We're #1: Wisconsin tops every drinking category

Rick LaRoche
NEWS REPORTER

In a recent study conducted at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Paul Moberg and his research team have found that Wisconsin has become the leading consumer of alcohol in the nation. Wisconsin now leads the nation in adult drinking, binge drinking, under-aged drinking and high school drinking.

Moberg's study found 49 percent of high school students drink and 39 percent of young adults, ages 12-20, drink. Accompanying the new comers is the adult drinking category in which Wisconsin has been ranked first the last seven years.

The research also showed that around 2,100 deaths are attributed to alcohol or drug related incidents annually in the state. Maybe even more surprising is that almost $190 million in public funds are spent on treatment for alcohol and drug related incidents.

On campus the number of drinking related crimes has been on the rise for three straight years. Alcohol violations were up from just 14 in 2004, to 77 last year according to Protective Services. Those include both under-age violations (56) and other violations (21).

Police Sgt. Paul Piotrowski said, "The most common violations we see are underage alcohol, open intoxicants, urinating in public, occupant permitting loud party, vandalism, disorderly conduct, false ID and obstructing an officer; usually regarding lying about name and age."

In the past few years, the department has instituted a downtown foot patrol and a periodic patrol of the off campus housing area on certain nights. In 2006, the department spent $38,600 on overtime for these two special patrols. Off campus patrols have been done in plain clothes in unmarked cars, on foot or on bike. The city has also started registering kegs and warning customers about serving to minors. Last week over 30 citations were given to a party on Main St.

"So far in 2007 we have already arrested 148 persons for OWI (operating while intoxicated) and written 255 underage drinking citations," Piotrowski said. First offense underage carries a penalty of $349 (Non-Tavern Related) and $438 if a tavern is involved.

A recent study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison determined that Wisconsin leads the nation in four drinking categories.

Carrying false or altered ID is $501, providing alcohol to underage person $375 and selling alcohol without a license is another $375. An OWI offense is $793.00 and on your record permanently.

Sara Suchy
THE POINTER

The 20th annual Festival of India will descend upon Stevens Point this weekend. The festival, which is being held at Stevens Point Area High School (SPASH), is organized by the South Asia Society and is meant to provide cultural enrichment for the people of Stevens Point as well as a whole lot of fun and food for the whole family.

The organizations behind the festival use the proceeds from the festival to provide extensive services to the poorer est of India. "We work extensively on social justice issues in India," said Jyoti Chandler, co-advisor for the South Asian Society.

The society has worked to teach the Indian people how to plant their own gardens to combat hunger. They have worked on providing toilets for tribal villages. They also promote HIV/AIDS education and treatment in the villages in the slums of India as well as a habitat for humanity type organization which helps provide brick for houses which would otherwise be made of mud.

But perhaps the project the SAS is most proud of is their scholarship program. "It's our oldest program," said Chandler. "For over 20 years we've provided scholarships for Indian students to get college degrees." All of these programs are what the Festival of India aims to support.

Inside This Week

The Festival will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6 at SPASH with workshops starting at 5 p.m., dinner from 5:30 p.m. and performances starting at 7 p.m. There will be workshops on belly dancing, yoga, Indian cooking and clothing and much more.

A traditional Indian dinner will be served from 5-7 p.m. Ticket prices are $13 for adults and $8 for children and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students.

"The UW-SP students started all of this, this event funds all of our work," said Chandler.

Children learn how to play an Indian version of chess at last year's Festival of India.
From Drinking pg. 1 and lies, I have written four or five citations totaling well in excess of a thousand dollars," Potowski said. Other main concerns of the police department have been people going out in groups and coming home as individuals. This has led to serious health problems and crime in the past. In the winter time, it can be especially dangerous. Last year one student was seriously frost bitten and another community member died after falling asleep outside after drinking.

Keeping the law away from student parties:
- Be considerate of your neighbors and keep noise at reasonable levels based on the day and time.
- Keep the size of your party under control. You are responsible for any damage or injury they cause.
- Always have the owner or renter of the property speak directly with the police if problems do arise.

Professor Whitehead has new directions for anthrologoy

Briana Soroko News Reporter

Neil Whitehead is not a traditional anthropologist. He is too stylish, with a black leather jacket and long hair pulled into a bun. Whitehead is also in a field that is known for permeating human beings from a holistic, unifying perspective, but he focuses on the conflict of our species. Strangest of all, however, is his bold declaration: "I don't believe in human nature."

On Oct. 2, Whitehead presented a lecture on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus entitling "Terror, Violence, and the Global Imaginart: New Directions in Anthropology," to an audience so full it had to move into another room. Violence has always played a key role in Whitehead's studies. A year before he became a professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Whitehead traveled to Guyana and studied the mysterious Karaimas, who are black magicians with a reputation for ritualistic torture and cannibalism. So terrible Whitehead himself believed it was exaggerated. He discovered firsthand, however, how very accurate the rumors were. While inspecting a cave with the Patamuna, Whitehead found a refuse of human remains. Despite the native people's protests, he took a photo, and even touched a bone: This outraged the Karaimas, who poisoned his food as a warning. Whitehead continued to study the Karaimas from a safer distance and published his ten years of research in Dark Shamans.

The emphasis on Tuesday's lecture was how violence and the imagination are integrat-ed. Abuse is not only a physical force, but also a symbol of a cultural, religious and self-confirmation. "Witnesses are not neutral," he said, half-jokingly implying that viewing his slide presentation of mangled, mutilated bodies was a form of violence.

Whitehead pressed his point further by telling the audience of Carver, a photographer who committed suicide weeks after winning the Pulitzer Prize. The image that earned Carver the award, a heart-breaking shot of a starving child being stalked by a vulture, drove him to madness from the guilt that he led the boy to lie helpless for 30 minutes in order to get the most captivating portrait.

Whitehead warns that violence impacts our society more than it ever has. In a world saturated with images of terror, we are governed by fear. The solution to combating this fear is not by "kicking hard," as he so aptly put it, but by recognizing the reasons behind the violence. Only then can we prevent future acts of terror, ending the clash of cultures.

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Pointlife

Belt's is closing...for the season

Kayla Schmidt
Pointlife Reporter

When it comes to ice cream, there is one place on the top of almost every University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students' mind. This place is Belt's Soft Serve, known to most people simply as Belt's.

The owner of Belt's, Dan Racine, has owned and operated the business for 17 years. Before he took over his parents owned it, and when he retires, his son will keep the family tradition alive by inheriting the business, truly making it a family business.

Belt's will be closing for the season on Oct. 7, and will reopen again in the spring, as they do every year. One burning question students may be wondering is what happens to all of the leftover ice cream?

Racine said, "We don't have a lot of leftover. I've been keeping track for 17 years. He knows about how much the stand will go through each year. The flavors that are left are eaten by Belt's employees. After closing, everyone spends about a week cleaning up and preparing everything to be shut down for the winter. They also have an end of season employee party, where the season's delicious leftovers are consumed.

Most of Belt's employees are college students. "We've got 20 staff members," said Racine. "Of those 20 only one is a high school student."

There are even three students working at Belt's who have recently graduated college. UW-SP students are important to Belt's not only as personnel, but as customers as well.

Laura Cobelz, a UW-SP senior stated, "I don't have a favorite flavor, they're all just so good!"

Belt's has provided variety of ice cream, but is always looking for more ideas of how to increase business. Racine explained the planning process is done during the summer months for the following season.

Of course, what is working will remain as key aspects to the business. Something exciting for next season is a new t-shirt design. Belt's sold 1600 t-shirts this year, with a selling price of just $5.00.

With delicious ice cream and affordable clothing, one cannot go wrong. This winter students and community members alike will make it through the cold Wisconsin days by dreaming about the heat of summer and a delicious treat from Belt's.

Kindred Spirit is so much more than a book store

Ashley Schlosser
The Pointer
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Kindred Spirit in downtown Stevens Point, has been around for 10 years fulfilling the needs of many searching and curious people. It is an eclectic store with a variety of books, gifts, and music.

Laura Di Salvo started the business because she felt Stevens Point had a need for the "multi-dimensional book store," said Di Salvo. "We fill a niche. That's one of the reasons why I continue. I fill a need that's not been met before for a long time."

Stevens Point used to have similar store years ago, but the owner moved it out of state. Books are the main focus, but she sells a lot of other items. Di Salvo has 25 years of retail experience at the Co-op.

"I loved [retail] and being my own boss."

Di Salvo also offers a different kind of service within the store called "Reiki." It is a hands-on healing method that can work on the emotional state, the physical state, and can be spiritual if the client chooses it to be. It can build up the immune system and alleviate emotional stress. "It's calming. It's balancing, but it is what you make of it," Di Salvo said. "It's what the person who is receiving the Reiki is willing to open up and allow to happen. Sometimes it can be just a nap for somebody for an hour. Sometimes it can be like meditation. According to the Reiki masters, anything can be healed with Reiki." She charges $45 per hour, and it usually takes an hour for one session.

Courtney Weigand, an Athlete and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student, likes to browse the store with an interest in all the different religions.

"I like the variety of books they have in there. I go there about twice a month, usually when I have ten bucks to spare," Weigand said when asked about her interest in Kindred Spirits. She believes that special needs of students' religious beliefs are met through this specialty store.

Because of the special "niche" Di Salvo has filled, her store should be around for years to come.

"People, once they're in here and they look around, really like what I have to offer [as well as] the energy in here. I've been told many times that it would be a real loss if I decided to close the store. I just keep doing better every year, so I have no intention of going anywhere," she said.

The only thing Di Salvo asks is "that people will not judge before they come in and know that this is a pretty fun place to be. Don't judge a book by its cover."

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UW-SP student stands up for Saudi women's rights

Tariq Al-walah
POINTLIFE REPORTER

When you live most of your life in a conservative Islamic community, your personality is formed according to what you learn in your early years. However, the changes that might happen when you become older, better educated and involved in different societies is dependent on your understanding and tolerance for diverse cultures.

My parents were not highly educated, but I have learned a valuable trait from them of greater understanding and tolerance for people with different cultures and religions. This century is the one of technological inventions in many different parts of the world. I hope it will be in my country, Saudi Arabia, as well. However, while the Saudi government is putting all efforts to carry on more system reforms and push the country forward, the religious groups in Saudi Arabia resist this progress. Instead, they put all their powers against it.

The right of women to drive has been a debatable issue in Saudi Arabia since 1990, when few women protested to gain their rights and play a more effective role in the society.

Other women’s rights are in question as well. I was reading in the local Saudi news where a teenage girl caused a soccer game to be postponed when she snuck into the stadium to watch her favorite team. Women are not allowed to attend such games. Instead, they must watch it on TV.

The Saudi government intends to allow women to drive, but preparation for such a decision needs more discussion with religious authorities in the country. The majority of young Saudi girls are looking forward to driving like the women of the neighboring countries. Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman all allow women to drive.

I did a little research through some Saudi websites that deal with local issues, and I found out that most of them were against women drivers. As the Web sites intend to host more anti-women writers, they tend to edit their articles freely and brainwash readers.

The sites support their ideas by predicting illicit acts as result of interaction between men and women. They claim more teenage Saudi boys and girls will have a chance for dating and establish illegal relationships. However, according to the Shura (Islamic) law, Saudi government restricts any kind of dating. There are religious police to make sure the law is active and functioning.

On the other hand, there are a few Islamic scholars in the country who say there is no problem with allowing Muslim women to drive. From 2005 to 2007, there have been more than 20,000 Saudi students, both male and female, that have studied in the U.S. in different universities across the country. They did assimilate with the culture here and had the chance to work together. Saudi girls drove cars and were responsible for their own lives. They also interacted with different nationalities including American students. In a few years from now, these students will go back to their country, and that raises the question, will they be able to continue practicing these rights?

I was surprised at the caliber of Saudi female friends I have come in contact with. I listen to their frustrations about restrictions (mainly of not being able to drive) on a daily basis. The majority of them are perfectly capable human beings who just need their country to stop underestimating them and their abilities.

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Five tips for successful (and dry) river fishing

Steve Seamandel
THE POINT
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With all of the fine rivers flowing through Stevens Point, I decided to take in some fishing in between reading Old English poems, psychology and history. However, it had been quite awhile since I exchanged the hum of an outboard motor and anchors for treacherously rocky river shores. For all you boat fishermen out there, it’s time for a crash course in “Shore Fishing 101.” (Don’t worry, there won’t be a quiz.)

1) Dress appropriately and find a good steady place from which to fish. Usually you’ll be fishing around bridges, tightly wooded holes in the shore or along rocky shorelines. Leave the sandals at home and wear some stable shoes.

2) Pack lightly, but pack enough. You can’t exactly lug a huge tackle box, net and multiple rods out to a small rock that you’re fishing from. I typically take two rods (in case one snags badly) and a very small plano tackle box that fits in my back pocket. You can stuff anything in these boxes from hooks, sinkers, spinners and small crankbaits. You will find that a pocket-sized tackle box proves itself invaluable.

3) Move around, but be patient. Some spots look more promising than others, while some spots that you normally wouldn’t devote any time to end up being the “money holes.” Cast a few different presentations into each spot and the outskirts of that spot too — you just might catch thatunker traveling downstream. After 10 minutes of nothing, move downstream and try another promising pocket.

4) Beware of shore snags and overhanging trees. The one thing that’s really tough to get around when shore fishing is constantly hooking branches in a tight spot. Take a brief gander around your spot before casting to not only check your casting lanes, but also for hidden snags underwater like downed trees or rocky bottoms. This is also when it helps to have another rod ready to go just in case your first is out of commission.

5) Be prepared. As always, sometimes what you’re throwing isn’t what they’re eating. Change baits and jigs often and try different ideas; you never know what is looming around the next corner or behind that tree.

And of course, ALWAYS have your fishing license with you. Believe it or not, the wardens do occasionally stop at more heavily fished areas to check for licenses. The fine for not having a license is hefty so be safe and just pay the $21 to fish legally.

And remember — the water is where you throw your hook, not your body. Stay dry and good luck!

This beautiful bluegill was pulled from the Wisconsin River. The patterns, colors and designs on the river fish are generally more vivid than dingy lake fish.

UW-SP Disc Golf Club aims for the chains

Ace Holes help with tourneys, course clean-up and have a little time to play

Ashley Schlosser
OUTDOORS REPORTER

The University of Wisconsin — Stevens Point disc golf club provides an opportunity to interact with various people and skill levels from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois.

The “Ace Holes,” as they call themselves, were named after the term used for a hole in one: an ace. The club usually is made up of about 35 to 40 members every year. And ladies, it would be a good place to meet guys.

The CNR has a disc golf board where students can pick up membership forms or an online version is available at the UW-SP disc golf club’s website. It is $12 for the annual fee to join after filling out the membership form and waiver. Members receive a free club T-shirt or a free disc with the Ace Holes’ logo on it. Anybody can join anytime.

“You don’t have to be good at it. It’s a good way to learn and have fun with people who are you same skill level [but there are people who are really good at it, so it gets competitive on the upper end],” said the Ace Holes secretary Jacob Merritt.

Doubles play every week, and occasionally glow rounds are played during the night. Glowing discs or tapping glow sticks on normal discs provides for a different kind of experience for disc golfers.

The next event to take place will be the Oktoberfest tournament this weekend at Nordic Mountain, Wauna. The mountain is used as a ski hill during the winter, but used as a disc golf course during the other seasons. Clubs from various states will attend. Also, live music will be provided.

The UW-SP disc golf club also holds a tournament during February called the Snow Throw Massacre. Sponsors from around Stevens Point help to run this fund raiser.

If interested in joining the UW-SP disc golf club, visit www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/discgolf to download the membership form, or email discgolf@uwsp.edu.

“It’s a really good time. I can give you a pretty good guarantee if you like to have a good time, join the club” said Merritt.
Get batty at Schmeecle's third Candlelight Hike Festival

Jessica Spengler
OUTDOOR REPORTER
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Alas, the beauty of fall. The air is cool and fresh; the leaves are changing colors and the night is full of the sound of...bats? Well, maybe not every night, but on Friday, Oct. 26, if you’re anywhere near Schmeecle Reserve, that’s just what you’ll hear.

That Friday night, Schmeecle staff, along with students from the Environmental Education and Interpretation Practicum, will be hosting a Halloween Candlelight Hike, giving special attention to the bats of Schmeecle.

For two years Schmeecle Reserve has hosted a Candlelight Hike Festival throughout its trails and visitor center. Normally, the hikes take place in winter and spring, but with the recent addition of a bat monitoring station in the reserve, Halloween seemed like the perfect time for one.

“It’s always good to highlight Schmeecle in the fall,” said Schmeecle Assistant Director Jim Buchholz, “and with the recently installed bat monitoring station, it made sense to have this event around Halloween.”

The hike will be along a mile long jack-o-lantern lit trail where sites of these furry-winged predators are likely to be seen. Visitors will see a mixture of the reserve, walking along a trail rich with autumn woodlands and passing by Lake Joanie.

Besides the hike, other programs and activities will be available to attendees. Taking place at the campfire ring near the visitor center, the “Bats of Schmeecle” program will feature students from the Environmental Education and Interpretation Practicum dressed as different species of bats describing their lives, what they eat, how they hunt and where they live.

“Each bat will have a distinct personality,” said Buchholz.

A few steps away from the campfire, at the bat monitoring station, a mad scientist will be explaining the scientific use of bat echo locations to determine species.

Kids of all ages can make bat puppets, paint pumpkins, enjoy “bat” food and have the chance to win door prizes from the Schmeecle Reserve browse shop.

“This is an event that brings campus and community together and provides people with the opportunity to find out more about what we have in the reserve. The event is designed to educate people,” said Buchholz.

Admission for the hike is free and attendees can come and go as they please. The festival begins at 6:30 p.m. with two “Bats of Schmeecle” programs at 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. The festival ends at 9:30 p.m.

What’s up with the orange lights?

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It’s the first week of October and I’m already annoyed by Halloween lights. What’s so weird. I’ve just re-read that sentence four times and still can’t get over the notion of Halloween.

I’m even more comfortable with the notion of those silly Easter egg trees that people make in their yards. It’s springtime. There are fluffy animals everywhere, and the masses seem to like colorful fake eggs tied to trees.

But Halloween lights still have me scratching my head. Here we have a dark holiday right in the middle of one of the nastiest times in Wisconsin: the transition from nice fall to dirty fall. The fall that has winds that rip through your insides while walking to class. The fall that no longer whispers in your ear that winter is coming: it’s screaming in your face now.

And in the middle of this weather transformation we have these cute Halloween decorations. Fake plastic pumpkins everywhere. ORANGE IcICLE LIGHTS. I mean, carve a pumpkin. Put up some cute harvest pictures of cornucopias. Make some fake ghosts. But icicle lights? Seriously. This is a new low.

The notion of decorating really isn’t what really bothers me the most though. I think it’s great that people are exercising their creative minds.

But as I write this, it’s Oct. 2. Halloween is 29 days in the future and these decorations are already making me think of mean things to do. Egging? Pumpkin smashing? Someone who rocks the orange blinking lights and jack-o-lanterns that flash smiles at me in September deserves something more drastic than a juvenile egging or smashed gourds.

I have roughly four weeks to decide my vendetta against these violators of Halloween tradition. The deadline? Nov. 1, when I start plotting nasty things to do to that giant inflatable Santa Claus.

Outdoor EdVentures
Tip of the Week

The Beaver Fever

Brought to you by Jessica from Outdoor EdVentures

The Beaver Fever, have you heard of it? You might better know it as Giardia. You may know it is out there but how much do you really know about it? The illness Giardia is caused by a microscopic protozoan flagellate. It's a parasite that lives in the intestine of a host and is passed on by the waste of the infected animal. Giardia is found worldwide and in all regions of the U.S. It is easily spread because in the cyst stage it can survive in cold water for up to two months. The symptoms of Giardia are stomach cramps, diarrhea and nausea. These symptoms begin an average of 7 days after becoming infected and can last for up to 6 weeks. So how do you protect yourself from Giardia you may ask? Adhere to the following information when drinking from a primitive water source to ensure your water is safe for drinking.

If your sterilization method is boiling make sure you maintain a rolling boil for at least one minute.

If using a filter make sure it has an absolute pore size of 1 micron or smaller.

Using chlorine or iodine is not as safe as the other options mentioned above because "the amount of chemical required to make the water safe is highly dependent on the temperature, pH, and cloudiness of the water."
Mae Wernicke
Science Reporter

You might not think there'd be a reasonable way to combine physics and chemistry with ice cream, but not only would you be mistaken, you'd also be missing out on what is quite possibly the most delicious ice cream with which your tongue will ever make acquaintance. Where can you find this creamy, cold goodness, you ask? In the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Science building September 26, the Society of Physics Students (SPS) sold homemade liquid nitrogen ice cream in the large commons area outside the chemistry department.

How does one make liquid nitrogen ice cream? You start with all the normal ice cream ingredients in a bowl. "Then," said SPS member Teckla Larsen, "you take your handy-dandy supply of liquid nitrogen you have hanging around," and pour it over the other ingredients. The mixture must be stirred at high-speed with an electronic handheld mixer to prevent the liquid nitrogen from freezing the other ingredients into a solid block of ice.

At room temperature, nitrogen is a gas; it makes up some 78 percent of Earth's atmosphere. Its boiling point (the temperature at which the nitrogen transforms from a liquid into a gas) is -196 degrees Centigrade, or a frigid -320.4 degrees Fahrenheit. For the nitrogen to be kept liquid, it is stored in high-pressure containers at temperatures below 200 degrees Centigrade. Because the liquid nitrogen is so cold, when it hits the air it boils as it warms and almost simultaneously causes water particles (humidity) in the air to freeze, creating a cloud of ice crystals resembling the puff of smoke into which a magician disappears. The process is the "transfer of energy via heat from the ingredients we have to the liquid nitrogen," explained Hai Nguyen, associate professor of physics. "Energy stored in the ingredients is actually higher than the energy in the liquid nitrogen. Basically, you're trying to exploit the temperature difference between the two. Hot cup of coffee, toss some ice cubes in -- same process; [they] become one temperature."

Disappointed because you missed out on the tasty science fun? Don't fret; the Society of Physics Students will have another ice cream sale next spring.

Ken Chamberline pours liquid nitrogen as Teckla Larsen stirs the solidifying mixture to create ice cream.

Karen Chamberline keeps watch as Aaron Scharfenbruch, both members of the Society of Physics Students, blends liquid nitrogen into the cream.

THURSDAY NIGHT COMEDY
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Finding the J-Spot: a fun and realistic look at sex education

Jessica Spengler
THE POINTER
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Sex is fun. We all know it, whether we've had it or not. How much we really know about sex is something that varies from person to person, state to state, and country to country. But many of us don’t know as much as we should.

Sex educator Jay Friedman doesn’t think that’s our fault. At his lecture, “The J-Spot, A Sex Educator Tells All,” on Tuesday in the Faux-core, Friedman sought to sort out the misconceptions that U.S. culture has about sex, including sex as a shameful act, masturbation as wrong and that the orgasm is the most important part of the sexual experience.

What concerns Friedman is the lack of sexual education available to students and the stigma attached to it. Some parents are uncomfortably talking about sex to their children and with the current controversies surrounding sex education in schools, many students aren’t learning even the most basic information about sex, their bodies and relationships. Because of these attitudes, many kids grow up thinking sex is bad.

“Sex is good,” said Friedman, “It’s what we learn about sex that’s not so good.”

Friedman’s lecture centered on making sex education fun and interesting. Making fun of the old venereal disease movies he learned from as a child, giving condom demonstrations on an oversized condom tip, and showing a segment from a Swedish sex education video were all part of his performance, helping people to laugh at this subject that is so often taken too seriously.

Much of Friedman’s lecture centered on the male sexual point of view. He said that because most sexual educators are women, male views are often left out of sexual education.

“It is possible for men to be sexually responsible and educated,” said Friedman.

One of the subjects covered about men was the three sexual pressures that men face as they grow up. These pressures include locker room talk, fear of being perceived as homosexual and the myth of “blue balls.” Blue balls is the myth that once a man is turned on, if he does not ejaculate he will either be in an immense amount of pain or that he will actually blow up.

“If blue balls were true, you’d be hearing explosions all over campuses at all times of the day and night,” said Friedman.

Friedman believes that this pressure contributes to another myth, that the orgasm is the most important part of the sexual experience. Along with lack of education about foreplay and respect in relationships, he feels this is the main reason that boys and girls feel pressured to have sex before they are ready.

Other subjects Friedman covered could be considered controversial were how to make sex with condoms feel better, three conditions to meet before you’re ready to have sex with someone, and everyone’s favorite taboo, masturbation.

“Masturbation is normal if you do it, and normal if you don’t,” said Friedman. He does feel that masturbation is important in learning more about sex. For women, masturbation can help them get to know their own bodies, and for men, masturbation can be a good time to practice wearing condoms and desensitize themselves.

“Dull lovers make for dull sex,” he said, “not condoms.”

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

Are you already feeling overwhelmed by your classes and the stress of school? Drop that load of books and switch it with a backpack carrying everything you need to survive camping in the backcountry wilderness for a weekend, while getting away from the mid-semester chaos of Point. Outdoor Edventures is offering a three day long trip starting early after-noon on Friday, October 19 till 5 p.m. Sunday, October 21 to the Porcupine Mountain Wilderness State Park in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Porcupine Mountain Wilderness Park has over 60,000 acres of wilderness and is the largest state park in Michigan. In this park you will see towering virgin timber, secluded lakes and miles of wild rivers, streams and waterfalls. Backpacking is an excellent way to take part in what “car campers” miss out on when coming to this area. Sign up today at Outdoor Edventures in the lower level of the Allen Center or call 346-3848.

Check out http://www.goallen.com to see additional trips that Outdoor Edventures offers, or check out all the equipment you can rent for a discounted student rate!

Gorillapod

Sara Jensen
THE POINTER
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You’re in the mountains, overlooking a gorgeous waterfall. You try every angle you can to get just the right shot of your digital camera. Unfortunately, the only one that works requires putting your expensive camera on the cliffside, where it will of course fall from. If only it were flatter... you had the Gorillapod.

The Gorillapod is a tripod with flexible joints which lets you place your camera just about anywhere, no flat surface required. It has the ability to bend and rotate 360 degrees, allowing even the most difficult of shots to be taken.

Creators of the Gorillapod claim it’s safer than other tripods because it can be put onto a variety of surfaces such as wire-thin railings or jagged rocks. Lightweight, bendable, wrapable, compact and easy to carry, this little gadget could be just the thing to make anyone a great photographer (well, maybe).

Gorillapod comes in three styles. The original, for cameras up to 9.7 ounces, the Gorillapod SLR for single-lens reflex and compact video cameras up to 1.75 pounds, and the Gorillapod SLR Zoom, designed for tripod mountable cameras and professional tripod heads. Each comes with a one year warranty and ranges in price from $21.99 to $49.99.

Photo from www.thinkgeek.com
Dancers join the festivities to benefit women of India

Joy Ratchman
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The Festival of India presents many opportunities for student involvement. Proceeds from the festival go to SHAMA, Inc., an aid organization by a retired University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point mathematics professor, Ivyt Chander. This year, Chander has asked the Dancers of Shaharazad to dance at the festival.

As a group, the Dancers of Shaharazad try to raise understanding of Middle Eastern dance and culture. The club also functions as a community for those interested in Middle Eastern dance, otherwise known as "belly dancing." The club performs several times a year at various events, including its own spring performance, the Love Your Body seminar, Stevens Point Area Senior High School's cultural festival and the Society for Creative Anachronism's Haile Affaire. Both men and women participate in the dances.

"It's just fun and a great workout," said president April Londo.

The dancers will be performing to the song "Ya Ba Ba" at the Festival of India. While their dance isn't specifically Indian in origin, the inspiration for the art form can trace some of its roots to India.

For the Dancers of Shaharazad, the Festival of India presents both an opportunity to dance, and an opportunity to serve the community.

"We're going to help out after 4:00 p.m. on Friday setting up the stage and other parts of SPASH that need to be set up," said Londo. "If they need help in the kitchen, we'll help there also. On Saturday, we'll be helping them wherever they need help. We'll probably be working backstage, making sure everything runs smoothly," The Dancers of Shaharazad have been helping with the festival for several years, both by volunteering and providing entertainment. The Dancers enjoy helping out and consider the Festival of India to be a good cause.

"All the proceeds go to women's education and medical assistance," said Londo. "The money goes to other related projects, such as loans for self-employment and inoculation for children, HIV prevention."

For more information about the Dancers of Shaharazad, visit www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/dos.

The Thailand Project's great exchanges

Rick LaRoche
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Over the past few years the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has formed a groundbreaking relationship with the Developmental Education Program for Daughters and Communities (DEPDC) of Mae Sai, Thailand. One of the goals of the project will come to fruition this year. The project will bring stateless young people to UW-SP for undergraduate work.

Thailand has ongoing issues with human trafficking either for slave or sexual purposes. Children who have no citizenship (often children of prostitutes), who come from broken homes or who have been orphaned often find themselves taken into the trade by force or lack of choice. The DEPDC was set up to give these children an education, vocational training and full-time accommodations in the Mekong region of Thailand.

A UW-SP senior and Art major, Joseph Quinnell initiated the relationship between the UW-SP and DEPDC. He and two-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee Sompop Jantraka, who created the DEPDC, will be able to see the results of their work this year when the students finally arrive on campus. The three main parts of the project are "higher education as humanitarian aid," the UW-SP international program in Thailand and "An Allowance of Dream," a traveling photography exhibit that showcases Quinnell's photographic research.

In addition to these efforts, UW-SP has sent students on winter outreach trips through the International Programs. These students go to Thailand in order to teach art, dance and music to the children in the program. This will be the first time that students from Thailand will be able to come to the United States.

The Thai students will be enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses upon arrival at the university. After graduation from the ESL program, they will be able to enroll in full undergraduate programs of their choosing.

Students who would like to help with the program are urged to visit www.thaielandproject.org. There are also a few remaining spots for this year's annual winter program in Thailand. Those interested should contact Professor Mark Brueggeman (mbreu565@uwsp.edu) immediately, as the deadline is Oct. 15.

Find art on the trail: The Hidden Studios Art Tour

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On Oct. 5-7, artists along Central Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail will be opening their doors to visitors as part of the Hidden Studios Art Tour. The artists will be on hand to showcase their creative talents, answer visitor questions and sell their creations.

The Hidden Studios Art Tour is a self-guided tour, and those who wish to visit the studios can start at any point along the way. Blue Art Tour signs will be placed at important intersections to guide motorists to the studios. If you get hungry, there are many restaurants along the way.

The exhibiting studios are Rick Forts Pottery, New Hope in Wood, Trout Creek Studios, Sharon Fujimoto Glass, River's Edge Studio, Rolling Oaks Studio, Red Sky Studio and Peaceable Acres Farm Fiber Arts. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Bill McKee's Studio A will be part of the tour, and he will be joined by John Misceri, also a member of the UW-SP faculty.

Those looking for scenic views as well as man-made art will find them along the Ice Age Trail. The Ice Age Trail is a series of parks and footpath trails that follow Ice Age formations across the state of Wisconsin. These are connected by a 1,000-mile footpath that is completely within the boundaries of Wisconsin. Its parks and paths preserve the many different kinds of landscapes the glaciers left behind during the last Ice Age. The Kettle Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment in Door County are just a few of these features.

For more about the Hidden Studios Art Tour and a map of the exhibition, visit www.hiddendstudiosarttour.com. Information about the Ice Age Trail can be found at www.iceagetrail.org.
Katie’s Curiosities: Katie reviews Arts and Culture Outreach

Katie Adams
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

As a freshman on campus, I knew where the Brewhaus was and I knew where the group fitness classes were. In short, I knew everything there was to know about campus, and so I thought. Years later, as a senior, I realize how little I know about the campus, and what an incredible shame it is that there are things I’ll never know about the place I spent four and a half years of my life. Only in the past year have I discovered Emy J’s, the computer lab in the HEC, the various university committees students can join, the Sports Medicine Clinic, the Adventure Tours for incoming freshmen and other helpful and unique opportunities around the campus. There are so many chances I’ve missed that I’ve decided I must help you become informed about a great opportunity. Please allow me to bring to your attention the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s Arts & Culture Outreach private music lessons.

I know. Private music lessons sound a little impractical, right? Well, think about it this way. If you need help in math, you go to the Tutoring and Learning Center. You may pay for one-on-one sessions to increase your math proficiency, which will impress your teacher and will help you pass whichever math class you happen to be taking at the time. Now, perhaps you are a theater major and you need help with your vocal talents. Are you going to go to the Tutoring and Learning Center for help? Doubtful. This is when you head to... private music lessons! Okay, new scenario. Let’s say that there’s this girl you really like, but every time you try to talk to her you trip over your words and say the silliest things. Do you go to the Tutoring and Learning Center to be tutored in giving speeches? Not likely. Where should you go? Perhaps you should try private music lessons to learn to woo her with the silky sounds of a guitar. Really, the situations are endless and all lead to the reasons you could be taking private music lessons from the campus’ own Arts and Culture Outreach.

The UW-SP Arts and Culture Outreach is run by the Continuing Education department and provides music lessons, theater programs, creative writing classes, murder mystery dinners, children’s programs and workshops in such crafts as basket weaving, glass fusing and digital photography. Unfortunately, it’s one of the things on campus that is not known by the community than by the students of UW-SP. For more information regarding private music lessons or any of the opportunities mentioned above, check out their website at http://uwsp.edu/conted or give them a call at 715-346-3838.

“Lettuce” go to Clark Place

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Elf Lettuce was born in 2003 when five Stevens Point friends came together to play covers of classic rock songs in their spare time. The band is now based out of Madison, but will be returning to its hometown on Oct. 11 to play with the Twin Cities-based Down Lo at Clark Place.

Elf Lettuce’s style is inspired by such diverse genres as rock, blues, retro, rockabilly, avant-garde, funk, gospel and traditional. Improvisation drives their sound and unifies their diverse inspiration. “Musical exploration and growth” are two of the band’s goals. To find inspiration and fuel their constantly evolving sound, band members seek out and listen to many different kinds of music. The band consists of guitarist Jacob Lison, bassist Alex White, keyboardist Mark Breunig and Richard Hankinson on drums. All four band members provide vocals for their songs.

Elf Lettuce will start the combined show at 9:00 p.m. and Down Lo will finish the night. Down Lo is a soul-inspired band that also draws influence from diverse sources. The show begins at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11 at Clark Place. The performance is friendly for all ages, and there will be a $5 cover. For more information, visit www.clarkplace.com, www.elflettuce.com and www.downlotunes.com
Golfers gear up for WIAC Championships

Rochelle Nechuta
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The golfing team is looking to finish big in the 12th WIAC Women’s Golf Championship this weekend in Watertown. The Pointers will face tough competition from the schools in the conference, battling for the title and an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III championship that will be held this spring in Iowa.

In the past four years, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has taken fourth place in the WIAC tournament, and 1997 was the last time the team won the conference title. UW-Eau Claire will be the team to beat with the 2006 individual title winner Torie Ives and a three-year WIAC Championship winning run.

“My girls are playing great right now, and I couldn’t be more pleased,” said Head Coach Matt Interbartolo.

The Pointers took first of nine teams last weekend in the UW-SP Invitational in the third of five invites where the team placed first. They beat their closest opponent, UW-Whitewater, by 29 points and beat every school in the conference during the invite. Five of the Pointers landed themselves in top 10 spots at the invite.

Pointer Michelle Pascavici took the title with 153 points, beating UW-Whitewater’s Emily Kuiper by a stroke. Pascavici was picked to be the UW-SP golfer of the week and was also awarded by the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference as their golfer Athlete of the Week. She holds a 78.5 stroke average in her first season with the Pointers.

Jessica Urban also had an impressive weekend tying for third place, with an 80.3 average for the season. Pointer Amy Seliski is not far behind, with a 83.3 average, and a seventh place finish. Sarah Mohsen placed eighth and Katie Kautz tied in 18th at the UW-SP Invite.

The players on the golf team are not the only ones winning titles and awards. Head Coach Matt Interbartolo also earned the distinction of NCAA Division III Women’s Golf Coach of the Year for the 2006-2007 season, earned WIAC Coach of the Year. He’s in his third year as head coach for the Pointers and is definitely happy with the results this season, but would like to beat the No. 8 national ranking they earned in 2006-2007.

“Obviously, I was very honored, and honestly I was very shocked,” said Interbartolo regarding the awards. “It’s a tough thing to accept with nearly a full third of us communication into everything we said. They are the ones who did all the work. They work harder than any team I’ve ever worked with.”

Currently the team is ranked fourth. Last year was the first time in school history that the team sent two players to the National Championship. This week the team is sticking to their regular practice routine and are going to approach the WIAC Tournament like any other invitational; they are going for the win.

Volleyball team drops game to Warhawks

Rochelle Nechuta
SPORTS EDITOR
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After hard-hitting action against University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, the Pointers dropped the match 1-3 against the Warhawks Wednesday night.

The Pointers lost the first game 30-20, and the second game 30-21. They pulled a victory in the third game 33-31 only to lose the fourth game 30-12. In the win, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point came back from a four point deficit.

That was only the sixth loss of the season for the Pointers, their current record is 13-6-0 overall. The game was the first of the three conference match-ups that UW-SP lost. They were victorious in WIAC games against UW-Stout and UW-River Falls.

Pointer Shelly Maus led the Pointers with 13 kills and Jill Wittmann with 30 assists and 16 digs. Sophomore Pam Noras was awarded for her hard work and named the UW-SP Volleyball Athlete of the Week for Sept. 24-30. She had nine kills and .667 hitting in the game last Tuesday.

The Pointers face UW-Superior Friday at 7:00 p.m. for their third conference match. The Yellowjackets are currently 13-9 overall, UW-SP also faces UW-Eau Claire on Saturday, 2:00 p.m.

NFL news & notes: week 4

Baby eaters and old fogies

Steve Apfel
SPORTS REPORTER

Holy Joe Montana! I feel like a fantasy football genius. I have a hand in running seven teams this season, and I got four of them to win this week.

Ivy League has finally flexed their muscle. Harvard and Cornell are both 6-0, and they have the inside track on the Ivy League title. Just ask any Ivy League fan who is watching these players. I remain a loyal Penn fan. I keep expecting them to wake up.

Bears vs. Lions is shaping up as a classic. The Bears are the defending champions and the Lions are a potential Super Bowl contender. I say熊熊 Bears win.

How about those Detroit Lions? There’s a record worth talking about! Scoring an NFL record 34 points in the fourth quarter against the mighty Chicago Bears’ defense! The Lions appear to have things back on track, and why not? They honored their last championship team at half time, the 1997 Detroit Lions. If the Cubs, Phillies and Rockies can make the National League baseball playoffs, perhaps the god of sports will smile upon the Lions as well.

Week five brings back those players who served four week suspensions, more quarterback gymnastics and another chance for the Patriots to continue their soul crushing and baby-eating. I guess I can’t leave them alone.

Write for the Pointer! Email us at rnech142@uwsp.edu
Soccer team tallies victory against UW Oshkosh

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to an 8-2-1 overall record. UW-SJP led the game by three points after the first period with two goals from Amanda Prawat and one from Kaylee Weise. The second half of the game UW-Oshkosh picked up their first goal on an unassisted high lob that just snuck over Pointer goalie Meredith DeCaluwe. The Pointers answered back loud and clear to that Titan point with two back-to-back goals from Prawat and Weise to cap off their fourth conference win of the season. Between the two players, they have scored 17 of the 22 goals scored this season.

Weise, a junior at UW-SJP, earned the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Offensive Athlete of the Week for Sept. 24-30. She has a season total of eight goals and five assists. Next game for the Pointers will be Saturday when they take on UW-Eau Claire. According to the WIAC sports information directors, the Blugolds are currently picked to take the WIAC title this year.

The 1-0 p.m. match-up is the last home game until Sept. 13, when the soccer team faces UW-Superior.

Ferron runs past Falcons in wild victory

Mike Ferron had a first quarter to forget, but ended up having a day to remember for a long time, rushing for 199 yards to lead UW-Stevens Point to a wild 45-22 victory over UW-River Falls on Saturday at Goerke Field in Stevens Point.

The sophomore running back fumbled on his first carry and had nine yards in the first quarter, but ran over the Falcons' defense for 135 second-half yards and two touchdowns in the highest-scoring game in 63 all-time meetings between the two Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference rivals. The game also marked the most points UW-SJP has ever allowed in a victory as the Pointers improved to 4-0 for the first time since 1999 and extended the second longest winning streak in the NCAA Division III to eight games. UW-River Falls fell to 1-3 overall.

Ferron set up the Pointers' winning score late in the fourth quarter, picking up a fourth-and-two with a 12-yard run from UW-SJP's own 48-yard line. Ferron barreled ahead for 15 yards on the next three carries and then, with the Falcons' defense keying on Ferron, Pointers' quarterback Jake Swank faked a handoff and raced around the left side 25 yards for a go-ahead touchdown with 2:17 left in the game.

Ferron gained possession on its own 29-yard line, but the Pointers stopped the Falcons on four plays with Dustin Robinson grabbing Falcons' quarterback Storm Harmon by the ankle three yards short of the short. Harmon had a strong day for the Falcons, completing 21 of 43 passes for 218 yards and three touchdowns, while also rushing for 38 yards. Harmon was zero-for-five passing in the fourth quarter. The Falcons controlled the ball early by running 22 of the game's first 23 plays. Ferron had a fumble on the Pointers' first play and after Nathan Anderson converted the turnover into a one-yard UW-River Falls touchdown, Kasey Morgan returned the ensuing kickoff 83 yards to tie the game. It marked the Pointers' first kickoff return for a touchdown since Cory Flisakowski returned the opening kickoff against UW-La Crosse in 2002.

UW-River Falls took a 21-7 lead on back-to-back 15-yard touchdown catches by Michael Zweifel. The freshman receiver eclipsed his own school record for receptions in a game with 12 catches for 144 yards. UW-SJP battled back to within 21-16 at halftime on a 31-yard field goal by Ryan Graboski and a nine-yard touchdown catch by Brad Kalusow with seven seconds left in the first half that was set up by a blocked punt by Travis Smallwood with 43 seconds left in the half.

The second half featured seven lead changes with each team alternating touchdowns. UW-SJP, which entered the game leading Division III in interceptions and takeaways, forced just one turnover in the game, but Luke Fritsch returned an interception 33 yards for a touchdown and a 31-28 lead in the third quarter.

Anderson, who totaled 141 yards on 28 carries, put UW-River Falls ahead 42-38 with 5:16 left in the fourth quarter before the Pointers' game-winning touchdown. Swank was seven-for-16 passing for 60 yards and Lincoln Berg had 15 tackles with 13 solo stops for the Pointers. Gregg Neumann had four sacks and a fumble recovery for the Falcons.

Senior on the Spot

Dan Robinson - Football

Major: Biology and criminal justice
Hometown: Florence, WI
Do you have any nicknames? Danimal, D-ROB
What are your plans after graduating? Plan to work as a law enforcement officer around this area.
What's your favorite Pointer sports memory? It is actually this year - both my brother and I play on the defensive side of the ball, next to each other.
What is your most embarrassing sport moment? When I was on crutches, I fell in front of everyone because of a broken leg down in roses.
Do you have any gameday rituals or superstitions? I usually do two front flips followed by a backward flip then head-butt the nearest wall.
Who's your sports hero? I have three. My dad who taught me everything there is to know about sports, Walter Payton and Brian Urlacher (obviously I'm a Bears fan).
What's your sport philosophy? To always play at 110 percent, play hard along side your teammates and to never give up.
Join the fine artists of the Pointer Comics Page. Submit your comics to the Pointer by contacting Joy Ratchman at jratchman@uwsp.edu

Happy
Thankful

Sad
Delighted

Angry
Calm

Annoyed
Ecstatic

Disgusted
Jealous

Gleeful
Studious
Letters & Opinion

Your College Survival Guide

By Mime

There's a big difference between a quiet girl looking for a quiet girl, and an honest-to-goodness mime.

However, before I give you advice on how to find a mime, I feel it's my social responsibility to warn you of what you might be getting into. I

"sleeping" I mean "having freaky sex."

Single White-Faced Female (SWFF) who lives on sidewalks, glass boxes, silent films and Googling Marcel Marceau seeks:
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Remember the deal folks, you write in letters, I make with the funny. Send your requests for College Survival advice to profitt@u.wisc.edu and I will either mock or assist you, depending on my whimsy.

In keeping with the College Survival Guide's fine traditions, this week, our lovely mime gets a $10 gift certificate to this week's generous sponsor, Namely, Galaxy Comics. Maybe they'll be able to look up in the big comic-style thought bubble that says, "I wish someone would love me, f r e a k y mime-style." Or, if they don't have anything like that in stock, you could always buy some comics or cool games. They're downtown at 925 Clark Street. 544-0857.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I encourage the Wisconsin Legislature to take action to protect and enhance women's health. One common-sense way is by passing the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims bill. This bill would require hospitals to provide all victims of rape with the necessary information and access to emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy after an assault.

Unfortunately, this standard of care is currently being overlooked by the majority of Wisconsin hospitals. A 2006 survey found that only 33 percent of hospitals provide emergency contraception on site to all rape victims. This static is unacceptable. I urge Wisconsin legislators to pass this necessary piece of legislation and to help protect women's health.

Signed,
Stephanie H
2534 N. Prospect Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211
Email: hakes.stephanie@gmail.com

To the Residential Living Director - Joe Totman

In response to the article published in the Pointer entitled "Security overhaul for the UW-SP residence halls," on Sept. 27, 2007, I would like to say Thanks. Thank you for wanting to make the dorms a safer place for us students and occasional fish and fungi that live in here. But did you think about those of us who have late night classes, or work late off...or on campus for the matter? When some idiot has been drinking to much or is just a jerk by nature, and we're walking back to our dorm and are being followed, stalked and scared. We speed up; they speed up eventually they are too close, and we are too far away from the main entrance, but we are near the side doors, but oh no? They're labeled "exit only"...And now an innovent student trying to go home to study, sleep or relax after being in class and working all day has just been robbed, raped, jumped, beaten up or worse. Stevens Point is not perfect; we all hear the sirens nearly everyday. You do the math. Lamp posts are good, tons of lights, fewer predators.

Communication is great, but locking all the doors except the main one...one single entrance into a big building, not good. Dangerous in my opinion and I am speaking from experience. Please, and many others beg you to reconsider the "exit only" policy.

Jennifer Geske
Sophomore

UW/SP The Pointer
It was reported this week that thousands of Buddhist monks peacefully protesting the government’s unfair regime in Burma have been wrongfully imprisoned, savagely beaten and massacred. The monk's protests have been ongoing for weeks, but when the government’s patience wore off with the peaceful and sanctioned Buddhists, they simply did away with them.

Photos cropped up on the Internet of bloody sandalos, dead monks and armed soldiers, although news from the region eventually came to a standstill when the Burma government shut down Internet access to reporters in the region. For a few days, nobody knew what was happening.

And back home, in the jolly of U.S. of A., most people haven’t even caught wind of the happenings. Granted, it’s far away...but so is Iraq. As I continued to e-mail these horrific stories and pictures to friends who might have been interested, I realized that most people haven’t even heard of what’s going on over there. And that’s plain sad.

It’s sad to realize that this country’s government really doesn’t give two craps about anything unless it directly effects our oil supply or our apparent safety. Iraq and Afghanistan are prime examples. I won’t even bother researching numbers and statistics regarding how much money and how many troops we’ve sent to these “conflicted” places throughout the world, because it far outweighs the ZERO effort George Bush has put into not only helping solve this massacre in Burma, but even creating awareness about this horrible tragedy.

Granted, if there were U.S. oil reserves or Halliburton offices located in Burma, we’d be over there with tanks, planes, ships and troops.

A Woman's Intuition: Chill out

Sara Suchy
THE POINTER
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It's always a little disconcerting when you find yourself a mere month into a school year and are already considering a career in, oh I don't know, surfboard waxing, something that doesn't require a slip of paper saying you are now an expert in [insert field of study].

October has descended upon our campus, and it seems that the stress is almost tangible. Seriously, every year I make a promise to myself that I will set aside time during the week to just chill, but every year around this time, I resign myself to the harsh reality that I probably won’t be sleeping a whole lot this semester. And I know I’m not the only one.

Over the summer, I read a book called, “Into the Wild,” by a journalist named Jon Krakauer. It tells the story of a young man named Chris McCandless who literally decides to leave civilization. He gets fed up with the pressures and boundaries that his family, his friends and society in general put on him and just disappears into the Alaskan wild. I won’t spoil the ending for you because it’s a really good book. You should read it before you see the movie. The point is why do we put such pressure on ourselves and to what point and purpose does it lead?

There really is no easy answer and telling a student that they need to just chill out can sometimes lead to volatile results. But seriously, think about the stresses in your life this week and who is putting them there. Think about how it affects the relationships in your life including the relationship with yourself. Now ask yourself, is it really worth it or is there some merit to the age old saying, “stop and smell the roses.”

I’m not saying dump it all and go packing. Hard work does pay off and nothing worth having (read: a college degree) is easy. But maybe this year, especially now that the leaves are turning and the beautiful season of autumn has finally come our way, will be the year we keep our promises to ourselves to just...chill for a moment.
Classifieds

Whether the stone hits the pitcher, or the pitcher hits the stone, it's going to be bad for the pitcher.

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