

Much hyped sexual discussion leaves some disappointed



The widely promoted sexual discussion was successful in bringing in a large crowd to the University Center Tuesday evening. Whether or not they were satisfied is a matter of debate.

FAC fire still under investigation

Joe Pisciotto

NEWS REPORTER

The fire that blazed in the Fine Arts Center (FAC) on the afternoon of April 12 is estimated to have caused around \$90,000 to \$100,000 in damage.

The investigation is still ongoing said Jeff Karcher, Director of Safety and Loss Control at UW-SP.

A third-party engineering company has been hired to investigate the cause of the fire and to assess the damage.

As of right now, the cause of the fire has not been determined.

According to Karcher, as the investigation commences officials expect to find out what caused the fire and that a more accurate cost will be determined when the investigation is complete. been made to the roof of the FAC. Permanent repairs will be done when the official investigation has ended.

Fire officials and university officials confirm that the alarm was off when the fire occurred. According to Karcher, it was turned off as a result of construction activities related to the renovation of the FAC.

"There was a breakdown in the communication chain," he said. "The proper individuals were not notified to make certain that the alarm was operational."

To prevent future failures and accidents of this type, the Department of Facility Services is now more involved in overseeing the construction process, and Protective Services has stepped up their presence in the building by

Temporary repairs have checking on the alarm system n made to the roof of the every day.

> "Alarms are being tested nightly on the 11 to 7 shift while the building is closed," said Bill Rowe, Chief of Protective Services on campus. The increased testing frequency will continue throughout the construction period.

> There was no alarm malfunction, and all systems are currently in working order. Classes returned to the FAC the day after the fire, and continue to operate as usual.

There is no set time period for the investigation.

"We'll continue to work on it, and we should get more information in the next few weeks in terms of the actual costs," said Karcher, adding that the time period may fluctuate depending on what the third-party company finds during the investigation.

John T. Larson News Editor

A greatly-hyped sex discussion was met with a degree of disappointment by members of the student audience. The event, sponsored by Colleges Helping Innocent Lives Develop (CHILD) offered speaker Vicki Thorn, a Bachelor's degree holder in psychology.

The event was hyped for weeks as a buildup to the discussion which took place on Tuesday, April 26. As advertised by numerous and suggestive ads in the electronic Student Message of the Day (SMOD) with such titles as "Steamy Sex Talk", "Let's Talk Sex" and "Sex Sex Sex Sex" and various posters around campus.

The campaign appeared to be a success as The Encore, the site of the discussion, was filled with a rather large audience. Thorn, a founder of Project Rachel, an organization that councils women who have undergone abortions, launched into a lengthy discussion on the biological functions of the human reproductive cycle, ranging from the female menstrual cycle to the reproductive dangers of drug and alcohol use on male reproduction.

The overall tone of the discussion was similar in nature to a biology lecture. While Thorn did not come out and totally denounce contraceptive devices, she did warn of the potential harm that can result form devices that alter the menstrual cycle. "There is a reason why the (female reproductive organ) cleans itself out once a month; it is a moist environment that can harbor bacteria and will continue to build if not flushed out."

A number of students left the presentation early, apparently displeased by a presentation that was different than the one they were expecting based upon the ad campaign.

According to a letter sent to *The Pointer* written by Lisa Bahr, the talk "about the pill was nothing but scare tactics to try to influence women not to be on it." Bahr said that the ad campaign that lured a number of curious students to the event was misleading on the part of the organization that sponsored the event.

"This program disturbed me not only because of the one-sidedness of it, but also because CHILD knowingly deceived the entire student body. The constant SMODs and posters of "SEX SEX SEX SEX SEX!" drew in students who wanted to hear about sex, and ended up getting a lecture about biology. Nothing in Ms. Thorn's speech touched on the actual topic of sexual intercourse."

In defense of the discussion and the ad campaign, Joe Pehoski of CHILD said of the event, "We (Colleges Helping Innocent Lives

see Sex discussion, page 2



Eco-fair exibits

The Potowatamie Lighthouse, a highlight of a journey up the apex of Door County. Outdoors,



This Week

lewsroom • 346 - 2249

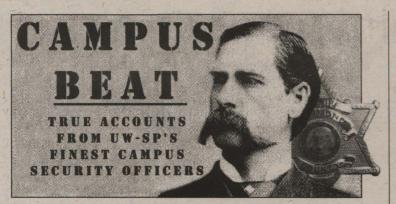
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The Passion of the Houseplants. Less scary that the Gibson film, but bound to inspire devotion to raising indoor plants. Pointlife, page 6

Read about the adventures of Richard "Tricky" Anderson and his animal friends and their love of plants. Comics, page 14

Photo by Holly Sandbo

A representative from the Midwestern Renewable Energy Association offers information at an ecological fair designed to celebrate Earth Day and to promote eco-friendly technology.



Neale Hall Friday, April 22 No time specified Type: HUMAN WASTE DISCOVERY

A large amount of vomit was discovered on the first and second floor stairwells of the hall. The perpetrator that left the waste was not identifed.

A LARGER VERSION OF THE CAMPUS BEAT WILL BE BACK NEXT WEEK, AS SPACE AND INTERESTING CRIMES PERMIT.

Drug raid at Knutzen Hall

James Wendler NEWS REPORTER

The Stevens Point Police

Department, along with Campus Protective Services executed a search warrant on Knutzen Hall Friday morning at 8 a.m. The raid was part of an ongoing investigation into a marijuana distribution ring on campus.

Police seized a significant amount of marijuana with an approximate street value of \$500. Police also seized money and drug paraphernalia.

within the Sources Stevens Point Police Department state that a number of students will be charged with crimes ranging from possession of marijuana with intent to sell to possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to these sources this raid was "only the beginning" of a major effort to combat narcotics trafficking on campus.

Student honored with Goldwater Award

Azaree Lintereur, Physics major at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, has become the seventh UW-SP student to win the prestigious, federally-funded Goldwater Scholarship. The Scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students with exceptional potential for a career in science, and carries a yearly stipend of \$7,500.

The application requires an extensive research proposal. Students must be nominated by their university to apply, and it is open to any U.S. institution, so the award is extremely competitive.

There were 320 winners nationwide from 1,091 applicants, which included majors in mathematics, natural science, engineering and computer science from the most prestigious schools

Sex discussion from page 1

Develop (CHILD) found nothing misleading about the advertisements. Vicki Thorn did indeed talk about sex. Vicki Thorn was indeed a very knowledgeable person in the area of sex."

Pehoski defended the nature of the ad campaign, and called into question the thoughts of some students who had different ideas as what the discussion was supposed to be about. "The term "hot and spicy" or "steamy" may be subjective, but some audience members did find it the only other Wisconsin university with Goldwater winners.

Azaree grew up in Gleason, Wisconsin without a television or a computer and with only a radio and telephone to connect with the outside world. No TV, no computer. She and her four siblings were homeschooled by her mother, a full-time undertaking. "I know that there was more than one occasion (when) I made them question the wisdom of their decision," she said.

When Azaree was 16, she was sent to high school in Tomahawk, WI, to take physics. "(My mother) hated physics so much that she did not feel that she would be an effective teacher on this subject." Azaree fell in love with physics, and decided to go to

helpful in that kind of a way.

If some people read our ads and assumed this talk was going to portray sex as a means for lust and pleasure instead of love and happiness, and which treated women as mere objects for those ends, we can't help that."

Pehoski defended the tone of the event and spoke up for the right of the pro-life end of the political spectrum to have a say in the public discourse on matters of reproduction. "Some people may think that because Vicki Thorn is a Catholic, she cannot speak without bias on the topic of sex. This is a sad

in the U.S. UW-Madison is college. She took the HSED high-school equivalency exam at Nicolet Technical College and scored highest of all the applicants there.

> After entering UW-SP, she tried many courses, but came back to physics as her home department. Two years ago, she joined the research lab of UW-SP physics professor, Dr. Robert Beeken, and began an undergraduate research project on creating and testing new materials (argyrodites) for storage batteries. She described that work in her Goldwater application.

> Lintereur, who has a 3.98 overall grade point average, will graduate from UW-SP in May, 2006. She hopes to get a Ph.D. in medical physics, and to work on new advances in radiology for the treatment of cancer patients.

> stereotype that has no basis in fact. We realize that some people have a stereotype about Catholics, and think Catholics cannot talk about sex in a useful way outside of their own moral system."

> Pehoski also pointed out that his group does not endorse one religion over another, but simply stated his group is welcome to all that share the pro-life point of view. In any case it seems that there will be a number of people on campus that will be angry for some time about a series of ads that offered a product that failed to live up to their expectations.

Organic food coming soon

Marty Grosse NEWS REPORTER

UW-SP's Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group (WISPIRG), is working to make organic food available to students. WISPIRG is a group of student interns dedicated to environmental conservation, consumer protection, and civil rights hitch. "The results of this as the facilities' dining conactivism. The group teams survey," she said, "will help university students with professionals in their field of interest, allowing them to effectively tackle problems all across Wisconsin.

cerns over air and water quality, forest conservation, and promotion of democracy.

WISPIRG has conducted a survey of 400 UW-SP students asking them what their opinions are on the availability of organic foods at campus stores. WISPIRG member Bethany Stiloski foresees the plan working without a to make organic foods readily available to students." This action by WISPIRG will only place organic foods in the C-store and the Pointer Express food stores. Dining This change in availability will come at no added cost to student fees.

Next year, the matter will be passed on to the Student Government Association, and they will push to have dining services use organic foods in their meal preparations.

This issue will need continuing support next year tracts expire, and the SGA will attempt to implement their plan. "Next year," said Stiloski, "concerned students should come to student senate meetings to voice their concerns and to help put this plan into action."



Over the last 15 years, WISPIRG has served as a services, such as Debot, will not use organics at this time. voice for the public's con-

> To the Point with John Larson The final two episodes Mondays at 5:30 p.m. on 90FM WWSP

Home of the Shotski and Birthday Lei

Letters & Opinion

Walter Wisdom Tooth's Hardcore Trivia

I'm the

smartest!"

Everyone knows that Timms Hill is Wisconsin's highest point at 1,952 feet above sea level. But what is the high point in Portage County? Answer on page 5.

Mella's got the conch

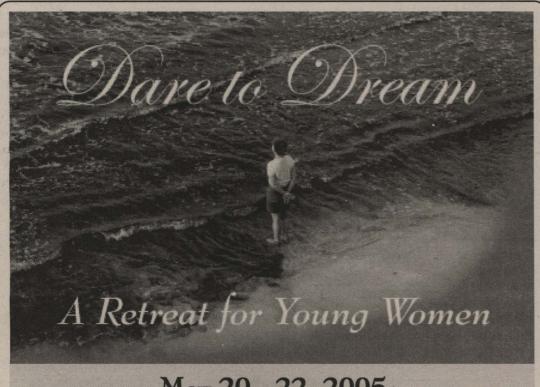


Two thousand mindblowing Stevens Point memories in 1,000 words

A few people confronted me on my last column, "The cost of living," for coming down too hard on Point. As I said, I love Point – always will. Letting the title of this column speak for itself, I'll get right into backing that up, with loving recollection.

Looking through my extensive files last night, it seems I've befriended 713 people, one cyborg (unknowingly), a kitten and three rabbits in my five years on campus. Granted, most of those people are long gone, and two of the three rabbits won't talk to me, but that's pretty fit, overall. Most of the people were cool, too. Real down-homey; friendly-like and open-minded.

And speaking of rabbits, Stevens Point has more than its share - way more. A recent study by the American Leporidae



May 20 - 22, 2005 River Pines Retreat House Whiting, Wisconsin

This weekend is for high school and college women, ages 14 through 26, who would like to experience the life and spirituality of St. Clare and St. Francis, as well as the life of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. The setting for the retreat at River Pines Retreat House is quiet and restful, located on the shores of the Wisconsin River in Whiting, Wisconsin. For more information, contact:

Society found a shocking overabundance of rabbits in Point. Something to the tune of 13.8 per city block (the nation-wide average is 5.4). Call it weird; call it bizarre; call it adorable – I don't trust 'em. Anyways, it's nice to know I'm not the only one noticing this horrifying trend.

Academically, I've never been too hot. I started off my SP career with a 1.9 GPA fall semester. The only thing that saved me from expulsion was that A- in Tai Chi. Things have been going better ever since. I started going to class ... well I try my best. It just goes to show you that book-worming isn't the only way to get by. I consider myself successful. So does my grandma. She thinks my double major is "distinguishing."

Maybe I've partied a bit too hard; maybe I can attribute a small sliver of my attendance problems to being a night owl. There was the time when I had an argument with a birch tree over beta symmetry theory. And the time we got lost on runway 32 at the Stevens Point airport in a severe fog storm. For the most part, my wild-side has led to good memories though. I've been having a blast in the UW-SP bowling league for 10 consecutive semesters without missing a week. My team, No Funny Stuff, won two championships and two runner-ups over the years. We also took 10 consecutive team average crowns along with our 10 drinking titles.₁ Good times.

I'll never forget driving a John Deer Gator through Schmeekle Reserve without headlights – that was pure madness. While I'm on Schmeekle, I'll get running barefoot through a snowy swamp out of the way. That one's a bit hazy. Oh ... and the nudity; there was plenty of nudity up on the north beach of Lake Joanis. Hell, to be honest there still is. I can't get enough of it. I think I've spent more time naked in the past five years than I did in my first five. If you go through college *without* skinny dipping in Joanis, you shouldn't get a degree. I'm working with administration on that one.

"They" always say in a nasally voice, "Make sure you get involved in things. You'll meet people and have a real hoot. Really." Lame as it sounds, it's true. I've been quite involved, and I'm glad I was.

I wrote, directed and starred in a TV show – *Chef Ninja* – where we'd cook hippopotamus and choreograph shitty ninja sequences in the Hansen Hall kitchen. Boy, that was bizarre. We cancelled ourselves after two and a half shows. Speaking of Hansen, I was hall governor for something like a week. That actually, was pretty lame. Just kidding ... or am I?

Moving into sophomore year, I got into writing Outdoors for *The Pointer*, which has been one of the best moves of my life. I can't believe all that is coming to a close now. Seems like yesterday when I published my first story on old Suick musky lures in October '02. Geesh. Anyhow, that whole thing went real well for me. Hucky-duck, as the kids say. Hot dope.

Then came the radio station. I've only been on-air at 90 for the past year now, doing the Gordon Grenada Show on Tuesday mornings. I wish I would've started that sooner. It really expanded my musical knowledge something fierce. I also started the Taco Club, which has gone national, and the Galloping Club, which hasn't. My junior year, I was elected as the Portage County Causeway Authority. Land-bridges fascinate me and we have quite a few – 27 at last count. I think it's so very important to have that excitement for the things in your life. Without it, things lose their luster too soon.

Which brings me to Kate. I met her over three years ago at a whiskey party and took her ice-fishing at four in the morning. The rest, as they say, is history. She'll be my favorite memory when I leave here. She too, fascinates and mystifies me; way more so than earthen-bridges or rabbits.

The fishing in Point has been pretty good as well. The Wisconsin River and her sexy walleyes will always hold a special place in my tackle box.

Vocation Minister Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis (715) 341-8457 vocation@ssj-tosf.org www.ssj-tosf.org I could stroke my moustache for hours reminiscing on Point and how it changed my life, but space is finite.

Maybe this has been more boasting or confession, rather than remembrance, but at least 90 percent of the above has been true. Maybe I want to place some invisible worth on all those intangible things I *won't* remember. An education transforms a person. So does time. That's the kind of thing you can't put a finger on, immense as it was.

When I pack my ping-pong table and map collection into the Baby Truck on May 23, it will be a sad day. I've had my fill; darkness falls. Hopefully, I've done something valuable in between all my waywardness. It's those long-term things that never seem clear. I just keep moving in a direction with purpose, and hope it's the right one. Adios kids.

Enjoy yourselves,

-A

1 – Not officially sanctioned or condoned by the league office.

THE POINTER

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Dear bike thief in Pray-Sims,

Are you wondering why the bike you stole is no longer parked outside your lair? Are you wondering why the cable you locked the bike up with is hanging impotently in the wind?

Ha! It is because I, Liz Bolton, saw the bike on my way to school and rescued it from your clutches! How dare you

steal from me?! This is how the story goes. I was walking to school, and I happened to glance at the bike racks to my right, wistfully thinking of all the wonderful times I had with my bicycle, and how I wished it would come back.

And what did I see? A strangely

familiar fender and Blue Steel, reunited with basket. Could it be, proud owner. Photo by Holly Sandbo I thought? Oh yes,

it was. And to add injury to insult, a fellow student when she can't someone had put a fresh new lock on MY bike.

At this point, I would like to thank the Pray-Sims custodian, the wonderful people at Residential Living and the valiant men and women of Protective Services whose bolt-cutters rescued my bicycle from the bike thief's evil grasp.

Some may ask: Liz, why didn't you lock up your precious bicycle? Well, I will tell you why. My bike lock broke the week before, and

when I went to get my refund of K-Mart cash, I had to spend it on spaghetti and Tuna Helper instead because I had no food.

I stored my bicycle away for a week, but it begged to be ridden. I left it out for one night and lo, someone stole my sweet bike, aptly named Blue Steel.

Let me just say, bike thief, you got off lucky. If I had caught you in person, you would be much worse off than a simple busted cable lock. While I can't specifically say what I would have done,

> flying tackle comes to mind.

I have enough righteous anger to take out 12 bike thieves in a single bound. You couldn't hope to stop me.

My question to you, bike thief, is why you feel the need to steal from your fellow brothers and sisters at UW-SP? We all face the same rising tuition crises and

Easy-Mac diets. Why must you kick

even afford a square meal? Maybe you stole my bike to ride over to Plover and deliver Meals-on-Wheels in the freezing rain, but I doubt that. More likely, you are some underclassman who was partying too hard at my apartment complex and decided it would be hilarious to steal someone's bike. In that case, I hope you

Liz Bolton Managing Editor

Letters & Opinion • UW-SP The Pointer



Letter to the Editor Vote Yes May 3

I was just informed that if the 2005 referendum is not passed on May 3, the opportunities I received as a child will not be offered in the local school district. All K-8 music, athletics, forensics, student council, yearbook, cheerleading, newspaper and drama programs will be cut. K-8 is a critical and vital time for child development. What will we be doing to the get scabies and your hair falls out. lives of these children if we take away all of their extracurricular activities?

What will colleges think when these students with no experience apply?

Not only will the children be deeply affected, but many local people will lose their job and many new graduates will not be able to find a job. The extra \$30 in taxes is well worth it, when thinking about the difference it could make in the childrens' lives and those who could possibly lose their jobs. Please vote yes on May 3rd. This important vote will determine the future for many.

Stacy Iruk **UW-SP** Student



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With steamy spring weather looming, what class are you most likely to skip, and what will you do instead?

Pointer Poll

Photos by Trendelina Spahija





Josh Crabb, Ir. Soc. Science



Matt Lesperance, Fr. Undecided

I would skip Art History, and instead I would play Ultimate Frisbee.

Probably African History and I would be playing DDR. (Dance Dance Revolution - Video Game) I would skip Math 109 and putz with my guitar.

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.

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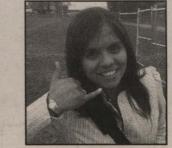
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Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.



Julie Martin, Fr. Graphic Design

I would skip Philosophy 101 and go play soccer.



Naty Espitia, Fr. CIS

I'm skipping Comm.101 right now (sorry Brad) and instead I am planning to call my family in Colombia.



Megan Preper, Fr. Biology

I would probably skip Bio. 130 because I don't like plants, and instead I would sit outside and relax.

Editorial

Letter to the Editor Deceptive ads for "steamy sex talk" mislead many students

The signs for the "Hot and Steamy Sex Talk" have been all over campus for the past two weeks. The program, sponsored by CHILD (Colleges Helping Innocent Lives Develop), was advertised to students as an educational talk from a renowned expert on sex. What students got, however, was a disguised lesson in right-wing opinions.

So-called "sexpert" Vicki Thorn has a bachelor's degree in psychology, is an extreme antichoice advocate, and has been trained as a trauma counselor. However, none of her training came into play during her "sex" talk. Instead, the audience was misled to believe that she was an expert in biology. Ms. Thorn drew pictures of fallopian tubes, talked about different types of hormones that cause certain actions, and warned that birth control will make a woman choose the wrong mate. In fact, her speech about the pill was nothing but scare tactics to try to influence women not to be on it. Not only did she constantly make these types of references, she also continuously slipped in "I believe that this is ...' and "I think that this does ...," leading me to conclude that she had her own personal beliefs and didn't bother to make sure that these statements were scientific facts before quoting them to the audience.

This program disturbed me not only because of the one-sidedness of it, but also because CHILD knowingly deceived the entire student body. The constant SMODs and posters of "SEX SEX SEX SEX SEX!" drew in students who wanted to hear about sex, and ended up getting a lecture about biology. Nothing in Ms. Thorn's speech touched on the actual topic of sexual intercourse. Even after assuring the audience that she would move on to the topic of falling in love, she went right back into drawing diagrams of the uterus. If this program had been advertised as a right-wing biology lesson about hormones and the dire effects of birth control, I would not have any issues with it. The truth is that this talk was neither hot nor steamy, and CHILD used false advertising to push its own agenda. Shame on CHILD for such a dishonest, misleading act.

Your College Survival Guide: GETTING TO KNOW UW-SP

Pat Rothfuss With help from games people play

No letters this week, so I get to talk about whatever the hell I want. Oh delicious freedom, how I love you.

So this week I'm just going to give you a heads-up, re: some of the cool things Stevens Point has to offer. Not secrets really, just some things that you might not be aware of. Stuff you should know about now, not two years from now.

But remember, last chance for college survival advice is next week. Send those endof-the-semester questions into proth@wsunix. wsu.edu.

University Stuff

•There's a print shop down in the basement of the Science Building. Their rates are WAY cheaper than any of the copy centers in town. Some stuff you can get done for only about 20 percent off what you would pay somewhere else. It's a real deal.

•The Tutoring Learning Center in the basement of the library is awesome. They offer study groups and individual tutoring for most classes here at UW-SP. They also have reading/writing tutors available to help you work on papers. A lot of times you can just walk in and get help, but now, at the end of the semester, they're pretty busy, so calling to make an appointment isn't a bad idea: 346-3568.

•The IMC on the third floor of the library has a bunch of movies available to check out: both DVD and VHS. True, you probably aren't going to find a lot of new releases there, but it's cheaper than going to the video store, and they do have some really surprising things: like a video copy of the Kama Sutra.

•Religious Studies 105 was one of the cooler classes I ever took here at the university. Not only does it fulfill two different GDRs, but the material you cover is stuff you'd never get exposed to anywhere else. Crazy cool stuff: shamans, and Darth Vader and monkeys having sex. I'm not kidding. Or maybe I am. Sign up and find out.

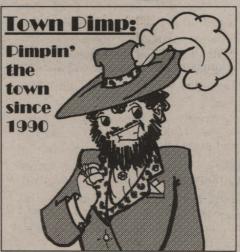
•Don't want to piss your time away taking Healthy American? There are

other, cooler classes that fill that same wellness credit. My favorite was Psych 290: Psychopharmacology. It's a class about all sorts of drugs, legal and illegal. You get to learn what all their real effects are, not just the propaganda they stuff you full of in high school. I got lucky and got to take it with Plonsky, my favorite psych prof. back in the day, but I hear good things about Rowe too...

Stevens Point Stuff

Games People Play

Yeah, well... you can't expect me to *not* put in a plug for my own sponsor. And it is one of the cooler stores right close by to campus. Listen, y'all have to trust me. There are cool games there. Games you've never even heard of. Games good for breaking the ice at parties. Games good for presents. Games that will help you score with the redhead in your biology class. I'm serious. Go there. Buy games. Now.



El Mescal (or something)

There's a really great Mexican Restaurant out on highway 10. It's way out there on the edge of town, near the construction. It's called La Mezcal or El Meszcal or something like that. Honestly, I don't pay much attention to the name, I'm too busy obsessing about their awesome food. For years Stevens Point didn't have a single decent Mexican place, and now we have one where not only is the food good, but the service is quick, and they're open until 10 p.m. on weeknights. A real rarity in this town. Nice for night-owls like me.

ne Wee Bee CDs

I know a lot of you kids are getting all your music off the interweb these days, but back when I was in college we bought our music. With money. From a store. Wee Bee CDs is just such a store. They buy and sell used CDs, posters, DVDs, and do special order stuff too. They're downtown, on Clark Street, right across the street from the Brickhouse.

Mission Coffee House

I tease them about being a safe house for hippies, but the Mission is a nice place. Features include:

1. A non-smoking room for those of you who aren't keen on cancer.

2. Good food. Home-made sandwiches and soups.

3. Angsty high-school girls smoking clove cigarettes.

4. They serve beer and wine, but you don't have to be 21 to get in, even during the weekend shows.

5. The opportunity for some patchouli-scented free love. Or if not free love, at least very cheap love. Clearance bin love.

They also tend to have bands playing most weekends, if you're into that sort of thing. While some of the shows are, in my humble opinion, pure crap, others are super-extreme-crazy-cool. The good news is if you go to a show and don't dig on it, well, you can rest assured that next week's show will be something completely different.

Fencing Club

Did you know they used to teach fencing here at the university? Yup. Back when I started school they had 3credit Beginning Fencing and Advanced Fencing classes. They don't offer those classes any more, but the Fencing Club has access to the old equipment, and is teaching people how to fence. E-mail fencing@uwsp.edu if you're interested. Or contact their fencing instructor at 346-4532.

Clear your calendars for Saturday the 7th, because there's a local geekfest... Umm... I mean sci-fi convention coming to town. It's at the Holiday Inn (or whatever they're calling it nowadays). Not only will I be there, but my lovely sponsor Games People Play will too. So stop on by. Details about the convention are at http://tinyurl.com/b7wwu.



Lisa Bahr

Walter's Answer Portage County's high point is Mosquito Bluff, which is located in the southeastern portion of the county. It rises 1,245 feet above sea level.

Pointlife

Plants have friendly personalities

One student's adoption of vegetative companions has brightened her life

Erica Schulz

POINTLFIE CONTRIBUTOR

All through the winter months they sat, brightening my drab windowsill, and their green presence illuminated the dull grey background. Now I try all but to take them for granted.

They were my companions through the short days of the winter season. I gave them adequate sunlight and water, and even coaxed them to wait until the sun of spring.

Now, spring has arrived, and I'm riding my bike around town, staying outdoors while my poor houseplants sit inside, neglected.

It's difficult to explain to non-plant lovers my ideas of why houseplants are so great. Plants in general aid in breaking down carbon dioxide, creating a cleaner atmosphere. They are also pleasant to see. Maintenance is usually low, which includes minor trims to dead leaves and making sure they receive enough sunlight and water.

To give each plant personal attention, I see them as unique personalities. I'm not out of my mind, but naming these living creatures is something to set them apart from other plants.

I bought my first plant as a freshman in college. It grew in a tiny clay pot, decorated with foam cut-outs of flowers and seeds sprinkled into the soil. I lived on the north side of

Hansen Hall, so little sunlight actually soaked into the room, hindering my plant's growth.

Although this was a problem at first, I made friends with the "southsiders" and was able to keep my plant in a friend's room. Needless to say, the flowers never even sprouted.

During that next summer, I wanted to start off ahead, so I bought two plants that were already growing. I could tell they had a chance.

I named them Ernie and Bert, not because I'm an avid viewer of the children's show Sesame Street, but because I associated the names with the appearance of the plants. I didn't realize what a mistake it was.

Thankfully, Bert has long since passed, and I no longer need to feel embarrassed over my defense of explanation. Ernie, on the other hand, is thriving. He is my largest plant thus far, and I plan to re-pot him quite soon

Once Ernie began to show progress, it seemed like a good idea to go ahead with more plants. I bought an aloe plant, naming him Marley (again for his physical features). He's also doing quite well. He's outgrown his pot, and he'll receive Ernie's, similar to getting hand-me-downs from older cousins.

I also recently purchased a cactus,

which I've named Cecil. His maintenance is simple: sunlight. I would recommend cacti to anyone starting out with plants. Although they aren't full of foliage, they still supply green scenery to a room, and require little effort.

1 also take care of my roommates' plants, which consists of watering the other half-dozen creatures occupying our living space, and making sure they feel at home.

Of course, it's all in good fun. I don't really sit at home on a daily basis to console my plants, but it does bring me comfort to know that I've cared for living things. I was afraid of losing the verdure of our household, and knowing now that I've survived and helped my plants to survive a harsh season, I know the rest will be a piece of cake.

I just can't forget about them. The rejuvenation of the outside world isn't a reason to neglect the plants that have helped me bear winter. Instead of ignoring them, I'll let them join me.

I recommend adopting some plants. It may be discouraging at first, but eventually with a little care, they flourish.

Now conscious of ignoring my vegetative friends, I've decided to share the longer, vibrant days of spring: They get to sit on my porch and bask in the sunlight.

2005 issue of Barney Street released

Jake Eggener POINTLIFE CONTRIBUTOR

Brightside/Nightside. This phrase conjures up all sorts of images, and is the title of this year's Barney Street.

Barney Street is "UW-SP's Literary Magazine," and is published once a year. This issue marks the 27th edition since the first was published in 1978. Barney Street is a compilation of prose, poetry and art, mostly submitted by students.

This year, only electronic submissions were accepted, sparking a small protest, since in the past hard-copy submissions were also allowed. The problem was that not all of the editors got to look at all of the paper submissions, making it unfair for those who submitted that way.

The editing process was time consuming, but a group of 16 dedicated individuals read through each submission over winter break. At the beginning of second semester there was a long meeting where every submission was ranked and discussed before the pieces published in Brightside/ Nightside were picked. Only 59 of the approximately 350 submissions were selected.

Keeping focused during the spring

Motivation to study dwindles as green grass beckons, but don't fall behind

Alli Himle

POINTLIFE REPORTER

Spring fever is now upon us. I do not think any college student can honestly say that they are not itching to get out and enjoy the warmer temperatures while soaking up some sun in the process. However, finding the time to relax and kick back, while hitting the sand courts for a rousing game of volleyball, seems to come as a price for many of us. Inevitably, studying for exams, projects, and writing final papers all seem to take the back seat to our escape from the winter snow.

In the midst of the craziness of the last few weeks of the semester, a time that is often plagued with an overabundance of stress, a medium can exist where studying and enjoying the long overdue spring weather can be attained.

cious lawns in front of the library and between the College of Natural Resources and the Collins Classroom Center to open a book and get caught up on the reading that seems to continue to grow exponentially.

Don't deny yourself rewards. Allow yourself extra incentives for getting the homework done that you assign yourself. Tell yourself that if

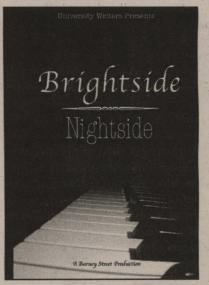


take your studies to Schmeeckle for an afternoon of studying while relaxing near the lake. Who says one cannot multi-task?

Lastly, make studying a joint effort among friends. Encourage your friends to join you in bringing their studies outdoors. Sometimes all you need is a little push (from friends) to force you to face that pile of work that you

> have been procrastinating far too long. Take your blanket, bring your friends, and study together in the warm weather while having someone to motivate you in the process.

Most importantly, realize that there are only a matter of weeks left in the semester until you will be free from the balancing act of studying while trying to enjoy the fresh, warm air. That is to say, if you are not taking the dreaded summer courses. There is only one month left until you will have three months of freedom from papers, projects, and exams. In the end, if you motivate yourself to get through these final weeks, you will be able



After a few more meetings, the title was selected, and layout began. After layout was completed, the manuscript was sent to DigiCOPY to be published. The staff of Barney Street are very proud of this year's edition and all the effort they put into getting to this point.

Let your work follow you outdoors. Instead, of sitting hours upon hours in front of your computer screen while aimlessly trying to type that paper for scientific literature that has crept upon you all too quickly, take your notebook outdoors. You would be surprised how much fresh air and a glowing ray of sunshine can cure writer's block.

Make every minute count. Instead of lounging around your dorm room or apartment in between classes, stay on campus. Make use of the spaPhoto by Trendelina Spahija

you finish the last chapter of your reading or complete the final paragraph on your research paper, you will treat yourself to a walk in Schmeeckle or a game of Frisbee amongst friends. Furthermore, pack your backpack and

to lounge in the sun without feeling guilty for putting off your schoolwork for one more day. For, as we all find out sooner or later, it does not take long before the days of missed class and schoolwork begin to multiply.

The release party for Brightside/Nightside will be held April 28 in the Edna Carlsten Art Gallery, located on the second floor of the Noel Fine Arts Center. A reception will kick off the event at 6:30 followed by a poetry reading featuring authors from Brightside/ Nightside. Because of fundraising, Barney Street is available for free, so anyone who would like a copy is encouraged to stop by the party and get one.

For those unable to attend the release party, next week in the University Center there will be a booth in the concourse where students can pick up a copy.

One hour in a quirky salon with much to offer

Adam Rodewald POINTLIFE EDITOR

At 2:30 p.m., the hair salon is quiet. A woman of average height sits at the front counter looking through an appointment book. She wears large circular earrings.

There are two stations for cutting hair that are made to resemble marble. A man is having dred-locks put in at the one closest to the wall, and there is a sticker pasted on the mirror which asks, "What's your style I.D?" A tall woman is twisting wax into his dreds.

Hair models hang in the pictures on the far wall. They gaze directly at each customer who walks through the door and smile seductively as if to say, "Your hair could be like mine."

Neon bottles of Bed Head hair products decorate a shelf in the center of the room. Bold titles say, Dumb Blonde, Control Freak, Manipulator, and dare their wearers to be sassy.

Then the phone rings, and the woman at the counter answers, "Haircraft. This is Reyna." She talks for a brief moment then writes down the caller's name in her book. "I'll see you then. Thank you! Bye.'

A guy walks through the doors, and Reyna looks at him. She has long black hair tied back on her head. "John?" She asks.

"Yup." He is fair skinned and wears a green shirt. He saunters over to a station and Reyna puts a smock over him. "It's been a long time since I've had [my hair] cut!" He says

John explains that he has just recently participated in an

bum who was drunk all the time," he said. Now he is ready to cut off his shaggy hair and return it to normal.

"Hair models hang in the pictures on the far wall. They ... smile seductively as if to say, 'Your hair could be like mine."

Haircraft takes up no more space than one-and-a-half dorm rooms, and it is located in the U.C. in the LaFollette lounge. Only two people can get their hair cut at a time, but the stylists are efficient. There are three employees, and only two work full time: Reyna Abundiz and Sarah Ross.

As the man with dredlocks leaves, a third enters. Sarah comes over to him and asks, "Too much hair?" Her teeth show through her welcoming smile, and they begin to chit-chat.

The buzz of hair clippers reverberates through the salon, and murmuring voices from two different conversations meld togeth-In the background, er. Matchbox 20 is playing softly on the radio. Then a fourth guy enters, and Haircraft begins to feel like a social hangout.

People can come in for

opera workshop. "I played a a haircut any day of the week except Sunday. Weekday hours are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. They are also open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and The entire area that is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. A standard cut costs a reasonable \$11.

After about 30 minutes, Haircraft quiets once again, and two dryer chairs remain unoccupied and awkward against the far wall. Sarah chuckles as she says, "We don't use them as much as other places that have older women who get rollers set in their hair."

The salon is not limited to college students, though they make up the majority of their clients. "We have lots of students, faculty, and staff ... Anyone can come," said Sarah.

Just then a woman comes in to look over the hair products. She wears a bright blue shirt with a leaf pattern and blue jeans. She has two rings



on each of her hands. "Just holler if you need help with anything you're looking at," Sarah says as she sweeps up the hair on the floor.

Reyna helps out a girl who stops by to make an appointment. They know each other by first name. "I can take you now!" she says.

The environment can be personal in a small salon like this. Reyna said, "There are a lot of new faces, usually, at the beginning of the semester... new freshman... then [I] learn who people are over the vear."

April 28, 2005 • -

By 3:30 p.m., six people had come and five had gone. Sarah still had a grin on her face, "To bad it's a slow day!"

Faces in the crowd: Meet this "Sage" professor who courts the love of wisdom

Jessica Sword

POINTLIFE CONTRIBUTOR

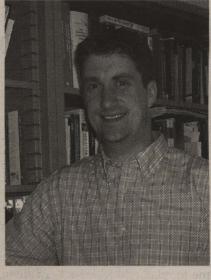
The meaning of the word philosophy is derived from two ancient Greek words; "philo," meaning "to love" and "Sophia," meaning "wisdom." To pursue answers to philosophical questions means to court the love of wisdom, whatever it may be.

"We need to be complex and integrated into the world around us; it's empowering."

based in San Diego, California. There he tutored children on reservations, performed community service and taught environmental education.

It was Sage's "persistent questioning" and experience in Americorp that led him to the University of Utah where he received his Masters and Ph.D. in philosophy.

Surrounded by the reflections of great philosophers, Sage offered his passion for teaching. "I love getting students excited about philosophy and the role it plays in our everyday lives." He smiled and continued, "I get an energy from my students. We need to be complex and integrated into the world around us; it's empowering. We don't need to be at the mercy of what others tell us." After receiving his Ph.D., Sage was drawn to UW-SP because of the campus' strong connection with the environment. Sage is a teacher of environmental ethics - the application of ethics to behavior in the environment - philosophy of science, examining scientific theories for content and structure, explanatory function, and confirmation and Epistemology - the study of nature, limits and bases of human knowledge.



in the nation to offer an environmental ethics course.

This summer Professor Sage will reintroduce Philosophy 301: Philosophy in Popular Mode. It is a writing-intensive course with changing themes such as sci-fi and popular film. The class examines how popular culture represents life or a possible future. When not in the classroom, Sage spends his time gardening and bicycling. He has also taken to amateur woodworking. "I've made a few birdhouses," he laughed. "My next project is a compost bin."



Photo by Holly Sandbo

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Is ignorance bliss? Would life be better if we approached it differently? How would it change if we approached it differently? These are just a few questions that have troubled the minds of humans since the beginning of time.

James Sage is in his second year as a philosophy professor at UW-SP. He is noted for his teachings in environmental ethics in the philosophy department.

After obtaining a Bachelor of Liberal Arts at Washington State University, Sage took a year away from school and participated in Americorp,

UW-SP was the first school

"We can choose to have knowledge and think about how life can be different and be complicated or we can be ignorant. I choose knowledge." Sage ended, "Don't shoot to be proficient, take education and be profound."

Sports

Nation's home run kings, ninth-ranked team resides at UW-SP

Steve Roeland

SPORTS EDITOR

After a two-week absence from the American Baseball Coaches Association Division III poll, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point baseball team re-entered the top-25 at No. 9 with a 3-1 record in non-conference play last weekend. In the process, the Pointers became the first team in Division III to reach the 60 home run mark this season.

Baseball

The first game in the Saturday doubleheader against Ripon College was the only loss the Pointers took all weekend. The Red Hawks capitalized on three UW-SP errors to earn a 3-1 win in game one. Both pitchers in the game threw complete games, with Ripon's Bill Nolan surrendering only one run and striking out six in the win. UW-SP's J.C. Reinke took the loss despite striking out nine and scattering seven hits.

The Pointers came back strong in game two

against the Red Hawks, picking up a win and a split in the series. UW-SP first baseman Ryan Jones, already the school's all-time home run leader, broke a 7-7 tie in the sixth inning with a two-run homer. The two RBIs

gained from Jones' long ball put him atop the UW-SP all-time RBI list with 149 In a reversal of fortunes

from game one, the Pointers used Ripon's six errors to finish Saturday with a 10-8 win.

The Pointers again turned to another in-state non-conference opponent, Marian College, on Sunday. In game one, a three-run homer by Nat Richter separated another close game which was tied

> at six in the seventh inning. The Pointers shut down the Sabres in the final two innings to ensure a 9-6 triumph.

UW-SP pitcher Kevin Pankow earned the victory in game one, becoming the 11th different Pointer hurler to win in the last 11 games.

The final game of the weekend displayed the power of UW-SP's offense. An 18-2 blowout of the Sabres was highlighted by an 11-run fourth inning for the Pointers. The seven inning contest featured five RBIs from Pointer left fielder Ryan Byrnes and three RBIs from third baseman Tim Schlosser. Three other Pointers collected multiple RBIs in the game.

"Playing these non-conference games poses a challenge for us in a way that allows us to move forward in every aspect of the game," said Pointer head coach Pat Bloom. "[The games] showed us that we've got to be on our toes

"It's kind of like we have a target on our backs," said Bloom.

The Pointers faced a different sort of non-conference opponent on Wednesday, as they took on Division I member, the University of Illinois-Chicago. The Flames of the Horizon League are 20-15-1 overall and 3-5 in conference.

"There's a big misnomer in

terms of what people perceive as the differences between Division I and Division III," said Bloom. "For us, the key is that we are playing a good Division I team.'

The Pointers discovered just how good UIC was in the Flames' 20-5 drubbing of UW-SP. Each Pointer pitcher who threw in the game allowed at least two runs and lasted no more than two innings.

The Pointers stand at 26-6 overall and 13-3 in conference. This weekend, UW-SP travels to Superior for a four-game series with the Yellowjackets.

UW-SP finishes the regular season at home against WIAC leader UW-Whitewater. The Warhawks are one game ahead of the Pointers in the conference standings.

Jablonski earns perfect game as Pointers collect 20-win season

UW-SP News Services

UW-Stevens Point posted six straight victories over the week, including three shutouts, to seal its 13th consecutive 20-win season.

Softball

The Pointers opened the week by sweeping first place UW-Oshkosh 3-0 and 2-0 on

Tuesday before taking two games from St. Norbert on Thursday by scores of 3-1 and 6-1. UW-SP swept Lakeland 8-0 and 11-3 on Sunday to finish the perfect week.

Freshman Kelly Jablonski (Stevens Point, Wis.) did not

allow an earned run over 23 innings last week and threw the third perfect game in school history with a fiveinning gem against Lakeland. She pitched a school-record 11 innings in the win at St. Norbert and finished with nine

strikeouts and one walk for the week. Stephanie Anderson (Milwaukee, Wis.) also had two pitching wins, posting 11 strikeouts and allowing just five hits in 14 and one-third innings.

Laura Zierler (Kaukauna, Wis.) had a big week at the plate, hitting .579 (11-for-19) with three RBIs. Rebekah Bauer (Stevens Point, Wis.) hit .476 (10-for-21) and Korryn

Brooks (Stevens Point, Wis.) hit .467 (7-for-15) over the six games. Anderson had five extra-base hits and six RBIs. The Pointers host

Ripon and Edgewood this week in their final home games of the season before taking

ter weekend at River Falls. The cluster will determine the regular season champion as UW-SP enters the weekend at 7-4 in league play, trailing first place UW-Eau Claire, who are 8-2.

Track teams enjoy quality performances at Augustana **Meet of Champions**

UW-SP News Services

The UW-Stevens Point men's and women's teams both earned second place finishes at the Augustana Meet of Champions over the weekend

Track and Field

The Pointer women totaled 111.5 points to finish behind UW-Oshkosh's 190 points in the 14-team field. UW-SP's men's team had 152 points with UW-Whitewater taking the team title among nine squads with 177 points.

Marie Burrows (Menomonee Falls, Wis.) was the lone individual champion for the women with a 400-meter dash time of 57.92 seconds. Four other Pointer

women placed second in their events with NCAA provisional qualifying marks. Runner-up provisional performances were turned in by Julia Slabosheski (Princeton, Wis.) in the discus at 147 feet, four inches, Teresa Stanley (Whitewater, Wis.) in the 3000-meter steeplechase at 11:16.50, Liz Goergen (Apple Valley, Minn.) in the 400-meter hurdles at 1:04.18 and the 1600meter relay team at 3:56.31.

Nicole Pooley (Fennimore, Wis.) was also second in the high jump at five feet, 2.5 inches and Jenna Mitchler (Kaukauna, Wis.) had a provisional time while placing third in the 800-meter run at 2.13 93

The men's team won two relays, taking the 400-meter relay in 42.30 seconds and the 1600-meter relay in 3:18.18

lock Briefs

Mark LaLonde (Park Falls, Wis.) had an NCAA provisional time in winning the 3000-meter steeplechase in 9:20.70 and Cory Christnovich (Neenah, Wis.) claimed the 110-meter hurdles in 15.05 seconds. Paul Schliepp (Redgranite, WI) was second in the 400-meter hurdles at 55.80 seconds and Kyle Steiner (Grafton, Wis.) had an NCAA provisional score in the decathlon, finishing third with 6,139 points.

The Pointers compete at the Drake Relays this weekend with the remainder of the men's squad participating Saturday at Loras and the women competing at UW-La Crosse.



Jablonski

part in the second WIAC clus-

Jones

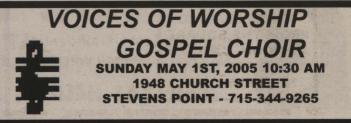
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Disc Golf - Jake Merritt of the UW-Stevens Point Disc Golf Club finished in 3rd Place at the Standing Rocks Open tournament on Saturday, April 23. With over 100 players shooting the two, 24-hole rounds, Merritt battled stiff competition and stiff winds. In total, the UW-SP club fielded 14 players in the largest amateur tournament in the state.

Football - Former UW-Stevens Point quarterback Kirk Baumgartner has been selected for induction to the College Football Hall of Fame on August 12-13 in South Bend, Ind. Baumgartner is, one of four players from Divisions I-AA, II, III and NAIA in this year's class. He is the first UW-SP player ever selected for induction to the Hall of Fame. Baumgartner is the second player from a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference school inducted into the Hall of Fame, joining Marty Below, who played at UW-Oshkosh from 1918-23.

CHECK OUT NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE FOR UW-SP'S ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



OUR VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS Here we go again, Chicago: the continuing curse of the 'Loveable Loser' Cubs

Steve Roeland SPORTS REPORTER

When will the baseball gods be done torturing the Chicago Cubs?

Will it take a 96-year span without a World Series title to end the pain? Will it conclude after the Cubs just appear in the World Series, something that hasn't been seen since 1945? Can some of the greatest young arms in the game and one of the best hurlers ever, Greg

Maddux, lead a rotation that can stop the madness?

The answer to all of these questions is a resounding "no." In another season where hopes were high in

problems seemed to be a acquired from Baltimore for thing of the past, baseball's equivalent of the Spanish Inquisition once again reared its ugly head. The team from of Major League Baseball, one the north side of Chicago has been found guilty once again of actually having hope for a good year.

In a freak incident last week, Cubs' shortstop Nomar-Garciaparra tore his groin muscle after hitting a ground ball, an injury slated to keep themselves in the best posi-

Garciaparra, predicted by baseball minds like Peter Gammons to be this year's

him out at least 2-3 months.

National League MVP, wasn't really doing all that well at the plate anyway. Through 14 games, Garciaparra was hitting an abysmal .157 with only four RBIs.

The Cubs had already lost second baseman Todd Walker earlier in the season with a knee injury. Thus, the Cubs have lost their starting middle

> infielders for extended amounts of time.

To fill in the positions left vacant by injuries, veteran infield-Neifi er Perez has become the new shortstop for the

spring training and health Cubs and Jerry Hariston, Jr., Sammy Sosa, has been called upon to play second base.

In the never-ending cycle thing remains constant: The Cubs will field a team with potential that endures certain hardships over the course of a season, forcing them to become nothing more than a mediocre ball club.

In 2003, the Cubs found

tion they had been in since the mid- and late-1980s. The well-known and well-documented demise of the Cubs in the 2003 post-season could be the harshest punishment dealt out by the oppressive deities of baseball.

The 2004 season brought new hope, as major publications did the unthinkable; they predicted a Cubs World Series victory. These hopes met a quick end when young fireballer Mark Prior began the season on the disabled list and other injuries to stars like Kerry Wood and Sosa led to a disappointing season without even a playoff appearance.

When Garciaparra's groin tore in St. Louis last week, the hopes for a successful 2005 campaign may have been wounded right with it. Garciaparra was supposed to make up for the losses of Sosa and Moises Alou, who hit a combined 74 home runs in 2004

Garciaparra decided to have surgery on his torn groin, which could mean the end of his season. Garciaparra hopes to come back and play for the Cubs this year, but any contribution he would make would probably be too little, too late.

Like the famous Monty Python line says, "Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition." For the Cubbies, the baseball inquisition should always be expected.

The rise and fall of the Favre era for the **Green Bay Packers**

Adam Wise SPORTS EDITOR

For over 10 years, Packer fans enjoyed numerous 10-win seasons, MVP-caliber performances from Brett Favre, and a running game propelled by a dominant offensive line, but it looks like this era is reaching a fast halt.

Aside from the abysmal draft (which I will get into in a moment), the Packers are seeing problems outside of the draft war room for the first time in recent memory.

Running back Ahman Green was arrested this week on suspicion of domestic vio-

lence. While this most likely won't affect Green reaching the field this season, this is a hard shot to the face of an organiza-

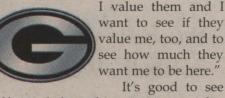
tion that has prided itself on fielding class citizens for the past decade.

Also, a Miami newspaper is reporting this week that cornerback Al Harris is being investigated on accusations of sexual assault. Allegedly, Harris and a group of individuals assaulted a woman in a private room at a strip club. The woman went to a hospital and was then sent to a sexual assault treatment center where she inevitably filed a report with the local authorities.

I hope the Packers are taking this seriously because these are some potentially

serious allegations.

In keeping with the ongoing theme of disgruntled Packers, Javon Walker is skipping the mini-camp this week in search of a new contract. Walker has hired agent Drew Rosenhaus, the same agent who is currently calling for a new contract for Terrell Owens from the Philadelphia Eagles, to get himself more money. "I fully expect [Rosenhaus] to get me what I deserve and what I need," Walker said. "Basically, I want to be here in Green Bay for the long haul but I also want to be paid among the top players, too. I just want the Packers to know how much



It's good to see he's got his priorities straight.

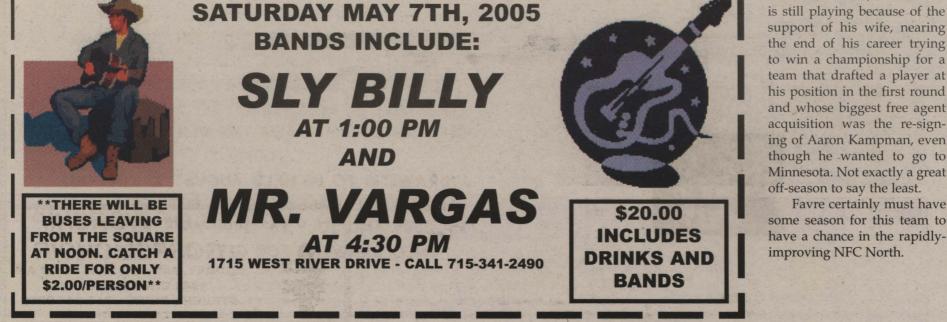
As for the draft, what was newly hired Ted Thompson thinking?

I realize it was expected that Thompson would draft the future quarterback once Brett Favre retires, but isn'tthis the same team that fielded the 23rd ranked scoring defense last season? Do I even have to bring up such games, against the Colts or Jaguars to remind fans that a defense is pretty important to a team's success?

So they drafted a running back, two wide receivers, and several small-college prospects that most likely will be projects. Nick Collins from Bethune-Cookman in the second round? You thought Ahmad Carroll had a tough first season; if this guy reaches the field his rookie season, you can expect to see much of the same.

And in all this drama, you have Brett Favre, a man who is still playing because of the





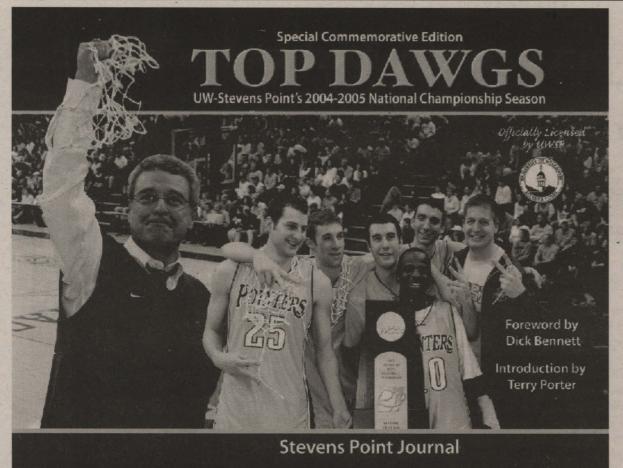
RUSTY'S

BACKWATER SALOON PRESENTS:

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the end of his career trying to win a championship for a team that drafted a player at his position in the first round and whose biggest free agent acquisition was the re-signing of Aaron Kampman, even though he wanted to go to Minnesota. Not exactly a great off-season to say the least.

Favre certainly must have some season for this team to have a chance in the rapidlyimproving NFC North.



This Week in Pointer Athletics

Baseball - at UW-Superior - April 30 - May 1, 12 p.m.
Softball - WIAC Cluster at River Falls -

April 30 - May 1

- Men's & Women's Track - at Drake Relays - Apr. 28-30; Men at Loras Invite - Apr. 30; Women at UW-La Crosse Invite - Apr. 30 *Top Dawgs UW-Stevens Point's 2004-05 National Championship Season*

The Stevens Point Journal

Celebrate the UW-Stevens Point Pointers' NCAA national championship with this commemorative hardcover book. From preseason No. 1 to postseason No. 1, UW-SP's 2004-05 season will go down in the record book as not only a season to remember, but as a season no Pointer fan will ever forget. *Top Dawgs: UW-Stevens Point's 2004-05 National Championship Season* captures the men's basketball season in all the striking detail fans have come to expect from *The*

Stevens Point Journal and their award-winning sports coverage.

Top Dawgs illustrates UW-SP's triumphs and turning points through recaps of all the key games and profiles on the team's star players. It's all here: Jack Bennett's 200th career victory, Jason Kalsow's continual double-doubles, Nick Bennett's deadly marksmanship, Tamaris Releford's steady leadership, Eric Maus' work on the boards, and the supporting cast of players' maturation into significant role players. Featuring over 100 full-color photos reliving the tense battles with WIAC rivals Whitewater and Oshkosh, the hard-fought preseason battle against Division I Marquette, and the impressive NCAA Final Four run that delivered UW-SP's second national championship.

Top Dawgs is the best way to cherish the Pointers' unforgettable 2004-05 season. A valued addition to any Pointer fan's personal library.

Foreword by Dick Bennett

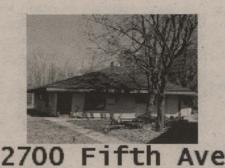
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Outdoors

OuTdOoR OdDiTiEs

Bad luck can be a bear ... literally

Joel Borski Outdoors Editor

As the saying goes, "lighting never strikes the same place twice." Apparently, that clichéd little phrase doesn't apply too well to brown bears, as one Alaskan man knows all too well.

Scott MacInnes, a 51year-old geophysicist from the Anchorage area, was the unfortunate recipient of not his first, but second, notso-friendly visit from the muscular behemoths, scientifically classified as Ursus Arctos, while jogging on a subdivision street near his home last week. Though the attacking bear has not been identified or tracked down, it is believed to be a middle-aged sow that was more-than-likely tending to a cub or two when MacInnes crossed her path. Once the bear lost interest, MacInnes

was forced to walk nearly a mile and a half to find help. A m a z i n g l y,

38 years earlier, in 1967, MacInnes was attacked by another brown bear while venturing along the

well-known Resurrection Pass Trail, in south-central Alaska, with a friend. In this attack, MacInnes was beaten senseless and bitten repeatedly by the bear before the friend was able to ward the animal off with a few blasts from his slingshot and the sharp blow of a walking stick to its head. MacInnes suffered severe injuries to his legs and an arm, but recovered fully from the wounds.

The latest attack on MacInnes significantly reinjured at least one leg and also his abdomen and neck



Grin and "bear" it.

but, once again, the unfortunate soul is expected to heal in time.

According to one biologist, records of Alaskan bear attacks dating back to the late 1800's show that MacInnes is the only person in history to have been attacked by a bear twice in his lifetime.

Perhaps, once the wounds have healed, Mr. MacInnes might be wise to consider moving to a new, bear-free locale. A Florida hurricane would likely seem laughable compared to the steaming jaws of a man-eating brown bear.

Allen Center set for celebration

Free use of kayaks, bicycles and more planned for 2005's end-of-school-year

Pat Griffin Outdoors Contributor

Do you love the group fitness programs at the cardio center? Do you regularly stop down to check out new products at Outdoor Edventures? Then next week's celebration will be right up your alley. On Thursday, May 5, the Allen Center, located behind Smith Hall, will be holding its end-of-the-year celebration. Together, the Cardio Center, Group Fitness Center, Outdoor Edventures and the Student Health Promotion Office have teamed up to present an afternoon bash with lots of activities.

From 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, the field behind Pray and Smith halls will be hopping.

Group Fitness will kick things off with an "On-Road" event schedule with all classes being offered outside and accompanied by music. In order, the course schedule includes Dynamic Legs, Cardio Kickboxing, Dynamic Abs, Boot Camp, Dynamic Arms, and Hip Hop. All courses are structured into 30 minute sessions with 10 min breaks in-between.

The "Off-Road" portion of the schedule will contain a short bike ride from 3-3:30 p.m. and a long ride from 3:30-6:30 p.m. - both on the Green Circle Trail. Outdoor Edventures will be providing bikes free of charge for usage. A run and a walk, beginning at 4 p.m, will also take place.

Outdoor Edventures has their own activities going on with free demos of all their

Weekend

Weather



Nothing beats cardio!

equipment. Canoes and kayaks will be available for use at Lake Joanis and there will be some great gear sales taking place as well.

Student Health Promotion will be providing free food, Powerade, and water, along with helpful nutritional information throughout the day.

The Cardio Center will be offering free workouts and tours of the facility during the event. Fun-loving staff members will be on-hand for assistance, as well as in the booth to renew memberships for the following year. Prizes such as Nalgene bottles, mugs, shirts, flip flops, beach towels, Brewhaus bucks, and one large prize in a Cardio Center duffle bag will be given out throughout the day.

"It's a great way for students to get involved and see what the Allen Center has to offer," said Allen Center supervisor Sheryl Poirier.

The "Groovin' in the 70s" theme will be a fun way for students to learn about the Cardio Center, Group Fitness, Outdoor Edventures, and Student Health Promotion activities. All students are encouraged to stop by for a great time, some free food and drinks, and lots of great deals.

Visit apex of Door County

Stephanie Davy Outdoors Contributor

Listen carefully. There aren't any cars or televisions to be heard - only the splash of waves and a brisk North wind. Staring out into the darkness of night, there aren't any distant streetlights or neon signs - simply trillions of

stars sprinkling the inky blackness. Glance closer and notice the Milky Way is dancing across midnight sky. This is the beauty of Rock Island - the outermost tip of Door County.

The only means to reach Rock Island is by two ferries. One ferry takes voyagers to Washington Island, where a smaller ferry, called the Karfi, awaits adventurous travelers. A short and rocky ferry ride takes you splashing over the waves of Lake Michigan, but the natu-



The Potowatamie Lighthouse.

ral wonder that awaits is well worth the endeavor.

No cars nor bikes are allowed on Rock Island, however hiking the 900acre island is anything but unpleasant. There are ten miles of hiking trails that include various treasures along the way. One of those treasures is Wisconsin's first federal lighthouse, called the Potawatomie Lighthouse. Volunteers stay at the lighthouse, serving as hosts to daily or weekend travelers. As you continue along the trail, take notice of the three cemeteries where many of the lighthouse keepers rest. Along the north side of the island is what looks to be an open field filled with flowing grasses and an ancient apple orchard. This site is where a failed fishing village was once located. One day's hike around Rock Island

is not only alluring, but also a memorable history lesson.

Before becoming a state park, Rock Island was the private getaway for a wealthy Chicago inventor, Chester Thordarson.

Chester immigrated with his parents to America in 1873 from Iceland. As a tribute to his heritage, Thordarson planted Icelandic thyme among the native grasses and constructed several traditional Nordic structures on the south shore. Several of the buildings still remain, ready for exploration. The most prestigious, is the massive stone Viking Boathouse, which welcomes each traveler off the ferry. The boathouse, which showcases an immense Viking Hall, once held elegant dinner parties and dances. Now the massive hall acts as a museum. "Everyone loves islands," wrote Benson Gardner, a traveler. "There's something inherently peaceful about being surrounded by water. Or perhaps the peace comes from the sense of remoteness. Nothing's better for getting away from it all than feeling you've somehow reached the edge of the earth." While Rock Island is only a few miles from mainland Wisconsin, visiting this isolated treasure can take you across borders and through decades.

Outlook

Friday: Partly cloudy. High: 59 Low: 35

Saturday: Partly cloudy. High: 55 Low: 32

Sunday: Partly cloudy. High: 50 Low: 32



Photo submitted by autho

Viking Boathouse, now a massive museum, once held immense parties and elegant dances for its guests.

Amazing Alaskan adventure - Part III

Hilary Bulger Outdoors Reporter

OUTDOORS REPORTER

After a couple days of showers, laundry, phone calls to loved ones, and fresh food, we said goodbye to our two backpacking instructors, and set off with Craig (our semester proctor who was with us all summer), four rafting instructors, two paddle rafts, and two oar rigs, and set out for the Mighty Copper River.

July 6 – At the farm – Yesterday was our introduction to paddling... Paula and Marie were our rafts' names. In good time I suspect we'll learn to love our boats. ~ Elsie

July 8 – 5 miles – Wow! What a day on the Little Nelchina! We went about five miles on a small river weaving and dodging through brush and rocks. The oar rigs needed a bit of help, overall some people got wet, but we made it to the Nelchina. ~ Allison

July 9 – 22 miles - So today was amazing! After a rainy morning and a good 22-mile stretch down the Nelchina we reached Tazlina Lake. We came upon it slowly and then the light blue water of the lake surrounded us and the glacier and the mountains towered above us. ~ Leah

July 10 – 5 miles – Today we held the first ever Tazlina Lake Regatta... After a competitive start, sails were rigged and everyone relaxed and had great fun floating along with the wind in our sails. ~ Brian

July 11 – 20 miles – Today we paddled from the head of the Tazlina to the upper abdomen. We saw a mild mannered grizzly who seemed quite content with its weight but in turmoil as to what its opinion of steamed oysters was. ~ Sam



July 12 – Layover Day – Great day today! We had some classes on getting rafts unstuck, and on rescues. We got to throw rope bags at people floating down the river and at Polk's head... Later in the afternoon Matt, Evan, Hilary and I went to find a lake. We didn't find it, but after a five mile hike to nowhere, on the way back we found some blueberries. They were delicious ~ Sam July 15 – 21 miles – …in my estrogen paddle rafter the trio of singers harmonized well and poor Leah had it ruff, spewing a few chunks overboard, but luckily she managed to keep her paddle stroke in sync... Quite a crazy night for Ashley and Hilary, just having a good time taking Gatorade shots - which went right to their muscles. They were very giggly... Some good laughs this night. ~ Tracy

July 16 – 25 miles – Got really windy today paddling the Copper. I was actually captaining and found our raft struggling to move where I anticipated. Think my crew hated me for having them paddle forward a gabazillion times in a row. ~ Tracy

July 17 – 18 miles – Today was a day where life got bigger... We also picked up the Chitna River, which seemed to double the size of the river. Holy hugeness Batman. One of the highlights of the river came to us in the form of Wood Canyon ... lots of water being squeezed between narrow walls creating crazy boils and whirpools. ~ Polk [Rafting Instructor]

July 19 – Layover Day – So today was a layover day and we did whatever we felt like doing! Some hiked up to

an abandoned railroad station and cabin, others sat and relaxed. It was such a beautiful place to spend a day: views of glaciers, mountains, and lots of waterfalls. ~ Ashley

July 20-Independent Student Travel - 4 miles - ...our Independent Student Travel ... us a FIRST in all of NOLS rafting history: damn we're good! We did a great job communicating and sticking together on the water, and our only stop was at a trib [tributary] for water ... Evan was trying to be polite and land us on a riverbed while simultaneously jumping out to dock us, and was unfortunately pushed by the boat into very, VERY deep water. ~ Ashley

July21-Independent Student Travel - 5 miles - We stopped to have a moment with a beautiful waterfall. And now, here we are at camp. This campsite gets four stars, excellent gravel bar with stupendous waterfall on one side, glistening glacier across the river and plenty of clear water nearby. ~ Elsie July 22 - 40 miles -[Author's notes - 1) This day was one of the most amazing of my life. 2) Allison was with us on the adventure, but chose to write in third person for this entry.] They got all packed up and were on the water by 7:10 a.m. The first large obstacle was the sand dunes. Approximately eight to ten miles long and five miles wide of complete sand... Next was Baird Canyon (I heard it was really beautiful.) They crossed Copper Lake and stopped at Abercrombie Rapids. The group was pumped up - it was about 6:30p.m. While scouting the rapids, they saw a bear on the other side of the river. After the scout, on the way back to the boats, they ran dead on with a huge grizzly. They ran the rapids with a breeze. They rolled in at 7:30 or 8:00 - tired, wet, cold, and hungry. All in all - it was a great trip. One last thing - there were seals surrounding their sand island. ~ Allison

July 24 – 1 mile – On an excursion to the glacier we were all blessed with amazing cultural experiences. One woman from Oklahoma who traveled with a Turkish entourage mistook the I-Team [the Instructors] for Eskimos and asked if we were racing down the river. Hilary learned rafting is better on hot water and that glaciers are indeed the epicenter of culture. ~ Pat

July 25 – Layover Day – Transference of this to that which is important to you after this: power in numbers, river skills, fun, bears, wind, reading a river, sushi, smiles, the jour-



Photo submitted by author

ney, seals, salmon, icebergs, rigging, flow of life, stop focusing on future, enjoy now, I wish you good luck. ~ Jess [Rafting instructor]

July 26 – 32 miles – It's late evening now, and I'm huddled inside my wee tent, feeling warm and comfortable, as the wind and rain that pelted us all day continues, while I appreciate having enjoyed what was a difficult day to have spent entirely outdoors.... We talked yesterday about all we'd learned on the river, and I'm pleased that we still have more to go. ~ Craig [Proctor]

It was 267 total miles and with a little help from the current and no help from the wind, it was only getting better, and now we were heading to the Prince William Sound...

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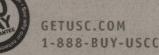
-(Even the ones your friends think you can hear.)-----

NOW,

acticious. Sutti

July 13 – 18 miles – Sun keep shining! We got an early start on the river st today. I was in a paddle rafter with or Sam, Hilary, Ashley, and Evan today. g All goes well until Hilary, who was an captaining, tries to eddy out and falls n out of the boat. ~ Matt

July 14 – 29 miles – Why does my brain work so much better out here? I think it's all a frame of mind actually, considering we saw a pipeline [the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline], a bridge, several people, and half a dozen houses and today and I still say "out here." I guess Bri and Janie's reading is right on about wilderness being an idea rather than simply a place. I like the lil' bit of wilderness I find myself in right now... ~ Hilary



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Arts & Review

Rock, angst and pride: Morrissey and the Smiths

Rebecca Conn ARTS AND REVIEW EDITOR

Pride Week has arrived at last, and UW-SP's Gay-Straight Alliance is featuring a daily booth in the UC concourse to help celebrate. In addition, they are also sponsoring gav-themed events each night this week, including a picnic on Friday evening. Stop by the booth for further event details, and, in the meantime, get your own personal Pride Week going with a rock and roll blast from the recent past.

In the early 80s, when music was trailing in the shockwaves of glitter and punk and goths were fighting the New Romantics for the quintessential post-modern interpretation of Lord Byron, a sharp new band bounded out of the suburbs of Manchester. Calling themselves the Smiths, the foursome was fronted by a gaunt young man with a James Dean quiff who bore himself with the gloom and glamor befitting a spiritual heir of Oscar Wilde. This was Steven Morrissey, known to the world henceforth as just Morrissey.

Bold and fiercely catchy, Morrissey and the Smiths did what their forebears David

Knockout knockabout comedy: Kung Fu Hustle

Blair Nelson

ARTS AND REVIEW CONTRIBUTOR

Kung Fu Hustle Starring Stephen Chow, Wah

Yuen and Qiu Yuen

Kung Fu Hustle, from director Steven Chow, (Shaolin Soccer) begins with a splendid bit of skullduggery: a vicious sequence where the Axe Gang wreak havoc on a town, using axes to severely cut up a man's leg and then cut up some of the town's members. Elements of a gangster film are at work here. Photographs of the massacre are shown in black and white detail that is reminiscent of the brutality in, say, Goodfellas. After this dastardly deed, members of the gang do a sort of victory dance. At this point, the movie could either be a drama or some strange far-fetched musical. The surprising revelation is that it is neither - Kung Fu Hustle is a hilarious comedy. It would have to be with a town named Pig Sty Alley, a fairy man in red underwear, a silly drunk landlord and his

Bowie and the New York Dolls had done: they embodied an amorphous, aggressive sexuality that should have sent the staunchly hetero rock crowd running, but then hooked them in close with memorable, rocking compositions and impertinently intelligent lyrics. When Morrissey danced onstage with flowers jammed in his back pocket, straight boys jumped up to kiss his hand.

"When Morrissey danced...straight boys jumped up to kiss his hand."

The Smiths became famous for playing deceptively upbeat songs lushly lined with Morrissey's morose, misanthropic and darkly angry lyrics, like "The Queen is Dead" and "Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now," which muses "Why do I smile/At people whom I'd much rather kick in the eye?" They also performed songs full of seldomfulfilled homoerotic longing, (Moz was famously celibate, and it's still not clear whether

wife who, no matter what she does, never loses the expertly placed cigarette in her mouth; these two also have a few surprises in store for the audience later on. Oh, and by the way, the Axe Gang is actually a bunch of sissies, led by a leader who likes to "see the action," as he calls it, and seems lost in vapid boredom. It's nice to have "funny" bad guys for a change.

Many moviegoers have probably never heard of Chow, but you may come to appreciate this guy and his style of slapstick humor after seeing what Hustle delivers. That's a promise. The delight of the film is that it never takes itself seriously, blossoming into a grand farce. There are numerous laughing moments-too many to list-but here are a few of the best: the town standing up to the gang; the Beast showing his true physical nature; the landlord and landlady running after the leader of the Axe Gang like Wile E. Coyote chasing the Roadrunner and, finally, knifethrowing gone bad. (This one got rather heavy laughs in the theatre).

he likes girls, boys or anything) like "Girl Afraid" and the unabashedly sweet, definitely queer "Ask": "Shyness is nice, but shyness can stop you/From doing all the things in life you'd like to.'

After the Smiths' acrimonious break in the mid-80s, Morrissey began a largely successful solo career, putting out albums like the fantastically camp Bona Drag, which features songs about rent boys, lucky lisps and hairdressers on fire. Most recently, he has released You are the Quarry, the satin-pink cover of which shows the famous animal rights activist cradling a tommy gun. Along with incendiary political ballads and torchy failed-romance songs, there is a new feature in the Morrissey lexicon of queerness: lesbian identity. Funny, touching and maybe deep, "All the Lazy Dykes" is the story of a housewife's awakening to her desire to "go and join the girls." Morrissey sings it with such convincing passion that one is encouraged afresh to wonder about this now middle-aged, still Dean-quiffed rocker's sexual identity.

recognizable style - they come

from Woo-ping Yuen, who did

the amazing aerial fight bal-

lets in Crouching Tiger, Hidden

Dragon and, most recently, Kill

Bill volumes I and II. He's

good at this stuff. Clearly,

Hustle is not Crouching Tiger,

as one is a comedy, the other

drama. However, Chow is

making a parody and pok-

ing jabs at these films in a

deft way: Could it be that

Crouching Tiger, Hero, and the

recent House of Flying Daggers,

which utilize this popular

style of fluid-ballet fighting

and gravity-defying flight-

like movements, have worn

out their welcome? After all,

Local talent front and center at the Playwright's Showcase

Rebecca Conn ARTS AND REVIEW EDITOR

The second annual UW-SP Extension Playwright's Showcase, which took place this past weekend, featured five short dramatic pieces by local authors, performed by local players. The event, which was respectably attended, demonstrated that it isn't necessary to go to the West End to enjoy thoughtful drama or truly absurd comedy.

The night opened with Rozmarynowski's Mark Killinger Anders, a comic, touching piece about the purposely convoluted legacy of a famous poet. Next were



this weekend

UW-SP Press Release

Sweet violin music

Violinists Angela Harrison

and Lindsay Demske will per-

form in a joint student recital

at the UW-SP on Saturday,

April 30, in Michelsen Hall of

the Noel Fine Arts Center. It

will begin at 3 p.m. and will

be open to the public free of

"Sonatina 100" by Dvorak,

performed by Harrison,

"Sonata in G Major" by

The program will include

charge.

Robin Roberts' The Get and Arthur Herman's Vacancy, both of which are social satires that deal with the avid

viciousness of contemporary culture. Vacancy in particular drew strongly from absurdist techniques and ended in a near-nude scene. Finishing the evening were two pieces by Andrew Pech. Kitchen Table is a short,

sharp drama about coming to terms with the death of a parent and the necessity of embracing one's past in order to progress into the future. Disturbed, the evening's longest piece and, judging by the laughter, the favorite of much of the crowd, is a comedy about a paranoid man, Ben, played by Roger Reichardt, and the people who may or may not be living in his closet. Poor befuddled Ben's stammering and the salty swearing of his landlady, the aptly named Mrs. Grimrose, played by Beverly Welter, kept the audience roaring. So did the flouncing, flaring and frankly insane antics of the weird women in his closet, led by the sultry Ophelia, who was played by Megan Kunz. After all the laughs were done, though, the ending provided a moment of pathos, and asked the audience to wonder who the mad one(s) really were. All those of us who were there can do is look forward to next year, and urge all who weren't there to attend.

In Memoriam: Sir John Mills

Rebecca Conn ARTS AND REVIEW EDITOR

It isn't every day that someone who has been in any profession, much less excelled in it, for nearly 80 years passes away. Sir John Mills took his first stage role in 1929, and died this week at the age of

But, despite the gorgeous hilarity, Chow may be onto something. A plethora of fight sequences fill the screen in a

how long can you watch two people duke it out, oftentimes never getting hurt, before it gets redundantly tiring? Many people will continue to treasure Ang Lee's Tiger for its poetic beauty and themes-it is the first film that started these aforementioned and important films-but until a skillful director comes along and gives new creative life into this style, perhaps directors should halt films in that genre for a while.

Nevertheless, go see Kung Fu Hustle and enjoy it for what it is: a hilarious comedy and a damn good rip-roaringly fun time.

Johannes Brahm, performed by Demske, and "Remembrances from Schindler's List" by John Williams, "Concerto in D minor for two violins" by J.S. Bach, and "Mi Mancherai" by Luis Bacalov, performed by both violinists.

Harrison is a junior majoring in choral and instrumental education. At UW-SP, Harrison has been involved with the UW-SP Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir.

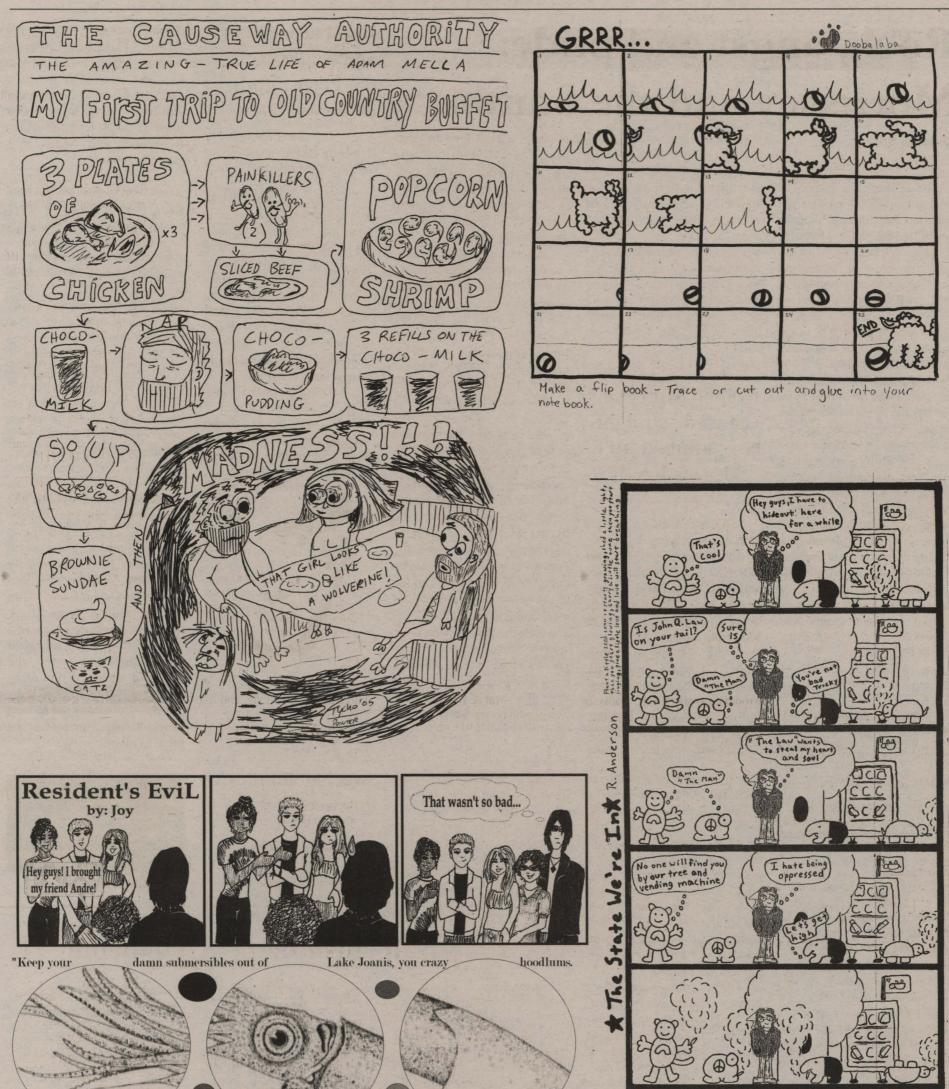
Demske is a senior majoring in music education with a minor in psychology. Demske has been involved with the UW-SP Symphony Orchestra.

97

Mills performed in over one hundred films alongside great and famous performers, such as Sir John Gielgud, Sir Alec Guinness and Jim Broadbent. He won an Oscar for his role in Ryan's Daughter and appeared memorably in films like Great Expectations, Gandhi and War and Peace. He is also the father of actresses Juliet and Hayley Mills.

With his death, a brilliant corner of theatre history dies too. He worked with G.B. Shaw and with Noel Coward, and he worked well. There won't be another John Mills.

Comics



I'm totally ______ cool with you folks swimming, _____ but this is too intrusive." ______ Love, Squiddy

S/

the OLD MAN THANKS FOR GIVING ME A 50, DO YOU LIKE TO 9 RIDE, MISTER! I THOUGHT I theoldman@email.com WATCH ... GLADIATOR 2 WAS GONNA HAVE TO WALK MOVIES ? THE WHOLE WAY THERE! 2 CLICK UH, HUH. 0 50 00 40 4.28

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JOBS

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Must be available evenings or weekends in mid-May or early June. Call 715-803-4158 or e-mail <u>fred4peace@yahoo.com</u>

The reporter abroad: A bit of Spanish flamenco dancing

Rebecca Buchannan Pointlife Contributor

Flamenco, salsa, meringue: three traditional Spanish dances that I am sure most of you have heard of, but few have strate a restrained passion. Guitarists accompany the

dancers to keep the rhythm and singers, who have a harsh vibrating voice, add another dimension to the show. All three of these performers work together to create an entertaining atmosphere complete with different sounds, beats, movements and expressions.



artistic expression while at the same time keeping the rhythm and beat to the guitar and singers, is absolutely amazing! In all my years as a dancer (never would I have been able to dance flamenco) and all of the dance shows, ballets and musicals I have seen, this flamenco show in Spain was by far the most incredible dance performance I have ever seen. Spain should be proud of their flamenco art because they have a unique form of artistic expression. Flamenco will always be known as a traditional Spanish art that no other country will ever be able to imitate.

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I was lucky enough to see a flamenco show in southern Spain, and I would have missed out on one of Spain's greatest traditions if I had skipped it.

Flamenco is more than a dance, but a forceful artistic expression of sorrows and joys. Though its origins are hard to trace, it's traditionally performed by gypsies in Andalusia (southern Spain). There is no strict choreography and dancers usually improvise from basic movements. The flamenco dancer's posture is stiff in order to show pride and grace, but also to demonThe dancers have different props that can be used depending on the dance. For a more upbeat song, the dancer's staccato footwork in highheeled shoes becomes more furious as the beat of the guitar quickens. Castanets, wodden hand clappers, are also used to create a fașter "clickity" sound.

For a slower song or a dance between a man and a woman, hand movements are used to express feelings or to tell a story. Sometimes women twirl fancy lace shawls around their bodies or use decorated fans to display other emotions.

The men traditionally wear pants and a vest, while the women wear brightly colored (often polk-a-dot) dresses that fit snuggly and flare out at the bottom. These costumes add to the ambience of the authentic flamenco traditions and attract the audience's attention.

As I watched each flamenco performance, I was completely stunned at the style of dance, the footwork and castanets. The fact that anyone can move with such grace and

If you ever have a chance to visit Spain, go see a flamenco show and indulge in the rich culture that Spain has to offer.

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