Beginning Monday Nov. 26, hundreds of moving boxes were filled with office supplies and merchandise branded with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point logo. This week and the following box, many belonging to student organizations and university services, will be taken to a new home. With the completion of the Dreyfus University Center (DUC) quickly approaching, it is time for everyone who has been displaced for the past 18 months to pack up their things and prepare to move back in.

The move has not been a small task, claims Assistant Budget Director for the Student Government Association (SGA) Rachel Von Holdt. "The move is a little chaotic and hectic right now, especially because we have so much stuff that we need in a physical location. But I know it will be nice in the new DUC," said Von Holdt.

Although all of the student organizations need to pack up their own offices, they will not be physically moving their things to the university center. The Grabel Movers company, hired by the university will be responsible for taking all boxes to the DUC.

Laura Ketchum-Ciftci, the director of the University Centers said, "We have some staff that are on both ends of the move; one that stands there and directs Grabel as they pick stuff up and load it, and people on the other end who actually distribute where the stuff needs to go."

As for Ketchum-Ciftci, she has been working on communicating how and when people are moving and getting the word out that offices are changing buildings, when they are closed and when they will re-opening.

Most people are excited to be back in the university center, though there are some that have reservations about the timing of things. Holly McKee-Clark, the outreach coordinator for the Women's Resource Center said, "I don't understand why we're moving so early... we're getting kicked out two weeks early!"

Even though she may not agree with the timeline of the move, she is excited because they are getting more space.

One other concern is that even though the SGA office will be closed, student organization's annual budgets are still due by Dec. 21. Von Holdt said, "[The Budget Office] will still be here in Nelson Hall until the semester ends."

Those student organizations submitting a budget need not worry. The move time may be a bit confusing and frustrating at times, but all parties involved are taking it one box at a time. The DUC will be 100 percent operational Jan. 22, 2008.

With the end of the fall semester nearing completion, it is easy for students to become a little frazzled. For students in the Division of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, this semester may not be so bad. Lambda Pi Eta (LPH), the division's honor society, is planning a dodgeball tournament for Saturday Dec. 8, 2007 at 2 p.m. in the Multi-Activity Center (MAC). The honor society is allowing students to take out some pre-finals aggression, while creating some pride in the major.

"Too many people see our major as 'easy,'" said LPH Vice President Lauren T. Kiel. "I've heard things like we're the left over majors and that all we do is give speeches."

In fact, students must complete pre-major requirements before being admitted, to assure the student is prepared.

"Its overall goal is to try to prevent students from progressing too far into major requirements when they statistically have no chance of graduating with a Comm. degree," said Associate Professor and Undergraduate Advising Coordinator Rhonda Sprague. "The pre-major offers students a chance to determine whether the Comm. major is a good fit for their interests."

LPH has requirements of its own for students to be eligible to its honor society, including maintaining a 3.25 grade point average (GPA) in communication courses, a 3.0 cumulative GPA and being a junior or first-senior with at least 12 completed communication credits.

Once inducted members are responsible for maintaining activism by attending meetings and helping organize group activities. LPH provides a yearly pre-major communication student scholarship, along with mentoring other communication majors and those students interested in communication as either a major or minor.

But, putting homework and studying away for an afternoon is okay by the honor society.

"It's time for us to get to know each other, have some fun and to earn some fun prizes in the process," said Kiel.

Crazy costumes, mascots and many prizes, among the hurling rubber balls anticipated at the event. Kiel admits the event is not typically expected to create unity within a major, but it cannot get any better than being encouraged to launch dodgeballs at fellow students.

"If you can dodge a wrench..."
Seven games were also reported stolen.

**May RQadiaatt**
University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
104 CAC Stevens Point, WI 54481

May Roach Hall
November 17, 2007 10:05 p.m.
Type: DRUG USE

A CA reported possible marijuana use. Officers issued citations for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

May Roach Hall
November 19, 2007 12:47 a.m.
Type: DRUG USE

A CA reported possible marijuana use. Officer issued one citation.

Watson Hall
November 20, 2007 3:36 p.m.
Type: THEFT

An individual reported theft of a PS3 and X-Box 360. Seven games were also reported stolen.

Pray-Sims Hall
November 25, 2007 9:16 p.m.
Type: DRUG USE

A CA reported smoking marijuana in an individual’s room.

Pray-Sims Hall
November 26, 2007 11:04 p.m.
Type: DRUG USE

A CA reported smoking marijuana in an individual’s room.

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**Student organization takes skills into the real world**

**Katie Leb**
The Pointer
KLEB524@uwsp.edu

With one week to go until Thanksgiving Break, many students on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus began to relax and kick back. But, for members of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), Thursday Nov. 15, was not a time to unwind.

Members of the organization were asked to help at an invite-only open house, sponsored by the new Ashley Furniture and Appliance store in PlaVER, Wis., next to Wal-Mart. Area political and business leaders, along with Ashley buyers were invited to the celebration of the store’s opening the next day. The store was supplied with caterers serving hors’doeuvres, a kid station of treats and drinks and an open bar.

However, the event lacked people to fill all positions. Shannon Semmerling, professional advisor for PRSSA and director of marketing and communications with Ashley, saw an opportunity for PRSSA to meet professionals and apply learned skills. Members were excited about the opportunity and willing to help in all areas.

"Shannon had us break up into groups [so] some were greeters at the doors, some were handing out champagne toasts when the guests arrived," said PRSSA President Meaghan Davis. "Others ran the coat check station [or] were runners on the floor, offering more drinks and food to the guests."

PRSSA members were impressed with the high quality of the store and the way the event was planned. The company’s owners were present, as well as staff, to mingle with the guests and give tours of the store.

The students were not the only ones impressed. Ashley staff and owners continuously thanked the students for their hard work and dedication.

Both guests and members of PRSSA benefited from the event. "The experience was a great opportunity for myself and the other members to use our PR skills by promoting Ashley while talking with the guests, helping out in an event planning setting, working quickly by getting thrown into jobs and going with it and it enhanced our communication and social skills," said Davis.

"There was a lot going on and they [members] like knowing that they were apart of it!"

The event appeared to be a success both for Ashley and PRSSA. Rod King, Web designer and social skills, said Davis. "It was a night of good food, networking and beautiful furniture."

For more information about PRSSA, contact Davis (mdavi572@uwsp.edu) or visit the Web site: www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/pressa.

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**THE POINTER**

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Rochelle Nechuta
\textsc{The Pointer}
\textsc{rochel142@uwsp.edu}

Three weeks ago I snipped the last silver thread of financial support offered by my parents. After fighting the fact that another bill would be obligatory when my mother threw me off her plan, I waited as long as possible.

"Yes Mom, I'll look into a new plan," was my answer to her furrowed eyebrows and hands-on hips stance. "I'll go pick up a new phone next week."

Weeks went by as I made new excuses to sail along as my ear was pierced. I walked the long walk from my parked car on Ellis Street to the deep pit underneath the Library Resource Center. After discussing service providers in the area with a few colleagues, I decided to take a chance with the Telephone Services office here at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and get an Alltel cellular account.

The basement of the LRC is eerie with its sterilized white walls and too-bright fluorescent lighting. There are signs sticking from the walls like broken tree branches, directing to miscellaneous offices that few UW-SP students are aware of.

There is a sign pointing to the Telephone Services office, so I take the turn and walk into a small call center where two university student workers sit motionless behind computers and switchboards. Two pairs of eyes fall upon me, and the brunette on the left with almost offensive cerulean CONTACTS adds, "How can I help you?"

Many thoughts cross through my mind. Do I really want to add another burden to the pile I carry on my back? Can't my parents just pay for the damn account!? Do I really need a phone? I mean, hermits can exist on their own.

"These are the plans," she says, laying a cheerful yellow folding brochure on the generic desktop. "These are the phones that we can order for you."

The service was quick, straightforward and, altogether, pretty painless. The girl rattled off information and explained all the specifics in terms that my technology-limited mind could comprehend. The apprehension that had created a little nest of knots in my stomach vanished, and I realized that I was more than capable of handling the process of getting a cool new phone. It only took one short stop. In the process of getting a cool new phone, I finally found complete financial independence from my parents. Not a whole lot makes you feel as accomplished as that.

\textbf{W\textit{omen's Resource Center}}

\textbf{hosts talents of LunaFest}

\textbf{Angela Frome}
\textsc{The Pointer}
\textsc{AFROM244@uwsp.edu}

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point organization Women's Resource Center hosted LunaFest Wednesday, Nov. 28 in the Noel Fine Arts Center.

LunaFest is a traveling film festival "for, by and about women," said Stacy Wright, social director of the Women's Resource Center. It features nine short films that celebrate the talents of the women who made them.

LunaFest was created in 2000. According to its Web site, lunafest.org, the makers of the Luna nutrition bar wanted to "promote women filmmakers, raise awareness for women's issues and support worthy women's nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada." Since its inception, LunaFest has grown from one annual event to more than 100 each year all over the country. The festival held here at UW-SP is in its third year, said Margaret Roche, the Women's Resource Center executive coordinator.

"We started showing LunaFest in Point because many times the media misrepresents women. LunaFest is a way to focus on the positive aspects of women in media," said Roche.

Films are chosen by the LunaFest board of advisors from over 500 submissions. "Each film is viewed and evaluated individually on its unique ability to capture the "by...for...about women" mission," according to the Web site. Some of the films this year include "My Other Mother," "Make a Wish" and "Breaking Boundaries."

The parent company of Luna Bars, Clif Bar Inc., "is a company that believes in making the world a better place," said Wright. Members of the Women's Resource Center passed out Luna Bars with the festival information attached as a way to get the word out to campus that the event was taking place.

Admission was $4 with a student ID and $6 without. All of the proceeds are donated to charity, including the Breast Cancer Fund.

"They have raised over $150,000 for the Breast Cancer Fund and over a quarter of a million dollars for local women's organizations," said Roche.

To find other presentations of LunaFest and for more information, visit lunafest.org.

\textbf{Used Book Sale}

\textbf{Saturday, Dec. 1}
\textbf{11:00-3:00 p.m.}
\textbf{CCC 303}

\textit{Sponsored by University Writers}

\textbf{All proceeds go towards this year's issue of Barney Street, the campus literary magazine.}

\textbf{Books:}
$0.50 soft cover
$1 hardcover

\textbf{Copies of last year's Barney Street will also be available.}
Science, Health & Tech.

Three simple steps to becoming a healthier you

Aimee Freston
THE POINTER
AIMEE251@UWSP.EDU

Getting plenty of sleep, staying active and maintain-
ing a nutritious diet are three things students can easily incorporate into their daily routine. The key to achieving a healthy life is remembering that little things count.

"The amount of time sleep-
ing is number one on my list," said Hoffmann. "Students should make sure they get seven to eight hours of sleep a night, and despite what the myth says, you can not catch up on the weekend." Studies have shown that sleep deprivation could lead to some serious health problems such as depression, chronic stress and being overweight, said Hoffmann.

The second thing students can do to remain healthy is participate in some form of exercise every day. According to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute Web site, it is important to get at least 30 minutes total a day in some form of moderate activity.

"Just do simple things—park your car in the farthest stall, take the stairs instead of the elevator, while watching TV do strength curls with cans of soup and do more walking. Walking is the greatest act that is underated," said Hoffmann.

UW-SP Health and Wellness Programs has designed several avenues to help students get active at little or no cost. One of the most flexible and convenient programs is group fitness. Group fitness offers a variety of free 45 to 60 minute work-
outs including step aerobics, spin and boxercise.

Group fitness was designed for the student's needs. "The schedule is set for the whole semester so pick something that fits in your schedule and go consistently," said Moris.

Another option for activity on campus is intramurals, which provide a way for a group of friends to play a sport that they enjoy.

"Any exercise that you can do with friends is excellent," said Moris. "You are more committed to the exercise because you do not want to let your friends down."

Finally, a nutritious diet is important and accessible for college students.

"The most important thing is not to starve," said Hoffmann. "Do not eat less; eat better."

Students should have something to eat every couple of hours, but make sure it is light and healthy. Peanut but-
ter sandwiches, granola bars, fruits and pretzels are healthy snacks that are also easy to carry while at school.

Eating healthy does not need to be expensive. Buy foods that you like, Hoffmann said. It gets expensive if you are throwing out vegetables because you do not like them. Also, flash-frozen vegetables are just as healthy as fresh vegetables and may be stored longer without going bad.

"I know students always complain that it is expensive to eat healthy, but I'm fasci-
nated by those same students who spend so much more on

snacks and fast food," said Hoffmann. "I think when students really sit down and add up how much they spend on junk food and pizza, they would be amazed at how much they are spending."

Alcohol is another item that students may be surprised to see how much they actually spend on it. "Seventy-five percent of UW-SP students drink, and I don't think they realize the amount of calories alcohol has and what they take in," said Hoffmann. "Those calories all turn to fat, and I'm not saying we have to be teetotalers, but just cut back."

By maintaining a healthy lifestyle, students may be surprised at how much better their lives are. "I think it is so important to stay healthy and active," said Johnson. "There are so many diseases that can be prevented with a healthy lifestyle. You feel better, you look better and you can stay more focused throughout the day."
Bowman against the battle-wounded beast

Ashley Schlosser
THE POINTER
AICH336@UWSP.EDU

The warrior beast was within 15 yards of the men when Bretl's friend accidentally moved a little bit, causing the buck to be alarmed. Luckily, the buck ignored the human noise and came closer to the moment of his death. Bretl drew his bow, locked onto the broadside of the buck and released the deadly arrow. He knew he had struck the deer, but it ran back over the ridge. The men tracked the blood trail over the ridge and heard the buck fall. The arrow had successfully pierced through the diaphragm and through one of the lungs. The buck had only run 40 yards before he suffocated and collapsed with a fast death.

This buck had obviously fought recently with another male, as one of its eyes was gouged out. The competitor had busted the left antler off and proceeded to attack this buck's weak side, resulting in the wounded eye.

Battered and brave, this buck provided a lot of meat and served as Bretl's first buck ever in his nine years of bow hunting. The nine-pointer had a 12- to 13-inch spread, which will be mounted on a plaque.

Hunting: Not just a fraternity anymore

By Heather Stetz
OUTDOORS REPORTER

Hunting has long been a traditional 'man's sport,' but in recent years, women hunters have made a big impact in Wisconsin. Just as women athletes have forged their own path to receive greater recognition and respect, female hunters are finding ways to shake off the stereotypes associated with hunting and are making a name for themselves in the field.

Two decades ago, women only composed about 6 percent of the total hunting population. Women who hunted faced challenges beyond having a successful hunt. They faced extreme prejudice, had a lack of respect and found it difficult to complete even the simplest tasks, such as finding a camouflage suit tailored to a woman's figure.

"When I first got involved with hunting, I couldn't find a camo suit that would fit me. The pants never fit me right, and the jackets were always so bulky. It was such a mess," said Diane Luetic, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and an avid outdoorswoman. "There was really nothing out there for [women]."

Today, the statistics are a little better. It is estimated that 10 percent of all hunting licenses sold in Wisconsin are issued to women. Though slight, this percentage has steadily increased since 1989. This increase can be associated with the outburst of women's outdoor groups, such as Becoming an Outdoors Woman, that teach women the skills and gives them the confidence to participate in a male-dominated sport.

Women have also made a significant impact on outdoor television shows. Television shows on the Outdoor Channel, such as Lee and Tiffany Lakosky's "Getting Close," feature women hunters who are confident and successful and are a source of inspiration for other female hunters.

Though women may get involved with hunting for a number of different reasons, most get involved because of a family history or tradition with the sport. Influences may come from people including their father, grandfather, brothers or significant other, which encouraged them and taught them how to develop their skills as a hunter.

Women usually hunt for the same reasons men generally do and derive the same or greater satisfaction from hunting. However, lack of positive role models, fear of looking foolish, lack of information, isolation as the only female and fear of guns are the main reasons that more women do not get initially involved with the sport.

Across the country, Wisconsin has shown to have one of the largest populations of women hunters and has been recognized as one of the premier deer hunting states in the nation. Women are making their way into the hunting scene just as they have worked their way into many other scenes throughout history.

Cold weather can be a drag for camping. You know what they say though: if life throws you lemons, just make lemonade! Well, if it is cold, or - even better - snowing, make ice cream! All you need is a Nalgene and a small zip lock bag and a few simple ingredients:

• Crushed ice (snow)
• ½ cup Kosher Salt
• 1 cup half and half or whipping cream
• 3 tablespoons sugar
• ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

Mix the vanilla, cream and sugar in the zip lock bag. It's not a bad idea to double bag it to prevent a possible mess. Seal and place the entire bag into your Nalgene. Add ice, a half cup of water and half of the salt to your Nalgene and shake constantly for around 15 minutes. Periodically check the liquid and mix it around the cream. Add more ice and salt if needed.

Enjoy some naturally cold ice cream!

Tip of the Week

Outdoor.Ed Ventures

November 29, 2007
I'll admit, as much as I miss disc golfing, it's just not as easy to convince yourself to go when it's blustery and there are sub-freezing temperatures. And beyond that, sometimes conditions are so extreme that discing is really only recommended for experts with nothing better to do with their time. It's no fun having the wind blow your disc 50 feet off course, straight into the ground or, even worse, backwards.

But there are many days of great discing ahead of us before the discs start plunking into a foot of snow - if you're brave enough to face the wind and declining temperatures. The first thing you can do is dress warmly and in layers. Gloves, warm socks (even multiple layers of socks) and a hat are all necessities to make it through 18 holes anytime after Thanksgiving. Wearing fleece pants under an outer pair of jeans is a great way to keep your lower body warm, and a healthy layer of a few shirts should be enough to keep your upper half warm.

Disc golfing is one sport that really allows you to dress warmly without greatly impeding the thrower's motion; it's best to take advantage! If done correctly, the only cold you should feel is on your fingers when you take your glove off to toss. Small hunter's heat packs in gloves and shoes are really helpful. Disc golfers will quickly realize that having a cold hand and eventually numb fingers makes it really difficult to throw a cold disc. If you can keep your hands and fingers warm, you'll be able to keep most of your accuracy barring major gusts of wind.

If conditions are wet and sloppy, don't forget to bring a towel. I have a friend who carries one in wet conditions and although the rest of our group always mocked him at first, we eventually realized that it was a valuable thing to have when your discs start plugging in puddles of mud. Likewise, if there is any snow or ice on the ground, it's nice to have something besides your clothes to wipe off your discs. Bring a towel; when conditions get tough, you just never know when you're gonna need a towel.

Footwear is also a huge factor in dominating your opponents in adverse weather. Not having to worry about your feet being cold and wet means you can worry about where to place your shots off the tee.

Many courses, unfortunately, pull their baskets for the winter months until spring rolls around. It's best to check up on courses before driving long distances to golf in the winter. Although Standing Rocks has officially pulled the chains for the winter, Yulga and Mead will remain open throughout the winter season.

Hey UWSP students: Let's see your blood and guts! Send pics of your deer to sseam113@uwsp.edu
Cross country takes sixth in NCAA Championships

The double-headed monster dominates the net

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's cross country team ended a successful year after taking sixth place out of 32 teams in the Northern Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Championships on Nov. 17. Women's cross country runner Hannah Dieringer also ran individually in the Championships, taking 70th with a time of 22:43. Dieringer was the eighth Wisconsin runner to make the All-American team as a result (the top 35 runners in the tournament get the honor).

"I felt very good about our performance as a team," Coach Witt told us going into the meet that if you go where you were ranked going into the meet then you had a good day. We were ranked sixth and got sixth," said Meyer. "I was happy (about the All-American award), my goal was to be an All-American, and I met that goal."

Junior Corey Towle came in second for the Pointers ending in 58th, and Phil Richert came in not far behind at 65th. Junior Travis Nechuta rounded out the team standings with a 26:05 time that landed him in 153rd.

"The most important part about competing against the best runners in Div. III is getting to stack yourself up against the best and seeing what your made of," said Towle. "It was also important to finally get there and prove to other people and to ourselves that we belong with the best in the country."

Meyer agreed that the challenge of the tournament was the most beneficial aspect to take away from the championships.

"When you are racing so many good people, you have to test yourself in so many ways. After you are done you can look back and say I gave it my all and now this is what I have to work on to be a better runner," he said.

The men's team took second of 35 teams in the NCAA Regionals Nov. 10 and was tied with UW-Platteville in the second spot in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships. During the regular season, the Pointers placed sixth in the NCAA Division III Championships Nov. 17.

The Pointers took the top spot. The women runners took sixth of 37 teams in the NCAA Regional Tournament, but missed the bid for the NCAA Championships.

In addition to the success of the Pointer men's team, United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association awarded Coach Rick Witt the Midwest Region Coach of the Year in his 30th year coaching UW-SP.

Both the goalies earned a shutout of their own. They credit the defense for making it easy for the goal-tenders to do their jobs.

Speer said the season is going so far but "it's a work in progress. There are higher ranking teams, so we are the underdogs. We're not expected to do much, but we're going to do damage. Expect many saves from the double-headed monster and the rest of the Pointer men's hockey team this season.

UW-SP plays at UW-Stout starting at 7:30 p.m. this Friday; On Saturday, the team travels to UW-River Falls, playing at 7:00 p.m.

The Pointers have an overall record of 5-2 so far. Paulson and Speer had incredible games this past weekend, with back-to-back shutouts in games against Lake Forest College and Concordia University. The accomplishment of two shutouts in a row hasn't been done by the Pointers since the 1997-1998 season.

The Pointers placed within the top 10 as a team in every invitational, including the Ripken Invitational where UW-SP took the top spot.

The five Pointers placed in the top 10 as a team in every invitational where UW-SP placed fifth in the NCAA Regionals Nov. 10 and was tied with UW-Platteville in the second spot in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships. During the regular season, the

CROSS COUNTRY

Rochelle Nechuta
THE POINTER
RENCH142@UWP.EDU

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NFL pick-off report: Week 13 in the world of football

Steve Aple
SPORTS REPORTER

Anyone miss me the past few weeks? I apologize. I was on the NFL Network, which means nobody could see me. But I now return to give you the Cadillac of NFL picks for all things Week 13. Let's get down to it.

Green Bay Packers vs. Dallas Cowboys
This is clearly the most hyped game of the week. Unfortunately, it bumped my spot on NFL Network, meaning that now nobody will see this game!

New York Jets vs. Miami Dolphins
This is truly a game for the ages. The Jets have two wins this season, but that upset of Pittsburgh in Week 11 wasn't feeling anyone; the Jets stink. They look downright competent compared to the Dolphins, who sit at a team record 0-11. The Jets are still playing like this season matters, while the Dolphins have wisely started building for next season. Picking this game is like having to choose between the clap or gonorrhea; either way, you're uncomfortable and have an unpleasant burning sensation. I'm taking the Jets for the sake of history. I want to see the first 0-16 season.

Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Indianapolis Colts
This game could very well decide the division for these two teams. The Colts haven't looked like the well-oiled machine we're used to in recent weeks. The Jags, on the other hand, have been pounding opponents like Aunt Sally at the Thanksgiving pie table. I just can't bring myself to bet against Indy while the games still matter. These two will see each other again in the playoffs.

In other action this week, pick Carolina, San Diego, Detroit, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Houston, Buffalo, Cleveland, Denver, Chicago, New Orleans, Pittsburgh and New England.

Yes, I said pick the Patriots. And enjoy the last days of the good life because, should New England make it to the big game in February, Satan will emerge from the 50-yard halftime and such will begin 1,000 years of darkness. Mark my words.

Pointer men riding high into conference showdown

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rick LaRoche
THE POINTER

The Pointers, the second ranked Division III men's basketball team, head to Whitewater this Saturday for a crucial conference match up with the 20th ranked Warhawks.

While the Pointers were picked as the favorite to bring home what would be their 25th Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship, the Warhawks were picked to finish right behind them.

Last season, the Pointers swept the Warhawks. Bryan Beamish hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to defeat UW-Whitewater in the first meeting. In the second meeting, Pete Rortvedt connected at the buzzer to defeat UW-Whitewater.

With their win over Northern Michigan, the Pointers have been poundng opp­onents since the 1996-97 season.

The Pointers feature a deep rotation that has four returning starters and has seen nine players receive significant minutes. With the rotation, the team has been able to keep their legs fresh and have pulled away in games from the free­throw line.

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God calls you.
We invite you.

FRANCISCAN SISTERS
of Christian Charity

Check out our Retreats for young Catholic women.
Katie's Curiosities: Thanksgiving at Grandma's, a drama in seven acts

Katie Adams
ARTS & REVIEW REPORTER

Considering that I am exhausted from a stressful “break,” I shall not regale you with tales of the glorious cultural events that I attended, such as the opening of “Beowulf” at the Madison Imax or the Christmas display at Greenfield Village. I will instead tell you of a cultural event that only a select few have ever had the opportunity to experience: Thanksgiving at my grandmother’s Detroit home.

Scene One: The day begins like any other day, around the breakfast table. Grandma, a 90-year-old Italian woman, begins by asking what she can get me as I butter a piece of toast. Some stewed apples, she suggests, or perhaps some honey ham? After I have assured her that I am going to enjoy this piece of toast and a banana, she spends another 15 minutes asking me what else I am going to eat.

Scene Two: Upon the completion of breakfast, an uncle enters the kitchen (which is no wider than normal household corridor) and issues a decree: he and I will prepare dinner for Thanksgiving, so Grandma must leave the kitchen and not come back. For good measure, he also throws in that she is too old to be driving, so she should give up her keys. Being told to give up the two things she loves most does not please Grandma, and so she and the son who preaches non-stop about being responsible end up in a verbal battle of wills. I remove myself from the scene, escaping to the bathroom to pound my head on the wall and call my mother in Milwaukee, cursing her for sending me to Detroit without any backup.

Scene Three: Her keys still firmly in her grasp, Grandma struts into the kitchen to tell me that she feels like going for a drive, and that she’ll be back in 20 minutes. Uncle and I are well on our way to producing an odd assortment of a Thanksgiving meal—cranberries, yams, squash, ham, rice and sweet and sour veggies are in the fridge, simply waiting to be heated. The sausage stuffing is mixed and ready to be cooked. The spinach pies are cooking. The turkey is on the table, awaiting its fate. I want to de-bone it before we cook for easier carving and cleaning; Uncle wants to leave the bones in so he can use them to make soup later. Uncle wins, on the condition that I refuse to carve or clean up after turkey consumption.

Scene Four: Grandma has returned to the house and is stirring the potato water, which is boiling on the stove. Uncle is upset because she is in the kitchen. Verbal roughhousing ensues. I remove myself from the scene and retreat to the bathroom, where I use my cell phone to call reinforcements.

Scene Five: The food is coming out of the oven as the reinforcements arrive in the form of Uncle Two, his Taiwanese secretary/secret girlfriend and her brother, Uncle Two pours us all wine and attends to Grandma. I mash the potatoes and start setting the food on the table as my uncle’s cousin, aged 55 or better, arrives. He comments on how the last time he saw me I was “just a little girl” and proceeds to spend the rest of the night Richmond on how I’ve become “domestic” and how I’d “better watch out or I’ll hook a man.” The last two guests, Grandma’s next door neighbor and her friend who “hasn’t got anyone else in the world,” arrive, and dinner begins.

Scene Six: For the most part, I am safe during dinner mostly due to the fact that Grandma was holding down the fort with her tales of a recent coloroscopy. That is, I’m safe until someone asks me what I’ve been up to lately. I keep the reply short and sweet, but Grandma chimes in and tells the complete, 20-minute version of how the night before, I’d stayed at a friend’s house and how he’s a gay boy I met in Japan and how she just doesn’t understand, “how you can be sure he’s gay and that there are no sexual overtones.” Grandma, thanks to Uncle Two’s constant attentions with the wine bottle, is drunk. She proceeds to ask how lesbians make love. I remove myself from the scene and escape to the kitchen, where I throw back a glass of wine myself.

Scene Seven: With dinner finished, we naturally seek out a deck of cards to begin several hours of penny poker. Grandma cheats, the Taiwanese have no idea what’s going on, and Uncle and I spend several hands debating whether a flush beats a straight before calling my sister in Milwaukee to have her check it on the Internet. Slowly, slowly, the guests stumble home or pass out around Grandma’s house. I’ve been kicked out of my bedroom to share sleeping quarters with the Taiwanese secretary/secret girlfriend. The attic room we are sleeping in is freezing, and all she has is a tank top, so I throw her an extra sweater, bury myself in my covers and thank heaven Thanksgiving comes just once a year.

90FM album of the week: “Polysics or Die!!!!: Vista”

Dan Neckar
ARTS & REVIEW REPORTER

If there’s one thing that Devo taught us in the 80s, it’s that synthesizers are cool. If there’s one thing that Polysics will teach you, it’s that synthesizers are really, really cool.

After countless releases around the world, the Japanese new wave outfit have finally put something together for U.S. audiences with “Polysics or Die!!!!: Vista” (yes, the title has an exclamation point). Everything about “Vista” is a compilation of the group’s greatest hits, along with new songs from their Japan-only releases. The album comes with an accompanying DVD featuring music videos and hyperactive live footage, which has been put together solely for American listeners.

The only word one could use to describe this album is “insanity.” From the opening blips and beeps of “Electric Surfin’ Go Go” to the incredibly fast-paced “Coelacanth Is Android,” Polysics deliver tunes that are perfect for dancing, running around the block or inducing catastrophic seizures.

While you may not fall in love with the album’s cartoon theme-song feel right away, the second or third listen will force you to dance, and subsequent listenings might just kill you, in a very fun, upbeat way. The frantic 80s new wave influence is incredibly prominent on this record, and the healthy portion of loud guitar and general mayhem provides a sound that can be best described as a digitized, Japanese version of the Ramones on methamphetamine. It’s truly fascinating.

Highlights of the album include the guitar-heavy “New Wave Jacket (reform),” with its robot vocals and pop-punk characteristics, and the incredibly sped-up cover of The Knack’s “My Sharona.” Sped-up is actually a good way to describe the tempo of most of the songs on this disc. Although it’s impossible to deny the fact that some of these songs sound like a game of Dance Dance Revolution, one can still appreciate the fact that the group has penned songs for television shows such as Cartoon Network’s “Teen Titans” and the incredibly long-titled “Super Robot Monkey Team Hyperforce Go!” The album begins the question, “What will Japan give us next?”

The vocal duties are shared by male guitarist Hiro and female keyboard commander Kayo, and come in a wide variety of languages, ranging from English to Japanese to good-old-fashioned gibberish, (the fourth track is titled “Kaja Kaja Goo”). The result is basically a giant concoction of bilingual madness, wrapped in a shiny coat of pop hooks.

Aside from the pogo stick rhythms and erratic synthesizers that the album is loaded with, one can find the best things about this U.S.-only collection is the bonus DVD, which contains music videos for “Electric Surfin’ Go Go” and “My Me Mine.” The live footage, taken from sold-out Japanese concerts, is incredible and is almost worth the price of the CD alone.

If you’d like something fun, something fast or a few attention-deficit friendly tracks to help you slip into that seizure you’ve always wanted, “Polysics or Die!!!!” is exactly what you’re looking for.
Stevens Point, WI 54481 USA

November 29, 2007

Letters & Opinion

Your College Survival Guide

Pat Rothfuss
With help from Galaxy Comics. Now with more "bleh."

So there’s an old joke that goes like this:

A man goes to the doctor. He says, “Doctor, I don’t
know what’s wrong with me. It seems like there’s nothing
in the world but cruelty and misery. I can hardly make
myself get out of bed in the morning. I cry at the drop of a
hat. Please, I need help.”

The doctor says, “I know just the thing. The great
drawn, Paglucci, is in town tonight. He’s a genius. You
ought to see him. He’ll cheer you right up.”

The man bursts into tears. “But doctor,” he says, “I
am Paglucci.”

It’s not much of a joke, but that’s kinda the point.
I’m not feeling funny this week. I just don’t
have it in me. It seems like every year or so I write
one depressing column. Fair warning: this is it. Get
out while you can.

Sometimes it seems like writing this column is the most profoundly pointless thing I’ve ever done. Especially this last year. I have been really busy, and the most profoundly pointless thing I’ve ever done.

And now? Well ... I don’t think I’ve mentioned it
here in the column, but earlier this year my mom
died. She was the best of us, and now she’s gone.

I lost touch with him after he retired, then a
couple months ago he got in contact because his
daughter-in-law had read my book and wanted to
get a copy of it signed. We got together for lunch and
chatted. He was the same: honest, funny, brutally
outspoken about the things that bothered him. My
kind of person. My favorite kind of person.

Sometimes it seems like writing this column is the most profoundly pointless thing I’ve ever done. Especially this last year. I have been really busy, and
the most profoundly pointless thing I’ve ever done.

But then, other times, I feel like this column is one of the few worthwhile things I do with my time.

Nothing puts your life in perspective like some truly
bad advice. Plus, people need to laugh. I could really
use a laugh right now, and I don’t know where to
get it.

“Jesus,” I can hear you think. “What the hell
touched in with Rothfuss into this mood?”

Your guess is as good as mine, but part of it is
the fact that one of my favorite professors died about
a week ago. His name was Tore Nevin, and he used to
teach in the theatre department here at UW-SP.

He was a cuss, and sarcastic, and funny. So funny. He
was an engaging teacher and loved what he did. I only took one class with him, but it really
opened my eyes. I realized that a person could be
funny, sarcastic, more than slightly crazy AND be a
good teacher at the same time.

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

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incredible study abroad opportunities:

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VIII. Intensive Spanish in Mexico

IX. Health Promotion & Wellness in Austria

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me, I don’t really think he got his money’s worth this
week. Though now that I’m thinking about it ... he’s open
until 7:00 p.m. That means I still have two hours to go
down there and get some comics. That actually sounds
like something worthwhile. I dimly remember fun.

Letters & Opinion

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Comics and maybe some curry chicken. And coffee. You
should probably read some comics too. Third moral: read comics.

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Comics and maybe some curry chicken. And coffee. You
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Third moral: read comics.
Resident's Evil

I've been offered a job teaching English!

Really?

That's Awesome, Kate! Where?

Um...

At one of the best high schools in Mexico...

Oh...

Joy Ratchman

Neverland

Lo Shim

KenAnime

Roger Vang

Funny When Drunk

Scott Allen

Little Cynics

Joy Ratchman

WORD SEARCH: ADJECTIVES

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esoteric

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tillious

ecclectic

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