Wisconsin senator pushes legislation for weekend vote

Rick LaRoche
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U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI) recently announced legislation to encourage greater participation in presidential and congressional elections by moving the polling date to the first weekend of November.

Traditionally, federal elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November. Tuesday had been selected because of its designation as "court day" in the 1800s. Most landowners and business owners also happened to be in town on court day to conduct trades and sales.

Kohl argues that our democracy relies on the participation not of the few, but of the many. He stated to Congress, "Holding elections on the first Tuesday of November makes it difficult, even impossible, for many Americans with jobs and family to exercise their fundamental right to vote. We should do what is in our power to make this process easier, to encourage more people to make their voice heard in Washington."

If enacted, The Weekend Voting Act would mandate national polls to be open from 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) Saturday to 6:00 p.m. (ET) Sunday in the 48 contiguous states.

Previous changes to voting law have been made to enhance turnout. Currently 28 states, including Wisconsin, permit registered voters to vote by absentee ballot and 31 states permit in-person early voting at election offices or at other approved satellite locations.

Weekend voting is common in many other democracies worldwide. France, Canada, Australia and the Netherlands all hold Sunday elections; in most cases, those countries have a greater voter turnout than the U.S.

"It isn’t unusual to hold federal voting on weekends," said John Blakeman, departmental chair of political science at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "Interestingly enough, Iraq recently held its elections on a Sunday."

Blakeman alleged that politicians are always looking for a magic formula to increase voter turnout and standardize the method.

"In the past, polling times have been changed to 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in order to allow more opportunities to vote," said Blakeman.

Problems could arise in the proposed formula. Increasing the vote to multiple days allows more chances to participate in voter fraud and there could be possible outrages from different religious sects if the vote was being held on their practicing holy day.

"You can solve the conflict with the Sabbath by holding it...

See Weekend on pg. 2

Primary Results

Wisconsin
Obama: 646,007
Clinton: 452,795

Politics
McCain: 224,226
Huckabee: 151,201
Paul: 19,210

Stevens Point
Obama: 8,993
Clinton: 6,707

Politics
McCain: 1,867
Huckabee: 2,187
Paul: 330

Districts 2, 3 and 11
These districts include the UW-SP residence halls.

Obama: 1,095
Clinton: 419

Politics
McCain: 165
Huckabee: 143
Paul: 45

Information provided by www.cnccc.com and www.co.rptagc.wi.us

UW-SP students in District 3 went to The Encore to cast their vote on Tuesday in Wisconsin's presidential primary election.
From Polls on pg. 1

UW-SP, is excited to see so many young people going to the polls.

"I think it’s easier for our generation to relate to the candidates this year," said Vedvig. "Especially Obama, he seems to be connecting with our generation."

"I also think that part of the reason so many young people are showing up to the polls is because they are so exasperated with the past and current administrations," said Groshek.

Some of the draw to vote comes from the visibility of the election on campus. With the amount of campaigning on campus, it’s impossible not to be aware of the election and very hard to ignore it.

"I’m definitely more in touch with politics this year because I’m in school. It’s just so visible," said Vedvig. Statistically speaking, CNN.com reported that of the people who came to the polls to vote Democrat, 16 percent of them were in the 18 to 29 age bracket and of the Republican 11 percent were in the 18 to 29 age bracket.

UW-SP students are not only getting to the polls. They also seem to be well versed in the ins and outs of the voting process.

"I’m worried about what the super delegations decide in the Democrat race if it gets too close. They could very well end up deciding the election," said Groshek. "It will be very interesting to see how it all plays out. It’s so exciting!"

At the end of the day, Obama and McCain came out victorious in Wisconsin and are now well on their way to duking it out come November in the 2008 presidential election.

From Weekend on pg. 1

over the two day span,” said Blakeman. “The bigger problem you might run into is this: Americans love their leisure time. In a sense, you will be asking people to give up what they most like to do in order to vote.”

Even so, Blakeman believes there could be an increase in voter turnout if the act was passed.

"The biggest problem you might run into is this: Americans love their leisure time."

"Higher income households are most likely to vote because it is less costly for them to miss work to do so. Lower income voters who can’t afford to give up the $10 to $30 to go vote might be more capable of making it to the polls over a weekend," said Blakeman.

Kohl introduced a similar bill in the 109th Congress, shortly after President Bush’s second inauguration, without any other action being taken.

Way to go Pointers!

You rocked the vote!
The Woodpecker Project; students capture birds for study

Eight University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students strolled through the deep snow on a “balmy” 20 degree day at Sandhill Wildlife Area near Babcock, Wis. in February as they checked 15 traps made of hardware cloth. The Woodpecker Project members get up around 5:30 a.m. to open the traps then check them at 9:00 a.m., noon and 3:00 p.m. The traps are wired shut on the 3:00 p.m. run of the day so no animals would be caught overnight.

A tripwire connected to a tray of suet at the top holds the bottom trap door open. A bird enters the trap from the bottom, climbs up to the tray, pecks at the suet and releases the trap door.

A white-breasted nuthatch was finally found captured in the third trap. Brianna Winter, one of the co-leaders asked if anyone wanted to process the nuthatch. A student stepped forward and Winter instructed the volunteer how to reach inside and gently grab the bird. Winter held her open, upturned hands under the bottom to discourage the bird from exiting.

Two fingers, in the shape of a “V” were placed on either side of the bird’s head, and the other fingers and thumb were loosely wrapped around the body. The student then blew the feathers apart near the base of the neck to check for fat reserves.

“It looks like a two on a scale of one to three,” Winter said to her co-leader Brian Sadler, who recorded it on the data form. The bird’s skin was so thin the yellow fat showed through the deep pink skin easily.

The bird was gently transferred to Sadler who measured the wing, beak, tarsus and the tail length.

“It’s a male,” Sadler said. “It has a solid black line from the base of its beak back to where the head meets the body. A female’s is dark gray.”

That particular bird had a leg band on it, indicating it had been caught before.

Winter later asked for a volunteer to release the bird. Another student who had not handled the bird stepped forward. A few pictures were taken, the volunteer opened her hands and the bird flew to a tree a few meters away.

Only one other trap had a bird on this run, another white-breasted nuthatch. “This is a light day for catching birds,” Winter commented. “Last year we caught 116 birds total. We usually start trapping after Christmas break, and go to spring break. The object of The Project is to determine the species’ composition and home ranges of woodpeckers such as the red-bellied, the downy, the hairy and red-headed.”

Other reasons for study are to gather demographics of nuthatches such as age and sex ratio and to see if they are forming monogamous pairings. In the oak and aspen forest, piliated woodpeckers are excluded from the study only because they are too big to enter the traps. Winter said the group hopes to mist net for them in the spring.

Several more nuthatches, black-capped chick-a-dees and hairy woodpeckers were captured over the course of the weekend.

On the last run of the weekend, the trap doors are wired open, and the trays are filled with suet, encouraging the birds in the area to get used to the traps. The suet is usually consumed by the critters of the forest by the time The Project returns a week later.

“Sasquatch!” Sadler yelled. “Aww, you missed it,” he teased as the other students turned to look. You just never know what you are going to see at Sandhill Wildlife Area.

If you want to know how you can get involved in The Woodpecker Project, contact Brianna Winter at bwint813@uwsp.edu, or Brian Sadler at bsadl549@uwsp.edu.
Small ice crystals are invading Stevens Point with a seemingly endless vengeance to blanket any hope of spring. The drastic amount of snow Stevens Point has recently received has probably frustrated most of us at some point these past couple of weeks, but somehow happy news is on the way. According to www.weather.com, temperatures should rise up to 33 degrees Fahrenheit by Sunday, though it will be mostly cloudy the rest of the week. 

Since we can not send our good friend snow packing, we may as well surrender to Wisconsin’s bitter sweet symphony of frozen misery and learn a bit about snow. 

Snow forms when water vapor condenses into ice crystal, which usually happen in the cloud. The water vapor in the air must be at a temperature less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit to develop. These ice crystals typically have a diameter of several millimeters and six lines of symmetry. The shape of the ice crystals depend on the cloud temperatures, and the processes that take place in the cloud. 

When the ice crystals accumulate, a snowflake that can get up to several centimeters long is formed. Snowflakes come in many different forms, including columns, needles, bricks and plates. Snow falls from clouds that contain enough cloud droplets and ice crystals for precipitation to form. Portage County’s snow depth is currently between 12 and 15 inches deep. Many students are not happy with the lack of snow removal from the city and campus sidewalks and streets.

Living off campus has been great, until the recent snow pile up. It’s so hard getting to campus when businesses and some streets aren’t shoveled or plowed very well. The snow looks so pretty, but I’m ready for summer now,” said Monica Wildenberg, a UW-Sp communication major.

“It has snowed a lot lately, and mostly on the weekends so they don’t plow it right away,” said Johanna Schmidt, a UW-Sp social science major. “This makes it really difficult to even eat at Debot. For example, this last weekend, it snowed a ton on Sunday, and they didn’t start plowing until midnight. I don’t like having to walk in others’ footsteps to get to Debot or to class. It’s difficult and uncomfortable, and when they do plow the sidewalks, they leave a couple inches for us to slip and slide on.”

“Snow does effect living off campus. Even though I live only a few blocks away, sometimes walking to class can be a chore. Especially when the sidewalks don’t get shoveled,” said Liz Horton, a communication major. 

Spring will be here quicker than we know it. So let us enjoy a good ol’ snowball fight, sledding and snow angels to keep our spirits high until the snow stays home.

Anglers caught 88.2 million fish in Wisconsin during the 2006-07 license year of which they released nearly two-thirds — or 55.1 million — according to results of a statewide mail survey of anglers. Anglers spent more than 12 million hours on the water, and although wall-eye was their most targeted species, they caught more panfish (10 million) than anything else, according to Brian Weigel, the Department of Natural Resources fisheries research-er who analyzed the results.

Anglers reeled in an estimated 57.7 million panfish, 10 million bass, 7 million walleye, 3.1 million northern pike and 1.6 million trout. They also caught 777,094 catfish and 233,101 musky.

The most popular fishing form nationwide in every category accounted for only 26 percent of the licensed anglers, and accounted for nearly three-quarters of the licensed anglers’ trips to make water bodies, hinting at the popularity of fishing in a state river. 

Additional analysis of the USFWS information by the American Sportfishing Association indicated that fishing in 2006 supported 30,164 Wisconsin jobs, generated a total economic impact, or “ripple effect” of $2.75 billion, and $196 million in tax revenues for state and local governments.
**Extreme exercise: rock climbing**

Roderick King  
**POINTER REPORTER**

"There is nothing like climbing up the face of a 65-foot rock cliff and hanging on for dear life. It helps me forget about the rest of the world," said expert climber Matt Brodsky. More than 100,000 recreational athletes in the U.S. have taken to rock climbing. Rock climbing was recognized as a sport in 1760, and the sport has evolved into an affordable, safe and year-round activity. It provides a unique alternative to traditional forms of exercise, and it unites body, mind and spirit," said Carrie Butt, owner of Divepoint.

Rock climbing can be done by most age groups and serves as a total body workout, involving most of the major muscle groups. It can also help build confidence, develop problem-solving skills and sharpen your mental focus, said Butt.

Originally, the objective of climbing as a sport was to reach the summit of a specific mountain peak. Climbers, like explorers, sought the easiest possible way of reaching their goals and used any means available.

Rock climbing is a sport that involves climbing steep rocky terrain. It is a very exciting sport which involves a lot of physical exertion and challenge," said Brodsky. There are basically two kinds of rock climbing: aid climbing (use of gear like ropes and bolts) and free climbing (only safety gear). For both indoor and outdoor climbing, but remember: you get what you pay for.

"Check out the equipment before buying it. It should be safe, comfortable and the right size," said Divepoint salesmen Sam Janik. In central Wisconsin, climbers can find somewhere to climb year round.

"The best-known climbing and camping area in the Midwest is in south central Wisconsin, at Devil’s Lake State Park," said Janik. Devil’s Lake State Park is about six miles south of Baraboo and boasts 30 to 90 foot high cliffs, surrounding the lake and lush landscapes.

Rock climbing includes: sport climbing, top-rope climbing, solo climbing, bouldering, traditional climbing, mountainering and indoor climbing.

Rock climbing has a reputation as an extreme sport, but modern techniques and equipment have greatly increased the safety levels. "The goal is not to hit the ground," said Brodsky. To avoid hitting the ground, new climbers need to know the three elements of climbing before heading out, Brodsky said.

1. Physical: this is your strength and pure fitness than many sports (skiing, for example), and roughly comparable to many others. As with most activities, you can spend more by getting:

   - a harness ($35 and up, but it will last for years),
   - some climbing shoes (around $100 to $150, and they will have to be replaced periodically), and a helmet ($50 and up), said Butt.

   Equipment can be used for both indoor and outdoor climbing, but remember: you get what you pay for.

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2. Technical: the techniques and climbing moves/skills needed.

3. Mental: the ability to control the mind, and the ability to use the mind as an advantage, said Brodsky.

Rock climbing is cheaper than many sports (skiing, for example), and roughly comparable to many others. As with most activities, you can spend more by getting:

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   If you are new to climbing, or if you are looking to improve your skills, they can provide instruction that will help you meet the challenges of the vertical world. Their commitment to climbing is obvious in everything they do, so climbers can relax and focus on learning new skills.

The challenges provided by UW-SP’s climbing walls are virtually unlimited. From gentle angled "slab" to radical overhangs, there is a climbable surface that will supply just the right degree of difficulty for everyone.

Unique features include:

- Fifteen-top rope belay stations and up to eight lead stations.

See Climbing pg. 6

**Pointlife**

**A place for Freethought**

Ashley Schlosser  
**THE POINTER**

Reason, rationality and logic is what the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Students For Freethought organization believes should be the guiding forces in life. The purpose of SFF is, as stated by their mission statement, to "promote the ideals of freethought on and off campus and to educate/inform the public about what freethought is through discussions, presentations, forums, lectures and debates." The organization was formed in spring of 2005 and is associated with an international organization called Center For Inquiry. This international organization is "dedicated to promoting and defending reason, science and freedom of inquiry in education, and to the enhancement of freethought, secularism, humanism, philosophical naturalism, rationalism and atheism on college and high school campuses.

"We strongly tend to focus on atheism and being non-religious, because generally, it has a really negative viewpoint in the public’s [eye]. These events are to help get rid of some of the negative stereotypes," said Weigand.

Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-president of the Freedom from Religion Foundation is also planning on visiting UW-SP in the near future. Dan Barker, also a co-president of FFRF, gave a successively insightful speech last year at UW-SP. Gaylor will possibly touch on subjects such as the separation of church and state, as Barker had discussed.

If you are interested in joining the UW-SP Students For Freethought organization, check out their Web site or join their mailing list at www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/freethought. You can also attend an SFF meeting held every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. in room 233 of the Collins Classroom Center.
Student Involvement and Employment works to make life sweeter

Rick LaRoche
THE POINTER
RLAR083 @ UWSP.EDU

The nearly $500 raised at the event will go to support volunteer service trips for students.

Service trips are just one of the programs the group organizes. They also help out with special events, tutoring programs, blood drives and a volunteer service trip over winter break this coming year. “We still need more funds which will come from private business donations, and the other fundraisers we do next semester,” said Mijal. “This was a really nice start, though.”

If you are interested in joining SIEO, stop by their office, which is located in the basement of the Dreyfus University Center, or e-mail sieo@uwsp.edu.

Digital photography offered at UW-SP

Press Release
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Three digital photography workshops will be offered at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in March and April, sponsored by Arts and Culture Outreach through University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Continuing Education.

“Digital Photography for Beginners” will be held Mondays on March 3, 10, 24, and April 7 and 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The hours of open climb are Sunday through Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. These classes will cover choosing a digital camera, getting to know your camera, taking better pictures, and optimizing digital functions. "Digital Photography: Intermediate Level" will be held on Saturday, April 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This one-day nature photo shoot for all skill levels will be held at Schmeeckle Reserve on the UW-SP campus and will be preceded by a discussion. All sessions will be taught by Chip Manthey, a photography teacher at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and a freelance photographer/writer for newspapers and ad agencies. He has done extensive sports photography for the Badgers, Packers and Pointers as well as wedding and portrait photography. The registration fees are $69 for the beginner sessions, $69 for the intermediate level or $99 for the outdoor session. Space is limited for these classes, so early registration is recommended.

To register, or for more information, contact UW-SP Continuing Education at (715) 346-3838 or (800) 898-9472, or visit the Web at www.u wsp.\conted/ac".

APPLICATION DEADLINES EXTENDED !!!

Don’t forget to register for your study abroad program for summer 2008 - because the world calls you and you just have to get out of Wisconsin

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Still Room For You!!!!!!
Twenty-one excuses for not sticking with your workout

Sara Jensen
THE POINTER
S J E N S 2 3 6 @ U W S P . E D U

There are a million reasons you could come up with for not sticking to your workout routine. And we all know there are just as many for staying with your routine. So what is a person to do? Give up or stay the course? Well, that's really up to the individual. But maybe with a little help, we can all get over our lame excuses and find a way to make working out fun and not so sporadic.

From a recent issue of Men's Health magazine, these 21 excuses for ditching your workout were paired with responses from various people, from dieticians to the average joe, on how they manage to stick with your routine. So what are the only legitimate excuses for not working out and why? Some are no excuse for not getting your 30 minutes of exercise a day.

Excuse 1: You're not feeling up to your usual routine, so feel no need to work out.

No matter how busy you think you might be, there is always enough time to fit in a workout.

Excuse 15: The workout routine is boring.

Begin doing your routine in a reverse order. Or switch up the way you do certain exercises. If you use an overhand grip when doing lat pulldowns, change to an underhand grip. Try counting backwards as well.

Excuse 14: Is it really making a difference?

How are you judging progress? It's suggested you try measuring your waist, heart rate and weight. Write these numbers down. Check the measurements after a week or two. As fat begins to fade, muscles will appear. And reward yourself for even the smallest hints of progress.

You deserve it.

Excuse 13: It's been several weeks and still, no progress.

Just because you can't see the results, doesn't mean you aren't doing your body good. Exercising helps strengthen joints and connective tissues, which in turn makes future muscle growth easier. Diet, stress, sleeping patterns and other factors could be inhibiting your progress. Have patience.

Excuse 12: I have no energy.

Eat something. It gives you that oomph you need to get through the day and fuels your body for working out.

Excuse 11: You want to be in shape for a special occasion or to make a difference?

For the top ten excuses, check out next week's issue of The Pointer.

Largest beef recall in U.S. history

Sara Jensen
THE POINTER
S J E N S 2 3 6 @ U W S P . E D U

Undercover footage of the mistreatment of sick animals is responsible for the United States' largest ever beef recall. The United States Department of Agriculture has deemed 143 million pounds of meat unsafe for human consumption.

The recalled beef comes from a southern California slaughterhouse, Weston/Hallmark Meat Co. They are a major supplier of meat not only to several fast food chains, but also the federal school lunch program.

So far investigators are unsure just how much of the beef has been distributed. It's estimated that 37 million pounds of this beef reached the school lunch programs and much of it has already been eaten. As of yet no health problems have risen at schools who receive their meat from Weston/Hallmark.

"We don't know how much product is out there right now. We don't think there is a health hazard, but we do have to take this action," said Dr. Dick Raymond, USDA Undersecretary for Food Safety.

Downed cattle, those which are sick or injured, are required by federal regulations to be kept out of the food supply. Because these animals tend to spend more time around feces and have weaker immune systems, there is a greater risk of E. coli, salmonella or mad cow disease in their meat.

While some are thankful to the animal rights activists for bringing this situation to light, others have seen it as an opportunity to criticize the way the FDA keeps tabs on America's food supply. Many legislators say more frequent and thorough inspections need to be conducted to prevent this from occurring again.

"Today marks the largest beef recall in U.S. history, and it involves the national school lunch program and other federal food and nutrition programs," said U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. "This begs the question: how much longer will we continue to test our luck with weak enforcement of federal food safety regulations?"
Red sky at night, students’ delight

The world watched

Jessica Spengler
The Pointer
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Wednesday as the last lunar eclipse until 2010 took place.

For Stevens Point, a small shadow began to creep across the moon at 7:38 p.m., and slowly made its way across the moon until reaching full eclipse.

A lunar eclipse occurs during a full moon when the sun, Earth and moon are in a perfect line, with the Earth in the middle. Although the three line up each month, the misalignment of the plane of Earth’s orbit around the sun and the moon’s orbit around Earth prevent eclipses from happening during every full moon.

When the moon enters the Earth’s umbral shadow (full shadow) it begins to look like a partially eaten cookie in the sky. It will continue to disappear until the shadow fully envelops the bright cylinder. Where it will remain until it begins to move out of the shadow as slowly as it went in.

Senior Aimee Freston was excited to watch the moon diminish in the sky, and recognized a familiar face in the process.

“It looks like Pacman!”

The reddish color of the eclipse was caused by the dust and clouds in the atmosphere. While the moon is in total shadow, some light from the sun passes through Earth’s atmosphere and is bent toward the moon. The atmospheric debris will reflect a reddish color.

Christopher Columbus used a blood-red eclipse to scare Jamaican natives in 1504. The only scary thing about Wednesday’s eclipse was the cold weather.

“If I wasn’t so terrified of frostbite, I’d be outside watching the eclipse,” said junior Kris Hess.

Some people were more excited about the experience than deterred by the cold, however.

“Because it happens only so often, we should take time from our busy lives to enjoy it, despite the cold,” said junior Avra Juhnke.

Wednesday’s eclipse was visible at all locations in the United States, and was visible in Europe and Africa at predawn on Thursday.

Accompanying the eclipse were special appearances by Saturn and the bright star Regulus. Space gazers may have noticed the two tiny spots on either side of the moon.

Scientists recently sequenced the genome of a rare bacterium, called the Acaryochloris marina, which lives just under the rock dwelling sea squirt. This bacterium absorbs “red edge,” near infrared, long wave length light which is not visible to the naked eye. By capturing this type of light, the bacterium produces chlorophyll d, a rare form of chlorophyll. Advantages of this find include altering the genetic code of plants using the chlorophyll d to turn them into “super plants.” These plants would then be able to generate and store abundant amounts of solar energy, increasing the likelihood of their success.

The last Carolina Parakeet, the only native parrot species to the Eastern U.S., died in captivity at the Cincinnati Zoo on February 21 in 1918.
The Pointers capped a 89-62 victory over University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in the Quandt Gym on Feb. 20 and will go on to play UW-Platteville Feb. 23 in the team's regular season finale.

After taking a commanding 18 point lead in the first half with a score of 43-25 over the Eagles, UW-Stevens Point would earn a 42 point lead. Pete tallied five points with two 3-pointers of his own during the match-up.

Senior award winner appreciates experience at UW-SP

Jessica Spengler
THE POINTER
jspen826@uwsp.edu

Chebe Kranz blends into the background of The Laird Lounge as I walk up to meet her. She's a pretty girl, dressed in a sporty white sweatshirt with her brown hair pulled back in a high pony-tail.

"I wasn't sure if that was you," I tell her. "This is the first time that we've met.

"Me either," she said.

The senior University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point basketball player and biology major is quieter in person than on the court. Her hard-playing skills have brought her to the forefront of the UW-SP women's basketball team and earned her a reputation of intensity on the court.

In a recent game, after playing vigorously, she sustained an injury that left a black bruise under her right eye.

Her exhaustive work on the court is only matched by her hard work in the classroom. Kranz, a biology major, has earned a 3.95 grade point average and was recently named to a College Sports Information Directors of America/ESPN the Magazine Women's Basketball College Division All-District 5 First Team. This academic achievement is named to only five players in each NCAA division.

When asked how she manages to excel both on the court and academically, Kranz had a simple answer.

"It's time management," she said. "Being an athlete is like having a full-time job. It's about managing your time wisely and making a list of priorities."

This does not leave her with much free time.

"Most of my time is spent with my teammates. We have the same schedule, and we are all very close," said Kranz.

Kranz is happy with the team's current 19-4 record. On Saturday, Feb. 23, the lady ballers play their final regular season game at Platteville before moving on to the WIAC quarterfinals, and their search for a NCAA playoff bid.

"We need to win the conference tournament to make it to the playoffs," Kranz said.

Being a senior puts an extra burden on Kranz and her fellow teammates because this is their last season. This reality only recently started to sink in, however.

"It didn't hit me until Senior Day, and I realized how sad it was," said Kranz. "But there's nothing I can do but continue to play hard until it's over."

The years at UW-SP have taught Kranz not to take anything for granted.

"What I've learned is to appreciate what God gives you. Anything can happen. Injuries can take it away from you. Sometimes your body doesn't listen. You just have to remember that you're lucky to be playing, lucky to be doing it."

The fans seated in the Quandt stands on Wednesday night. "We need a great following down in Platteville."

The team will travel to UW-Platteville for their final regular season game. That game will decide whether the Pointers will tie or win the WIAC regular season title for the 25th time in the program's history.

After facing the Pioneers, the team will go on to play in the WIAC Quarterfinals on Feb. 23.

Senior award winner appreciates experience at UW-SP

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When asked how she manages to excel both on the court and academically, Kranz had a simple answer.

"It's time management," she said. "Being an athlete is like having a full-time job. It's about managing your time wisely and making a list of priorities."

This does not leave her with much free time.

"Most of my time is spent with my teammates. We have the same schedule, and we are all very close," said Kranz.

Kranz is happy with the team's current 19-4 record. On Saturday, Feb. 23, the lady ballers play their final regular season game at Platteville before moving on to the WIAC quarterfinals, and their search for a NCAA playoff bid.

"We need to win the conference tournament to make it to the playoffs," Kranz said.

Being a senior puts an extra burden on Kranz and her fellow teammates because this is their last season. This reality only recently started to sink in, however.

"It didn't hit me until Senior Day, and I realized how sad it was," said Kranz. "But there's nothing I can do but continue to play hard until it's over."

The years at UW-SP have taught Kranz not to take anything for granted.

"What I've learned is to appreciate what God gives you. Anything can happen. Injuries can take it away from you. Sometimes your body doesn't listen. You just have to remember that you're lucky to be playing, lucky to be doing it."

The fans seated in the Quandt lounge as I walk up to meet her. This is the first time that we've met.

"Me either," she said.

The senior University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point basketball player and biology major is quieter in person than on the court. Her hard-playing skills have brought her to the forefront of the UW-SP women's basketball team and earned her a reputation of intensity on the court.

In a recent game, after playing vigorously, she sustained an injury that left a black bruise under her right eye.

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Pointers drop game to Blugolds, take junior Brett Beckfeld led the team against Stout in NCHA quarterfinals.

“Hey season upon the Pointers, players have accumulated after the first season as their careers,”

Coach Wil Nichol is proud of the numerous awards the players have done so far in college careers.

That says a lot about those seven people,” Nichol said. “To keep that sort of grade point average with 50 or more total (credits) I think is awesome, while being a student athlete.”

Ending their regular season with a 0.2 loss to UW-Eau Claire on Feb. 16, the Pointers would find themselves 5-6-3 in conference and 14-7-4 overall. The loss bumped the team to sixth place in conference standings after the Pointers failed to score against the Blugolds.

UW-Eau Claire maintained offensive advantage throughout the match-up, more than doubling UWSP’s shot opportunities when they tallied 42 shots during the game.

Fantasy sports: A game within a game

“Did you see so and so got hurt? That muscle is killing your fantasy team!” Nichol said. “I think that the players have done in the community have been a success. Some of the things they have done on the ice, like the 11 game unbeaten streak was a success and doubling our wins from last year was a success.”

There were also four Pointers awarded NCHA honorable mention. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s Josh Kozel, Pat Lee, Tim Manthey, and KDGCS head coach Chad Johnson all received the honor.

The Pointers definitely were not sequences when it came to awarding academic performance this year. A lucky total of seven players were honored as part of the NCHA All-Academic Team. That includes skaters Andy Cankar, Ross Johnson, Reed Lally, Tim Manthey, Creighton Scarpone, Marcus Paulson and Matt Stendahl.

To earn the award, the players had to have a 3.2 grade point average or higher and have earned 50 credits so far in their college careers.

“I think that if they worked on themselves, there is going to be a little over one week. So, there are other things for me to keep my attention on,” he said. “Do not get me wrong; I am very appreciative, but I also need to get ready and be focused for the upcoming events.”

Those words may definitely be the key for the entire team as they head into the conference tournament this weekend in Appleton. Coach Johnson explains that there is a lot at risk.

“This is a very big tournament for us,” said Johnson. “Our goal is to win this, which we haven’t done since 1997. More importantly, this tournament is how our guys qualify for the national tournament.”

Wrestlers ready themselves for WIAC Tourney

Rob Schleicher 1998 @UWSF.EDU

With the last of the hockey season upon the Pointers, junior Brett Beckfeld led the team this season, which places him second in team scoring.

As they head into the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference wrestling championships on Feb. 24, the Pointers wrestling team is bringing skill and determination to the mat.

The team had a 15-6-1 overall record and ended the regular season schedule with a big win over UW-Eau Claire for a 5-1-0 conference record.

“I am happy with the way our team has progressed and developed a real awareness of how good they can actually be,” Operator Coach Johnny Johnson said. “These are great guys with a tremendous work ethic. They’ve earned everything they’ve gotten so far.”

The Pointers have been working hard and harboring a secret weapon on the team: heavyweight wrestler Chad Gregory. The sophomore was named WIAC Athlete of the Week on Feb. 12 and after his big win against 10th ranked Blugold Nick Hoef last Saturday.

Gregory has a lot of inspiration, be it from the whole-hearted faith or that special someone who stands beside him, urging him to success. "There is one other thing that helps me do my best, and that is my wife, Kimberly,” said Gregory. “I married her in December in Oklahoma, and afterwards, she moved up here with me. Since she has been here, I have not lost a match. I think I am still trying to impress her.”

When asked about becoming the recipient of the weekly conference award, he was modest and explained that there was a lot more on his mind.

“I do not know what to feel. I am happy, but we still have two matches this weekend, and the conference tournament is coming up in just a little over one week. So, there are other things for me to keep my attention on,” he said. “Do not get me wrong; I am very appreciative, but I also need to get ready and be focused for the upcoming events.”

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Women’s Basketball - Haley Houghton & Britta Peterson
Women’s Hockey - Michelle Sonnowski
Men’s Track Events - Nick Ver Duin
Men’s Field Events - Evan Hutchinson
Women’s Track Events - Liz Caine
Women’s Field Events - Alicia Harling
Wrestling - Craig Bollig

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"Across the Universe" could change your world

Mackenzie Smith

ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Director Julie Taymor's musical has an innovative twist. "Across the Universe" incorporates the music of one of the most celebrated bands in history: The Beatles.

My initial reaction to "Across the Universe" was a smile. The film was a visual and auditory treat. With a level of originality rarely seen in cinema today, the unique choreography and psychedelic images "come together" to tell a wonderful story about war and love.

If you're not into The Beatles before you see this film, you will learn to adore them for both their sound and the overall message. The cast skillfully conveys the songs' ideals by bringing them to life through the plot. Admittedly, the plot was a bit confusing at some parts. The scenes occasionally jumped around. However, each song is part of the string that holds the fabric of the scenes together. Some of the songs were adapted and modernized, but they stay true to their origins.

The music alone wouldn't have made the film what it is; the choreography carries the film. The choreography has a playful and indescribable uniqueness sure to elicit a smile and a few giggles. It gives the viewer an overwhelming desire to substitute song and dance for personal, everyday experiences. After viewing the film, I wished I could fall for a face in a bowling alley or get "a little help from my friends" at Princeton University. These scenes are much more involving than they sound.

"Across the Universe" tells the love story of two characters whose paths cross in an unlikely way. A young man, Jude (Jim Sturgess), travels across the Atlantic from Liverpool to search for his biological father, whom he has never met. On his journey, he runs into the eccentric Max (Joe Anderson) at Princeton University. The two become instant friends. Lucy (Evan Rachel Wood), Max's younger sister, loses her high school boyfriend in the Vietnam War. These three end up in Greenwich Village, and discover that they fit into the hippie scene of the 1960s. There, they meet Sadie (Dana Fuchs), a Janis Joplin look-alike blues singer, who's on the verge of selling out and causing trouble in her relationship with her lead guitarist, Jo Jo (Martin Luther).

The most irrelevant character of the movie, Prudence (TV Carpio), struggles with her identity as she randomly pops in and out of the movie. As Jude and Lucy fall in love, problems evolve when Max is drafted into the war. As a result, Lucy becomes involved in extreme activism and protesting the war, which becomes more dangerous as the war progresses. Lucy and Jude's relationship takes an unexpected turn and leaves the audience questioning whether love can conquer war. While the film isn't preachy, I got the impression that the writers and creators of "Across the Universe" were trying to relate the Vietnam War to the war in Iraq. The film tends to focus on similarities between the two conflicts. It calls into question the appropriateness of extreme activism and apathy.

Although the movie ran slightly longer than two hours, I didn't really notice it. Each scene, whether fast paced and upbeat or slow and dramatic, is entertaining. Some parts of the movie are a little extreme in visual effects and a little controversial; they deal with very liberal ideas and psychedelic images relating to drug use. This movie should be watched with an open mind.

The film follows The Beatles' musical development. Each stage is represented in the plot of the movie. The film progresses from the upbeat, pop-oriented beginning, through the psychedelic, anti-war phase and ends on a final message that lies behind the final song of the movie. Both the music and the story of "Across the Universe" deserve all of your "love, love, love. It's easy!"

Students mix pigment, liquid binder and other ingredients with a mortar and pestle to make pastels for drawing in Mark Bruggeman's Basic Drawing 2 (Art 104). When the ingredients reach a piecemeal consistency, they roll the mixture into sticks and leave them to dry. All art students are required to take two basic drawing classes as part of their "foundations courses."

On newstands now...

Andrew Daliman

ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Are you tired of the violent, graphic, exploitative and dark, brooding anti-heroes most modern comic book fans typically come to expect? DC Comics has the perfect solution for you—their latest installment of the Comics Code approved "Justice League Unlimited." This 42nd issue of the kid-friendly series is brought to readers by writer Dan Raspler ("Young Heroes in Love"), penciller Christopher Jones ("The Batman Strikes") andinker Mark Propst ("Wonder Woman"). This team makes a much better adaptation of the comic's Cartoon Network counterpart than most books in the "from television" genre.

The story follows the release of Una Hitchens, a.k.a. Queen of the Royal Flush Gang, from prison. The story details her troubles as she tries to find work, trust and friendship after a three year prison sentence. Tempted by her former Royal Flush Gang teammates to return to a life of crime, Una receives the advice of Justice League member Wonder Woman, who tells her about the benefits of living a life on the straight and narrow. The conflict is resolved in the final pages of the story, and the conclusion is somewhat surprising.

"Justice League Unlimited 42" is a fast-paced, cleverly conceived depiction of the life of a recently released felon. The story explores the stigma attached to these people and questions whether this treatment is justifiable. The for all ages series is published monthly by DC Comics and costs $2.25 per issue.

ARTS & CULTURE
February 21, 2008 • 11
On Valentine's Day, I had a date. Actually, I received an e-mail for a date. At least, I got an e-mail invitation to attend a dance with a female friend. Valentine's Day was a bust in the romance department, but I really did receive an interesting electronic correspondence.

I was hanging out with my ex-boyfriend, playing Super Mario Brothers, when my computer chimed, "You've got mail!"

I rushed to my computer, hoping for a lusty e-card from a secret admirer, or at least a cheesy message from my mother. Instead, I was greeted by a hesitant message from a girl I'd only talked to twice. "Hi Katie, it's me. I vaguely remember talking about dance with you once. Anyway, I am going to the Swing Fling on Saturday and here's the thing—ALL of my friends have backed out on me! If you don't already have plans Saturday, it might be fun to do something daring to light up jazz and hang out. Cheers!"

Now, I hadn't seen this girl since New Year's, and I don't often hang out one on one with people I've only just met. I feel much more comfortable if the person who introduced us is there. However, she seemed like a nice girl. She was the friend of a friend whose judgment I trust implicitly, and I really wanted to go to that dance. I didn't know anyone else who was going. My own best friend had decided to stay in that night because her boyfriend was coming to visit. What could I do? I called the girl and arranged for her to pick me up Saturday, the night of the dance.

After some initial problems with her locating my apartment and my selecting appropriate attire, the girl and I made it to Memories in Plover, where the Swing Fling was held. Hosted by QDFM and Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity, student tickets were $6 and all proceeds went to benefit the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point jazz department. The event began with a 30 minute swing dance overview taught by Lenore Haferman, a charismatic older woman who had us laughing the entire time. After we showed us some fanciful footwork, the UWSP Jazz Ensemble took the stage and played some fantastic dancing music.

It turned out that the girl I'd come with was not only a dance enthusiast, but also a dance instructor, a fact I hadn't remembered, so we really had a blast. She taught me how to jazz up my swing, introduced me to rumba and cha-cha, practiced a little waltz and salsa, tried out the charleston and then led me to the new love of my life: the Lindy.

The Lindy Hop is a dance that evolved out of the Breakaway and the Charleston in Harlem in the mid-1920s and early 1930s. It is rumored to be named after the headline, "Lindy Hops the Atlantic," referring to Charles Lindbergh's famous solo flight. Although it disappeared with the 1960s and rock and roll, it came back with the swing revival of the 1980s and early 1990s. Lindy is the most popular of 'lindy communities,' small groups of people who are passionately dedicated to the dance.

I myself had been trying to learn it for about five years on and off from an old co-worker who was part of one such community in Milwaukee, Brew City Hops, but had never been able to pick up the complicated footwork. And with such complicated footwork it was! However, my dance partner was such a good lead that I fell right into it. We spun around the dance floor so quickly that I was dizzy by the time we finished each song, and I imagine we looked pretty snazzy too. The event was almost five hours long, so it was quite a welcome relief when the UWSP Faculty Combo took the stage halfway through. They played some jazz that was very pleasant to the ears, but not very easy to dance to, so we took a break to sit and chat.

All in all, I was very impressed with the way the night turned out. The event itself was very well organized and pleasurable, and while I wish more of our friends had been there, the two of us had a supremely good time. And what have I learned from this all? Well, besides the lindy and a pretty good Bush joke, I now know that going out with a practical stranger is not nearly as intimidating as it seems. In fact, it can even be fun.
Your College Survival Guide:

**Everyday adventures**

By Pat Rothfuss

Pat is still collecting letters. So send in your stories of dates that you’ve had that have gone horribly wrong. Prizes will be awarded, in the form of delicious chocolate from our sponsor, Sugar3. So get on the stick and cash in on your traumatic love-life, and email me at proth@wsunix.edu.edu.

Now, onto this week’s letter.

Pat,

I read that you’re looking for letters for Valentine’s Day. I’ve never really had a tragic date, but I do have a question. I know that you used to lead a pretty strange life back when you were a student. Is that still the case? Do you still have, like, adventures and stuff?

Curious About Pat.

Well CAP, for me every day is an adventure. Part of this is because of how I live my life, part of it is due to what I’m pretty sure is a profound chemical imbalance in my brain coupled with a deep fondness for social deviancy.

You want an example? Take yesterday. I went to the dentist.

This might not seem like a big deal to you, but in fact, for a lot of you, I’m guessing a trip to the dentist is no more of an event than going to get the oil changed in your car or buying a new pair of shoes. That is to say, it falls under the category of routine maintenance for your life.

But you see, I haven’t been to the dentist in a while. A long while. An amount of while is to say, its falls under the category of routine maintenance for your life.

But, as with all things, I’ve taken it to the next level. For me, it’s been so long that I can only dimly remember the last time. My last dentist was a huge Italian man with fingers like sausages. He looked like an honest-to-god mobster, and when he mentioned that I wasn’t flossing, it sounded like something out of the Godfather. Like if I didn’t floss, he was going to send someone around to my house to straighten me out...

Also, the brand name of the little workstation they had next to the chair? “Cavitron.”

I shit you not. The thing was called The Cavitron.

It would be funny to say that that experience traumatized me, and that’s why I haven’t been back for so long. But the it wouldn’t be the truth. I thought all that was funny as hell.

The truth is, I just never think of going. And when I DO think of going, I worry that this is Penance. It’s fair. This poor hygienist wasn’t planning on dealing with this today and they probably scheduled my cleaning thinking that they’d only need the regular amount of time. I can’t blame them for being a little rough and a little hurried.

Still, part of me wonders if there is an upscale dentist option out there. I mean, I don’t think Brad Pitt goes in to the dentist and has someone scrape away at him like this. It’s just undignified.

Anyway, it’s good for me. Not only because my teeth did need cleaning, but because I haven’t practiced my Buddhist meditation lately, and I typically only do that in situations like this.

Here’s my philosophy. Any Warren can meditate at home, listening to Enya and sitting on his yoga mat. That’s for sissies. You managed to clear your mind from all distractions? Wow. Congratulations. You want an organic, sugar-free walnut and raisin cookie to celebrate?

Me? I’m badass. My thought is that if you can relax, clear your mind, and contemplate the four noble truths while someone is drilling your teeth, then you’ve got your place in the universe pretty well sorted out. Meditating while under extreme conditions is like going running while you’re wearing leg weights and occasionally stopping to have a fistfight with a shark. Except, y’know, with your brain.

So I immediatelty in the dentist’s chair. I meditated while flying through a thunderstorm sitting next to a mom with a screaming baby, while getting stitches with no anesthetist at the doctor’s office, and, once, in the fourth row of a Gwar concert. Keep your circle breathing to yourself, hippie. I’ve got so much pranjia I don’t even know what to do with it all.

And the end of the story? I’m fine. No cavities. That’s the moral of the story, kids. It’s all a lie. You don’t have to go to the dentist, or floss. It’s a lie.

This week only, send in a story from the emotional trauma wreck that is your love-life. I’ll be repeating the freshest and most horrifying of these for next week’s column. If I use yours, you’ll get a gift certificate from our generous sponsor: the best chocolate truffles you’ll ever experience. So if you’re looking to give a classy little gift to someone special, throw that cheap-ass Whitman sampler shit away and head down to their store. Seriously, you won’t regret it. proth@wsunix.uws.edu

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A Woman's Intuition: Live to Ski

Sara Suchy
THE POINTER
SSUCH489@UWSP.EDU

I haven't slept much the last few nights, but then again, I never sleep very well during the third week in February. Usually around this time of the semester, the work load starts to pile up and your feeling of calm you promised yourself you would maintain through this semester (if only for your blood pressure's sake) is clearly fading.

But for me, it's not school work or work work or even the looming reality of mid-terms through this semester (if only that causes my insomnia. It's the third week in February. This year marks the 35th year that thousands of cross country skiers, both professionals and amateurs will descend upon Northern Wisconsin to brave the cold and the elements in the "Greatest Show on Snow.

The Birkebeiner started way back in 1206 during the Norwegian Civil War. A group of Birkebeiners, soldiers who fought for Sverre Sigurdsson, smuggled the illegitimate son of Norway's King Hakon Sverresson from Lillehammer to Trondheim, a 51 kilometer trek across treacherous terrain with a small child (who also happened to be the heir of the Norwegian throne) on their back. The son eventually grew up to be one of Norway's most influential kings. Good for those Birkebeiners.

This will be my fourth run at this particular race. The registration for the race conveniently opens in June when the farthest thing from my mind is the extreme torture of "Bitch Hill" at the 40 K mark and the "The Power Lines" sections of the race that are particularly menacing. So, I happily sign up thinking, "Sure, why not? It's not all that bad," as I sip my margarita and decide to take a day off from running.

But as the leaves start to fall off the trees and those first flurries of snow fall from the sky, I am reminded of that agonizing feeling at the top of every hill, that feeling that the trail will surely never end, and the final stretch through Hayward's downtown is a mere figment of my convoluted imagination.

My point is, it's long, it's hard and it's damn cold. But would I ever stop doing it? Absolutely not! Maybe it's the masochist in me; maybe it's the extreme sense of accomplishment I feel when I cross the finish line; maybe it's the moment when I swear I "see God" on Lake Hayward just meters before I see the finish line; maybe it's just to prove one more time that I can drag my body through that cursed race. Whatever it is, I have a certifiable case of "Birkie Fever." A condition suffered by just about every Birkebeiner finisher. That feeling that no matter how hard it was and how badly you want to spend your third Saturday in February watching "Bull Durham" and drinking beer, as long as you can walk, you'll be skiing the Birkie.

So be thinking of my fellow skiers and me on Saturday morning as you're rolling out of bed, recounting the shenanigans of the previous night. We'll be waxing up our skis and hitting the trails one more time, just to prove we can.
I came to Kent through karate.

You?

Well...

I'm writing poetry.

I've got a portfolio due tomorrow, but Craig's glaring at me.

Don't starring make it impossible to write?

It was too just too QUIET.

Neverland

Lo Shim

---

What's wrong, lunch?

My dad found my report card from last semester.

He's mad I got two F's. I didn't even try.

But two "A's" is ridiculous.

KenAnime

Roger Vang

---

People just don't dance...

No, I may be the only one but I'm just gonna dance the night away.

---

I'm writing poetry.

I've got a portfolio due tomorrow, but Craig's glaring at me.

Don't starring make it impossible to write?

It was too just too QUIET.

Joy Ratchman

---

WORD SEARCH: VALENTINE'S DAY

king

queen

princess

prince

pope

emperor

chieftan

pharoah

warlord

sultan

dynasty

czar

Contact

Joy Ratchman

at jratc567@uwsp.edu

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