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Recording Student
Voices Since
1895

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - STEVENS POINT

UW System considers free tuition

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Future generations of students planning for college could get an added incentive if the University of Wisconsin System successfully puts its latest idea into effect.

The system is considering a proposal that would allow students to attend college for free, as long as they commit to staying in the state of Wisconsin for a minimum of 10 years following completion of their baccalaureate degree. For those interested in attending a technical school or receiving an associate's degree, the obligation would be five years.

The idea was first proposed by a state commission that was originally created last summer to figure out ways to improve the state's two-year colleges. Mark O'Connell, the member of the commission who suggested the idea, believes that it is important to think big to help keep the state competitive.

"We need to get some

bold ideas out there," said O'Connell. "I have yet to find a group that doesn't see the benefit."

The program would recoup financially by billing any student who decided to leave the state before their five or 10 year obligation was met for their tuition costs.

Supporters of the idea believe that this incentive will encourage growth for the state's economy. Wisconsin economists have noticed a trend in college graduates abandoning the state for higher-populated cities and those perceived to have a better quality of life. Many state economists are concerned that businesses and technology will also follow the graduates to these areas.

By encouraging these graduates to stay, the state will gain a large increase in tax revenues, and many believe that the reputation for having a highly-educated young workforce could draw major corporations to the state as well.

Senator Russ Decker, a Democrat from Schofield,

thinks the idea heads in the right direction, but is concerned about its feasibility.

"It's something you'd like to do," Decker said. "You also have to see if it's practical."

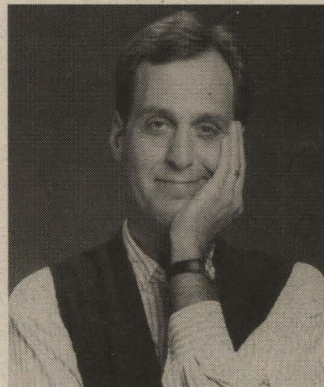
Members of the commission have said that Wisconsin could support the incentive by borrowing on the municipal bond market, and then pay off the bonds with the gains in tax revenue anticipated from state residents in higher-paying jobs.

Some critics of the program, however, are concerned that it may be used primarily by students who already planned on staying in the state upon graduating, thus defeating the purpose of attracting new growth.

The idea for the tuition program was based on a similar incentive currently in effect in Ireland, which, although it costs the country more than \$3 billion a year, is credited with making the country into one of the fastest-developing new economic powerhouses in Europe.

Nationally-known comedian to speak at winter Commencement

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Tim Bedore

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point alumnus and nationally known comedian Tim Bedore will be the featured speaker at the December commencement ceremony.

Bedore graduated from UW-SP in 1978 with a degree in communication, and has worked in both broadcasting and comedy throughout his career. While at UW-SP, he worked as program director for the campus radio station 90fm, and also served as Trivia chairman his senior year.

His weekly public radio commentary, "Vague but True," is heard by several

million people every week on the well-known Marketplace program. In addition to his work on public radio, Bedore is also a common guest on the nationally syndicated Bob and Tom Show.

He has also performed at stand-up comedy clubs nationwide, including The Improv and Comedy Underground. Bedore also performs at charity and corporate events.

According to Erin Ruenger, special events coordinator for University Relations and Communications, choosing the commencement speaker each semester involves several steps.

"The main criterion for a speaker is to be a UW-SP alumnus," said Ruenger. "Normally, we look for a candidate who has succeeded in their professional career."

"Of course, the speaker needs to be comfortable with speaking in front of large groups and a charismatic presenter."

The 2006 Winter Commencement ceremonies will take place at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 16 in the Quandt Fieldhouse.



photo by Drew Smalley

In the future, smoking on the UW-SP campus could be banned if a proposal from the Environmental Health and Safety committee is passed.

Possible ban on campus smoking being considered

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In the past two years many communities throughout the state have enacted or considered enacting smoking bans in their businesses and restaurants, including the city of Stevens Point. Now some possible legislation at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point might extend the ban to the campus itself.

The measure, which was first heard by the university's Environmental Health and Safety committee, still has a long road ahead before it would become an official part of university policy.

It is currently being brought before

the University Affairs committee of the UW-SP Faculty Senate, and if approved there, would most likely be presented before the Student Government Association before becoming official. According to SGA Environment and Sustainability Issues Director Justin Timmers, SGA is already prepared to handle the topic should it arise.

"SGA has passed a referendum that, if needed, will go out during the presidential election next semester asking students how they feel on the issue," said Timmers.

Both students and faculty will have the chance to make their voices heard regarding the issue, and the exact extent of the ban has not yet been determined.

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SPORKS! Know which one is the best for you...

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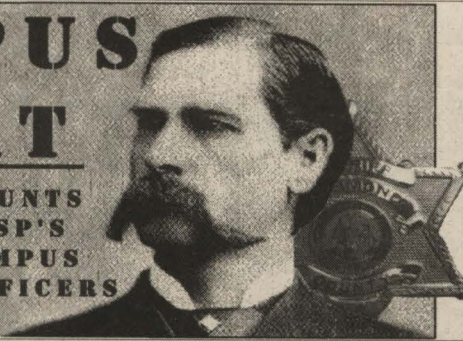
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CAMPUS BEAT

TRUE ACCOUNTS
FROM UW-SP'S
FINEST CAMPUS
SECURITY OFFICERS



**No Campus
Beat this week.**

**Students were
too concerned
with making
Santa's nice list
to pull any crazy
shenanigans.**

Merry Christmas

(snuck that in, wonder if anyone will care?)

Mystery Dinner Party to be held at Treehaven

UW-SP News Release
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Step into the chaos of a Winter Olympic ski jumping competition during a Mystery Dinner Party hosted and sponsored by the Conservatory for Creative Expression at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Every dinner guest becomes a suspect in a murder set during this year's Winter Olympics. A battle between world champion ski jumper Watt A. Landing and British challenger Eddie D. Ostrich creates tension as to who will win the gold medal. During this evening of fine food and drink, participants will receive clues to share with others, in addition to secrets that must be kept private. Guests will be asked to arrive in character but no scripts or acting experience is required.

The dinner will be held on Saturday, January 13 at the Treehaven Nature Center near Tomahawk from 6:30 to 10 p.m. The cost per person is \$49 without lodging, \$85 with dormitory lodging and breakfast, and \$90 with cabin lodging and breakfast. To register call the UW-SP Conservatory for Creative Expression, (800) 898-9472 or (715) 346-2740, or visit the office at 2100 Main St., Stevens Point, in Room 324 of the Communication Arts Center. For more information, visit www.uwsp.edu/conted/aco/mysterydinners.

The Conservatory for Creative Expression is part of the Continuing Education Office, the center of lifelong learning at UW-SP. Continuing Education provides affordable, educational and enrichment opportunities in the arts for children and adults throughout central Wisconsin.

SGA Update

Interested in having a big impact on this campus? Consider running for SGA president, vice president or senator! Elections are next semester, but it would be a good idea to get it started! Applications will be available on the first day of classes second semester! For more information, email rfors140@uwsp.edu!

"Win Big with SGA!" Fundraiser! Win \$\$\$ for your organization!

Use UPass for trips to Crossroad Commons and the Bookstore!

Senators needed (1 CNR, 3 CPS, 5 L&S)!

- o Contact sgaexec@uwsp.edu if interested!
- o Applications can be picked up at 014 Nelson Hall.

Finals stressing you out? Head over to the TLC for some help with your studying! Getting tense? Get a massage from the Allen Center!

If you are the treasurer of an organization, get ready for annual budgets!

Senate meetings are held every Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Founder's Room of Old Main, everyone is welcome!

By Sarah Falat

THE POINTER

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



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Merry

Chrishanzabox
(Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day)

...oh and Festivus too!

Pointlife

Holiday memories from easier times

Katie Leb
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Holidays have been known to produce some of the most cherished memories of a person's life. If for only a few days, holidays change a person's attitude and outlook on the world. Instead of spending time worrying about work and school, effort is put forth making enough food for the entire extended family or deciding who is going to be the person to hand the presents out.

For the college student, these time mean much more than times spent with family—they are times for not having to do homework and write papers. So often heard around the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus are students wishing to be kids again, not worrying about these now daily tasks. Therefore, it is time to take a little walk down memory lane in these hectic times and remember what it is like to be a kid during the holiday season.

Wisconsin winters are infamously known for their ability to provide children with lots of opportunities to go outside and play in the snow. The entire process of getting bundled up with layers upon layers of clothing builds up anticipation of the great fun that is about to occur. Ben Whitman, a graphic design senior, remembers some of his favorite times when he was

playing out in the snow.

Whitman said, "I remember going to a landfill that they turned into a sledding hill. My friends and I used to build jumps and no matter how far down the hill we were, we didn't care about the

"One time I woke up and we had gotten about two feet of snow. My brothers, my dad and I cut out perfect blocks of snow and made a snow fort. It was more of a house. So I guess we made a snow house."

of those incidents you will always remember."

But, not all of the holiday time can be spent outside playing in the snow. Chad Skelton, a senior math major, said, "I remember putting up lights in the house and we

enough to fit everyone. We rent a local hall and decorate it ourselves. This allows more room for more kids to run around, and nobody's house gets wrecked in the process."

The winter holidays include many delightful treats. The most pleasant of these for children tends to be the time when giftwrapped boxes are present and people say that what is inside is meant for them. Children enjoy being given presents more than almost anything else during the holiday season.

Jessica Pilger, a junior health and consumer science major said, "When my family celebrates the holidays, we go over to my grandparent's house. My grandma works at Fleet Farm so the presents are transported to the middle of the living room floor in big orange bags. We have to sit and stare at the bags until 6 p.m. because they can't be opened before then. The anticipation is so much fun!"

For a couple of days, take time off from being the ever-so-busy college student. Relax, kick-back, take a breather, do whatever it takes to forget about the stress school often provides. Take time to remember what life was like when you were a kid, and spend the holiday season doing some of those things you promised yourself you would never grow out of. Happy holidays to all, and to all a good night.



Photo courtesy of Google Images

Take time to make a snow fort over the holiday break, just like when you were a kid. Maybe it will be as advanced as this one.

walk. And then we would go in after playing outside and have hot chocolate. It always tasted so much better after being out in the cold, none of that Ovaltine crap!"

Stephen Kaiser, a senior English major, spent much of his time outside building forts.

Sara Jensen, another senior English major, remembers, "One time in fifth grade we got a snowstorm in the middle of the school day, so they closed school after lunch. My brother and I had to walk the mile home from the bus stop in the blizzard conditions. It sucked, but it was one

had a Santa that had a light bulb for a nose, but it was plugged in without the bulb in it yet. I stuck my finger in it and got the biggest shock ever. It was memorable."

Angela Frome, a junior majoring in communication, added, "Our family is so large that nobody's house is big

Student organization: Student Television (STV)

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With finals approaching, not many University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point students have much free time to randomly flip through the channels in search of some sort of visual entertainment. Most are too busy submersing themselves in textbooks and note cards, to even think about their favorite shows. There is

one channel that students should take an active interest in, however, and that is Channel 10, run by Student Television, or STV.

STV is a student-run organization that allows students from all majors to express themselves creatively through a visual outlet. The channel covers current events happening around UW-SP and also produces original shows. STV can be seen by cable subscribers all around the Stevens Point area.

The mission statement of the group sets high expectations for those involved. The members of STV are committed to acting as representatives for the UW-SP student body, so they go the extra mile to make sure they are putting out the best content they can. They stress an educational atmosphere, and encourage creativity.

Anyone can join the team, not just those interested in broadcasting or other communication majors.

There are numerous ways to get in touch with STV if fun people and the opportunity to be creative sparks any interest. STV is looking for students to fill news and sports reporter and anchor positions, as

well as several other spots that do not require time in front of the camera. Visit the website, <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/stv/>, for more information. The staff also maintains a MySpace profile, which has more info about the organization. It can be found at <http://www.myspace.com/uwsp-stv>.

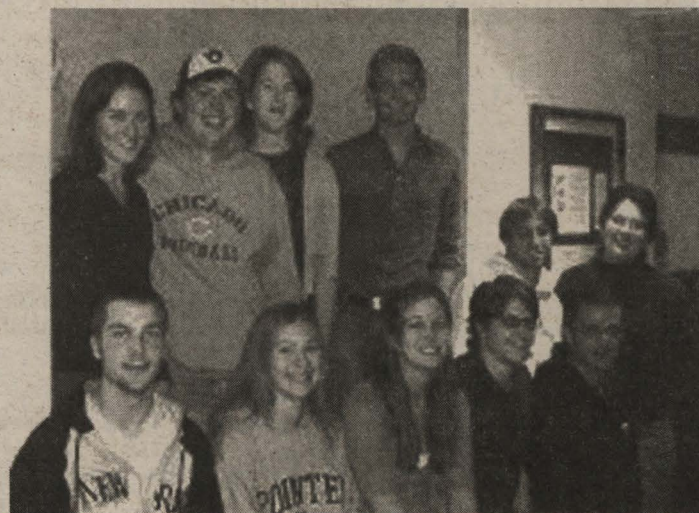


Photo courtesy of STV website

STV members know how to smile for the camera.

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Science, Health & Tech.

Nintendo Wii ushers in new era of video games

Jeff Peters
SCIENCE REPORTER

In the three weeks since I bought a Nintendo Wii, I've punched my friend in the leg, been smacked in the elbow and watched as another friend, swinging hard to hit a virtual tennis ball, managed to nearly hit himself in the face as the controller flew from his hands towards the TV and swung back to barely miss a shot to his chin.

Since that incident, the controller's wrist strap, initially laughed at, has been serious business in our apartment, and my buddy who nearly hit himself has often given the "you break it, you buy it" speech regarding his HDTV before each match.

The Wii is a different kind of video game system, and one that naturally leads to a different kind of experience. While Sony's PS3 and Microsoft's Xbox 360 go for higher quality graphics and familiar complex button mashers, Nintendo has tried to simplify the video game experience, and in many ways revolutionized it.

Using a small wireless controller shaped like a television remote, people can play sports

(tennis, bowling, baseball, golf and boxing are included in Wii Sports, packaged with the system) by swinging their arms and watching their Mii, a character each player designs - some of my friends' resemble themselves, others are completely off the wall - mimic their movement. Twirl the remote over your head in baseball, and your Mii twirls the bat while waiting for the pitch in the game.

Nintendo designed the Wii hoping that the simplicity of motion controllers would reduce the learning curve and allow video games to reach a wider audience (it was originally planned to cost only \$100, and Nintendo envisioned a Wii in every home in America).

Take Madden '07. The PS3 and Xbox versions require users to memorize buttons to pass, juke, stiff arm, etc. On the Wii, flick your wrist and the ball is snapped. Swing the controller forward hard to throw a bullet, soft to throw a lob. Jerk it to the left while running, and the ball carrier jerks to the left. The intuitive design, though it takes getting used to for some games, makes for a more fun and

immersive experience. It also means novices can jump right in.

That's one of the Wii's greatest assets. Everyone wants to, and easily can, play. When I go to work, people ask me about it. When I go to class, people ask me about it. And when people come over and play, even non-gamers like my parents or my friend's girlfriend, jump right into a heated four-way game of tennis, picking it up within minutes.

Awesome, addictive and tiring are some of the more common words I've heard from the dozen or so people who've played it. After three rounds of boxing and comically flailing their arms, my friends plop back into their seats exhausted. After the first few days, all of our arms ached from late nights of virtual tennis.

Some players are getting

into the action more than Nintendo had planned, perhaps because of the party atmosphere the motion controller inspires. The website, wii-have-a-problem.com, has been tracking the numerous broken TV's, laptops, and blackeyes, which are occurring despite the numerous warnings to

secure the wrist strap and make sure no one is close by.

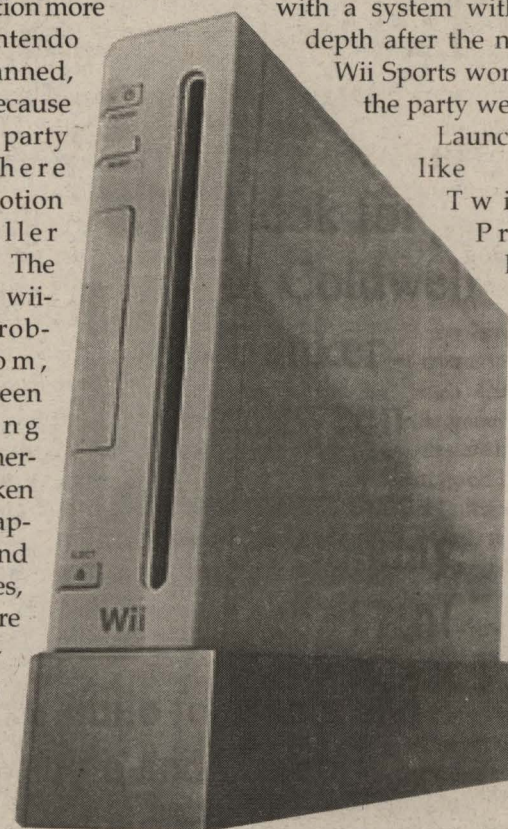
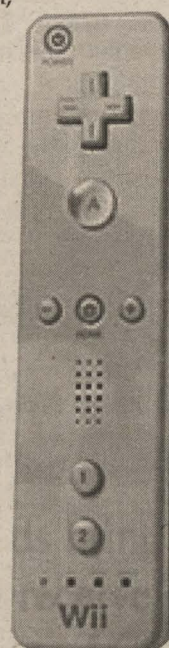
The question many hardcore gamers have wondered is if the motion sensor controller will work well for more traditional games, and if Nintendo's attempt to win over grandmas and girlfriends across the country would leave them

with a system without any depth after the novelty of Wii Sports wore off and the party went home.

Launch games like *Zelda: Twilight Princess* have proven that the controller can work for adventure games, with the joystick on the

Nunchuck, a second controller held in the opposite hand, providing movement and the motion of both hands being reserved for swinging the sword and simulating the motions of items like the fishing pole, bow and arrow, and slingshot. In other games like *Marvel Ultimate*

see **Wii** pg. 6



What's happening at the Allen Center for Health and Wellness Programs...

Enhance your workout with the help of one of our nationally-certified personal trainers! Sign up for one, three, or seven session packages! One session costs \$25, three sessions cost \$45, and seven sessions cost \$80. You can even bill to your student account, so no money is taken out of your pocket right now! Free consultation and facility orientation appointments are also available to all UW-SP students. For more information, e-mail the trainers at cardiopt@uwsp.edu.

This year, the Allen Center is committed to helping families in need by refilling the local food pantry. Operation Bootstrap funds the Portage County food pantry and requires donations to sustain its valuable services to the community. We are asking all students, faculty, and staff to please donate non-perishable items to the Cardio Center front desk from Monday, November 27 to Friday, December 22. As an incentive to give, the Cardio Center will allow all faculty, staff, and students one FREE workout at the Cardio Center each time an item is donated and a valid university ID is presented. Let's all do something great this holiday season and help those less fortunate.

TECH TDBIT

THE BEST STUDY BREAK EVER

Sara Suchy
THE POINTER
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and can reduce anxiety," said Rodriguez.

Any cardiovascular activity releases endorphins into your blood stream, which are mood elevators.

"Working out just makes you feel better," said Rodriguez. He also explained that it is so easy to just skip going to the gym because everyone is so busy.

If it really is impossible to take a study break, grab your books and study at the gym. "It's really easy to just hop on a bike or elliptical and study while working out," said Rodriguez.

The bottom line is, it seems that when we need something the most we find excuses not to do it. Now is not the time to skip out on a workout. If nothing else, it'll be a great head start to that New Year's resolution.

Finals season is here. For the next week, every student will be gallivanting around campus in a constant state of panic or a complete mind-numbing haze. It is during this "most wonderful time of the year" it seems that we all let a few of our daily habits, such as sleeping, showering and eating slip to allow more time for studying. One habit that should never be skipped is that daily workout we all fit in every day.

"Fitting a workout in can actually help mental clarity," said Rico Rodriguez, a certified personal trainer at the Allen Center.

"Working out can relieve stress. It gets you to think about something else, it helps you sleep better,

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Sunscreen still important in winter months

Kelsey Asher
SCIENCE REPORTER

Going someplace sunny for Christmas? Hitting the slopes? Rather than being cautious of sharks and avalanches, you may want to be thinking about protecting yourself from something you see every day.

One in every five Americans will develop at least one of the three major types of skin cancer due to chronic exposure to the sun, according to the American Cancer Society. The sun's reflection off water and snow make the sun's rays twice as harmful. But there are methods of protecting yourself so a fun, relaxing, worry-free vacation is still possible.

The most important factor in guarding against the sun's ultraviolet rays is to wear sunscreen. It is important to reapply every four hours, or after swimming or sweating.

The brand of sunscreen doesn't matter, but the quality does. Always use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher. Even when wearing SPF 40 and higher, reapplying every four hours is necessary. Remember to wear sunscreen on overcast days and be sure it says on the bottle that it provides protection against UVA and UBA rays.

People are often wary of putting sunscreen on their face for fear of causing acne.

"If you don't want to clog

your pores, find sunscreen that is non-comedogenic," said Dr. Nyles R. Eskritt, a dermatologist at Plaza Dermatology in Stevens Point. "Those kinds are made for your face and will not lead to breakouts."

Another method of sun protection is to wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and wide-brimmed hats to cover the body.

"Any way to minimize the amount of sun your body is exposed to will help," said Rita Thomas, a nurse practitioner at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Health Services office.

Wearing UV protective sunglasses and UV protective lip balm is crucial in protecting eyes and lips from the sun.

There are two types of ultraviolet rays, UVA and UVB. UVA rays are long rays and are used in tanning beds. UVB rays are short rays which are given by direct sunlight. UVB rays are the harmful rays that often cause skin cancer.

"That doesn't mean UVA rays aren't bad," Eskritt said. "UVA rays are still harmful and tanning beds should be avoided, but they age the skin more often than cause skin cancer."

Try not to be out in the sun between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because that is when the sun's rays are most direct and harmful.

"Staying out of the sun during peak sunlight hours and staying in the shade

greatly reduces the risk of skin cancer," Eskritt said.

Skin cancer comes in various forms, but some warning signs to look for include a sore that is not healing, a bump that is not going away, or a sore that consistently crusts and bleeds.

"Watch out for something newer, different, and doesn't go away," Eskritt said.

There is a misunderstanding that skin cancer hurts or itches. It does not have to be uncomfortable, which is why examination every six months is crucial, according to the American Cancer Society. If a questionable spot is found, don't hesitate to see a dermatologist or family doctor immediately.

The most common places to get skin cancer are body parts that are frequently exposed to the sun.

"The ears, face, neck, and arms are the places I see it most," Eskritt said.

Eskritt sees skin cancer patients almost daily. Most of the skin cancer cases he sees are in people ages 55 and older. Rarely does he see skin cancer in anyone younger than 25.

"Although teenagers and young adults do not get skin cancer often, it is never too soon to be cautious of the sun and its harmful damage,"

December 2006



Photo courtesy of Google compiled by our own Andrea Mutsch

Eskritt said.

There are three main types of skin cancer: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma.

Basal cell carcinoma is the most common form of skin cancer. It affects almost 800,000 Americans annually and affects men more often than women, according to Dermopath Diagnostics.

Squamous cell carcinoma is the second most common skin cancer. When it is treated properly, the cure rate is about 95 percent. Those who have had basal and squamous cell carcinoma have a higher risk of developing a form of skin cancer again. This is why regular checkups with a dermatologist are crucial, according

to Dermopath Diagnostics.

Melanoma is the most serious form of skin cancer. Its cause is primarily overexposure to the sun, especially when sunburn or blistering occurs. Melanoma only accounts for five percent of all skin cancer, but it causes more than 80 percent of skin cancer related deaths, according to Dermopath Diagnostics.

Whether you are basking in the sun or racing down a mountain, take the time to slather on sunscreen. It may not seem like much now, but it will make a world of difference eventually.

"Don't become a statistic. Protect yourself from the sun," Eskritt said.

Continued from Wii pg. 6

Alliance, the motion controls seemed tacked on, and my friends and I ended up simply using the buttons to perform the attacks.

With all the excitement surrounding the system, and the huge success Nintendo's had with the launch, the future crop of games is bound to be led by those developers who find creative new ways to use the new controller.

Nintendo has always been a company that takes chances, and the Wii brings a fresh face to an industry that was moving in one steady direction towards high-end graphics

and increased complexity. The gaming community, which can now include the mom who plays along with her kids, seems ready to embrace their forward-thinking approach.

So if you happen to walk by a dorm room or peek into a window and see a group of people manically waving their arms at empty air, they haven't gone mad—they're just playing the next incarnation of video games. When the Christmas shopping blitz is over, and all the stores get a chance to catch up with demand, maybe Nintendo will realize it's goal of a Wii in every house. If that happens, we'll look like a whole country gone mad.

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Comics

Resident's Evil: The Year in Review



Joy Ratchman

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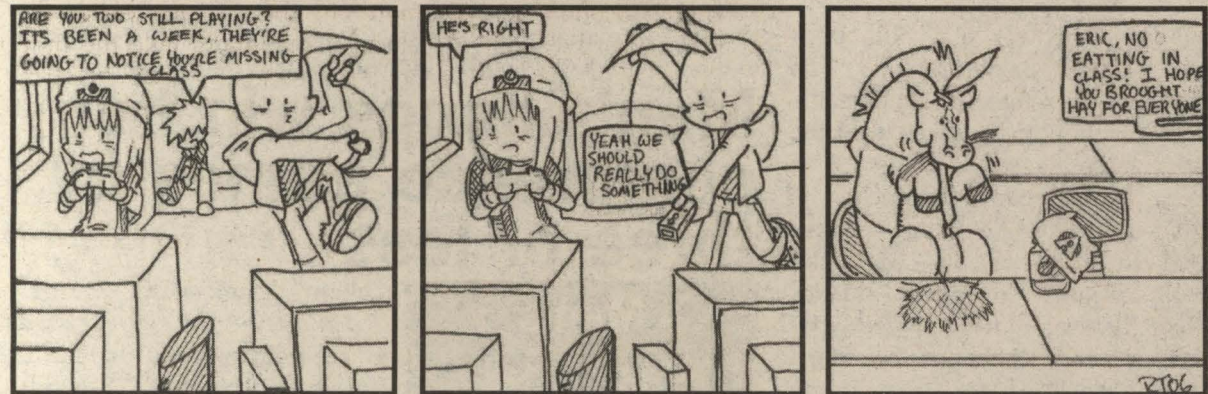


Neverland



Lo Shim

Muse



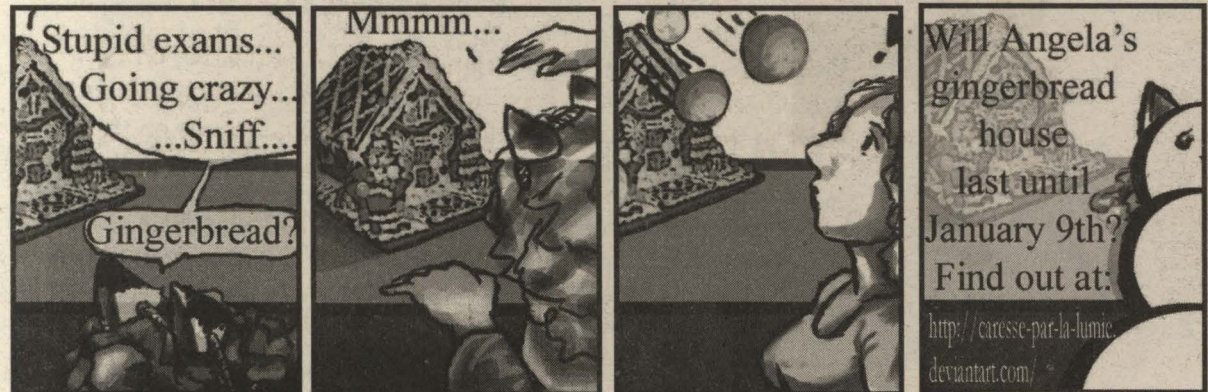
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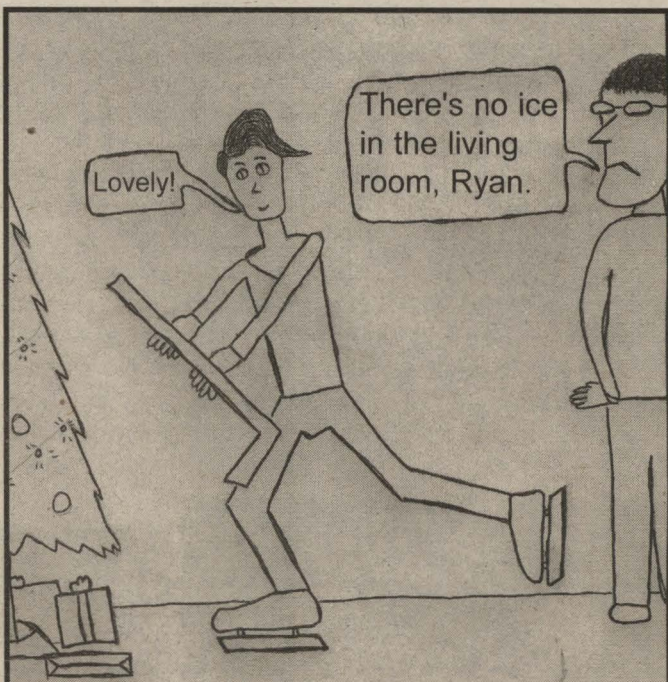
Mistress Nine: The Gingerbread Chronicles



Angela Kau

menorah tree lights
candles "gingerbread
house" bulbs crèche
dreidel stockings frui
snow bells "festivus
pole" "yule log"
"advent wreath"
kinara

Stephen's Sports Sayings: Hockey



UW-SP Men's Hockey: Firing pucks at people like this since water turned to ice.

Happy
Holidays
from all of
the Pointer
Comics
Artists!

Retrieval Towing Services

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Senior on the Spot

Jonathan Krull – Men's Basketball

Major – Business Administration, Economics Minor.

Hometown – Marshall, Wis.

Do you have any nicknames? – Krull, G-Burger, Johnny, Krullsif, Fats.

What are your plans after graduation?

– Buy a bulldog, name it Meaty Jr., and teach it how to ride a skateboard.

What has helped you become such an accomplished athlete? – My ability to play above the rim.

What is your favorite Pointer sports memory? – Winning back-to-back national championships and outscoring Jason Kalsow my freshman year against Superior.

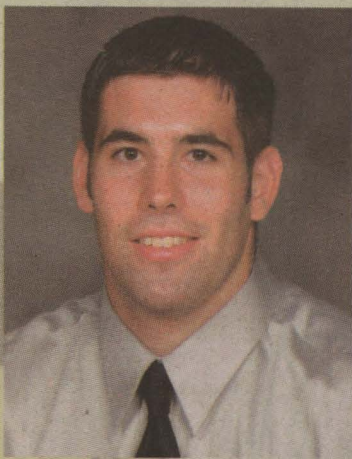
What's your most embarrassing moment? – My jersey color after warm-ups due to my sweating.

What CD is in your stereo right now? – A mixed CD.

What DVD is currently in your DVD player? – Gladiator.

What will you remember most about UW-SP? – Basketball games, Salem (both years), and my roommates.

What are the three biggest influences in your life? – The Force, my friends, and my fiancé.



UW-SP maintains a tie in overtime against Bugolds

Men's Hockey

Rochelle Nechuta
SPORTS REPORTER

Despite getting 20 shots on net in the third period and overtime, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's hockey team skated a 4-4 tie against the UW-Eau Claire Bugolds this past Saturday, December 9. The game brought UW-SP's overall record to 4-5-2. Pointers Rolf Ulvin and Brett Coburn tallied goals, while Pointer Sean Fish scored two. Goalie Marcus Paulson saved 30

shots in the game and played all 65 minutes between the pipes while UW-SP out-shot their opponent 44 to 34. Out of the game's eight goals, the first goal scored by UW-EC was the only goal not scored during a penalty. There were 31 player penalties in total and three instances when the Pointers were caught short-handed, with only three skaters on ice. When asked about the game and the frequent penalties, head coach Joe Baldarotta was frustrated.

"It's just so tough to get in a rhythm. You can't establish a lineup when you're constantly

on a power play, kill, or a 4-on-4," Baldarotta said. "It's not the referee's fault here, it's just how the coaches want the game played."

The game of hockey is undergoing some changes this season, and the National Collegiate Athletics Association has adopted what is being called a new "standard of play." These new standards are being implemented across the US throughout many levels of play. They include using the stick only when moving the puck, and limitations on contact that hinder another

see **Hockey** pg. 8



Nick Zebro weaves.

Photo by Drew Smalley



Photo by Drew Smalley

Khalifa El-Amin puts up an easy lay-up in the Pointer victory over Edgewood.

Photo by Stephen Kaiser

Men's hoops win two conference games by three or less

Men's Basketball

Stephen Kaiser
THE POINTER
SKAIS309@UWSP.EDU

It's okay. You can breathe out now.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball team has won two close Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference games in a row, and a non-conference game against Edgewood College, to extend its winning streak to eight.

The Pointers played the 25th ranked UW-Whitewater Warhawks on Wednesday, December 6 in the tightest game they have been in thus far, with a three-point shot from sophomore forward Bryan Beamish in the final seconds being the difference between victory and defeat.

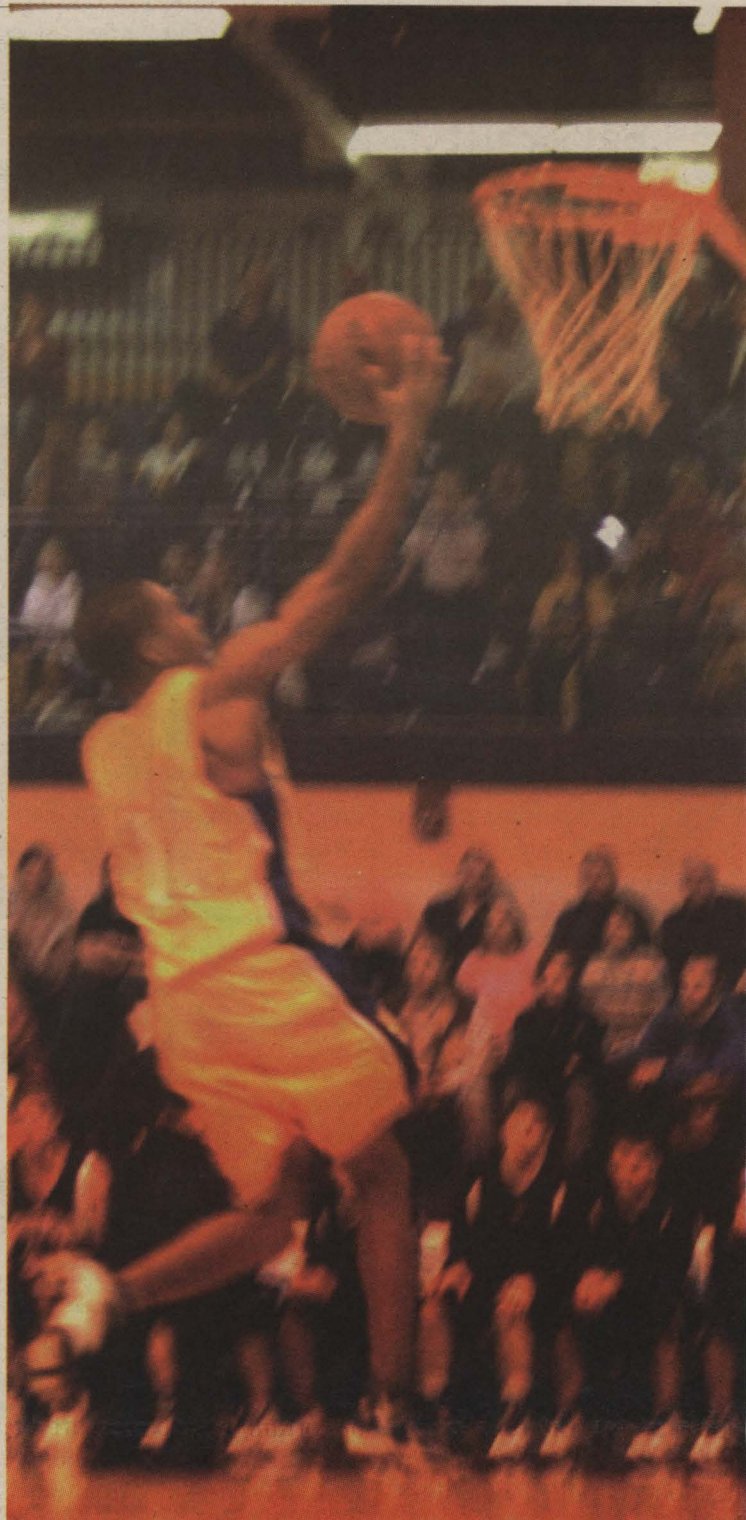
With the Pointers down 73-69 with ten seconds left in the second half, it was looking

mighty grim. The Pointers had lost the ball on a missed three-pointer from Khalifa El-Amin with just 21 seconds remaining. After four straight fouls, the Pointers were able to make Whitewater's Anthony Mlachnik shoot for a bonus. Mlachnik missed his free throw, and the Pointers got the ball to senior forward Jon Krull, who drained a three with eight seconds left.

"I wasn't thinking much about the shot at the time because we were still down," Krull said. "I just knew that we needed a quick bucket, and then a foul to get the ball back."

And that's exactly what they did. The Pointers fouled Mlachnik once again, and again he missed his free throw. The Pointers had the ball with just five seconds on the clock. Sophomore guard El-Amin pushed upcourt and passed to Beamish, who drained a three at the buzzer to win the game for the Pointers 75-73.

The intensity of the out-see **Hoops** pg. 16



Wrestling wins dual, drops two in Iowa

Wrestling

Stephen Kaiser

THE POINTER
SKAIS309@UWSP.EDU

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point wrestling team put a stop to the rallying UW-Platteville Pioneers on Wednesday, December 6 with a score of 20-17.

The Pioneers, fresh off a victory over third-ranked UW-La Crosse, came into the dual with confidence. Head coach Johnny Johnson believes that the momentum UW-P brought into their matches may have thrown off his game-plan.

"Every match I want to have our guys set the pace," Johnson said. "I want them to bring the intensity and pressure. When you think about winning, you tend to steer away from that style."

Jake Calhoun started off the night with fire at the 125-pound weight class, dominating his opponent Spencer Peterson with a 16-0 technical fall. But after a hard-fought 7-4 loss for Jered Kern and a forfeit at 141 pounds, the Pointers were down 9-5.

At 149 pounds Mo Malone won a 3-1 decision over UW-P's Dane Droessler. Once again the Pioneers pulled away 14-8 thanks to two straight victories over Jake Wozniak at 157 pounds and Chris Karl at 165 pounds.

It was senior Nate

Kurszewski who started off a Pointer rally that would seal the victory for the Pointers. In the 174-pound weight class Kurszewski got behind early in the match but was able to come back and hold on to a 7-4 lead over UW-P's Brad Zellner for the victory. Tyler Wozniak pinned his opponent to put the Pointers ahead by three.

Junior Craig Bollig moved up to the 197-pound weight class and beat UW-P's Scott Nicholas 5-2. He had been wrestling behind Tyler Wozniak at 184 pounds since the beginning of the season. Johnson bumped Bollig up because he thinks that the 197-pound and heavyweight wrestlers have been a bit soft.

"Bollig is an exceptional talent," Johnson said. "But we have been having some conditioning problems at 197 and heavyweight, and for now we'll work on getting them back to where they need to be."

Bollig was just happy to be getting the chance to wrestle, but he attributes the team to having such a deep talent pool.

"I'm glad that I have the opportunity to be a part of this varsity line up," Bollig said. "There are definitely guys who could step in at any time and win matches for us at any weight."

With Bollig's victory, the Pointers were in charge of a



Pointer wrestling has been taking down the competition since the beginning of the season.

Photo by Stephen Kaiser

20-14 lead with just the heavyweight match remaining. Ryan Rozek was able to avoid being pinned in a 7-2 loss to UW-P's Mitch Szwet.

The men made a trip to Iowa on Saturday, December 9 for the Dubuque Duals. Johnson made the decision to have three of his starters sit out of these duals due to injury in hopes that they will be ready to wrestle against UW-La Crosse.

The Pointers won their first dual against Buena Vista

University 23-22, thanks in large part to a huge pin from Kern to save their lead from diminishing due to a forfeit at the close. The next two duals against the University of Dubuque and William Penn University were losses, 24-17 and 28-13 respectively, the first two losses for the Pointers this season.

UW-SP has dropped in the NCAA Division III polls from 14th to 19th after the past weekend of wrestling.

UW-SP swimmers roll over Oshkosh in dual meet

Swimming

Sara Suchy

THE POINTER
SSUCH489@UWSP.EDU

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point swimming and diving team rolled over UW-Oshkosh in their last dual meet of the year last Friday. The Pointer women beat Oshkosh 217 to 26 and the men 213 to 26.

Head Coach Al Boelk took the opportunity of swimming a considerably weaker team to test some of his swimmers in different events than what they usually swim.

"I was pleasantly surprised at some of the performances on Friday," said Boelk.

He also wanted to give some of the swimmers a break from swimming the same events week after week and give them a chance to relax after an intense Wheaton invite two weeks ago.

Eric Rundell dominated the distance events, winning the 500-yard freestyle in 5:01.81 and the 1000-yard freestyle in 10:29.35. Chase Gross also won the 100-yard breast stroke in 1:00.71 and the 200 individual medley in 1:56.00.

see **Swimming** pg. 16

from **Hockey** pg. 9

player's offensive movement. According to USA Hockey's website, "this new initiative will provide a greater emphasis on puck skills, skating, and smart use of strength providing more speed and flow and more offensive opportunities."

These new standards may take time to learn and may result in repercussions such as numerous hooking and interference calls that may arise much like during the last Pointer game.

"We didn't get four lines established very often. We need to get some goals and learn to control our momentum," said Baldarotta regarding the changes. "It's just a tough game to play."

The Pointers have had few opportunities to play and maintain regular lines as a result of injuries and these new standards of play, but Baldarotta says that the team is building on the lessons they learn from every game. The next game the team plays will be in Minneapolis on Saturday, December 16 against Augsburg College.



Outdoors

A bad case of the "losing the big one" blues



Tyler Ring
OUTDOORS REPORTER

There comes a time when a fisherman's resolve is tested. Maybe the weather is brutally cold and is dropping rain, sleet or snow on you. Maybe your fishing partner seems to have fish magnets attached to his boots and you can't buy a bite. Maybe the fish are unwilling to cooperate at all and it seems like dynamite might be a more productive method.

Sooner or later, it happens to every one of us. But the best way to test a fisherman's resolve is to notice how he or she reacts after losing the big one.

During the battle between you and a big one, your adrenaline soars, your excitement level is at an all-time high and every sense is on full tilt.

But then the line goes slack and depression sets in. Usually, the feeling is worse if you never saw the fish because it then becomes a mystery.

You'll ask yourself ques-

tions such as, "What was it? How big was it? And how in the hell did I lose it?" Sometimes it is better if you didn't see the fish at all.

On Saturday, December 9, I was out on the ice with a buddy jigging for walleyes. The weather was nice, the walleyes were cooperating and we were having a good time ice fishing.

I set my rod down for a second to check another hole, and that's when the "the big one" struck. As the rod teetered on the edge of the hole, I made a lunge for it and caught it. The fish was already hooked, and running fast and far!

My first thought was that it was a big walleye. I relaxed the drag a little and got settled in for what I expected to be a battle. Little did I know.

The battle was fantastic - everything an ice fisherman dreams about. The fish would make drag-peeling runs of thirty and forty feet while continually circling the hole, forcing me to circle with it as I kept my rod tip pointed at it.

After about 20 minutes, my back started to ache from leaning over, and I began to wonder if I had a sturgeon on the line, not an uncommon catch on the Wisconsin River.

Finally, it seemed like I was starting to gain some ground. I had no idea how much line was still out, and the fish was coming in from the side.

My buddy had stepped

away for a second to check a tip-up that had popped, and I yelled for him to come back. All of a sudden, without warning, the fish's giant green head appeared in the hole, only an inch away from my rod tip.

Huge musky!

I panicked and opened the bail in a frantic attempt to get some line out, but it was too late. The musky gave a little head shake, my jig popped out of the tip of its snout and it sank away into the depths.

My eyes began to mist a little and I had to fight back the urge to cry. 28 minutes of fighting, only to watch the biggest musky I've ever seen, (whose head would not have even come close to fitting through the hole), swim away untouched.

My friends tell me that I was lucky just to have an experience like that, and I do not disagree with them.

However, this fish has been haunting my dreams at night and keeping me from sleeping. How am I going to get over this? I don't know. But that is why a person fishes, I guess.

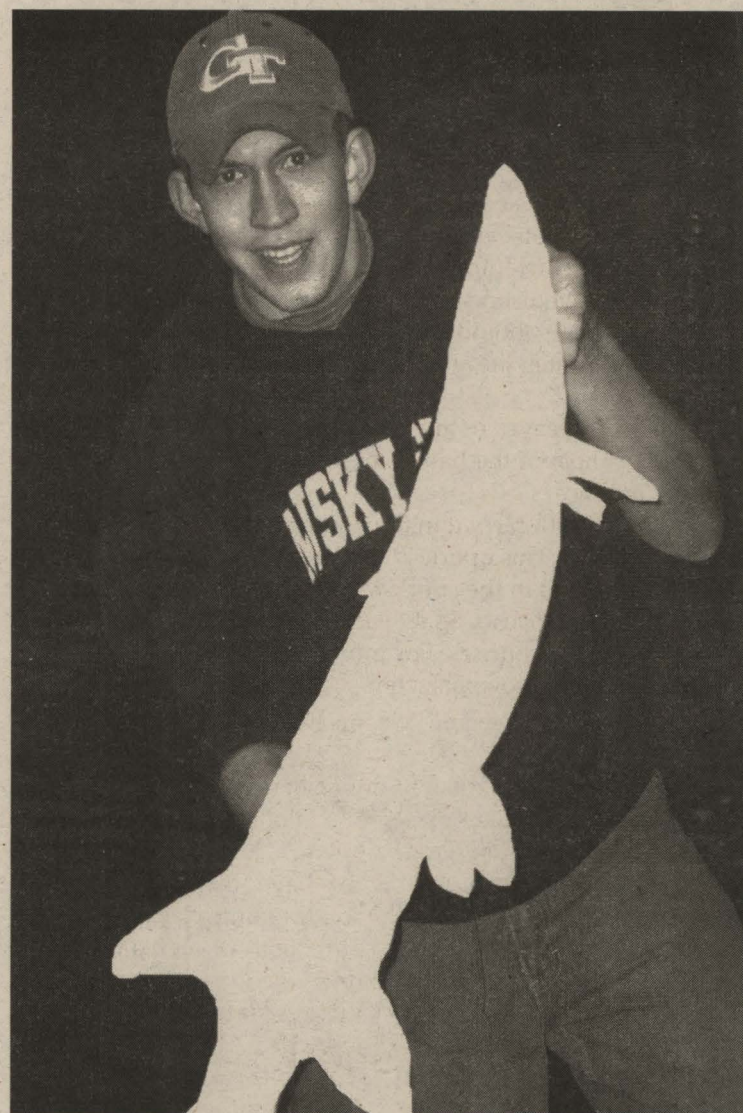


Photo courtesy of Tyler Ring

A long battle between man and fish left Ring empty handed.

OUTDOOR EDVENTURES TIP OF THE WEEK

Josh Spice

MANAGER/TRIP LEADER

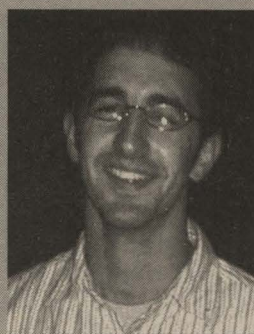
From experience crossing marginal ice in winter to staying hydrated in mid-summer, planning for a trip does not stop once you hit the road.

In every adventure, there comes a point when someone must take the responsibility to make a call and say, "that's far enough." Leadership in the outdoors involves constant foresight of future situations and tasks, and exhibiting the ability to make a tough decision for the safety and best interest of the group.

Even in the most civilized environments, unfortunate events can snowball into emergency situations. Plan ahead and prepare and always remain cognizant of the current situations when you're on the trail.

Make your adventures into the backcountry more enjoyable by eliminating, "Oh, sh*t!" from your vocabulary.

To learn more about this tip, along with many other tricks and techniques for improving your wilderness experiences, stop by Outdoor EdVentures, located in the lower level of the Allen Center.



Steve Kaufman

OUTDOORS REPORTER

Steve's Hunting Tip of the Week

If you hope to be holding the rack of a monster buck next fall, now is the time to begin scouting for next year's hunt.

I should be writing an article on filling your tag on a late season giant by setting up between their bedding and feeding areas. But to be honest, this is the time of year I do more scouting than hunting.

The first thing I do is find out which bucks are still alive. Trail cameras are the easiest way to find this out. I set mine up right along a winter food source and usually get awesome results.

My trail camera will be out in the woods until the last buck loses his antlers. If you don't have a trail camera, looking for food sources at dusk is another way to keep tabs on surviving bucks.

Watching deer has definite advantages over trail cameras since you can see exactly what the buck is doing. Otherwise, simply checking for large tracks after fresh snowfall can also help you key in on bucks.

Learn everything you can about the deer. It may sound tough to learn a lot about an individual deer that you may see only on rare occasions, but with enough

time and effort it can be done.

More importantly, now is the time to hit the woods as deer sign is extremely evident. Your main objective is to locate the bucks' bedding area. This is the most essential piece of information you'll need for hunting him next year.

Rublines are now the easiest to find and to follow. I'll walk around fields looking for rubs and when I find a few, I'll slowly attempt to follow them towards the buck's bedding area.

Moving slowly is key since rublines are rarely straight and are usually difficult to follow.

Fresh snow is your best friend when trying to find where a buck beds. Fresh snow also makes it easy to find fresh beds and help you judge the size of the buck. Now that swamps are frozen over, it's the best time to get into those nasty areas.

The pattern of an individual buck will sometimes vary tremendously throughout the year and from year to year. However, the most consistent pattern a buck, especially old bucks, will display is where they bed, starting around gun season and continuing on through December.

This is always a place they feel safe from danger and will allow them to recuperate from the rut. Once you find this place, you'll know where to center your efforts next year.

GEARPOINT

A look at the hottest gear on the market, in the headlamp of

Outdoor EdVentures Student Manager, Josh Spice.

Snow Peak Titanium Spork Gearhead's Pick!

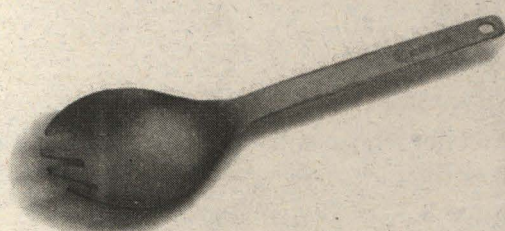
As strong as steel, yet nearly as thin as a knife, the Snow Peak is perfect for literally anything you can cook in the backcountry. I use mine quite frequently, even in the civilized world, for everything from rock-hard ice cream and birthday cake to over-cooked venison steaks and clam chowder.

Snow Peak should think about renaming its titanium spork to something that incorporates the words fork, spoon, and knife, due to its ability to stab, scoop, and cut.

Its finish leaves no metallic smell or taste and the thin handle allows me to make a hole in the handle of my mug for a place to store it when I'm not filling my face.

It's so light I carry it in the top pocket of my backpack. This spork is the best blend of all categories in the spork world.

Each spork costs \$8.95 each and each weighs about .6 ounces. For more information visit www.snowpeak.com.



Light My Fire® Spork - Bargain!

This combination fork and spoon utensil has "classic" written all over it. With a fork on one end and a spoon on the other, it gets the best of both worlds, never leaving you short-handed or compromised.

Molded from Teflon®-friendly, heat-resistant polycarbonate, it is by far the lightest spork, foon, or spoon and fork combo on the market.

There is only one drawback - the polycarbonate isn't nearly as strong as it is light, making it nearly impossible to scrape off burnt noodles or scoop frozen ice cream.

Each spork costs \$2.75 each and each weighs about .35 ounces. For more information visit www.light-my-fire.se.



For decades, the world of backcountry utensils have been plagued by the debate over using spoons, forks or both for dining. Until recently, outdoor enthusiasts were required to either make a decision, pack both or change their menu to accommodate one or the other. Then came the spork.

First appearing at Taco Bells, the spork was made of a flimsy, black plastic that was easily breakable and wrapped in a

clear, plastic wrapper to ensure sanitation.

However, throughout the course of various pressures and influences, it has quickly taken the reign as the superior, highly universal, backcountry utensil in many backpacks around the world.

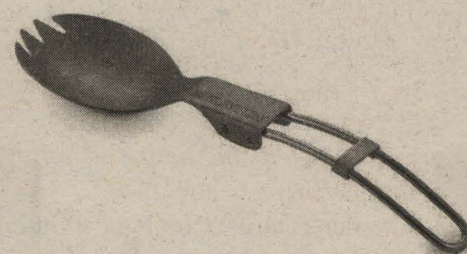
Now available in Lexan®, polycarbonate and titanium, the spork is ready to meet anyone's needs for chowing down a backwoods meal. Here's a look at what's hot on the spork market.

Recently receiving a Backpacker Magazine Editor's Choice Award for its ingenuity, the titanium and stainless-steel My-Ti has taken the packability issues of utensils and dropped it down the privy.

At 3.5" long (6.5" unfolded), it is by far the most compact spork, easily stowable in a pocket or mug. A locking mechanism allows it to even be used as a pot grabber and it is able to lift a pot full of water!

One possible nitpick - look for signs of wear or failure in the locking mechanism or folding design due to its relative complexity when compared to non-folding models.

Each spork costs \$15 each, are 6.5 inches in length (3.5 inches folded) and each weighs about .6 ounces. For more information visit www.brunton.com.



GSI Outdoors Piranha Foon (Fork/Spoon)

Looking for something a little lighter on the wallet, yet will still retain the same functionality of a spork? Look no farther than the Piranha Foon.

All of us gearheads have been waiting for a company to put the name "foon" to a product. GSI has made us proud with this virtually-unbreakable Lexan® model that is great for everything from pasta to chicken noodle soup, along with putting some leverage into getting that burnt pasta at the bottom of the pot.

It also features a quick-clip handle for attachment to your shirt, pack, etc. Have they found the perfect breed of fork and spoon? No - the head of the Foon is fairly large (even for my big mouth), making it difficult to get a king-sized scoop of food or to avoid spilling liquidy meals at mouth-entry.

The non-smooth finish also accumulates oils, giving it an inconspicuously smooth feeling, until you wash it and realize how slimy it actually is.

Is it worth the money? Most definitely - buy several for the price of one titanium spork and forgo the agony of losing one.

Each spork costs \$1.99 each, are 7.25 inches long and each weigh only about a half-ounce. For more information visit www.gsioutdoors.com.



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Did You Know

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, there are about five million caribou (reindeer) in the world.

Caribou are the only member of the deer family (Cervidae) in which both sexes grow antlers.

In late August and early September, large bulls shed the velvet (fur) covering their antlers to mark the start of the rutting season and the start of fall migration.

The largest bulls shed their antlers in late October, but small bulls and non-pregnant females do not shed their antlers until April. Pregnant females usually retain their antlers until calves are born in late May or early June.

Assuming the laws of nature hold true, Santa's reindeer should most likely all be female!

Letters & Opinion

Your College Survival Guide

How to deal with the unbearable shittiness of your life

By: Pat Rothfuss

Dear Pat,

I recently had a rough relationship with a friend. Actually, I was punch-drunk in love with the guy. We were on the verge of dating and did typical things like talking for hours on the phone, hanging out together, flirting, and beyond.

Everything was going great, but no one was making the first move even though we had talked about dating. When he finally asked me out, I later found out that he already had a girlfriend and was playing me the whole time. As you can imagine, I was angry with the fiery passion of a thousand burning suns.

Anyway, the next time we hung out I desperately wanted to ask if the rumors were true, but I never did. As the day went on, I kept thinking about all the lies this guy had told me and couldn't imagine how anyone could be so heartless. Well, he kept making fun of me about one thing or another and I finally snapped. At the time, I was holding a one pound block of Colby cheese and this guy wasn't quick enough to take cover. I had no intention of severely hurting him, but I've never seen someone go down that hard! I nailed him right in the kidney so it took him a few minutes to recover. I felt pretty bad afterwards, but he was feeling better the next day.

So now that the story is out of the way, I can ask you my question. Should I feel bad now that this guy has a giant bruise and will probably be peeing blood for the next month?

Sincerely,
Kristin

Only in Wisconsin could we have a problem like this: cheese-related domestic abuse. Come to think of it, I wouldn't be surprised if there were a few Wisconsin laws on the books relating to cheese-specific crime. Wouldn't that make a great CSI spin-off? "This week on CSI - Dairyland: our heroes struggle to unravel a baffling second-degree lacticide..."

First, I have to say that this letter cracked me up, Kristin. The funniest one I've gotten in a long while. This is because it contains the two fundamental elements necessary for comedy:

1) Something horrible happening to someone else.

Mel Brooks said it best when he said, "Tragedy is when I cut my finger. Comedy is when you fall into an open sewer and die." There's something buried deep in our brains that makes us enjoy the traumatic suffering of strangers.

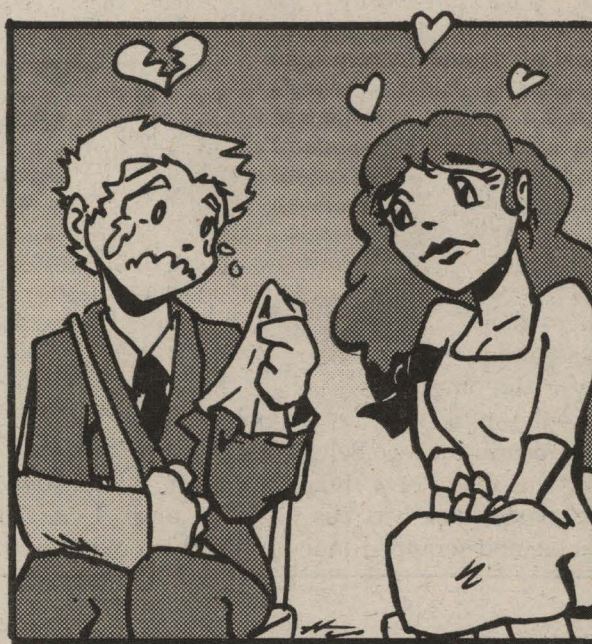
It's not a pleasant thing to think about, but it's true. Think of every joke you've ever laughed at. 99% of the time what makes you laugh is something horrible. If a joke begins "An American, a German, and a Norwegian go fishing...." You already know the end. We end up laughing at the Norwegian because of his

stupidity, or because something horrible happens to him. Or both.

Don't believe me? Think about every Looney Tunes cartoon you've ever watched, or any episode of America's Funniest Home Videos.

Still, don't believe me? <http://tinyurl.com/467c6>

Case closed.



2) An element of the ridiculous.

Ridiculous things are funny. Like a monkey wearing a dress, or a clown having sex, or an English major with a job. In this letter, the ridiculous element is a girl kicking a guy's ass with a chunk of cheese: pure comedy gold.

I mention all of this because the humor of this letter really obscures the issue. So let me present a different, humor-free scenario:

There's a guy and a girl. They hang out, flirt, "and beyond" doing the relationship dance. Later, the guy finds out that the girl already has a boyfriend. She's been lying to him and leading him on, and generally taking advantage of his trusting nature.

So the next time they're together, the guy is seething mad. He keeps it under control for a while, but eventually a comment makes him lose his cool. So he takes whatever is in his hand: a coffee mug, a wrench... whatever. Then he hits her with it. Hits her so hard that she falls down and can't get up for several minutes.

Now the question: should the guy feel bad? Seems pretty straightforward to me.

So yeah, Kristin, you should feel bad. Because, when all's said and done, you took something non-violent and made it violent. Someone hurt your feelings and you hurt their body. And ultimately, it doesn't matter that he's a guy and you're a girl. It doesn't matter if you use a wedge of gouda or a baseball bat. It doesn't matter that he seems to be, on all accounts, a total prick. That's just not a good thing. Feel bad. Apologize.

Now I'm not saying that what he did was any better. He abused your trust, and, in my opinion, that warrants him a severe, figurative, ass-kicking of some sort.

Unfortunately, you've forfeited your right to creative revenge by opening up the can of whoop-ass on him. Too bad, I could have written a great how-to get revenge column for all the jaded lovers out there. Oh well.

Dear Pat,

I've been reading your column for years, and while people say that they you're all over campus I've never seen you. I have a mental image of you, but I don't know how accurate it is. What do you actually look like? I'm curious.

Kinda a fan,
Kelly

Well, gee Kelly. It's always nice to hear from someone who's kinda a fan. Yup. That sure strokes the old ego.

I've always kept my appearance a closely guarded secret. Not everyone appreciates my brand of humor, and I'm always concerned that a horde of kinda fans might run up to me like the bloodthirsty Bacchae they are, tear me to bloody bits, and throw my body into the river.

But you're not the first person to have formed a strong pre-conceived notion of what I look like. As a matter of fact I've been introduced to several people in the last year only to have them look me over and say, "You're Pat Rothfuss?" As if my appearance somehow disappointed them. I've always wondered what the hell everyone thinks I'm supposed to look like.

So let's have a contest. Sharpen up your pencils and pull out your thesaurus, kids, it's "The Eye of the Beholder" contest. All you have to do is send in a brief description of what you think I look like. Something like this:

I imagine Pat Rothfuss as short, with well-muscled shoulders and unnaturally white, pointed teeth. He smells like peppermint and sweet, sweet methadone. He wears crude clothes sewn from bearhide and the skins of his defeated enemies. When he looks at you, it's like he's undressing you with his eyes, then redressing you as a clown, then undressing you again, but more slowly this time, sensually.

The best descriptions will be printed in here in the "Survival Guide" and awarded fabulous prizes along with the vast envy of their peers. This contest is open to everyone. Winners will be chosen based primarily on how much the description amuses me. That means you don't have to be correct about my appearance to win. It also means that if you actually know what I look like, you can still send in an entry.

Send in your entries to proth@wsunix.wsu.edu and remember folks, try to keep them short. Shoot for 60 words or so.

Want Pat to take your funny letter and turn it into boring social commentary? E-mail him at proth@wsunix.wsu.edu.

Pointer Poll

by Drew Smalley

...whats #1 on your x-mass list this year?



Lil' Nick
Art 3-D,

"Visine."



Wolf of Jay
Art Graphic Design

"A Ferrari."

"An X-Box 360."



Mike Austin
Business



"A Digital Camera,
I already know i'm
getting it!"

Katie Smits
Psychology



Andrea Mutsch
Art Graphic Design

"A wanna' Wii."

"A get out of
debt free card!"



David Lein
Forest Management



Jessica Fleischman, 24, finally found the peace she was searching for on Friday, December 1, 2006.

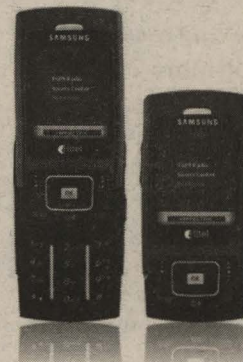
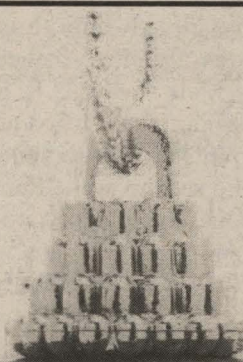
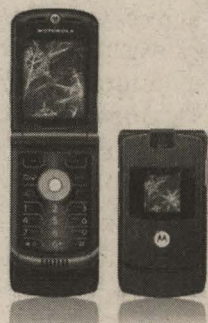
She was a senior at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, majoring in English Education. She had a passion for teaching and reaching out to those who needed her the most. Jessica was a life-long lover of books—her favorite was George Orwell's "1984." Through writing, painting, and dancing, Jessica was able to express the pain and joy she felt within herself.

Jessica was the proud parent of a black lab named Midnight. Playing with Midnight brought great joy to Jessica's life, and she positively beamed every time she mentioned her companion.

Jessica's life is remembered and celebrated by several close friends who cherish her friendship and their chance to know such an amazing person. Jennifer, Jacob, Mitch, Donnie, Anna, Andrew, and several other friends became her family over the last few years. Jessica touched the lives of everyone she met, and her radiant smile was contagious no matter what the situation.

A grave-side service will be held at a later date. Close friends and classmates will be notified and encouraged to participate.

Jessica passed away knowing she was loved and cared about by the people who mattered the most to her. The hole her death has left in our hearts can only be filled by the memory of the joy her friendship gave us. We love you Jessica.



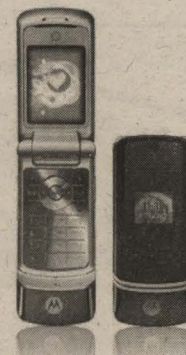
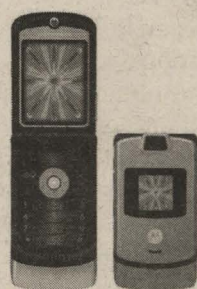
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Arts & Review

Sounds of silence: students star in silent films

Joy Ratchman

THE POINTER
JRATC567@UWSP.EDU

At the beginning of the semester, 13 students arrived at an out-of-the-way University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point classroom to discover their professor dressed to the nines as Cecil B. DeMille, an early film director, in a costume complete with jodhpurs. They knew from the start that this would be no ordinary class. The students were a creative group drawn from many different majors, and the instructor was a guest professor from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Communication professor Leslie Midkiff DeBauche had brought them together as the Stevens Point branch of The Wisconsin Bioscope Company, a group dedicated to the study and production of the beginnings of movie-making. Together, they would not only study the films of the past but also recreate them with genuine turn-of-the-century equipment.

Dan Fuller got the idea for The Wisconsin Bioscope Company when he learned that a 35 millimeter motion picture camera had been donated to the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Communication Arts Department. Fuller studied early motion picture manuals and got the camera in working order. He learned that the camera was a Charles Urban Bioscope Camera made sometime before World War I. Using this camera, he and his first class made two successful films. However, the camera's age made it problematic. Fuller's class, now known as the Wisconsin Bioscope Company, then managed to obtain a Universal camera, once used by Fox News to shoot newsreels in the 1920s.

"People are making silent movies, but no one is doing it this way anymore," said Fuller.

DeBauche heard of Fuller's work and decided to bring this special class to Stevens Point.

"I had seen the films Dan had made over the past few years with the students he got, and I told him I could give him a terrific group of students [from UW-Stevens Point]," said DeBauche. She is responsible for COFAC Creates, a program that aims to bring students from the diverse majors in the College of Fine Arts and Communication together to work on a common project.

"I've been looking for ways to get students in all of the departments involved," said DeBauche. "Something that draws on the strengths of all the different students, a chance to learn and get to know each other."

She said that she plans many different projects for this program in the coming years. Jeff Morin, Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, granted money for the program's current project.

Of the 13 students that began the semester, 12 remained and immersed themselves in the making of silent films. The class has already shot three films. The first was a comedy called "Cosmo's Magic Melt-a-ways." It is the story of a con-man named Cosmo and the magical mints he uses to make people vanish. The second was "Rent Party," a story about a couple too poor to pay their rent.

These two films were originally written by Fuller. After filming them, the class moved on to writing and filming their own scenarios. They have taken great care to emulate the dress and conventions of the turn of the century, specifically of 1905. The instruc-



The cast of "Cosmo's Magical Melt-A-Ways"

Photo by John Morser

tors chose that year as the official "setting" for the class.

Like the actors in the early films, the students gathered their own costumes and props, helped to build the sets, and did each other's hair and makeup. Early actors did not have a retinue of assistants to complete these tasks. Everyone was an equal part of the team in the early days of film.

"We're learning as we take the class. Everyone gets to try something new," says communication major Matthew Case. Christie Burgess agrees. One of her favorite parts of class was finding out that she could do more than just act. Since joining the class, she has tried her hand at screenwriting, finding costumes, and arranging props.

"It's not a lot like a class. It's more like a fun job," says Sunny Chen. Chen brought her dog, a Cockapoo named Esme, onto the set of "Rent Party."

For the third film, the students started with an initial script written by a member of the class. With contributions from the class, the story took

on a life of its own. Director D. W. Griffith once told his actors that they were responsible for their characters because he was responsible for the whole story and couldn't keep track of everything. The stories created by the professors and students operate in much the same way.

"Initially, I didn't have a lot of excitement for Cosmo," says Carmen Speich. "I wasn't really sold on the story until the class took it and made it their own. I think the final project was better because everybody had input."

The instructors were pleased with the class as well.

"The class has done what I hoped it would do," said DeBauche. "We've produced good films and are learning what kind of stories got told then [in 1905]. The students have developed a lot of understanding of the technology, stories, and acting styles of the period. The students of different departments are teaching each other what they know."

"Miami Vice" showcases new HD film technology

Nelson Carvajal

ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Over 10 years ago, writer/director Michael Mann (most recently nominated for an Oscar as a producer of "The Aviator") released the quintessential crime drama "Heat." This drama paired Al Pacino and Robert DeNiro onscreen together for the first time in history. In their prior collaboration on "The Godfather Part 2," Pacino and DeNiro never actually appeared

in the same scene together. Back then, Mann redefined the "cops and robbers" genre by creating characters that actually thought and felt amidst the whirlwind background of bank shoot-outs and spectacular chases.

December 5 marked the DVD release of Mann's latest crime epic, "Miami Vice." The movie is a theatrical adaptation of the 1980's hit TV series. In the film, Colin Farrell and Academy Award winner Jamie Foxx play detectives Sonny Crockett and Ricardo Tubbs, respectively. With his choice of actors, it is to be noted that Mann is once again redefining the genre.

The Latin term, "in medias res," perfectly describes the film's stunning opening sequence, which takes place in an exuberant Miami nightclub. Mann shot "Miami Vice" entirely with High-Definition cameras, so the film has an eerily real feel to it. It's like watching "Cops" uncensored. In addition,

the production team knew that its primary audience isn't the same dated group from the '80s. With all these elements at hand, "Miami Vice" takes the form of pure escapist entertainment.

The city of Miami is the scene of crime galore. Drug kingpins and hustling pimps roam the streets. The two protagonists find themselves knee-deep in this volatile mess as they constantly try to infiltrate the deadlier side of the law. The screenplay (also by Mann) does an unpredictable feat by placing much of the action outside of Miami. Just when the audience has decided that the film is a glitzy story in Florida, Mann catapults its characters overseas to various scenic locales. Miami is only the outlet for drug distribution. The real nitty-gritty crime happens behind-the-scenes in unprotected places around the world. The film is our backstage pass into these lairs filled with shady deals and sadistic drug lords.

Some of the supporting cast includes seasoned character-actor Ciaran Hinds as FBI Agent Fujima, Barry Shabaka Henley as Lt. Martin

Castillo, and Asian superstar Gong Li as Isabella, a sultry vixen on the wrong side of the law. Of course, none of these roles would work if the relationship between the two main leads was not complete.

Although there are no heavy-handed back stories or cute one-liners provided by Farrell or Foxx, their relationship seems authentic because they play it with hardened faces the entire time. This isn't a sell-out cop drama; these two are doing undercover work and there's nothing glamorous about it.

Still, there's much to absorb in this film, from intricate action sequences and a bustling pace to the closing chapters. Movie lovers will applaud a gun scene when Detective Gina Calabrese (Elizabeth Rodriguez) reinterprets Dirty Harry's famous "Do you feel lucky?" speech.

As an HD DVD release, "Miami Vice" will become the very first true High-Definition viewable on DVD. Don Johnson and Philip Michael Thomas (the original 1980's Crockett and Tubbs) would be proud.



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Pointer picks: favorite DVDs

Joy Ratchman

THE POINTER

JRATC567@UWSP.EDU

Most people like watching movies, so DVDs make great holiday gifts. Check out the Pointer staff's favorites for some great gift ideas.

Sara Jensen

Head Copy Editor

DVD: "Amelie"

Director: Jean-Pierre Jeunet

Summary: "Amelie" is a French film about a young girl who has been isolated from the world and compensates by escaping into her fantastical imagination. One day she decides it's her mission in life to go around doing good deeds for other people. Along the way she encounters an interesting array of characters whom she helps and who help her to realize she should be looking out for herself and creating her own happiness as well.

Why I like it: I absolutely adore this movie. The setting is beautiful. The colors are so bright and vivid throughout, making Amelie's world really stand out. Yes, you have to read subtitles, but that's part of the fun of the movie. You have to read every line otherwise you'll miss the narrator's quick little quips or key information about Amelie's world. Amelie is a relatable character, shy and caught

up in her very vivid, and often funny, imagination. The story is funny, yet heartwarming and inspirational, with a little romance thrown in. How can anyone not like that combination? And, of course, there is Amelie's father's traveling gnome (which I'm almost positive was the inspiration for the Travelocity one).

Joy Ratchman

Comics, Arts and Review

DVD: "Serenity"

Director: Joss Whedon

Summary: Humanity has migrated out into space and is under the tentative control of "The Alliance." The rebellious crew of the ship Serenity races to outsmart an Alliance operative and find the mystery of passenger River Tam's connections to the Alliance's secrets.

Why I like it: Pat Rothfuss got me hooked on the TV series "Firefly." "Firefly's" strength is its cast of sympathetic, rough-around-the-edges characters and their reactions to so called "everyday" situations in outer space. The series was cancelled by the Fox network after only a few episodes. Fan support allowed director Joss Whedon to resurrect his series into the movie "Serenity." The movie is a fun sci-fi flick, and it ties up a few loose ends left by the series's cancellation.

Angela Frome

Pointlife Co-editor

DVD: "Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl"

Director: Gore Verbinski

Summary: "Pirates" follows the adventures of Captain Jack Sparrow and his quest to get control of the ship called the Black Pearl.

Why I like it: This film is very entertaining, with a mix of comedy and action/adventure. It keeps the viewer on the edge of their seat, wondering what is going to happen next. The actors are great as well. Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom are brilliant as well as gorgeous, and Keira Knightly continues to be one of my favorite actresses.

Steve Roeland

Editor in Chief

DVD: "The Bourne Supremacy"

Director: Paul Greengrass

Summary: Matt Damon returns in this sequel to 2002's "The Bourne Identity." In "The Supremacy," former CIA agent Jason Bourne is called back into action when he is framed for causing a CIA deal to go bad. The agency comes after Bourne and forces him back into realizing more about his shady past, most of which was lost due to a case of amnesia. Car chase

scenes, hand-to-hand combat and a relenting Russian agent (Karl Urban) are all part of the second entry into the Bourne franchise.

Why I like it: I really enjoy this film and its DVD due to the high-octane action and great performances from Damon and CIA higher-up Pamela Landy, played by Joan Allen. The DVD features some behind the scenes elements and commentary with director Paul Greengrass. A great film got the treatment it deserved with this top-notch DVD.

Katie Leb

Pointlife Co-editor

DVD: "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion"

Director: David Mirkin

Summary: Two carefree party girls from the 1980s attempt to reinvent themselves for their ten-year high school reunion. The stories of success they create make a big impression on classmates until the hoax (and their real jobs) are revealed.

Why I like it: The combination of Lisa Kudrow and Mira Sorvino as blonde airheads who were outcasts in high school is priceless. With an excellent '80s music soundtrack and quick-witted humor, this film is a favorite guilty pleasure. Just remember that "I'm the Mary. You're the Rhoda."



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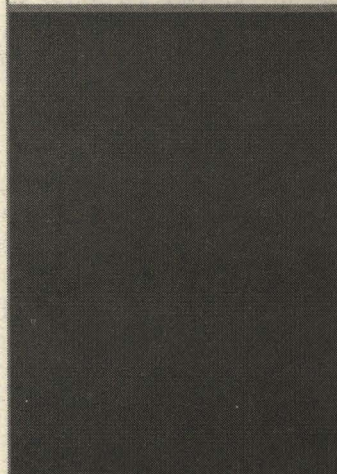
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from Hoops pg. 8

come of the game carried
over into UW-SP's next game
against undefeated UW-La
Crosse on Saturday, December
9.

The back-and-forth battle
between the Pointers and the
Eagles featured nine ties and
19 lead changes. Krull attri-
butes his team's success to
their resilience in the face of
stiff competition.

"We played well as a team
and are finding ways to win
when we are put in tough
situations," Krull said. "Our
team just never gives up. We
feel like we can accomplish
anything together."

The Pointers were led
by sophomore forward Pete
Rortvedt's 23 points. Rortvedt
was .500 from both the field
and three-point range and
four-for-four from his bonus
shots from the free-throw line
to seal the victory.

After trouncing
Edgewood College 69-47 on
Monday, December 11, the
Pointer men hit the road for
three consecutive non-confer-
ence games against Viterbo
Univeristy, Regis University,
and Northern Michigan
University, but make sure to
attend their home games over
winter break. For a complete
schedule, go to [http://www.
uwsp.edu/athletics/mbb/
schedule.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/athletics/mbb/schedule.htm).



from Swimming pg. 8

On the women's squad,
Lindsay Googins won the 500-
yard freestyle and the 200-yard
freestyle in 5:27.67 and 2:20.85
respectively. Kelsey Crunstedt
also won the 100-yard back-
stroke in 1:02.98 and swam in
the winning 200-yard medley
relay team with Beth Bard.

Jerica Crook and Cate
Hake were also individual
winners. Crook won the 1000-
freestyle in 11:09.52 and Hake
won the 50-yard freestyle in
25.30.

Last Friday all the senior
swimmers were honored
as well. Beth Bard, Kelsey
Crunstedt, Jerica Crook,
Alissa Colbert, Britta Binke,
Nikki Feinhals, Trish Nye,
Nikki Slagle, Meghan Walsh,
Amy Bennet, Krista Rauen,
Jeff Nelson, Chris Shea,
Kyle Hartl, Jeff Goering, Pat
Hubert, Bennet Wencel, and
Dan Quade all completed their
four years of eligibility and are
going on to bigger and better
things next year.

The team now looks for-
ward to the annual winter
training trip to St. Croix, Virgin
Islands. Both the coaches and
the swimmers have anticipat-
ed the trip all season.

"It's a chance for us to
get out of the bleak Wisconsin
winter and have some fun,"
said Boelk.

But the Pointers definitely
get their training in spite of
their idyllic surroundings.

"It's probably the toughest
training we do all year," said
Rob Donisch, a sophomore
swimmer.

During the training trip,
the swimmers are subject
to intense aerobic workouts

twice a day, as well as weight
and dry-land training. But the
Pointers don't seem to mind
the beating they take.

"We're in St. Croix, so it
kind of takes the sting off,"
added Scott Hoppe, a junior
swimmer for UW-SP.

When they are not swim-
ming, the Pointers enjoy long
naps on the beach and random
adventures snorkeling, deep-
sea fishing, and sight-seeing.

"Last year a bunch of us
went to the Botanical gar-
dens. That was amazing," said
Donisch.

Crunstedt looks forward
to the chance to get away from
the bleak Wisconsin weather
and catch some rays.

Overall the team looks at
the trip as a great team bond-
ing experience, and Boelk looks
forward to the opportunity to
get some quality training in
before the dual meet against
La Crosse and the Conference
meet.

"They have nothing to do
but swim and have fun. You'd
be surprised what you can
accomplish when there are no
classes," said Boelk.

The team departs for St.
Croix on January 3 and will
return for the Get to the Point
Invite at the end of January.



Best Wishes
from The
Pointer!

...Good luck
on your Finals

...Safe Holiday
travels

...Congrats to
all our Grads!!!