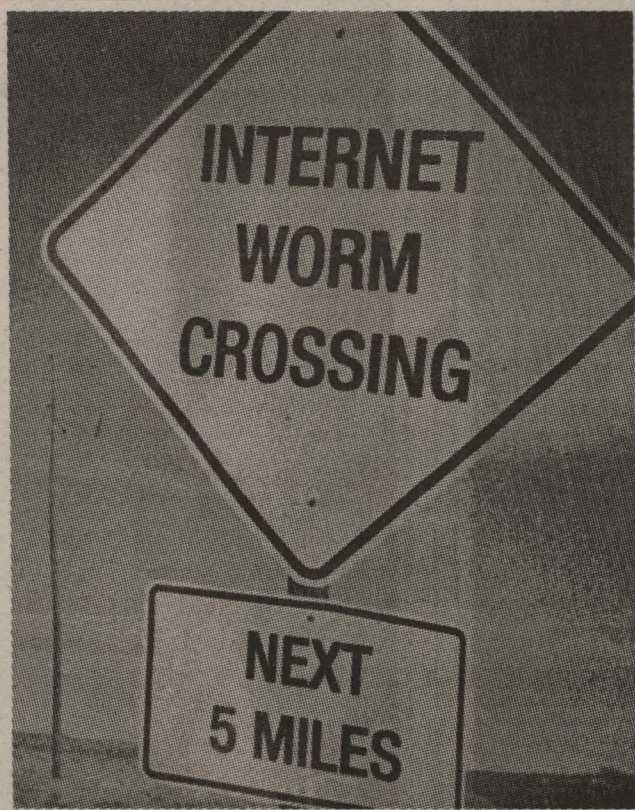
The current worm has not been as devastating, due to quick work by anti-virus programs and students deleting unknown messages rather than opening them.

"We received virus pattern files for our email virus scanner, ScanMail for Exchange from TrendMicro, about 5:00 on 1/26/04", says Dumke. "TrendMicro developed a virus pattern file that would detect MIMAIL/MYDOOM within just a few hours of the virus being reported 'in-the-wild'."

"As we receive automatic updates every hour from TrendMicro, we had the virus pattern file

within an hour of the pattern was released.

Any copies of the virus received prior to that time would have been available in people's mailboxes until the scheduled scans ran to clean up stragglers."



An IT poster warning of possible "worm" crossing.

Photo by Liz Bolton

Dumke gave credit to people who deleted messages from an unknown sender with an attachment, as it has made the virus less effective, stating that "I think that it says a lot about how savvy our user community is becoming that the vast majority of people knew not to open any attachments and just deleted the message."

I believe the infections could have become worse if they had opened infected attachments before they could be removed."

Several companies that design anti virus software, such as TrendMicro, McAfee and Norton have offered free programs on their web sites to scan computers for traces of the worm, which can then be deleted.

Microsoft and the SGO Group have offered \$250,000 for information leading up to the arrest of the designer of the worm.

New Voters, from page 2

decision.

The committees will make decisions ranging from where to make attempts to register voters, to the design of literature informing students of where they are to vote based upon where they live near campus, to reaching out to non-students in their age category, a group that makes up nearly 2/3 of the target age range.

The project is being organized in six states, including Wisconsin, Colorado, Iowa, New Mexico, Nevada and Oregon. The group is hoping to increase voter turnout of the nearly 2 million strong members of the 18-24 year old voter age group by at least 5-8% for the 2004 election.

The New Voters Project was created by a grant from the Pew Foundation, which dedicated a \$9 million dollar grant to fund the group

in its efforts in the months leading up to the 2004 presidential election.

The group was created by the George Washington Graduate School of Political Management. The Pew Foundation that funded the group has an advisory committee that includes former President Gerald Ford, former Vice-President Walter Mondale, former RNC Chair Frank Fahrenkopf and former DNC Chair Don Fowler.

The group plans to register more than 265,000 voters in the six targeted states by the 2004 election, through the efforts of its student organizers and partners such as MTV, World Wrestling Entertainment and other groups that have been involved in prior attempts to mobilize youth voting.

Representatives for the project stressed its non-partisan nature, insisting that the goal of the group was not ideology, but civic engagement of the youth voters.

Fine Arts Center reconstruction still underway

By Dawn Ver Haag
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The recent cold weather has put the Fine Arts reconstruction project slightly behind schedule, but efforts are underway to keep the project moving as quickly as possible to its completion.

"[We are] in a hold pattern," stated Campus Planning Director Carl Rasmussen, "but we are attempting to keep on schedule."

Currently, concrete is being poured for the second floor, and then will move up to the third. "Cold weather makes it difficult. Temperatures need to be at or around the 30 degree mark in order to accomplish concrete pouring" said Rasmussen. During the stretch of cold weather, they proceeded with putting in support columns for the third floor.

Approximately 5 months into reconstruction, Rasmussen is certain that "there are a good 12 months of work left on the project." Plans for completion were originally scheduled for the first week of February 2005. Now, due to the frigid temperatures, completion is likely to be a month later.

Although the exterior of the building is not closed in, work has begun on the interior. Remodeling already started in the ceramics &

sculpture section of the building, and four studios in the art and design department have been taken out for interior work.

Mimi Johnson, a program assistant, stated that the reconstruction "is a change; we just look at how it will be when it is done."

A great deal of moving, accommodating and creating temporary office space, along with practice and classrooms has taken place. One balcony in the Fine Arts building is now the temporary painting room and temporary percussion rooms have been constructed and insulated to reduce noise and distraction. Several classrooms have been temporarily relocated to the hallways.

Deb Salzer, a student in graphic design who will be graduating this May, stated, "I am not so affected by the work that is being done because both of my classes are in the same room. I am sure that the music students are affected more by it."

After spring break, plans are to vacate the wood shop. The tentative plan is to have the roof level completed in May or June. More vacating will take place this summer when the entire building will be emptied for renovation projects.

System president from page 1

highlight the state's economic development needs and to put the university to work addressing them."

Lyall made economic development a high priority for the university and its 15 institutions in recent years, sponsoring four annual economic summits since 2000 and garnering state and federal funding to establish new majors in high demand fields, to provide assistance to small businesses and to energize regional economic development.

High Praise for Lyall

"President Lyall recognized that the economic vitality of the state is critical to its public system of higher education and thus the quality of life of its citizens," said former UW Board of Regents president Jay L. Smith, who led the four summits with Lyall. "During her tenure, President Lyall moved the pride of Wisconsin in its university system to a new level of excellence."

Many credit Lyall for helping the UW's collection of 15 institutions evolve into a much more collaborative and interdependent system during the past dozen years. These include joint admission and

degree programs in which campuses partner together and new shared administrative and personnel systems that are under development.

"She took what had been a system on paper and made it a system in reality," Smith said. "That is a credit not only to her leadership, but also to the campus and system leaders she has appointed."

Challenges of the president's tenure

Lyall's tenure also had many challenges with sharp state budget cutbacks in the mid-1990s and again over the past two years. She responded by streamlining the university's bureaucracy, downsizing the UW System staff and making the UW the most efficient university system in the United States, for which she has been recognized by other higher education leaders.

"She has confronted many challenges over her long tenure, but her legacy will be a University of Wisconsin System that is stronger and closer to the people of Wisconsin than ever before," said former University of Illinois and American Council on Education President Stanley Ikenberry. "She has chosen to exit the stage at the pinnacle of a truly outstanding performance."

Former UW-Madison Chancellor and Health and Human Services Secretary

Donna Shalala said, "Katharine Lyall is one of higher education's most gifted leaders. Wisconsin has been lucky to reap the rewards of that leadership. She has significantly increased the quality of the System's institutions."

"Her integrity, high intelligence and good humor will be hard to replace," said Shalala, now president of the University of Miami.

"I think it's fair to say that many of us cannot yet envision the University of Wisconsin System without President Lyall at the helm," said Regent President Marcovich in Wednesday's press conference announcing Lyall's decision. "We appreciate her willingness to help us achieve a smooth transition of leadership."

Selection process begins

Marcovich said he will put the presidential search on a fast track, appointing a search-and-screen committee within the next few weeks with the goal of having the Board of Regents name a successor to Lyall by June of 2004.

"Looking forward, the UW System now faces new challenges," Lyall said. "Through 'Charting a New Course,' the Board, chancellors, faculty, staff and students are redefining the role of public higher education in an era of shifting public priorities and public financial support. The result will set a blueprint for the UW System's future."



President Lyall

Musings from Mirman

You can't fool me February, I saw you sneak in on Super Bowl Sunday

By Dan Mirman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The month of February stealthily invaded the calendar this week, but it went largely unnoticed.

It's easy to understand why nobody noticed February, we had the Super Bowl and a costume malfunction to occupy our minds. But now the dreaded month has arrived.

Comedian Lewis Black captured February best by calling it the grayest month of the year. He said everyday becomes grayer until Valentines Day, which is the grayest day of the year, and then the next day is even grayer. (And you wake up that day and think about cutting your wrists to see color.)

So far February has brought sunshine, but a gray streak lies just around the corner. However, if you need strength to outlive this month, read this story.

I went snowboarding in Wausau on Tuesday with three compadres. After an hour, one friend went off a jump on her board, but landed on her butt and had to head to the hospital for x-rays.

About an hour later, I came down the hill, cut too sharply and performed a faceplant. It's kind of blurry, but I'm fairly sure my head touched my shoulder without bending my neck.

Since we were boarding in my hometown, I called my dad for a ride to the hospital. The problem was the original injured friend had just finished her check-up. Because I didn't want to have everyone wait, I rode the half hour back to Point to check into St. Michael's emergency room.

After checking in, I had to don a lovely hospital gown, it gets better too. I'm pretty sure there was a blood stain on the gown, but I tried not to think about that. Finally after three nurses all told me that my collar bone was probably broken I went in to get x-rays.

The x-rays proved interesting as I was forced to roll over on my bad shoulder and lift my arm on

that side over my head. The whole time the x-ray man kept telling me that he's sorry, saying, "If it was up to me I wouldn't do this to you, but it's not my choice."

My one concern about the x-rays is that they took them when I was shirtless and yet the fully clothed x-ray man hid in a little room when all seven x-rays were taken.

At this point I would also like to note that I was still wearing my snowpants from the hill. This is funny because these snowpants look exactly the same as the snowpants from the movie *A Christmas Story*. So if you know what the snowpants that Ralph's little brother Randy wore, then you know the M.C. Hammer pants I was wearing.

Moving forward, after a sizeable wait in a room without magazines, the doctor finally came in. He told me that, gasp, they were all correct. I had an AC Joint separation.

He went on to explain how there was nothing I could really do but wear a sling and take pain-killers.

After my generous roommate picked me up well past my bedtime, it sunk in that I will be uncomfortable for the rest of the month, maybe even longer. No more turning over in bed, or stretching my arms out. I now take twice as long to shower and get ready in the morning and it's painful.

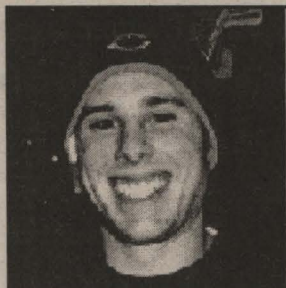
But please, don't weep. I want no sympathy. I just ask that you use me to get through this trying month. Any tough situation this month brings up, laugh at my predicament. I'll show you what I mean.

Example: *Your car won't start in the morning*

Normal thought: "This stupid pile, I hate Festivas."

Revised thought: "It could be worse, Mirman can't even drive his car because it's a stick-shift, ha ha ha."

So please enjoy this month on me, color is overrated anyway.



Vote for a Pointer

I would like to put in a plug for Eric Krszjanek who is running for School Board here in Stevens Point. Eric is a 21 year old Journalism/Political Science major from Madison and has been interested in politics his whole life.

He was Amy Heart's intern for her campaign for mayor and he is co-spokesperson of the College Greens here on campus. Although Eric does not have children, he is still concerned with the decisions the Stevens Point School Board makes. Eric will bring fresh ideas and opinions to the board.

Even though he is young, he can serve the board professionally and genuinely. A vote for Eric is a vote in the right direction. He will work hard for the children and community of Stevens Point.

Kathy Lipski
UWSP Student

If students want to, we can win a majority of seats on the common council of Stevens Point.

Four districts divide up the campus and others are very close by. Historically, less than 100 votes are needed to win these elections. Whether you live in a residence hall or off-campus, your neighbors are mostly students and ought to dominate city government.

If every landlord thinks you're a pushover or if you ever thought the police should give you more respect, you have two reasons to seize real power. These elected offices are paying jobs. As an alderman, you'll influence every important issue in the area.

Consider it. Contact the city clerk and get your nomination papers. Help your friends get new faith in this fine community and in the finest nation in history. Students can inherit the future or can take it now.

Jeffrey Decker
UWSP Student

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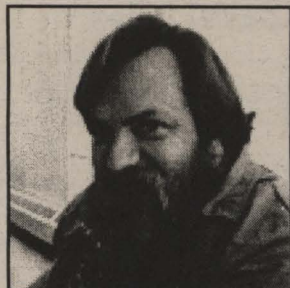
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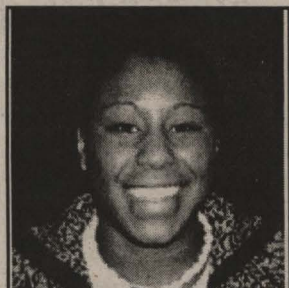
Photos By Liz Bolton

What would you do as the Superbowl Half-time Star?



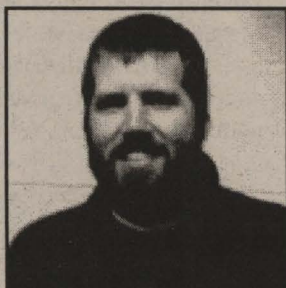
Jonathan Stoffregen, Sr., Wildlife Ed.

I would drop my bibs.



Eena Conway, Jr., Health Promotion

I would try to sing, but it wouldn't work.



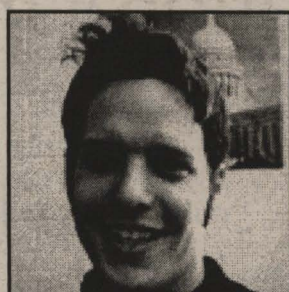
Wes Rufenacht, Sr., Forestry

I would wear a winter coat.



Nikki Woodward, Sr., Biology

I would make out with Sting and have like a million of his babies, of course!



Robbie Bekx, So., Political Science

I'd crowd surf, and then kiss Janet, Madonna and Britney at the same time if I could.



Danielle Clay, Jr., Biology

I would give props to the new feminist org on campus -- the College Femmes!!

Celebrating the importance of Black History Month

A month recognizing the triumph of African Americans

By Jaclyn Ratajczyk
FEATURES REPORTER

Every year, a series of holidays come around that remind people of the struggles and triumphs of humankind. Whether it be Columbus Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day or Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, our calendars are flooded with days of remembrance and reverence. However, the approaching days hold special meaning and comprise an entire month of tribute. The month of February is dedicated to black history.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as Negro History Week and later as Black History Month. Celebration of this great month is due mainly to the studies of Dr. Carter G. Woodson. He was born to former slaves, and later earned his PhD. at Harvard, where he found that African Americans were almost completely ignored in history books. Dr. Woodson established the Association for the Study of

Afro-American Life and History. This group educates Americans on the history that so many books neglected to include about the life, struggles and successes of African Americans.

Every day of this month holds a fact or historical event. On February 5, 1934, major league home run champion Hank Aaron was born. Nelson Mandela was released from prison on February 11, 1990. On February 27, 1988, Debi Thomas became the first black woman to win an Olympic medal in figure skating. Other important dates can be found on www.theblackmarket.com/dates.htm

In honor of Black History Month, the Black Student Union is putting on Soul Food. Soul Food is an annual event celebrating the history of African Americans. This event will take place on Sunday, Feb. 15 in the Laird room from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Kassumai African Drum Dance group and by the musical

group Nostalgia Central. Tickets are available at the UWSP Box Office in the University Center. Admission prices are \$12 for general admission, \$7 for other students, \$5 with UWSP student ID and \$3 for children 12 and under. The Black Student Union also has other events that will be advertised later this month.

If it is hard for anybody to take time out of their busy days to celebrate this month of Black History, remember that it is surrounding all of our lives. African Americans have contributed significantly to the molding and shaping of the United States. American society and history as we know it today was hugely impacted by the social changes African Americans struggled for.

To keep that history alive and well-recognized we should all educate ourselves in the history of these changes and how they have impacted our lives.

Do you have what it takes to be the next Point Star?

Talent is sure to reign this year

By Sarah Dennewitz
FEATURES REPORTER

The third competition of Point Star is finally here so come show off your singing abilities or just enjoy the talents of others around you. As the new season of *American Idol* begins, so does our very own singing competition here on campus, sponsored by Centertainment.

Point Star III begins February 3 and will run every Wednesday until February 25. The competition begins with twenty contestants, who are eliminated by four designated judges.

The judges use a scoring system on a scale of one to ten in four categories, including performance to lyric accuracy. Andy Liesener, a returning judge, says, "Point Star has been very successful for the past two semesters and I'm sure

the success will only continue." Each contestant is allowed to choose their own song, until the final round where they are given one randomly. At the last round on February 25 the audience will choose three winners.

The first place winner receives a \$200 prize and reigns as UWSP Point Star III. Melanie Wick is currently the reigning champion for Point Star II, so who will hold the title for Point Star III? Let the competition begin!

Be sure to check out the talent here on campus, it can be surprising who you see singing their heart out up on stage. Come experience the tough competition, and be sure to choose your favorite Point Star III participant. Be sure to check it out next Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Encore.

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Pointing the news at you... sort of

By Geoff Fyfe
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

STV-10, UW-Stevens Point's local campus station, has never been the most watched of channels. For most of the day, it's just slides and classical music in a never-ending loop. However, there are a few worthy shows put on by the STV staff and the creative on campus. One, in particular, is waiting for you to discover it. If you're sick of the news you get, perhaps you should tune in to STV-10 for some real information.

Newspoint, the show in question, is a satirical news show airing on Wednesday nights at 9:30 p.m. That is, at least, its scheduled time, but the show has been rather difficult to catch in that spot. During its first semester on the air, the show played a game of hide and seek with its time slot and frequently failed to show up, often being shuttled to the weekend or being bumped to next week's time. Hopefully, the situation has been cleared up so it can be enjoyed at its regular time.

"One day, I was watching *Full House*," said series creator and host Rich Hanson. "Something just clicked. Let's invent NEWS! Thus, *Newspoint* was born."

The show's format is very much patterned on that of Comedy Central's marvelous *The Daily Show*. Hanson and his co-host, STV producer Miles Hosfchultz, sit at attention behind their imposing desk and read the news. They may not seem like actual news anchors, but they are more convincing than those on *Fox News*.

The stories covered on the show range from the absurd to the unbelievable. Sample stories include the Smurfs being revealed as communists and "Smurfing" Smurfette from dusk til dawn, Debot getting a shipment of horse parts to serve as the next entrée (arguably not too hard to believe), the Packers using an underachieving player as a paperweight and an admission that clowns really do come from Hell (something long overdue). Future stories are under wraps, but I can give you a hint: The new mascot is Gus, the frozen squirrel corpse.

The show's intrepid writing and reporting staff is always on the case. You can find Steven Diesthorst interviewing one of Schmeekle's resident freaks at the risk of life and limb or John Larson going all Agent Smith and ranting about humans as "viruses." There's also a typical rant from the show's breakout star Richard Anderson, complaining about why the police have forbidden him from playing with deadly weaponry. We advise you to watch, but be warned.

I must admit my own culpability in this show. Yes, I write and act on this show. So far I have gadded about Schmeekle in a troll outfit, portrayed a dumb-as-a-box-of-rocks reserve official killed by the troll (so I kill myself on camera) and threatened my bosses as an angry Cubs fan possessed by Satan. You will forgive me for shilling for my own efforts.

"*Newspoint* allows me to get my slanted view of the world to the public," Hanson said. He added, "I couldn't do it without my staff. They are the best."

So if you're looking for some quality programming on STV, look no further. At *Newspoint*, we will provide all your entertainment and educational needs. Remember, we're pointing the news...at you. And hey, at least we're more reliable and truthful than Fox News.

What is the Outpost?

Browse Outdoor Edventure's new store

By Alli Himle
FEATURES EDITOR

The Outpost, located adjacently to the Pointer Express, opened its door to students this semester. Specializing primarily in retail, the Outpost is an extension of Outdoor Edventures, which is located in the lower level of the Allen Center.

The reason for their choice of location is its easy visibility to students who are not as familiar with their sister store in the Allen Center. In addition to offering merchandise, the Outpost also serves as an information center to those interested in discovering the various trips that Outdoor Edventures has to offer.

In conjunction with the 29 Days of Wellness and Valentine's Day, the Outpost is currently

offering a red, white or pink Nalgene bottle, bandana and carabineer for only ten dollars.

Nelli Atkinson, student employee of the Outpost said, "This is a good starting point for students looking to get outside and enjoy the Wisconsin weather." Atkinson is already overwhelmed by the amount of attention the store has gotten thus far, and she hopes that level of interest will continue.

The Outpost is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Since they are conveniently located next to the Pointer Express, I encourage you to check them out the next time you find yourself waiting in the never-ending subline. This may just give you the starting point for planning your well-anticipated spring break adventure.



Lee learns in London

A student gives his personal experience of studying abroad

By Robin Lee
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Hello. I am in London, England. I'm studying abroad, and I've been here for a little over two weeks. Would you like to hear what I've learned so far? If you don't, I wouldn't suggest reading on, but if you do, maybe you'll learn a thing or two about London, England.

In England, they drive on the opposite side of the road than us. (I'm sure you knew that.) I've almost been hit several times, but luckily I am fast. They don't seem to stop for pedestrians here like we do in Wisconsin; I guess that's something I've always just taken for granted they stop for pedestrians in WI.

Of course the people in London, speak English. But they speak it much differently than we do in Wisconsin. Instead of saying excuse me, they say sorry. I keep on run-

ning into people and they keep on saying sorry, and I always want to tell them to stop being so apologetic, but they are really just saying excuse me. Instead of saying "thank you" they say "cheers!" The first day I was here I held the door open for some dude pushing a cart and he said "cheers". They say all sorts of different things here, it's like learning a foreign language.

You only have to be 16 to smoke cigarettes over here, and you only have to be 18 to buy alcohol. I can go to bars now! Well, I can go to the bars without being the shady underage kid that's sneaking into the bars.

They have so many amazing things here in London! They have some of the best art in the world. Granted, we have spectacular art in Stevens Point, but they have legendary art here. Yesterday, I got to look at art by Leonardo, Raphael, Michelangelo, and Monet, Van

G o g h
and my
n e w

favorite, Degas. It's free too! I could look at a Degas painting all day if I wanted to and not pay a cent.

Probably, the biggest difference between London and Stevens Point is the weather. I don't know how cold it is over there, but I didn't even need to bring my scarf over here with me. There is no snow! (Try to picture me smiling and throwing my hands in the air, rejoicing.) It rains almost every day, but the grass is green and there are flowers blooming. I don't mean to rub it in; look on the bright side -- I can't go sledding.

I like London. It's a very unique place, and I like unique things. I miss you all! Look forward to hearing more from me in wonderful London!

29 Days of Wellness

Get acquainted with the Allen Center

By Alli Himle
FEATURES EDITOR

The annual event of wellness kicks off this week at the Allen Center. Throughout the month of February, students can experience a variety of activities that the Allen Center sponsors either at a discounted rate or for free.

Beginning this week, students can take advantage of a variety of programs. Free stress relief sessions will be offered Thursday through the Student Health Promotion Office.

Free juice is being offered this Friday to those working out at the Cardio Center. In addition, the Cardio Center has a variety of group fitness classes for students to experience during the month, ranging from Tai Chi to breathing and relaxation classes.

Outdoor Edventures is offering a variety of activities to

take advantage of in order for students to get a taste of all the ways they can experience more while at college. Throughout next week, they will also be offering a selection of merchandise at discount rates.

As Vim Shan, student manager for Allen Center said "This is a chance for us to showcase everything that the Allen Center has to offer. Students can get a taste of new experiences without having to spend a lot."

For a complete list of all of programs offered by the Allen Center for the month of February, stop by the Cardio Center at the Allen Center or visit the Cardio Center website at www.uwsp.edu/centers/cardiocenter. And remember, this annual tradition has a special perk this year since February has an extra day.

Take Flight



Step 1: Free Learn to Fly Seminar

Yes, you can fly and it doesn't take perfect vision, nerves of steel or millions of dollars. Invest one hour to find out what it does take for you to be a pilot. Our next, no cost, multimedia seminar will be **10 AM Saturday Feb. 7** at Pegasus Aviation located at the Stevens Point Airport.

Step 2 Private Pilot Ground School

Yes, you can handle the knowledge required of a pilot and in only one week. We can help you pass the FAA's written exam in only one week with this challenging and enjoyable accelerated course. Next class is scheduled May 17.

Step 3: Summer Flight Training

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Pointer women hold off spirited River Falls squad

Team able to overcome early game struggles

By Joshua Schmidt
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Redemption. That's what the UW-River Falls Falcons were thinking Wednesday night as they hosted the UW-Stevens Point Pointers in a WIAC women's basketball conference match-up.

women's basketball

In the first conference game of the year for both teams back on December 2, UWSP pasted UWRF 94-50. The Pointers were looking for more of that kind of success while the Falcons were looking to turn the tables on their home

floor. At the final horn, the Pointers were able to hold off the driven Falcons 88-76.

The game started out according to plan for UWRF, as they raced out to an early 8-2 lead behind freshman guard Melanie Preiner who scored five of the first eight points for the Falcons. The Pointers then settled in going on a 9-2 run to take the lead, 11-10 five minutes into the first half.

The teams traded baskets for most the rest of the half until coming out of a media timeout. Tied at 23, Point went on a 19-6 run which included six unanswered points by Amanda Nechuta within one minute. The Pointers went

into the locker room with a comfortable 40-29 lead.

In the second half, UWRF once again came out of the gates firing as they scored the first four points of the half, all by junior forward Erin Effle, cutting the Pointer lead to seven.

From there the Pointers put the pressure on, extending the lead to 68-52 on a Cassandra Heuer jumper with seven minutes left in the game.

The Falcons weren't going to roll over in this game and pulled within seven to make the score 69-76 with a lit-

tle over a on a pair of Chantele Melgaard free-throws. That's as close as they would get as UWSP converted seven of their next nine free-throw attempts to put the game away with the final score of 88-76.

The Pointers had five players in double figures led by Amanda Nechuta with 19 and Amy Scott with 16. Cassandra Heuer had a good all around game with 12 rebounds and 5 assists to go with her 14 points.

With the win, the Pointers improve to 18-2 (9-2) on the season. Next up, the Pointers host UW-Platteville 12-8 (7-5) this Saturday in the Alumni Game.



Nechuta



Scott

Struggling offense hurts Pointers in pair of weekend losses

By Jana Jurkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

The UWSP men's hockey team slipped to fifth place in the NCHA as they dropped a pair of games over the weekend by matching 5-1 scores.

men's hockey

After falling to St. Norbert's 9-0 just six days earlier, the Pointers were looking for a little redemption. However, this would not be the

night they would get it.

The Pointers found themselves behind early as St. Norbert's went up 2-0 by the half-way point of the first period.

Junior Adam Kostichka netted what would be the only Pointer goal shortly after that, cutting the lead 2-1. However, St. Norbert's would tally another before the end of the period and the Pointers wouldn't see the back of the net again.

Goalie Ryan Scott managed to turn away 47 of

Norbert's 52 shots, giving him a new career high of saves in a game.

Saturday night the team traveled to Illinois to face-off against Lake Forrest College. The Pointers had beaten the Foresters 3-2 just the weekend before and were looking to get back on the winning track.

Retreating to the locker room after the first period, the Pointers found themselves down only one goal and in position to take over the game.

Unfortunately, quite the opposite happened.

The Foresters came out and took control, netting three goals in the second period to put the Pointers behind by four. The Foresters didn't stop there either, returning to make the score 5-0 minutes into the third period. Ryan Kirchoff scored the Pointers only goal six minutes into the

third, but it was clearly too little too late.

Despite out shooting the Foresters 30-23, the Pointers were unable to capitalize on their opportunities. The team will be on the road again this weekend as they travel to UW-Superior and St. Scholastica and look to put an end to their three game losing streak.



Kirchoff

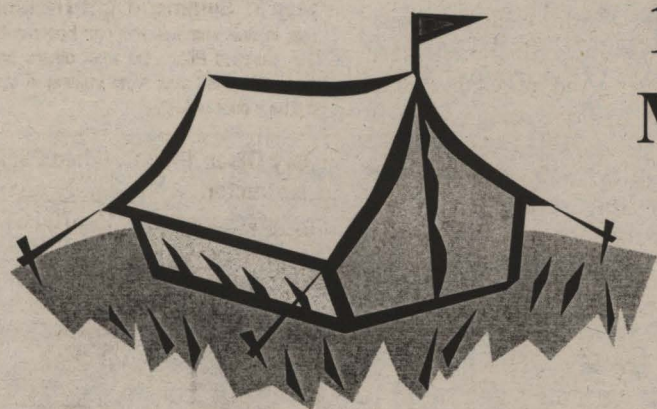
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White, Hayes set tone in surprising dual victory

Wrestlers cruise against Lawrence to keep perfect conference mark

By Adam Wise
SPORTS REPORTER

Coach Johnny Johnson knew his team would be stiff competition Tuesday night when they squared off against Lawrence University. He just couldn't have known that they would perform as well as they did.

wrestling

The Pointers, ranked fourth in Division III play, outfought and out-hustled the Vikings. Nearly running the table in their 39-3 victory, they remain undefeated in conference play at 5-0 and improved to an overall record of 7-2.

Coach Johnson said Senior Yan White (197) set the tone in the evening's first match versus Scott Polewach pinning him at 1:15. Yan earned his third consecutive pin of the season improving his record to 13-1.

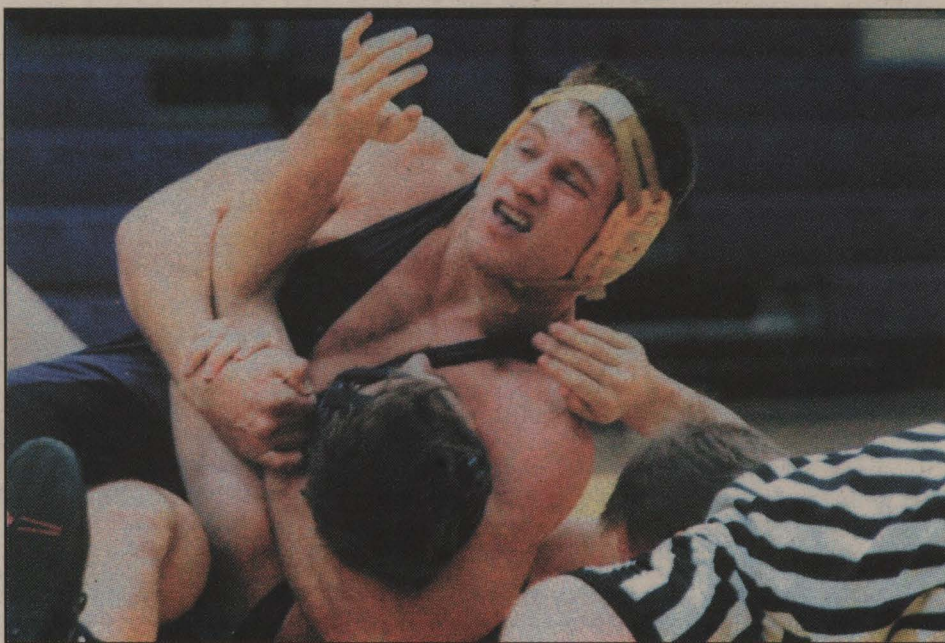


Photo by Patricia Larson

Senior Yan White puts Lawrence wrestler Scott Polewach in a headlock on his way to pinning Polewach in 1:15 on Tuesday night.

In the heavy weight class, Mike Hayes controlled Kenny Hamm for nearly his entire bout earning a 5-0 decision.

Next, David Davila (125), Brady Holtz (133) and Jared Esala (141) all earned major decisions in their victories

Tuesday night. Brady out-muscled Nick Morphew handing him only his second defeat on the season in 27 bouts.

Ryan Hansen (149) scored a 6-4 decision over Ryan Dumann. Greg Metzler took control early in his bout earning a pin versus Lawrence's Jimmy Lima at 2:47.

In perhaps the most exciting bout of the night, Josh Ison (165) scored 2 points in a last second take-down to earn a 7-5 decision over John Budi. Cody Koenig followed Josh's thrilling decision in a hard battle against Greg Goska at 6:49. Stevens Point



Ison

received its only loss of the evening when Ben Dictus earned a decision over Tyler Wozniak, 10-4.

The Pointers travel to Eau Claire this weekend to participate in the UW-Eau Claire Invitational.

Bennett now third winningest all time

Pointers put on show at home on Saturday, but let Melzer's River Falls team drop them Tuesday

By Craig Mandli
SPORTS EDITOR

They say in the world of sports, "What goes around, comes around." After the UWSP men's basketball team shut down River Falls star forward Rich Melzer to the tune of just seven points in their Dec. 3 matchup, Melzer welcomed UWSP to his gym with 25 points in his team's 70-59 victory.

men's basketball

Melzer wasn't by himself, though, as Falcon sharpshooter Chris Becker drained 5-6 three-pointers to give River Falls 15 points of his own.

River Falls led from the first basket and got out front to stay with a 7-0 spurt early in the first half. The Falcons pulled ahead by as many as 16 points in the second half.

Leading the way for the Pointers was Jason Kalsow, who threw in 15 points and grabbed 6 rebounds. Junior Nick Bennett scored 13, but the rest of the team's contributions came from the bench.

Junior reserve Kyle Gruscynski scored 11 points, his second double-digit effort of the season and highest total since a 15-point night at Platteville on Jan. 10.

The news was much better on Saturday as the Pointers welcomed a La Crosse team looking for their first conference victory.

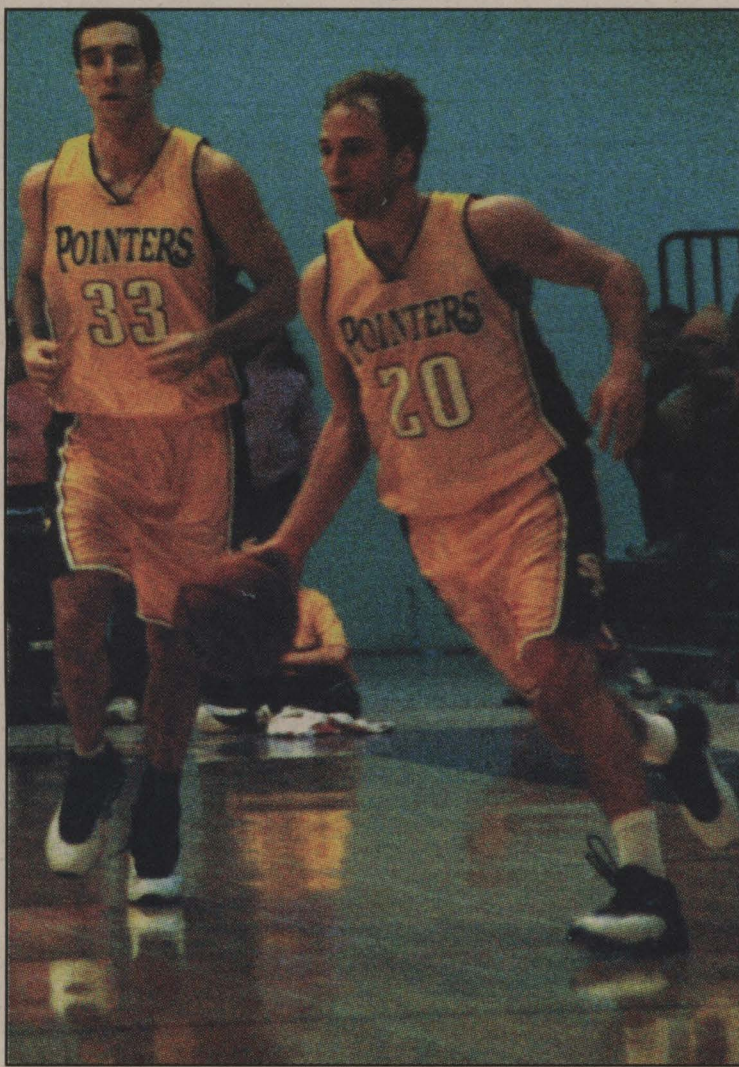


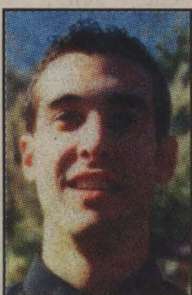
Photo by Liz Bolton

UWSP point guard Neal Krajnik takes the ball up the court on Saturday against La Crosse. The Pointers downed the Eagles 70-61.

The Pointers didn't let up despite a strong showing by La Crosse, eventually taking the game 70-61.

The Eagles, coached by former UWSP head assistant Ken Koebel, gave the Pointers fits all game with a methodical offense that just seemed to stay close all game.

La Crosse played UWSP to a 21-all tie with 8:49 to play in the first half before a Kalsow free throw sparked a quick eight-point run.



Bennett

SENIOR ON THE SPOT BECKY HUMPHREYS - HOCKEY



Humphreys

Career Highlights

- Voted team best offensive player freshman year
- All-Academic Team Junior year
- All-NCHA Honorable Mention freshman year

Major - Business Administration
Hometown - Roseville, Minn.
Nickname - "Humpy"

What are your plans after graduation? - Getting married this summer and looking for a job.

Do you plan on playing hockey after graduation? - I'll never stop playing hockey.

What is your favorite aspect of hockey? - My teammates and the friendships I've made, hittin' people.
Most embarrassing moment - The time we were playing Bethel and I got hit so hard that my contact fell out. My coach actually made the refs stop the game and help look for it! We found it, but it was ripped.

If you could be anyone for a day, who would you choose? - The roaming gnome on the travelocity commercial-"Don't forget your hat!"

What CD is in your stereo right now? - Godsmack - Faceless

If you could take anyone on a dream date, who would it be, and where would you go? - I would take my fiancée and we would spend the day at Valleyfair, eat dinner at Olive Garden, go see a Minnesota Wild game and cap off the evening with some Mario Kart Double Dash.

What will you remember most about playing hockey at UWSP? - The girls; The 26-1 season that we had, but we didn't get to go to Nationals; scoring the tying goal against Elmira; Our trip out east.
Do you have any parting words for the underclassmen? - Don't sweat the petty, pet the sweaty!

Enjoy some refreshing
Pointer Sports
on 90fm

Women have perfect weekend

Team doesn't give up a goal in four games against Lake Forest

UW-Stevens Point won two games last weekend, posting shutouts over Lake Forest by 6-0 and 3-0 scores.

women's hockey

UW-Stevens Point posted shutouts in all four meetings with Lake Forest this season.

Hilary Bulger and Kim Lunneborg scored two goals in Saturday's victory. Bulger added a power play goal in Sunday's win and Lunneborg had two assists.



Randall

Randall had the shutout on Sunday.

The Pointers hold a one-point lead over UW-Superior in the NCHA standings, but have played two more games than the Yellowjackets.

Swimmers paddle to regular season's end



Photo by Patricia Larson

UWSP sophomore Liz Konen competes in the 1000 m freestyle during Friday's dual meet with La Crosse on Friday. The Pointer women fell 163-80.

Men continue great season while women swim tough

By Jon Henseler
SPORTS REPORTER

The Pointer swim teams split their meet against UW-La Crosse this past weekend with the men winning 146-97 and the women losing 163-80. This was the last meet for the Pointers before they compete in the WIAC championship.

swimming & diving

Some outstanding individual performances for the Pointers this weekend

belonged to Bennet Wenzel, Matt Grunwald and diver Chad Pettis. Wenzel won the one thousand yard freestyle with a time of ten minutes and 19.9 seconds. Grunwald took the 200 yard with a time of one minute and 45.05 seconds, as well as the 200 yard butterfly. Pettis won both the one meter and three meter dive competitions, helping him qualify for the NCAA's.

Both UWSP and La Crosse figure to be highly competitive in the upcoming WIAC championships.

"Both Point and LaCrosse are very strong," said Pointer Head Coach Al Boelk. "The

format and scoring system for the conference meet should be to our (UWSP's) advantage."

While commenting on last weekend's meet and the upcoming conference meet, Boelk added that "we are deeper than La Crosse, especially on the women's side. Our women's dual meet loss to La Crosse means nothing going into the big dance, you can win a dual meet with four people, you need twenty to win a conference title."

The swim team will have a couple weeks off to prepare for the WIAC championships, which will be held in Oshkosh February 19-21.

2004 football schedule announced

A home non-conference contest against one of the West Region's top teams highlights the 2004 UW-Stevens Point football schedule, which includes two home games against teams that qualified for last season's NCAA Division III playoffs.

UW-Stevens Point will open the season at home with the annual Spud Bowl game against Tri-State (Ind.) on Sept. 11 before taking on traditional power Linfield (Ore.) in a non-conference game on Sept. 18 at Goerke Field. The Bearcats lost their only game this past season to eventual national champion St. John's (Minn.) 31-25 in the national quarterfinals. Linfield has an NCAA record 48 consecutive winning seasons.

UW-Stevens Point will open its conference schedule with a homecoming tilt against defending Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion UW-La Crosse on Oct. 2.

2004 UW-Stevens Point Football Schedule (Times subject to change)

Sept. 11 Home vs. Tri State (Ind.) - Spud Bowl	1:00 PM
Sept. 18 Home vs. Linfield (Ore.)	1:00 PM
Sept. 25 at Waldorf (Iowa)	1:00 PM
Oct. 2 Home vs. UW-La Crosse - Homecoming	1:00 PM
Oct. 9 at UW-Sau Claire	1:00 PM
Oct. 16 at UW-Stout	1:00 PM
Oct. 23 Home vs. UW-Oshkosh	1:00 PM
Oct. 30 at UW-Whitewater	1:00 PM
Nov. 6 Home vs. UW-Platteville	2:00 PM
Nov. 13 at UW-River Falls	2:00 PM

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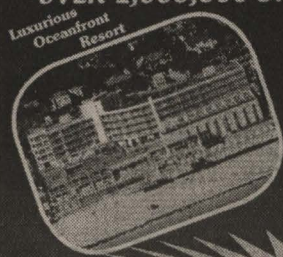
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Track team begins to form early

Witt hopes that veteran runners can lead men's team heavy in freshmen

By Jana Jurkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

The beginning of the track and field season is similar to most sports. Its about taking the time to put people in the right events, get the best relay teams together and start on the upward climb in the hopes of peaking at the right time.

indoor track & field

Getting everything situated right now is exactly what men's Coach Rick Witt is trying to accomplish.

"In the beginning it's not so important whether we win or lose, it's trying to find where individuals fit in the best at the end," said Witt.

With 25 of the 55 runners being freshmen, many of the older veterans will be looked at to lead the team. Witt also coaches the cross country team and expects those runners to be in their motivation from the previous season.

"My cross country guys are very self-motivated and will lead in that regard. Other seniors have big meet experience and will be looked to be

teachers and leaders," said Witt.

Specifically, Witt sees Mark Wierzba, Matt Legel and Andrew Schliepp rising to the occasion.

For just getting things underway, however, the Pointers are looking pretty good as they placed first in the Pointer Invitational last Saturday. Wierzba automatically qualified for Nationals in the 35-pound throw over the weekend as Point also claimed first place finishes in the 400, 800, 1500 and 3000 meter runs, the 55-hurdles, 4x4 relay and the high jump.

The Pointers will travel to Oshkosh this Saturday for the Titan Invitational before returning home for the Eastbay Invitational.

"The goal is to really put the team together to maximize abilities by the Eastbay race the 14th," said Witt.

The Pointer women also had a good showing as they claimed third out of six teams over the weekend.

The Pointers were led by Leah Herlache, Jenna Mitchler and Julia Slabosheski, who captured the 800 meter run, 3000 meter run and the shot put, respectively.

The women will travel to Menomonie over the weekend for the Warren Bowlus Invitational before rejoining the men at home for the Eastbay Invitational.



Schliepp

Men's Basketball: 5 p.m. vs. Platteville

Women's Basketball: 7 p.m. vs. Platteville

SATURDAY



THE BACK PAGE



The way I see it... Its basketball time

By Joshua Schmidt
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Now that this year's Super Bowl is in the books, what is a hard-core football fan supposed to do?

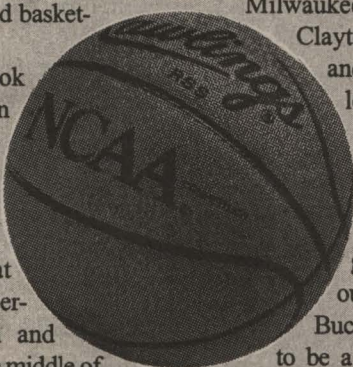
In Wisconsin, there are a lot of activities to choose from: skiing, snowmobiling and ice skating, to name a few.

But, for those of you who, like me, prefer the comfort and warmth of being inside, there is an alternative. Basketball. We here in central Wisconsin are sitting in the middle of a hotbed of good basketball.

First, look no further than right on campus. Both our men's and women's teams at UWSP are performing well and are right in the middle of their conference title races.

The seventh-ranked women's team is sitting just a game back of first-place UW-Oshkosh and a half game back of UW-Eau Claire in the WIAC race. With games remaining against both front runners, the women control their own destiny. This team also has plenty of talent, led by senior guards Tara Schmitt and Andrea Kreamer along with juniors Amanda Nechuta and Amy Scott.

The men's team is also doing well this season. Ranked 14 in the nation, this team is a game and a half back of UW-Whitewater in the standings and faces key match-ups against the Warhawks and UW-Platteville next week. This team is led by junior forwards Nick Bennett, Jason Kalsow and Eric Maus.



If you're the type who prefers major college basketball, you still don't have to go far. Just to the south is the Big Ten leading Wisconsin Badgers. Looking for their third straight conference championship, former UW-Platteville coach Bo Ryan has his 11th ranked Badgers in prime position to secure another title. This team also stars one of the premier point guards in the nation in Devin Harris. Joining Harris is junior Mike Wilkenson, UW-Milwaukee transfer Clayton Hanson, and junior-college transfer Zach Morley.

And finally, if you prefer the pro game, there is our Milwaukee Bucks. Expected to be a cellar-dweller this season, the Bucks have been one of the surprise teams in the NBA. This is a hard working blue-collar bunch, with a refreshing lack of ego, something unheard of in today's NBA.

The only star on this team is first time All-Star Michael Redd, who can score 20 in his sleep and is capable of dropping 40 on any given night. Former NBA Slam Dunk Champion Desmond Mason, veteran Toni Kukoc and rookie point guard T.J. Ford form part of a solid roster that the rest of the NBA is beginning to notice.

So, there you have it. If you're looking for a substitute for football, jump on one of these team's bandwagons and get ready for some exciting action.



By Craig Mandli
SPORTS EDITOR

The Man's Take Confessions of a total baseball junkie

As we drove past Miller Park in Milwaukee last week, an eerie silence seemed to resonate from the steel girders and deserted parking lot. It was sort of sad, actually. I had never wanted more to be sitting in the stands, keeping score while trying to balance a brat and a Miller on a warm July afternoon.

But it's February, quite possibly the worst month of the year for a hard-core baseball fan. Nothing is happening.

The college team is in the middle of their off-season conditioning program. They won't start with the real games 'til the end of March.

The majors are lying dormant too. Once in a while I'll read about someone being traded or signed as a free agent, but even the Hot Stove League (as Major League off-season player movement is called) is drawing almost to a standstill. Most of the big name free agents have found new

homes. Teams are just filling out their rosters now. I actually find myself interested in the final destination of career journeyman Mark McLemore (I know, who's he?) I'm a dork.

So what is the baseball junkie to do, I ask? Well, so far I've passed the time by reading fantasy baseball updates on the internet, watching old games on ESPN classic and surfing Ebay for old Brewers memorabilia. Unfortunately, a bunch of ten dollar bobbleheads, old baseball cards and throwback jerseys add up, which leads to a totally different problem (like my new diet of Ramen and water).

Really, I like other sports. March Madness is fun to follow. The Bucks are halfway decent this year. Both our basketball teams here at Point are in the running for conference championships. But really, to me, there is nothing like watching a good baseball game with my feet propped up and a fine brew in my hand.

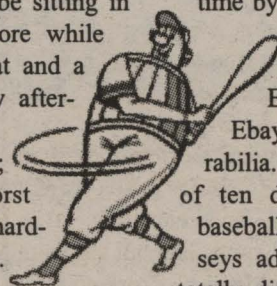
Watching a baseball game is

some of the purest entertainment out there. The major leagues may have tons of problems, but when the players step on the field, all that goes by the wayside. Kobe Bryant's perversion for teenage girls isn't in baseball. Maurice Claret's "will he or won't he" soap opera isn't in baseball. Janet Jackson's boob isn't in baseball (speaking of Janet, I never thought that I would see more breasts watching the Super Bowl halftime show than watching the Lingerie Bowl).

So here I sit, charged with filling these months before the baseball season. I'm sure I'll make it. Every year this happens and I always find a way to cope. It certainly isn't a situation that I particularly enjoy, though.

But, as the snow begins to melt and the birds begin to come back, I know that baseball can't be that far off. I invite anyone who wants to join me, either on the couch or at the game, to take it easy and enjoy a few brewskis next to The Man.

Hey, only 15 more days till spring training starts.



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### The Week Ahead...

**Men's Hockey:** at Superior, Fri., 7 p.m.; at St. Scholastica, Sat., 7 p.m.

**Women's Hockey:** at Eau Claire, Fri., 7 p.m. & Sat., 7 p.m.

**Men's Basketball:** Platteville, Sat., 5 p.m.; at Whitewater, Tues., 7 p.m.

**Wrestling:** at UW-Eau Claire Invite, Sat., 9 a.m.

**Women's Basketball:** Platteville, Sat., 7 p.m.\*; at Whitewater, Wed., 7 p.m.

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\* Game can be heard live on 90FM



## Cross-country skiing

Peaceful, relaxing, self-propelled excitement

By Adam M.T.H. Mella

OUTDOORS EDITOR/ FJORD EXPERT

Snow is a great gift to the humans from the snow-wizard. Some years the snow-wizard is cranky and does not give the humans enough snow. On good years, however, the snow-wizard blesses us with plentiful snowfall.

During these happy winters, I like nothing better than spending a few hours

“ It is like a walk in the woods had hot sex with a cumulonimbus cloud. ”

gliding around the snow on my nimble cross-country skis. The thrill gained from a quiet jaunt through the woods is surely doubled in pleasure with the addition of lightweight Nordic skis and a few inches of fresh powder.

One good thing about cross-country skiing is the "free-ness" or thriftiness of



the sport. Once a sturdy set of skis is acquired, the only other cost of the sport is gas, sweat and time. Of those, only gas really requires money. On some occasions, a minimal park-entry fee is required, which usually tops out at a few bucks. There are no greedy pickpockets in this sport.

To go along with the frugality, cross-country skiing is a great way to stay fit when sidewalks are too icy for running and lakes are too frozen for swimming. In fact, cross-country skiing is one of the best aerobic and muscle-building exercises around.

While saving money and staying healthy are great in their own right, the sport also offers unmatched solitude and relaxation. It is like a walk in the woods had hot sex with a cumulonimbus cloud. Cross-country skiing is almost dream-like with its crazy, fluid gentleness.

And here we turn another corner. While the sport is strangely relaxing, it can be challenging and even cruel at the same time. The greatest aspect of cross-country skiing is that old-fashioned notion of self-propulsion. The benefits of such travel are innumerable. Somewhere on that longest trail, when the wind is whipping and the sweat is coming down my forehead, I can't help but smile, knowing that every inch I've gone from the trailhead has been personally earned. That's called satisfaction, and it can't be found on a chairlift.

Portage County is a great place to enjoy cross-country skiing when the snow-wizard is happy. So next time you are looking for some good winter fun, thank the snow-wizard for the gift and take advantage of the great trail conditions. Satisfaction is out there, and it doesn't cost a dime.

## Snowboarding

Extreme, super-rad, gravity-induced exhilaration

By Dan Mirman

EDITOR IN CHIEF/ MOUNTAIN DEW DRINKER

My snowboarding experience has been limited to three trips to a hill formerly known as Rib Mountain. After each experience I felt sore and beat up for about a week following my downhill excursion.

But that will not deter me one bit from getting out on the hill again. Though my experience is limited, I still feel hooked.

What separates snowboarding from those other skiing activities are the options afforded to the snowboarders.

First you have to get comfortable

jumps and eventually the halfpipe.

Never mind the fact that I'm still on the first step; eventually I plan to take on the big jumps, which will lead to even bigger falls.

I have tried the skis and they just don't offer the same pulse-pounding sensation that the snowboard provides me. The feeling that you should fall and managing to somehow stay up absolutely rocks. Even a hard fall gives a little bit of a rush.

My arm is currently in a sling from an accident that occurred earlier in the week. However, the first question that I had for my doctor was, "Can I snowboard again this season?"

Right now that question is unanswered. I got the runaround and he mentioned something about going on how it feels.

Normally, a big crash on my third snowboarding trip would stop me from future trips. I gave up the yo-yo after it crashed into my forehead. My skateboard became a present to a friend after I got scraped up pretty good. But right now my only thought is for my collarbone to heal in time for a few more trips this winter.

“ ...eventually I plan to take on the big jumps, which will lead to even bigger falls. ”

going downhill without falling. Then you have to get used to the speed. Big deal, downhill skiing has the same process. But snowboarding adds the aspects of the



### Some places to cross-country ski and snowboard in the area

**Standing Rocks County Park, S.E. of Plover.**  
Cross-country & downhill.  
-Excellent terrain.  
-Small park entrance fee.  
-Tow rope on main hill.  
**Score: 8 out of 10**

**Plover River Trail, just east of Point on Hwy. 66**  
Cross-country only.  
-Connects to Green Circle.  
-Several trail loops with skate and classical trails.  
**Score: 6.5 out of 10**

**Granite Peak, north on 51 in Wausau.**  
Downhill only.  
-Lots of new trails.  
-Night skiing/ boarding.  
**Score: 7 out of 10**

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### Mr. Winters' two cents | 50 years | From the ink feather to magic computers



"The simple life"

Well kids, I'll bet trudgin' to class in this mess of snow ain't too much fun. Seems to me that this might be one of the bigger snow-falls we've had in recent years.

Of course, the fishing hasn't been too spectacular, which makes it hard for me to say very much. If I can't talk fishing, or about a certain songbird's hoo-hoos, I might as well be intellectual with some of the boys in the neighborhood.

Turns out the subject was the great American author, Henry David Thoreau, and his babblings about the perfect life. I know what you all are thinking: "What in the hell's an old hoot like Mr. Winters know about literature?" While I don't really know much, I have lived an experience-filled life, and experience is what it is all about. Thoreau wanted us to quit

our jobs, sell our possessions and experience simplicity. I'd love to do it, but truthfully, I don't know if that vision is even feasible any more. When I was a kid, things were simple, and even though we can't have that full-time lifestyle nowadays, I think everyone can still have a little.

Since this crazy life doesn't offer much solitude, it's my thinking that it is our responsibility to go and find it, if only for a few hours a week. You kids should take a class a week... and just skip it. Me, I catch squirrels in my traps and yell at street-punks from my porch.

Either way, it can't be possible to learn about life by sitting inside all the damn time. Take an hour or two each week and get out of town, stop your fancy motor-car and just take a few minutes to think about things. For an old man, that's just about all you can do in the winter with all that slipperiness and such. Cut a hole in the ice and look down there with your eyes and see what you can see. As my good buddy says, "Take a step back." Enjoy nature and you will feel revitalized... 'course then it's back to the bullshit, but at least then you'll be ready to go on and giit!

-Mr. Winters

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# Snow meets art at Flake-out festival

By Adam M.T.H. Mella  
OUTDOORS EDITOR

The night before the Flake-Out Festival begins, Wisconsin Dells is a quiet town. It is the tourist off-season, and the biggest thing going on is the 8' tall snow blocks that will soon become works of wintertime art. There are 30 blocks in all, standing tall like a frigid replica of Easter Island.

The annual snow-sculpting competition is the centerpiece of this winter festival, and draws 20,000 people each year. These mysterious snow blocks are the starting points for each carefully planned sculpture. Standing 8' by 6' by 6', the starter blocks are created using plywood forms, a back-end loader and a half-dozen "guys that stomp it down."

Over the course of the weekend, each team will transform these enormous snow blocks into intricately detailed snow sculptures.

One UWSP art student, Jewel Noll, and her family, have participated in this event for the past two years as "Team PsychoSculpters II." Her father Tom is the team captain and a ten-year veteran of Flake-Out Fest snow-sculpting. Brother Dustin is the third artist on the team while Mom cheerleads. This is what snow-sculpting is all about- bringing the family together to create something as a team.

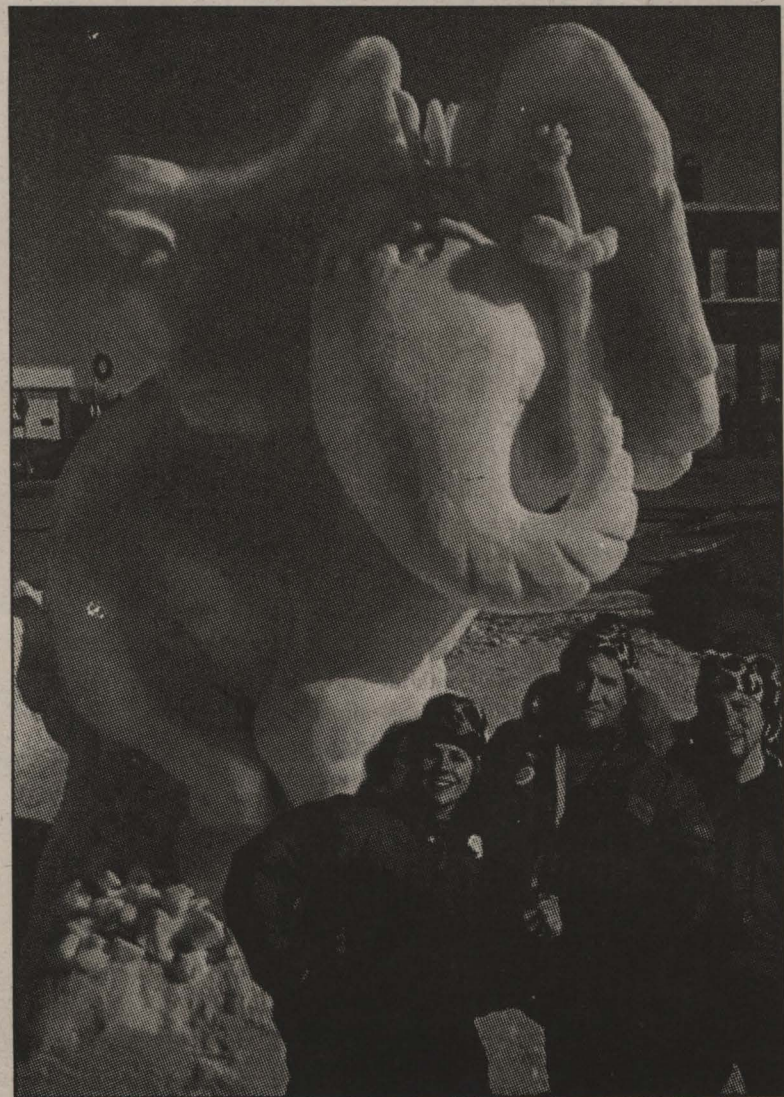
Yet this is no ordinary team, as their name clearly states. The team motto, "Snowsculpting... a few degrees short of sanity," hints at their motivations. Last year the team's sculpture was a set of Harley riders, a favorite activity of Tom and Dustin. This year, the team set out to recreate Horton the Elephant, a character made famous by Dr. Seuss.

The sculpture starts out as a small 6" clay model. The team uses ladders, barbed wire saws and pick axes to carve away a vague figure, and then little by little, add detail to their artwork. This year, the family put roughly 75 hours of work into forming Horton.

On Saturday evening, the public and artists celebrate the height of the Festival with live bands, fireworks and a huge bonfire. On Sunday, judging commences and this year, the "PsychoSculpters" took first in the people's choice category, and fifth in the artist vote.

In the end, the Festival is all about having fun. While the artists are serious about their work, Jewel admits, "It is really just an excuse to get together and party." Anyone who is interested in snow-sculpting can join, as admission, hotels and many other perks are free to the qualifying teams.

Many of the more serious teams, like The Psycho Sculpters, are sponsored. Sherpers Outfitters provides them with apparel, Hanacik Chiropractors bellies up for out of pocket expenses and Club 400 helps the team out with the essential 32 oz. creative juices that won't freeze in the snow.



The team posing with the always delightful Horton.

Photo by Mrs. Noll

## SLEA to hold ice fishing derby

By Marty Seeger  
ASSISTANT OUTDOORS EDITOR

The Weather Channel is predicting some fantastic Wisconsin weather for this weekend, with temperatures of 20 degrees possible. As a result, you may want to fuel your competitive drive by participating in the third annual Ice Fishing Tournament sponsored by the Student Law Enforcement Association. (SLEA)

The tournament will be held on Saturday, February 7 from 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m on the west end of Lake Dubay.

There will be an array of cash and door prizes

in four different categories that will include northern pike, walleye, pan-fish, and bass. Door prizes will also be awarded, and will be given away at the end of the tournament. All prizes will be awarded at the Lake Dubay County Park, located off County Highway E, which serves as the tournament headquarters. The tournament is open to all ages. The only requirement is the possession of a valid Wisconsin fishing license. The cost is \$5 per person, and \$3 for children 13 or younger. All proceeds will support the SLEA and safety programs such as boating safety, hunters' safety and much more.

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## concert review:

Jimmy Johnson  
Saturday @ The Encore

By Adam M.T.H. Mella  
OUTDOORS EDITOR

The Encore was packed last Saturday for Chicago blues legend Jimmy Johnson. The daytime eatery came close to establishing a so-called mood as it took on a strange, murky, blues kind of atmosphere.

With a slightly older audience in attendance, the lights dimmed; every table was filled with appreciative fans and the show started gaining momentum.

Jimmy and the boys hit on a handful of blues staples before taking a short set break and diving into an energetic final round of electric guitar and impressive drum-driven Chi' Town blues.

Both serious blues fans and newcomers to the scene could, and did, enjoy this concert. It is nice to see a class-act like Jimmy Johnson come to campus, as is seeing a concert that actually brings in a respectful and large audience. A blues concert is just better when the house is packed.

## Events Calender



Saturday, February 7

Dred I Dread @  
Witz End, 9:30 p.m., \$5

Wednesday, February 11

Rev. Eddie Danger @  
Clark Place, 9 p.m.

Friday, February 13

Carlos Del Junco @  
Witz End, 9:30 p.m.,  
\$10 adv/\$12 d.o.s.



## movie review:

## The Cooler



By Geoff Fyfe  
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

William H. Macy seems to have a natural gift for playing losers. With his slight build, mild voice and sad eyes, he's always excelled at playing guys the world spits on, from his cuckolded porn actor in *Boogie Nights* to his Oscar nominated car dealer/kidnap plotter in *Fargo*. Still, those guys are pinnacles of success compared to his character in *The Cooler*, a mixture of black comedy and surprisingly sweet romance amid the glitz of Las Vegas.

Macy's Bernie Lootz is the type of guy who makes Job look lucky. He's so beset by misfortune that he virtually radiates it. In fact, that's his job. Bernie works as a "cooler" at the Shangri-La Casino, run by his old friend, Shelly Kaplow (Alec Baldwin). When someone goes on a winning streak, all Bernie has to do is stand by them and their luck goes to pot. Bernie is "walking Kryptonite" and Shelly wants him to stay that way.

Then in walks Natalie (Maria Bello), a worldly cocktail waitress at the casino and perhaps the only person with luck as bad as Bernie's. The two of them fall in love and suddenly Bernie's fortunes begin to change. This comes at a bad time for Shelly, an old-school casino boss set in his ways, who is locked in a power struggle with executives (led by *Office Space/Swingers* star Ron Livingston) who favor turning the Shangri-La into an adult theme park like the rest of Vegas. The last

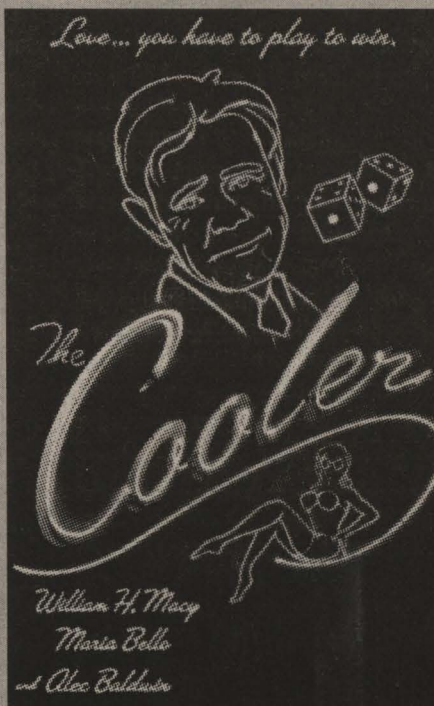
thing Shelly needs is a "cooler" with his luck on the upswing and that sets up a showdown where Bernie may have to fight his old friend for the chance at some long overdue happiness.

*The Cooler* is treading on familiar ground, most especially in

in delicious irony and you have quite the winning combination.

No one could inhabit Bernie better than Macy and he wins sympathy from the start as about the saddest screen character ever seen. You feel for him and cheer when he finally gets some happiness with Bello, who also excels in a tough role that hopefully will win her the stardom she left ER to achieve. An extremely quirky supporting cast backs them up, from an oily Livingston to Paul Sorvino as a heroin-addicted lounge singer to Shawn Hatosy as Bernie's no-good son, a pathological liar who adds to his father's misery. Even former swimsuit model Estelle Warren, merely eye-candy in *Planet of the Apes*, acquits herself well in a shockingly drabbed-down role as Hatosy's pregnant wife.

Despite Macy and Bello, though, the best performance is given by Baldwin as Shelly, mastering a difficult role that requires him to be both hero and villain. Shelly can be tender, as when he comforts Sorvino's broken down singer after a bad performance, or hateful, as when he tries to break up Bernie and Natalie's happiness to keep the "cooler" in business. But Baldwin never loses our sympathy for this man, portraying him as a lonely workaholic faced with the ultimate end of his world and the Vegas he loves. In the end, while Bernie may seem unlucky, Shelly is the ultimate loser and that gives *The Cooler*'s ending a touch of the bittersweet.



its depiction of the battle between Vegas' old school past and its Disneyfied present version (also touched upon in Martin Scorsese's *Casino*), not to mention its depiction of Vegas as, in Shelly's words, a "prostitute". Still, Vegas is never boring subject matter. The heart of the film, however, is the relationship between Bernie and Natalie, which comes off as touching, wholly believable and very steamy, with sex scenes that had to be trimmed to avoid an NC-17 rating. Add in some nice touches of black humor and an ending laced

## Super Bowl XXXVIII: The nip seen 'round the world

### Reactions to a titillating half-time show and Super Bunk commercials

By Steve Seamandel  
ARTS & REVIEW EDITOR

Usually after a Super Bowl, we hear about the ridiculous pass to win the game at the end, or the famous kick seen round the world, as we can never forget to pay homage to the kickers. However, few, if any, ever thought that the biggest spectacle to come from this year's big game would be in the form of a taboo body part that didn't even score a point, gain a yard or give one word of enthusiastic praise to either team.

As media coverage of Janet Jackson's right nipple begins to give way to Democratic primaries and Martha Stewart, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continues to investigate the unveiling, so to speak, that took place at the tail-end of Sunday's Super Bowl half-time show.

Although no action has been taken against any person, TV station or affiliate thus far, producers of this Sunday's 46th Annual Grammy Awards have already banned Jackson from the ceremonies and will implement a 5-minute delay to catch any slips this time around, intentional or accidental.

Let's be honest with ourselves: Jackson and Timberlake's steamy dance routine and breast exposure were no accidents. It even matched up with the tune's

lyrics, "I'll have you naked by the end of this song." But the reason for the spectacle escapes many.

I've heard theories that it was a marketing gimmick for Jackson's newest album, a way for a bitter Timberlake to get back at Britney *again*, (Tag! You're it!) and my personal theory is that Jackson was making eyes with Kid Rock, who was drooling over her on the side Despondent-slash-Outcast Stage.

I think all those reasons are inaccurate. Perhaps the attention that the performers have drawn so far is reward enough, but after watching MTV and other cable programming, performers, especially in the music industry, have been pushing the line farther every day with drug references, gratuitous sex and indecency. It's about time that somebody pushed the line past FCC guidelines: it was bound to happen sooner rather than later.

With rappers boasting about "bitches and drugs" and having scantily clad women dance around while they praise them for the way they move, America should not be shocked at the manner in which Timberlake and Jackson were dancing, or the scenario which unfolded afterwards. Open your eyes, America. The line will be pushed until it can be pushed no further, and this is certainly not the end of the ride. However, it goes without saying that MTV (producers of the show) and Jackson and Timberlake will not be invited back for any encore performances.

Unfortunately, advertisers didn't fare too well in the commercial category either. Viewers saw a few decent commercials, plenty of bad ones and some that made you raise an eyebrow and resort back to the kitchen for another helping of buffet-style food.

er helping of buffet-style food.

My award for the best ad spot is a tie between MasterCard and Budweiser. Budweiser's commercial, shown fairly early in the game, detailed the life of a donkey who wanted to become a Budweiser Clydesdale. The MasterCard commercial was an animated spot featuring *The Simpsons* (primarily Homer) in a typical "priceless" MasterCard shtick. The ending of the animated commercial even featured the rare Hans Moleman, which was a sure treat for any *Simpsons* fan.

An honorary good effort award goes out to Pepsi, who for the most part put out a good group of ads. Their best was probably the ad with the bear using a fake ID to write a check for Pepsi. However, their use of a young Jimi Hendrix in an otherwise creative commercial made me wince: is it really fair to use the deceased to plug your product? I always thought that Hendrix was a Coke guy...

The award for best "huh?" commercial goes to either Monster.com (those crazy Internet kids, coming up with all those weird abstract ideas) and Linux, who used Muhammed Ali in one of their ads. The message, like Linux's existence, was quiet and easy to miss.

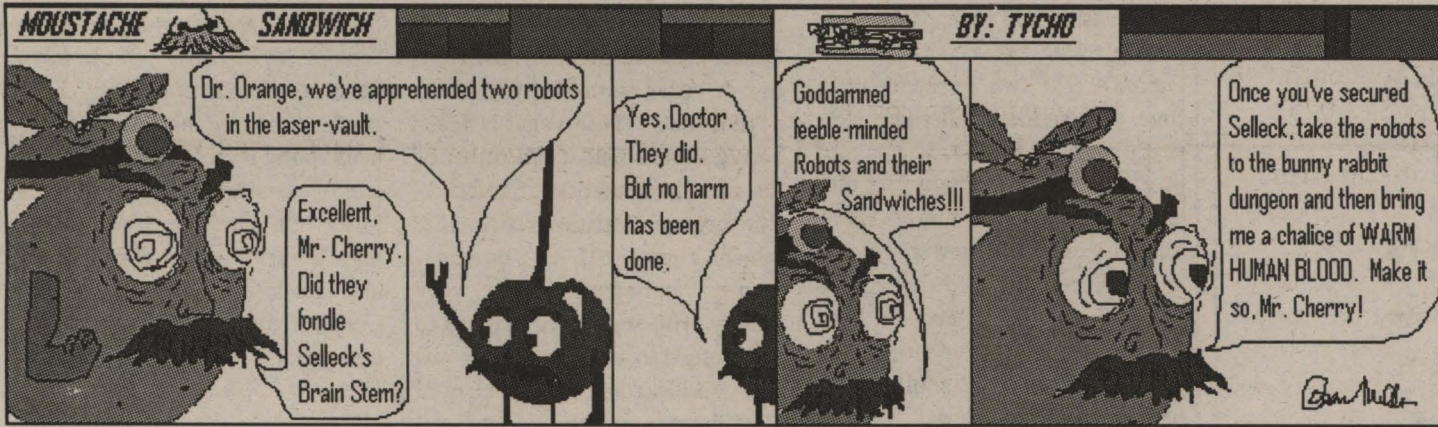
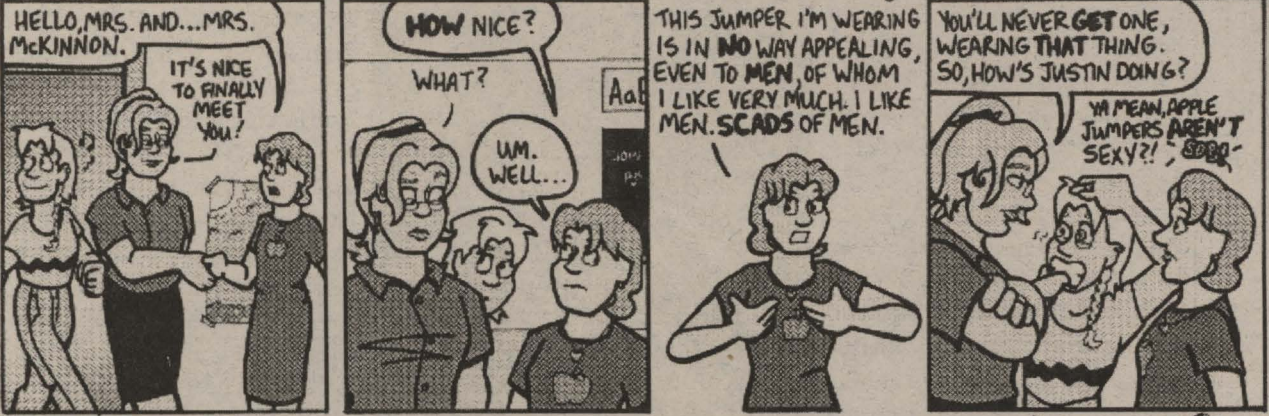
And, of course, the bottom of the barrel — there were plenty there. Budweiser reigns supreme (take the good with the bad) along with Levitra. Budweiser's flatulating horse was one of the worst ideas I've ever seen for a commercial, and having Mike Ditka talk about how great Levitra is, in addition to football over baseball, may have been a mistake. And if I see one more football thrown through a tire swing in a Levitra or Viagra commercial...why not a woman devouring a hot dog?



jackie's fridge



tonja steele



**Joke of the Week**  
What do you call Darius Rucker in an olde-tyme archery contest?  
  
A: Robin Hootie  
Have a funny joke to share?  
Email Adam. amell889@uwsp.edu  
...but only if you are really funny.

Your College Survival Guide: Limitless Shame

By: The Pat Rothfuss Consortium  
With help from:  
The Mission Coffee House  
PANDERING IS MY ANTI-DRUG.

First, let me apologize. Due to a slight typographical error, there was a little confusion last week. We here at the College Survival Guide do, in fact, have a new sponsor: the Mission Coffee House.

They now supply the coffee that flows through my veins like some dark, sweet, demon harbinger of sarcastic humor. They also provide the tall dollars that enable me to buy certain necessities I cannot do without, like doughnuts, high-end internet pornography, and sweet, sweet methadone. By providing this public service they make Stevens Point a safer place to live. Otherwise, I'd constantly be running amok downtown without any pants, terrifying children and driving our female populace into therapy sessions and alternative lifestyles.

So, who's my daddy? Mission Coffee House is my daddy.

Moving on. I'd like to say that I'm deeply disappointed in each and every one of you for not sending me e-mail. I mean, I didn't get even ONE last week. Nothing. No questions about how to intimidate/seduce/kill your roommate. No smart-ass jokes about clowns or monkeys. No requests for dream analysis. Nothing. Not even a piece of hate mail.

You see, contrary to what most people believe, all the letters I print in the column are real. The "snake with sta-

pler vs. dolphin with crazy straw" letter: real. Binky the Clown's letter: real. The one asking me to interpret an erotic Lego dream: real. The "My boyfriend is losing interest even though I show up naked with pizza" letter: real. The "how do I get myself a sugar daddy?" letter: Real.

Seriously. I don't make this shit up. But don't feel like you need have some crazy problem just to write in. Sometimes a simple, ordinary question can lead to good column.

The problem is, without an e-mail giving me some sort of direction, I just end up pandering endlessly to my sponsors: The Mission Coffee House. Did I mention all their coffee is brewed from organic, free-trade beans? That their employees are attractive and pleasant smelling? It's smoke free too, so you won't get cancer while you're hanging out. And, um... their couches are really comfy.... Ah Christ, I'm such a whore.

So really, I think you can see it's in everyone's best interest if you write in some letters, and thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, if I pick your letter for the column, you'll get some free shit from the Mission. And by "shit," I mean coffee. And by "coffee," I mean a gift-certificate good for whatever the hell you want at the Mission.

Ok. Enough of that. The real reason I've been pandering so much this column is that I have a confession to make and I've been putting it off.

I recently watched Jackass: the Movie.

Now before you lose the last, tiny shred of respect

you have for me, let me defend myself. The only reason I rented it is because I didn't have any letters to write about in the column, and I needed something to rant about. I was planning on watching it, getting thoroughly offended, and then writing a scathing column about it. I watched it for you. I was ready to take a bullet for you, my loyal readers.

But here's the truth. It was funny. Not just a little funny, either. It's shit-your-pants funny. I laughed for about 80 of the 90 minutes.

Now I'm not saying it's clever humor. I'm not saying that I'm proud of the fact that I watched it twice. Once by myself and once with my girlfriend and sister. (Note: These are, in fact, two separate people.) I'm not even saying that you should go out and rent it for yourself.

What I AM saying is that if no one sends e-mail, this is the sort of behavior I engage in.

Please, save me from myself. Send e-mail to proth@wsunix.wsu.edu.

Friday the 6th there's going to be some hardcore metal at the Mission Coffee House Amenclosure is playing with Strychnine, Sefton, and LikeFineWine. Five bucks at the door is a real bargain if you realize it'll be like an all-you-can-eat metal angst buffet.

On Saturday Madison Lint will be bringing down some of that jazz/funk and progressive rock with Tree of Woe. Woah. You know? Go.

\$5.

And remember, shows at the Mission are for all ages. So you can go ahead and take that highschool junior you've been dating. Sicko.



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One bedroom available second semester on a sublease through 8/31/04. \$400/month w/heat and water. Cats O.K. Call 340-5372, leave message.

**1117 Prentice St.**  
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\$1495/semester/student  
Includes utilities. Call  
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Housing for 5 people.  
Must see and worth your  
time. Call 341-8242.

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House for 5 students  
available for 2004  
Call 824-7216

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**Pineview Apartments**  
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prompt maintenance.  
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**Home on campus**  
for 3, 4, 5, 6 people. Single  
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2 & 4 Bedrooms.  
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\$385 + utilities  
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**Students: 1, 2 and 3 bedroom**  
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storage. Clean +  
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4 Bedroom next to  
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included. Call for  
showing: 340-1465

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Side X side, 3 bedrooms  
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garage, 5 blocks from  
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\$245/mo + utilities. 2 BR  
lower flat. Call Mike at  
608-201-4208.

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3 BR upper and 2 BR  
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Private laundry, security  
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Brian, 342-1111 #104

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available summer of 2004  
and school year.  
Call 344-0660.

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to campus and downtown.  
Available June 1,  
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**Roommate needed ASAP**  
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seniors. Big room with  
nice closet, 2 BA, washer,  
dryer, very spacious, w/  
lots of free parking!  
Perfect location.  
Under \$250/mo. already  
and willing to negotiate.  
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Call (715) 343-0749

**633 Washington Ave.**  
Bedroom lower flat.  
\$490/mo + utilities.  
Dishwasher, washer,  
dryer. Garage, convenient  
to campus and downtown.  
Available June 1.  
Call Tom at 262-367-0897

**Available Sept. 2004**  
Very nice, spacious 2 BR  
apartments. Close to campus.  
Free laundry and parking  
available. (715)677-3881

**Leasing 04-05**  
**University Lake Apts.**  
3 BR, 1+ BA, groups of 3-5,  
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Summers free. Call Bill,  
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