Bottle of water in hand, Oz brings home Trivia without caffeine

By Brandi Pettit
The Pointer
bpett118@uwsp.edu

Those who have watched "The World's Largest Trivia Contest" on Student Television often see Jim "Oz" Oliva wildly playing air guitar and jumping around in front of his microphone.

"It's not just a show for the cameras - he really is a maniac."

In the final minutes before Trivia, the Odd Contest began on Friday. Oz was racing around the 90FM WWSP studios, carrying boxes, moving papers and giving last minute instructions to his assistants.

He finally took a moment for himself to dance around in glee as he looked through the record selection for the weekend, which included novelty songs from the past few decades.

Though trivia questions are written throughout the year, preparation for trivia starts months in advance. Lining up sponsors, preparing a theme and coordinating volunteers are all part of the work leading up to the station's biggest event of the year.

"We started preparing for this (trivia) in January," said Denise Conrad, Business Director for 90FM. "Things are pretty crazy here today (Friday), with the start of Trivia. (Last) Monday was really busy too with registration."

Everyone involved with the project was bursting with excitement, including Oz and his question writing partner, John Eckendorf.

Eckendorf has been writing questions with The Oz for 18 years and was a participant for 12 years prior.

The 41-year-old trivia veteran said the final questions are written about three weeks in advance.

"We need that leeway to re-read the questions a few times because we can always have a mistake in there," said Eckendorf.

One past mistake is directly related to every year's initial question, the answer to which is always "Robert Redford, or sometimes, simply "Bob."

Now, this first question always follows the popular Steppenwolf song "Born to Be Wild" as an annual tradition, which was heard on radios around the state, including those located at the "Pastafarian Phrogz" team headquarters.

"We've got radios in every room," team member Luis Casanova said. "We've got the three computers, the fake frog one can think of - including stuffed animals, cookies and spinach dip inside frog shaped bread."

"We found out about Pastafarians on the Internet," said Casanova. "Some guy invented a religion that connects pirates, global warming, hence our pirate outfits." Casanova and Melvin hosted about a dozen teammates throughout the weekend and devised a system for sleeping right away on Friday.

"We've got one girl upstairs right now - it's her turn to nap," said Casanova, "but we'll be going all day and all night."

With the Internet available in

CNR department acquires land in Portage County

By Adam Wise
The Pointer
awise1955@uwsp.edu

UW-SP's College of Natural Resources (CNR) has acquired a 45-acre parcel in eastern Portage County that will become a permanent addition to the central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES).

The acquired parcel is located at the northeast corner of Sunset Lake Road and County MM and has a history of conservation stewardship, thanks to over a century of ownership by the North New Hope Lutheran Church.

According to the CWES Web site, the station's mission is to, "foster in adults and youth the appreciation, understanding, skill development and motivation needed to help them build a sustainable balance between environment, economy and community."

"Everybody wins in this acquisition, including the general public," said Randy Champoux, CNR associate dean for outreach and extension. "Preserving this special piece of green space for CWES users and central Wisconsin residents will yield benefits for years to come, thanks to excellent cooperation between the church, UW-SP Foundation, the county and the state. This will strengthen CWES programs and help build its reputation as a leader in environmental education."

A unique and environmentally sensitive property, this area features land surrounding Minister Lake, which consists of a natural pond and wetland area just east of Sunset Lake.

CWES has enjoyed an excellent relationship with the church in the past. Various groups served by CWES, including youth, school, UW-SP and adult groups, have been allowed to use the property for education, research and recreation. The deal ensures that those uses will continue for the foreseeable future.

The $212,500 purchase was made possible by grants from the state of Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Land Preservation Fund administered by Portage County and donations from friends and alumni to the UW-SP Foundation, which will hold the deed.

The transaction had been discussed for many years, but serious negotiations between the university and North New Hope Lutheran Church began nearly two years ago. The deal was finalized on March 15.
from Trivia pg. 1

almost every house, questions have been getting tougher each week. But that’s not stopping any of the teams from doing their best.

Jody Baganz was holding court in his cast side home where his team, “Home of Norm’s Stool,” a reference to the popular television show Cheers,” was headquartered.

“Well, we’re unexpectedly low. We’re in the mid-twenties right now,” said Baganz of his 28-year-old team’s standing late Sunday afternoon.

Almost a dozen manned computer stations were set up in Baganz’s basement, where Baganz says his family hosted about 34 players for this year’s contest.

“Home of Norm’s Stool” has members from several areas of Wisconsin and other states, including Arkansas, Minnesota and Michigan.

To keep morale high, Baganz said his team hands out awards to various members who have acted in some noticeable way. Some of the awards deal with who accidentally crashed a computer system and who has had the most sleep.

“I’ve had about 4 or 5 hours of sleep myself,” said Baganz.

This year 420 teams registered for the trivia contest, with over 11,000 team members on hand. Teams like the “Home of Norm’s Stool” and “Pastafarian Phrogz” rely heavily on the Internet, and need every edge they can get.

When asked if Eckendorf had any advice for this year’s trivia teams, he answered, “Notes. Keep your eyes peeled.”

Eckendorf laughed. “The players will know what that means.”

Come Sunday, the 90FM studio was busier than ever, where dozens of volunteers were working to help bring this year’s trivia contest to a smooth and efficient end.

Conrad was pleased with this year’s event, saying that nothing out of the ordinary had happened all weekend.

“Things are going good,” said Conrad, a UW-SP freshman.

Or sat in the back office, thumbing feverishly through a pile of papers.

“I’ve had two hours and about ten minutes of sleep all weekend,” said an energetic Oliva.

So what’s his secret for being his usual bright-eyed self during the 54-hour contest?

“It’s all mind over matter,” said Oz, who was manning the trivia complaint line.

“I haven’t had any caffeine in eight years,” he said, holding up his trusty bottle of water.

While many 90FM volunteers looked bagged and were looking forward to some much needed sleep after the contest ended at midnight Sunday, Oz was wired with energy, anxious to help the studio staff and volunteers with any questions they had.

“All things trivia emanate through me,” he said.

The same teams have ruled the top spots for the past several years; this year’s top five were certainly no surprise. Final tallies awarded fifth place to “Basementality: Google My Oz” with 8,285 points, fourth place went to “Graduates of a Lesser, God” with a score of 8,505 points, “Tin Man” swiped third place with 9,195 points, “Knights of Neek” came in second with a score of 9,610 points and “Oddly Enough It’s Network” won this year’s contest, with a score of 11,070 points.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

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Letters & Opinion

Your College Survival Guide:

Name your tune

Pat Rothfuss
With help from the Mission Coffee House

Greetings, oh wise one!

"I made 66 friends in four hours last night, which is something inside." When asked what he was doing around and realized there was going to be "a humorous white rap/alternative style. Catchy tunes. Fun and energetic.

Bond: Four gorgeous mixes (or mixes?) playing various electrical stringed instruments to amp-up classical and rock-turned-classical music like Kashmere, Adaggio and the James Bond Theme Song. It's like music on ecstasy.

Michael Buble: Frank Sinatra reincarnated? A crooner in the best definition of the word.

Sleater-Kinney: While I'm addicted to all of their albums, their latest, "The Woods," is a total mind-numbing, teeth-clenching orgasm. The best rock without the cock.

 Chad VanGaalen: Chilled-out and mellow with creepy introspection and morbid tendencies. Lyrically and melodically compelling.

TV On The Radio: Just different. Best consumed live, but a CD will do the trick as well. Intelligence plus grooves = TVOR.

Electric Six: Very awesome alternative-sometimes-electronic craziness. They do songs like "Danger! High Voltage" and "Gay Bar." The videos for these songs are completely mind-blowingly hilarious.

The Urge: Finally a unique ska band! While I love ska in general, not every band needs to sound like the Skallites. This has more of a rock feel to it.

Bitch and Animal: A wonderfully political and blunt queer duo. They do amazing songs like "Best Cock on the Block." Their sound is kind of an edgy, alternative rock. If you want the rest of the recommendations, check out the College Survival Guide online at www.myspace.com/ycsg.

The good news is that the Mission Coffee House is getting a major face-lift. The bad news is that it's going to be shut down while that's happening. They'll still be open for some weekend shows though. For pictures of the reconstruction and details about the weekend's shows, check out their page at www.myspace.com/missionofficetheatre. And remember, you have to add them as a friend if you want to see the event calendar.

Dear Editor,

Early on Monday, April 10, students began to notice strange, yellow-colored boxes hanging from the trees around campus. The boxes were wrapped in yellow paper and spray-painted on four sides with a large black question mark. Any old-school Nintendo fan would be able to tell in an instant that these blocks are what one might call a "signature" of Nintendo's most successful franchise to date, the Super Mario Brothers games.

Just like in the games, the boxes were located high above the ground level. Some blocks resided in the branches of trees at heights of 20 feet or more. However, this obstacle didn't stop students. According to UW-SP student Justin Belant, the boxes were worth the trouble.

"My friend Adam climbed up the large tree near Debot and got this one down. We shook it around and realized there was something inside." When asked about the contents of the box he just produced a DVD which was bundled inside the box along with a note that instructed the reader to make boxes of their own and continue the cycle.

As of this time there are no leads as to who posted the mysterious boxes, but keep your eyes open. You never know when more boxes will reappear.

Derek Baker
UW-SP student
Dear Editor,

"Brokeback Mountain" failed to nab the Best Picture award at this year's Academy Awards, but that doesn't mean the movie is unworthy of being seen. In fact, if there was ever a time to see a film such as this one, to hear the message that it has to offer, it would be now. As I'm sure most of you are aware, "Brokeback Mountain" is the story of two young ranch hands that fall in love with one another during their time together in the mountains of Wyoming in 1963. Their forbidden love must be kept secret throughout their lives from everyone, especially the close-minded small-town folk, who would persecute the men, or even kill them, should they find out. I think about the film's story in terms of its presence in time and setting in the 1960s, and then think about the same situation if it would happen in 2006, and I can't help but wonder—has that much changed in our society since then? We say we've come so far, but I feel that the story of "Brokeback Mountain" is a social wake up call, and that doesn't mean rather that much changed in our society that much changed in our society since then? We say we've come so far, but I feel that the story of "Brokeback Mountain" is a social wake up call, and that doesn't mean that love and passion are stifled. When it comes to love, it shouldn't matter if you are attracted to males or if you are attracted to females, but rather if you have that kind of never-ending love that you can share with someone else. People are people, and love is love, no matter what your sexuality is. The love homosexuals have for one another is no different than the love heterosexuals have. Instead of smothering the spread of love, why don't we take the heartbreaking, realistic story of "Brokeback Mountain" and allow love to be shared and expressed by anyone who has a heart, regardless of sexual orientation. I encourage all of you to see this film and take it in mind when you vote this November.

Dan Richter
UW-SP student

Don't forget about Brokeback at the polls

Eating contest winner rebuffs protester

Dear Editor,

An open letter here last week criticized the eating contest sponsored by Centertainment, but offered a very ineffective, uncreative way of protesting it. Centertainment is only trying to do their job, by offering amateur access into a growing sport that is making new fans every day.

Sport, you say? While I personally don't believe competitive eating is a sport, it does have the elements of one. As someone who has trained for (and won) the Centertainment contest this year, I can tell you that it takes concentration to keep your stomach from ejecting its contents, superior jaw strength to chew as fast as possible for minutes at a time, and the ability to stretch your stomach beyond its normal capacities. Most professional eaters have intense training regimes. Competitive eating is taken more seriously in some European countries, where prize money is enough to earn a living on. Like many people, I agree that it's tasteless to make a contest out of eating when people are starving worldwide. But it is ridiculous to believe that competitive eating is the cause of hunger. People can criticize gluttony as much as they want, but it won't make a dent in the world hunger problem.

There was a crowd of at least 30 people watching this particular contest, and someone could lecture these people for hours, but I doubt people would leave an entertaining event such as this. If you find things like this distasteful, you should donate some money to an appropriate charity. What better way to protest this event than winning it and giving the money to charity? If nobody with such intentions had entered the contest, that money would have had no chance to feed hungry people. If you want to make a difference in the world, loud protesting isn't usually the answer, but personal sacrifice is.

And why does everything these days have to be so political? Caring about hunger and poverty is in no way a "bleeding heart liberal" cause. The most liberal thing about Firkus' letter was that she writes in to a newspaper to complain instead of actually trying to do something about the problem. If you have a problem with this contest, enter it next year and try to make a difference.

Joseph Peloski
UW-SP student

The School of Education is hiring Graduate Assistants for Fall 2006.

Deadline for application is Monday, April 24

Interested graduate students should pick up an application in CPS 470.
Resident's C U L

Ady? Am you alright? Come on! Come on! I know it was really funny when your girlfriend told you she was pregnant on April Fool's Day. I know it was cruel, but it's been two weeks now and I think you need to get over it.

NEVERLAND

E. H. FERGISON

OR, YES, THAT'S RIGHT! ANYWAY, ACCIDENTLY SET THE MANAGER ON FIRE WAS THERE BEFORE OR AFTER YOU WALKED IN THE BATHROOM?

By: ROGER VANG

Hey Zero, enchant my sword!

EVAH, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO? SOMEONE SHOULD BE TAKING CARE OF THE ART FACTORY.

By: MIKE CYPUL

I know it was cruel, but it's been two weeks now and I think you need to get over it.

Venus di DUSCHIO

Sid had me act as bait to catch the artist & now I'm stuck! At least she just changed your eyes & clothes.

By: JEN MILLER

Right! But you're glad things like this never happen to you.

Right! But you're glad things like this never happen to you.

Word Search: KING ARTHUR

King Arthur, Excalibur, Grail, Lancelot, Guinevere, Galahad, Lancelot, Camelot, Merlin, Mordred, Legend, Knight
Get geared up with some excellent advice about the best equipment out there

By Josh Spice
OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES STUDENT MANAGER/TRIP LEADER

It's that time of year again—time to get your camp on. Whether you enjoy backpacking or just straight-up car camping, here is some of the best gear on the market that'll have you burnin' to get out more.

The Pack: Comfort vs Weight Savings

Osprey Aether 70/Ariel 65

Problems getting the right fit out of a pack? Check out Osprey's revolutionary design on their Isoform-Series. With gender-specific sizing and two torso-range sizes for men and women, the Aether and Ariel will fit nearly anyone's body with comfort, even when hauling 45+ lb loads. The Isoform hip belt is custom-moldable. Place it in Osprey's special hip belt oven and fit it to your hips. Each torso range size for both men and women are customizable down to one-inch increments, allowing for a perfect fit. Backpacker Magazine claims the Aether and Ariel to have the "best in class comfort and carrying control."

Not only does this pack feel good on your back, but it incorporates impeccable design. The airscape suspension keeps your back cool while supporting heavy loads. Straightjacket compression straps ensure proper gear dispersal throughout the pack on shorter hikes. A recessed head cavity at the top of the pack makes a perfect spot to rest your head and allows for unhindered viewing overhead. Deep outside pockets hold gear and water bottles for easy access. Hydration compatibility keeps you hydrated on the fly. The top pocket detaches in conjunction with the hip belt for use as a fanny pack.

If you're looking for an all-around great pack that carries heavy loads with extreme comfort and won't break the bank, this is your ticket. But don't just take my word for it—Backpacker gave it a 4.7 out of 5 rating and labeled it as a "best buy."

MEN'S AETHER 70 - $239 / 4200 cu in / 4lbs 9oz / 2 torso sizes
WOMEN'S ARIEL 65 - $229 / 4000 cu in / 4lbs 8oz / 2 torso sizes
www.ospreypacks.com

Osprey Atmos 50*

Looking for a pack that will let you be light on your feet and hit that 25 miles-in-one-day milestone? This ultralight model carries up to 35 lbs comfortably and does so in style. The airspeed suspension keeps air flowing over your back, while a floating top pocket, deep external pockets, water-resistant zippers, internal hydration sleeve and mesh pockets on the hip belt make this pack a joy to wear. Daisy chains with removable shock-corded clips and removable sleeping pad straps make packing and carrying gear a breeze.

Only gripe: the open air space along your back that the Airspeed Suspension creates requires a little more thought and planning when packing gear on the inside of the pack. Always remember, half the weight = twice the fun!

ATMOS 50 - $199 / 3000 cu in / 3lbs 1oz / 3 torso sizes
www.ospreypacks.com

Tip: Don't forget to line your pack with a heavy duty trash bag to keep all your gear dry.

Sidenote: No need to fret over the "Made in Vietnam" label on Osprey packs—the owner of the company and head designer, Mike Pfotenhauer, moved himself and his family to Vietnam to ensure quality control and adequate working conditions. The move had to be made to compete with other companies, like The North Face, etc., who switched their production overseas. See www.backpacker.com for more information on the topic.

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Get geared up with some excellent advice about the best equipment out there

The Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. Catholic women religious in service to the world. Our ministries include education, health care and community/parish services in a diversity of rewarding environments.

Call Sr. Marianna Merkatoris, OSF at 920-682-7728. Or visit www.fscc-calledtobe.org

The world needs you. God calls you. We invite you.

FRANCISCAN SISTERS of Christian Charity
The Shelter: Light vs Luxe

Tarptent Squall

If you need a superlight tent to go along with your new pack, get ready to meet your maker. Barely fitting the definition of a "tent," the Tarptent Squall is one of the lightest and most spacious two-person tents on the market, serving perfectly as one hell of a "keep me dry and the bugs off me" shelter. Essentially a bugproof tarp, the non-freestanding Squall consists of a piece of nylon for the floor, sewn to no-see-um mesh sidewalls, door, and foot, which is in turn sewn to a silicone-impregnated piece of nylon for the roof and awnings. I use the term "awning" because this tent forgoes the use of to-the-ground vestibules to maximize airflow through the tent and reduce weight. (Something to keep in mind is that if airflow through the tent is intended to be high to reduce condensation, this tent may not be your best bet for cool/cold weather. The tent is designed to keep you dry and the bugs at bay, giving you the feeling of sleeping out in the open.) The silicone-impregnated nylon sheds water like a duck's back and the mesh that circumnavigates the tent near the ground keeps condensation to an absolute minimum. Use a trekking pole to support the door end of the tent to save weight, pitching it high for headroom and living space or low for storm-worthiness. Reflective Kelty Lightline is standard issue for guylines. Check out reviews and other models at Tarptent's website.

SQUALL - $225 / 2 person / 3 season / 2lbs
www.tarptent.com

The North Face Tadpole 23

An all-around favorite in the three-season world is the freestanding Tadpole 23, weighing in below five pounds. But don't limit it to three seasons; with ample support from multiple guy-out points and an intuitively designed pole system, this tent can handle light winter duty. Condensation is trumped by a nearly all-no-see-um mesh ceiling and a silicone-impregnated rain fly. Pitching is made easy with sleeves and clips positioned and designed for strength and weight reduction. The D-shaped door and large vestibule make entering and exiting, along with storing gear, simple as pie, which is crucial in mosquito-infested environments. Looking to save some weight in a bug-free area? Pitch it with the fly only for huge weight savings. The Tadpole 23 is a standard on any outfitter's gear list.

TADPOLE 23 - $229 / 2 person / 3 season / 4lbs 14oz
www.thenorthface.com

Tip: Remember to seam seal all sewn seams on your tent to ensure 100 percent waterproofness.

(* part of my own gear arsenal)

The North Face Tadpole 23

Be sure to check next week's outdoor section for Josh's review on sleeping bags and sleeping pads.

Get geared up for your next adventure with Outdoor EdVentures & Rentals, located in the lower level of the Allen Center.

Check out OE's Open House on May 1 from 7-8:30 p.m. and Demo Days at Lake Jomis in Schmeeckle Reserve on May 5 from 1-4 p.m. all part of "Groovin' with Allen" week.

SGA DIRECTOR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Applications will be made available April 5th.

And are due at 4pm in the SGA office on April 19th

To access applications log on to the SGA website or pick an application up in the SGA office, located in room 26 Lower UC.

For questions e-mail Ross Cohen or SGAEXEC@UWSP.EDU.
Enjoying St. Patrick’s Day and Irish culture in Dublin and Belfast

Jennifer Wilcher
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

Did you (pronounced dee-ah-gwilt), as they say in Irish, or hello. It is the end of the eighth week of classes and I'm beginning to see that the sun was a mental journey as well. Throughout his 30 days, Quinnell would often get depressed, especially when a woman in a storefront offered him a 12-year-old girl for what would be an estimated 15-20 American dollars. Quinnell's efforts were successful when he rescued a young woman who had been working in a brothel as a prostitute for three years. He was able to help her change the direction of her life and experience trying to take in a whirlwind of eight days. By guiding her to the director of Development and Education Program for Daughters and Communities, Sompop Jantraka, she was able to get a job teaching dance and kindergarten at the school Jantraka has created for children he rescued from prostitution.

Quinnell's 30 days in Thailand will be displayed in an exhibit entitled "An Allowance of Dream," and it is a photojournalistic awareness campaign that documents Quinnell's incredible COLOR: The Faces of Thailand.

"Throughout his 30 days, Quinnell would often get depressed, especially when a woman in a storefront offered him a 12-year-old girl for what would be an estimated 15-20 American dollars." each category will be spread throughout campus, appearing in the University Center's Center, the Collins Classroom Center, the College of Professional Studies, the University Library and the Noel Fine Arts Center. The exhibit will debut on April 17 and runs until April 30. "An Allowance of Dream" is being sponsored by Chancellor Bumnenl, Vice Chancellor Helm, Multicultural Affairs, SGA, the College of Fine Arts and the Department of Art, and Design.

For more information on the exhibit or Quinnell's project, you can check out www.thailandproject.com or www.depdc.org. You may direct any questions or comments to jquin065@uwsp.edu.

I would have to say I liked Falls Road better. The murals were more than just murals were made from much more vibrant colors with a more optimistic feel. Also, there were more than just murals on Falls Road including a memorial and what is called the "Solidarity Wall." The Solidarity Wall is a green gate that runs the length of where the two roads meet. The gate was put up in 1970 and was supposed to be temporary. Having been put up for over 30 years now, it has outlasted the Berlin Wall.

Another way to separate which road you are on is to look at the taxis. Shankill Road taxis have orange license plates while Falls Road taxis have green license plates.

Shankill Road, gets its name from two Irish words put together: "sean" meaning "old" and "chill" meaning "church." While murals on Shankill Road are not as colorful or optimistic as those on Falls Road, they still get the Loyalist message across clearly. Murals along Shankill Road are generally made of shades of white, grey and black with little color. Some sayings on these murals include "Ulster will always remain British" and "My Ulster blood is my most priceless heritage."

While I enjoyed seeing the murals on Shankill Road, I would have to say I liked Falls Road. The taxis were made from much more vibrant colors with a more optimistic feel. Also, there were more than just murals on Falls Road including a memorial and what is called the "Solidarity Wall." The memorial, called "Garden of Remembrance," was made by Falls Road residents in dedication to those in the Irish Republican Army who lost their lives "in their quest for Irish freedom." The Solidarity Wall is a whole wall of murals in which Irish Republicans express their sympathy for various religious groups. Sayings include "Palestine. The largest concentration camp in the world!!" and "Fight Bigotry, Fight Racism." And, despite the past conflict, my fellow students and I enjoyed our time in Dublin and Belfast.

One of the colorful murals along the side of the Falls Road in Belfast, Ireland.

Photo by Jennifer Wilcher

Aaron Hull
APRIL 9 @ UWSP.EDU

By now I had given up on the game and had resorted to playing with the lighting capabilities on the camera. I hung back and waited to see how well the guy behind us would do. He finished his breathing exercises by now and sat cross-legged in the grass. He looked focused.

"Mind if I get a shot of your drive?" I asked him. He looked me over and twirled his driver the way I thought someone with a lot of skill might.

"Sure, so long as you don't use a flash," he said. I said it wouldn't be a problem.

He stood up quickly and seemed to center himself. He walked up to the launch, rubbed his palm sensually over the driver and, with a casual backhand flick of his wrist, whipped his driver down toward me. It curved immediately toward the bushes to our right, picked up some hidden air current and sliced down and left like a tomahawk, crashing into the chains and setting off distinctly into the distance. "It's not bad," I shouted. "Did you do that?"

He glanced over at me, smiled slyly through the crease near his mouth and gestured back toward the tee box. "You should've seen me last year."
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Steve Roeland
SROEL908@UWSP.EDU

What do 15 years, six division titles, three consecutive NFL MVP awards and one Super Bowl championship give to Brett Favre? Mostly criticism and flack from those awaiting his decision on whether or not to return for the 2006-07 season, apparently.

The Green Bay faithful have been clinging to their Cheeseheads and bratwursts since the end of an ugly 4-12 season, hoping that Favre would wear the Green and Gold for another year. Speculation and deadlines have done little to provoke a decision from the future Hall of Famer. This past weekend, Favre hosted a charity golf event in his home state of Mississippi. Many members of the media made their way to the Gulf Coast, hoping to hear a decision from Favre.

"The fact that we're sitting here today at this press conference, to me, is a joke because I don't have anything to tell you," Favre told the Associated Press. "Somebody assumed that I would." The reporters present were anticipating a decision, thanks to a spokeswoman for Favre's family, who claimed there would be a "scoop" at the press conference.

No matter what pressures come from fans or media members, Favre should be given all the time he deserves to make a decision. Some feel Favre and his penchant for delaying a decision hurts the team because a future quarterback may not be able to get reps in under center. For the past few seasons, however, Favre has been excused from mini-camps and workouts, so backup quarterback Aaron Rodgers and other potential replacements for the 36-year-old signal caller have been able to participate in drills.

Favre made it clear that, in order for him to return next season, the Packers' management would have to make the team competitive again. General Manager Ted Thompson had the funds to make a big free agent signing this off-season. So far, the Packers' key free agent signings include defensive tackle Ryan Pickett, safety Marquand Manuel and kick-er Billy Cundiff. Not exactly like signing Reggie White.

The Packers are still in the hunt for free agent cornerback Charles Woodson, formerly of the Oakland Raiders. Signing a solid player in a position that the Packers have been less than stellar at recently could bring Favre back.

Still, the group of individuals protecting No. 4 while he drops back in the pocket looks more like a sieve than an offensive line. After losing guards Mike Wahle and Marco Rivera before last season, Green Bay failed to re-sign center Mike Flanagan and guard Grey Ruegamer this off-season. The Packers did re-sign tackle Kevin Berry in hopes of keeping a stellar at recently could bring Favre back.

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The Packers are still in the hunt for free agent corner- back Charles Woodson, formerly of the Oakland Raiders. Signing a solid player in a position that the Packers have been less than stellar at recently could bring Favre back.

Still, the group of individuals protecting No. 4 while he drops back in the pocket looks more like a sieve than an offensive line. After losing guards Mike Wahle and Marco Rivera before last season, Green Bay failed to re-sign center Mike Flanagan and guard Grey Ruegamer this off-season. The Packers did re-sign tackle Kevin Berry in hopes of keeping a semblance of a solid line in fact, but the tackle position is not the problem area. Getting solid guards on the line could coax Favre into coming back.

No matter his reasons for deciding not to decide yet, Favre has earned the right to take his time. After all Favre has given to a team and a loyal fan base in the past 15 seasons, the least Packers fans can do is give the man some time.

The least the Packers organization can do is give No. 4 a winning team.
Eagles soar over UW-SP, use solid pitching to hand Pointers first conference losses of the '06 season

Steve Roeland
THE POINTER
MSOE@UWSP.EDU

After opening the WIAC season with a three-game sweep of the UW-Platteville Pioneers on April 1-2 and following up with a two-game sweep of UW-Stout last Wednesday, the UW-Stevens Point baseball team experienced conference defeats for the first time this year last weekend in La Crosse.

The Pointers won only once in the four-game series against UW-L, losing 6-2 and 9-6 on Saturday and winning 14-1, then falling 5-2 on Sunday.

The Pointers took an early lead in game one on Saturday, as Chad Brehm slammed his third home run of the season off UW-L hurler Benitz in the top of the first. The Eagles answered the Pointers' early score in the bottom of the frame, scoring on an unearned run thanks to two UW-SP errors.

UW-L added a run in the bottom of the third on a double by Tony Peterson, who went 3-for-4 in the game. The two-bagger drove in Andy Podmolik and put the Eagles up for good.

In the following inning, UW-L scored four more runs to add some insurance. Eagles shortstop John Setzenbach drove in all four innings runs on a grand slam off Pointer pitcher Josh Perkins.

UW-SP was hard-pressed to manufacture any offense in the first game, as UW-L hurler Ross Benitz threw a gem. Benitz went the distance, throwing nine innings, allowing two runs, scattering seven hits and striking out seven Pointer hitters. The complete game was Benitz's first win this season.

Perkins went seven innings, allowing eight hits and six runs, five of which were earned. With the loss, Perkins fell to 1-2 on the season.

Unearned runs again hurt the Pointers in game two, as a huge inning by UW-SP put the contest out of hand early. The Eagles soared over UW-SP, using solid pitching to hand the Pointers another loss.

Eagles first baseman Matt Sampson drove in two runs on a three-run homer. The Pointers failed to come back, as UW-L won game two 9-6.

The Pointers arrived at North Campus Field on Sunday, hoping to start the new week on a new foot. UW-SP looked to be on track in game one, pounding the Eagles 14-1 in seven innings.

Brehm led the offensive charge, going 2-for-4 with two homers and five RBIs. The Pointers took their turn at a seven-run inning on Sunday, doing so in the seventh inning in game one. Nat Richter drove in three runs in the seventh, with Brehm and Brandon Scheidler adding two RBI apiece.

Jordan Zimmermann pitched all seven innings for UW-SP, allowing only four hits and striking out eight in picking up his second win.

The final game of the weekend came down to one UW-L hit in the seventh inning. With the game knotted at 2-2 with one out and two on base, Eagles first baseman Matt Sampson connected on his only hit in the game, a three-run homer. The Pointers failed to answer and lost the game 5-2.

UW-L pitching turned in another complete game, as Joe Bemis finished what he started in the final game of the series. Bemis surrendered only five hits, while striking out four to earn his second win of the season.

On Wednesday, the Pointers swept a non-conference doubleheader against Lakeland, 15-9 and 15-5. After last week's action, the Pointers stand at 12-8 overall and 6-3 in WIAC play.

Pointers sweep MSOE, Northland in dominating fashion

Robert Lucas
SPORTS REPORTER

"Everyone just wanted to put those games behind us and play at the level we are capable of playing at," said centerfielder Mandy Jellish, referring to Platteville's sweep of the Pointers last Tuesday.

They did. The Pointers swept Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) on Sunday and Northland on Monday, dominating both teams.

The Pointers rolled over MSOE by scores of 10-1 and 12-0, amassing 24 hits in the two games. Five Pointers had two hits in the game, while MSOE compiled only three as a team. Shortstop Laura Van Abel had three RBIs and Jellish scored three runs, leading the Pointers' attack. Hope Krause pitched five strong innings, striking out two.

In game two, leftfielder Rebekah Bauer and catcher Kristin Konieczny matched Van Abel's RBI total from game one. Pitchers Ashley Tobalsky and Michelle Holberg combined to pitch a two-hit, five-inning shutout. Van Abel and Jellish collected two more hits in the victory as well.

On Monday, the Pointers continued their hot hitting and sizzling pitching. Jellish and Konieczny each collected three more hits in the game and Bauer knocked in three runs.

Tobalsky kept Northland off-balance all day, yielding just three hits in seven innings. She struck out eight, which helped to offset the seven free passes she gave up. Tobalsky improved to 7-3 on the year.

Game two saw more Pointer fireworks, as five more Pointers collected two hits apiece. Konieczny and rightfielder Jackie Berger each had two RBIs in the win. Krause pitched 6 2/3 innings in the win, bringing her record to a perfect 3-0 on the season.

"(The games) were important for us because we have two tough games at Whitewater on Wednesday and it made us believe in ourselves," said sophomore outfielder Amanda Buss. "When we do the little things right, everything falls into place."

The Pointers return home for doubleheaders against Ripon and St. Norbert this Friday and Monday.

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Mumps outbreak hits Iowa, spreads to Wisconsin

Sara Suchy
Science Reporter

Do you remember being restrained in your mother's lap getting those horrid kindergarten booster shots? It turns out that one of them was not quite as effective as hoped. The state of Iowa has recently been hit with a full-blown mumps epidemic, which has put the Iowa Department of Public Health on alert.

As of April 5, the Iowa Department of Public Health has confirmed 365 cases of the mumps virus. Of these 365 cases, 209 of those people infected had received the mumps vaccination. The median age of those infected was 21 years old and 21 percent of the people infected were college students. The mumps is a contagious viral infection for which most public school children are vaccinated before they start kindergarten. The virus causes a painful swelling of the Parotid gland (located at the back of the throat). It is spread the same way a flu or cold virus is spread, by the infected person coughing or sneezing, as well as contact with contaminated items such as drinking glasses, tissues or hands.

Mumps manifests itself through flu-like symptoms, swollen cheeks, abdominal pain and in men, swollen testicles. In severe cases, mumps can become life threatening in adults and cause men to become sterile. Twenty percent of people infected with mumps do not have symptoms.

So far, the outbreak has been isolated primarily in Iowa, but there have been confirmed cases in every bordering state, including two cases in Wisconsin, according to Fay Tetzloff, a Registered Nurse and Portage County Public Health officer.

At least nine cases in Iowa have been infected, and while health officials still don't know the exact cause, much of the investigation has focused on college campuses.

Meghan Harris of the surveillance department of the Iowa Department of Public Health was quoted in an April 5 Chicago Tribune article saying that, "Our best understanding is that the exposure is initially occurring in college settings... people living in close proximity and fraternizing... Those are the kinds of things that spread disease."

Also, the strain of mumps found in Iowa closely resembles a strain that caused some 56,000 cases of the mumps in the United Kingdom. Some medical professionals have speculated that perhaps a student studying in the U.K. brought the virus back with them.

With this epidemic's close proximity to our campus and considering how contagious it is, the Portage County Public Health Department has been given specific instructions regarding how to handle cases that may pop up on our campus. Tetzloff explains that if someone thinks they have contracted the mumps virus they will be given a form to fill out that asks how long they have had symptoms and who they have been in contact with since their exposure.

"If it turns out that they do have the virus we ask them to go into isolation," said Tetzloff. Isolation, unlike quarantine, is on a voluntary basis. "We ask them to limit their exposure to other people while they are contagious... we wouldn't want them going to class where they could potentially infect other people. We also ask that their meals be brought to them," said Tetzloff.

There are still many unanswered questions regarding the outbreak. For instance, why hasn't the mumps vaccine been effective in many situations? Statistics show that 68 percent of the people infected had previously received two doses of the mumps vaccine and 13 percent received one. According to Tetzloff, none of the doctors on the case have any idea how such a large amount of cases appeared in such a small area. "Why Iowa and why now are some of the questions they are looking to answer," said Tetzloff. "As for the likelihood that it will spread to central Wisconsin, there is no way to speculate how far this will go," she said. It is a highly contagious virus and has the potential to spread to anywhere anywhere.

Right now, all doctors can do is treat the people who have already contracted the virus, try to contain it and hopefully figure out how the outbreak occurred in the first place.

If you think you have contracted the mumps virus contact Student Health Services immediately at 346-4646.

What's Happening at the Allen Center...

Chelsey Ross
Cardio Center

Think you can dance? Come try Bollywood, a new class being offered as a part of the Holistic Health program at the Cardio Center. As an introduction to the latest dance and music craze popular in Indian culture, Bollywood incorporates folk, film and contemporary dance styles. This energizing class will teach you to move to unique beats and styles. The cost for a series of six classes is $20 and the classes will run from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday and Thursday from April 17-May 4. Space is limited so sign up now.

Don't forget, the Student Health Promotion Office is sponsoring the first co-ed Spring Volleyball Tournament. It is coming up on Saturday, April 29 at the Allen Center Volleyball Courts. The first eight teams to sign up will receive free shirts and it is free for all UWSP students. You can pick up a roster form and more information in the Student Health Promotion Office, 004 Lower Allen Center, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.
Campus to host solar technology competition

Rebecca Buchanan
THE POINTER
RBUCH723@UWSP.EDU

Today, less than 0.1 percent of our heating, transportation and electric energy comes from direct sunlight, but many people do not know that all of our energy needs can potentially be met from this renewable source.

Students from area high schools are learning about solar energy from the SolarWise for Schools Program sponsored by Wisconsin Public Service (WPS). Students plan to showcase their knowledge and talents on solar energy at the tenth annual Solar Olympics to be held May 10 at the UW-SP sundial.

The Solar Olympics is a competition in which selected schools form teams to construct products that use solar energy.

Sara Windjue, Energy Education Resource Specialist, is helping coordinate the event. Windjue said that there will be eleven different activities that will all incorporate a solar theme project. These activities range from building a solar cooker to a solar car and will test students' knowledge on solar energy.

Windjue said that 24 northeast and central Wisconsin high schools plan to participate in this year's Olympics and were invited to attend by WPS.

Each school involved in the competition had solar panels installed at their school as part of the SolarWise program. Teachers use the solar panels as part of a curriculum that educates students on saving energy.

Competing teams of up to 10 students along with a coach will work to create solar-related projects in 10 events that embrace a variety of academic disciplines. This year's events include Solar Cooker, Solar Car, Solar Water Heater and Solar Building Design.

The Olympics are judged on a points-based scale incorporating several criteria. Is the design innovative or copied from a book? How is the quality: sturdy or unstable? Is it nice to look at?

"The top three will receive gold, silver and bronze medals," said Windjue. "And all contestants will receive a t-shirt."

Windjue said that the judges will ask the teams about their creation and students must demonstrate knowledge of how the device works, how it uses solar energy and why the device is beneficial to use.

"All the students are excited to come show off their inventions, and it's a fun day because students get to get out of school," said Windjue.

The community and university students are invited to come watch the competition. The event will be held from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on the sundial, weather permitting. In case of rain, it will be held in the Laird Room of the University Center.

A solar car built at Stanford University

Photo from www.stanford.edu

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Mogwai's "Mr. Beast" is a winner

Aaron Schultz  
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Mogwai is one of those bands that one never knows what to expect of and that is one of the reasons they are enjoyable. The Scottish rockers' new album, "Mr. Beast," is a heavy guitar affair that takes us on a trip back to their earlier years when they were more of a heavy rock act. Very loud and spontaneous, the track just suddenly stops, leaving the listener wondering what could have been.

Track three is a lighter song called "Acid Food" and features nice vocals by both Braithwaite and Barry Burns. It is a nice departure from the first two tracks and a genre that is new for them: country music gospel with drum machines. It is mixed very effectively here though with nice use of pedal-steel guitar, especially towards the end.

Other notable tracks include an interesting poem monologue spoken by Tetsuya Braithewaite and Barry Burns. It is a nice departure from the two tracks and a genre that is new for them: country music gospel with drum machines. It is mixed very effectively here though with nice use of pedal-steel guitar, especially towards the end.

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"Mr. Beast" shows Mogwai going back to their roots and if they keep churning out tracks of this quality they will be around for a long, long time.

Brokeback Mountain: Momentous

Blair Nelson  
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

In the spring of 1963, in a small Wyoming town, a rugged ranchhand steps off a semi he has hitchhiked in on. Towering mountains surround him. Another man, a Texas rodeo rider "in training," stands by his old truck. Both will work together as shepherders. What happens to them on Brokeback Mountain will forever change their lives.

"Brokeback Mountain" had its foundation in a short story by E. Annie Proulx, published in New Yorker magazine back in 1997. That same year, Pulitzer prize-winning author Larry McMurtry, along with his writing partner, Diana Ossana, wrote the treatment for a motion picture screenplay. No one would touch it due to the story's controversial storyline. But allegedly it was dubbed the best screenplay that could not be made.

The manuscript floated around for years, until finally director Ang Lee got a hold of it. He seemed the perfect choice for this highly personal "avant-garde" tale, given his track record of his heavily dramatic films such as "The Ice Storm" and "Ride With The Devil." What he's done with "Brokeback Mountain" is nothing short of incredible.

When Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) head up to Brokeback Mountain for work, their initial moments together are restrictive and small. Ennis is the stereotypical laconic cowboy. It is Jack who brings life into them. Each actor brings out the greatest attributes in their characters. They begin a shocking relationship that is even unexpected for the two of them. Jack is tender, but Ennis has an anger that he exhibits early on. And he will have none of showing his affections to Jack in the open for fear that it would place them in utmost danger. They conclude their relationship must be kept secret.

"I ain't queer," Ennis says with a tint of uncertainty. "Me nothes," Jack counters haltingly. Jack knows the truth, but Ennis cannot accept it. And so, Ennis marries Alma (Michele Hicks) and has children; Jack finds love later, but his wife (Anne Hathaway) and marriage are one of necessity. Jack's only connection to "Brokeback" is his own and not even his own DNA. Jack's on a journey. He never returns.

Both will work together as shepherders. What happens to them on Brokeback Mountain will forever change their lives. That standout shot is paramount in the movie. See Brokeback pg. 15
### Classifieds

#### HOUSING

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#### EMPLOYMENT

**WUSP students who want to earn some extra money, keep reading.** Keyboard player needed to play fingerpicking, contemporary/Blended worship services, 2-3 Sundays a month. Must also be available for Wednesday night rehearsals. For further details contact Pastor Jurr Hoffman at Redeemer Lutheran Church. 341-3233

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The Performing Arts Series is set to host one of the most recorded ensembles in history on Thursday, April 20 in Michelson Hall at 7:30 p.m. Concert stops include New York, London, Berlin, Paris, Rome, Madrid, Jerusalem, Moscow, Tokyo, Mexico City and now the Fine Arts Quartet can add Stevens Point to the list of cities on their tour. Artists-in-residence at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, the string quartet has recorded 40 masterpieces for Swiss, French, German and American labels. This is the final event for this year’s Performing Arts Series and thanks to the series, students of UW-SP can attend this performance free of charge if tickets remain the day of the event, or may buy their tickets in advance at the University Box Office for $3.50. Come and show your support and take pleasure in the musical talents of Ralph Evans (violin), Laurie Carney (violin), Yuri Gandelsman (viola) and Wolfgang Laufer (cello)—members of the Fine Arts Quartet.
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