

Bunnell praises students for their efforts to fund new student union

Matt Inda
THE POINTER
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A token of the UW-SP campus had its doors ceremoniously closed Wednesday, May 3, as the Dreyfus University Center (DUC) is to undergo a year and a half long renovation project. The building will officially close to student access on May 22.

The formal announcement of the DUC closing took place outside the main DUC doors at 11 a.m. Student Government Association (SGA) President Melissa Cichantek opened for UW-SP Chancellor Linda Bunnell who spoke about the renovation project on what she called a "regional landmark."

Bunnell began her speech with a brief history of the nearly 50-year-old DUC and then continued on to explain one major area of concern - the payment of this project.

Currently, UW-SP is having some budget difficulties and those being affected by the budget cuts, as well as others on campus, have questioned how money can be spent on this project.

Bunnell explained the solution clearly. The students are paying for this, not the university.



Above: Chancellor Bunnell spoke outside the UC Wednesday regarding the closing.

Right: Emily Thousand gives out free cookies at the event.

"It's important to realize the state of Wisconsin doesn't fund University Center's," Bunnell said, "but, students are still able to tax themselves by increasing student fees. So this building is being remodeled and aided by money that comes from student fees; students today and in the future."

The SGA voted for increased fees on students as the form of payment. The payment plan took effect last school year, 2004-05, in the amount of \$50 per student. This year each student has paid \$63. This means that graduating seniors have been paying for this project but will not be able to experience the new building.

"I think it is very selfless of them (graduating seniors) to look at future generations," said Bunnell. "It's a gift of former students to new stu-

dents."

Payment for the renovations will continue at the amount of \$63 a student for the next two school years as well, ending in 2007-08. The total amount each student will be paying is \$239 over the four-year span.

The other major issue Bunnell discussed was that of all the UC's organizations and offices moving to other areas of campus, including the temporary loss of the Pointer Express.

Currently, UW-SP is looking to relocate the majority of the offices and services to Nelson Hall and some to

Delzell Hall. However, the University Store, Text Rental, Point Card Office and the University Box Office have relocated into the old County Market on Division Street.

The bulk of the food service during this time will be in the DeBot Center. The College of Professional Studies (CPS) café will remain open and the library has opened a cyber café.

Bunnell also showed delight for the Noel Fine Arts Center and being able to use their theatres for conferences and meetings.

see Bunnell pg. 2

Students left with few options for meals next year

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The closing of the Dreyfus University Center (DUC) will be inconvenient for much of the campus next year. Students are concerned about a number of issues, not the least of which includes student job loss and meal options.

Freshman Renee Carter voiced concern regarding a lack of options when it comes to spending her meal plan cash equivalency.

"We want more options for where we can eat," said Carter.

While the cash equivalency can be used in lower DeBot next semester, Carter said she wonders why it's not accepted at more locations on campus, like the new Learning Resource Center (LRC) Café.

"Having to go all the way to DeBot, it takes up your time," she said. "If you only have 20 minutes to eat, and it takes you 15 minutes to walk there, and then you wait in line, what's the point?"

Having to purchase a meal plan due to university policy, students who will be living on-campus next year will have limited options for dining. University Dining has modified the meal plan options and the availability for students to purchase food using their allotted meals.

According to Rosanne Proite, executive director of Campus Life, meal plans are required with the students' best interest in mind.

"With almost 3,000 students living on campus, we simply don't have the facilities for them to cook all their meals for themselves," said Proite.

Proite also explained that

see DUC pg. 2



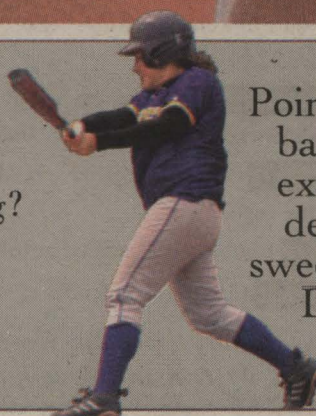
Kandra Shefchik poses with a free "Under Construction" cookie.

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Pointer softball team exorcises demons, sweeps Blue Devils

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SCIENCE, HEALTH & TECH. Page 13

How long before we see hybrid scooters speeding down campus sidewalks?

from Bunnell pg. 1

The decision was passed to completely close down the DUC instead of partially closing it down in sections. This, according to Bunnell will save time and an estimated \$1.5 million.

"People will have to make a few sacrifices, but so far they are willing to do it. But, it's so we can build this building more quickly."

The new UC will be see-

ing numerous upgrades that include a 200-seat theatre, expanded Laird Room, new Encore on the Concourse, an updated University Store, an expanded Computer Lab, more lounge space and new heating, ventilating, air conditioning and sprinkler systems.

The \$23.7 million dollar project that is set to begin May 30 is scheduled to reopen in time for the 2007 academic year.

from DUC, pg 1

if the meal plan was not a requirement, the cost would increase for those who did use it.

The current meal plan system allows for students to choose between 20, 14, 10 or seven meals per week, and - depending on the meals a student receives per week - a certain amount of Food Points (which will be called DeBot Dollars next year), which could be used like cash at any dining facility on the UW-SP campus.

For example, a student who selects the 20 meals per week plan would receive \$10 worth of Food Points. A student could also have selected an "All-Points" plan, which consisted of \$575 worth of Food Points, but no meals.

Currently, the most popular meal plan includes 14 meals, plus \$50 in Food Points, for use in the DeBot Convenience Store (C-Store) and Grill.

The C-Store comes in handy for students who tend to eat during off-peak hours, selling made-to-order burgers, sandwiches and beverages, along with grocery items.

Students who choose to eat at the Grill will be offered a pre-selected item called the Pointer Special, which can be purchased between the same time frames as the equivalency program.

The food selection offered will be worth exactly one meal. The same system was used at the Pointer Express and Wooden Spoon in previous years.

"Ideally, I think other locations should accept DeBot Dollars, even if they won't accept meals," said Carter. "A variety of food, especially closer to the classrooms, would be wonderful. Food at the C-store can be quite overpriced,

with a lack of selection and long lines. It would be easy to keep our money and walk over to County Market."

Initially, meal cash equivalency was eliminated from all meal plans for next year. The concern about a lack of options for food and the continued increase in cost for meal plans has led to student action. In the past several weeks, students have started petitions against the proposed meal plan changes.

"A few people from my dorm (Burroughs) and I created a petition. Basically, our petition said that we noted the changes in the meal plan and were disappointed with the lack of variety and how the meal cash equivalency was taken away," Carter said.

According to Carter, the elimination of meal cash equivalency was a triggering event for most students, as over 125 concerned individuals signed the petition in one day.

The activities of the disgruntled students made an impact, as the University reinstated meal cash equivalency late last week.

According to an e-mail sent out by the PointCard office to all students living on campus, meal cash equivalency would be kept in meal plans "[a]fter hearing about a number of concerns from students..."

Carter feels that giving students several different dining options in more convenient places should be a priority for the University.

"My main concern about the meal plan next year is the lack of variety and convenience," said Carter. "Basically, we can (only) eat at DeBot with our meal plan."

Anyone who has eat at DeBot more than once realizes how repetitive the food there can be."

THE POINTER

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CAMPUS BEAT

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



Parking Lot F

April 26, 2006 3:19 p.m.

Type: DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY

An individual called to report that his windshield was smashed with a baseball bat while parked in lot F East. Officers made contact with the individual who stated it was a foul ball that went through his sunroof.

May Roach Hall

April 27, 2006 1:08 a.m.

Type: INTOXICATION

An intoxicated individual was caught sitting outside of Roach Hall.

CNR Building

April 28, 2006 2:26 p.m.

Type: THEFT

Theft of a bike outside of the CNR Building.

Parking Lot P

May 2, 2006 9:54 p.m.

Type: VANDALISM

Report of bent antennas to cars parked in parking lot P.



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Monday Buy a pizza get a **free** pitcher of soda or dom. Beer

Tuesday "Make Your Cash Fly" Every dollar spent will earn you a **free** chicken wing. Also, grilled cheese and tomato soup for \$2.00

Wednesday "Slide over the hump" special on our bite size mini slider cheeseburgers. Music video DJ

Thursday Perfect Margarita special and .99 chips and salsa. Over the Top DJ

Friday Famous beer battered or baked Fish Fry

Saturday Live music video DJ

Monday-Thursday Happy Hour 3pm-6pm, .50 off all drinks.
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Letters & Opinion

Your College Survival Guide:

Ars Iocusia (The art of the Prank)

Pat Rothfuss

WITH HELP FROM THE MISSION COFFEE HOUSE.
COITO ERIGO SUS

Well, the gnomes have not re-emerged to the best of my knowledge. This means the gnome hunters are officially a bunch of choads who have taken a piss on an otherwise delightful prank conducted by the Redcaps.

So I am offering a reward to whoever narks out the people who stole the gnomes. E-mail me at proth@wsunix.wsu.edu with info that leads me to them, and I'll give you 50 bucks worth of gift certificates to the Mission Coffee House.

The art of the prank seems to be lost these days. It used to be that colleges took pride in their pranks. But lately I'm forced to conclude that the majority of the student body is comprised of flaccid, apathetic, soulless meat-sacks without the spark of divine fire required for first-class pranking.

Of course, I could be wrong. You could prove me wrong. You could get up off your lead asses and make me proud.

But first, let's get some things straight. Pulling a fire alarm isn't a prank; it's just being stupid and rude. Catching one of your friends while they're asleep, stripping them naked, and leaving them duct-taped to a table in Pray-Sims' front lobby isn't a prank; it's just cruel. Stealing a bunch of gnomes isn't a prank either, it's just another way of saying, "God gave me a ridiculously small penis, and I'm really upset about it."

Why aren't any of these things pranks? Because these things are only "fun" for the people doing them. And if you get some twisted joy from making other people unhappy, then you've got a real abhorrent personality. What's more, you are quite probably an asshole. Assholes should never attempt pranks. They just don't have the requisite discretionary skills.

"But Pat," I hear you cry, "how can I tell if I'm an asshole?"

Take my simple quiz:

1) Do you honk at pedestrians while you're driving?

If you answered "yes," you're an asshole. So do the world a favor: go home and drink some paint thinner.

What's the big deal? Well, let me give you a word picture. I'm walking home, getting some exercise, and pre-

serving the environment by not wasting gasoline. I'm thinking deep thoughts about apotheosis, and xanthophyll, and what makes us burp, and, well, sometimes boobs.

Regardless, I'm in some manner of happy place, minding my own business. Then someone drives by, blows their horn, and drives away laughing like a third-grader who just lit a fart. I'm sick of it.

So here's the only warning you're going to get. I've got one of those landscaping rocks in my pocket: smooth, round, and slightly bigger than an egg. The next time one of you assholes honk at me, I'm going to crack your back windshield with it and pray, just *pray* you stop your car.

Because as soon as you step foot on the pavement, I'm going all old-testament on you. I'm talking some serious pillar-of-salt kill-your-firstborn-son get-the-fuck-out-of-my-garden wrath. I'll give you a Super Mario Brothers style ass-kicking. That's where I run up to you, jump on you once to knock you down, then keep on jumping up and down on you until coins and mushrooms start popping out of your flat, sticky corpse.

What was I talking about again? Oh yeah, pranks.

I've always had three rules when it comes to practical jokes or pranks.

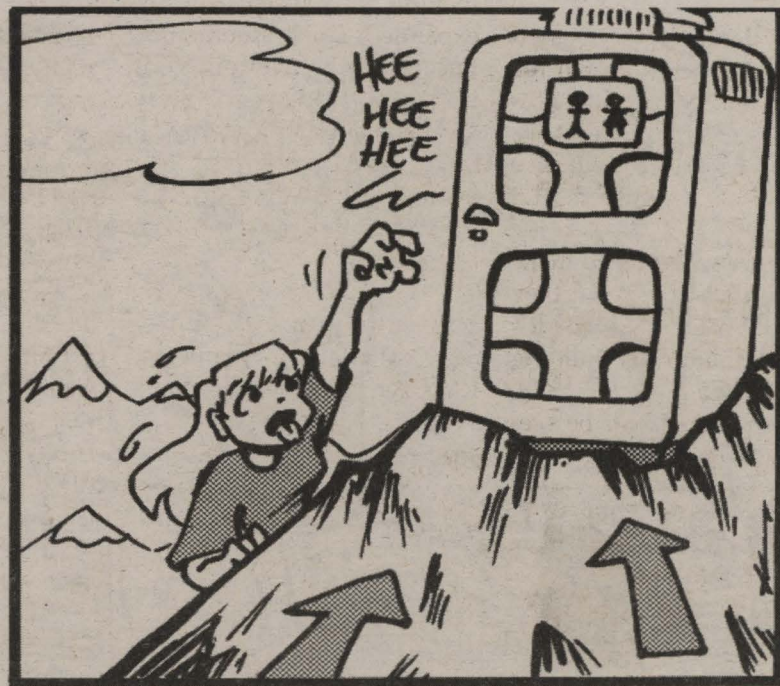
1) It Must be Clever and Eccentric.

My rule of thumb is to ask the following question: "Would a group of drunk dickholes do this?" If the answer is "yes" then the prank is not a good one.

You need to consider what reaction you want to provoke. Surprise isn't anything special. You can surprise people by jumping out from behind a door. There's no style to that, no class.

You want people to see what you've done and say "Wow." You want wonder and delight with just a dash of confusion and awe.

For example, you could figure out parking services' schedule, then precede whoever gives out tickets through their route, putting nickels in all the expired meters. Preferably you should do this dressed as a



mime.

You could give the vitruvian man on the CNR mural big cardboard pants. Or a big cardboard tuxedo. Or a big cardboard gimp suit.

I've always wanted to put a bunch of arrows all over campus. They would wind several separate circuitous routes through Stevens Point, eventually converging in some remote location. Then I'd rent one of those port-a-toilets, put it there, and sit in it all day waiting for people to stop by and open the door.

I don't know what I'd do when they opened the door. But you have to admit, no matter what I did, it couldn't help but be funny.

2) No Permanent Damage.

Permanent damage can occur in many ways. Obviously, you shouldn't do pranks that can physically hurt people. This seems like common sense, but it's easy to get caught up in the moment and pour a bucket of goat's blood off an interstate overpass without thinking through all the potential consequences.

Other types of damage need to be avoided too. A broken leg only lasts a couple months, but psychological trauma is the gift that keeps on giving. Just remember: your funny prank might be someone else's psychotic episode. If you aren't sure what category your idea falls

under, make sure you get a second, (and maybe a third or fourth) opinion and err on the side of caution.

Lastly comes property damage. It's one thing to tempera-paint a large piece of public statuary. It's another thing to spray-paint it. Not only is property damage terribly impolite, avoiding it puts you on better legal footing so that....

3) Nobody Goes to Jail.

Good pranks usually don't involve any lawbreaking beyond a minor trespassing and mischief. Ideally, you want to brag about your prank without worrying about the police knocking on your door. Rearranging your neighbor's ceramic reindeer so they seem to be molesting each other is funny. A wheelbarrow load of raccoon feces in the municipal pool is criminal.

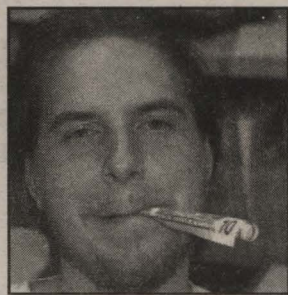
After a long wait, the Mission Coffee House is newly remodeled and back open for business. So why not sell out your filthy gnome-stealing friends, get a shitload of free coffee, and spend the next several weeks in tweaked-out bliss?

This Friday the Rusty-P-s and Tabakin are bringing some hip-hop to the Mission. (Tabakin's frontman is formerly of Little Blue Crunchy Things, for those of you out there who remember their ass-kickery.) Saturday the Mission is hosting the a vast plethora of bands for the Central Wisconsin Pride Benefit. Good times and a good cause. What more could you ask for? Gnomes on rooftops, maybe....

Pointer Staff Poll

by mae

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CARTOON WHEN YOU WERE A KID?



Joe Pisciotto, Science & Tech Editor

"Scooby Doo. Shaggy's my idol, man."



Katie Guntz, Page Designer

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Leonardo was hot!"



Erica Schulz, Copy Editor

"SHE-RAAAA!!!"



Adam Eader, Outdoor Editor

"Alvin and the Chipmunks. Man those chips could sing!"



Sara Jensen, Copy Editor

"Rocko's Modern Life. That wallaby was AWESOME!"



Jake Eggener, Arts & Review Editor

"The Real Ghostbusters. Bustin' makes me feel good!"

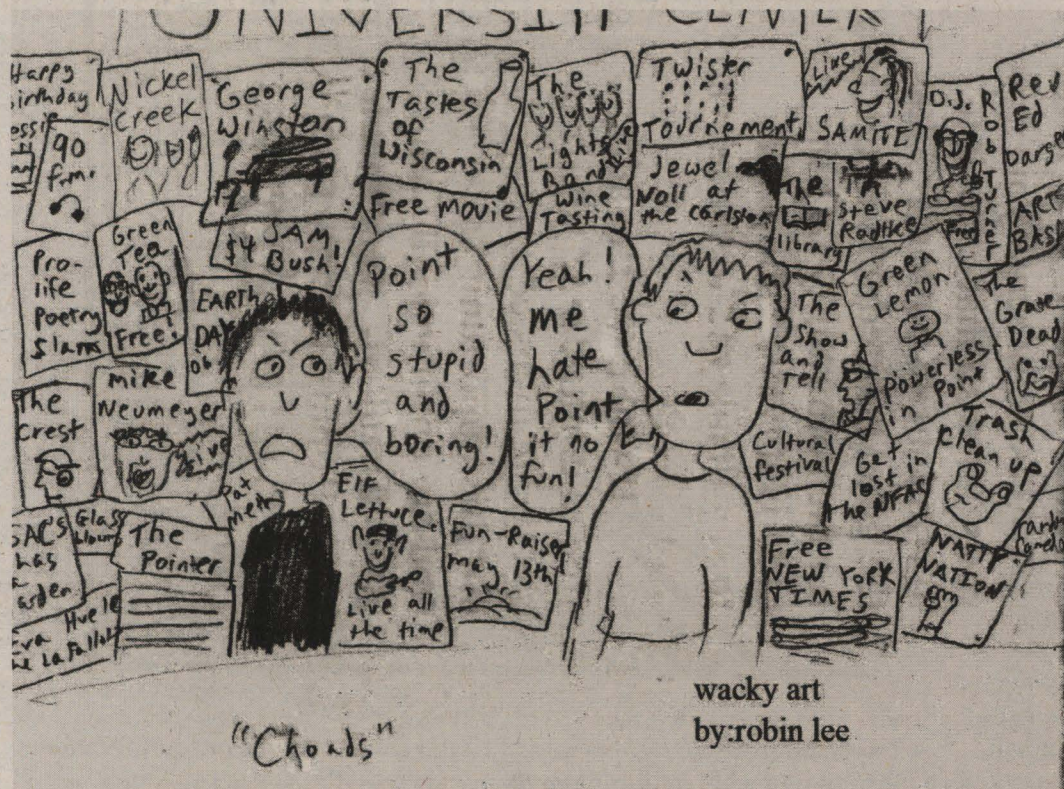
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Your Silent Revolution

Oil Spill in the Alaskan Tundra; Ecosystem Devastated. Exon Takes Hold of Ecuador's Oil Supply; Native People's Livelihoods Destroyed. Gasoline Price Gauging; Three Dollars a Gallon by Summer. Temperatures Rising; Threat of Global Warming is Real. 15,000 Californians at Risk for Cancer; Smog Responsible.

I am not here to convince you that oil is a dirty business. Many of us have already heard of the corruption within the oil industry and the threat oil usage poses to the health of ecosystems, human beings, and our pocketbooks. I am not here to convince you to storm Main Street with banners, decrying the evils of oil. And I am not here to convince you to write letters to your congressmen. Instead I propose a small and FEASIBLE step you can take towards lessening America's reliance on non-renewable resources, a silent revolution to take part in: Boycott the oil industry; don't

drive to work this summer.

Inevitably, some people must drive to their summer jobs. America was built for cars, not for public transportation or bicycles or walking. If you happen to work at a factory fifteen miles from your house, you probably don't have many options. But don't rule out carpooling. Find someone to ride with. Perhaps you'll make a friend, spark a romance, or if nothing else save on gas money this summer.

However many of you will be working within reach of a bus route. If you have a job in Stevens Point this summer, your place of employment is most certainly on the bus line. (Check out a map! The bus goes everywhere.) And you ride for free with a student I.D. Imagine resting your head against the cool metal walls of the bus after a long, hot day of work. You're listening to headphones, your eyes are closed, the air conditioning works, and you do not have to worry about stoplights, traffic jams, or speed limits. Instead of getting into a car after work, the bus allows you to unwind and take some of the stress out of your day.

Another great way to de-stress after work is on your bike. Last summer I chose a bike as a preferred means of transportation to my job. After a twenty-minute ride, I always arrived red-faced and sweating through my business attire. But the sweat would dissipate, and I felt so much better about sitting at a desk all day for I'd already had some physical activity. According to the U.S. dietary guidelines, Americans should get between thirty and ninety minutes of physical activity per day. Why not kill two birds with one stone by riding to work? Not only will you get your needed exercise, but pumping your legs in the fresh air both before and after work will revitalize you. And, like the bus, riding your bike removes you from the stress of five o'clock traffic. You make your own rules from your bike seat.

I recognize that waiting for a bus or biking to work takes time, perhaps as much as a half an hour more than it would to simply drive. So yes, you are sacrificing your time for the good of the whole. But keep in mind that at the same time you may have to get up fifteen minutes earlier, you are also fostering your own well being. By not driving to work this summer, you save money, reduce the amount of stress in your life and add vital physical activity to your day. Most importantly, you lessen your dependence on the oil companies, playing your part in a silent revolution. For that you deserve a pat on the back and an ice cream cone.

Jennifer White
UW-SP Student

LAMERS' WAUSAU--MILWAUKEE DAILY ROUTE SERVICE

SOUTHBOUND SCHEDULE

Leave Wausau	8:50 a.m.
Arrive Stevens Point	9:25 a.m.
Arrive Waupaca	10:10 a.m.
Arrive New London	10:35 a.m.
Arrive Appleton	11:00 a.m.
Arrive Oshkosh	11:50 a.m.
Arrive Fond du Lac	12:30 p.m.
Arrive Milwaukee (A)	1:45 p.m.
Arrive Milwaukee	1:50 p.m.

(A) = Amtrak

NORTHBOUND SCHEDULE

Leave Milwaukee	2:30 p.m.
Arrive Milwaukee (A)	2:50 p.m.
Arrive Fond du Lac	3:45 p.m.
Arrive Oshkosh	4:20 p.m.
Arrive Appleton	5:00 p.m.
Arrive New London	5:35 p.m.
Arrive Waupaca	6:05 p.m.
Arrive Stevens Point	6:40 p.m.
Arrive Wausau	7:15 p.m.

DEPOTS AND BUS STOPS

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Mosinee, WI 54455
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WAUPACA

Waupaca Mobil Travel Center
1222 West Fulton Street
(Corner of Hwy 10 & Hwy 54)
715-258-7676

CLINTONVILLE *Only sells tickets

K-Travel
20 South Main Street
(Corner of Hwy 22 & 11th Street)
715-823-3111

NEW LONDON

New London Travel Plaza
1280 North Shawano Street
920-982-7232
Mailing Address: Larson Co-op
PO Box 308
New London, WI 54961

APPLETON

The Greyhound Station
(Inside the Valley Transit Center)
100 East Washington Street
920-733-2318

OSHKOSH

The Greyhound Station
(Inside Wittman Regional Airport)
525 West 20th Avenue
920-231-6490

FOND DU LAC

The Greyhound Station
(Inside the BP Gas Station)
1305 South Main Street
920-921-4215

MILWAUKEE AMTRAK STATION

433 St. Paul Avenue
(5th & St. Paul)
414-271-0840

MILWAUKEE

The Greyhound Station
606 N. James Lovell (7th) Street
414-272-2156



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Used bookstores: a bargain without the name

Erica Schulz

THE POINTER
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When you walk into a used bookstore, you hear nothing. No music. No talking. You have to rely on your other senses to guide you through the store. The silence reflects a library; not a hostile and uncomfortable silence, but the soft hum of low voices, and the tranquility of personable solitude. You'll get the help if you need it because just like a librarian, the person behind this counter is a professional. Although you can walk into a large bookstore and get any book, it's less likely the employee will be familiar with the book you're looking for.

Imagine standing around in Barnes and Noble for a half an hour, waiting for an overworked employee to show you where the poetry section is among the stacks of discounted paperbacks. The vast, public store has millions of books. With the bustling activity, it seems every person is trying to get somewhere, as if they had suitcases in hand, ready to board a flight. Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 is drowned out by espresso machines and children shrieking, as cash registers beep.

Used bookstores have the capacity to fill the need for books, while still being personable enough to help out every individual. In Stevens Point, three used bookstores offer this unique service, focusing on redistributing books to others.

Although the owners must sell, rather than simply give away books, these self-employed individuals also focus on personal interests and sharing their information with others. Store owners purchase books through library and estate sales, customers, dealers, and other bookstores.

Feet from the parking lot, surrounded by the farmers market and CenterPoint Mall in downtown Stevens Point, Mike Plonsker Books welcomes readers with a window filled with specialty books of the month. These range from biographies of famous presidents, to musical influences such as Bob Dylan or Chopin.

Upon entering, the customer sees many old, black-framed photographs of celebrities. Past this open area where the counter sits, he or she can also see stacks of hardcover books that reach the ceiling.

Plonsker opened his bookstore nine years ago, after leaving his previous career as a therapist in Pennsylvania, to take up his true calling. Many of his customers are book dealers, rather than students or faculty, but he's willing to help anyone find a good book.

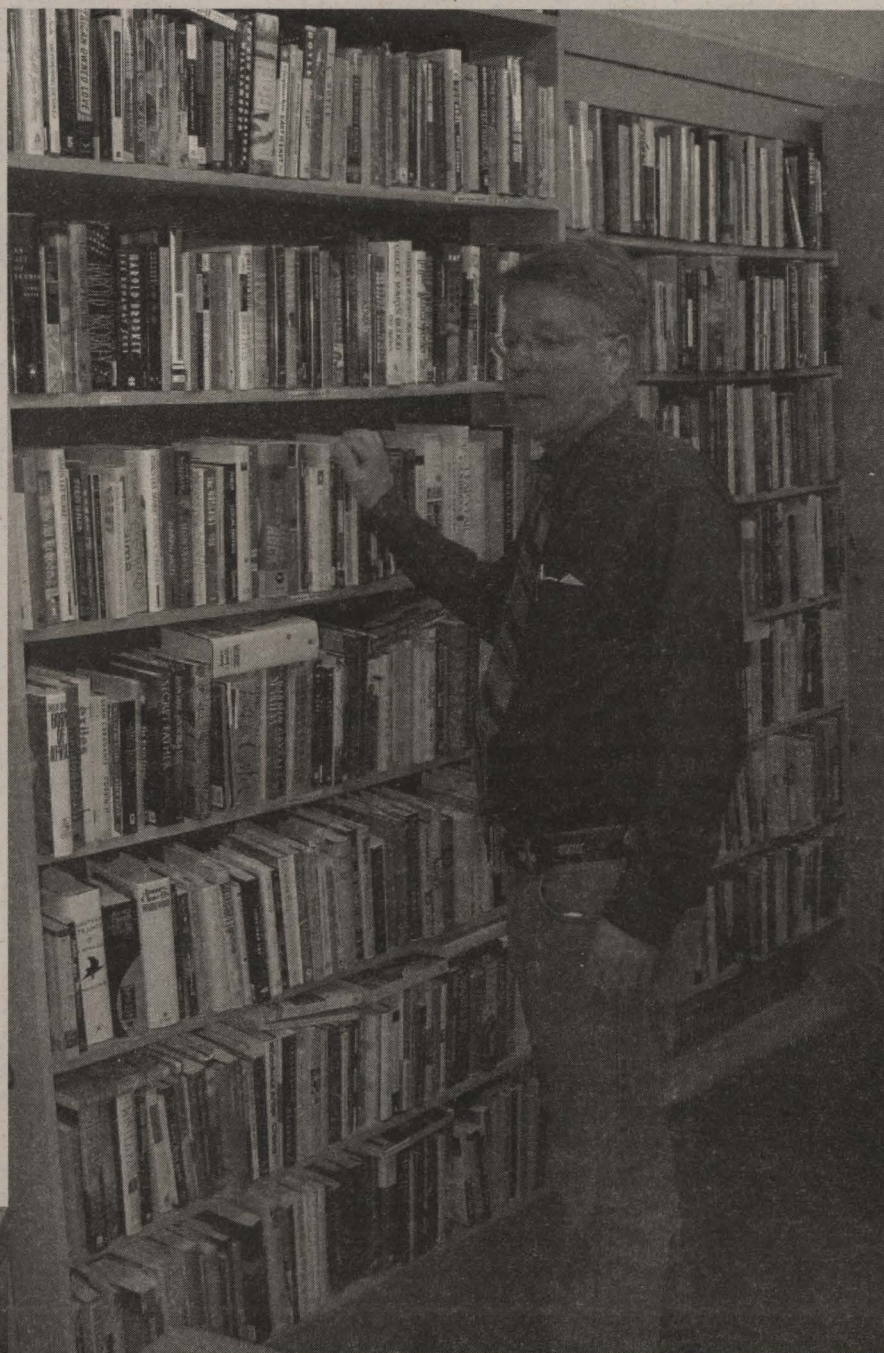
Located just before the railroad bridge towards Plover, Book Isle took over the area of an old bridal shop to expand its collection. Now with more room, aisles of books span out in both directions. Book Isle is run by Michelle Patrykus, a thirteen-year veteran of the used bookstore business.

The store's main attraction is its elaborate collection of modern paperbacks covering the shelves. When walking in, a customer is greeted with a low ceiling and a long aisle of Patrykus' favorite genre, science-fiction. Two cats assist with other employee duties. A calico named Cleo assists as the "greeter." Inherited by

time under the front desk.

Patrykus collects many of her books from customers, or allows speculation. This method of business allows customers to sell books on her shelf, allowing both the seller and the store to make a profit.

Blue Moon Books and Antiques is a small shop behind the main street of Stevens Point, where the low amount of traffic on the street is made up for with the crowded cases of literature overflowing the shelves. Stacks of books litter open spaces on



Above: Mike Plonsker helps a customer find a book at his store downtown.

Photos by Aaron Hull

Left: Steve Kirschling recently took his business, Blue Moon Books & Antiques, online.

the cyber community, Steve Kirschling believes it's

store.

Steve Kirschling's book expertise spans 10 years, beginning as a part-time nights and weekends job while working at the UW-SP. After his twin daughters were born, Steve took the business to full-time, while still watching over his girls. He has a play area set up behind the counter, allowing him to be a stay-at-home dad, while still running a full-time business.

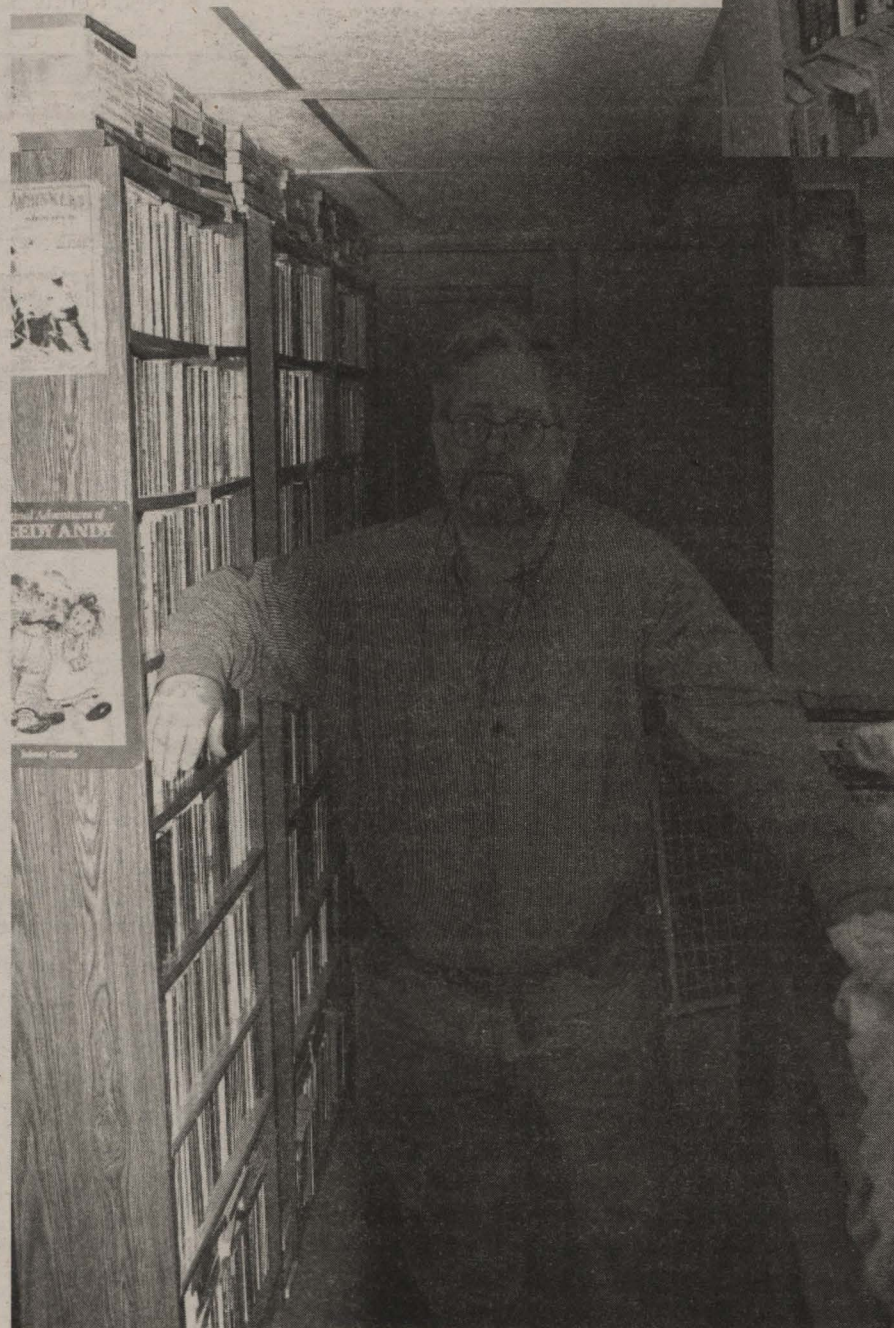
In the back room, he keeps collectibles locked behind glass shelves, such as the first British edition of Tom Clancy's "Hunt for Red October," or an eighteenth century golf course architecture book with a price tag of over \$800. Kirschling gathers books mainly from estate and library sales and has recently joined hundreds of other book sellers online, introducing himself to the Internet by starting what he calls "data processing."

It's sometimes hard for used bookstores to keep up with the technologies and advancements in sales. Although Mike Plonsker Books and Book Isle have not joined

one of the steps in a successful used bookstore. Along with data processing, Steve also believes that research of collectibles, and namely the everyday books themselves, help to keep his bookstore alive. "If you're out to make money, selling books isn't your business," Kirschling said.

"We try not to step on each others toes," Michelle said, "but it's hard to do that with each owner having a different specialty. Even though all three owners have many differences, they form a unified community of book lovers, who are more than willing to help one another out."

Last fall, I was on a mission to find "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" by Richard Bach. I first tried Mike Plonsker Books, but he only had a limited number of paperbacks, so he suggested one of the other stores. I then stopped at Book Isle, where Michelle also regretfully had no copies. She immediately called Steve, who did have a copy, along with a couple other books I was interested in. She pointed me in the direction of Blue Moon, only a block behind her store.



Patrykus' nephew, Cleo is quick to run and say hello with a rub against the leg. Foxy, the "watchcat," is a more docile orange tabby, and spends her

tables and the floor. The store is run by Steve and Alexia Kirschling, and also specializes in antique light fixtures which cover the walls of the

Faces in the Crowd: Kenny Szymanski

Ryan Dabel
POINTLIFE REPORTER

The sound of whirring sewing machines, oldies on the radio, hammers beating against wood, and a few swear words erupting out of students is the ambiance for Kenny Szymanski and his shop.

Szymanski is the master upholsterer for Residential Living/Building Services here at UW-SP. Not many people know about him, but if you have ever noticed something out of place in your dorm building, you can thank him.

Szymanski is the man responsible for your new drapes and curtains, for upholstering the "new" chair that is in your lounge that looks the same, but different. Even the new finish on your doors was done by him. You name it, and he's had a hand in doing it.

Szymanski, originally a Stevens Point native, has worked on campus more than 24 years. That's longer than some students' ages.

He began his life in upholstery when he joined the Air Force, where he was a parachute and fabrication specialist. He spent a lot of time packing and sewing parachutes in exotic places such as Korea, where he was stationed.

It was time to throw the parachutes out, and start on a new goal. He didn't have any training with upholstery at the time, but quickly became interested after watching his teachers

in the Air Force.

"Packing parachutes isn't a lifetime thing, but upholstery is," said Szymanski.

After doing his time in the Air Force, Szymanski moved back home to Stevens Point, where he took a job working on furniture for UW-SP in a tiny shop that quickly grew.

"We started in the basement of Smith Hall, and then we moved to the recycling building, which was bigger, but it was dirty," said Szymanski.

From the dirty building that once housed his shop and the recycling area, Szymanski was able to secure a modern shop in the Residential Living building, equipped with a spray booth, air powered tools, new sewing machines, and all the tools he could use.

"We used to have water that would flow across the floor [of the old building]," said Szymanski.

Aside from his usual contributions to campus, such as his prowess on a sewing machine, or his whiz with varnishes, Szymanski has also contributed many ideas that help this campus save money everyday.

The university has a program called "Dollars for Sense" that is designed for employees who have ideas that save the university money. Every year, any worker can submit an idea that could save the school money, and as you may have guessed, there is a cash reward.

Szymanski has won this prestigious award not just once, but multiple times, as one can see the awards hang-

ing proudly over his desk.

"I received one award for using old plastic bottles that were thrown away for containers around our shop, and another award for putting a one-way street sign on Clark Street outside South Hall" said Szymanski.

Awards aside, what Szymanski loves most about this job is working with students. At any one time

there could be half a dozen students working for him. For these students, working with Szymanski gives them an opportunity to learn the tricks of the trade, and it's not bad for Szymanski either.

"It's enjoyable to work with students, and I look forward to it every day," said Szymanski. "It's interesting to watch them walk through the different stages of life."

When all the drilling has



Master Upholsterer Kenny Szymanski works in Residential Living.

Photo by Aaron Hull

stopped, the sewing is finished, the half-covered couch seats are all stacked neatly, all the varnish is sealed and stacked, and the floors are swept, that is when Szymanski's day is done.

So the next time you notice new fabric on your favorite chair, a new coat of stain on that old door, or a new set of blinds on that bright window, know that it wasn't done by magical elves but by UW-SP's master upholsterer, Kenny Szymanski.



*Start by doing what's necessary...
then do what's possible...
and suddenly you are doing the impossible.*

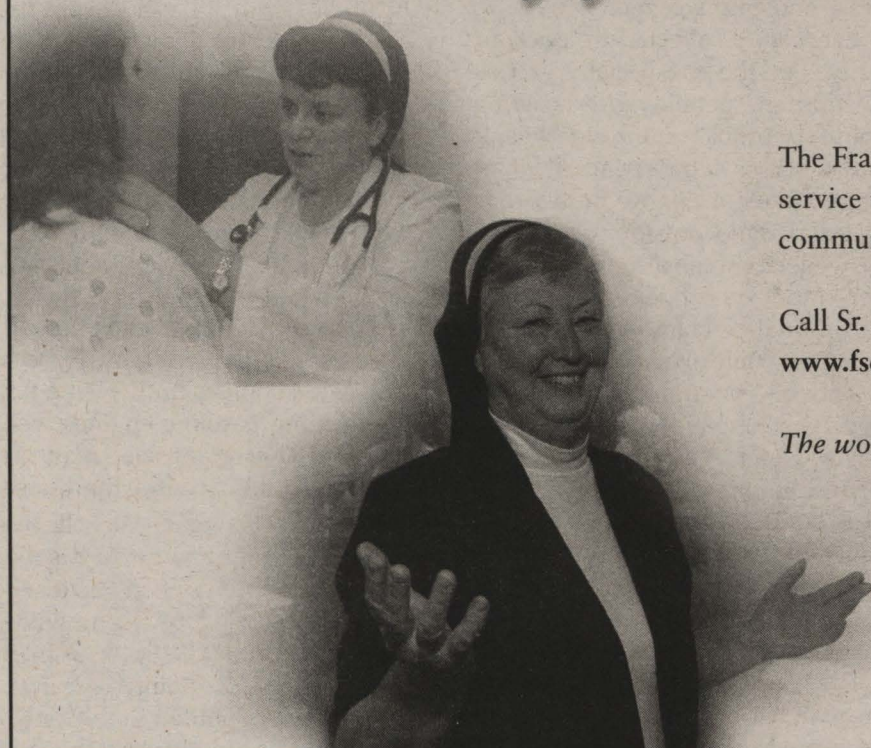
— St Francis of Assisi

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Outdoors

GearPoint •

A look at the hottest gear on the market, in the headlamp of Outdoor EdVentures Student Manager, Josh Spice.

For decades, the world of back-country utensils has 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

soup, along with putting some leverage into that burnt pasta at the bottom of the pot. It also features a quick-clip handle for attaching it 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 was. Worth the money? Most definitely – buy a bunch of these for the price of one titanium spork and forgo the agony of losing one.

\$1.99 / 7.25" long / .5 oz / www.gsioutdoors.com

Light My Fire® Spork -Bargain-

Just like the Doors song, this combination fork and spoon on one utensil has classic written all over it. With a fork on one end and a spoon on the other, it gels the best of both worlds, never leaving you shortchanged 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.

Only 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.

\$2.75 / .35 oz / www.light-my-fire.se

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, back-country 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...

Brunton My-Ti Folding Spork

Recently receiving a Backpacker Magazine Editor's Choice Award for its ingenuity, the titanium and stainless-steel My-Ti has taken packability issues of utensils and dropped them down the privy. At 3.5" long (6.5" unfolded), it is by far the most compact spork, easily stowing in a pocket or mug. A locking mechanism allows it to even be used as a pot grabber and 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, compared to non-folding models.

\$15 / 6.5" long (3.5" folded) / .6 oz / www.brunton.com

GSI Outdoors Piranha Foon (Fork/Spoon)

Looking for something a little lighter on the wallet, yet 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

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 overcooked 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 allowed me to make a hole in the handle of my mug for a place to store it when I'm not filling my face. Under \$10 and weighing 1 oz, it's the best blend of all categories in the spork world.

\$8.95 / .6 oz / www.snowpeak.com

'Clean Air Month' marks start of ozone season in Wisconsin

DNR News Release

MADISON – The warmer, sunnier weather that ushers in the month of May can also bring the onset of the ground-level ozone season, which typically runs from May through September in Wisconsin. To spotlight the potential adverse health effects associated with increased ground level ozone, the American Lung Association has designated May as Clean Air Month. Also, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has teamed with the National Weather Service in declaring May 15-19 National Air Quality Awareness Week. More information on Air Quality Awareness Week can be found at <http://www.airnow.gov/airaware.crf>.

"On hot, summer days, emissions from cars, power plants, large factories and other sources react in the presence of sunlight to form ground-level ozone that is harmful to people's health," explained Larry Bruss, Regional Pollutant and Mobile Source Section Chief with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Madison. "These emissions come from car exhaust and smoke stacks, and the evaporation of organic chemicals like gasoline and paint solvents, otherwise known as volatile organic compounds or VOCs. These same emissions also contribute to particle pollution, which often accompanies high ozone levels, although particle pollution can occur at any time of year."

Ground-level ozone – the main component of smog – is chemically equivalent to the ozone in the upper atmosphere (called the 'ozone layer') that protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. Unlike the "good" atmospheric ozone, ground-level ozone is dangerous because it's located at the surface where people can breathe it. High concentrations of ozone in the air can trigger health problems such as chest pain and coughing, and can aggravate conditions like asthma, bronchitis, heart disease and emphysema.

Everyone is affected by poor air quality, but those especially at risk are children, people with existing respiratory problems, the elderly and healthy adults who spend a lot of time outdoors or engage in vigorous physical activity outside. Crops and other vegetation can also be damaged by ground-level ozone.

Air quality changes every day, but staying informed to keep oneself and one's family healthy is as easy as checking the weather page of the newspaper or calling Wisconsin's Daily Air Hotline at 1-866-DAILY AIR (1-866-324-5924) to find out the Air Quality Index for the day. The AQI is a color-coded scale that shows the level of ozone and other pollutants, like fine particles, in the air each day.

The Wisconsin DNR uses the AQI to report air quality at monitoring sites around the state. When the AQI

goes above 100, or into the orange range, the air quality is considered "unhealthy for sensitive groups." If the AQI goes above 100 at any monitor in Wisconsin, the DNR issues an air quality advisory for the county where the monitor is located and any nearby counties that are experiencing the same air quality problem.

"Through everyone's efforts, Wisconsin's air quality has improved dramatically since the late 1980s, and even though we are on the right track, our air quality still has room for improvement," Buss said.

Organizations like the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air have been notifying people in southeastern Wisconsin of potentially high ozone levels for the past several years and, more recently, the Dane County Clean Air Coalition, and Jefferson, Winnebago and Fond du Lac County organizations have created action day programs when weather conditions and monitoring data suggest ozone or particle pollution may reach unhealthy levels in those parts of Wisconsin on the following day. In the event that ozone or particle pollution levels have already reached unhealthy levels for people in sensitive groups, the DNR will issue an Air Quality Advisory.

The DNR is also now sending out e-mail notices of Air Quality Watches and Advisories. Air Quality Watches are sent out when unhealthy pollution levels are forecast for the next day in one or more regions of Wisconsin. Advisories are also sent out when monitors show existing unhealthy pollution levels in one or more regions of Wisconsin. The current air quality conditions as reported by DNR monitors can be found on the DNR Web site.

When air pollution levels are forecast to reach the AQI orange level the next day, everyone is encouraged to take steps to help reduce the production of ground-level ozone and particle pollution. Such steps include:

1. filling vehicle gas tanks later in the day, when ozone is less likely to form;
2. making sure the gas cap is on tightly; turning it until it clicks three to five times insures a good seal;
3. car pooling instead of driving alone;
4. combining errands to reduce driving time;
5. riding the bus or a bike instead of driving;
6. postponing lawn mowing and other activities that use small gasoline or diesel engines until evening;
7. keeping gasoline engines well tuned; and conserving electricity as much as possible around the house and at work.

Ahh, spring! When everything looks healthier and you can start wearing your sandals again. Next time you're out hiking, look around and identify some of the flora that is already growing.



Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) is Wisconsin's first native "wild flower" to bloom. It usually begins sprouting up around March 10. Be sure to look in wet, mucky areas to find it.



Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) "Is a native of upland woods," said UW-SP plant ecology graduate student Matt Bushman. The blood reference to the flower's name refers to juice that is emitted from the flowers broken root.



Large Flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) is found in shadier forest areas and begins growing in May.



Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) is a common native plant of swamps and semi-open wetlands. It begins growing in late April.

A UW-SP student hunter's education

Graduate debates whether to seek more education or hunt more deer

Andy Niemeyer
OUTDOORS REPORTER

With graduation just around the corner, I have a problem. I'm supposed to graduate in May, move out and become some responsible adult who benefits society. But, I really don't want to. For some reason, I'm one of those sick, twisted students who actually likes college. OK, I dislike college, but I love the free time associated with it.

Don't get me wrong; finding a full-time job would be great. I could

finally afford something more than macaroni and cheese. But today's job market is anything but a cakewalk. With competition for entry-level jobs more brutal than a freshman English course, chances are that my best bet for a job might be at McDonald's. So, while all seniors across America celebrate the turning of the page, the end of the journey, the beginning of hell; this super senior finds himself flipping through the timetable looking for more classes to take next year. And with a full allotment of classes to choose from, I've decided that unless

some divine intervention takes place, I'll probably return next fall to increase the marketability of my B.S. degree.

Now that you know I'm certifiable for the loony bin, let me explain the reasoning for my decision.

1. Unless I have a permanent job when I graduate, on that golden spring day when I receive my \$25 leather folder that contains the message "congratulations on your graduation, you will receive your diploma in two to four weeks through the mail," my parents' health insurance ceases to cover my accident-prone body. And

with my luck, as I receive my folder I'll fall down the stairs, break my collarbone and rupture my spleen, without insurance.

2. I like to hunt. During the fall semester of 2005 I made it back home (two hours away) every weekend. Most weeks I left school Friday mornings after my 9 o'clock class and didn't come back until ten, eleven or midnight on Sundays. However, with the cooler November temperatures tempting me and with the rut firing

up, I found myself leaving school Thursday mornings, experiencing four-day weekends. Needless to say, I like hunting. If I stay in school, I'll be back home hunting, a lot. Currently, my projected class schedule shows no classes on Mondays and Fridays: looks like I'll be in the woods more than I'll be at a desk.

3. A 66 percent chance. I've been enrolled at UW-Stevens Point for three years. During these three years I have had the opportunity to see a lot of deer. I have also had the opportunity to harvest big deer. My first year at Point I harvested a 145 lb eleven-pointer. My third year I harvested a 165 lb twelve-pointer. Not bad considering some people hunt their entire lives not even seeing deer this big. If I stay at Point, and if my math is correct, I have a 66 percent chance that another wall hanger will find himself riding around town with me. I like my odds.

And lastly.

4. It's not what you know, it's what else you know. If I return to school, endure harsh three-day weeks and pick up another minor I'll be more desirable to an employer in the future. At least that's what I'll tell myself.

So fellow seniors, as you look into the future, circle that graduation date on the calendar, and wonder what fast food chain you can offer your skills to; just remember you could always stay in school. Then again maybe you should venture out into the real world; someone needs to be responsible and pick up my slack.

OUTDOOR EDVENTURES' TIP OF THE WEEK

Josh Spice

MANAGER/TRIP LEADER AND OUTDOOR EDVENTURES AND RENTALS

The tick. Sitting on a blade of grass, a stick, or a leaf. Waiting. For you. You walk by. He grabs on. You don't know it. He crawls upward, looking for skin, warmth, and blood. But then, out of the corner of your eye, you spot him! With the flick of your finger, he's gone, all because you wore light-colored pants and tucked them

into your socks. He was forced to conspicuously crawl on your light pants, where he is easily noticed and terminated. To fully eliminate the chance of the little buggers getting on ya, also tuck in your shirt, spray your pants and socks with DEET, and stop and quickly scan your pants every few minutes to halt their mission for blood. Remember, ticks can crawl on just about every clothing material, except rubber hip boots. To learn more about bein' tick-free, along with many other tricks and techniques to improve your outdoor experiences, stop in Outdoor EdVentures, located in the lower level of the Allen Center.



Senior on the Spot

Josh Perkins - Baseball

Career Highlights:

- Served military duty in Iraq between 2004-05 and was granted an additional year of eligibility.
- Team's No. 1 starter at end of season and first-team all-WIAC performer in 2003.
- Won 11 letters participating in football, basketball, baseball and track in high school.

Major - Sociology

Hometown - Two Rivers, Wis.

Do you have any nicknames? - Perk, JB.

What are your plans after graduation?

Pitch for the Brewers or get a J.O.B.

What has helped you become such an accomplished baseball player?

Never being satisfied with past accomplishments, always wanting to be the best, dedication, good coaching and family and friends believing in me.

What is your favorite Pointer sports memory?

Finally being able to pitch my senior season after being away for more than a year in Iraq.

What's your most embarrassing moment?

You'll have to ask my friends to find that out.

What CD is in your stereo right now?

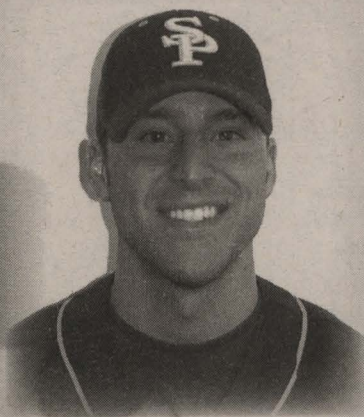
In my MP3 player, there's Linkin Park, rap, 80s rock. Anything but country.

What DVD is currently in your DVD player? - The wife's pilates workout crap.

What will you remember most about UW-SP?

All of the great friendships I have made through the years, playing ball, long weekends and being able to sleep in pretty much whenever you want.

What are the three biggest influences in your life? - My mom, my dad and my beautiful wife.



Tobalsky earns win and save against pesky Blue Devils

Press Release

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ashley Tobalsky pitched a five-hit shutout in the opening game and then closed out the second game for a save as the UW-Stevens Point softball team took two games from UW-Stout on Saturday at McCarty Field.

Tobalsky matched a season-best with nine strikeouts in a 5-0 first game victory and then struck out two batters in the seventh inning of the second game to close out a 6-2 triumph.

UW-Stevens Point is now 23-14-1 overall and 5-9 in the WIAC, while UW-S fell to 8-26 overall and 3-13 in the league.

The Pointers were scheduled to conclude the regular season Sunday at home against UW-River Falls, but the games were moved to Monday at 3 p.m. due to impending poor weather. More unfavorable waeather on Monday led to the cancellation of the UW-RF contest.

The win was Tobalsky's second complete game shut-out this week after blanking UW-Oshkosh on Wednesday. She allowed the five hits in five different innings and recorded six of her first seven outs via strikeouts.

UW-SP struck for four

runs in the second inning as Kristin Konieczny and Jenni Van Cuyk each had run-scoring singles and Mandy Jellish ripped a two-run double. Laura Van Abel reached on an error and scored on a passed ball in the fifth inning.

In the second game, UW-S went ahead with a two-out triple by Savannah Oeltjen in the second inning, but the Pointers struck for four runs in the bottom of the third.

Jackie Berger tied the game with a run-scoring single and Jellish scored on a wild pitch. Laura Zierler then drove home two runs on a two-out single.

Berger scored on an error and Konieczny hit a sacrifice fly in the fifth as the Pointers plated two more runs

for a 6-2 advantage.

Michelle Holberg entered the game in relief and struck out three over two and two-third innings for the win.

Tobalsky entered the game in the sixth as UW-S had runners at second and third with one out, but it took her one pitch to work out of the jam, getting the Blue Devils to ground into a double play.



Photo by Lue Vang

UW-SP pitching held the UW-Stout Blue Devils to two runs in two games this past weekend.

Swept away: Four losses to UW-O take Pointers out of WIAC race

Steve Roeland

THE POINTER
SROEL908@UWSP.EDU

Extra innings, quality pitching, late-game heroics, a rainout and playoff implications. The only thing missing from UW-SP's four game series with WIAC rival UW-Oshkosh was a Pointers victory.

The Titans handed UW-SP their first four-game sweep since the WIAC's inception of a 24-game schedule in 2002. UW-O defeated the Pointers 2-1 and 4-3 in 11 innings on Saturday and finished the series on Monday with wins of 4-2 and 7-3. The four losses prevent the Pointers from being in position to win the WIAC regular season title.

Game one on Saturday set the tone for what was to come the Pointers' way all weekend. UW-SP gained the lead in the top of the third, as Joel Hojnacki scored on a Chuck Brehm double.

The Pointers continued to lead the game, anchored by the pitching of Jason Zimmermann. Entering the bottom of the sixth, Zimmermann had not allowed a hit in the game.

After two groundouts opened the sixth inning for UW-O, Zimmermann allowed his first hit to Andrew Stendahl. After Stendahl stole second base, Mickey Fadness capitalized on the run-scoring opportunity with a home run to right field, giving the Titans a 2-1 lead.

The Pointers struggled to muster any offense in the rest of the game, collecting only one hit in the final three innings.

Zimmermann took the loss for UW-SP, going eight innings, allowing two costly hits and striking out six. He is now 3-3 for the season.

The Pointers looked to rebound in the second game on Saturday, but only met defeat in a more heartbreaking fashion.

UW-O took an early 1-0 lead in the third on an RBI single by Josh Shere. UW-SP answered the Titans, scoring once in the fourth and twice in the fifth for a 3-1 lead.

The back-and-forth flow of the game continued with UW-O scoring a single run in the sixth and seventh innings, tying the game at three.

With neither team gaining

the upper hand in the eighth or ninth innings, the 248 fans in attendance at Tiedemann Field in Oshkosh got to see free baseball in the form of extra innings.

The Pointers went down in order to start the 10th. The Titans put a scare into UW-SP in their half of the inning, loading the bases with only one out. UW-SP pitcher Jeff Zielke fought out of the jam, allowing no runs and moving the game to the 11th inning.

The Pointers managed to get runners at the corners in the top of the 11th, but failed to tally a run. The Titans would load the bases for the second straight inning, this time managing to push a run across.

Following a Stendahl pop-out to open the Titans' half of the 11th, Fadness doubled to left, inducing an intentional walk to the next UW-O hitter. Two more walks would follow, allowing the Titans to score and claim a 4-3 victory.

Josh Perkins again gave UW-SP a strong pitching performance in a loss, going seven innings, scattering five hits and striking out a career-high 10 Titans in a no decision. The loss went to Zielke, his second of the season.

Wet weather forced Sunday's doubleheader to be moved to Monday. But it was same story, different day for the Pointers.

UW-O never trailed in game one on Monday, as the Pointers struggled to find their hitting shoes. After the third inning, UW-SP produced only two hits and failed to score. With the last 11 Pointer hitters making outs, the Titans held on to their 4-2 lead and never let go.

UW-O saved their best for last, collecting 14 hits in a 7-3 win in the series finale. Lack of hitting again plagued the Pointers, who had only one hit in the first five innings.

Jake Frombach was the only UW-SP player to have multi-hit games on Monday, as he collected two hits in each of the contests.

UW-SP's record in the WIAC fell to 10-9 with the tough luck weekend in Oshkosh. The Pointers remain a half a game ahead of UW-Stout for fourth place in the standings.

see WIAC pg. 11

With a pressing need at linebacker, the Packers eye Hawk

Steve Roeland
THE POINTER
SROEL908@UWSP.EDU

Whether or not the Green Bay Packers No. 1 pick in the 2006 NFL Draft will be a special player in professional football, one thing is for sure.

A.J. Hawk looks like a football player.

Hawk also appears to have what it takes in terms of skills to cut it in the NFL. The 6'1", 246 lbs. linebacker from "The" Ohio State University was the premier defender on a Buckeye squad that produced nine draft picks this year, six of which played on the defensive side of the ball.

Hawk led his team in tackles all three seasons he started, dating back to 2003. He was also a two-time All-American selection and was the 2005 Big 10 Defensive Player of the Year. Hawk's accolades read like a loaded laundry list. But was he the best pick for the Pack?

Without a doubt, Green Bay needed a linebacker. With the loss of fellow Buckeye Na'il Diggs and Packer veteran Paris Lenon, the Green-and-Gold picked the best player at a position that demanded attention. That being said, it's hard to blame Packers general manager Ted Thompson for selecting Hawk with the fifth pick of the draft.

Hawk is being considered a "safe" pick - one that will provide a team with quality play over the course of several years, but nothing spectacular. If the Packers looked to the other side of the ball, however, they may have taken a player who could make an instant and profound impact in another trouble area.

Vernon Davis, tight end from the University of Maryland, was taken sixth by the San Francisco 49ers. His physical attributes are well-documented. Davis can bench press over 400 lbs. and squat more than 500 lbs. He is fast, has size and can catch the football.

Green Bay traded wide receiver Javon Walker to Denver during the second round of the draft, so a player who could make an immediate difference on offense could have proven useful. Despite being a tight end, Davis would have possi-

bly stepped into a receiver-type role. His 4.4 40-yard dash time would be an asset to Brett Favre and the Packers passing attack.

The Packers finished last season ranked seventh in the NFL in total defense. They signed cornerback Charles Woodson to shore up the pass defense. Yet nothing has been done to give Favre another option to make the big play on offense. One big play could have given the Packers six more wins last year, as they lost six games by three points or less in 2005.

In Thompson's defense, the Packers did draft a wide receiver in the second round. A relatively unknown player, Greg Jennings fell into the Packers' lap at the 52nd selection. Jennings was third-team All-American selection in 2005. He caught 98 passes for 1,259 yards and scored 14 times last year. Jennings became only the eleventh player in NCAA Division 1-A history to gain over 1,000 yards receiving three times in a career.

If Jennings can take his collegiate success and transition into a potent NFL receiver, Favre and the Packers offense may have a secret weapon in their arsenal.

Many media outlets provide each NFL team with a grade following the draft. Here is my assessment of how well the Packers did this past weekend.

Green Bay accomplished the main goal every team should have coming into the draft; fill positions that need attention. In drafting Hawk and Abdul Hodge at linebacker, selecting three offensive linemen, two wide receivers and two defensive linemen, the Packers met this requirement. However, some of the players that the Packers selected were not the players projected to be the best in their position.

For filling their needs with players who seem to have a lot of potential, the Packers earned a B for their efforts.

With a little work in upcoming mini camps, free agent signings like that of Charles Woodson and the help of a seemingly easy 2006 schedule, the Packers may have put together a winning team once again.

Mitchler highlights Pointer efforts at Drake Relays

Press Release
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Jenna Mitchler posted an NCAA automatic qualifying time in the women's 1500-meter run to highlight the UW-Stevens Point track and field team's performance at the Drake Relays on Friday and Saturday in Des Moines, Iowa.

Mitchler posted a time of 4:33.07 to place ninth of 12 competitors in a race that featured 10 Division I entrants. She also was part of the distance medley relay squad that placed third of 15 teams, joining Marie Burrows, Teresa Stanley and Megan Craig to

post a time of 11:54.58.

Also, the women's 1600-meter relay team achieved an NCAA provisional qualifying time by three-hundredths of a second as the team of Andrea Irvine, Laura Simonis, Jamie Scott and Burrows had a time of 3:57.97.

The men's 1600-meter relay team of Pat Leonard, Jeremie Schwartz, Adam Baumann and Nick VerDuin placed seventh overall with a time of 3:14.15. The 800-meter relay team of Brad Koback, Ryan Schroeder, Bryan Buechel and Baumann placed eighth in 1:28.45 and the 400-meter relay squad of Koback, Leonard, VerDuin and Baumann was 11th in 42.18

seconds. The distance medley relay team of Travis Nechuta, Schroeder, Greg Haak and Dominick Meyer was 13th in 10:21.38.

Also, UW-SP sent athletes to the Loras Invitational in Dubuque, Iowa. The men's and women's teams each had two second place performances.

For the men, Cory Towle was second in the 5,000-meter run in 15:35.66 and Denton Helms was runner-up in the 3,000-meter steeplechase in 9:58.32. For the women, Katie Simo was second in the 400-meter dash in 1:00.28 and Beth Richter was second in the javelin at 108-4.

from WIAC pg. 10

The top four teams qualify for the WIAC tournament, held in Wisconsin Rapids on May 12-13. UW-Whitewater currently sits atop the standings with a 15-5 record in conference.

UW-SP took to the diamond on Tuesday with a non-conference game against Marian College in Fond du Lac.

The Pointers defeated the Sabres 14-1, as UW-SP starting pitcher Mike Thrun set a school record with 15 strikeouts. On April 1, Zimmermann

tied the previous school record for strikeouts with 14 against UW-Platteville. Bill Kuse first set the 14-strikeout record in 1961.

UW-SP scored five runs in the top of the first, thanks to Zimmermann's three-run double. He added a two-run home run in the fifth and went three-for-five with five RBI in the game.

Thrun went seven and one-third innings, allowing four hits and walking three. Thrun is now 3-1 on the season.

The Pointers are now 21-14 overall.

The Pointers finish the regular season with a set of doubleheaders this weekend at home against UW-Superior. UW-SP is undefeated at home this season, winning all nine games played at University Field.

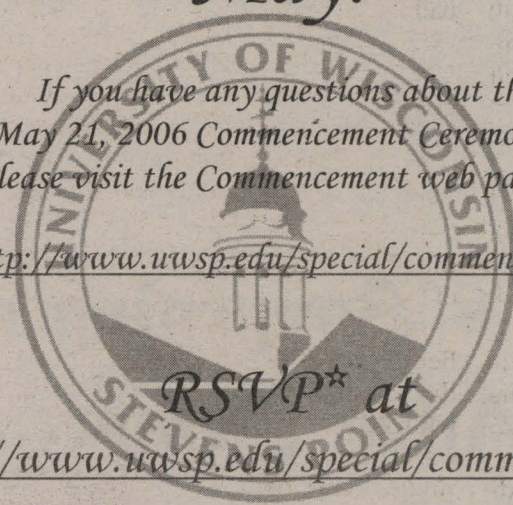
The Yellowjackets find themselves at the opposite end of the spectrum. They are winless in 20 WIAC games and are 3-31 overall. UW-S is 0-8 on the road in conference play.

The weekend series begins Friday at 1 p.m.

Are you Graduating in May?

If you have any questions about the
May 21, 2006 Commencement Ceremonies,
Please visit the Commencement web page at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/special/commencement>



<http://www.uwsp.edu/special/commencement>

* Please note: If you have already responded, you do not need to respond again.

Caps, gowns, tassels and honor cords are available for purchase May 8-12 and May 15-19. These items will be distributed in the University Bookstore at their new location, 200 Division St., Stevens Point. If you cannot make any of the above hours for distribution, please consider using the mail order process beginning Monday, May 2. To order your cap and gown by mail, call the University Store at (715) 346-3431.

If you have any questions, please contact University Relations and Communications at 715.346.3548



Photo from www.coachtressel.com

Newly-drafted linebacker A.J. Hawk scans the opposition.

Psychology professor talks about opposite sex friendships

Sara Suchy
SCIENCE REPORTER

"Men and women can never be friends because the sex part always gets in the way," said Billy Crystal in "When Harry Met Sally," a movie which not only is one of the greatest chick flicks of all time, but made us really think about the question, can men and women really just be friends?

The question is asked and debated all the time and has often been a cause for turmoil in romantic relationships. "Why do you spend so much time with Jane?" she asks. "Calm down, we're just friends," he replies. Sound familiar to anyone?

Dr. April Bleske-Rechek, a professor of psychology at UW-Eau Claire came to campus last Thursday night to lecture on this very issue with members of the UW-SP psychology club.

The answer was like most answers when it comes to questions of this nature: very fuzzy. And considering that, according to Dr. Bleske-Rechek, 51 percent of opposite sex friends report eventually consummating their "friendship," it seems doubtful that such a relationship could work.

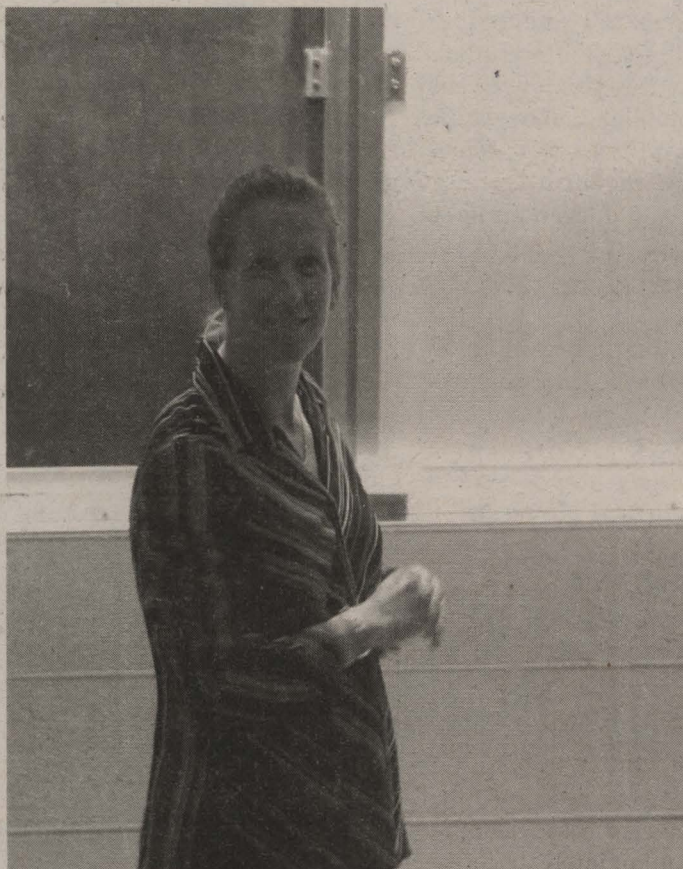
But as many of our readers know, there are many examples of seemingly platonic friendships between males and females. What people don't realize is that the opposite sex friendship is, according to Dr. Bleske-Rechek, "a historical novelty."

Men and women never used to be friends because of their vastly different status in society. Men went off to work in the morning and women stayed home and went to their knitting circles. There was little to no interaction between the sexes outside courtship and marriage.

Now that the playing field has

been somewhat leveled in the last 30 years, there are more women going to college and work, which has opened the door to opposite sex friendships between students and co-workers.

"Now the problem," according to Dr. Bleske-Rechek, "is defining the relationship. They're not same



Dr. April Bleske-Rechek

Photo by Mae Wernicke

sex friends and they're not romantic partners, what are they?"

For years, male and female relationships usually boiled down to continuation of the human species. Now that that situation is not always the case, what is the purpose of the friendship? And can it truly be platonic if we are supposed to, in theory, be sexually attracted to that person?

"Our brains aren't wired in a way that can deal with opposite sex friends," said Dr. Bleske-Rechek.

Part of the reason many of these friendships either fail or become sexual is the influence of the media.

"How many of the 'Friends'

actually stayed just friends," said Dr. Bleske-Rechek. "Chandler and Monica got married."

Then there's the question of defining friendship itself. Dr. Bleske-Rechek did a survey among opposite sex friends at UW-EC, which indicated that women are better at keeping the relationship platonic than men.

A large percentage of men, when asked about the benefits of their opposite sex friendship listed romantic or sexual potential with their female friend. The same cannot be said for women, the vast majority of whom had no aspirations to turn the friendship into a romantic relationship. Other findings in the survey showed that, in general, sexual desire was a very strong motivator for men, much more so than for women.

But even in light of these findings that opposite sex friendships rarely work, there are always the exceptions.

"I have tons of guy friends, and most of my classes are with guys. It doesn't mean I'm attracted to them," said Gina Javurek, a junior wildlife

major. Many others would echo this sentiment.

So, back to the question, can men and women really be friends? It's likely that we will probably never answer the question with complete certainty. But in the meantime, it's safe to say that it's probably not okay to hit on your boyfriend's best friend, especially if you two are supposed to be friends.

Getting help for suicidal students

Drew Prochniak
UW-SP COUNSELING CENTER INTERN

Suicide is an important issue on college campuses and can significantly affect a great number of people. It is the second leading cause of death among college students and is the third leading cause of death among all people 15-24 years old.

It is common for college students to know someone who has been affected by suicide. Many students either know someone who has attempted or committed suicide.

According to an article published in the UW-Oshkosh Advance Titan discussing a 2003 survey, on average 11 percent of all UW students had at one time seriously considered committing suicide. That means that at a school like UW-SP, with a population around 8,500, approximately 935 students are at risk of committing suicide every year. According to the article, the suicide rate in Wisconsin for college-age students is 36 percent above the national average.

If you suspect that you or someone you know may be at risk for committing suicide, two major signs to watch out for are depression and drug and alcohol abuse.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, two-thirds of those who commit suicide suffer from some sort of depressive illness. It is important to

Steps to Help Yourself or a Friend

- Take your friend's actions and suicidal thoughts seriously.
- Encourage your friend to seek professional help and accompany him or her if necessary.
- Talk to a trusted advisor, instructor, or counselor. Don't be alone in helping your friend.

see Help pg. 15

What's Happening at the Allen Center...

Chelsey Ross
CARDIO CENTER

The Cardio Center will be free for all eligible members May 22-31. Sign up now for your June 1 membership and start early. Be sure to bring a photo ID. Also, the Cardio Center will be open all summer long. Based on member feedback, we will no longer close during the day, and will be open straight from 5:45 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday. We will close at 7 p.m. on Friday, and will be open 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on Saturdays and 3-9 p.m. on Sundays. For a complete schedule of hours and membership pricing, visit www.uwspcardiocenter.com.

Group Fitness and Holistic Health classes will be available throughout the summer, and Outdoor EdVentures rentals will also be available with operations moving to the Cardio Center desk. All rentals can be checked out during regular Cardio Center hours. Finally, Student Health Promotion Office will be closed starting May 12 at 4 p.m., so be sure to take advantage of their services now.

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Campus workshop teaches herbal healing

Sara Suchy
SCIENCE REPORTER

Should you ever find yourself in the middle of a heart attack fighting for breath and coming within an inch of your life, it's probably best to go see a doctor. However, for those everyday aches and pains, and maybe that occasional common cold, more and more people are trying herbal remedies as opposed to conventional medicine for relief.

Lauren Ebbecke, a massage therapist at Mind and Body Connections and herbalist, gave a hands-on workshop about the healing power of herbs at the Allen Center last Saturday.

"From ancient times, herbs have played a vital role in healing in many cultures," said Ebbecke. "They are just as valid today as they were 5,000 years ago."

Herbs like comfrey and

arnica can be used as an anti-inflammatory. Other herbs such as calendula and tea tree oil can be used as antiseptics.

"You can make a home-made lozenge out of licorice and marshmallow herbs and honey that is great for fighting off colds," said Ebbecke.

Ginger is great for digestion. Nettles have 400 times more calcium than milk and are wonderful for women's reproductive systems. And mild thistle is great for liver health.

There are countless more that can be used as remedies or simply to promote relaxation, such as chamomile. Herbs are also used in aromatherapy products.

Once an herb has become popularly used however, it runs the risk of losing its credibility for other uses, or it can become overused.

St. John's Wort has become very popular for treating patients with mild depression, but according to Ebbecke, "it is also a fabulous herb for use as a topical astringent, analgesic, anti-inflammatory or sedative."

Echinacea, which used to be taken in capsule form daily as a preventative measure for the common cold,

has been linked to kidney problems if it is used on a daily basis. "Echinacea should never be taken long term," said Ebbecke.

There are also dangerous toxic plants that are misused as herbal remedies. The herb penny root, for instance, has been taken by naturalists to induce miscarriages.

"If taken without supervision, this is an herb that could potentially kill you," warned Ebbecke.

By and large, most common herbs, if identified and used correctly, will not harm their user.

"If you are out gathering your own herbs for the first time make sure you are with someone who knows what they're doing," said Ebbecke. "There are so many look-alike plants that can be toxic and even fatal to humans if eaten."

There are several options for getting the good herbs into your body. The most popular way is through teas.

"In order for the tea to be effective, you need to steep the herb for at least 10 minutes, which most of us don't do," said Ebbecke.

Green tea has become very popular lately because it is so high in antioxidants,

which stimulate the immune system.

Tinctures are herbs that have been canned with alcohol or vinegar. After they sit for anywhere from two weeks to several months - depending on the herb - an eyedropper full of the leftover liquid can be added to water to drink.

Salves are herbal infused vegetable oils that are hardened with beeswax for topical applications. These can be bought or homemade.

And finally, since many people love taking pills because of the convenience, some of the more popular herbs come in pill form.

"Make sure you are getting your herbal pills from a Co-Op or health food store," said Ebbecke, noting that some of the mass produced herbs found in big retail

stores tend to be very low quality.

Until recently, most doctors have been very reluctant to use herbs to treat patients and even worse at asking patients if they have been taking any kinds of herbs before prescribing drugs to patients.

"Herbs are not regulated by the food and drug administration like conventional drugs are," said Ebbecke. They can react with certain medications like anything else can, so it is very important to be aware of what you are putting into your body.

If you are interested in learning more about herbs or would like to participate in a future workshop, contact Mind and Body Connections at 346-4161.

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Joe Pisciotto

THE POINTER
JPISC779@UWSP.EDU

Please. Don't ride your damn scooters on the sidewalk. You know who you are. Seriously, it's dangerous. The one exception to this plea: wait to buy a Vespa hybrid scooter (HyS) that allows riders to operate at low speeds exclusively with an electric engine.

Piaggio, the company that owns the well-known Vespa scooter line, is currently testing two prototype hybrid scooters on the streets of Milan, Italy. The classically styled Vespa LX boasts a modest 50cc gas engine with a 1000W electric motor and the Piaggio X8 125 comes with a powerful yet efficient 125cc gas engine and a 2500W electric motor.

In a time where global warming makes an almost daily appearance in the mainstream news outlets and as gas prices are gently settling near \$3 a gallon, these things could come in handy, especially in a small city like Stevens Point.

According to Piaggio, their most efficient conventional scooters can reduce the average city driver's gas consumption by nearly 60 percent if they switched from a car. That translates into a 90 percent reduction in carbon monoxide emissions and an 80 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. The prototype hybrid is expected to be 20 percent more efficient, reducing emissions even further.

Piaggio hasn't done much in the way of promoting their hybrids, leaving us with little word on how the scooters will actually perform. In fact, a search of their U.S. Web site turns up nothing. Part of the reason could be that the prototype scooters will be undergoing yearlong tests in Milan to see how the vehicles work in real life.

Here's what we do know, as per information circulating on various blogs and poorly translated Italian-language sites.

During take off and acceleration both engines operate, which helps to reduce gasoline consumption while simultaneously boosting power. When the rider brakes, the resulting friction is converted into energy that recharges the electric battery.

Don't like using gas? Don't use it. As mentioned earlier, all it takes is a flip of the switch for riders to go completely electric, which means no fuel consumption and no emissions.

Once you get your scooter home you can plug it into the wall and recharge it. Though this scenario might not be climate friendly - depending on how you get power to your house - it certainly will ease the strain on your pocketbook. A full charge takes three hours.

It's unclear whether Piaggio will sell their hybrids in the U.S. Common sense says they'll start in Europe where scooter riding is much more popular. But as gas prices continue to increase, the U.S. may trend in the same direction as Europe.

On second thought, if they do make it here, quiet electric scooters don't belong on the sidewalks either. But at least you can feel good about driving one of them anywhere.

Arts & Review

The Lights Band releases "Simple Places"

Aaron Schulz

ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Have you ever heard an album that you could never get sick of? One that every time you listen to it you hear something new? Or, more importantly, one that leaves you with something more?

Neenah's The Lights Band has achieved this on their official debut album "Simple Places." Throughout this 14-song collection listeners get rock, jazz, psychedelic music, funk and island vibe, giving us just a sample of what these four talented young musicians have to offer.

The band consists of two brothers: Tyler (guitar) and Eric (bass) Ross, Kelvin Casper (guitar) and Wayne Salzmann II (drums). The members all met in high school in the late 90s and played with other bands before deciding to form The Northern Lights Band in 2000. They released two demos under that moniker before changing to The Lights Band.

When asked why they dropped the "Northern" part of their name, Casper said, "We wanted to have a name that would be unique so people would remember us." They recorded another demo album at Ross's house simply titled "The Lights Band," which also contained two live concert cuts.

Wanting to take the next step by actually recording a proper studio album, a friend helped the band out by recommending them to Lucid Sound Studios in Minneapolis. "A friend of

mine is from that area and he has recorded there in the past; he was telling me if you need to record an album you have to record here!" Salzmann explained.

Salzman was also put in contact with Steve Peterson, a professional engineer that has worked with Paula Abdul and other big acts. Arrangements were made to record in August of 2005.

Listening to the album, it is obvious the amount of work that was put into it.

"It was a long process; 10 hour days with downtime listening to take after take trying to get everything right," Salzmann said.

When researching their record label, Council Tree Records, I couldn't find any information. The band laughed when they heard this and explained to me that they made it up themselves for copyright issues. Eric Ross kindly explained the background, "Council Tree is just a rock by a lake in Neenah and apparently it was used by Indian tribes for council meetings way back when."

The band wrote, arranged and produced the music themselves and the sound that they create is simple

yet complex at the same time. The opener, "Pictures in the Sand," is a nice refreshing take on just putting one's life in perspective and simplifying it.

Salzmann shows his vocal talents on his own composition "Jack McCoy" about a talented news writer that wants to make the world a better place.

Casper brings in the blues on his composition "Alimony," a nice six-minute-plus song about a man losing his wife and all of his money at the same time.

Live favorite "Lost in Belize" gets the studio treatment, and while it is good on the album, it is even better

live, since they build up the middle jam a little bit more. Here on the album it starts out nice but then it goes to the end of the jam too quickly.

"Andromeda" finds Ross and Casper showing off their guitar playing skills, starting very quietly and building into a very nice rock jam with the guitar lines playing off of each other.

If The Lights Band continues on this route of musical exploration, we can only expect big things from them. May the lights keep burning for a long time to come.



The Lights Band

Photo by Caley Jack

The Yeah Yeah Yeahs show their bones

Jacob Eggener

THE POINTER

JEGGE541@UWSP.EDU

Indie bands are often accused of "selling out" when they release a polished-sounding album, and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs are no exception.

With their latest, "Show Your Bones," the Yeah Yeah Yeahs have expanded their sound and created a great

sophomore album. The songs here are longer (most on "Fever to Tell" clocked in at just around two minutes) and in many ways stronger than previous efforts, with a more cohesive feel to the album.

The band, which takes their name from "the way New Yorkers talk," includes Nick Zinner on guitar, Brian Chase on drums, and Karen O

on vocals. While this atypical arrangement seems sparse, the Yeahs manage to fill out the sonic spectrum as well as, or, with songs like "Y Control," better than their contemporaries.

The song that probably best exemplifies this is "Cheated Hearts," a kind of ballad with tons of layered guitars. Karen O sings

"Sometimes I think I'm bigger than the sound" on this track.

She may very well be, since Yeah Yeah Yeahs' shows are usually full of Karen O's antics. On their DVD "Tell Me What Rockers to Swallow," O spits grapes all over the stage during one song and then steps on them to the beat of the next song.

However, sometimes O's antics seem to overshadow the music, as she is really not all that different from other rock maven.

Karen O's voice, raucous and grating on "Fever to Tell," is more soothing this time around, while retaining the feeling that it could careen off the cliff at any moment.

"Gold Lion," the album opener, which is actually about the band winning an award, is a great introduction to the new sound, with a sparse beginning building to a more noisy climax.

"Phenomena"

sounds like it could have been at home on "Fever to Tell," and is probably the most raw-sounding song on "Show Your Bones."

"Show Your Bones" features acoustic guitar on many of the tracks. "Way Out" is a perfect example, with a driving strum laid down behind the whole song. Beyond that, most of the other songs have an underlying acoustic feel in there somewhere.

The song that best captures the new spirit of the Yeahs is the mid-CD track "Dudley," a song that channels the Cure. Karen O's vocals are almost nursery-rhymish on this song, but they are more endearing than childish.

All the band's visuals, from their CD artwork to Karen O's outrageous costumes (made by her friend Christian Joy), are one thing that elevates the band to another level. See the excellent Spike Jonze-directed music video for "Y Control" for a great example.

"Show Your Bones" is less of a rollercoaster ride than "Fever to Tell," but is probably all the better for it. Diehard Indie fans who will complain about the Yeahs selling out or becoming too poppy can just go cry on the grave of Pavement.



The Yeah Yeah Yeahs: Chase, O, Zinner (from left)

Photo provided by www.eat.fm

from **Help** pg. 12

remember, however, that even though depression and suicide are thought to go together, not every student who is depressed commits suicide.

Though not all depressed people are suicidal, according to a Department of Education study, drug and alcohol abuse are the most common features found in young people who have attempted suicide. Seventy percent of those who attempted suicide frequently used alcohol and/or other drugs.

Other risk factors to consider include previous suicide attempts and talking or joking about suicide or death. Also, be aware of the signs that someone might be planning for suicide, such as giving away valuable personal items and saying goodbye.

If you are concerned about yourself or a friend, there are three major steps you can take.

First, take your friend's actions and suicidal thoughts

seriously. Then encourage your friend to seek professional help and accompany him or her if it is necessary.

Finally, talk to a trusted advisor, instructor or counselor. Don't be alone in helping your friend.

It is important to remember that suicide can be prevented. While some suicides occur without warning, most do not.

The most effective way to prevent suicide is to learn how to recognize the signs of someone at risk. Take those signs seriously and respond to them accordingly. The emotional crises that often precede suicide are usually recognizable and treatable.

For more information on suicide, visit the Self Help Library in the Counseling Center on the third floor of Delzell, or make an appointment by calling 346-3553. You can also visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention website at www.afsp.org.

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New washer and dryer.

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5 to 7 person house available

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Available 9/1/06

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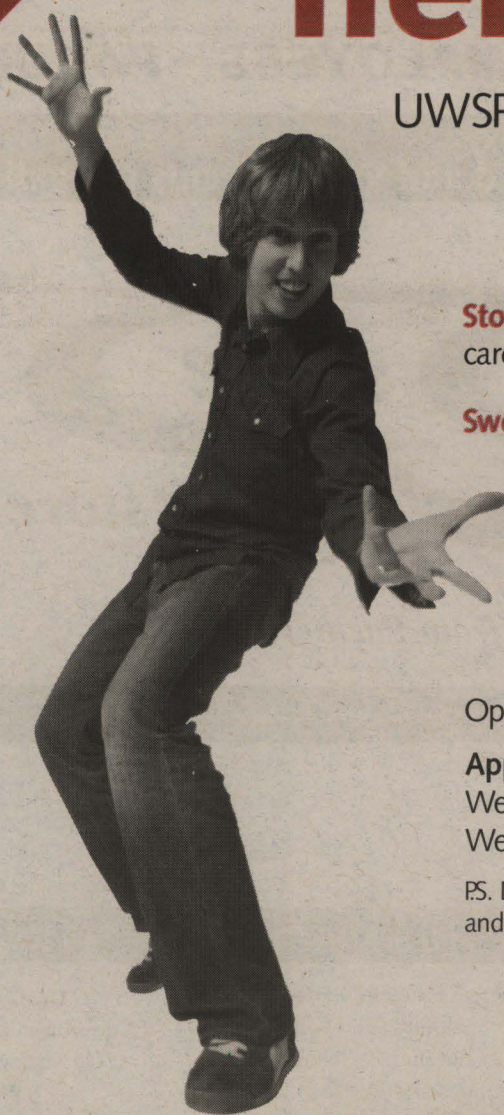
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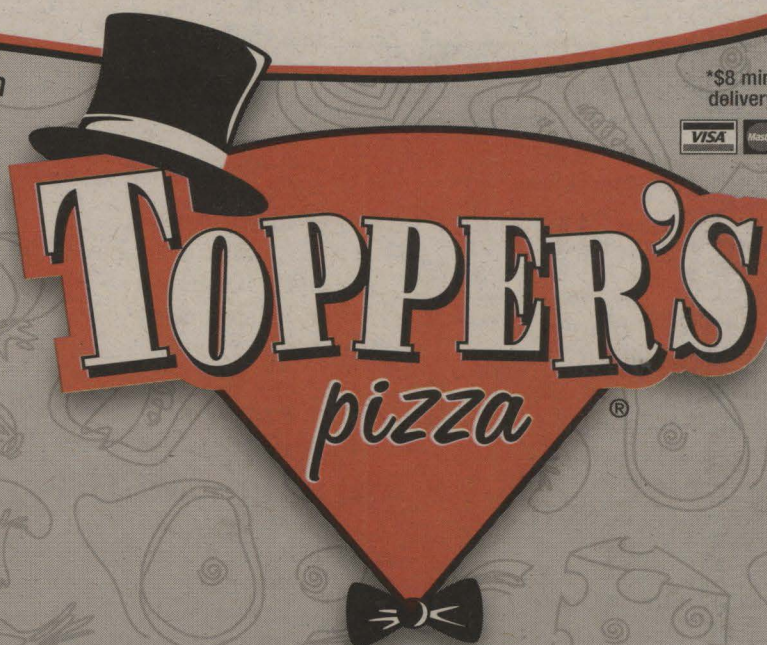
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