SGA to raise Segregated Fee

Fee increase needed to pay for new U-Pass program

By Dawn Ver Haagh

Each spring UWSP organizations funded through segregated fees make a budget request to the SGA Finance Committee, however this spring the SGA did not make a request for a salary increase in their budget.

As the finance committee received the budget request, they decided to increase the SGA's pay. The request was approved and will be voted on at the next SGA meeting.

City comments on snow removal

By Dawn Ver Haagh

City comments on snow removal are needed. The city of Stevens Point has 10 plow routes that cover the entire city and each individual has his own plow route. "The streets plowed first in the route depends on the order," said Deven Kautza, a UWSP student, lives on Reserve Street and spent her Monday night trying to shovel and direct the plow of water that had accumulated at the end of her driveway to some other area. "The snow just melts, and it doesn't drain, and we are left with a huge pond," stated Kautza. "[They] don't really care about the side streets and when they finally do come around to plowing, they just push all of the snow back onto our driveway and sidewalk."

Reactions to Nader decision

By John T. Larson

Consumer advocate and two-time Green party nominee Ralph Nader recently announced his intention to run for president this fall as an independent.

Nader has been under criticism from the Democratic Party since the 2000 election where President George W. Bush narrowly defeated former Vice President Al Gore.

Nader was accused of playing the spoiler role in that election and was blamed for drawing votes away from Gore that could have tipped the election in his favor, comments that Nader has largely dismissed.

To the shock and disappointment of his critics and supporters alike, Nader decided to run again for the presidency, only this time without any party affiliation. In a press conference announcing his intention to run for president, Nader told concerned Democrats to "Relax and rejoice," as left leaning voters would "have another front carrying the ancient but unfulfilled pretensions and aspirations of the Democratic Party."

Nader said that he is running to challenge the "two-party duopoly" of the current election system and to challenge a Democratic Party that has "become a captive of corporate interests." Nader made the decision to run even in the face of opposition from some of his former supporters, some of whom have banded together to create a website called ralphdontvote.com, which lists supporters who have opted out of the 2004 election.

Democrats are concerned about the potential of Nader playing the spoiler role in the current election. Nader's decision, page 2
Snow removal from page 1

Driver and where he starts," stated Krieski.
The amount of snowfall and the time at which the storm occurs determines whether or not the snowplows come out and when. According to Krieski, if two inches of snow or more falls during a winter storm, the entire city gets plowed, including all secondary streets, however, if snowfall totals are less than two inches, they only plow the main roads of the city.

"For example," said Krieski, "if a storm started at 10 this morning and we hit the required two inches of snow, the workers would come in at 11 p.m. and start plowing and are usually done by 7 a.m. the next morning."

Krieski also discussed another big problem regarding the issue of snow removal. He noted that there was a previous photo of a Stevens Point street in The Pointer. Accompanying this photo was a statement referring to how the streets never get plowed. Krieski pointed out that in the photo, "the center of the street was bare, you could see pavement. But also, there are cars parked on the sides of the street, causing snowplows to not be able to clear the areas where the cars were parked."

UWSP student Heather Wallner also commented on the city streets. "I am close to campus, so I walk to class, so it doesn't affect me much."

However, at times when Wallner does drive and there are cars parked on both sides of the road, "it makes [it] really narrow because the sides aren't plowed and the cars then can't park close to the curb."

Plows attempt to come out later in the evening to avoid having to plow around vehicles, which can lead to the snow mounds pictured in The Pointer last month.

When there are cars parked on the streets, which happens frequently around campus, the plow needs to go around each car, and "there is nothing we can do about it" stated Krieski.

Fall Semester in Germany: Munich

AUGUST 25 - DECEMBER 10, 2004

COST: $7100-7600 This includes:

- Three Month Academic Program.
- International Airfare, Chicago and return.
- Room and most board in Munich at a central pension near the University of Munich.
- UW-SP tuition for Wisconsin Residents (Minnesota students qualify for reciprocity, surcharge for other out-of-staters pay a larger surcharge.)
- Extensive study tours from Munich may include: Prague, Berlin, Vienna, Salzburg, Füssen (Neuschwanstein), Dachau, etc.
- One to two week hostestays in Munich.
- UW-System mandatory health and travel insurance and more

Itinerary: The flight itinerary is CHICAGO-MUNICH-CHICAGO - Munich's central location provides an excellent base for personal as well as group-sponsored side trips.

Classes: 13-17 credits, upper division classes concentrating on the Humanities and Social Sciences: History, Political Science, Music Appreciation, Art History (taught at the world famous Musuemns of Munich - including the Alte and Neue Pinskothek); German Culture and Civilization, and German Language (101 and 211.) Classes are taught in English. Most classes are taught at the Hoch Schule für Politik by German Professors.


Special Leader Offerings for 2004:

IA 313/573. Architectural Environments. 3 cr. How technology, culture, economics, and psychosocial needs affect public and private architectural spaces; impact on the natural environment. GDR. EI. The course would have a focus on Environmental Design and a Sense of Place and include issues of sustainability and environmental literacy. While experiencing and observing interactions that take place between people and their surroundings, students will examine major themes in the study of culture, identity, and sense of place. A photo journal or sketch journal will be used to examine the architecture, people, and activities of a place. Readings will include the study of environmental design principles, architectural styles, traditions, and environment-behavior relationships.

IA 331. Architectural Watercolor. 3 cr. Problems in watercolor, emphasizing transparent and opaque water color on paper. Includes field sketching.

Sociology 395 - Sociology of Germany. 3 Cr. Study of selected social institutions, environmental issues, value and ideological dispositions, and social trends.

International Programs

UW-STEVENS POINT • Room 108 Collins Classroom Center 2100 Main Street • Stevens Point, WI 54481, U.S.A. • TEL: (715) 346-2717 FAX: (715) 346-3591 E-Mail: intprog@uwsp.edu • Web Site: www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad
Protesters give presentation on Miami FTAA Conference violence

By John T. Larson
NEWS EDITOR

A group of current and former students of UWSP and UW-Madison gave a presentation sponsored by the Infinity Syndicate about the level of police enforcement and treatment that protesters received during the November 2003 Miami FTAA meeting. The FTAA, or Free Trade Area of the Americas, is an organization that is attempting to create a free trade zone that would encompass most of North and South America.

Protesters attended the meeting to voice their concerns about the dangers that they felt would come from the continuation and expansion of free trade programs. One of the main speakers at the event, Peter Welch, spoke about his opposition to the current free trade structure in North America, NAFTA, and about his opposition to the proposed new trade agreements that lead to him attending the protests. He said that the existing free trade agreements have "created conditions in countries like China where workers are exploited so corporations can make a maximum profit off of the lowest labor costs possible. It is a race to the bottom."

He and others in attendance decided to attend the protests that were planned at the meeting of FTAA delegates in Miami. They had spent weeks in preparation for the protest, from gathering supporters to make the trip to scouting locations before the event, but what they said they found in the city was something they could not prepare for. "There were thousands of police everywhere, dressed in full black body armor and sporting weapons that I have never seen before. I was lucky enough to have found the Vagina Monologues."
Musings from Mirman
Caution: Changes are in progress and glitches may appear
By Dan Mirman

You may have noticed that in last week's edition of The Pointer (February 19) we made a number of glaring errors. The most obvious example was the missing header in the features section. Also, a number of the pictures appeared extremely grainy and blurry.

These problems represent a few of the obstacles we're trying to overcome as we switch to a digital format.

Up until two weeks ago The Pointer used a paste and cut method to produce the newspaper. However, this method has gone the way of the dinosaur, so we are attempting to convert to digital where everything runs through the computer. Once we have ironed out the flaws, we believe that the students will have a superior newspaper in appearance due to these changes.

Ideally, these mistakes will no longer appear by the time The Pointless edition comes out in April.

With the change to digital, we are also tweaking the letters and opinion section. In every issue, starting this week, we will ask a question that pertains to a controversial issue. We will then run the best responses to the weekly question in the letters section. If one question sparks enough interest, we will add a second letters page to print all the responses.

I strongly encourage as many students to respond to our weekly question as possible. Remember, this is your newspaper. Yes, yours. Anybody who picks up a Pointer on a regular basis should have a say in the content.

Do you want more SGA coverage? Should club sports receive a mention? Is there a particular column or cartoon that you enjoy?

To quote Tom Cruise in Jerry Maguire, "Help me, help you."

So UWSP students and other Pointer readers, you have two options. You can continue to leave everything to our staff; it does make things easier for us. Or you can write in and give us things to consider when planning our stories for the week. And if you write it well, we'll even print it in the paper.

Don't be afraid, take ten minutes and email a letter to the Pointer right now. You can send your letters to Pointer@uwsp.edu.

The Pointer Question of the Week:

Do you plan on seeing The Passion of the Christ? Why or why not?

100 Word Maximum

Send responses to Pointer@uwsp.edu

The primary marks the first step
The New Voters Project in Stevens Point, dedicated to increasing voter turnout among 18-24 year olds, commends UWSP students for participating in the Tuesday Primary.

The Primary sets the precedent for the General Election in November, which young voters will take a stand and vote in numbers that will send a strong message to politicians and society that their issues will no longer be ignored.

The New Voters Project was happy to see the Democratic presidential candidates devote their time to visiting college campuses in Wisconsin. We are happy that Wisconsin received the attention for the primary.

The University Administration, Student Government Association and the community have played essential roles in setting the precedence for the New Voters Project campaign to follow from now until November.

The ultimate goal for the project is to integrate voter registration into the university system so that the voting process is a visible part of university procedure.

Looking forward to November, The New Voters Project has many exciting goals to reach out to the community to further educate 18-24 year olds about voting.

The project strives to amalgamate many student and community organizations into a coalition that will focus on increasing voter turnout.

Through our efforts we look to bring new individuals into the fold whom may have not been active in the past.

Speaking as representatives of a non-partisan project, we are confident that our efforts from the primary can pave the way for politically diverse participation of young adults in the November General Election.

Theresa Cain
New Voters Project

Clean energy Support

Wisconsin gets too much of our energy from coal and nuclear power which leaves us vulnerable to soot and smog pollution and dangerous nuclear waste.

Wisconsin currently has an opportunity to shift to get more of our energy from cleaner and more sustainable sources. Given our abundant wind and farmland, Wisconsin has the potential to derive most of our energy from clean renewable sources, which is better for the environment, public health and our economy.

The state is currently looking ways to increase renewable energy, but it won't happen without clear support from the public. Contact Governor Doyle and let him know that it is important that we be getting 10% renewable energy by 2013.

Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group (WISPIRG) will be having a booth in the UWSP University Center concourse March 1 and 2 during peak lunch hours. Stop by and show your support.

Lance Johnson
WISPIRG - UWSP chapter

Support for the ticketers

Everyone hates parking tickets. I am too poor to afford a car, but if I wasn't, I would not enjoy paying parking tickets anymore than you. I am not fond of the common cold, pop quizzes, the ever deepening hole of debt I continue to dig or any unexpected expenses I continue to incur. But, like everyone else, I deal with these burdens in stride.

Last week the column, "A problem with tickets" by Adam Mella picked on college students who have done nothing but make a little money to pay their bills and with any luck haved enough left over to buy a cold brew. If they didn't issue parking tickets someone else would. It's called capitalism.

Even worse are the idle threats. Are you really going to inflict harm upon a student because you are either too lazy, cheap or just incredibly unpunctual to keep the meter full?

Let me get something clear. Parking Services employees are working for "the man." What do you think you'll be doing when you leave college? I'll tell you. You'll join the middle class and be working for "the man." Paying taxes and trying to get by like the rest of us.

Don't be that guy. We have enough reasonably articulate "holes" to last until the next ice age. If you really can't live with parking tickets, then organize a protest or start a petition. Maybe you could be a real hero of the student body, wrap an American flag around yourself and sit on the steps of Parking Services in protest. You might lose a couple fingers to frost bite, but then you'll have a better excuse not to put an extra quarter in the parking machine.

Have a nice day.

Dan Ventura
UWSP student

The Pointer Editorial Policies

The Pointer is a student-run newspaper published weekly for the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. The Pointer staff is solely responsible for content and editorial policy.

No article is available for inspection prior to publication. No article is available for further publication without expressed written permission of The Pointer staff.

The Pointer is printed Thursdays during the academic year with a circulation of 4,000 copies. The paper is free to all tuition-paying students. Non-student subscription price is $10 per academic year.

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

Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.

The Pointer

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**“Eaten Alive” captures the trials of anorexia and bulimia**

Broadway actress Eva Van Dok speaks about her personal battle with an eating disorder on the UWSP campus Tuesday night.

By Alli Himle

**FEATURES EDITOR**

“Eaten Alive,” a one-woman theatre piece presenting the lives of five women in different stages of their life, was presented on the UWSP campus Tuesday night.

Eva Van Bok, Broadway actress and star of the production, related her personal story about how an eating disorder changed her life. Following the lives of five different women suffering from anorexia/bulimia, “Eaten Alive” truly captures the essence of a woman struggling to attain the perfect body image.

The production begins with the portrayal of a woman in her middle age holding down a family life and career, while at the same time struggling to overcome her feelings of insecurity with her own body. Amidst the chaos of finding the time to exercise, spend time with her children and focus on her involvement within the community, she finds herself sacrificing sleep to run a few more miles each morning to lose those extra pounds that she feels are so evident on her body. She finds herself making excuses for each thing that she eats. What begins as one animal cracker soon leads to an entire box. Soon, she finds herself still unsatisfied and wanting more. And this is where the cycle of eating and purging begins, a never-ending cycle of trying to gain control not realizing the irony in that she is only losing it.

The production then shifts to focusing on a college woman trying to convince her friend that bingeing is the perfect solution to losing weight. The young lady introduces the “two-finger diet” to her friend as the only means of conquering the weight battle. As she says to her friend on the phone, “Gaining weight is everything in relation to their thinness. One of the women represented believes that food is her only means of being happy. Yet, the happiness she feels inches away until she purges the guilt away. For all of these women, size becomes the foremost issue.

The last woman that is depicted seemed to have the most impact on the audience. This woman refuses to allow herself to date until she has obtained a negative pants size, though she is currently a size one. In her description of what she termed ideal, she centered on Barbie. To her, Barbie represented not only the perfect body, but the perfect life, for this woman felt that the two went hand in hand. To have the perfect body she must be as light as a bird. “I will be so thin that I will be invisible and float away forever and ever,” she said. For all of these women, and all those that suffer from anorexia/bulimia, it is always about the next five pounds.

For Dok, her personal battle with an eating disorder began with the passing of her father when she was only thirteen. It was not until her mid-twenties that she sought treatment, at the persistence of her family, for her illness. When she began recovery, she weighed a mere sixty-eight pounds. As Dok said, “You can’t get well alone.” Had it not been for the intervention of her family, Dok believes she would not have had the courage to do it on her own.

The evening concluded with Dok leading an open forum for audience members to ask questions. Sponsored by Centertainment, “Eaten Alive” captures the essence of eating disorders and the powerful role they play in the lives of so many people, whether they are young or old. It goes beyond the educational realm of eating disorders and captures the personal trials of those suffering from it. Simply stated, Dok’s performance was moving.

For those of you that know someone suffering from an eating disorder, or if you would like information for yourself, there are numerous websites, such as http://mirror-mirror.org/eatdis.htm or http://www.hiwaay.net/recovery/.

The important thing to remember, as Dok pointed out, is that control of food is usually a diversion from what is really going on. Food is only a mask for what is truly the problem, and it is this issue that must be addressed foremost.
Magic at its finest at the Sentry Theatre this past Tuesday night

By Adam Rodewald
FEATURES REPORTER

A milk can, just large enough for a small man, surrounded by a black tapestry symbolizing danger, is filled to the brim with water. Here is the plot: Kevin Spencer, stage magician and illusionist, is chained, shoved to the back ground, breathing and intense. A volunteer from the audience monitors a stopwatch. "30 seconds," he says. Cindy Spencer, Kevin's stage partner and wife, stands rigid and motionless. Stomachs begin to knot.

“One minute.” There is no sound but that of aggressive tension hovering above.

“One minute, 30 seconds.” Cindy Spencer clenches her muscles and glances at the black covering which buries her husband. Silence, and just as the two minute mark is being announced, Kevin Spencer miraculously bursts out from behind the curtain, and in a breath-taking display, the massive crowd of delighted, cheering people.

Kevin was one of many amazing illusions performed by the Spencers in the crowded Sentry Theatre this past Tuesday evening. When asked what can be expected in their show, Cindy Spencer responded, “We try to present an experience that allows the audience to experience several emotions.”

The Spencers, who have won the Entertainers of the Year award six years in a row, are one of the most sought-after illusion teams in the world of magic. It goes without saying that they are powerful performers. Their show truly leaves the audience with an experience that is nothing short of a joyful rollercoaster of emotions.

The Spencers, who have been performing for 30 years, are known for their unique and unpredictable magic show that combines classic tricks and modern technology. Their show is known for its high-energy performances and stunning illusions that leave audiences in awe.

Greek life is alive at UWSP

By Nathan Lamon
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Greek Community at UWSP is truly that, a community. Inter Greek Council (IGC) is an organization that includes members of UWSP's five fraternities and four sororities. IGC promotes unity among Greeks through weekly meetings, promoting and rewarding Greek achievement and volunteering for all Greek social events such as Greek Week.

The Greek organizations at UWSP are Delta Phi Epsilon, Gamma Phi Delta and Phi Omegas sororities, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Phi Sigma Chi, Sigma Tau Gamma, Kappa Epsilon and Theta Xi fraternities. Scholarship - academic achievement is the primary focus of college life and the founding principle of Greek organizations. Each chapter has academic requirements and they provide academic support programs and recognition as part of their chapter operations. Leadership - Greek organizations provide individuals with many leadership opportunities. Chapter members have the opportunity to participate in leadership training, education and development within their respective chapters and governing councils.

Community Service - UWSP fraternities and sororities are leaders in the community in volunteering time and money to those less fortunate. They have participated in Relay for Life, Operation Greek Care for our soldiers overseas, Highway Cleanup, Books for Kids, St. Michael's Charity Ball, New Voters Project and much more. Friendship - The really identifiable aspect of Greek life is friendship and camaraderie. The college experience presents many challenges for students and having a support system of brothers and sisters makes the transition easier.

Will I be hazed if I join a fraternity? The haziness of individuals or groups of individuals is prohibited by UWSP's Code of Conduct. The fraternities and sororities, as well as IGC, have charters that prohibit haziness.

Are fraternities and sororities just like the ones on TV? Every organization is different and unique, but on our campus, we have yet to come across any 90210 KEK Houses or John Belushi Animal House types.

We invite you to become involved in the Greek community. Joining a Greek organization is a positive way to enhance your college experience.


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Hmong comedian delights many Saturday evening

Tou Ger Xiong brings humor to UWSP

By Geoff Fye
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Hmong comedian Tou Ger Xiong performed in the Laird Room last Saturday night to a diverse crowd, attempting to educate about cultural diversity through humor.

Xiong, born in Laos and reared in St. Paul, MN, is now identified as one of the most influential Hmong in America. He has been described as the “Hmong version of Chris Rock, Drew Carey and Spoon Dog rolled into one.”

The Hmong, also known as “mountain people” or, in Xiong’s words, the “hillbillies of Asia,” were used by the U.S. as a proxy army against Communist guerrillas in Laos during the Vietnam War.

With the fall of Laos to the guerrillas coinciding with Vietnam’s in 1975, many Hmong were forced to flee refugee camps in Thailand and then to the United States. Today, many reside here in Wisconsin, including Stevens Point.

“I talked to a lot of Hmong families,” Xiong said. “They all think Stevens Point is a great place for a community. He also credited ice fishing and the Packers for bringing them to Stevens Point.

He also related his experience watching a shamanistic ceremony, expressing astonishment at the stamina of a 70-year-old shaman during a multi-hour ceremony.

After the performance, the audience had the opportunity to purchase some of Xiong's merchandise. The merchandise included T-shirts, books and his videos "I is Hmong" and "Multicultural, Multilingual, Multi-cool."

The event cost $5 to attend. Sponsors included CenterPoint, the Hmong and Southeast Asian American Club and Multicultural Affairs.

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March 1st - March 5th

STUDENT TELEVISION - CABLE CHANNEL 10

Programs:

* "Beyond the Scenes" Monday at 10:00PM
* "STV Movie of the Week: Blind Love" Monday at 10:30PM
* "STV News: Live" Tuesday at 6:00PM
* "STV Jamz" Tuesday at 7:00PM
* "Late Night" Wednesday at 9:30PM
* "STV Late Night" Wednesday at 10:00PM
* "Wrap It Up" Thursday at 7:00PM
* "Sportline Live" Thursday at 9:00PM

Events:
* STV Open House Monday from 10AM until 5PM in room 118 of the Communication Arts Building

Kriplgy Kreme Sale Tuesday and Wednesday from 10AM until 2PM in the UC

Back to the 90's TV Quiz Show Wednesday at 7:30PM in the Encore; STV will give away over $300!!!!

5-TV Dinner 6PM-9PM in DeBot

"Love Actually" STV will be providing FREE popcorn to those who attend in the UC Laird Room
Men's swim team wins fifth straight title

Women take close second place to La Crosse

By Jon Henseler

The UWSP men's and women's swim teams both had strong weekends, with the women finishing in second place and the men capturing the championship.

The men's team captured their fifth straight WIAC championship edging UW-La Crosse 31-1 and a half points. The women took second behind UW-La Crosse, losing by 41 1/2 points. This was the third consecutive title for the UW-La Crosse women.

After another successful season, some Pointers will have their last chance to make the NCAA's at the Last Chance Meet this Friday.

The UWSP womens' hockey ey squad needed a sweep of the UW-Superior Yellowjackets last weekend at Ice Hawks Arena to claim the National Collegiate Hockey Association regular season crown.

The Pointers started off the weekend solidly with a 3-2 victory on Friday. Ashley Howe began the scoring for UWSP in the first with her sixth goal of the season to tie the game at one. The tally stayed even through the second period. At 4:02 into the third period, UWSP's Tracy Truckey scored on a breakaway to give the Pointers a 2-1 advantage. Less that a minute later, Jackie Schmitt scored what would become the game-winning goal and her eighth game-winner of the season.

Catch women's basketball playoffs on 90FM

SPORTS

Pointers split gain second seed in playoffs

Men advance to NCHA Frozen Four
**Wrestlers take second in WIAC**

By Adam Wise

The Pointer wrestling team concluded their season last Saturday at the WIAC Conference Tournament in Whitewater with a strong performance. Johnny Johnson’s grapplers posted a second place finish of 118.5 points to UW-La Crosse’s 138.5.

By Adam Wise

Saturday at the WIAC Conference Tournament in Whitewater with a second place finish of 118.5 points to UW-La Crosse’s 138.5.

**The Pointer wrestling team**

Brady Holtz (133), Cody Koenig (174) and Yan White (197) all won championships in their respective weight classes. All three had little to no competition during the day. Also, Joel Burdick (141), one of three Pointer runners-up (David Davila and Mike Hayes were the others) will make the trip to Dubuque, Iowa for the Division III National Championships, earning one of the at-large bids.

Holtz, after defeating Paul Lundgren (Eau Claire) 15-0 and Doug Rozelman (Oshkosh) 6-0 to reach the finals, finished his run by taking Nick Morphey (Lawrence) 7-2 to win the championship.

Cody Koenig, the defending conference champion in his division, won again this year with an 11-6 victory over Nick Pateenaude (La Crosse).

"This weekend turned out the way I wanted it to," Koenig said. "I felt confident in the finals and am ready for nationals."

When asked of what he thought of the overall team performance, Koenig replied, "I was a little disappointed on how the team scored out of the conference. We had six in the finals and it would have been a lot nicer to have a couple more guys win the tournament."

Finally, Yan White (197) won his weight class for the third consecutive year posting an impressive 3-1 victory over Nick Campbell (Eau Claire).

"Overall I think the team wrestled pretty well. Unfortunately we were unable to reach our goal, winning the conference title. We lost some key matches we needed to (win) during the second and final rounds. I’m excited about the guys we are taking to the NCAA’s," said head coach Johnny Johnson.

The four Pointer wrestlers have this weekend off then travel to Iowa for the following weekend for the Division III Championship Match 5-6.

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**The third time’s a charm**

By Craig Mandli

SPORTS EDITOR

There is an old adage in college basketball that says it’s almost impossible to beat a team three times in a season. Fortunately for the Pointers, that adage held up Tuesday. Much like Superior, the Pointers were very familiar with the Titans, having beaten Oshkosh in three earlier match-ups this season.

"Well, we already beat the ‘beating a team three times in a season’ hurdle with Oshkosh," said Bennett. "I don’t know what you would call trying to beat a team four times."

The Pointers’ only chance to make the NCAA Division III tournament is to win the WIAC tournament, which means beating Oshkosh Thursday and then either Platteville or River Falls on Saturday.

Although this team is the first Pointer team this century not to win the conference title, Bennett thinks they can go as far as they want.

"As long as we keep winning one game at a time, these guys have the ability to do anything," said Bennett. "All we want to do is live to fight another day."
Women cruise into conference semi's

By Joshua Schmidt
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With the regular season WIAC title on the line the UWSP women's hoopsters came out firing and took care of business against UW-Superior.

women's basketball

The Pointers came out of the blocks hot, scoring the first eight points of the game in route to a 44-19 first half advantage. The second half was Miller and Andrea Kraemer took care of business against UW-Superior.

the UWSP women's hoopsters came out firing and ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

conference title in school history, as well as securing the top seed and home court advantage in the conference tournament. of the way. The Pointers put the game away from the Point's Amanda Nechuta led all scorers with 18 points. Cassandra Heuer also helped the Pointer's cause with 12 points, eight boards and five assists. With the win the Pointers posted their second conference title in school history, as well as securing the top seed and home court advantage in the conference tournament.

Monday evening saw the Pointers looking to start the post season strong as they hosted UW-River Falls in the first round of the WIAC tournament. UW-River Fall came out looking for the upset and had the Pointers down 10-7 barely five minutes into the game. UWSP then proceeded to put the game out of reach by scoring 20 unanswered points. River Falls couldn't get any closer than 15 the rest of the way as Point went on to the easy 90-67 victory. The Pointers did suffer what could be a huge setback in this game, though, losing the senior Heuer to an ACL injury.

Amanda Nechuta had a stellar game notching 23 points and 12 rebounds, Amy Scott also played well, contributing 22 points and eight boards. Wednesday night saw a determined UW-Stout into the game hungry after losing both regular season meetings between the two teams. The first half was a hard fought battle between two of the WIAC's more physical teams, with the score being tied on five different occasions. UW-Stout looked ready to take control as they surged to a 22-20 lead on a Savannah Oeltjen three pointer with four minutes remaining in the half. Point responded by running off ten unanswered points to end the half, including back to back threes by Kristi Miller and Andrea Kraemer.

"The end of the first half was huge," stated Coach Shirley Egner, "we slowed down and showed them they couldn't play with us. It was a great lift going into the half."

The second half saw the Pointers really take control, pushing the lead out to as many as 20 points on a couple of occasions. UW-Stout had several small runs to trim the lead down to single digits, but couldn't get any closer than eight the rest of the way. The Pointers put the game away from the charity strip, hitting 13-16 free throws over the last four minutes of regulation. The final saw Point win, 83-67.

The Pointers were led by a great second leading scorer for the Pointers was Tara Schmitt with 14 points. Schmitt also scored her 1000th career point on a second half free throw, making her the fourth Pointer to reach the milestone this season.

"It speaks volumes about the kind of student athlete that she is," said Coach Egner on the accomplishment. "To be able to break 1000 points in four years shows the kind of athlete Tara is."

The Pointers will play this Saturday for the conference championship against UW-Oshkosh in the Berg Gym.

Cassandra Schultz battles for position on Wednesday night against Stout. Schultz, subbing for Cassandra Heuer, scored 12 points.

Senior on the Spot
Tara Schmitt - Basketball

Career Highlights

- Winning the Division III National Championship my sophomore year and holding the National Player of the Year to five points.
- Making the All-Tournament Team in the National Championship Final Four
- MVP in the Surf N Slam San Diego Tournament
- Winning the WIAC conference championship for the first time since 1987

Major - Physical Education
Hometown - Brookfield, Wis.
Nickname - ''T'' or ''T-Money''

What are your plans after graduation? - I would like to move out to California and get a teaching job out there and possibly coach as well!

Do you plan on playing basketball after graduation? - For fun...of course! I will never be able to stop playing!
What is your favorite aspect of basketball? - The feeling I get before the game...the adrenaline rush...it is such an intense feeling...nothing else is like it and the feeling at the end of the game when we beat a team after giving everything we have.
Most embarrassing moment - Probably when I had a missing tooth and a black eye at the same time...both from basketball last year...really HOT!
If you could be anyone for a day, who would you choose? - For a day only •• Britney Spears because her life seems so much fun and entertaining ... but not for more than a day!!
What CD is in your stereo right now? - Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers - Greatest Hits
If you could take anyone on a dream date, who would it be, and where would you go? - Paul Walker-and I would probably go backpacking in Europe with him.
If you could invite three people (dead or alive) over for dinner, who would you choose? 1. Charles Barkley 2. Brett Favre 3. Babe Didriksen Zaharias
What will you remember most about playing basketball at UWSP? - My teammates and coaches and all the great memories we shared... winning the National Championship!!
Lost amongst all of the hoopla of last weekend’s conference championship battles, the UWSP wrestling team had their best conference finish since 1997. Did anyone know?

UWSP has been a Division III sports powerhouse for decades. The football team has consistently been perennially in the top three in the conference. The soccer team is unarguably the most successful in WIAC history. Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams are the class of the conference, with the men winning the last four conference championships before this year, and the women winning a national championship a short two years ago.

The men’s and women’s hockey teams are also two of the better teams in the NCHA, and both are still alive in the playoff hunt this season.

Apparent not noticed over the last few years is the steady improvement of the UWSP wrestling powerhouse. This year’s team was barely edged out by the WIAC’s other wrestling powerhouse, La Crosse, for the conference title.

Perhaps the wrestling team doesn’t get the notoriety they deserve because, for the most part, they are an unsung, blue-collar group of guys led by an amusing, blue-collar coach, Johnny Johnson.

Indeed, Johnson has made us all believers. In a sport that usually strongly emphasizes individual performance, Johnson can’t stress the team concept enough. Just go to a meet and see. Whether the wrestler is a national champion like Yan White or Cody Koenig, or a freshman getting his first match of the year, his team is undoubtedly behind him 100 percent.

One of the major characteristics I’ve noticed during my five years at this university is that you can always tell who plays a very sport rather quickly. It’s not tough to walk into Deflot or the UC (or Buffy’s) and know which guys are football players. Most of the time, if you don’t recognize them, they let you know.

The wrestlers aren’t like that. Last semester, class was two weeks in before I realized that top Pointer grappler Brady Holtz sat at the next table over. And I probably now more about Pointer sports than 99 percent of the students here! Needless to say, I was a little embarrassed.

Much like many of the other sports here, the wrestlers aren’t done yet. Sundeen, White, Koenig, Holtz and Joel Burdick will be in Dubuque, Iowa to compete for individual national championship titles, and for the team national championship.

Just don’t expect them to brag about it when they get home.

Women’s Hockey:

According to the Wisconsin State Journal, “the Pointers aren’t like that. Last weekend’s results were the only time, if you don’t recognize them, they let you know.

The view from the Rowdy Crowd...

What a weekend! How absolutely great this past weekend was, let me tell you good reader! The Pointer hockey team traveled to Superior and defeated them to move on to the NCHA playoffs.

Two nights of excellent hockey were capped with a mini-game, a 20-minute play-to-winner game that our very own Coach Baldardotta specializes in.

The most important thing coming out of this weekend is the fact that a team of Pointers appeared that has only shown glimpses of itself this season. This team played with tons of heart, determination and guts. A HUGE thank you goes out to the team and coaches, because these victories over Superior marks the first time a LONG time that we’ve beaten them, and also serves as a good stepping stone for the next level of the play-offs against River Falls.

Now moving on to other issues the Rowdy Crowd has, such as the need to take a minute and thank 90FM, especially hockey announcers Tony Bastien and Nick Cornette, who broadcasted nearly every game this season.

These guys did a good job every weekend, and especially this Aaron J. Vickar Memorial Award. Although this award is given to the best hockey player on the team each weekend, it is also given to the best hockey player on the team each weekend.

And finally, the Rowdy Crowd annually awards an opposing player, coach, team, or fan the Aaron J. Vickar Memorial Sportsmanship award for being an “all around good opponent that understands the purpose of the Rowdy Crowd.” This year’s award winner is Goalie Jeff Donson of UW Stout. A few weekends back, Jeff had the guts to come over and not only did he talk to us before the game during warm-ups, he kept Stout in the game and prevented us from walking away with a win. Also, Jeff has been at Stout for the past four years, usually getting his ass handed to him, as Stout has been a small speed bump on the way to the World Series. The Marlin beat the Cubs fair and square, and a “cursed” foul ball isn’t going to change that.

Women’s Basketball:

Women’s Basketball: Oshkosh (WIAC Semifinals), Thurs., 7 p.m.

(WIAC Championship game, Sat., TBD)

Women’s Basketball: Oshkosh (WIAC Semifinals)*, Sat., TBD

Swimming & Diving: At Last Chance Meet (La Crosse), Fri., 6 p.m.

All home games in BOLD.

* Game can be heard live on 90FM

The Week Ahead...

Women’s Hockey: River Falls (NCHA Semifinals at Superior), Sat., 2 p.m.

Track & Field: Pointer Invitational, Sat., 10:30 a.m.

Men’s Basketball: Oshkosh (WIAC Semifinals), Thurs., 7 p.m.

(WIAC Championship game, Sat., TBD)

Women’s Basketball: Oshkosh (WIAC Semifinals)*, Sat., TBD

Swimming & Diving: At Last Chance Meet (La Crosse), Fri., 6 p.m.

Only a few more short weeks till Pointer Baseball on 90FM
Winged Migration takes birds to the next level

By Adam M.T.H. Mella
OUTDOORS EDITOR

Watching the birds from this distance, they seem almost poetic, unmoving. Like raindrops, their wings rise and fall in such perfect rhythm. The graylag geese are flying in an off-set V formation towards the arcic regions. I'm not in France, and I'm not even outside, but the scene has mesmerized me.

Rarely in film are the outdoors depicted in a way that makes you feel as if you are really there. Most of the time, the scene is centrally flawed in some way that makes it unbelievable (see any Hollywood movie out there). Even when the camera is actually shooting live footage on the African Grasslands or a muddy Missouri flowage, the picture just looks wrong. The colors aren't right, the sun isn't bright enough and the lens gives itself away with unnatural motion.

I had thought that it was impossible to capture nature on film until I watched Jacques Perrin's film Microcosmos. Released in 1996, this documentary aimed to portray the world through an insect's point of view. The cinematography was astonishing and the bugs literally popped off the screen. These stupid little bugs were interesting and real.

Earlier this year, Perrin's newest film, and his first attempt at directing, was released on DVD. Expecting a film similar to Microcosmos, I went to rent it soon after. Perrin's latest documentary lived up to the expectation, and then went far beyond. Now I know that the outdoors can be realized on film.

Winged Migration is the story of birds, told through revolutionary camera work, music and minimal narration. The documentary begins: "For 80 million years, birds have ruled the skies, seas and earth. Each spring, they fly vast distances. Each fall, they fly the same routes back. This film is the result of four years following their amazing odysseys, in the northern hemisphere and then the southern hemisphere, species by species, flying over each continent. No special effects were used in the filming of the birds."

"No special effects were used in the filming of the birds"

Over those four years, Perrin and his massive crew of bird experts, camera men and support staff followed the birds around the world with hot-air balloons, hang-gliders, ultra-light airplanes and speedboats in order to capture close-up shots of the birds in flight. Using telephoto lenses and a training method called "imprinting," the filmmakers were able to gain the trust and closeness of the birds.

Throughout the film, we travel the globe with over 20 separate bird species as they make their way to the northern and southern summer breeding grounds. The birds have a magnetic compass build into their brains. Geese, ducks, cranes and grouse are but a few of the birds you follow. With every chapter in this great story you learn something universal and something very personal about each species. Sometimes the camera captures the obvious while seeing the subtleties at the same time. You get so close that the birds seem unreal.

What really pulls the whole story together is the music, under the direction of Bruno Coulais, who also worked on Microcosmos. The music is different for each bird. At first, it may be just the sound of wings beating, and then the wind or the weather. Without much narration, the music tells the audience more that it usually does. The picture becomes uplifting, then troubling and energized. You can feel that struggle to go on. As Coulais says, "It is the soundtrack that commentates these films."

As an outdoors-loving person, I am especially skeptical of getting nature on film. In all honesty, however, I think that this film has finally done it. It takes you to a place where humans can never be, to see these birds in their natural environment, in flight. In this unnatural, unreal suspension, the birds become more real than they could ever be when watching from the ground. Winged Migration is stunning to say the least. It was nominated for Best Documentary, but lost to the media hype surrounding Bowling for Columbine in 2002.

Migration is what this film is about. It shows the success of this journey and the various troubles that come along the way. At any rate, I'd say that this is a rental that will be an uplifting and surprising journey into the unknown, for the outdoors, bird, or documentary film connoisseur.

Wisconsin Outdoors Calendar
February 28 - Cottontail rabbit season closes in northern and southern zones.
March 1 - Game fish season closes state-wide. Check for exceptions.
March 6 - Early catch-and-release only trout season opens statewide.
March 7 - Otter trapping season closes in central and southern zone.
March 20 - Winter crow season closes.
March 31 - Hunting, fishing, sports, and conservation patron licenses expire.

Local musky club to host fishing seminar this weekend

By Marty Seeger
ASSISTANT OUTDOORS EDITOR

Despite the fact that the inland game fish season closes on March 1, there are still opportunities to prepare for the opener in May. On February 28, 2004 the 12 Apostles Musky Fishing Club and Sentry World Sports is sponsoring the "Let's Talk Fishing and Golf Show."

A door prize of $500 is being offered, and you need not be present to win. Special raffles will also be held at 2:25 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. for which you must be present to win. There will also be many displays, vendors promoting loads of fishing equipment, and seminars by professional fishermen.

Guest speakers include five time Muskie Inc. release champion Pete Maina, and Stevens Point native Jason Przekurat, who was voted 2003 RCL pro walleye angler of the year. Others include fishing legend Dick Pearson, author of Muskies on the Shield, and Roger Sabota, who is a musky guide and noted outdoor writer.

The 12 Apostles Musky Fishing Club consists of over 200 members. Meetings are held each month that feature guest speakers such as musky guides, UWSP fisheries professors, DNR personnel and even tackle manufacturers.

The 12 Apostles promote a worthwhile contribution to the outdoors through, teaching angler education, conservation, and habitat improvement. They also support stock programs which replenish the area lakes and rivers with muskies and walleye. Since 1998, the 12 Apostles have stocked over 10,000 muskies and over 25,000 walleye fingerlings in areas of Central Wisconsin.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. at the Sentry World Sports Center located on 601 N. Michigan Avenue. Admission is $10. Youths 13 and under are free with paid adult.

Muskie angler Pete Maina with a real monster

Seminar schedule
-9:30-10:30 Phil Schweik & Pete Hilman "Muskany Tournament Tactics"
-10:35-11:30 Peter Meronek "How to Make Leaders"
-11:00-12:00 Mike Lazers "Wisconsin River Muskies"
-12:10-12:30 Mike Hayes "All About Superline"
-12:30-3:30 Dick Pearson "Muskies - Creatures of Edges"
-3:30-5:30 Pete Maina "Awareness"
**Mr. Winters' Two Cents**

Well, ya'll, just another week in winter paradise, eh? I tell ya what, though, I don't think there's going to be too much more of that wacky white stuff coming down. It's a good thing for several reasons: I don't like walking in it, driving in it or shoveling it. Above all, snow means one thing: them damn snowmobiles.

Just so happens I was up north last weekend. Shereeh, what a muddle!

I was on the road to town to some smelt, and I almost ended up killing three guys darting around on them things. They ride them all over the friggin' road, dammed rascals, driving from this bar to that and stopping at the fudge factory on the way.

All that stops when the snow melts. This is the time for the fishermen. Late winter is great because there are no snowmobiles zipping around the lakes, and better yet, no tourists! Us fellas get a couple of months to fish in peace before summer.

Then instead of sleds, the northwoods will be packed with them fancy jet machines. Pretty soon I think we're going to have to go to the north pole to get away from these southern tourists. And while the things probably great, I'd probably need an extension for my auger.

The northwoods are supposed to be quiet and peaceful. I just don't understand why these pollution-breathing city folk would want to go up there and listen to the hum of a noisy engine in the middle of a quiet lake. What can you do?

Anyways, make sure to take advantage of it, and if you can't, at least cheer on that Badger basketball team. Lord knows they're going to be good.

So for now, keep an eye out for those snowmobiles, throw a Brigadoon album on the player and pray for warm weather. Oh yeah, "Go on and Geeeeeet!!"

-Mr. Winters

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**Wild Matters**

**Finding an outdoors job this summer**

By Adam M.T.H. Mella

OUTDOORS EDITOR

The thorn in every college student's side is that evil J-word. While they often suck, take up your valuable time and cause anguish, most students eventually have to let go of the golden ticket and find a job. Look at me, I have three part-time, sort of tough jobs, and I still can't afford a new truck.

A lot of students find that summertime is the right time to juice their bank accounts, replenish supplies and/or repay Loanshark Jones. This often includes finding a shitdigger, slightly better-paying summer job.

Most folks think they have two options in this struggle. One, find a non-existent, low-paying job in Point which you can quit in mid-June, only to find yourself homeless and eating treebark by August, or two, move back home, clean out your parents' cupboard and work for a former employer or some guy your uncle knows. That's about it, right?

Wrong, homes. There is a third and possibly a fourth option as well. Three, get your ass in gear now and find a super-rad job in the outdoors. There are lots of resorts, camps and parks that hire college students for the summer. Instead of raking in low pay for a crummy job, you could be living in the pristine wilderness, raking in low pay for a job that is rewarding, exciting and basically the opposite of crummy in every way that regular jobs are. The key to landing this kind of job is getting on the ball early. The Internet is a great spot to search for cool summer jobs. The university search usually has a bunch of these kinds of jobs listed. Resorts in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Alaska also have their own websites with information on applying for seasonal employment.

Some good spots to start looking are the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota, Door County and other northern Wisconsin resort centers. While these jobs really don't pay that well, the experience of living up there is definitely worth the effort to land such a job. You'll be working with other college students from all over the country, which makes it almost like a semester abroad. And living in the woods all summer is definitely like a totally different world. When I worked in the BWCW for the summer, I'd canoe and cut the lawn for a few hours, then swim in water clean enough to drink. After work, I could go out in a rowboat and catch a fresh fish dinner in about an hour. For dessert, there would be a nice helping of northern lights and stars so bright that flashlights weren't necessary. That was the life.

Most of these resort-type jobs offer on site housing free of charge, and if you get a good one, they'll even throw in food. Aside from a few small "personal expenses," the summer is pretty much free living, meaning you will send more of that neatly check to the bank instead of spending it on tacos and rent.

The only real downside to working a resort for the summer is the cheeseball yuppy customers that go there. Most of them are fine, but there are always the folks that shouldn't ever leave the city. Hey, you'll get used to it.

Aside from option four, which I can't talk about in public, I think that getting an outdoors job is the best option we, as students, have. If you are even considering it, I recommend looking now. Most of these jobs are filled by mid-March, and if you drag your feet, you'll probably end up canning beans or doing favors for Loanshark Jones come August.

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**Prairie chickens in the mood**

By Marty Seeger

ASSISTANT OUTDOORS EDITOR

Bird-watching fanatics and outdoor enthusiasts from across the state flock to Central Wisconsin each spring to view the majestic mating behaviors of the prairie chicken.

Prairie chickens were once on the verge of extinction. However, in 1954 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other conservation groups formed a prairie chicken management program that eventually saved the species.

The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program is now accepting reservations from the public to view prairie chickens this spring. The sessions will be held seven days a week between April 1 and 30. Viewing takes place on the Buena Vista marsh, located eight miles south of Stevens Point, beginning before dawn and lasting about two hours.

From within a blind, observers can watch birds strutting, hopping, and booming. The males inflate their necks and drum to impress the females. Sometimes you can actually hear drumming up to a mile away.

According to BOW member and viewing coordinator Katie Brashear, the Wisconsin DNR places observation blinds on the marsh. "We can accommodate four people per blind," said Brashear. "Each blind also has 10 openings for people who want to photograph the opportunity as well."

Viewers can also assist in recording data about the prairie chickens. Brashear noted that the information recorded includes the number of male and female chickens on the booming grounds, breeding displays and activity, weather, other wildlife and predator encounters. "The data helps the DNR manage the grasslands and estimate population viability over the years," said Brashear.

One past observer stated that, "these little birds took my breath away. Viewing the prairie chickens on the booming ground was a life-changing event. I didn't want the show to end."

Registration for blinds is on a first come, first serve basis, and is $15 for non-students and $10 for students. Scholarships are also available. For more information, contact Katie Brashear at (715) 346-4661 or toll free at 877-BOWOMAN (269-6626), e-mail kbras782@uwsp.edu

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The Wookie's Corner: The triumphant return of the shadiest column in The Pointer

By Steve Seamandel
ARTS & REVIEW EDITOR

It's always a treat when a band I would drive to Madison to see plays in Stevens Point. That will be the case this Saturday when Midwest jamband giants Umphrey's McGee visit Point for the second time this year. You can't go to get it to them for hooking it up here. In fact, this is shaping up to be a great weekend of music in Stevens Point, which, as a self-proclaimed music snob, is not something that I say very often. If you want music, you're covered on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

But I'm jumping the gun here. While Saturday certainly is the main event, I must put in a few more good words for Elphe.Lettuce, who will be playing at Deuces Wild on Thursday. It's free. They play good music. What more do you want? Drink specials? OK, done and done. What other motivation could you possibly want? For those at the first gig two weeks ago, you should need any more convincing. If you're on the fence, give it a try. At least it won't hurt your wallet much.

There's also Punk in Point on Friday. (For all the punksters reading this, welcome to the Wook's Corner; an undoubtedly unusual and dirty place, but you'll like it after awhile. Just wait.) Centertainment has booked quite a lineup, featuring Lucky Boys Confusion (Bosio), Members of the Yellow Press, The Mystic Girls and Crossed Wires @ The Encore, 7 p.m. Students FREE, $5 w/o ID.

Saturday, February 28
Natty Nation @ The Witz End
9:30 p.m., $8 (21+)

Saturday, February 28
FUNK IN POINT
Umphrey's McGee, The Green Scene, The Sweet Potato Project, Ice Cold @ The Encore, Students FREE, $5 w/o ID, 7 p.m.

CD review: beYOND Therapy

By Jason Mansavage
ADVERTISING MANAGER

beYOND Therapy was formed in the frozen bowl tract known as Wausau, Wisconsin. They were created as a vehicle of anger distribution in response to the death of JIMMY's brother, who passed away on August 22, 2000, and is remembered on the hidden track "Christopher James." Most of the lyrics deal with death, in essence are a therapeutic release. BT serves up a heaping plateful of self-proclaimed "bipolar cartoon core metal served with a side dish of insanity, sprinkled with a dollop of hell." To this veteran metal head however, with all metaphors aside, this is simply ass-kicking, fist pounding, head banging, hair woodsmilling, pit fueling hardcore metal!

JIMMY's vocals move effortlessly between Anselmo-like barks, Cobain inspired cleans and primal hardcore screams that are sure to bloody the ears of the meek. Musically, BT delivers sonic fury through their onslaught of pain. The dual axe attack embraces low end crunch and noisy punk plucking, while the rhythm section rumbles along like a freight train with no brakes. I stood in front of my speakers to take in the full effect of this wall of sound and embraced the vibrations of power until it almost knocked me over!

Overall, BT assaulted this reviewer with a quality product that would bode well in any metal head's stereo. This art is fast and furious and ready to explode. Hopefully a label will discover them soon so they can be enjoyed in heavy doses of metal consumption. beYOND Therapy will play at the Mission Coffee House this Friday at 8:00 p.m.

By Geoff Fyfe
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Like his masterpiece Unforgiven, Clint Eastwood's Mystic River has no clear-cut heroes and no neatly drawn moral lines. Every character is flawed and some are haunted by dark secrets that will either cripple or destroy them. The result is one of the great movies of 2002, with three of the finest actors of our time (Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon and Tim Robbins) in devastating performances in a story depicting the terrible spiral of revenge and retribution.

Three men in Boston, childhood friends, reunite when a terrible crime draws them together again. Jimmy (Penn), an ex-con turned store owner and neighborhood leader, has his world shattered when his beloved daughter is brutally murdered. Sean (Bacon), the cop investigating the case, is separated from his pregnant wife who calls him, but never speaks. And Dave (Robbins) is a broken man, haunted by memories of the past and might in turn spiral Jimmy to seek his own similar act. As such, River devastatingly portrays how the cycle spirals through the generations, causing death and suffering at every turn. The tragedy of the

Mystic River received / Four stars

movie review: Mystic River

by Oscar winner Brian Hegeland (L.A. Confidential) from the bestselling novel, doesn't give any easy answers.

The cast is uniformly brilliant. Penn, ever the great actor, is wholly believable and convincing as Jimmy, a generally decent man with a violent streak that threatens to bubble up due to his grief and rage. His reaction when he learns of his daughter's death is Penn's finest moment. Robbins, meanwhile, is quickly devastating, portraying an emotionally stunned man whose past has doomed him for all time. Bacon is the least showy of the trio, quiet and understated, only giving us glimpses of the emotional turmoil raging, inside the reserved Sean. They re supported by Laurence Fishburne as Whitey, Sean's partner, Marcia Gay Harden in a memorably wicked role as Dave's long-suffering wife Celeste and Laura Linney as Jimmy's ever-loyal wife Annabeth, who turns into Lady Macbeth when her family's life is threatened.

Mystic River is truly a great film, with a great script, terribly wrenching moments of raw emotion and a great cast at the top of their games. More than anything, however, it shows the terrible cycle of revenge. The death of Jimmy's daughter may be retribution for something done in the past and might in turn spur Jimmy to seek his own similar act. As such, River devastatingly portrays how the cycle spirals through the generations, causing death and suffering at every turn. The tragedy of the in the Encore, and is also what's got my hopes up for the week. First off, a digression. When I think of Umphrey's McGee, I absolutely do not think of funk. Funk, as we know it, is very much dead. James Brown is funk. P-Funk is funk, although very drug-riddled funk. Umphrey's is not funk. Umphrey's, on the other hand, is an aspiring jamband that has literally worked its way up through the cracks and gutters of mediocre jambands. They now host their own shows at larger Chicago clubs and even headlined a sidestage at the much raved-about Bonnaroo festival for the past two years in Manchester, Tenn. (Umphrey's is slated for the bill again this summer.) Originally hailing from South Bend, Ind., Umphrey's has battled with the perils of young-band syndrome in addition to losing their drummer a year and a half ago. One replacement and a year later, Umphrey's McGee is quickly becoming one of the fastest-growing bands in terms of popularity and achievement in the entire nation.

During their last visit, after the night of the Steve Bartman bocch at the Cubs game, Umphrey's threw down an interesting show at The Witz End by playing a few covers at the right times and fast, danceable jams that weaved in and out of songs like "Jimmy Stewart" and "Der Bluut Kani." Expect a lot of homages who died a few weeks ago while wearing their sleeves during their two-set headlining slot beginning at 10 p.m.

Other bands at Funk in Point include a hard-edged 311 meets-G.Love and the Special Sauce called The Green Scene from Milwaukee, The Sweet Potato Project and Ice Cold. Get out and see live music this weekend; if Elphe.Lettuce, punk and/or funk isn't your thing, Natty Nation is playing at The Witz End on Saturday and metal band bEYOND Therapy is playing at the Mission Coffee House on Friday night. Remember, no excuses! Until next time, get a job, sir!
Your college survival guide: Fun for Free. (Or cheap)

By: The Pat Rothfus Consortium

With this, I present to you: The Mission Coffee House

Hey Pat,

I was just wondering if you can give some decent advice. As a freshman with no job, I find that there is not much to do here that doesn't require money and an ID that pretends you're 21. Could you recommend some fun stuff to do in Stevens Point? Oh, and I'm not the only one that pretends you're 21. Could you recommend some fun stuff to Stevens Point as the "asshole of the Midwest." I guess that's what you get for moving from a big city to... here.

By: Tycho

Not since I first busted a cyber-nut, has there been a better way to spend a quarter than going to the Mission. Right? Right.

Hey Pat,

Morgan, I realize that the Pointer is a college newspaper, but that's no excuse for writing me a letter full of filthy words. Nobody likes a potty-mouth. One of the skills we all learn in college is what sort of language is limiting your entertainment possibilities. But an ID just isn't going to explore that island out in the middle of the lake. Local rumor tells us that a certain faculty member was once caught by campus security on the island performing "naked tai chi."

By: bj hiorns

You're a freshman, all full of hormones. You've got a first girlfriend and found out that sex was... interesting. You're spending time searching for "fun activities" when the true answer is going to explore that island out in the middle of the lake. Local rumor tells us that a certain faculty member was once caught by campus security on the island performing "naked tai chi."

By: Tycho

Serious. Think of it. There's only one answer to that question. Everyone wants an orgasm. After that's established it's just a matter of negotiating the when, where, and how.

Your Bass " show Is it that you don't know how to get the ball rolling? Why aren't you having sex with her right now? It's simple, just look at her and say: "Hey, would you like to go out and enjoy some coffee Morgan, you earned it."

Don't understand Moustache Sandwich? The complete storyline, character diagrams, and contact info available at www.geocities.com/moustachesandwich.html

"Learn the story, and the humor will follow." -Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Orange will surely disassemble your mustache

By: Tycho

Not since I first busted a cyber-nut, has there been a better way to spend a quarter than going to the Mission. Right? Right.

Hey dumbass. I've got something fun you can do, her name is Morgan. Yeah, she's the one sitting right next to you. Why aren't you having sex with her right now?

I'm sure you know what sex is. So what's the problem here? Is it that you don't know how to get the ball rolling? It's simple, just look at her and say: "Hey, would you like to go out and enjoy some coffee Morgan, you earned it."

Go to the Mission Coffee House. Now in all fairness, I suppose this isn't free for everyone. It is free for everyone who writes in to the College Survival Guide. So go and enjoy some coffee Morgan, you earned it.

Go skinny-dipping in Schmeeckle. A time-honored Stevens Point classic. Unfortunately, it's a little out of season right now. A water winter alternative is going to explore that island out in the middle of the lake. Local rumor tells us that a certain faculty member was once caught by campus security on the island performing "naked tai chi."

Go to the Mission Coffee House. Now in all fairness, I suppose this isn't free for everyone. It is free for everyone who writes in to the College Survival Guide. So go and enjoy some coffee Morgan, you earned it.

I learned one thing in life, and that's that I have one thing to learn in life.
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