

Pointer graduate publishes acclaimed FANTASY NOVEL

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After listening to a read-along record of the animated film "The Hobbit" so many times that he could practically recite the entire movie, Patrick Rothfuss developed a love of fantasy and a novel-a-day habit that eventually led to his own failed attempt at becoming a novelist in high school.

"It's like every awful fantasy novel that every high school boy writes. It had an elf and a cat-man samurai," said Rothfuss. "It was awful. It was truly awful."

After someone pointed out

how cliché it was, and particularly when he realized they were right, Rothfuss, creator of the Pointer's satirical advice column "The College Survival Guide" and associate lecturer of English at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, said he got angry and stopped writing.

A decade and a half later, he's published one of the most talked about fantasy novels of the year, with DAW President Betsy Wollheim going so far to describe it as "the most brilliant fantasy novel I have read in over thirty years as an editor."

"The Name of the Wind," the 662-page debut novel, is the first of a trilogy about Kvothe,

a legendary magician. The next two installments, already written, will be released in yearly intervals.

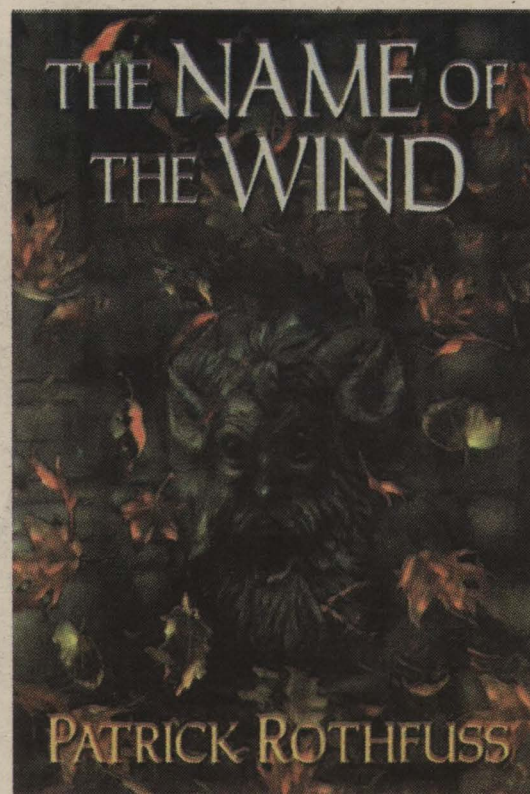
"I started to get the itch again. I wanted to write again. And so I thought, 'What can I do that is not cliché?'" said Rothfuss, who began creating the story as a UW-SP student in 1993. "In terms of these fantasy novels, so many of them are elves and dwarves and a wizard with a pointy hat."

Rothfuss put a lot of effort into creating a world that was realistic yet still fantastic, what he describes as "real fantasy."

"It's not a different world that's full of magic and fairies and elves. It's a different world that's very real and

gritty, and a lot of people there don't believe in magic, or they believe in magic, but they're wrong."

"Sometimes you read a fantasy novel and you feel like if you were there and you walked down an alley and turned around, you'd see that all the buildings are just made out of cardboard," Rothfuss said. "There's nothing there, like an old movie set. But I wanted my world to feel very real, like if you walk



down that alley it's going to be stone all the way around, and if you turn at the wrong

see **Fantasy** pg. 2

Obey revisits Point, familiar topics

Stephen Kaiser
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Seventh District Congressman and Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee Dave Obey returned to Stevens Point on Wednesday, April 4, for his second visit in 2007. This time Obey visited the Lincoln Center to update the community on current issues within the government, including the war in Iraq and changing budget priorities.

Most prominent in his discussion was the realignment of \$17 billion from low to high-priority programs. Those programs seeing more funds are veteran benefits, education, community healthcare,

medical research, public housing, the clean water revolving fund and a rejuvenation of law enforcement due to low local aid.

One of Obey's strongest points resided in the comparison between funding for the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan.

"I shifted \$1.2 billion for the war effort in Afghanistan," Obey said. "We need to shift from people who did not attack us (Iraq) to people who did (al-Qaeda)."

President Bush recently criticized the Democrat-controlled Congress' decision to put non-war items on an Iraq

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UW-SP student receives national recognition for water research

Adam Sprague
NEWS REPORTER

A University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student has received national recognition for his water quality research by the American Water Resources Association (AWRA).

Adam Freihoefer was

named the best student presenter at the 2006 AWRA National Conference in Baltimore.

"It was a great honor to be recognized by AWRA at a national meeting. AWRA is an organization that is very well respected on the state and national levels," said Freihoefer.

The AWRA National Conference is a culmination of water resource information from the academic, government and private sectors. The national meeting is designed to highlight water issues of the host city or area as well as pro

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Photo by Stephen Kaiser
Rep. Dave Obey addresses his constituents last Wednesday.

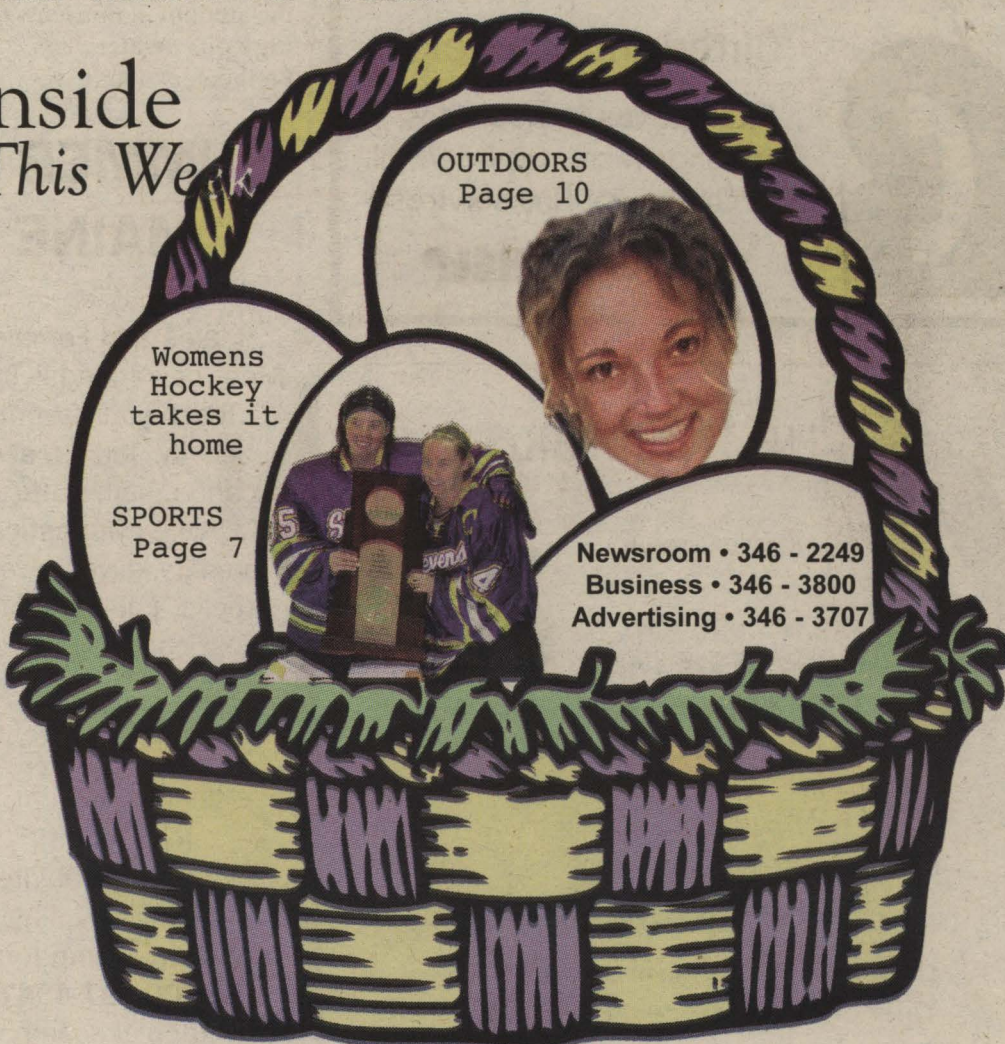
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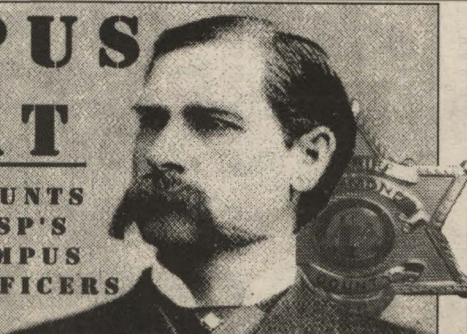
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CAMPUS BEAT

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



Due to a particularly well-behaved student body, there is no Campus Beat this week. Look for more shananigans in next week's Pointer!

from Fantasy pg. 1

corner, someone is going to mug you."

The foreign rights for the book have already been sold in seven countries, and a potential movie deal is in the works. There's also a website, nameofthewind.com, with more information on the book and a blog where Rothfuss can talk to his fans. It's more than the usual treatment, particularly for a first-time novelist.

"At a certain point it [the story] gets good enough where it's like as soon as you leave the movie theater or finish the book, you want to go tell someone about it. And I think I've been fortunate enough that a lot of people's reactions have been high enough up where they like it enough that they felt like they want to tell someone about it. And that's how we've gotten a lot of these author quotes

and a lot of these reviews is from people really loving it," Rothfuss said.

With all the praise, Rothfuss will likely be around the fantasy scene for a long time. He has plans for an urban fairy tale; a what-if-fairies-existed story set in Madison and told from a similar satirical point of view as "The College Survival Guide." It's the perfect location for the premise, Rothfuss said, a highly populated city surrounded by Wisconsin forest.

He also plans on exploring the world he spent the last fourteen years creating.

"All these characters have more things to do after this first trilogy is done," Rothfuss said. "I'll definitely be coming back to this world."

As for that first novel with the elves and the cat-man samurai written in high school: "That's locked in a box somewhere. No one will ever see that."

from Obey pg. 1

spending bill, claiming that "the security of our troops should come before the security of our peanut crop."

O b e y directly responded to the president's critique at a public forum at the University of Wisconsin-Marshfield.

"The President is crying crocodile tears about the fact that Congress has not passed his take-it-or-leave-it spending request for the Iraq war," Obey said.

Obey further questioned the character and the war policy of Bush on Wednesday.

"He was elected to be president, not king."

"He can't sit there like an emperor and veto everything we send to him," Obey said. "He was elected to be president, not king."

The actions of the new Congress, which Obey referred to as "cleaning up last year's leftovers," are under heavy scrutiny from Bush, who wants fast action on his supplemental request.

"Let me remind the president that last year, his Republican party in Congress left Washington for the year without finishing their work on the entire \$463.5 billion domestic budget," Obey said.

from AWRA pg. 1

vide information to those in attendance about local water management techniques.

Freihoefer explained that, "the challenge of the national conference presentation is to take technical issues and explain them in a concise way that a broader audience can still understand."

Freihoefer's research focused on how land management can influence the movement of nutrients into lakes and streams. According to Freihoefer, excessive nutrient movement from land to water can lead to increased algae and an overall reduced water quality.

"My research looks into how computer models can be used to locate sources of nutrient use. The model is then able to test the impacts of conservation practices to decrease the amount of nutrients reaching our waterways," said Freihoefer about his work.

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"Farmers have begun using a simple computer program to estimate the nutrient loss from the farm fields, and the key is maintaining the farming communities' economic viability while conserving the environment."

Freihoefer credits a lot of his success to UW-SP's class work, internships and senior projects. While UW-SP may be a smaller school, their recognition seems to have spread nationwide.

"You would be surprised how many people recognize UW-SP and the [College of Natural Resources (CNR)]. The CNR has developed the reputation as being one of the best undergraduate natural resource programs in the nation," Freihoefer said about his college.

One of the biggest challenges that Freihoefer sees is the ability to inform those that are not familiar with current water challenges such as frequent droughts, increasing annual flood damage and the loss of wetlands.

"The real issue is taking the technical science and being able to reach people who are unaware of what is happening. Many people are not aware of the negative impacts we can create with the manipulation of our landscape," said Freihoefer.

Freihoefer is currently working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and several lake groups who have seen their water quality impacted by nutrient contamination. He also hopes to continue speaking to audiences on a national level about depleting water resources in the United States.

Freihoefer's Baltimore trip would not have been possible without the AWRA student chapter at UW-SP.

The other student winner was Eden Feirstein of the University of Arizona, who was awarded best poster presentation.

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ASSOCIATED
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Pointlife

UW-SP students rally around upcoming Relay for Life

Overnight walk for great cause targets students to help lead the charge

Katie Leb
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In just under one month, students and community members of Stevens Point and the surrounding areas will join together to commemorate those touched by cancer. The student-based University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point American Cancer Society Relay for Life committee is organizing the event, held Apr. 27-28 at Stevens Point Area Senior High (SPASH), beginning with the opening ceremony at 7 p.m. The event will conclude the next morning at 10 a.m.

Relay for Life is one of the most recognizable fundraisers sponsored by the American Cancer Society, with more than 3.5 million people taking part in the event across the United States. The event raises money for cancer research, information services, community programs and services, as well as advocacy and public policy. Participants of the team-based event camp out for the 15 hour event, taking turns walking around a track in honor of those who have won the battle against cancer, and to remember those lost to the disease. All of the events share the basic concept, but each event has something unique.

"Our relay is somewhat unique because it is part of ACS's Colleges Against Cancer, which means that the vast majority of the planning and participation is done by college students," said Luminarias Committee Chair Kim Beckman.

"This is a great way for clubs, organizations, residence halls and individuals to give back to the community while interacting with the student body at the same time."

The committee has already planned many events and activities to be held throughout the night to keep walkers active for its entirety.

"There are tons of activi-

ties, raffles, games and music happening during the entire relay," said Survivor Committee Chair Kirstin Kuplic.

But for many of the attendees and committee members,

who would like to be involved in the survivor lap is encouraged to contact Kirstin Kuplic at kkupl093@uwsp.edu.

At 10 p.m., the Luminarias Ceremony will take place.

For five dollars, a white bag can be purchased and decorated "In memory of" or "In honor of" someone who has had cancer. All of the bags will be placed around the track with lights inside of them. When the ceremony begins, the lights will be dropped and all the luminarias will be illuminated.

"The names of the persons being honored or memorialized by the luminarias are then read aloud

as team members continue to relay around the track," said Beckman.

In past years, this ceremony has been one of the most touching parts of the evening. Seeing all of the luminarias lit, with participants continuing to walk around the track, draws a lot of emotion from

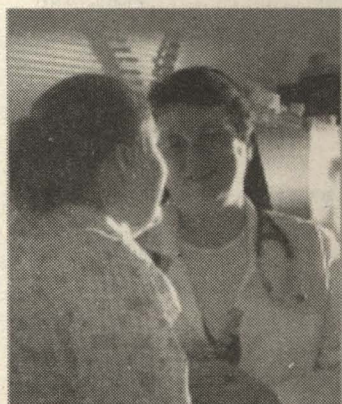
everyone present. Anyone interested in purchasing a luminarias should contact Beckman at kbeck271@uwsp.edu.

In order to complete everything that needs to be done, the committee is working very closely with Community Relations Director Jen Erickson of the American Cancer Society. She is looking forward to continuing and improving UW-SP's involvement with the American Cancer Society.

"We had some changes," said Erickson. "Next year we can be a lot more active. We are in a really good place to bring awareness to cancer prevention and cancer awareness and do two to three other events throughout the year."

Everyone involved with Relay for Life is looking forward to this year's walk, hoping to raise a lot of money and honor those who have been touched with cancer. Most people can name a half dozen people who have been affected by cancer. This walk is just one step closer to lowering that number.

Anyone with questions contact Committee Chair Tim Loef at tloef117@uwsp.edu.



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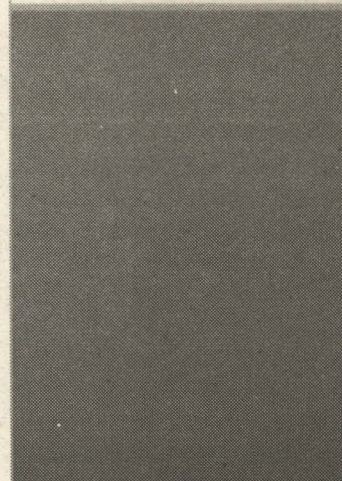
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STUDENT ORGANIZATION

OF THE WEEK: Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)

**Brittany Rossman and
Chelsey Ross**
POINTLIFE REPORTERS

The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) has a two-fold mission. PRSSA serves its members by enhancing their knowledge of public relations and providing access to professional development opportunities. It also serves the public relations profession by helping to develop highly qualified, well-prepared professionals.

As a nationwide organization, PRSSA has over 8,500 members in 270 chapters on college campuses across the country. At the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, our PRSSA chapter is currently the largest chapter in the state of Wisconsin with 65 paid national members. Membership is open to any student with any major or any interest. PRSSA gives its members several opportunities to network with professionals, work on campaigns, apply for scholarships and internships, and attend field trips, among many others. On our campus, PRSSA meets every Wednesday at 5 p.m. in room 300 of the Communication Arts Center.

During the 2006-07 school year, PRSSA teamed up with Chancellor Linda Bunnell to implement a campus clean up campaign. In an effort to

encourage the UW-SP community to keep the campus litter free and beautiful, PRSSA developed the slogan "Don't be a dirty dawg! Keep your campus clean!"

The organization has been actively promoting the campaign by passing out magnets and buttons to students at the DeBot Center, in classes and, most recently, at a men's basketball game. The campaign has also been visible with stickers on garbage cans around campus and a banner that hangs near DeBot. The campaign will culminate with a campus-wide event during Earth Week in April.

PRSSA members also have opportunities to attend field trips and conferences. On Nov. 10-14, 2006, seven UW-SP PRSSA members (the most representatives from any college in the state of Wisconsin) had the pleasure to attend the PRSSA National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Participants attended leadership sessions, networked with PR professionals and met PRSSA members from around the nation.

In December, several members from our chapter also took a trip to Milwaukee to visit the Milwaukee Brewers, Cramer-Krasselt (a large PR/marketing firm) and the Milwaukee Bucks. Some of the highlights of the trip included: having the chance to visit the Miller



Photo by Chelsey Ross

Members of PRSSA stay busy throughout the year working on various projects.

Park press room and locker room, networking with other PRSSA chapters from around the state at the Bucks game and touring a PR agency.

PRSSA is busy throughout the year, with several events planned for the spring semester, including attending a Regional Conference at the University of Northern Iowa, taking field trips to AIG Travelguard, Kinziegreen Media Group, WAOW-TV and Noah's Ark, running a brat fry fundraiser at Wal-Mart and working on planning and promoting an Arbor Day campaign, the Campus Clean Up campaign and the Division of Communication Awards

Banquet held in April.

If you have any questions or would like more information about PRSSA, contact the

chapter president, Chelsey Ross at cross029@uwsp.edu.

UW-SP student research to be displayed at Capitol Rotunda

Press Release
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND
COMMUNICATIONS

The fourth annual "Posters in the Rotunda: A Celebration of Undergraduate Research" will take place on Wednesday, April 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Capitol Rotunda in Madison. Students and faculty from 15 University of Wisconsin System campuses will share their research projects with state elected officials, regents, government representatives and the public.

Catherine Stevens (Stevens Point), Rhea Owens (Racine), Natasha Denk (Brookfield) and Chasidy Bol (Spring Valley) will present research on outcomes for college students choosing team-testing, when team-testing increases learning and improves examination scores.

Kelly Mumm (Lake Mills)

will present research on an aquatic management plan she has composed for Springville Pond in Plover. The plan helps local officials and landowners to optimize wildlife, fisheries, recreation and plant ecosystems through short and long-term options.

Christine Janssen (Sun Prairie) has two research projects, the first a design for the 20th Century Art Museum in Chicago. The theme is a mix of contemporary modern and organic. Her second design is for the Native American Cultural Heritage Center.

Justin Barrick (Hatley) will share his research on the spatial extent and density of bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*) along Clark Lake in Door County. His methodology was established in September 2006 to collect baseline data for use in evaluating long-term changes in bulrush beds.

Cara Riederer (Fond du Lac) designed a Cultural Heritage Center for the Hmong culture. She interviewed area Hmong while also doing research prior to designing the center.

Chelsea Driessen (Kimberly) and Dean Pawlisch (Brodhead) are presenting a poster on their physics project. Their research focuses on the electrical conductivity of a family of compounds that are known to possess high electrical conductivity.

Kristina Larsen (Schofield) and Ryan Frasch (Rosholt) researched parental involvement in college academics. They found that conflict with mothers was often linked to lower grade point averages.

More details are available at www.wisconsin.edu/posters-30-tm/vc/posters at Rotunda 07.

Easter traditions vary at UW-SP

Anna VanHandel
POINTLIFE REPORTER

Easter is the most important Christian Day of the liturgical year. This year Easter falls on April 8.

Many students might ask: what is Easter? If one is not a Christian, this might be difficult to answer. For many, it may be the day you get to eat a lot of candy shaped like an egg and find Easter baskets. For others, there is much more to Easter.

Christians believe Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus' actual resurrection has nothing to do with Easter eggs. Eggs were forbidden to Catholics during the fasting of Lent, which was the reason for the abundance of eggs at Easter time and the origin of the Easter eggs.

Some people mix the two traditions, celebrating both religiously and in other ways.

"I go to church and then go to my grandma's for lunch and put on an easter egg hunt for my little cousins," said graduate student Brooke Hermus.

Easter eggs have been viewed as symbols of new life and fertility. The color of Easter eggs hold their own significance. Red symbolizes the blood of Jesus Christ, green represents holiness, white signifies purity and

grace, pink indicates freshness and new beginnings, yellow brings joy and happiness, and orange represents the dawn of a new day.

"My family always celebrates Easter with an Easter egg hunt. We run around our house looking for plastic eggs filled with various amounts of money," sophomore Kasey Coatta said.

There are many legends associated with the history of the Easter Bunny. However the idea of an egg-laying bunny didn't come to the United States until the 18th century. Since then the American tradition of the Easter Bunny has grown greatly.

Some traditions that Americans all around the United States still practice today are the hiding of Easter baskets full of treats for good children to find on Easter morning, Easter egg hunts and the dying of Easter eggs.

"Easter Sunday is spent with family enjoying the traditional ham and green beans for dinner. We also still receive candy-filled Easter baskets," sophomore Breigh Anne Bonifas said.

Whatever your celebration holds, have a Happy Easter!

Science, Health & Tech.

New HPV vaccine can end cervical cancer

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There is no cure for cancer yet, but there is a new vaccine that has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which could potentially make cervical cancer a thing of the past. A vaccine called Gardasil which was developed by Merck & Co. targets the sexually transmitted infection (STI) Human Papillomavirus (HPV) which is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women.

According to the American Social Health Association, cervical cancer is currently the third leading cause of death in women world wide (behind breast and lung cancer). There are 5.5 million cases of HPV diagnosed per year which accounts for one third of all new sexually transmitted infections. And at any given moment, 20 million men and women have an active case of HPV. In 2005, an estimated 10,370 new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed with 3,710 of them resulting in death in the United States alone.

There are approximately 100 strains of HPV, 30 of them being sexually transmitted.

Gardasil targets strains 16 and 18 which together account for about 70 percent of all cer-

vical cancer cases, according to "Medical News Today." In phase three clinical trials of Gardasil, the last phase before application for FDA approval, Gardasil was 100 percent effective against the two cancer causing strains of HPV, according to Janet Skidmore, Merck & Co. spokeswoman.

Sandra Ruston, certified nurse practitioner at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student Health Services said, "HPV is so invisible...generally women find out they are exposed through their annual Pap smear."

For the most part the infection is completely undetectable. In some cases genital warts may appear, but those are usually caused by strains of the infection which are not cancerous.

Dr. Meg Autry, professor of OB/GYN at the University of California-San Francisco explains some of the problems with the vaccine.

"One, it needs to be administered to girls before they are sexually active," said Autry. Doing this on a large scale will be very expensive and the government just doesn't have the budget to do this now. "Two, women in the US are not dying of cervical cancer [on a large scale]," says Dr. Autry. It is in developing countries that women are not getting

annual Pap smears that could save their lives. "It takes up to 10 years for cervical cancer to develop from the HPV virus," said Autry.

So there is plenty of warning in most cases before it gets serious assuming that an annual Pap is done. The third and most alarming negative is possibly creating a strain of HPV that is resistant to the vaccine similar to what is happening with antibiotics.

"The vaccine targets strains 16 and 18, but by vaccinating for one thing we could be creating a monster," said Autry.

That's not to say that it's not a good idea. According to Autry, "This vaccine would be huge as far as international health is concerned. World wide right now cervical cancer is the number one killer of reproductive aged women."

If we could somehow vaccinate those young girls in developing countries it would save literally hundreds of thousands of lives. But again the problem is funding.

But at this point even a Pap smear is sometimes not enough. Pap smears have been shown to give false negatives results.

"Screening for cervical cancer or HPV is in a transition phase at this time," said Ruston.

There is now a test which

looks specifically for HPV cells. This test has been proven much more effective in detecting the infection, however only 21 percent of labs across the nation are using this method according to CLP Disease Management.

The good news about most strains of HPV is that as many as 70 to 90 percent of HPV cases (even the high risk strains) will clear themselves within a year assuming they do not become cancerous before that happens.

How does this information apply to students at UW-SP? According to Ruston, "HPV is probably the most common STI on campus, followed by Chlamydia," so this new vaccine should be of great interest to most students on campus. The best way to prevent HPV is of course to abstain from sexual contact. The second would be to use a barrier method such as a condom, however even this method is not 100 percent. "HPV is spread through skin to skin contact ... transmission of the virus does not require fluid exchange," says Ruston.

If Gardasil is approved the goal will be to have it distributed on a large scale targeting preteen girls in schools. If this is done, "it may prevent 70 percent of cervical cancer deaths worldwide," said University of Washington Professor Laura Koutsky. "Widespread vaccinations can create protection for

an entire population, not only the people who are injected, but also those they have sexual contact with."

But like any new drug controversy surrounds it. Some social conservative groups think that this drug is a bad idea.

"Giving the HPV vaccine to young women could be potentially harmful," Bridget Maher of the Family Research Council told the British magazine New Scientist, "because they may see it as a license to engage in premarital sex." But according to Autry, "this is their argument for everything. They use this argument as a reason to not give college students condoms, but it is never supported ... it doesn't make them more promiscuous."

Regardless of personal beliefs, it is important to understand the limitations of the vaccine. It is not a barrier method, and it is not birth control. It will not protect from other STI's, including HIV, but it does offer some peace of mind for men and women who are sexually active or will some day become sexually active.

Students who wish to be screened for HPV or any other STI's can do so at Student Health Services by calling 346-4646 and making an appointment.

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Weightlifting is fun again

Sara Suchy
THE POINTER
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I hate weightlifting. When I am working out, I will go out of my way to make sure I don't have time to lift because I hate it so much. The idea of sitting at a machine and repeatedly pulling or pushing against it in order to achieve "bikini-ready" arms is just not something I find fun.

I can almost guarantee you, that if you open up this weeks issue of some fitness magazine, there will be some article about how beneficial lifting is or that it helps boost metabolism or that it prevents every kind of cancer known to man. I don't care. I still hate it.

However, the Cardio Center on campus is currently phasing out the old lifting machines I have come to loathe to make room for a new kind of machine that may be more effective.

Eric Christianson, a certified personal trainer at the Cardio Center, uses a new kind of weight training equipment called Freemotion with his clients. Freemotion is different from other weight lift-

ing machines because the lifts are unsupported or manipulated by the structure of the machine. Rather than lifting up a bar attached to a weight, the weight is attached to a cable.

"The Freemotion machines recruit several muscles to do the lift rather than just one," said Christensen, "On a regular shoulder press the only shoulder muscles are involved. The Freemotion machine forces other muscles to become involved."

Christensen also explained that the Freemotion machines allow him to help his clients train the specific muscles they use every day using motions they use every day, rather than larger groups of muscles using motions they may not ever use in daily life.

"I have elderly clients that need to train the muscles involved in picking a can off the shelves in the grocery store. The Freemotion lets them do that exact movement," said Christensen.

Despite the benefits of Freemotion, Christensen said that many of his clients and regular members of the Cardio Center are reluctant to try the Freemotion machines.

"Without guidance, they can be pretty intimidating," said Christensen.

And intimidating they are. There are so many options on each machine, it's hard to know what to do and how. It's tempting to throw up your hands and go back to the same old leg press we're all used to.

Christensen explained that there's no need to be scared of them.

"It just takes some getting used to," said Christensen. "I always get my clients to try the Freemotion equipment and they almost always end up preferring it to the old machines."

The personal trainers at the Cardio Center offer free orientation to the Freemotion machines as well as a circuit training class called "X-FIT" which employs the use of the Freemotion equipment.

Christensen uses the Freemotion equipment himself in his workout routine.

"My personal favorite is the cable cross. I can work just about every muscle with one machine," said Christensen.

TECH TIDBIT

Sara Suchy
THE POINTER
SSUCH489@UWSP.EDU

A satirical Pointless article about the legalization of marijuana may be funny and perhaps wishful thinking for some students, but the fine state of New Mexico actually legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes recently.

Governor Bill Richardson signed into a law a bill that would allow the use of medical marijuana for patients with severe illnesses cope with side affects such as nausea and sever pain.

"This law will provide much-needed relief for New Mexicans suffering from debilitating diseases," said Richardson, a Democratic candidate for U.S. president in 2008. "It is the right thing to do."

The law applies to patients who have debilitating medical problems such

as glaucoma, cancer, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy. The patients must also be under a doctor's care and supervision to use marijuana.

New Mexico is not the first state to allow the use of marijuana, but states that have backed its use sometimes face conflict with the 1970 federal Controlled Substance Act which bans the use of marijuana. In most cases the federal law overrules the state law.

The state of New Mexico has allowed limited use of the active ingredient THC in marijuana in some medical cases starting in 1978 to help control nausea. It was only allowed if all other options were exhausted.

So while it is not yet legal to light up before a really stressful exam, maybe doctors prescribing marijuana for stressed out college students isn't all that far off. Until then, we always have beer.

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

Want to get fit but keep it fun? Then come to the Allen Center to check out Holistic Health programs' Spring 2007 series of fitness classes. From now until May 10, Holistic Health is offering classes in Nia, Pilates, yoga and dance.

With eight classes to choose from, you're bound to find something you'll enjoy. If you're a morning person, then sign up for Morning Yoga with Maureen Houlihan, a certified yoga instructor. Class begins with gentle stretches to wake up your body and moves on to postures that will bring strength, flexibility and balance throughout the day.

For those who love intense workouts sign up for Pilates with Patrick. This class will focus on strengthening and supporting the muscles of the core of the body as a power center. Each exercise focuses on a specific group of muscles and conditions the body in a safe, controlled way.

For a complete schedule of Holistic

Health's Spring 2007 Series II programs, please visit www.go2allen.com or the front desk of the Cardio Center. All classes can be bought per session or per class at reduced rates for students with a UW-SP student ID. All classes are taught by trained professionals within the field that they teach.

And just for a heads-up ... the week of April 9-13 is sexual assault education and awareness week which will be sponsored by Student Health Promotion Office. So watch for posters in residence halls and on bulletin boards across campus for more information on what next week has in store. It's important for students to be aware of Sexual Assault and Educated on how to prevent it, so help the SHPO and the Allen Center "Break the Silence and Stop the Violence."

For information on any Allen Center program, visit our website at go2allen.com.

Enjoy spring at Schmeeckle Reserve

From analyzing amphibians to exploring the cycle of migration, a variety of programs will be held this spring at Schmeeckle Reserve at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Open to the public free of charge, the workshops are led by UWSP students and are held at the Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center, located on North Point Drive near the Michigan Avenue intersection. For more information or to register, call the Schmeeckle Reserve Office at (715) 346-4992.

"Awesome Amphibians" will be held on Thursday, April 5, from 6-7 p.m. Discover the fascinating survival skills of amphibians during frigid Wisconsin winters.

Explore the history of Native American's use of fire for survival at "Surviving With Fire" on Tuesday, April 17, from 7-8 p.m. Discover and practice the primitive skills that could be lifesaving.

Ponder the cycle of bird migration at "Beautiful Journey" on Sunday, April 29, from 2-3 p.m. Many questions will be answered about the often overlooked process of a successful migration.

Schmeeckle Reserve is a 265-acre nature preserve on the UWSP campus. Its Visitors Center Browse Shop has gifts for all ages, including a wide variety of nature books and field guides. It is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. More information is on the Web at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/schmeeckle.

Write
for the
Pointer

Contact
the
Editor

Sports

A slow start in Florida for Pointers baseball

Baseball

Nick Gerritsen
THE POINTER
NGERR519@UWSP.EDU

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point baseball team finished its spring Florida trip with a 4-6 record after dropping the final four games in Port Charlotte. After dropping their first two games, the Pointers bounced back to win four straight, before running out of gas in the final games.

Despite the losing road trip, the Pointers still played well. They dropped a tough 8-7 decision in 11 innings to top ranked Wooster (Ohio) before rebounding with four straight wins. They outscored their opponents by a combined 19 runs in their four wins, while being outscored by a combined 14 runs in their six losses. The competition they faced in Florida featured some of the premiere teams in Division III and provided the Pointers with experience that will come in

handy come playoff time.

"We knew we'd get everybody's best when we went down there," head coach Pat Bloom said. "We need to play these types of teams in order to be battle tested for the postseason."

While the trip provided needed experience against top teams, the demand of playing ten games in seven days eventually took its toll. Nagging injuries forced some less experienced players into the lineup while the pitching became fatigued.

"Early in the week our pitching staff performed well," Bloom said. "But by the end of the week our pitchers were going out on short rest and it affected us in the last few games."

Freshman Brad Archambeau got a chance to DH in Florida and ended up being named WIAC Position Player of the Week for his performance. In six games in Florida, Archambeau, a Watertown native, went 12-27 (.444 avg.) with three doubles, a home run, eight runs scored and eight runs batted in. He

also had multiple hit games in five of his six starts, including two three-hit games.

"Arch got a chance to DH and really took advantage and solidified himself as a valuable part of this team," Bloom said. "He really played well."

Despite losing six of ten games, the Pointer offense kept them in games. In ten games in Florida, the offense averaged nearly eight runs a game.

"Our lineup has balance from the top to the bottom," Bloom said. "No one guy really stands out. Everyone contributes to put together runs."

On Monday the Pointers faced UW-Platteville for a triple-header, a result of their scheduled back-to-back double-headers against the Pioneers being cancelled over the weekend. With the pitching staff rested for over a week, it was their time to shine.

The Pointers swept all three games from Platteville, outscoring the Pioneers 13-3. Brandon

Hemstead, Mike Thrun and Garrett Nix all turned in dominating performances, led by Nix's one-hit shutout in the finale. Hemstead also turned in a complete game in a 5-2 opening game win while Thrun went six strong innings in a 3-1 win.

The Platteville sweep now puts the Pointers at 9-6 overall and 3-0 in WIAC play. They are currently ranked 18th nationally as they prepare for a pair of double-headers at home this Thursday and Friday against UW-Whitewater, weather permitting.

Senior on the Spot

Adam Evanoff
Baseball - First Base

Major - General Studies, Economics minor.

Hometown - Plover.

Do you have any nicknames? - Hawk.

What are your plans after graduation?
- Find a job somewhere in the Midwest.

What has helped you become such an accomplished athlete? - Never being satisfied, always knowing that you can do better.

What is your favorite Pointer sports memory? - Going to the World Series last year.

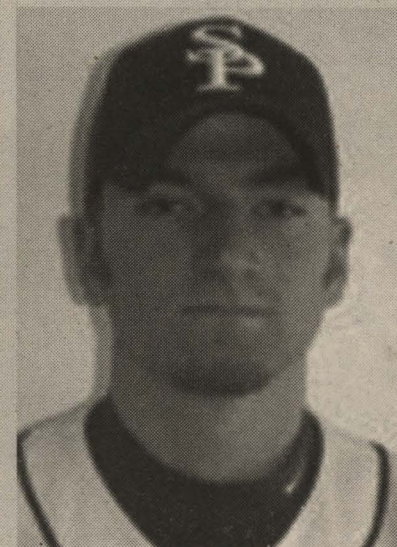
What's your most embarrassing moment? - Actually it happened Monday against Platteville. I dropped a routine fly ball at third base that should have ended the game. We still won, but it was still flat-out embarrassing considering I had lots of relatives at the game.

What CD is in your stereo right now? - George Strait 50 Number Ones.

What DVD is currently in your DVD player?
- Entourage Season 3.

What will you remember most about UW-SP?
- "The Unit" - great times had by all.

What are the three biggest influences in your life?
- Dad, Mom and my girlfriend Lindsay.



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Pointers finish strong at Frozen Four

Women's Hockey

Julianne LaClair
SPORTS REPORTER

For the second year in a row, the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point women's hockey team finished their season on a winning note with a third place finish at the Frozen Four in Plattsburgh, NY. The Pointers defeated Amherst College 4-3 in overtime on Saturday, March 17, after falling 5-1 to



The women celebrate after a crucial goal against Amherst college.

Middlebury College in the semi-finals a day before.

The Pointer's lone goal in Friday's semifinal came from assistant captain Katy Lankey as she shelved her own rebound about halfway through the third period. The Panthers scored five goals, including an empty-netter, on 30 shots in the game. The Pointers fired 27 shots on goal.

The Pointers came out in Saturday's third-place game on fire, scoring two goals in the first four minutes of the game. Rachael Graves got the Pointers started firing a shot from the blueline on the power play. Just ten seconds later, Michelle Sosnowski tallied another finding the back of the net off a rebound in front. The game was a hard fought battle, and Madison Darud added the third goal in the second period sliding one underneath the Amherst goaltender.

The Pointers



Photo by Jim Lewandowski

The Pointers came out with a third place finish in the Frozen Four.

found themselves in familiar territory as the game went into a five minute sudden-death overtime. After the Pointers were penalized twice, Chris Hanson raced out of the box and into the corner, keeping it in the Amherst end. Nicole Grossmann notched the game winner with 1:09 left to play in the extra frame as she poked the puck from the Amherst defender in front of the net and beat the goaltender with a nifty move.

"To finish in third place out in Plattsburgh, NY, was a great way to end our season," head coach Ann

Ninnemann said. "Yet it was a little shy of our ultimate goal of finishing as National Champions."

The Pointers finished the season with a 20-7-2 record overall.

"I thought we had a great season this year, managing to work hard and come out in the top of our conference tournament," Ninnemann said. "Not to mention beating the second-ranked team in the nation to advance to the Frozen Four Tournament for the third time in the last four seasons. I am very proud of each and every one of our girls."

Congratulations Pointer women on a spectacular season!



Baumann wins twice at North Central

Track

Press Release
UW-SP ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Adam Baumann won both hurdles events to lead nine event champions for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's track and

field team at Saturday's North Central Invite in Naperville, Ill.

Baumann captured the 110-meter hurdles in 15.48 seconds and won the 400-meter event in 54.98 seconds as the Pointers totaled 174 points to finish third in the five-team meet. North Central won the meet with 205 points. The UW-SP women's team placed fifth with 70 points as UW-La Crosse took the team title with 215 points.

The Pointer men's and women's teams swept the relay titles with the men taking the 400-meter relay in an NCAA provisional time of 42.00 seconds. The Pointers also claimed the 1600-

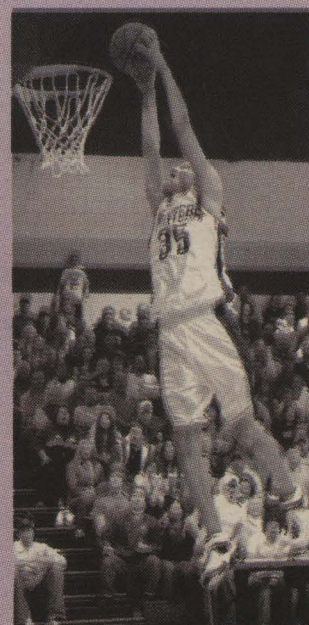
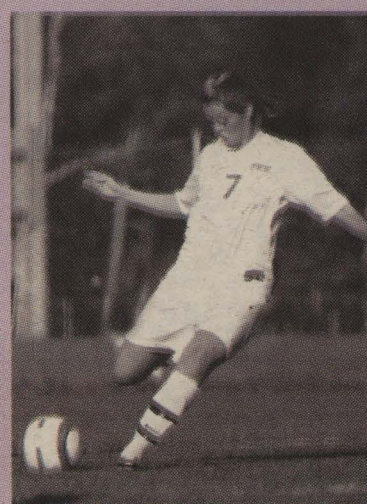
meter relay in 3:21.63. The UW-SP women's team won the 400-meter relay in 49.23 seconds and the 1600-meter relay in 4:04.10.

Peter Prusinski won the men's discus at 144 feet, 10 inches and was second in the shot put at 49 feet, nine inches. Mitch Ellis took the high jump title at six feet, 6.25 inches and Noah Utecht won the javelin at 166 feet, two inches. Nick VerDuin was victorious in the 200-meter dash in 22.19 seconds and Phil Richtert ran to a 5000-meter title in 15:19.97.

Beth Richter had the top individual performance for the women with a second place finish in the javelin at 110 feet, five inches. She was also fourth in both the long jump and triple jump.

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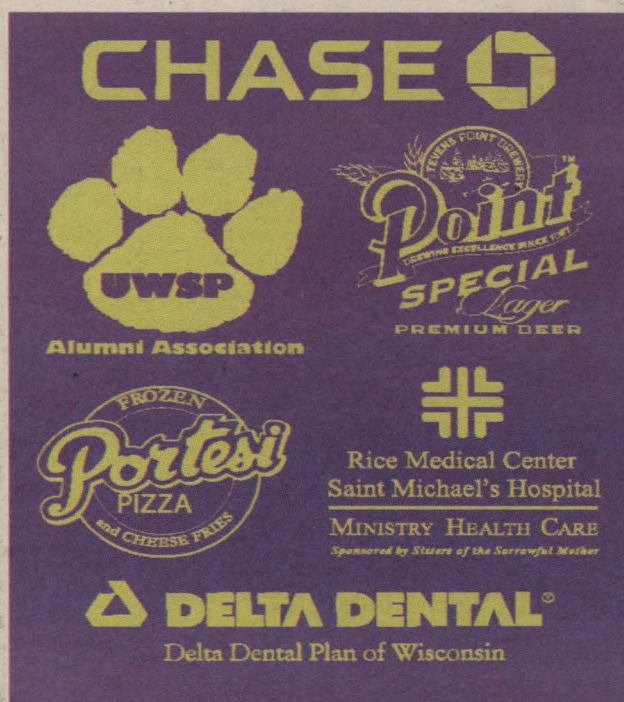
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Outdoors

Sounds of success: trumpeter swan population continues to increase in Wisconsin

Press Release

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Cooperative efforts to restore trumpeter swans in Wisconsin and in the upper Midwest have been so successful that Wisconsin wildlife officials hope they will be able to remove the species from the state endangered species list within the next few years.

Successful efforts over the last 20 years have resulted in a population estimated at more than 500 swans now living in Wisconsin, with 98 pairs nesting in the state last year. Biologists will be conducting nesting surveys in May and June and expect the number to continue to increase.

"The trumpeter swan reintroduction program could never have been this successful without the dedicated effort of the large number of organizations and individuals who were committed to seeing this majestic bird restored as part of Wisconsin's natural heritage," said Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary Scott Hassett.

Hassett spoke in front of a group of swan supporters on Saturday, March 31, at the Milwaukee Public Zoo at a celebration of the reintroduction pro-

gram.

More than 50 different organizations and individuals were recognized at the event for their efforts and support.

Trumpeter swans, named for their trumpet-like call, are the largest waterfowl species in North America. They called Wisconsin their home until the 1880s when market hunting and feather collecting killed off most of the population.

In 1987, Wisconsin dedicated itself to bringing the trumpeters back when the state started a trumpeter swan recovery program.

Beginning in 1989, Wisconsin biologists flew to Alaska over nine years collecting surplus trumpeter swan eggs, which were then hatched in incubators at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

After the eggs hatched, the young swans were either placed in a captive-rearing program or decoy-rearing program until they were released to the wild.

The Wisconsin Trumpeter Swan Recovery Plan, developed in 1986, set a preliminary recovery goal of 20 pairs, according to Sumner Matteson, an avian ecologist with the DNR

Bureau of Endangered Resources.

That goal was reached in 1999, but Matteson says it was established when biologists had much less information about re-establishing the species.

Biologists have recently completed a new population model that indicates that the current population is large enough to sustain itself in Wisconsin.

Based on this information, state officials plan to begin the lengthy process of having the species removed from the state endangered resources list.

If removed, trumpeter swans would continue to be protected as a migratory bird. State officials plan to continue monitoring the population for at least the next five years, an effort the Natural Resources Foundation, a pri-



Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

More than 500 trumpeter swans live in Wisconsin, with 98 pairs nesting in the state last year.

Do you fear getting lost in the woods? Compass and map course can help

Press Release

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

People interested in being able to find their way back home while they're walking in the woods can sign up for "Fun with Compass and Map," an orienteering workshop being offered at the Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center the weekend of May 5.

Participants will learn how

to navigate outdoors using orienteering compasses and reading topographic maps.

The Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center is located 20 miles west of Wisconsin Rapids on County Highway X, one mile north of Highway 80 near Babcock, Wis.

Registration is limited to 20 people on a first-come, first-served basis. Register by mailing in a registration fee of \$25 per person by April 25.

Participants may stay overnight in the skills center dormitory either before, during or after the event for a donation of \$15 per person per night.

Orienteering compasses will be supplied. Participants will be responsible for arranging their own lodging and should bring their own lunches and refreshments.

For more information, call (715) 884-6333.



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Outdoor•Ed Ventures Tip of the Week



Cindy Kowalchuk
TRIP LEADER/RENTAL TECHNICIAN

To stay dry, bring two half-liter bottles, not just for drinking water, but for drying your socks at night. Narrow, Lexan-type Nalgene work best for this trick.

Fill the bottles with boiling water and roll your wrung-out socks over them. The odors unleashed might make a skunk gag, but by morning your socks will be dry.

You could also try stuffing your boots or socks with dry vegetation (old grass/

leaves). This will draw the moisture out of the material.

Also, before you leave for your trip, be sure to soak your matches in nail polish, as this will make them instantly water proof. Watch for cat-tails, birch bark, or cedar bark along the way - these are good fire starters even in moist conditions.

For more awesome tips on how to stay dry, visit Outdoor EdVentures, located in the lower level of the Allen Center.

Yellowstone grizzly bears soon to be off endangered list

Press Release
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

After nearly three decades of recovery efforts, grizzly bears are thriving in Yellowstone and no longer need the protection of the Endangered Species Act, Deputy Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett announced on March 22.

"The grizzly's remarkable comeback is the result of years of intensive cooperative recovery efforts between federal and state agencies, conservation groups, and individuals," Scarlett said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is removing the Yellowstone population of grizzly bears from its status as "threatened" on the U.S. list of threatened and endangered species. Four other grizzly populations in the lower 48 states have not yet recovered and will continue to be protected as threatened species

under the Act.

Grizzly numbers in the Yellowstone ecosystem have increased from an estimated population of about 200 when they were first listed as threatened in 1975, to more than 500 bears today.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear was listed as a threatened species because of loss of habitat and from conflicts with humans.

An interagency scientific study team was formed in 1973, and over the years the Yellowstone grizzlies have become the most intensely studied bear population in the world.

In the 1980s a multi-agency team called the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) was established to manage bear mortality and habitat, work to build public support and develop regulations for managing the bears.

The IGBC includes the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, state wildlife agencies of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Washington, and the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

There are approximately 1,100 to 1,200 grizzly bears in the lower 48 states, in five separate populations in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Washington.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to delist grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem in November 2005. The proposal was reviewed at four open houses and two public hearings. More than 193,500 public comments were received.

Yellowstone grizzlies will now be managed under a comprehensive conservation strategy developed by state and federal scientists and managers. The plan includes intensive monitoring of



Photo courtesy of Wyoming Fish and Game

Grizzly bears in Yellowstone no longer need the protection of the Endangered Species Act.

Yellowstone bears, their food and their habitat.

State and federal managers will continue to work cooperatively under this

framework to manage and maintain healthy grizzly bear populations throughout the greater Yellowstone area.

Wisconsin residents encouraged to comment on wildlife and fishing rules at hearings on April 16

Press Release
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Wisconsin residents have an opportunity to comment on proposed rules that regulate fishing, hunting, trapping and other outdoor recreation activities in Wisconsin at the 2007 Spring Wildlife and Fisheries Rules Hearings on Monday, April 16.

Results of the votes on proposed rule changes, along with written comments on proposed rules, are presented to the state Natural Resources Board.

Some of the proposed wildlife rule changes include reducing the number of wild turkey management zones, eliminating jackrabbit hunting and changes to waterfowl hunting areas on the Mississippi River.

Fisheries management questions include extending the musky fishing season to Dec. 31 in the southern zone (the waters south of Highway 10), and requiring a quick strike rig when fishing with large live bait to reduce the chance a fish dying after it has been caught.

The state Natural Resources Board is issuing two advisory questions on using non-toxic (non-lead) shot. One

asks if non-toxic shot should be required for dove hunting on DNR managed lands. The other asks if non-toxic shot should be required for hunting of all birds other than turkey on department managed lands.

A more complete article on the spring hearings and Conservation Congress meetings can be found in the Feb. 6, 2007 Wisconsin DNR News.

All hearings begin at 7

p.m. The Spring Rules Hearing agenda, questionnaire, meeting locations and more information can be found at the DNR website, <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/springhearings/>.

For more information contact Kurt Thiede, DNR Conservation Congress liaison, at (608) 266-0580.

Programs and Special Events

Thursday, April 5

Awesome Amphibians Program - 6 p.m. at the Schmeckle Reserve Visitors Center. Take a step away from your busy lives and discover how salamanders survived through the winter. Dress for the weather.

Saturday, April 14 - Sunday, April 15

Wilderness First Aid Course - Learn to deal with medical emergencies when 911 is not an option and help is miles away. Knowledgeable instructors from the Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities will prepare you for emergency situations that involve prolonged patient care in severe environments with improvised gear. Topics include patient assessment, body systems, equipment improvisation, trauma, environmental medicine and backcountry medicine. Cost is \$175 for students and \$185 for non-students. Stop by Outdoor EdVentures (located in the lower level of the Allen Center) to sign up.

Tuesday, April 17

Surviving with Fire Program - 7 p.m. at the Schmeckle Reserve Visitors Center. Travel back in history to explore how Native Americans made and used fire for survival. Discover and practice the skills of fire making that could save your life.

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Letters & Opinion

Your College Survival Guide

By Pat Rothfuss

WITH HELP FROM THE MISSION COFFEE BAR

Hey Pat,

I feel a little stupid writing in about this. I have a problem. Admittedly it's a stupid problem. But I was hoping you could help anyway.

I've been going out with the same girl for about two and a half years now. She's really great, everything a guy could ask for. She's pretty, smart, funny and fun. Honestly, it's the best relationship I've ever had. But recently I've been having a problem.

Here's the thing. My girlfriend recently decided she wanted to get a haircut. I begged her not to, she's got beautiful long brown hair that I really love. I mean, I actually got down on the floor and begged her not to cut it.

But she went out and did it anyway. I tried to tell myself that it's no big deal. But the fact remains that I'm really pissed off and disappointed. I guess I want to know if this makes me a jerk.

Mitchel Dexterson

Boy Mitch. Until about halfway through your letter, I thought I'd finally got a letter from someone who needed help with their erectile dysfunction.

Are you a jerk? Well, the answer to that is pretty easy: Yes. I don't even need to know about your problem to answer that one. You're a man, and knowing men as well as I do (not in that way), I can speak with some authority when I say that all men are generally pretty jerky. It's one of our defining characteristics.

I sense the real question you want to ask is, "Am I too much of a jerk?" or maybe even, "I know I'm being a jerk, but aren't I a little justified?"

The answer to the first question revolves solely around your reaction to her haircut. Did you yell? Throw things? Put Kool-aid in her aquarium? Unplug her refrigerator while she was gone for the weekend? Even something as simple as taking a shower with her sister or having sex with her cat can push you into the category of "too much jerk."

However, if you managed to choke down your bitter, seething rage like a good member of society, we can address the more important question. Are you justified in feeling the way that you feel?

My initial thought on the matter: Dude, it's a haircut. Get over it.

Thought 2: Looking back to your letter, I see the first thing you mention about your girlfriend is that she's pretty. I don't bring this up to be critical, but it does prove a point. We men are (for better or worse) usually attractiveness oriented. Biology has brewed us that way. Therefore, while it might not be nice, it's probably natural for you to get upset with anything that spikes the wheel of your girl's pretty.

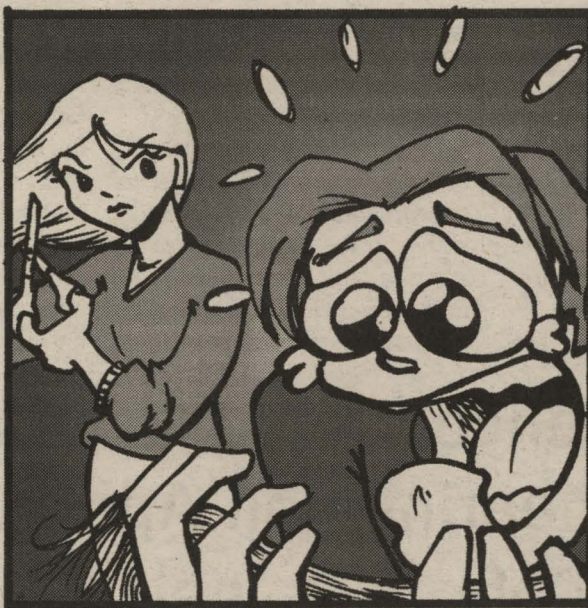
Even if it's the girl herself.

Thought 3: The haircut itself might be secondary. The real issue might be one of authority. She didn't do what you told her, and that's why you're pissed off. Jerk.

Thought 3 (b): On the other hand, it might not be authority at all. You're probably upset because she cut her hair without consideration for how it effected you. Normally I'd say this was your own damn problem. But if you really got down on the floor and begged her not to do it, I have to believe you made your feelings clear.

If she disregards your feelings, you're well within your rights to be hurt and angry.

Thought 3 (c): On the other, other hand, it is her hair, not yours.



Thought 4: If I had to choose between eating an orangutan, a dolphin, or a human being, I think I'd pick the human.

The orangutan is off the hook because it seems like they're really thinking about important things. Plus, I'm pretty sure an orangutan would fuck me up if I tried to eat him. Sure they kinda look like old hairy guys wearing a size fifteen skin, but they have long arms, and I seem to remember reading somewhere that most of them know Tai Chi.

I'd feel bad about eating a dolphin because it doesn't seem fair to kill something that can't fight back due to lack of thumbs. It's just not sporting. Plus, I think eating a dolphin would be like chewing on a piece of balloon rubber. Squeaky, but unappetizing.

But mostly I'd go for the human because I'm curious what we taste like. And I hate most humans. I think I'd like to eat a vegan, if I got to pick.

What were we talking about again? Oh yeah,

your impotent rage....

Here's a little story that might help us get away from the boy-girlness of the issue: Several years ago I had a big Walt Whitman of a beard. It was cool, but after a while I got tired of it and decided to shave it off. My girlfriend made a strenuous objection; she liked the beard. So what did I do? Duh. I left the beard the way she liked it. My relationship philosophy is always, "If it makes the other person happy, do it."

Now, one conclusion you might draw from this is that I cared more about my girlfriend's emotions than your girlfriend cares about yours. Too bad for you. Another conclusion might be that I don't care about my appearance as much as your girlfriend does. (which is, honestly, quite likely.)

So, are you justified in feeling the way you do? It doesn't matter in the least. Justification has nothing to do with it. Here's why.

Our emotions are never reasonable. Emotions, by their very nature, are trans-rational.

I'm willing to go out on a limb and say that your girlfriend has probably had a couple of these non-rational outbursts during your relationship. One of the things that makes relationships such an unspeakable pain in the ass is that tending to your partner's unreasonable needs is hard.

My advice is that you find some way of broaching the subject with your girlfriend. Chances are this whole deal isn't going to screw up "the best relationship" you've ever had, but if you're having a 3(b) thing going on, this might be symptomatic of a larger problem and you'll want to address it sooner rather than later.

If the situation spirals out of control, you could try to smooth things over by buying her a copy of the College Survival Guide book. The gift of laughter goes a long way to fix most relationship problems. Note: if she doesn't find the College Survival Guide funny, it indicates insurmountable character flaws. I suggest that you break up with her, then convince her to become a vegan....

Want someone to make light of your relationship trauma? E-mail Pat Rothfuss at proth@wsuunix.wsu.edu and he'll do his best to trivialize whatever painful event you're going through.

And remember folks, it's time to brush the dust off your thesaurus and send in your entry to the "Describe Pat Rothfuss" contest. Make sure to e-mail your drawings and descriptions of Pat soon, or you'll miss out on the chance to win free stuff from the College Survival Guide's new sponsor. Do it! Do it ten times!

Improved Web site, podcasting become part of The Pointer

The Pointer

POINTER@UWSP.EDU

Within the coming weeks, students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will have several new options concerning how they consume their campus news.

The Pointer, UW-SP's campus newspaper, is now available on the Internet. The site, <http://pointer.uwsp.edu>, features the same articles as the printed version of the newspaper, but stories will be available on the Web a bit sooner.

Stories included in each week's issue of The Pointer will hit the site every Wednesday night, giving readers of The Pointer's online version the ability to read the news before it is printed and distributed on Thursdays.

"I think this allows students to access the news that concerns them the most whenever they wish," said The Pointer's Editor in Chief

Steve Roeland. "We have not had an operational Web site for a long time. But having one now opens up opportunities for us in advertising, graphic design and the prospect of creating new jobs for students."

Along with the inclusion of a working Web site, The Pointer is venturing into another area of emerging technology: the podcast. Podcasts are digital media files that are distributed over the Internet for playback on portable media players and personal computers. With the popularity of MP3 players and iPods, podcasting has become a common method for tech-savvy individuals to get their news. Since many college students are at the front of the line when it comes to new technology, podcasting news stories is a logical decision for The Pointer.

"I don't go a day without seeing a student using an iPod or MP3 player," Roeland said. "When the idea for us to podcast was first introduced, that vision of students listening to their ear buds stuck in my head. We can reach so

many more people by developing podcasts."

Roeland pointed out that podcasting on the Web site has yet to be completed. However, the process is close to fruition.

"We have the link all ready to go," he said. "I am proud that we will be implementing this new feature."



For the latest in campus news, check out the new Web site of The Pointer, UW-SP's campus newspaper.

<http://pointer.uwsp.edu>

Arts & Review

Artistic collaborations bring "Danstage" to life

Jessica Spengler
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Although still a month away, the dancing machine that makes up the 2007 production of "Danstage" has been sweating up rehearsal studios for as long as three months already. It may be a long process, but those involved believe every moment is worth it.

"All of the time commitment necessary for rehearsals and trying to keep up with classes (can be difficult), but when you are doing something you are passionate about, in the end it doesn't really matter," said junior Anne Trebil.

"Danstage" is an annual performance put on by the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Dance Department. The show is choreographed by faculty and guests, as well as the starring students. It has been in

its present form for over 20 years and prior to that was known as "Dance Theater." This year's "Danstage" is comprised of seven different works. Each has its own message or theme designed to show off the talents of the students involved, on stage and off.

Preparation for "Danstage" begins at the end of the fall semester, when students go through an official audition for a role in at least one of the pieces. Dancers are expected to treat this as a "real world" audition by wearing appropriate attire and signing in at a registration table, after which they receive a number that they will have throughout the audition process.

Dancers are taught combination routines that fit the style of each choreographer's piece. After performing each combination in groups of four or five, the dancers wait for choreographers to develop a callback list for the next

night, according to Trebil. This is an opportunity for the choreographers to observe specific dancers more closely and teach them more material. Following the callbacks, the choreographers decide who will be cast. Dancers are allowed to perform in up to three pieces, but everyone who choreographers feel are ready will be in at least one piece, said choreographer Joan Karlen.

With the exception of one of the works, rehearsals for "Danstage" began in late January/early February. This way the choreographers had plenty of time to refine and develop each piece. Ideas are not sacred, however. Each choreographer welcomes feedback from the performers in hopes of making the piece fit the group performing it. This collaboration makes the piece more personal and fulfilling for all involved.

Guest choreographer Pamela Luedtke enjoys the

collaborative part of the process.

"This is a collaborative effort completely," Luedtke says. "In developing the movement, I will record the improvisation and review the movement that the dancers develop within their improvisation. We then bring in elements that have a 'yes' effect. I enjoy when a cast member says with excitement, 'I have an idea!'"

Karlen also believes that students should become co-authors in the process, and in her ballet piece, "Watching Your Beat," the part of each dancer is inspired by their own beat of life as discovered during the rehearsal process. "Watching Your Beat" is a work that takes the makeup of life, DNA, and develops it into images and movements.

"Danstage" also draws students from other departments into the show. Students in the costume department design costumes for the show. Light

and sound design majors and minors bring the show's technical elements to life. These contributions come together to achieve one of the main goals of "Danstage" - to give students involved every opportunity to use their talents. Students get the experience necessary for the real world while working simultaneously to complete one goal - a fun and successful performance.

"That all students are involved in this is an extraordinary experience for all. It is good that each of them can see the contribution others bring as well as how different performances and works are done. There is a huge amount of crossover for what people do and get exposed to," said Theatre and Dance Chair Gary Olsen.

Performances for "Danstage" run from Friday, May 4 through May 6, and continue May 10 through 12.

Arcade Fire's "Neon Bible" channels Springsteen

Zachary Krogman
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Arcade Fire caught lightning in a bottle with their 2004 release, "Funeral." In order to continue the streak of critical success, they needed to release a follow up. "Neon Bible," the band's sophomore effort, faces plenty of high expectations.

So how does it answer the high expectations? Apparently, the band added Bruce Springsteen. While there is no evidence in the liner notes that the band collaborated with Springsteen, there's plenty of musical evidence his style was on the band's mind.

"Neon Bible" reaches for the heavens in almost every way, and manages to go over the top. While "Funeral" was subtle, that subtlety is missing in "Neon Bible." The one exception is the sublime title track. The sound is epic, and there isn't a much better model for epic sonic sensibilities than Springsteen. "(Antichrist Television Blues)" sounds like a lost track from "Devils & Dust," while "Keep the Car Running" does its best "Born to Run" impression. In fact, the whole thing seems to settle the question of what a hi-fi "Nebraska" would sound like.

However, "Neon Bible" doesn't sound like it's stolen from Springsteen. Rather,

the album is imbued with Springsteen's spirit and is much stronger due to the influence. Arcade Fire has always gone for an epic sound. It's goosebump music, and the bigger sound suits this intention well. "Intervention," starts with a pipe organ, which marches forward and grows braver by the verse. By the end, the band has added so many complex elements that the song shouts from the mountaintops.

The message it's shouting is a pained one. But while "Funeral" was focused on personal pain, "Neon Bible" cries out about societal ills. This is why the spirit of Springsteen fits so naturally with the album. The title track is a lament for lives defined by the glow of a computer screen, boxed in by neon signs. Societal traps abound in singer Win Butler's world. He targets religion on "Intervention," describing "working for the church while my family dies."

Sometimes this gets a little uncomfortable, and Butler's lyrics border on the inane. For example, in "Black Mirror" he says, "Mirror Mirror on the wall / tell me where the bombs will fall." But just when the lyrics seem juvenile, the music saves the day.

The strongest track on the album is, "No Cars Go." The song is defined by a sense of escape. The lyrics claim to know a place where no

cars go. It would be a good way to end the record. But like Springsteen's "Born to Run," "Funeral" is too jaded to be a song of escape. "Neon Bible" instead ends with the claustrophobic "My Body is a Cage." While Arcade Fire takes the old thought that

it's better to escape and burn away rather than sit and rot, their song seems resigned to the latter.

In the end, "Neon Bible" doesn't achieve masterpiece status like its predecessor, but it makes a noble effort. Following a masterpiece with

a near masterpiece is impressive enough in itself. "Neon Bible" is an amazing work that cements Arcade Fire's place as one of the best bands performing today. Few others can dance so effectively with Springsteen's spirit.

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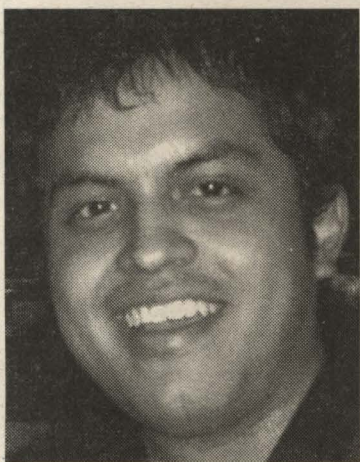
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CINEMA CRITIQUE CORNER WITH NELSON CARVAJAL: DOUBLE FEATURE

300



Nelson Carvajal
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Hollywood has always had a soft spot for sword-and-sandals epics. Just look at 2000's murky and much overrated "Gladiator," which was more of a campy film in the spirit of a Michael Bay flick (though it somehow won the Best Picture Oscar). Then there's the Stanley Kubrick 1960 classic "Spartacus," with

Kirk Douglas, whose battle images remain iconic to this day. Now, director Zack Snyder has stupendously managed to merge the visual effects wizardry of Bay with the sweeping vistas of Kubrick into a chaotic bloodbath called "300." Snyder first impressed audiences with his remake of "Dawn of the Dead" a few years back. This success gave Snyder access to all the fancy toys Hollywood money has to offer with a theatrical adaptation of the Frank Miller and Lynn Varley graphic novel.

The film tells the story of the battle between the Persian army of King Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro) and the Greek army of Spartan King Leonidas (Gerard Butler) at Thermopylae in the year 480 B.C. As history shows, the Spartans were greatly outnumbered (170,000 to 300; thus the film's title) and although the outcome of who will win is easy to predict, the movie's real motive is to show how those heroic few Spartans stood their ground

for love of their country. That, and how many methods one can use to decapitate a man.

The narrator of the film boasts that the only men able to live in Sparta were the greatest soldiers on Earth. Infants who were born deformed or deemed sickly were thrown off of a cliff, where their bones made a creepy infant graveyard. For the lucky who stay alive, life is a bold quest to show off your still-sexy wife, flaunt your ridiculously buff body and serve your country with your life.

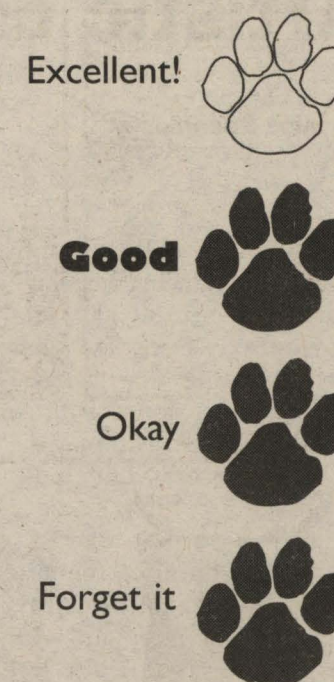
When news of the approaching massive Persian army reaches, King Leonidas recruits his 300 best soldiers and, against the advice of the oracles, heads to the battleground to confront the Persians. This is an old-fashioned story of the good guys versus the bad guys. The Persians are the bad guys since they are given less screen time. Some viewers may feel a bit frustrated early in the film as there is one "Braveheart"-like speech after another, though

once the fighting does commence, the real fun starts.

That is essentially the appeal of the film. Fans who know Frank Miller's other work, like the "Sin City" graphic novels and the resulting much-superior film, will be prepared for "300's" stylized and heightened violence; though I could have done with about seven less slow motion shots. Still, the film works; it cheerfully achieves its goals of making some breathtaking eye candy.

Two sequences in particular stand out. The first is the initial clashing of the Persians and the shields of the huddled Spartans. This is executed aesthetically by intense close-up shots. The next is the first confrontation between the Persian battalion known as the Immortals and the remaining Spartans. One gigantic Immortal (Robert Maillet) is chained up for most of the battle. Once he is let loose, the film's most authentic excitement emerges.

The acting is typical two-



dimensional line reading but really, no one is going to see this movie for the acting. The one character that is thoughtfully developed and builds up the most pathos from the audience is Ephialtes (Andrew Tiernan), a physically deformed local shepherd who genuinely wants to serve his country in the name of heroic duty. His character arc is perhaps the most tragic event in the film. All in all, I give this film three paws.

BLADES OF GLORY

Craig T. Nelson, as "Blades of Glory's" figure-skating coach, asks Chazz Michael Michaels (the always hilarious Will Ferrell), "What's the one thing that you guys have that no other skating pair has to their advantage?" Chazz looks up with his beady eyes and horse-shampooed hair and says, "Twin dong's."

In a sense, that exchange sums up Ferrell's latest romp. The film, produced by Ben Stiller, pairs Ferrell with "Napoleon Dynamite's" Jon Heder (who plays Jimmy McElroy) as history's first male-male pair of Olympic figure skaters. McElroy is a blonde, soft-spoken orphan skating prodigy who rose to Olympic level. Michaels grew up in the Detroit underground competitive figure skating scene. If you aren't chuckling by now, then you are obviously new to Will Ferrell's sense of comedy.

There is nothing life-changing here. What you see is what you get, and that is absolutely fine. Diehard Ferrell fans will find much to sink their teeth into here: Ferrell goes without shirt (once again revealing his out-of-shape upper body), a Frat Pack member makes an unexpected cameo and Aerosmith's "I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing" finally finds

the film it was destined to be played in.

The screenplay, penned by a number of individuals, is pretty formulaic. Even so, the film has a sort of sweet-hearted tone. As fruity as Heder's McElroy gets (Heder has to consider an acting career that rests upon how ridiculous his hair can look) or as macho as Ferrell's Michaels tries to be, we ultimately like these guys. This is the funniest coupling on screen for a long time, at least since the shake and bake combo from "Talladega Nights."

The skate training and male bonding takes up most of the film's 93 minute run, but once the duo steps on the ice, the belly laughs come busting out. This is destined to be a Ferrell comedy DVD classic with all its memorable one-liners. One of the best comes in the first act, where Ferrell uses the word "official" in such a way that it literally makes Nancy Kerrigan blush. There are comic artifacts everywhere too, most memorably a hair brush from Italy made out of "illegal whale bone."

At the screening, few people didn't laugh at the pair's antics. Most of them were middle-aged men. Perhaps the idea of two grown men in spandex, skating as a pair, fright-

ened them with some homoerotic vibes. The point of this film isn't about sexual preference, however. It invites the audience to embrace the

very comic lunacy the film is illustrating: men who prove their manhood by competing in figure skating. That's the punch line. The sheer

absurdity of the plot, combined with Ferrell's wit under Stiller's direction, takes "manliness" to a whole new arena for a good laugh.

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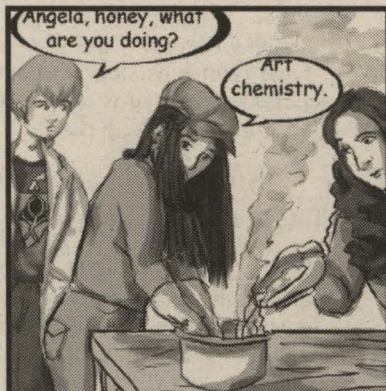
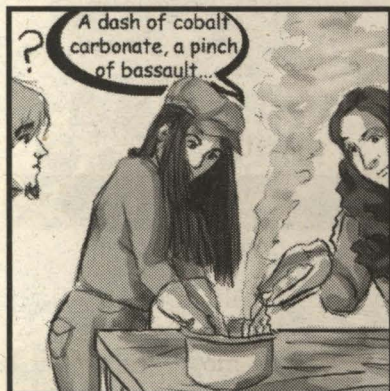
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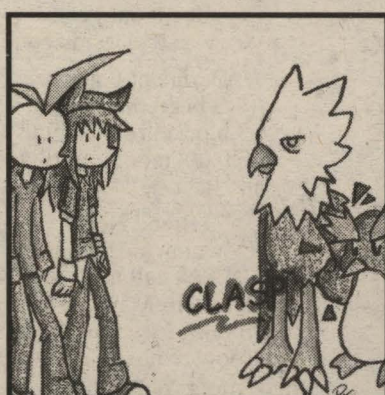
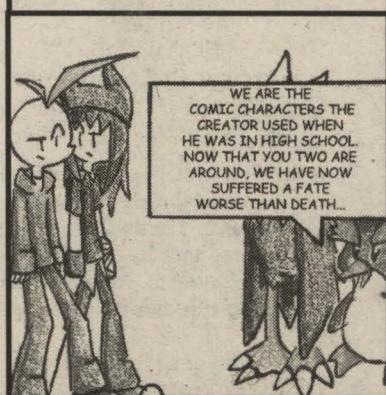
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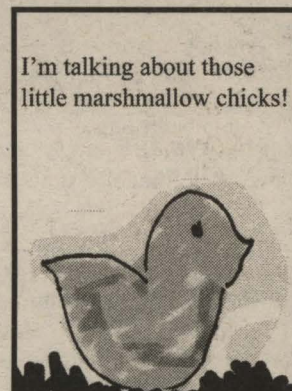


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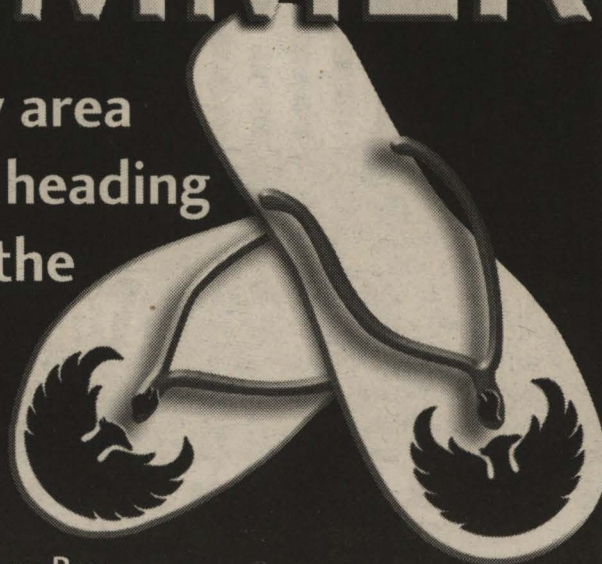
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