Dean and professor to discuss state’s hunting culture on public radio

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Associate Professor Christian Diehm and College of Natural Resources Dean Christine Thomas can now add one more accolade to their resumes. The National Public Radio (NPR) has asked the two to be a part of a nationally-aired radio call-in show, “Talk of the Nation” to discuss Wisconsin’s hunting culture and trends.

Steve Menzel, development and PR coordinator for the college of natural resources, said the show should be an interesting topic of conversation amongst the panel and their listeners. "Generally speaking, there are differing views on hunting and fishing and how society should approach those activities," Menzel said.

Some of the issues likely to be tackled on this panel include the recent decline in hunting activities. Diehm was excited about being asked to speak on the NPR show, but he knows some might be wondering why a non-hunting teacher of philosophy has any business discussing hunting culture.

"When NPR decided to do the panel discussion on Wisconsin’s hunting culture, they contacted Chris (Thomas)," Menzel said. "Thomas has been on the Natural Resources Board, the governing body for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, for just over two years. Diehm, a veteran of discussion panels, is aware that the dialogue can always skew off course. "It's really about whatever the audience wants to talk about; we (the panel) are the facilitators of the discussion," said Diehm.

Diehm has authored numerous journal articles regarding environmental ethics and ecology. He says that one big concern for today's hunters is that of their public image. "I contribute moral issues, I’m there to explain the moral aspects of the issue," said Diehm, who also teaches an environmental ethics class on campus.

Christine Thomas' role on the panel will differ slightly. Thomas has several years experience in the outdoors, and so her perspective is unique. Thomas founded the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program a number of years ago, and it was her commitment to this and several other outdoors organizations, along with her numerous awards from various wildlife and sports hunting organizations, that caught NPR's eye.

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Just last week, the Natural Resources Board announced that Thomas had received a gubernatorial appointment to become the board's Vice Chair. "It's a really big deal, we're really happy with it," said Menzel of Thomas' appointment.

While the designated topic of Thursday afternoon's NPR discussion revolves around Wisconsin's hunting culture and trends, both Diehm and Menzel say that even in Wisconsin, opinions run the gamut with regards to hunting traditions.

"A lot of people enjoy hunting, nationwide, but a lot of people are against it also," said Menzel.

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Parking Lot P
Jan. 19, 2005 9:58 p.m.
Type: VANDALISM

Protective Services received call from person who observed a group of individuals walking through lot P and jumping on top of cars.

University Center
Jan. 21, 2005 10:59 p.m.
Type: UNDERAGE CONSUMPTION

Stevens Point Police Department cited 5–7 individuals for underage drinking.

Thomson Hall
Jan. 24, 2005 9:24 p.m.
Type: DRUG USE

CA on duty at Thomson Hall called to report residents in a dorm room were smoking marijuana.

Hansen Hall
Jan. 25, 2005 12:24 a.m.
Type: DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

Hansen Hall Director called requesting assistance. Marijuana and paraphernalia seized.

May Roach Hall
Jan. 26, 2005 11:41 p.m.
Type: PUBLIC INTOXICATION

CA on duty at May Roach Hall called about an intoxicated student who was unable to find his way back to his dorm room.

Parking Lot Q
Jan. 28, 2005 12:29 p.m.
Type: VANDALISM

Stevens Point Police Department reported two windshields smashed in Lot Q. Three vehicles were found with broken windshields upon arrival, of which two owners were contacted.

Off Campus
Jan. 28, 2005 12:30 a.m.
Type: VANDALISM

Received complaint about two males shooting a toy gun with plastic bb's from a blue sedan, possibly an Oldsmobile, in an undisclosed location off campus.

from NPR pg. 1

“First dates are awkward enough even when you know the person.”

Sword said she volunteered for the auction because it was something she has never experienced before and that it is for a good cause and a good charity.

To help ease the edge and add fun, some of the auctionees are going to dress in costume. Rumors of ideas mentioned were those of a construction worker, runway model, and even a mockery of the modeling career comedy film “Zoolander.”

Ford plans to emcee the event, which will include a mini bio and personalized music for each auctionee as they strut down the runway in an attempt to sell for big bucks.

The Centertainment staff is anticipating the auction and believes it will be a fun event that includes a finale bound to catch all attendees off guard.

“This is going to be interesting,” said Sword.

from Date pg. 1

Bootstrap.

The cast of “auctionees” includes 30 students from all over campus. Ford said she thought it would be tough to get volunteers that wanted to auction themselves off, but by word of mouth and some advertising in the Student Message of the Day (SMOD), she met her quota of 30 easier than most anticipated.

“I was surprised on the number of people willing to be auctioned,” said Jess Sword, a Centertainment staff member and event assistant.

However, not all these auctionees are fully comfortable with what they signed up for, yet. Ford said that some volunteers are somewhat worried that they won’t be bid on, but she is assuring that everybody will.

Sword had expressed her own concern of being bought by a complete stranger and going on a date with them.

“Talk of the Nation” airs from 1-3 p.m., the segment including Thomas and Diehm will run during the last half of the show.

The radio show has a long history of paneling authors, comedians and politicians from around the world to discuss important current events with call-in viewers and live audiences. Topics inhabit the veins of politics, religion, healthcare, education and the arts.

Thursday’s broadcast can be heard on WHRM-FM 90.9 or WLBK-AM 930, and begins at 2 p.m.

AIGA and UWSP host nowHERE Design Conference

Press Release
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The student chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Artists (AIGA) and the Department of Art and Design at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point will host the second annual NowHERE Design Conference on Friday, Feb. 17 and Saturday, Feb. 18.

The conference will feature lectures and workshops by visiting artists Nando Costa, Linn Olofsdotter and Kate Gibb. A lecture presented by Gibb will be held Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 221 of the Noel Fine Arts Center (NFAC).

Costa and Olofsdotter will present a combined lecture on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the same location. Both lectures are open to the public free of charge. Workshops are yet to be scheduled, but will also be open to the public for a registration fee of $20.

Costa was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He began his design career in Brazil, but soon moved to the United States. At age 24 he launched the motion design studio Nakd with his wife, Linn Olofsdotter. As creative director of Nakd, Costa worked with a variety of clients including MTV, Dolce & Gabbana, Country Music Television and a variety of other networks.

Costa and Olofsdotter later began working for a Boston-based advertising agency.

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

Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.
Your College Survival Guide:
Or: How I learned to stop worrying and love .com.

By: Pat "strangelove" Rothfuss

So last semester I got an invite to join Friendsters.com. It’s an online networking thingie. You make friends, then contact with THEIR friends, and their friend’s friends.

I don’t normally go in for this sort of thing. I don’t have a webpage. I don’t have a blog. There’s no point. This column provides me with more than enough contact with the outside world.

But I didn’t want to be rude, so I hopped onto Friendster, slapped up a picture, and banged out a profile in about ten minutes. Done.

I probably would have forgotten all about it, but a couple days later, I got an e-mail telling me someone wanted to add as a friend. This gave me a warm fuzzy. So I logged back on and saw my friend Josh had tracked me down. Curious, I checked out his profile, I saw that he had, like, 40 frikin’ friends.

I had only one friend. Only three people had even looked at my profile. Suddenly it’s like I was back in sixth grade. Why aren’t I as popular as Josh? Was there something wrong with me?

So I find some new pictures, buff up my profile, and go searching for people I know, so I can add them as friends. I track down an old buddy from Washington State, and a UW-SP friend who lives in St. Louis now.

All of this takes about 10 hours over a couple days. But at the end of that I’ve got a respectable profile and a handful of friends. A few people have posted testimonials about me, telling me a warm fuzzy. So I relax, content in the knowledge that I’m not a total loser.

But then I call Jordan at the Mission Coffee House to see what bands are playing, and he tells me all the info on the Mission’s MySpace page.

I put together a profile on MySpace so I can find out what bands are playing at the Mission. I don’t even look at any pages other than the Myspace profile. People you might expect to find there, check out: myspace.com/missioncoffeehouse.

So I start getting invites from random strangers, asking to be my friend. I’d look at their page and think, “Yeah, I’m a writer from Wisconsin who likes Buffy the Vampire Slayer. You’re a professionaldominatrix from Scranton who’s into monster trucks and Tuvian throat singing. Finally, I’ve met my soul mate!”

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I put together a profile on MySpace so I can find out what bands are playing at the Mission. I don’t even look at any pages other than the Myspace’s because I don’t want to get sucked in. I have better things to do with my time.

The next time I see Jordan, he says, “I added you as a friend because your profile looked so sad and lonely.” Suddenly I’m nervous again. Does my profile really look pitiful? When I get home I take a more serious class on shitty webpage design, and a UW-SP friend who lives in St. Louis now.

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I look at Jordan’s page, and he has TWO HUNDRED friends. I have two friends. I suck. I try to improve my profile, but now I get all self-conscious about my choices. Does this picture make me look fat? Will people think I’m sissy if I list Sarah McLachlan in my favorite music? What kind of page background defines me, as a person?

In Friendster, you need to know a person to invite them as a friend. So not on Myspace. Two days after I’m on Myspace I start getting invites from random strangers, asking to be my friend. I’d look at their page and think, “Yeah, I’m a writer from Wisconsin who likes Buffy the Vampire Slayer. You’re a professionaldominatrix from Scranton who’s into monster trucks and Tuvian throat singing. Finally, I’ve met my soul mate!”

Other differences? Well, on Myspace there’s a lot more young girls with their boobs out, and a lot of guys waxing rhapsodic over said bosoms, crafting lyric posts such as: “YOUR SO SEXY!!” and “this picture is off the hizzie gurl, HELLA.”

And while Friendster is a little stuffy and formal for my taste, Myspace frequently reeks of desperation. It’s a popularity contest with the added hellishness that someone’s actually keeping score. So there are a half-million little Potemkin profiles out there, most of them trying just a little too hard to prove they are beautiful, unique flowers. But it’s not all bad. A lot of cool bands have Myspace pages. BNL is there, and the Decemberists. Feingold has a page too. It’s an odd mix of professional seriousness and apeshit amateurism.

For all its flaws, I like Myspace more. I’ve got 15 friends now, and I’ve gone from being insecure to downright snobby. Hell, just yesterday I refused to add a guy to my friends list because he had “Spawn” as one of his favorite movies. Which, you have to admit, is a pretty good reason.


Email pat for advice at proth@wsunix.wsu.edu.

Do it. Do it now.

This Friday at the Mission Neethin Yet will be playing with DriveByAllis, RocketBoy55 and Breaking Even. Saturday you’ve got The Crost, Get Down 5yn, Dealers, and Chub707. Both shows, all ages.

For more about the Mission, its shows, and the people you might expect to find there, check out: myspace.com/missioncoffeehouse.
From The Editor’s Desk

Because I said so...

Liz Bolton
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
POINTER@UWSP.EDU

I've been bad. I haven't written anything in a while. Anything of importance, that is (I admit last week's column was just space filler). In part, it is due to the many people who come up to me, commenting on my great writing. It isn't hard to do. I just write what I think people want to hear.

My main goal as editor of this publication was to get as many people as I could to pick up and read the paper. I thought by writing what I thought were interesting and provocative pieces, I could accomplish my goal.

Do you know what happened? Here's an example. Student: "Liz Bolton! Great article last week!"

Me: "Thanks. Did you enjoy the article on Dave Obey?"

Student: "Huh? Nah. I just read you and Pat Rothfuss."

Criminal! Well, not criminal, but really, really sad. I did the math, and found including volunteer writers, it takes roughly 220 hours of work to put out "The Pointer" every week. And frankly, outside of the office, the only recognition we ever get is when there's an error.

I promised myself at the beginning of the year that I wouldn't do it, but allow me to whine for a second. For roughly 110 years The Pointer has reported on events at this campus. In doing so, we have robbed ourselves of our own history. Though we are trying to rectify that, it does become hard to get up in the morning when you get bombarded with criticism for the dumbest things.

My favorite is photographs. Everyone thinks they can take better photographs. So when these people show up, we give them an assignment or two, and then we never hear from them again.

But now I'm getting off track. The fact is we have a talented staff that works hard every week to bring you a solid paper. Until now, we have done it all this year without complaining. So consider this a small plea from me to you. Read the paper.

In our Science section we have an interesting article on new services available at the HEC. If you want to see something funny, check out the snowmen on page 11. And our reporter Matt Inda has written the most spectacular swimming story ever on page 8.

Now that I have gotten this off my chest, maybe next week I will be able to write something witty. Hopefully.

SGA Corner

Looking to become active on campus while getting paid? SGA is looking for a Speaker of Senate which is a paid position. It interested contact sgaexec@uwsp.edu for more information or log on to the SGA website.

Up and Coming Events

Feb. 8- "U Decide" in room 125 UC at 6 p.m. - Listening session for students to voice their opinions on the up and coming referendum as well as other campus issues. Snacks and beverages will be served.

Feb. 11 and Feb. 18 - Annual Budget Hearings

Feb. 20-24- U Decide Referendum

REACH (Realizing Education for All Can Happen)

Please join us for a call-in day today on February 2! It gives students who have graduated from a WI high school equal opportunity to access resident tuition, thus allowing undocumented students to gain more realistic and affordable access to higher education. The benefits of a public hearing will allow student's voices to be heard so our policy makers can be made aware of the benefits this bill would offer to all students in Wisconsin.

Please call: (608) 266-0660

And say: "Hello, my name is ___________ (insert your name). I am calling from UW - Stevens Point. I am request- ing that Representative Krebich schedule a public hearing for Assembly Bill 576."

It is our goal to help secure a public hearing for the bill through the call-ins.

We strongly believe access to education is a basic right and is one that is currently being denied to undocumented students even though they have graduated from a Wisconsin high school.

- Liz Bolton
Falcon's Gate members keep history alive

Lauren Kiel
POINTLIFE REPORTER

During the day Elizabeth Rundquist is your average student; she is working on her degree in Psychology and Sociology. Rundquist is president of the campus group Falcon's Gate, a group dedicated to the study of pre-17th century culture.

The Gate, a spin off of their mentor group Falcon's Keep, consists of students who devote their time and energy to imagine what life was like five hundred years ago in Europe and live it. The group of about 15-20 Point students live the early life by fighting with weapons and armor, making authentic garb, doing calligraphy and illumination and more. They give a new look into what was without tossing aside the improvements of the day.

"Flushable toilets, how can you not love those?" Rundquist said, trying to make a point. The group celebrates the past without over looking the present.

One important part of their group are the "fighters." There are two types of fighting that the Gate participates in. There is the Heavy Combat, and Rapier Fighting, which is the lighter of the two. The Rapier fighting was known for defense in daily life and defending one's honor while the heavy combat represented the "knights in shining armor" going off to war.

Each Monday night, the Fighters of the Gate show up to put on armor and fight like they did over hundreds of years ago; but in present times their number one priority is much different: safety.

"Our group is all about safety," Rundquist said. They use rattan and "lots of duct tape" to enforce the weapons. "Rattan breaks clean, that way no one is hurt by flying pieces."

The fighters even dress up in their heavy metal armor and learn how to fight like thousands of soldiers did thousands of years ago by marshals that belong to their parent group, Falcon's Keep. To further prove their commitment to safety, they won't hold practices unless a marshal attends.

The group also has an Arts and Science meeting at the end of the week where they spend their time making garb, scroll work, belts, candles and even different types of weaving.

"It's a fun and exciting look at history for those who may not like history," Rundquist said about her group. The break up of majors within the group isn't limited to history majors and theater arts majors; they have people from English, political science and sociology departments.

"I don't even think we have a history major!" Rundquist said.

Rundquist got involved in the group in her sophomore year. She was never a fan of history but took the required courses in Ancient and Medieval just to get them out of the way. She started talking with a member of the Gate and got invited to a meeting. It was here she found a great group of friends she could really relate to.

"It was like, I found my people!" Rundquist said about her experience at her first meeting. The meeting started at 8 p.m. and she didn't look at the clock until quarter after ten. "The time just flew!"

The group is much more than just hands-on history. The people in the group have so much in common that they often get off topic by discussing interesting books and other things that appeal to them. While they're always looking for new members, the most common misconception of the group is that they're weird.

"We don't bite," joked Rundquist about what people think of them. "We try to ham it up at involvement fairs," Rundquist said. But added that at meetings they're very casual and laid back and they're always looking for new friends to add to the mix.

Falcon's Gate not only lives like in previous centuries; it gives the members a chance to live their own legacy. Members are encouraged to create a 'persona' which is created of a home country, a name and a century. Some people take months to create a persona and some have it right away. This persona gives the members options such as possible accents and even what kind of garb one can wear.

"If the Garb Nazi comes, let me know," Rundquist said about authenticity. "It doesn't matter if you're 100 percent authentic, what matters is your enthusiasm." Rundquist said. You can get into it as much as you want. No one forces you to become more involved than you want to be.

"Real life trumps play," Rundquist said. If a member is unable to make a meeting due to an important test the next day, the group understands.

The main thing to remember about the Keep? They're just a group of students who love life, just as it was back in the dark ages. The last thing they want to do is intimidate people with their garb and Old English speak. They love what they do and want to include more students in the fun they have.

If interested or want more information about the Keep, contact Rundquist at elizabeth.a.rundquist@uwsp.edu or come to the Monday night Fighter's Practice at 7 p.m. in the Quantd balcony of the HEC or to the Lafollette lounge fireplace at 8 p.m. on Thursday nights.

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Biodiversity & Tropical Field Biology in Costa Rica ~ Spring Break: March 18-26, 2006

To learn more about this opportunity in one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the world, come to an informational meeting.

Monday, February 6th
CNR 457 ~ 4:30 p.m.

Join Program Leaders Bob and Laura Rosenfield to find out why this program is right for YOU!

Program Highlights: Experience mountainous cloud forest habitat, the deep and pristine jungle of the Osa Peninsula, and the Pacific Ocean beach along the wilderness of Corcovado Park. This trip is an outstanding way to see an incredible array of biodiversity in a relatively short time and earn college credits while doing so. While in Costa Rica you'll travel by small bus, car, small airplane, and of course on foot.

The accommodations and food are excellent and the scenery and wildlife are spectacular.

February 2, 2006 • 5

Sponsored by International Programs, 346-2717 ~ intprog@uwsp.edu
C'mon- get involved!

Melissa Dyszelski
THE POINTER
MDYSZ026@UWSP.EDU

“Really is the theme for the Spring 2006 Involvement Fair, held Feb. 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the DUC, and is sponsored by the Student Involvement and Employment Office, with the support of Residential Living is “Connect 4 Success.”

Connect 4 Success is an interactive leadership program aimed to help students in various stages of leadership development. It is a four-week, once a week program, beginning Feb. 16, and ending March 9 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Becca Franzen, lead presenter and program coordinator of C4S said, “Connect 4 Success got started because we needed something new. We needed a new leadership program that changed with the needs of the students.”

This semester’s C4S is Level II, continuing from last semester’s Level I.

Students who participated in Level I are encouraged to participate in Level II as well. However, anyone newly involved in student organizations are also encouraged to apply.

“Every semester is different; I’m excited for this,” Franzen said. “The goals of C4S are to help students meet other students and professionals on campus and help students feel more connected to campus and the resources available to them. It’s an awesome program that sparks further thinking. People are inspired by the content presented to them.”

I took part in C4S last semester and have signed up for this semester’s level. It is a very rewarding experience and I encourage student leaders or anyone working on campus to apply. Participation is limited to 50 people and the registration deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 8.

As always, refreshments will be available at both of these events. I hope to see you there!

Winter will be over soon enough. Don't forget to register for your study abroad program for this coming summer - because the world calls you!

Consider participating in these incredible study abroad opportunities:

I. The Nazis and the Holocaust in Germany.
   Austria, Poland and the Czech Republic

II. ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN in Germany,
    France & Switzerland

III. Theatre in London

IV. Business Internships in China

V. Teach English in Japan

VI. POLITICAL, SOCIAL and CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION in China

VII. Fossil Resources in China

VIII. Intensive Spanish in Mexico

Financial Aid Applies. All credits count!

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Room 108 Collins Classroom Center
UW - Stevens Point, WI 54481 USA
TEL: 715-346-2717

E-Mail: intlpreg@uwsp.edu www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad

Arts Bash 2006: an evening of art and performance in support of student artists

STEVENS POINT, Wis. - Experience the hottest event in Central Wisconsin at the fourth annual Arts Bash at the Noel Fine Arts Center, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets are available for $35 at the door or by calling the UW-SP Box Office at (715) 346-4100. All proceeds from this event support student artists at the university through annual scholarships, the Great Artists Great Speakers Fund and a long-term student scholarship endowment.

Planners say the event promises an evening charged with creative energy and expression. Students and faculty members from the Departments of Art & Design and Theatre & Dance will demonstrate their work and talents through a variety of performances including live music, theatre and dance pieces, life-drawing demonstrations, makeup demonstrations, backstage tours and more. A highlight of the event is a professional art sale. This eclectic and cosmopolitan bash will also include a cash bar, hors d’oeuvres and desserts prepared by volunteer community chefs. The first 100 ticket buyers will receive a complimentary piece of original student art.

The 2006 art sale contains works donated by area professionals including Diana Black, Kevin Burnett, Diane Canfield Bywaters, Jeffrey Morin, William Schierl, Richard Schneider, Annette Schuh, Rob Stolzer, Kristin Thieling, Thomas Dailing Designs, The Smith Scarabocchio Art Museum and many more.

Arts Bash 2006 is generously supported by corporate donations from Stora Enso, Spectra Print, Delta Dental, Team Schierl Companies, Stevens Point Journal, Charter Communications, the UW-SP Design Center, WSPT, Courtesy Motors, Inc., Mada Embroidery & Screen Printing LLC, Ministry Medical Group/Saint Michael’s Hospital, Wipfli LLP, Zarawski’s Floral, Modern Signs, BioLife Plasma Services, Clifton Gunderson, Scaffidi Motors, Northwestern Wisconsin Associates Inc., DigiCopy and JHL Mail Marketing.

For more information, call (715) 346-3056 or visit www.artsbash.com. For tickets, call (715) 346-4100.
Comics

Venus di Psycho

Rrrudolph and Rrrodney go see who’s at the door.

Yes Mistress Maria.

I’m Jon Quill.

Ah, yes. I’m Rodney and I’ll take you to see Mistress Maria.

MUSE

By: R. Tidball

Terrible Little Guy. But you know what Little/poorly.

THE THURSDAY WORD:

PUSILLANIMOUS

"Cowardly, Weak-minded, and Mean-Spirited"

Neverland

Rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

By: Lo Shim

Here We Are

By: E H Fergison

MUSE

By: Joy

Resident’s Evil

By: Jason Loeffler

Alternative Lives

By: Jason Loeffler

THE THURSDAY WORD:

Watch for our new

Word puzzle next week! It’ll blow your mind!
Pointer women end losing streak to UW-L as men continue winning ways

Matt Inda  
THE POINTER  
MIND5679@UWS.PEDU

Amongst the raving, intensity and humidity at the HEC pool in Stevens Point last weekend stood two Pointer women and the UW-La Crosse for their final dual meet of the season.

After a few hours of intense swimming, splashing and victories closer than a buzzer beating shot, the Pointers emerged victorious as both men and women teams outdid the Eagles. The women, however, waited until the final event of the day to do so.

Winning a close 125-118 match-up was momentous for the Pointer women who have not beaten the Eagles in a dual meet since 2001. Caitlin Hake led the women’s team with a pair of individual victories in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle. She also teamed with Liz Herder, Jennie Roskopf and Meghan Walsh to win the 400-yard medley relay.

But it was the final event - the 400-yard freestyle relay - that sealed the victory for the women. Beth Bard, Jerica Cook, Amy Bennet and Kelsey Cunseet teamed up to take first. Bridget Gormley, Ashley Wilhelm, Lindsey Googins and Alissa Colbert were behind their teammates, finishing second. The first and second place finishes were enough to surpass the Eagles for the win, who were leading coming into the event.

Bennet added a win in the 200-yard butterfly event as the women only claimed first place in five of the 13 events.

Senior captain Jennie Roskopf said "everyone stepped up where they were needed. “This victory over UW-L is huge for us because our whole team came together to support each other,” she said.

"It was a very intense meet, and [the team] really came together to make something big happen,” said swim coach Al Boeck.

The spotlight may have been on the women’s effort, but it was the men’s team who posted an impressive 168-73 domination as they won their 47th straight conference dual meet victory.

Once again Alex Anderson and Matt Grunwald were atop the men’s stat line, each winning two individual events and a relay. Anderson won the 50-yard freestyle and the 200-yard individual medley. Anderson grouped with Tyler Eloranta, Willie Clapp and Garth Newport to win the 400-yard medley relay. Grunwald captured the 200-yard freestyle and 200-yard butterfly as well as a 400-yard freestyle relay with Kyle Hartl, Eloranta and Chase Cross.

In addition, Gross added a 100-yard freestyle win and Ben Gensler took the 200-yard breaststroke. The men’s diving events were swept by the Pointers as Dave Hayes won the three-meter and Jack Riley the one-meter. This was Hayes’ second win ever, which came on his final dual meet as a collegiate swimmer. “Winning was just doing my part...” said swim coach Al Boeck.

The Pointer swimming and diving teams showcased their talents in wins over UW-La Crosse.

Four UW-Stevens Point athletes earn WIAC Athlete of the Week

Press Release  
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Four UW-Stevens Point athletes all earned Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Athlete of the Week honors for their performances during the past week.

Women’s basketball player Nathalie Lechault and men’s hockey player Russel Law both earned their first career weekly awards, while women’s indoor track and field athlete Jenna Mitchler and men’s swimmer Matt Grunwald also received the awards.

Lechault, a Chavannes de Bogis, Switzerland native, is the first international player ever to earn the league’s weekly honor in women’s basketball. The junior center nearly had a triple-double in the best performance of her career as the Pointers knocked off first place UW-Oshkosh 66-63. Lechault had career highs in every category with 19 points, 13 rebounds and eight blocks. She recorded six blocks in the first 10 minutes.

See WIAC pg. 15

Photo by Lue Vang

Pointers fall to UW-Oshkosh, almost take Edgewood

Melissa Dyszelinski  
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No. 21 ranked UW-Oshkosh knew what needed to be done as the Titans and the UW-Stevens Point men’s basketball team each battled for a first place WIAC standing last Wednesday.

The Titans defeated the Pointers 74-62, and took the lead early on as they made nine of their first 12 shots, and continued to lead throughout the game, forcing UW-SP to decrease the gap only by seven points.

Jon Krull led the Pointers with 16 points and five rebounds. Pete Rorvved followed with 15 points and five rebounds. Brian Bauer and Steve Hicklin each sank 10 points, while Bryan Beamish finished the game with eight points and three rebounds.

However, the Titans had three players who ended the evening in double digits, and as a team connected on 60.5 percent from the field; UW-SP finished the game at 35.1 percent.

On Saturday, the Pointers traveled to Madison to face the Edgewood Eagles in a non-conference contest. After 16 lead changes and 14 ties, the Pointers lost to a pair of free throws made by Edgewood’s Eddie Hebl, to end the game at 67-66.

Krull scored a game-high 25 points, while Hicklin added 13 points.

“We are a young team and just need to learn how to win in the close games,” said Krull.

UW-SP will face UW-La Crosse Saturday at 5 p.m. in the Quandt Fieldhouse.

Photos by Lue Vang

Alumni basketball games set for Saturday

Press Release  
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Former UW-Stevens Point men’s and women’s basketball players will return to the floor on Saturday prior to the Pointers’ doubleheader with UW-La Crosse. The women’s alumni game is set for noon in Berg Gym with the men’s alumni game slated for 3 p.m.

The men’s alumni game is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. in the Quandt Fieldhouse with the varsity game set for 5 p.m.

There is no admission charge for the alumni contests, which are expected to feature past players from several different seasons, including the recent final four men’s and women’s teams. The former players will also be honored at halftime of each game on Saturday.

Photos by Lue Vang

Smaller communities more likely to have health inequality

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Smaller communities have higher rates of health disparities than larger communities, according to a new study from UW-Madison researchers. The study, led by economists David Figlio and Linda Goldberg, found that the percentage of the population with a high school diploma is a strong predictor of health disparities.

The researchers looked at data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They found that communities with higher rates of high school graduation also had lower rates of health disparities, such as obesity and diabetes.

The study was published in the Journal of Public Economics.
Resch Center hockey tickets on sale at alumni office

Press Release
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Tickets for Saturday's men's hockey game against second-ranked St. Norbert at the Resch Center in Green Bay are currently on sale at the UW-Stevens Point alumni office. The advance tickets are available at a discounted price of $12 by calling 715-346-3811.

The Pointers and Green Knights faceoff at 5 p.m. and will be followed by a junior hockey game between the Green Bay Gamblers and Waterloo Blackhawks. Tickets are good for both games of the doubleheader.

While the UW-Stevens Point men's hockey team plays in spacious surroundings on Saturday, the Pointer women's hockey team will also get a taste of top-notch facilities at the same time as it takes on St. Catherine at 6 p.m. at Ridder Arena in Minneapolis. A 3,400-seat arena, Ridder Arena is home to the University of Minnesota women's hockey team.

Pointer road trip begins without a loss

Robert Lucas
SPORTS REPORTER

The Pointer men's hockey team finished without a loss to begin their five game road trek, tying the Saints from St. Scholastica 3-3 on Friday and sweeping the regular season series with UW-Superior on Saturday with a 4-3 triumph.

Krusel Law was single-handedly the Pointers' offense as he tallied a hat trick, the first three-goal game this season. Law continued his unbeaten streak since 1987 against St. Scholastica to 43 games with an overall record of 40-3-3.

UW-SP completed their first season sweep of the UW-Superior Saints since the 1999-2000 season the following day. Superior drew first blood but the Pointers Brett Colburn knotted the game with a goal later in the first.

Stevens Point shot out to a 3-1 lead in the second period. Law scored his fourth goal in two games off assists from Fish and Roll. Ulvin Ulvin scored later in the period off an assist from Law and Nate Sorenson at the 8:42 mark.

The third period started quickly as Superior scored just 31 seconds into the frame, Sorenson at the 8:42 mark...

Steve Roeland
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Whether it's the commercials or the football game itself, millions of people around the world tune in to the Super Bowl at the end of every football season. In this year's game, the 40th Super Bowl in the history of the National Football League, fans from central and northeast Wisconsin get the chance to see a local product participate in the biggest game played on the gridiron.

Clint Kriewaldt, native of Shiocton, Wis. and former University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point standout, will suit up for the Pittsburgh Steelers' as a back-up linebacker in Super Bowl XL in Detroit. Kriewaldt is one of three players from the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference currently in the NFL. Kriewaldt was a member of the UW-SP football team from 1995-98. During his playing career as a Pointer, he amassed 416 tackles and also rushed for 16 touchdowns.

Accolades came in droves for Kriewaldt, as he became the first four-time unanimous first-team All-Conference player in the history of the WIAC. Kriewaldt garnered first-team All-American status from three different publications while playing at UW-SP.

Kriewaldt's abilities didn't go unnoticed, as the Detroit Lions selected him in the sixth round of the 1999 NFL Draft. After four years with the Lions, he signed on with the Steelers.

Statistically, Kriewaldt has performed well enough to justify his eighth-year NFL career. Through 2005, Kriewaldt has totaled 109 solo tackles, three fumbles and one interception as a pro player. Most of his statistics come from his play on special teams, and his abilities to excel in this area of the game led to the Steelers naming him a co-captain in 2004.

"Student-athletes at the Division III level have proven that they are exceptional," said Schiedermayer.

ESPN broadcasts the Division III national championship game in football every year, exposing the quality of the sport to even more people.

"It gives us motivation to be exceptional," said Schiedermayer.

Many football players at the Division III level have proven that they are exceptional, as five athletes were invited to play in the 2006 Hula Bowl, a game that showed talent players from all divisions whose college eligibility has been exhausted. One of those players, Bob Docherty, played WIAC football at UW-Oshkosh as a tight end.

Kriewaldt and the Steelers gained entry into Super Bowl XL by defeating the Denver Broncos 34-17 in the American Football Conference championship game.

Their competition in the big game will be the National Football Conference champions, the Seattle Seahawks.

"We know the game of football well, the sport to even more people," said Kriewaldt.

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"Our coaches have a vast knowledge of the game of football," said Jay Schiedermayer, currently a member of the Pointers football team. "They know their players more than they know their wives."

Kriewaldt's emergence in the NFL is just one piece of evidence that the non-scholarship athletes in Division III can compete at the same levels as other college and professional players.

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The ups and downs of hiking Pagosa Peak

Drew Smalley
PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR/THE LEADER

Breathing into your hands to keep them warm is one of the worst things you can do because it actually makes your hands colder. Even though your breath feels warm, the moisture makes your hands much colder than they were to begin with. Instead, rub your hands together, because friction creates body heat. You can also simply stick your hands into your pockets, or place them in one of the warmest parts of the body—in the underarms or groin region. Mittens and hand warmers are two of the easiest ways to keep warm, if they are available. Waterproof mittens keep the moisture out, and also keep your fingers together, unlike gloves, for additional warmth. Hand warmers can stay in your pockets if you have to work without gloves or mittens. Stop in at Outdoor Endeavors to learn more about this trick, along with many other tips and techniques to improve your outdoor experiences.

Lower Wisconsin River valley bald eagle numbers rebound from last year's low count

DNR Press Release

DODGEVILLE - Bald eagle numbers are back up to their five-year average along the Lower Wisconsin River corridor after an aerial survey conducted earlier this month by the Department of Natural Resources.

Biologists counted 244 eagles (154 adults and 90 immature birds) along the 180 mile survey route running from the Pecos Dam spanning the Wisconsin River in Adams and Juneau counties to the river's confluence with the Mississippi River in Crawford County.

“We saw the most eagles along the river between the Prairie du Sac Dam and the Village of Boscobel in Grant County,” said Bill Ishmael, DNR wildlife supervisor at Dodgeville.

This year’s total is up quite a bit from the 117 eagles counted during the 2005 aerial survey, but below the record 614 birds observed in the 2004 survey. However, the five-year average running from 2001 through 2005 was 264 eagles.

Also, the number of birds counted along the river corridor may be less than the actual population in the Lower Wisconsin River watershed.

“With warmer temperatures and more open water along the lower stretches of the river this year, eagles seem to be much more spread out in the river valley than in a more typical winter,” said Ishmael.

Open water and snow-covered peaks around the town of Crawford provided eagles with many more places to forage this winter and birds are being observed in places other than the river valley. This could translate into more eagles wintering in the area other than just along the river corridor.

“Due to the wider-ranging foraging activities this year, I suspect we missed a significant number of birds on the survey that were not concentrated along the riverbanks as they normally are in a colder, more snowy winter. So the numbers we observed are likely much lower than what’s actually out there,” said Ishmael.

See Wisconsin pg. 11
Eagle watching in the Wisconsin River valley has become a very popular winter activity and the number of eagles in the area this year "should provide excellent opportunities to view eagles at many locations along the river as well as farm fields and wetlands (in the river valley)," said Ishmael.

Bald eagles are listed by the federal government as a "threatened" species overall in the United States but within Wisconsin, the state has listed the bald eagle as a species of "special concern."

Although the general population is doing well, there's still concern as to what's been causing unusual deaths of bald eagles along the Lower Wisconsin River corridor beginning in the mid-1990s, pointed out Sean Strom, a DNR wildlife toxicologist based in Madison.

During the winter of 1994-95, 16 dead or sick eagles with similar nervous system disease signs were collected along the Wisconsin River in Columbia and Sauk counties. Extensive diagnostic testing did not reveal the specific cause of these deaths.

After a five-year lull, the mystery illness appears to have affected five dead or sick bald eagles recovered along the Wisconsin River during the winter of 2000-01, 16 dead or sick eagles in 2001-02, three dead or sick eagles in 2002-03 and nine dead or sick eagles along the river corridor in 2003-04.

Only one eagle recovered along the river corridor in 2004-05 had symptoms consistent with the mystery nervous system syndrome, according to Strom.

Eight eagles have been recovered along the river corridor so far this winter. Three were found alive and transported to wildlife rehabilitators. One of these eagles has already been nursed back to health and released. Officials are awaiting the results of post-mortem examinations on the others.

Many diagnostic tests are run on the eagles, including those for bacteria, fungus, botulism, viruses, heavy metals, organic and inorganic toxins.

There have been no significant results from these tests to explain the cause of the mystery illness.

Strom offered the following guidelines as to what the public can do if they find a sick or dead eagle:

1. Don't attempt to catch a sick bald eagle. Their talons are extremely sharp. If the eagle is dead, use gloves or a shovel to pick up the bird, and place it in a heavy garbage bag.

2. Call your local DNR conservation warden or wildlife biologist. Federal law prohibits the possession of live or sick bald eagles. They must be turned over to authorities within 48 hours.

3. Inform authorities of when and where you found the bird, and if found alive, any signs of injury or illness.

"Overall, we have a healthy bald eagle population in Wisconsin, but there appears to be a localized and as yet undetermined factor which is affecting the health of bald eagles who winter along the Lower Wisconsin River," said Strom.

In honor of today's very special Groundhog Day, here are a couple of poems sure to put a smile on your face. I like them and hope you do too! Hopefully you all had the chance to hear if Pum'satsawney Phil did or didn't see his shadow.

**Groundhog Day**

Melissa Dyszelski
THE POINTER
mooy0206@uwsp.edu

In honor of today's special Groundhog Day, here are a couple of poems sure to put a smile on your face. I like them and hope you do too! Hopefully you all had the chance to hear if Pum'satsawney Phil did or didn't see his shadow.

**Groundhog Day**

In olden days some O.B.,
Perhaps an evil fairy,
Decided Groundhog Day to be

One day in February,
This furry beast pokes out his head
(At least that is the rumor,
A thought, no doubt, the product
Of a old cerebral tumor).

And if the sky be dark and dull,
He yawns and greets the day,
And cheerfully declares that spring
Is just a week away.

But if he's greeted by the sun,
His little nose he teases,
And ducks back in to hibernation
At least for six more weeks!

But wise old Yankees won't be fooled
By this infernal bull,
In fact we're pretty sure of what
This Groundhog guy is full.

We know that Feb. will freeze your toe,
And March is cold and wet,
And April's snow is slow to go,
And May plays hard-to-get.

So fill your glass and lift it high,
And toast a great tomorrow,
And should the morrow bode but ill,
T' will serve to drown your sorrow.

By: W.E. Dion, Terryville

**Pregnant and Distressed??**

Birthright can help. Alternatives to Abortion, Pregnancy Tests, Confidential. No Charge For Any services. Call: 341-HELP

http://www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad
Rehabilitation services available at the HEC

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Anyone who's been inside the Health Enhancement Center (HEC) knows that it's much bigger than it looks from the outside. This is the place to go to whenever one has a hankering for swimming, get me back on track for the spring.

Athletic training and rehabilitation services are now being offered in the HEC to everyone with a valid UW-SP ID card, including students, staff and faculty.

Services in the Athletic Training & Rehabilitation Center (AT&RC) of the HEC were only open to athletes of varsity sports like football and soccer prior to the start of this semester.

The decision to expand services was made due to the high number of sports-related injuries within intramural sports. According to Nate Weiler, Athletic Training Services Coordinator in the HEC, it only made sense to make the services open to everyone.

Whether it's a sports-related injury, or you fall down on campus or off, faculty, staff and students are all welcome into the program," said Weiler.

"It's great," said Bill (who withheld his real name for fear of losing an athletic scholarship), shortly after completing a therapy session. "I hurt my back on break, and this'll get me back on track for the spring."

Any client of the AT&RC who needs further medical attention, or who needs services not available from the Rehabilitation Center, will receive the proper referral to outside medical sources.

"For instance, we can't give stitches here. For those outside medical sources, "For instance, we can't give stitches here. For those outside medical sources, the Rehabilitation Center is part triage, part therapy room. It's filled with stations for evaluating and treating injuries, strength-building equipment, and therapeutic whirlpools, some of which are often empty.

The problem, according to Weiler, is that nobody really knows about this new program.

See HEC pg. 13

Clouds, clouds, go away, come again another day

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Right now, I'm chillin' in front of the computer screen in a computer lab in Thomson Hall. There's a good inch or more of snow covering the ground, and just like any other winter day, no sign of that star that provides the earth, and us for that matter, with energy.

Okay, okay, I know that star - or the sun, as we like to call it - came out for a short period of time a couple of days ago. But then it left us again. No big deal, right? Well, to some it brings out the gloomiest of gloom in them. This mood may be associated with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

SAD is a form of depression that follows a seasonal pattern, and may begin as early as August or September, according to www.kidshealth.org, an online health information provider. People of all ages affected by this disorder dread the shorter days and coming winter. As a result, they eat more, sleep more and may suffer from fatigue, irritability, sleep withdrawal and depression.

Shorter days seem to trigger symptoms.

A sun lamp may be beneficial for those suffering from SAD.

"There is some evidence that light intensity and temperature also may play a role," said Kelly Rohan, an assistant professor of psychology who studies SAD at the University of Vermont.

"There are many theories about SAD," said Carlyle Chan, professor of psychology and behavioral medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

"In the winter, the production of melatonin, a sleep hormone related to depression, may increase. The lack of sunlight is thought to decrease the amount of serotonin, which is a brain chemical triggered by sunlight. Sunlight patterns are also known to affect activities of animals and may shift biological clocks, or circadian rhythms, in people, causing daily schedules to be out of sync with biological clocks."

I have noticed my schedule to be a little out of sync during the winter months. I am a very energetic person, and love the outdoors, but when winter hits, I want to let myself sleep in.

But does this mean I have the disorder?

SAD is largely a self-diagnosed and self-treated disorder, researchers say.

If the SAD symptoms are only mild, there are things to try before light therapy, a method of treatment in your own home that simulates a bright, sunny day, or other treatments.

Norman Rosenthal, a leading researcher of SAD and author of Winter Blues, recommends getting more light by walking in bright light, adding therapeutic light at home, exercising or eating so that you don't gain weight. He also encourages people to reach out to other people, socialize, minimize stress, plan pleasurable things and resist the urge to sleep in.

"Self-treatment does have its limitations," said Rosenthal.

"If your depression is disrupting your life then you should seek help from a mental health professional," said Chan.

If you notice someone with their smile upside down, they could just be having a bad day, or may be affected by the disorder. In any case, a nice smile or "hello" wouldn't hurt.

If someone you know thinks they have the disorder and has tried to improve their mood, the counselors at Delzell Hall on campus are there to help.

Maybe if I take Mr. Rosenthal's advice, I won't be so fried all the time. I really should stop hitting the snooze button in the morning.
No Time to Think... Just Go! It's Warm.

Sign Up Now Spring Break '06

Biodiversity & Tropical Field Ecology in Costa Rica

Spring Break: March 18-26, 2006

Cost: $2,640-2,940* This includes airfare (Chicago-San Jose-Chicago), lectures, accommodation, all meals, in-country transportation, and 3 credits of Wisconsin undergraduate tuition. The price is based on 15 fully-paying participants. There is no additional out-of-state surcharge for non-Wisconsin residents for this program.

Credits: Participants enroll for two credits of Biology 498/698: Biodiversity and Tropical Field Ecology in Costa Rica, with an audit option (at the same charge). No prerequisites. Graduate credit can also be arranged at an additional cost. Coursework will begin before the spring break period and continue after the study tour.

For further information:
Bob Rosenfield, Professor of Biology, CNR 474, 715/346-4255, rosenfi@uwsp.edu or
International Programs, 108 Collins Classroom Center
Tel (715) 346-2717 http://www.uwsp.edu/ps/Studyabroad

www.uwsp.edu/Studyabroad

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Make February your own personal wellness month

Sara Suchy
Science Reporter

Right around this time of the year everyone slowly but surely begins to forget that New Year’s resolution they made to only skip one class a week or not go for that two double cheeseburgers for $3 deal at Hardees. But thanks to the Allen Center’s annual 28 Days of Wellness starting this week, it shouldn’t be hard to keep your “get in shape” resolution this year.

The Allen Center’s 28 Days of Wellness starts on Feb. 1 and runs through the entire month of February. Wellness starts on Feb. 1 and runs through the entire month of February.

Promotions coordinator for the Allen Center explained: “28 Days of Wellness is designed to further promote the health and well-being of students on the UW-SP campus.”

All of the programs are open to all UW-SP students regardless of whether they have a membership to the Cardio Center or not. Some of the featured free activities for the month include fitness assessments, ice skating with Outdoor EdVentures, chair massage, paraffin hand dips, group fitness classes, and diet analysis.

The Allen Center houses four main organizations: Group Fitness, Outdoor EdVentures, Student Health Promotion and the Cardio Center. Each area is offering several promotions and programs throughout the month,” said Stacey Duellman, programs and promotions coordinator at the Allen Center.

There are also programs being offered throughout the month, including “Controlling Cholesterol Holistically” at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13 and “Take Control of Your Blood Pressure” at 7 p.m. on Feb. 20. Students must sign up for these programs in advance at the Cardio Center front desk.

The Holistic Health program, which is also housed in the Allen Center, is offering a brand new class called Bollywood at a 50 percent discount. This is a dance class that teaches the latest dance and music craze popular in Indian culture – a fusion of folk, film and contemporary dance styles. The class is being offered on Mondays from 6:30-8 p.m. starting Feb. 6 and runs for three weeks.

Group Fitness is offering their Group Fitness Challenge on Feb. 21 from 4-8 p.m. There are several mini-clinics being offered as part of the challenge that run for a half-hour each. Six Pack Abs, Cardio Kickboxing, Butts and Guts and Hip Hop are just some of the classes being offered. Students must sign up for each class individually. For those students enrolled in Wellness 106, each mini-class counts as one full class toward their obligatory 26 classes for the semester.

Many students don’t know, but most of these programs being promoted during this month are offered all year long.

“The purpose of this month is to get students in and using the Allen Center so they can see all the programs and services we have to offer them,” said Duellman.

“This annual event gives students a chance to take advantage of services that are not typically free, while still maintaining a focus on their personal fitness goals,” added Ross.

For more information on all the events offered during the 28 Days of Wellness, students can visit the Cardio Center’s Web site at www.uwspcardiocenter.com and view a full events calendar, or stop by the Cardio Center for more details.

From HEC pg. 12

Since opening just a few weeks ago, the new services offered by the AT&RC have only been used by two students.

“We have room for six appointments a day, so that would be ideal,” Weiler said.

Weiler, a 2001 graduate of UW-SP, said that the Rehabilitation Center is now able to perform on-site coverage for sports injuries at varsity games.

“That means more emergency care right there on site,” said Weiler.

Clients of the AT&RC will be able to receive a free initial evaluation, and any services after that can be reimbursed through insurance.

“Just call or e-mail us, and we’ll work with you,” said Weiler.

Anyone interested in more information can visit the AT&RC Web site at www.uwsp.edu/ps/hesa/athtraining/AT&RTClinic.htm or call 346-4570 for an appointment.
They will make your ears sweat

Jacob Eggger
THE POINTER
February 2, 2006

From the ashes of At the Drive-in rose The Mars Volta, a band that has carved out a niche as a group of musicians that are pushed to the edge of what defines music. Omar Rodriguez-Lopez (guitar) and Cedric Bieder-Zavala (vocals) have created something that ATDI could never have been. The Mos Eisley of the band’s previous studio albums and showcases the band’s ability to really stretch out a song. The Mars Volta are known for sprawling concept albums, and this live album is put together in much the same way.

Here it must be pointed out that while most of the album is live, some studio overdubs were done, most apparent in the final track, which is part IV of “Cicatriz.” Actually, the last 40 minutes or so are all comprised of the song “Cicatriz,” which appeared on their first album, “De-loused in the Comatorium.” The last 20 minutes, however, are definitely not worth more than one listen. Well, actually skip ahead to the last four minutes, because the previous 16 minutes are just more voices talking and annoying clicks and effects that leave the listener wondering, “Why?”

The first track, “Abrasions Mousses,” seems to come in part from “Cygnus...Vismund Cygnus,” the first track on their second album, “From the Mute,” and consists of random noises, including voices speaking in Spanish and English and a baby crying. The band slowly enters, until the music becomes an intro to the next track. I suppose this track sets the mood for the album, because if you can sit through the whole four minutes without skipping to the next song, you can definitely sit through the rest of the album.

The biggest problem with the album is the extraneous noise. “Frances the Mute” contained quite a bit more ambient sound than “De-loused in the Comatorium,” but close to half of “Scab Dates” is unnecessary noise. While I could live with it on “Frances the Mute,” because it tied in to the story of the album, here it just seems ridiculous.

The highlight on “Scab Dates” is definitely “Take the Veil Cerpin Tax,” taken from “De-loused in the Comatorium.” This track really makes you feel as if you can do with a song to spice it up live. The third part especially contains some musical brilliance, with twisting guitar lines and great rhythms.

Another standout is “Concertina,” a song written about the Abuela. It seems ridiculous. The structure of the song, is enough of an aural workout for the listener as well, as this music is a release that is a little too rambling and loose from a band that previously has harnessed this musical looseness and made great music. In the final moments of the CD, Omar says, “Thanks for coming out everybody, go home and take a bath.” I think this statement can apply not only to the crowd, but to the listener as well, as this music is enough of an aural workout to make your ears sweat.

"Devil's Rejects:" A very Zombie sequel

Brandi Pettit
THE POINTER
February 2, 2006

While anyone who watched “House of 1000 Corpses” probably didn’t touch anything containing red sauce or meat for a while afterwards, they also know how badly in need of psychiatric help director Rob Zombie is. “House of 1000 Corpses” tells the story of an idiot four-year-old boy who makes a bad call by deciding to locate the site of a local ghost story. The story turns out to be true, and they run into an evil mother and her children who relish in the torture and killing of their victims. The Devil’s Rejects” picks up soon after the previous movie: we find the family asking in their beds, the bodies lying next to rotting corpses. A horde of police, led by an officer who looks remarkably like Viggo Mortensen, show up and surround the house, calling for surrender.

Then, something I’ve never seen in a movie before. Prepared for this eventuality, the entire family awakes and adorns body armor— even the sweet yet sadistic “mother fiery” wears the armor and picks up a weapon. Before she alone is taken into custody, the family takes out numerous officers, but Baby (Sheri Zombie, Rob’s model/dancer wife) and brother Otis (Bill Moseley), looking eerily like Charles Manson in this movie, escape and steal a car. This is the point where, if you got up to use the bathroom during the first movie, you’ll feel lost, but don’t worry—you’re not.

It is now we find out, rather nonchalantly, that Captain Spaulding (Sid Haig), an obnoxious and vulgar man who runs a freak show/gas station/fried-chicken stand, is Baby and Otis’s father. Now that the jig is up, they agree to retreat to a rural town in south Texas run by Spaulding’s friend, Charlie (Ken Foree). Through the Texas desert, each villain tries to be the scariest, villian they once were in the previous movie. Doesn’t quite fly.

While at Charlie’s they let their hair down a bit—the trio get jiggy with it and find somebody to love. Sure, Baby has a fantastic body, but nobody wants to see Captain Spalding get laid; this is one of two sex scenes with Sid Haig, and it turns out to be just as uncomfortably both times.

This movie was really pushed as being graphic and gory. It isn’t. I did, however, have a headache when I was finished watching this: it’s simply physically exhausting too soon into the movie. It’s like a soap opera on steroids and out of control. There’s a lot of needless conversation and redundant spats between the characters, including an argument about sex with chickens and pit-stops for ice cream. Despite having no real purpose, this movie sticks in your head long after you’ve watched it.

The best part of the movie is probably the last 10 minutes. Baby, Otis, and Captain Spalding have escaped the law one last time and drive through the Texas desert, each bloody and broken. To the tune of "Freebird," the trio draws their weapons and charges. It doesn’t look like they make it, but with the camera work, one can’t be certain. This is, after all, the work of Rob Zombie.
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