Black Friday brings out die-hard shoppers in Point

Nick Meyer
THE POINTER
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The day after Thanksgiving, now notoriously known as Black Friday, brought shoppers out of their homes in massive numbers early in the morning on Nov. 28, 2008.

The economic downturns of the past few months couldn’t keep the hordes of consumers away from the infamous low prices stores were offering.

Stevens Point stores saw firsthand what this day means to people; some stores saw people show up as early as Wednesday evening to be first in line for the shopping extravaganza.

“People showed up on Wednesday night in lawn chairs at around 7:30 p.m. to be the first in line,” said University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point senior and Best Buy employee Josh Deisinger.

According to Deisinger, before Best Buy even opened their doors at 5 a.m. on Friday, the storefront was already flooded with around 200 customers thirsly for deals. Best Buy put up a snow fence outside to keep the line that wrapped around all the way to the back of the building orderly.

“The balls were opened it was just a mad frenzy,” said Deisinger.

Cars piled in at a local retail store with people waiting in line for hours to receive holiday presents and more at Black Friday sale prices.

CARS PILED IN AT A LOCAL RETAIL STORE WITH PEOPLE WAITING IN LINE FOR HOURS TO RECEIVE HOLIDAY PRESENTS AND MORE AT BLACK FRIDAY SALE PRICES.

Some people were irritated; some just laughed,” said Deisinger.

Wal-Mart also felt the effects of Black Friday preparing for the sale they call blitz months in advance. According to store manager Mike Phipps the store saw around 10,000 customers throughout the day. Even with the heavy flow of customer, Smith called the atmosphere as rather calm and described customers patient.

“It actually went really smoothly,” said Phipps. “We did have an incident with a customer needing medical attention but it had nothing to do with the sale or other customers.”

Many UW-SP students got out and dealt with the masses of consumers as well - some to grab good deals and others just for the tradition the day has become within their families.

“I’ve never actually had a ‘true’ Black Friday shopping experience before this year,” said UW-SP student Kayla Schmidt. “It is tradition in my boyfriend’s family to go Black Friday shopping though, so I thought I would give it a try, too.”

Prices are the main motivators for shoppers on Black Friday, taking on the cold and waking up early. Some students weren’t as convinced that becoming a part of the mad rush was worth the deals.

“Supposedly there are ‘amazing’ sales and prices on items that you will never see again, and yes, this may be true for some things,” said UW-SP senior Kelly McKay. “But in reality, it seems many of the stores have items so jacked up in price, that when the sales of Black Friday do come around, the prices are lowered at a cost that is actually a ‘normal’ price.”

It seems even though money is a main concern for many people in the current economy Black Friday has become a part of the American culture and is here to stay.

Chief justice approved amid controversial statements

Justin Glodowski
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The judicial branch of the Student Government Association normally doesn’t get the spotlight, that is, until the SGA Senate meeting of November 20. On this night, Arturo Vigueras came up for approval to become the chief justice of the judicial branch, and despite having few questions for him during question time, many controversial remarks flooded the deliberations. In fact, many comments were held off from being said until deliberations, when Vigueras would not be in the room to hear or defend himself.

“We’ve had several conversations that I will delight you in, more so during deliberations,” said SGA President Katie Kloth at the meeting before the Senate was open to deliberations on Vigueras.

The judicial branch is there when things go wrong, to provide for a fair hearing and decisions for students on matters related to student organizations pertaining to constitutions, bylaws, regulations, rules and code of conduct-appellate review. Most of its cases are, in fact, brought against SGA itself.

It is the president’s responsibility to appoint students to justice positions including the chief justice, yet Kloth spoke adamantly against Vigueras during deliberations, bringing up past incidents.

“I’ve been really hung up on this one all year,” said Kloth. “And I am just going to be really frank with you; it would be really irresponsible of me to tell you that I think he is a good candidate, ‘cause I don’t. Just a couple of examples, you should know this and you have the right to know; he has been on SGA executive staff before and he was fired, last year he was almost impeached from the judicial branch, and I just want you to know...”

It was at this time that Kloth was called out of order by Vice President Wardle.

Students questioned these statements as Kloth herself had been fired from the SGA executive branch in her past and that Vigueras was never convicted in the impeachment hearings last year. Some student senators responded by moving to approve Vigueras, speaking out in favor of his approval despite past differences.

“I know that I personally have not had the rosetest relationships with Arturo in the past,” said Senator Andrew Letson. “I made this motion and I am going to vote for him because there is nobody else on this campus who is more qualified. He has been on the judicial branch longer than anyone else, knows the constitution well, and I think would be a good asset.”

As a result, the Senate approved Vigueras as Chief Justice with a majority vote of 7-2-2 after the lengthy discussion.

The Senate approved Vigueras as Chief Justice with a majority vote of 7-2-2 after the lengthy discussion.
RHA approves budget increase

Justin Glodowski
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Students could soon find themselves paying more for programs through Residence Hall Association and the residence halls. Throughout the last couple years, the RHA and residence hall governments have been pushing around the idea of increasing the amount given to them through their budget for programming and other needs. RHA decided both contribute to the significance of this legislation necessary to continue quality programming in the residence halls.

The second proposal centers on many of the same ideas but with funding being increased for RHA. This proposal would increase the RHA budget $2 per residence hall student every two years with the first funding increase occurring in the 2011-2012 academic year.

"The critical part of the two recommendations was the section regarding 'incremental' increases, respectable to each part of the two proposals, which efficiently revamped the process through an incremental rate change instead of the constant re-examination due to rising prices of goods and services by the Policies and Facilities Committee," said Asbach.

The RHA and residence hall budgets have not increased their budgets in years making it harder to offer a lot of big programs free for students.

The last date of a budget update was February of 1990. The delegates in RHA felt that increased allocation of funds for hall governments and the Residence Hall Association was crucial and necessary," said Asbach.

Both proposals also have a clause allowing for the policies to be reviewed after a certain number of years and these increases will also be brought up during the annual budget analysis.

These proposals will be coming up for approval in Residential Living and included in their annual budget.

Sandpoint funding on hold

Jacob Mathias
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A $15,000 allocation to the Stevens Point Area Skateboard Contingency, which was originally approved by the Student Government Association Finance Committee, has been called into question after an initial oversight of an SGA bylaw was brought into dispute.

The original approval of the $15,000 was passed by a two-thirds vote of the Finance Committee. The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting were then brought for approval before SGA.

"Some SGA members were especially unaware of the clause in the SUF statement which talks about this legislation necessary to continue funding for the skate park," said Kloth. "The way it happened was-in direct conflict with what we can do. We've looked into other ways that this can work. The way that it has been presented this time isn't kosher."

"I'm going to recommend that the minutes be failed," said Kloth. "The way it happened was-in direct conflict with what we can do. We've looked into other ways that this can work. The way that it has been presented this time isn't kosher."

"Neighborhoods got together and decided they were against the master plan," said Holly Ehrhardt, UW-SP student representative on the seven-member board.

The master plan is the university's plan for renovations, additional parking, green space and aesthetic features for the next 20 years.

With the abrupt development of the plan, the community needed a way to get their views heard. Shortly after the master plan was passed, neighbors got together and came up with a mission statement and constitution.

"What we are trying to do is make it a very viable place for families to live along with students so that we can co-habitate in the same area and gain from each other rather than have the negative effects that people see," said Cindy Nebel, the secretary and treasurer of OMNA.

The expansion of parking lot R is one of the largest concerns for the association. The minimum requirement for new city developments is 2 percent of green space. Currently there is 7 percent of green space in this area and members of the group would like to keep it that way. They would like to incorporate a park-like area.

"We are not against the development of the university, because I love living near the university and this university is vital to this town," said Nebel. "So we want development but we want it so that the neighborhood is also preserved and that we can enhance the neighborhood along with the university."

Parallel to this issue is the university's desire to purchase 12 houses on Briggs Street.

"We don't like the fact the university was encroaching," said Ehrhardt, and they are "concerned the university won't upkeep the properties in the best interest of the neighborhood."

The university and the Board of Regents currently own four of the houses. One thing the group has already had part in was the university working to get a polling site on campus.

Ehrhardt said there were people who do not like the liberal environment of the university. These people felt that if there was a polling site on campus the students may have too much influence on the elections.

Nebel said it is important to remember students would not be the only people voting at this location.

Thomas Miller, UW-SP senior university relation specialist, is also a board member of the association.

"I would call it a huge success. No polling site is perfect but I think the community and the campus can be proud of how the Dreyfus pulled it off as a polling site," said Ehrhardt wants students to know that this group is "a resource for students if they have any landlord issues and is all-encompassing."
Dear TOPWAAQ,

Thank you for your inquiry, and as promised, I shall delve into this question with the gusto of a hormonal teenager who just discovered RedTube.com. Your question was perplexing and, frankly, a bit worrisome, but I pass no judgments - at least I didn't before I actually did the grunt (best word choice?) work of answering it.

There are many reasons someone would want to cleanse their colon, the least of which being health reasons, the most of which being the ability to struggle more and better objects. Seeing your inquiry in health terms, TOPWAAQ, I approached my good friend who is into these sorts of purification rituals, and with whom I do triathlons (Note: having done a triathlon allows a person to pluralize triathlon, because, hey, you never know. I could do another one). This gentleman, who shall not remain nameless (his name is Ken), beat me in the triathlon we competed in, so I thought, until Ken had the nerve to try this Aerobic Bulk Cleanse Colon Cleanse 10-Day Treatment product.

What I found:

1) It is normal to have a "full" feeling after imbibing the product's recommended dose of a "heaping tablespoon in an eight-ounce glass of water or juice."
2) The ingredients of the product include: cloves, garlic, onion, ground psyllium husks, hibiscus, licorice, fenugreek, hyssop and more!
3) You will notice results within one-to-two days.

What I knew:

1) This is true. What is left out is that you will not want anything else in your stomach either. I gagged twice and it took me 13 minutes to drink my first dose with eight ounces of cold water with the product mixed in. Though I do have to admit, the subsequent doses went down much easier, mainly because I taught myself to back out.

2) First of all, the powder never, NEVER fully mixes into the liquid, as it is supposedly able to do. Therefore, you end up chewing a great deal of the dose. This is not pleasant. No, it is not pleasant at all.

Secondly, do you know what those ingredients taste like when they are mixed together and then "drunk"? They do not taste good. They are like Satan's gravy and they make puppies die.

I'm not even sure if some of these ingredients are real things: my spell check doesn't recognize psyllium. There is a special circle of hell for the pseudo-scientist who combined these ingredients and then sold these ingredients with the instructions for idiots like me to ingest. And in that special circle of hell, the fire will taste like garlic and cloves and it will leave a terrible gritty film in the mouth that no amount of teeth brushing or extraction will alleviate. Also, the Eagles will be playing all the time.

12 hours after the first dose, and there were no, um, changes, but there was a, let's say, discomfort. But then, by day two, that discomfort turned into dizziness. I was very dizzy actually. I then grew to hate food. Food caused waste, and because I now knew for the first time where all the food went that I ate, there was no way in hell that I wanted the experience of day three again.

Day three, that's the day, mark your calendars, clear it of appointments, according to the company's CEO, I must love the product's taste to have it go down so easy. (Note: CEO did not actually say this).

M y friend does this 10-day treatment every six months, like clockwork. He is a lunatic. Knowing how this tasted after one time, the knowledge that he drinks 60 of these a year made me not trust him around my children. Luckily, I do not have any children, and never will thanks to the aforementioned sterilization properties of Aerobic Bulk Cleanse Colon Cleanse 10-Day Treatment product.

Enough. Let me tell you about Aerobic Bulk Cleanse Colon Cleanse 10-Day Treatment product.

The particulars are such about this product's odious claims:

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I wanna soak up the sun

Sam Krezinski
SKRE395@UWSP.EDU

When people cannot go to the beach they find their way to a tanning salon instead.

Well, not all people, but those who enjoy tanning do. Many University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students tan for the health factor.

Heidi Sabo, a junior, tans to feel better about herself.

"It's so I don't look pale because then I feel sick and the warmth and light make me feel good and relax," Sabo said.

Another student who tans for the pale factor, among other reasons, is Alyson Barrett, a sophomore. Barrett has been tanning for about three months. She does it "because my complexion gets better when I tan ... and not to look like a white ghost all year," Barrett said.

Mikel Rysk
DENTAL CARE

Dear Geek Guru,

I recently went on a doctor appointment and got diagnosed with a dental condition. I was wondering why the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point offers medical coverage and not dental? Isn't all that stuff covered? I am sorry to hear about your problems. I know I said I would answer all your technical questions, but this one kind of falls into the realm of bureaucracy. I am not a bureaucrat, nor do I ever want to be that said, I hope there are some options.

Option 1: I believe that the first option you have is to make an appointment with a local dentist. Ask around to see if there are any dentists that offer discounts to students. If there are, make an appointment.

Option 2: The next option is to get an activist group and protest the student body and get all the students some teeth care. Perhaps if everyone knows that they don't get covered dental, they will all rise up and protest with you and you will forever be known as the person who got dental.

Option 3: This one is kind of specific. I could do both the case, but have fun with it. Make a big stink about not having dental coverage. At least we have this huge building that everyone loves and is just so energy-efficient and is the easiest to keep clean and tidy, so you guessed it, we have the DUC.

Your Guru,
The Geek

If you have suggestions or want to ask any questions, please e-mail me at mikenrys@yahoo.com.
Final exam anxiety can be kept under control

Jen Barlow
Science and Outdoors Reporter

The last month of the semester has arrived and finals week begins on Dec. 15. Anxiety can be seen in almost every building on campus.

Students often have multiple finals a day. Preparing for numerous exams can be a tiring experience as most students pull "all-nighters," which leaves the feeling of being run-down. There is, however, a possible solution for many, if not most, students. There are many options students can choose from for study help. The Tutoring-Learning Center and the Counselor Center are two options provided by the university. The Counseling Center's services are free of charge to students and staffed by professional psychologists who are more than willing to listen. At the TLC, students can team up with peer tutors in a variety of programs tailored to fit the individual seeking help.

Important things to remember to remember concerning exams:

- Get at least 6-8 hours of sleep the night before exams.
- Eat something before you go into the test.
- As you are taking the test, make sure to read the directions and answer the questions asked.
- Watch the time.
- Skip over difficult areas and go back to them.
- If you go blank on an essay or short answer test, start writing something on another sheet of paper, it may trigger your mind.
- While taking the test, stay relaxed. Don't tense up! Take deep breaths and expect to be a little anxious, but don't let it control you.

Final exams can be an especially stressful time for students, but multiple sources are available to ease anxiety.

It is important to note that feeling some anxiety before an exam is considered to be normal and is actually a good thing; according to the Yerkes-Dodson Law dictionary of psychology. A moderate level of anxiety or arousal is often best for helping the students' choice," said UW-SP student, Kimberly Rosenthal. After studying, the students can team up with peer tutors in a variety of programs and expect to be a little anxious, but don't let it control you.

With the nine-day Wisconsin gun deer season over, many hunters are already looking forward to next year. The sheer number of hunters in Wisconsin is astounding with total deer hunting participation reaching more than 835,000.

Twenty-three percent of those 835,000 are hunters between the ages of 12 and 25, making up a part of the college population. Even though money is a valuable commodity to college students, few mind paying the $24 fee for a gun deer license. What most students don't know, however, is where their money goes after it leaves their wallet.

According to the Wisconsin Fish and Wildlife Annual Report of 2006-07, licensing fees, combined with a state share of federal excise taxes and fishing equipment and stamp sales, make up the Fish and Wildlife Department's account. With that money, the DNR conducted chronic wasting disease testing, improved access to wildlife on public and private lands, stocked wildlife for recreation and population expansion, monitored and managed wildlife populations and enhanced wildlife populations through habitat management.

In 2006-07, the Fish and Wildlife's account amounted for $97.4 million, with 73 percent of that money coming from hunting and fishing, licenses and stamps. Of that $97.4 million, a majority goes towards the DNR's wildlife management efforts.

With that money, the DNR conducted chronic wasting disease testing, improved access to wildlife on public and private lands, stocked wildlife for recreation and population expansion, managed and monitored wildlife populations and enhanced wildlife populations through habitat management.

Besides wildlife management and enhancement funding, hunters' licensing fees go toward their own interests and concerns. The DNR held over 1,000 wildlife interpretive presentations with 38,000 people. They also conducted 133 outdoor skills programs with more than 11,000 participants. Youth education programs were also sustained through the Fish and Wildlife's account.

If you want to find out more information about your investment to our natural resources through license sales, visit the DNR's web site at: http://dnr.wi.gov.
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Society of Ecological Restoration at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and a private citizen, Mike Oligney, are collaborating to restore habitats for the endangered Karner Blue butterfly. The most recent effort was this past Saturday at the State of Wisconsin Little Plover River Fisheries area.

Oligney grew the initial plants in his garden and currently has four 200 feet rows of lupine. Seeds were harvested from these plants and then extracted from the pods by the Society of Ecological Restoration at their meetings. Oligney’s goal is to establish a corridor of lupine on his property and onto state land across the road. Oligney attended a course conducted by Dave Lentz of the DNR and became a certified Karner Blue butterfly monitor.

Oligney said the Karner Blue butterfly eggs hatch and the larvae move to the road. Oligney attended a course conducted by Dave Lentz of the DNR and became a certified Karner Blue butterfly monitor.

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Kildow explained that the jack pine will eventually grow back and shade out the lupine. However, the lupine seeds from the introduced plants will create a seed bank. Those seeds will remain viable until the next logging rotation, in about 50 years. When the area is opened up again the dormant lupine seeds will re-establish the Karner Blue butterfly habitat.

Paul Cigan said the site is great for university involvement by student organizations because of the visibility it gets from the public. If you want to know more about SER and their projects, contact Paul at pciga971@uwsp.edu

If your organization or club is searching for funding for small-scale conservation projects, the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is currently accepting applications for the 2009 C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant.

The grant, named after former Department of Natural Resources Secretary “Buzz” Besadny, provides matching grants of up to $3,500 to private and public organizations and government agencies. These agencies will be awarded a grant based on their projects in conservation that promote the responsible stewardship of Wisconsin’s natural resources at the local level.

The NRF will be giving funding priority in 2009 to projects aligned with the Foundation’s conservation priorities. These priorities include: rare and endangered species protection, state- and local-level restoration and management, invasive species control, and environmental education and outreach.

In 2008, the NRF awarded over $29,000 to 31 projects throughout the state. These projects ranged from a bluebird trail at Bosbol area schools to a prairie restoration by the Monona School District and a citizen-based water quality monitoring program run by the Friends of Milwaukee’s Rivers.

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is a non-profit organization based in Madison. For more than 20 years, the Foundation has worked with citizens, businesses, non-profits and the government to promote the production and enjoyment of Wisconsin’s public lands, waters and wildlife.

Grant applications need to be postmarked by Jan. 15, 2009. The awards will be distributed in March of 2009. People interested in applying for a Besadny Conservation Grant can obtain an application by visiting the NRF’s Web site at wisconservation.org or by contacting Theresa Guida at 666-264-4096 or theresa.guida@wisconsin.gov.

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Katie Boseo
The Pointer
kboese675@uwsp.edu

Experience the Unknown
SEMESTER IN EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE:

History is currently being made in East-Central Europe - experience it! Realize: the little known and fabulous cultures, the reality of a states planned economy in transformation to a market economy, the tragic sweep of history in crossroads of East and West, contrasting social and economic systems the spirit and gallantry of the Polish people.

We offer you the exceptional opportunity to visit the Czech and Slovakian Republics, Austria, and Hungary and to live in the cultural splendor of ancient Krakow, Poland. There, the Jagiellonian University, founded in 1564 will be your home. Offered is the unique opportunity not only to study Polish language, culture and society but also to experience over 600 years of history, magnificent architecture and art.

CLASSES:

ARTI: A photography will be offered.
Also upper division classes concentrating on the Humanities and Social Sciences: Conversational/Survival and Intensive Polish, Art History, Culture and Civilization of Poland, History of Poland, East European Politics, International Studies and Sociology. Small classes, taught by Polish faculty in English, provide individual attention.

UWSP INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
108 Collins Classroom Center
346-2717
intlprog@uwsp.edu www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad

Financial Aid is available!
TOP SHOTS 2008

1) James Gotham (Buffalo County): 15 point, 17 in. inside spread. Live weight of 206 lbs. Split 0-2, double split brow tine, & 7 in. drop tine.
2) Deb Knorr (Shawano County): 8 point, 16 in. spread.
3) Nick Polcyn (Green Lake): 10 point, 19 in. spread.
4) Brian Southworth (Marathon County): 7 point, 14 in. inside spread. Live weight of 200 lbs. Also, 40 lb. coyote.
5) Devin Rogers (Black River Falls): 9 point, 16-17 in. spread. Live weight close to 200 lbs.
7) Kyle Rodenberg (Jackson County): 9 point, 18 in. spread. Split brow tine.
8) Sam Redeke (Columbia County): 8 point, 21 1/2 in spread.
Stevens Point women's soccer season were knocked out in the Sweet 16 came to an abrupt halt on Nov. 22, as Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association Division III round of the 2008 National Collegiate

Nicole Grindle and snuck the ball for the goal. For the remaining time it was a defensive game and neither team was able to capitalize on their opportunities. Eastern University keeper Arnana Draveler. First Team, while Jenissa Koch was named to the All-Sportsmanship team.

Miech was chosen as the WIAC Coach of the Year in her twenty-second year as the Pointers' head coach. Her career overall record is 319-102-27, which includes a 115-7-7 record in WIAC play.

Looking ahead to another season, Miech will have to replace 10 seniors. Top scorers Weise and Prawat and goalie Lucklow are included in that graduating class.

"Replacing 10 players isn't easy, but I'm excited about the class coming up," said Miech.

Congratulations on the great season and good luck next year Pointers.
The men’s Pointer cross country team wrapped up one of their most successful seasons in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Championships.

The team went into the tournament fifth-seeded and finished better than projected on Nov. 30, in Madison, Ind. They came up just short of third spot in a close finale.

“Our goal going in was to get one of the NCAA trophies and they give out four, but if you’re fourth you always wish you did a little better,” said veteran Coach Rick Witt. “Realistically that’s about where we should have been. We were the number five seed going in and we only fell out of the spots we wanted. The hills of the course caught up to me,” said Meyer. “I don’t think we would have done anything different throughout the year. Our lowest team finish was fourth and that was national. I think we all stepped it up this year; we all knew that to be better from last year we had to be higher up in the race and everyone on the team did that.”

UW-SP Junior Brandon Dworak learned valuable experience competing on a national stage and will use this knowledge next year when he returns to help lead the team.

“The NCAA championship this year was a lot of fun; the only difference from last year was that we were just happy being there. This year we wanted at the very least a top four finish to take home a trophy,” said Dworak. “When it was all over, a lot of us were not only reflecting on the meet that day itself, but the journey we took this year and our college careers so far to get there.”

Dworak knew the team was going to have one of those special seasons because of the leadership and the depth of the team coming into the beginning of the semester.

“The only thing we were kind of hoping for was for the championship to be a day where we all ran out of our minds and pulled off the win; obviously that’s everybody’s goal, but it didn’t happen,” said Dworak.

UW-SP Junior Brian Finnel noted that not only was the team well-rounded, but Witt brought all his experience and knowledge to help the team succeed which gave them an edge over their opponents. Witt has led international U.S. track teams into Europe and New Zealand for events in the past.

“Coach is a huge reason why we did well. He has so much knowledge and has experienced practically everything imaginable in cross country; so he gives us great tips and what to do during the race,” said Finnel. “Coach prepared us great with workouts and when to rest and so forth. If it wasn’t for him, we all probably would of burned out before the season was done.”

Nine seniors led the team to one of the most successful seasons in UW-SP’s history. The team knows that they will have to make do without the seniors next year, but sound pessimistic about it. In fact, they are looking forward to sustaining the success they’ve achieved this past season.

“I, myself, am not one of the more vocal guys on the team, but I believe next year, in a way, the reins are kind of being passed down to us after a majority of our leaders from this year will be gone, and it is my responsibility to make sure that we stay on track and look out for each other,” said Dworak.

Witt knows that the team is getting hit with a significant blow. Many seniors are leaving, but the team must look forward and keep pushing itself.

“When you say you have nine seniors everyone thinks you’re going to fall off the edge of the world, but we’re going to have a good team next year,” said Witt.

Finnel agrees that this team has a good amount of potential next year, as long as the strong leadership backed up by unmatched determination continues.

“Next year our team will take a little bit of hit; we are graduating a good portion of the team. However, the team will still be very strong,” said Finnel. “They of the seven from the nation — will be back next year and those will probably be our leaders. Due to the depth this year, the team will still be very solid and should be close to a top 10 team or better.”

Witt coaches not only the cross-country team, but the track-and-field team and has been with the Pointers for over 30 years. The only better finish he had with his team nationally was in 2003, when they took home second place.

“As for winning the NCAA Championship next year, anything is possible. If the guys put in the summer mileage, we will be sitting in a very good position next year,” said Finnel.

---

Rachael Graves - Women’s Hockey

Major: Physical and Health Education
Home town: Bemidji, Minnesota
Do you have any nicknames? Gravesy, Grave Digger
What is your favorite Pointer sports memory? Getting third at the Frozen Four twice.

What is your most embarrassing sports moment? We were playing in Lake Forest and it was my turn to go out and my breezers got caught on the door. Instead of just backing up I kept pushing forward trying to get out and eventually my teammates pushed me with enough force that my breezers ripped and I fell onto the ice.

Have any game day rituals or superstitions? If I tell you my superstitions then they won’t work anymore.

Who is your sports hero? Gigi Marvin

What is your sports philosophy? You can’t kick someone’s ass without getting shit on your boots.
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Mudshark gets dirty with grunge rock at Jimmy B's

Nick Meyer
THE POINTER
SMY1177@UWSP.EDU

Jimmy B's Bar Parrot Club sounds like a place for birds, but Thursday night it was overtaken by Mudshark, a garage rock band that spewed their music to a thirsty crowd of bar-goers.

Patrons enjoyed brewed dollar taps and free pool while the band raged through Neil Young gems and Frank Zappa wonders, stopping from time to time to offer a moment for any public service announcements.

The band, which plays a mix of covers and originals, provided a crowd searching for a first set got off to a rocky start, as not all the pints of the Mudshark machine were firing in sync.

After a groove-possessed original, entitled "Food Grifters," a song devoted to stealing free food from the tables of student organizations, the band kicked into a rocky version of "Cinnamon Girl" by Neil Young.

From there on out it was smooth sailing on the blues rock ship driven by "Captain Aggression" who just so happens to be addicted to speed--as in how fast an object moves, not the recreational drug.

"Getting all the aggression out for the week makes me relax a little more," said Parks.

The band drove the ship on through the night as the bar slowly filled until there wasn't much space to call your own and the dance floor had been taken up by writhing hips and smiling faces.

At one point, the band effortlessly took the "Ghostbusters theme" and turned it into a scummy eddying stream of aggression and funk.

The band encouraged crowd participation throughout the night, asking people to please come touch bass player Landon's rutabaga before ending of the show with what they call the Zappa Trilogy.

The trilogy is comprised of three Frank Zappa songs, "Latex Solar Beef," "Willie the Pimp" and "Gumbo Variations."

The band brought an official end to the show with Neil Young's "Keep on Rocking in the Free World" with the crowd packed around the microphone singing along with all their vocal cords could muster.

"I like playing on the same level and having people get right up in our face singing 'Keep on Rocking in the Free World With Us,'" said Parks.

From the dark corners of a Stevens Point basement, Mudshark was given life, the progeny of rock and roll and good beer.

The band has been around for two and half years and has seen its share of members go in and out the revolving door. Mudshark presses on with current members Tim Parks, Nate Fleming and Tom Lentz all on guitar, Landon Griskowski on bass and Ben Walker on drums.

The name Mudshark is derived from the Frank Zappa song "The Mud Shark," a song in which Zappa talks about catching a fish out a hotel window that people can bring into their hotel room and do whatever they like with.

The name was the idea of Tom Lentz. He said we should call it like Mudshark or Uncle Meat, something like that; he's big into Frank Zappa," said Parks.

The band prides itself on a do-it-yourself work ethic, an intimate life experience and having a sound that is hard to define. People have tried coming up with titles like "Blues Shred," and "Garage Country," but none of those seem to hit the nail exactly on the head. The band finds the term scumbag rock much more fitting.

"We only call it rock and roll or scumbag rock," said Parks. "That's our thing, we are scumbags, and we call people scumbags; it's almost complimentary now."

Mudshark will take the stage again at Jimmy B's on Dec. 4, and again on Dec. 18, after which Parks will graduate from college. A dark question mark looms over the band's future and Parks seemed unsure of what the outcome would be.

"It might dissolve, it might carry on. I have no clue; it is its own entity," said Parks.

Students dance the night away at Afterimages

Mara Ziliges
ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

December is here and dance majors are hard at work putting together this year's Afterimages show. There will be much to look forward to opening night, especially that the performance is taking place in the studio theater this year.

"I'm excited to work in the studio theater because it's such an intimate setting. We have the audience on three sides of us and it has been a good challenge to incorporate that into our pieces," said Brittany Vukovich, assistant director of Afterimages.

Afterimages is a student-run and choreographed show that always takes place early December. Michael Estanich is the faculty advisor for the show and acts as a mentor to the students to make sure everything runs smoothly. This year, the production team consists of junior Lindsey Fischer and juniors Amy Larson and Brittaney Vukovich.

The production team makes sure all the behind-the-scenes work runs smoothly, such as publicity, show order and the program. They also help to accommodate people's needs, said Vukovich, although that's not all.

The production team has been hard at work since auditions started in the beginning of the school year.

In the first weeks of school, auditions are held by the choreographers to decide who they want in their pieces. After weeks of practice, all the groups try out in mid-October in front of a panel of judges. The judges consist of faculty members and one dance student who is not involved in the production. The panel of judges decides which pieces will go into the show.

It is not every day that University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students have the opportunity to chat with a Hindu guru.

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, all UW-SP students were able to attend a presentation by a Hindu guru named Aiya, also known as Sri Chaitanyananda.

The next day students in Professor Corinne Dempsey's Asian religions class were invited to her home to take part in a dinner with Indian food and lively conversation with Aiya.

According to Aiya, he never chose to be a guru. It is just something that he was meant to do. Dempsey interjected and said, "It's a team effort."

This that there have to be people that want to follow Aiya's teachings along with his willingness to teach people in a guru/student relationship.
The soundtrack of your life decided for you

Steve Apfel

There seems to be an infinite number of "greatest albums of all time" listings in the ever-changing information world. It is nearly guaranteed that at least one album every year will be given this dubious title. However, music critic Jon Moon sidesteps this undue grandeur in favor of "1,000 recordings to hear before you die."

To each their own I suppose, but my suspicions were raised when the first recording listed is Abba's "Gold." Sure, it's a fun piece of disco schlock but would I feel slighted if I didn't hear this entire album before shuffling off this mortal coil? I don't think so.

I can admit that I favor rock music and I thought maybe if I only focused on the rock selections I could salvage some respect for this book. However, the inclusion of tired selections like Nirvana's "Nevermind" and AC/DC's "Back in Black" quickly left that theory to rest. These albums may have been essential to my middle school existence but I can't go so far as to say they're among the best that the art form has to offer.

Moon manages to produce an intriguing concept that could make for interesting conversations, but I think this one is definitely more suited to paging through in the book store than paying the $32.95 jacket price.

This year, eight works were selected, but it depends each year. Estanich said they will always select the most ready works. There are 15-21 pieces that try out and anywhere from 8-12 works will be selected each year for the final show.

Although Estanich is the faculty advisor for the Afterimages show, other faculty are often invited to practices throughout the process to give feedback to the dancers.

"It's really about the learning and creative process," said Estanich.

This year, the choreographers were faced with the challenge of performing in the studio theater. The studio theater is a thrust stage, which means there are three sides to the stage rather than just one. This makes it more challenging to choreograph because they need to include all three sides of the audience rather than just one, said Larson.

"When we first heard, many people didn't take it as a positive thing," said Larson about performing in the studio theater. But last spring the faculty held their show in the studio theater which opened up their minds to the idea.

"Now it's an honor to perform there," said Larson.

Usually Afterimages is only held one weekend, but since the performance is taking place in the studio theater, Estanich made sure there would be two weekends of performances. The studio theater has about half the seats of the Jenkins Theater, which is where they normally perform, so Estanich wanted to be sure the same number of seats would be open.

Opening night is just around the corner and everyone seems very excited about it. Estanich said the audience will have a lot to look forward to, including a well-organized, professional experience.

"I've seen a lot of the works already, but I'm really looking forward to how the lighting and costumes and performance aspects tie in to really bring these pieces to life in the Studio Theater," said Vukovic.

With a wide variety of styles and approaches, a lot of the work is a very personal experience which the audience should be able to relate to, said Estanich.

With all the beautifully crafted dance, "It's going to be an energized and exciting night," said Estanich.

Performances will be held Dec. 5-7 and 10-12 in the Studio Theater. All the evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and the matinee performance on Dec. 7 will be held at 2 p.m. For ticketing information, contact the University Information and Ticket Center at 715-346-4242 or uwsp.edu/centers/uit/ordering.asp.

Students: Give this some very serious thought over winter break.

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--STRING TRIO--TIME FOR THREE: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10th 7:30 p.m.
--HOT BUTTERED RUM BLUEGRASS BAND--FRIDAY, DEC. 12th 8 p.m.

From Afterimages pg. 11

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UNIVERSITY CENTER
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Letters & Opinion

What's the point:
Black and blue Friday

It is absolutely amazing to witness people knocking each other over to grab a $4.49 popcorn tin. Why on Earth anyone decides to get up four hours before they normally would and stand in a line outside, with the temperature below freezing, is beyond me. For me, that has always been a “What’s the point?”

This year, however, I was a bit disappointed. Yes, there were people doing all the aforementioned things, but not as many as I usually like to see. This year I did not witness anyone trip while running to the back of the store; no one knocked over the wrapping paper bin, shooting rolls fifteen feet down the aisle, and no one yelled from two aisles away demanding where an item was. But alas, customers still were able to make disturbing comments about my reindeer antlers, the rotating set I wear beginning the day after Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve.

But I digress.

With the end of the semester, and this the last issue of The Pointer for the semester, I would like to extend my congratulations to all of you for making it through this fall semester. For you freshmen, this was your first college semester, so congratulations for making it through. Now you know the ropes! Some of you have retired the ropes for roughly eight-to-ten semesters now. You are almost there and I am guessing you are focused on the finish line; just one more entire week and you will be finished with your final classes. I guess for the rest of us somewhere in the middle of this process, good luck on finals. We are almost done with one more semester as students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point!
Catering to your needs!

As the university transitions into a self-operating food service, many committees are working to make the changeover as smooth as possible.

Applications are now being accepted and reviewed by the search and screen committee for the university dining services director position. There are currently just more than 10 applications that have been submitted with hopes of more to come. Six candidates will be brought to campus at the beginning of spring semester.

If you live in the residence halls, you received a survey asking about the type of board plans you would like. Thank you to all who replied. Your opinions will be strongly taken into consideration.

For those of you who are waiting to use your credit or debit card in the food area of the Dreyfus University Center: be patient. The program will be tested over winter break and hopefully will be up and running for spring semester.

All sub-committees are looking for your input! The following are contacts for some of the sub-committees currently meeting:

For the Retail and catering committee, contacts are Justin Glodowski at jglodl70@uwsp.edu and Colleen Kiefer at ckief874@uwsp.edu.

For the finance committee, contacts are Terri Chang at tchang@uwsp.edu, or Nora Stasny at nstasney@uwsp.edu.

Representatives from all sub-committees meet on Fridays at 8:00 am in DUC 223. Contact for this meeting is Joe Totman at jtotman@uwsp.edu.

By Avra Juhnke
Co-chair of food marketing committee

Cornerstone Press
UWSP Department of English

Point: The Beer That Made Me Famous is the 2008 publication of UWSP's Cornerstone Press, a student-run publishing "company" operated as part of an English Department class: Editing and Publishing (English 351). The students in the class elect one another to all the positions held in a commercial publishing company. They then select a book-length manuscript, edit it, design it, and produce 1,000 copies of it for sale. You can buy hardcover copies of Point at a discount in the concourse from 11:00 to 2:00 from December 8 through 12th. Free (root) beer will also be available.
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