



UW-SP students participate at the polls

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THE POINTER
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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus was a buzz with primary fever early this week with students.

The Student Government Association sponsored a student led debate on Monday night during which different students represented the views of each presidential candidate with a Wolf Blitzer like character asking questions. Sen. Hillary Clinton, Gov. Mike Huckabee, Sen. John McCain, Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Ron Paul were each represented.

Each student researched and studied his or her candidate's stand on major issues in the election and answered

each debate question as he or she thought the candidates would answer them.

The candidates debated the issues of the Iraq war, health care, immigration and the economy among others. The answers sparked inter-

esting and heated debates on the stage as well amongst the audience.

The debate was meant to give students a chance to hear the candidate's views on important issues as well as inspire them to do their own

research and get out the polls.

And get out to the polls they did, as UW-SP students showed up in record numbers on Tuesday to cast their votes for this historic election.

"I get excited about every election," said sophomore Joelle Grosheck. "I think it will be really interesting to see who comes out on top. It'll be a first either way."

For many students on the UW-SP campus, this year's primary is the first presidential election they are able to participate in, exercising their right to vote.

"I think everyone is really excited about the election this year," said sophomore Lynzi Zettler. "I'm really excited because it's the first presidential election I can vote in."

Roxy Vedvig, a junior at

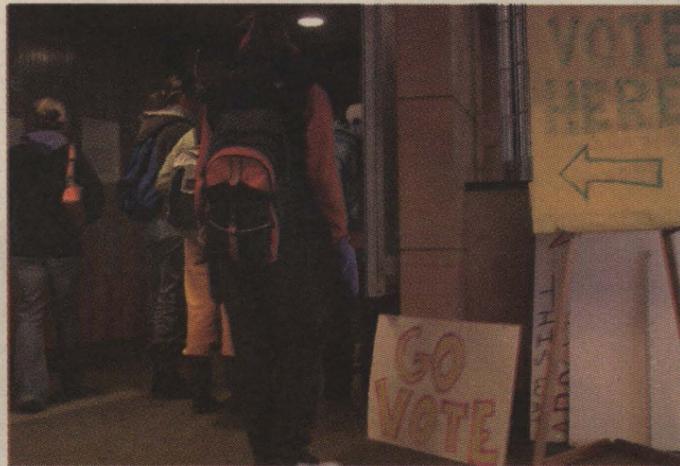


Photo by Katie Leb

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

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Wisconsin senator pushes legislation for weekend vote

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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 land owners 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

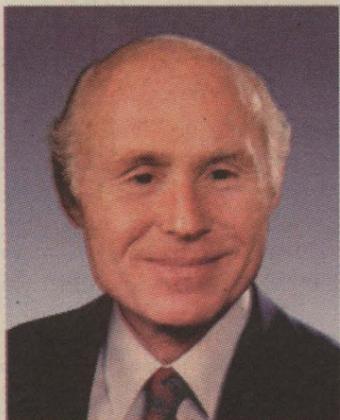
this process easier, to encourage more people to make their voice heard in Washington."

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-

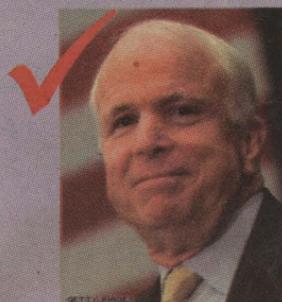


Primary Results



Wisconsin

Obama: 646,007
Clinton: 452,795



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

Stevens Point

Obama: 8,993
Clinton: 6,707

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

McCain: 165
Huckabee: 143
Paul: 45

Information provided by www.cnn.com and www.co.portage.wi.us

Stevens Point. "Interestingly enough, Iraq recently held its elections on a Sunday."

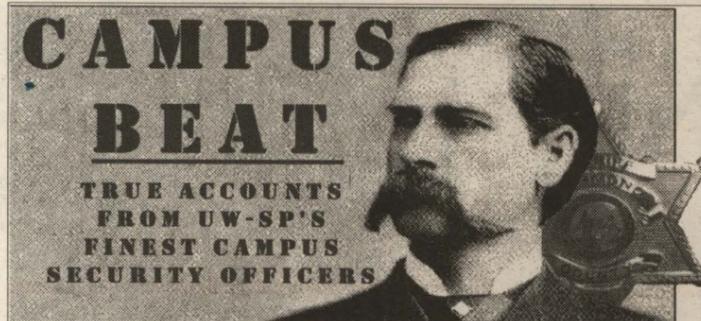
Blakeman alleged that politicians are always looking for a magic formula to increase voter turnout and standardize the method.

"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 outcries 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



Unknown Location
February 13, 2008 3:30 p.m.
Type: DAMAGE

Individual in moving vehicle hit a parked vehicle.

Parking Lot Q
February 15, 2008 11:42 a.m.
Type: DAMAGE

Man flagged down officers to tell them his car was broken into while parked in Lot Q.

Noel Fine Arts Center
February 16, 2008 9:22 a.m.
Type: SUSPICIOUS

A man was thought to be sleeping under the stairs in the atrium of the NFAC. The gentleman was discovered to only be listening to music.

Parking Lot P
February 18, 2008 11:47 a.m.
Type: DAMAGE

Car accident in Lot P.

Parking Lot Q
February 18, 2008 4:18 p.m.
Type: DAMAGE

Individual called to report a fender-bender in Lot Q. Officer took report.

Parking Lot Z
February 19, 2008 10:14 a.m.
Type: DAMAGE

DUC information desk reported a fender-bender in Lot Z.

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 to not 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 delegates 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.



Photo by Katie LeB

On the eve of the Wisconsin primary, students at UW-SP participated in one last discussion of the candidates. Fellow students represented each of the presidential hopefuls still in the race.

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

"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

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

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.

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.

THE POINTER

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Way to go Pointers!

You rocked the VOTE!

The Woodpecker Project; students capture birds for study

Gregg Jennings
OUTDOORS REPORTER

Eight University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students slogged 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.



Photo by Gregg Jennings

A white breasted nuthatch was caught, measured and released during The Project.

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Good luck to the
Ace-Holes in
the Snow Throw
Massacre II!

Snow, snow, go away!

Ashley Schlosser
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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 somewhat 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 bittersweet symphony of frozen misery and learn a bit about snow.

Snow forms when water vapor condenses into ice crystal, which usually happens in a 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 millimetres 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 can come in many different forms, including columns, needles, bricks and plates. Snow falls from clouds that contain enough cloud droplets and ice crystals for pre-

cipitation 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' footprints 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 UW-SP German 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.

Outdoor•Ed Ventures

Tip of the Week

Frostbite vs. Hypothermia

Ever wonder what to do if you are miles out in the wilderness and a friend has a cold-related injury? There are very different courses of action for problems due to hypothermia versus frostbite. Here is the crash course in cold weather treatment:

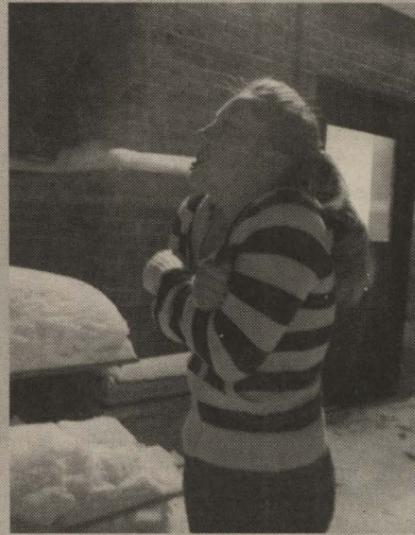
Hypothermia is the body core cooling where the heat loss is greater than the heat produced. Symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, incoherent mumbling, deteriorating coordination and pale skin, especially on extremities such as the nose, ears, fingers and toes. To treat, remove any wet clothing, get into dry clothes and out of the elements. Apply external heat sources to victim's body such as another person's body heat, a warm fire close by or insulating them within a sleeping bag, blankets or coats. If the victim is conscious, give them some warm drink and food. Do not give them alcohol. This only worsens their body's fight against the cold.

Frostbite is the freezing of the moisture within the skin. Symptoms include numbness, loss of feeling and dexterity, and the skin looks yellow or white and waxy. The flesh becomes hard and eventually goes

black.

Frostbite occurs in two different stages. The first stage occurs at the time of exposure. Ice crystals form outside the cells and lock up the water and moisture. This dehydrates the cells and causes them to die. Second, surrounding cells deteriorate further due to a lack of oxygen normally carried to them by circulation. Treatment, explained lightly, is gradual rewarming and prevention of refreezing. Warm water works well. Never rub frostbite areas! The cells are in a very weak condition and rubbing will cause them to burst. If the condition is severe, seek immediate help and do not treat unless certified in proper techniques. Rewarming the affected areas sends blood toward injured and broken cells. Rubbing the area will cause more cell deterioration. Holes develop in cell walls, and the blood leaks. With nowhere to flow to, the blood clots, and the area becomes inflamed causing even further damage.

The moral of the story is that for a hypothermic patient, stop moving, get them warm, build a shelter and make a fire. For a frostbite patient, get them professional help so that they won't lose any fingers, toes, tips of their nose or an arm.



Survey says: 88 million fish caught, 33 million kept in 2006-07

Press Release
WISCONSIN DNR

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 71 million hours on the water, and although walleye was their most targeted species, they caught more panfish 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 ultimate measure of the success of our program is how many fish people are catching," says Mike Staggs, Wisconsin's fisheries director. "The numbers emphasize how good fishing is in Wisconsin - a lot of people catch a lot of fish."

The surveys were sent out every two weeks to 2,500 anglers randomly selected from the automated database of current license holders. Anglers were asked if

they fished during the two-week period, what fish they primarily fished for, and other general information like whether they belong to a sportsman's club or other conservation group.

Anglers were also asked to fill in a grid with the date, county and lake or stream they fished, and for each species, the number of fish they caught and the number they kept.

The survey also delivered these interesting tidbits:

Lake Michigan was the most popular water to fish, with six percent of angler trips to the "big pond," followed by Lake Winnebago, the Mississippi River and

the Wisconsin River.

The top 10 waters accounted for only 26 percent of angler trips, meaning nearly three-quarters of anglers' trips were made to other waters, hinting at the diversity of fishing in a state with 15,081 lakes and 42,000 perennially flowing miles of river.

Bass and musky were the fish released most often, with only 5.4 percent and 5.59 percent of those species harvested, respectively.

Ice anglers spent 15.2 million hours fishing, caught 14 million fish and kept nearly half of them, or 6.5 million.

The 2006 survey estimated that 1,394,000 anglers 16 years and older fished nearly

21 million days in Wisconsin in 2006 and spent \$1.6 billion. Nonresidents comprised 381,000 of the licensed anglers and accounted for nearly 3.8 million days fishing. Wisconsin consistently finishes among the top states nationally in every category of sport fishing along with Minnesota, California, Texas and Florida.

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
POINTLIFE 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 Divepiont.

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).

Other kinds of rock climbing include: sport climbing, top-rope climbing, solo climbing, bouldering, traditional climbing, mountaineering 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

level.

2. Technical: the technique 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



Photo courtesy of www.google.com

than many sports (skiing, for example), and roughly comparable to many others.

As with most activities, you can spend more by getting the latest equipment and flying to popular climbing destinations around the world, or you can keep it very economical. Most climbers live within a few hours drive of a good climbing site, and if you camp out, a climbing weekend costs very little.

What will you need?

"You'll need 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.

"Check out the equipment before buying it. It should be safe, comfortable and the right size," said Divepiont salesman Sam Janicki.

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 Janicki.

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 landscap-

ing.

Devil's lake has about 1,600 routes, said Butt.

Petenwell Bluffs is located three miles outside of Necedah, on the west side of the Wisconsin River and at the south end of Petenwell Lake.

The Bluffs are home to 50-foot walls and steady overhangs,

"This wall holds some of the best climbing in the state," said climber Tim Fidler. "It rocks."

Even though the climbing is good here, camping is not allowed. So pack a lunch, but not the tent, he said.

When it comes to winter climbing, the best outdoor climbers head indoors. Don't get me wrong, there is such a thing called "Ice climbing," but that requires going pretty far north.

"Indoor climbing on artificial walls has made rock climbing a mainstream adventure activity," said Butt.

With panels cast from imprints of actual rock cliffs, climbers may not be able to tell the difference. With durability and limitless route potentials, indoor rock climbing is a great alternative to the outdoors.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is home to a 28 square foot indoor climbing wall, just waiting to be conquered.

The climbing wall features well-qualified instructors and the opportunity to learn about climbing in a superb indoor facility.

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 gently angled "slabs" 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

See Climbing pg. 6

A place for Freethought

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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, skepticism, secularism, humanism, philosophical naturalism, rationalism and atheism on college and high school campuses

We also support quality science education," said Courtney Weigand, the president of SFF. Not all members of SFF are atheists or the same major, and anyone is welcome to join the organization.

SFF is planning a two-part event in March, which will host a panel of atheists who will answer any questions about atheism, and as well as a showing of a documentary/reality-TV show called "30 Days." The program places an individual into a lifestyle that is completely different from his or her upbringing, beliefs, religion or profession for 30 days.

"We 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



Photo by Ashley Schlosser

Students For Freethought members are guided by rationality and logic and support separation of church and state.

throughout North America and the world."

As a major part of SFF, freethinking implies the humanly privilege to form one's own judgments about religion using reason, rather than relying on tradition, authority, faith or established belief. The freethought movement exists to "free the mind of ignorant presuppositions and superstitions," according to the organization's Web site.

"We strongly support the separation of state and church.

subjects such as the separation of church and state, just 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.

**Today's
Weather**

High: 16 °F RealFeel®: 13 °F
Increasing cloudiness



**Friday's
Weather**

High: 24 °F RealFeel®: 31 °F
Partly sunny and not as cold

Student Involvement and Employment works to make life sweeter

Rick LaRoche
THE POINTER
RLARO831@UWSP.EDU

Last Wednesday the Student Involvement and Employment Office hosted the "Make Life Sweeter" fundraiser in the Dreyfus University Center.

For \$5, participants were able to enter desserts and taste others by 20 different campus chefs. Prizes were awarded to

the most unique dessert, best Valentine's treat, best chocolate treat and the best table design.

The fundraiser is the biggest one of the year for SIEO. 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

volunteersrock.org in partnership with the United Way.

"We had a great turn out," said Katrina Mijal, the break trip coordinator for SIEO. "About 100 people showed up to taste the treats."

According to Mijal, the money raised should pay the way for two students on the next service trip. "We really need these funds to make these trips possible. Our spring trip to Cincinnati to help out with hunger and

homeless programs had to be canceled due to lack of funding," said Mijal.

In the past, the group has done service trips to the gulf coast and to Camp Heartland where they did work with kids who suffer from HIV/AIDS.

"We really enjoy being able to help out, especially with the kids at Heartland. We just can't afford to spend 15 hours at a bake sale every week. We have jobs and school work too," said Mijal.

SIEO hopes to host another 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, 31, and April 7 and 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the College of Professional Studies building at UW-SP. These classes will cover choosing a digital camera, getting to know your camera, taking better pictures, and optimizing digital func-

tions.

"Digital Photography: Intermediate Level" will be held on two Saturdays, March 8 and 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Communication Arts Center at UW-SP. The focus will be on assignments to improve skills as well as a higher level of photography. Topics will include camera operations, lighting techniques, portraiture and posing, imaging, outdoor photography and more. Participants who took the beginning class last semester are encouraged to attend.

"Digital Photography Outdoors" will be offered 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 Schmeckle 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 \$89 for the beginner sessions, \$69 for the intermediate level or \$59 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.uwsp.conted/aco.

From **Climbing** pg. 5

certification is \$10 and includes climbing that night and is a once per year fee.

- All equipment is provided.

- Yearly climbing competition, for all levels every year.

The hours of open climb are Sunday through Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. These nights are free to all students with an ID and include all gear and certifications.

Waivers need to be signed by each climber, or in the case that the climber is under 18 years old, by the climber's par-

ent or legal guardian. There are no exceptions to this rule.

There's no denying that rock climbing is a dangerous sport. The higher off the ground and the further from civilization you climb, the greater the risk becomes.

Your safety depends on your skills and physical conditioning. Rock climbing involves a wall or rock face so play it safe and, most of all, have fun.

APPLICATION DEADLINES EXTENDED !!!

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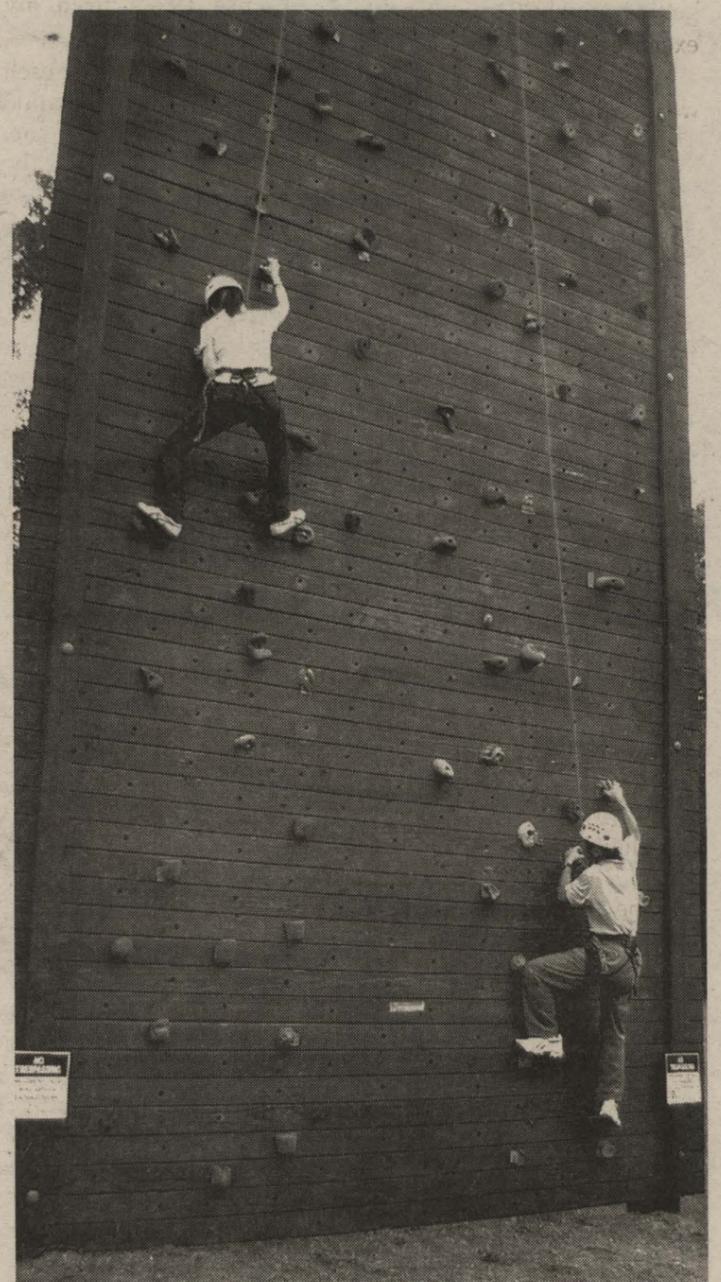


Photo courtesy of www.google.com

Twenty-one excuses for not sticking with your workout

Sara Jensen
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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 keep fit.

The only "legitimate" excuses for not working out are being sore, sick, exhausted or hurt. If any of these apply, stay home and rest until you're better. Working out won't help. The following reasons are no excuse for not getting your 30 minutes of exercise a day.

Excuse 21: There's crappy weather outside.

So exercise in the comfort

of your own home. You can walk or run up and down a flight of stairs, lift hand weights you might have on hand (or canned goods or heavy boxes or even books) or jump rope.

Excuse 20: Not enough time aka, "I'm too busy."

One doctor suggests combining the things you do everyday, work and breathe, with exercise. Use workout routines as a social commodity—play tennis with a friend or a date, go hiking with family, take a spin class to meet new people, or set up meetings in which you walk or jog as well as get business matters taken care of.

Excuse 19: There's good television shows on, for once.

Tape record or TiVo it. There's also this crazy little invention called reruns which help make the summer tv slump seem a bit more tolerable. Even if you just do part of your usual routine, experts agree that exercising won't seem so unattainable. And who knows, you may be so into it that you keep going.

Excuse 18: "I need my sleep."

At the beginning of each week, look over your schedule and pencil in a workout ses-



Photo courtesy of iabcnews.com/Health/Diet

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

sion. If you make it a part of your daily schedule, it won't feel forced into your life.

Excuse 17: Gym memberships cost too much.

So don't get a membership. There are plenty of physical activities you can do in your own home without having to spend a lot of money or worry about others judging you. There's also the wonderful world of the outdoors which offer a plethora of exercising opportunities including riding a bike, playing a sport or simply going for a walk.

Excuse 16: "I don't like my gym."

Then go to a different one. It's that easy.

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 backward 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 sure you're giving your body a long enough rest.

If you're still resting after 72 hours, you're not really sticking with your regimen. It's also been suggested to add L-glutamine to post workout shakes and including more omega-3 fatty acids to your diet. These help with cellular reconstruction and the removal of metabolic wastes for a faster recovery time.

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

Largest beef recall in U.S. history

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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.

This is the equivalent of about two hamburgers for every man, woman and child in the United States.

The recalled beef comes from a southern California slaughterhouse, Westland/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 about 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 Westland/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.



The video which brought about the investigation showed employees of Westland/Hallmark kicking, shocking and enacting other forms of abuse on animals who were too sick or injured to enter the slaughterhouse. An investigator also reported water being forced down the throats of some animals. In addition, several injured and sick cattle were seen being pushed with forklifts.

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?"

Laser Light Shows returning this Spring

February 27 - March 1 and March 5-8
Public shows Wednesday - Saturday evenings.
Show times are at 8, 9, and 10 P.M.

SHOW SCHEDULE

February 27 - Wednesday - Pink Floyd - Dark Side of the Moon
February 28 - Thursday - Laser Metallica
February 29 - Friday - Laser Zeppelin - (Led Zeppelin)

March 1 - Saturday - Pink Floyd - The Wall
March 5 - Wednesday - Pink Floyd - The Wall
March 6 - Thursday - Laser X - The Alternative Experience
with the music of Stabbing Westward, Smashing Pumpkins, Foo Fighters, Alice in Chains, White Zombie, Gravity Kills and more

Tickets are available at the door beginning at 7:30 p.m. on the day of the show.

Laser show admission is \$5 for adults \$4 for students and \$3 for UWSP students with ID (Prices include tax)



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TECH TIDBIT

The Towel Matic

Sara Jensen
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Now I know people have become the laziest creatures to ever walk the planet. Of all the inventions we've ever had, this may be the least necessary. Don't we have an energy crisis we could be better using our time and brain power to solve?

The Towel Matic is a fairly simple device. It unrolls and tears your paper towel or toilet paper for you. Yup, that's it. This is the genius invention somebody out there apparently thought we couldn't live our lives without.

All the user has to do is wave his or her hand in front of The Towel Matic's sensor and voila! A specific amount of your paper needs will instantly be dispensed for your cleanup purposes. The device even enables you to tear off the paper without having to use a second hand.

Since this is a hands free device, this gadget would help cut down the amount

of cross contamination of germs. This is probably its only redeeming quality. And with a price tag of \$53.99, I don't think that will be a big enough pull to get people to splurge on this piece of technology.



Photo courtesy www.obgizmo.com

Red sky at night, students' delight

The world watched process.

Jessica Spengler
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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

"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 pre-dawn 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.



Photo by Avra Juhnke

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

Are you looking for a job? The Allen Center is currently accepting applications for a variety of positions for the 2008 academic year. The Cardio Center is hiring personal trainers for the fall and also a new desk attendant. Group Fitness is accepting applications for four new instructors, including a student manager! If interested, check the University Center's Web site for job descriptions and dates to return an application.

Don't forget the Allen Center still has lots of free activities going on! Be active for free and come to free group fitness classes. Also the Cardio Center has free hours every Thursday from 8:00-11:00 p.m. and every Friday from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

For more information on upcoming events happening at the Allen Center, check out go2allen.com



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.

Sports

Pointer hoopsters smash La Crosse and prepare for WIAC tournament

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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 lead in the first half with a score of 43-25 over the Eagles, UW-Stevens Point would earn their 20th win of the season. The team will head to the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Quarterfinals on Feb. 25.

The Pointers played an explosive first half and met the buzzer with a 12-0 point run to bolster themselves in a 18 point lead.

The Rortvedts landed five 3-pointers between the two of them, to help elevate the Pointers in the first 20 minutes of the meeting. Pete tallied five from the line, while younger brother Ross found the basket with two 3-pointers of his own during the match-up.

In the second half, the Eagles fought back in a hope-

less attempt to catch the Pointers, who would not slow enough to be caught. UW-SP outscored UW-La Crosse 46-37 in the second half for the win.

Pointer Pete Rortvedt led the team with 20 points in the game, and Louis Hurd followed not far behind with a career-high 16 total points.

It was also senior night for the Pointers, who honored their single senior player and a graduating team manager with a short ceremony that included a few words from Coach Bob Semerling and teammates.

The only senior to leave the ranks this season is Steve Hicklin, who accumulated three points in the La Crosse game. Hicklin would go on to thank his teammates, coaches, the pep band, the fans and his parents, who made every game this season to watch him play.

"For all the young kids out there, if you look at a young man who has just made himself better each year. Steve has been one of the hardest working guys and one of the most complete offensive player that we've had in a long time," said Coach Semerling. "He's set a great example for our play-

ers and for all the young kids who love the game; If you put in the time, great things will happen."

Junior Khalifa El-Amin was out with an injury during the game, but he took the time to introduce team manager Juan Moreno in the ceremony. The fans seated in the Quandt listened as Moreno thanked the team for the experiences he had helping the Pointer players and coaches throughout the years.

"We're trying to create something very special down the stretch, you guys got it on Saturday, you were here tonight, lets just keep building this thing," said Semerling in an ending message to the fans in the 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.

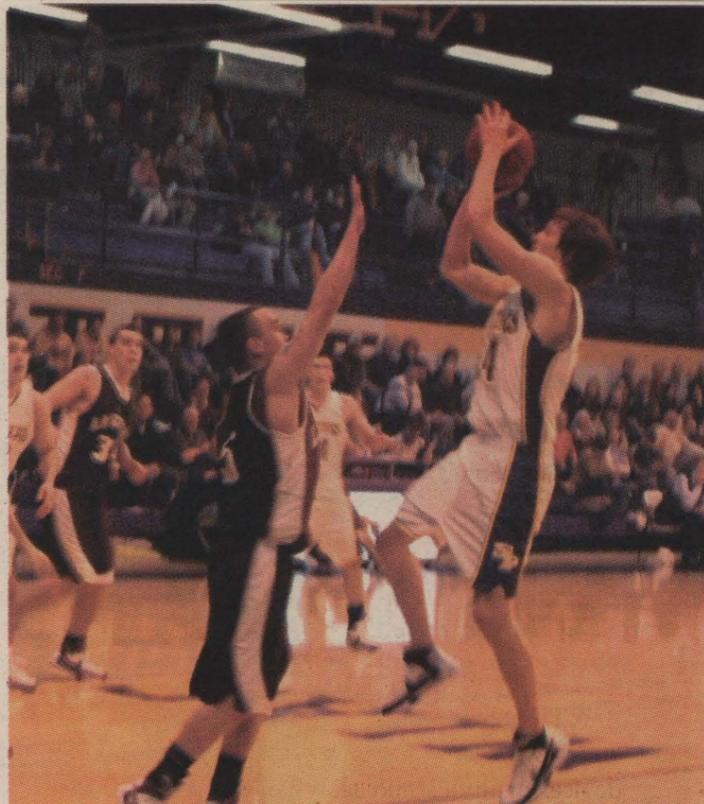
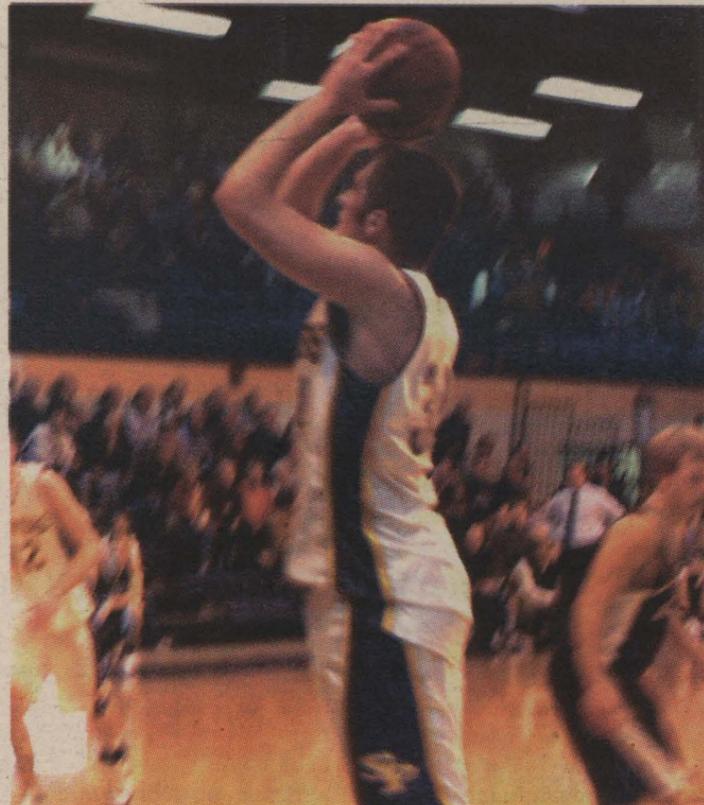


Photo by Rochelle Nechuta
Above: Senior Steve Hicklin fights for a shot in UW-SP's victory against UW-La Crosse.
Below: Freshman Louis Hurd had 16 points against the Eagles.



Senior award winner appreciates experience at UW-SP

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THE POINTER
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Chelsea Kranz blends into the background of The Laird Lounge as I walk up to meet her. She is 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 complete dedication in the class room. Kranz, a biology major, has earned a 3.95 grade point average and was recently named to the 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 athletes in each NCAA division.

When asked how she manages to excel both on the court and academically, Kranz



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 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 hurts. You just have to remember that you're lucky to be playing, lucky to be doing it."

Men's and Women's Basketball

Tournament Schedule

Monday, February 25
Men's Quarterfinals, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 26
Women's Quarterfinals, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 27
Men's Semifinals, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 28
Women's Semifinals, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 1
Men's & Women's Championships, 3 or 7 p.m.
Times subject to change

All games will be played at the site of the highest seeded team
 The tournament champions are awarded the conference's automatic bids to the NCAA Division III Tournament
 Tournament website: www.uwsa.edu/wiac/

Men's and Women's Basketball

UW-Eau Claire • UW-La Crosse • UW-Oshkosh • UW-Platteville • UW-River Falls • UW-Stevens Point • UW-Whitewater

UW-Eau Claire • UW-La Crosse • UW-Oshkosh • UW-Platteville • UW-River Falls • UW-Stevens Point • UW-Whitewater

Pointers drop game to Blugolds, take on Stout in NCHA quarterfinals

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With the last of the hockey season upon the Pointers, junior Brett Beckfeld led the pack when named an All-Northern Collegiate Hockey Association First Team selection. Beckfeld has 11 goals on the team this season, which places him second in team scoring.

Coach Wil Nichol is proud of the numerous awards the players have accumulated after the first season as their coach.

"There's a lot of things that we have done that have been successful," said Nichol. "I think the things the guys 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 Calleja, Pat Lee, Tim Manthey and goalie Thomas Speer all received the honor.

The Pointers definitely were not forgotten 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.

"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 UW-SP's shot opportunities when they tallied 42 shots during the

game against goalie Speer.

For their first game in conference playoffs, UW-SP* will travel to Menomonie to take on third-ranked UW-Stout in the NCHA quarterfinals on Feb. 22.

"Like any opponent in the league, it's going to be a tough match-up. I don't think there is going to be an easy match-up in the series," said Nichol about the conference tournament. "A lot of cards are stacked against us, but that's OK. I think our guys feel pretty good about themselves and their chances, so it should be a great series."

Win or lose this weekend against various conference opponents, Nichol says he has enjoyed working with the team in his first season with UW-SP. He remarked on the team's ability to put others in front of themselves throughout the 25 games they played.

"I think that they really put their egos on the shelf, put the team first and really walked the way they talked," said Nichol regarding the team during regular season play. "I think that if they wouldn't have done that, we wouldn't have had the success we had."

Wrestlers ready themselves for WIAC Tourney

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As they head into the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference wrestling championships on Feb. 24, the Pointer 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," Pointer 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 Hoeft last Saturday.

Gregory has a lot of inspiration, be it from his wholehearted 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."

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."

Fantasy sports: A game within a game

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"Did you see so and so got hurt? That must have killed your fantasy team!" "I heard that rookie is supposed to be a stud; I will take him early on my fantasy team!" "Yeah, they lost, but my fantasy team dominated this week!" These and other such phrases can be heard echoing down the hallway or around the water cooler as fantasy sports continue to increase with popularity among sports fans.

So, what exactly are fantasy sports? Well, they are exactly what the title implies: a game within a game. In short, a fantasy sport is a game that involves a group of managers who draft a team which consist of players from a league such as the MLB, NFL, etc. This team competes against other fantasy teams.

The statistics that the players accumulate during their real life games transition to points for the fantasy team (these statistics vary widely from sport to sport). At the end of the year, the fantasy

team which accumulates the best statistics over the course of a year wins.

Each league is usually separate from the next with a different set of criteria to determine the winner. But, in general, fantasy leagues are for those sports geeks who want a little more excitement out of their standard day on the couch flipping between games.

The competitive level of fantasy sport owners varies as much as the fantasy leagues themselves. There are thousands of leagues for the casual fan who checks their team occasionally. They draft their favorite players in hopes of winning the "I have bragging rights until next year" award for finishing in first.

On the other side of the spectrum, you can find a crowd that is a little more intense. In some cases, managers will pay a \$1,000 or more to get into a league where they spend countless hours analyzing the game. These guys come to draft day looking slicker than the used-car salesman down the block with high hopes that their analysis

of statistics such as the batting average of the Yankees backup catcher on the road, at night, in the rain, with a sore pinkie, against a lefty will lead them to a fantasy championship.

That intensity reflects the increasing popularity of this sport. According to a survey by the Fantasy Sports Trade Association, there are nearly 20 million fantasy-sports participants in America and Canada, which transitions to a \$3-\$4 billion impact on the sport industry every year. Fantasy leagues, advice columns and draft strategies are found almost as often as articles about actual games. The Internet has led directly to its popularity with easy access to statistics and calculations for fantasy teams.

Whether you have yet to get sucked into the fantasy sports revolution, or you are "that guy" who stays up until the wee hours of the morning hoping that Shaquille O'Neal will get you one more rebound in a meaningless game in hopes of moving up a notch in your leagues fantasy standings, fantasy sports are here to stay.

UW-SP Athletes of the Week

Men's Basketball - Bryan Beamish
Women's Basketball - Haley Houghton
& Britta Peterson
Women's Hockey - Michelle Sosnowski
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 jump 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, every day 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 the time. 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!"



Photo by Joy Ratchman

Students mix pigment, liquid binder and other ingredients with a mortar and pestle to make pastels for drawing in Mark Bruggemann's Basic Drawing 2 (Art 104). When the ingredients reach a piecrust-like 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 newsstands now...

Andrew Dallman
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Are you tired of the violent fight scenes, expletives and dark, brooding anti-heroes most modern comic book fans have 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!") and inker 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.



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Culture Event Central:

The Chinese Culture Club will host the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's 7th Annual Lantern Festival on Saturday, Feb. 23. The banquet, featuring traditional Chinese dances, Kung Fu, music and an abundance of

Chinese food, will run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Melvin R. Laird Room. For more information, contact Wing Yan Leung at 715-252-2861 or e-mail Heidi Ngai at hngai792@uwsp.edu. For more information about the Chinese Culture Club, visit www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/cc.

Katie's Curiosities: Valentine's Day Swing Flings

Katie Adams
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

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 some dancing to live 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 on 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 90FM and Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity, student tickets were \$6 and all proceeds went to benefit the University



Photo courtesy of Katie Adams

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 she showed us some fancy footwork, the UW-SP 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 late 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 1950s and rock and roll, it came back with the swing revival of the 1980s and 1990s. Lindy is most popular in "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 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 UW-SP 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.

Theater department stages modern Julius Caesar

Rick LaRoche
THE POINTER
RLAR0831@UWSP.EDU

Director Stephen Smith and the theatre department will present a modern adaptation of Julius Caesar. The show opens Friday, Feb. 29.

"I wanted to do the piece in contemporary times so that more women could be cast," said Smith. Women were not allowed to act onstage in Shakespeare's time, so the women's roles in his plays were originally performed by men.

Smith said the contemporary setting lends itself to the current political climate. Not only will women be more involved in all roles, one of the lead roles, Marc Antony, will be changed to Antonia (played by Casiena Raether).

"That is what we are trying to create," said Smith. "Today we have powerful women involved in politics, and it no longer appears odd."

Focused on a failing republic controlled by fascist

leaders, the plot twists around a self-conscious government that becomes involved in an overseas conflict. The first act is performed in a black and white climate to show the disparity of power. After intermission, the play's coloration shifts to all-out desert warfare, complete with military weaponry. Numerous media components, such as projections, help modernize the story.

"The intermission change from black and white to khaki is dramatic," said Smith. He added that there was some intrinsic value to the story when applied to the current political landscape.

To get the cast into their prospective military roles, Smith had a member of the R.O.T.C. come and help rehearse military procedures with them. According to Smith, the cast has also done a great job of taking the heightened Shakespearean language and making it their own.

"It really illuminates the text. Shakespeare uses huge conflict, huge choices and



Photo by Gary Olsen

Director Stephen Smith has updated Shakespeare's Julius Caesar by casting women in many of the drama's main roles and setting the show in modern times.

higher language to articulate his scenes. It should be an excellent learning experience," said Smith. The cast of 33 performs on 79 roles, each of which involves many costume changes.

Because Broadway-style performances of Shakespeare

are rare, Smith urges people to see the theater department's production of Julius Caesar.

"We are producing this on such an epic scale that you don't get to see with Shakespearean work. It should be a real treat for people familiar with Shakespeare or [those

who are] not," said Smith.

Julius Caesar will be shown in the Jenkins Theatre of the NFAC on Feb. 29 to March 2 and March 6 to 8. Show times vary. Contact the UW-SP ticket office for more information at 715-346-4100.

This weekend's "Grand Opening" and Centertainment events

Thursday

- "Bunch of Laughs"

Three comedians perform in the Dreyfus University Center Encore 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Friday

- Quit-N-Time and Team US

Basement Brewhaus 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

- "3:10 to Yuma"

Lower Debot

7:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. showtimes

- Thinner Teed and Sean Shiel perform in Blues, Bluegrass, Rock and experimental music

The Encore

8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday

- Babysitting Craft Ideas

The Encore 2:00 p.m.

- Late Night Programing

Poker Tournament

11:00 p.m.

The Encore

Your College Survival Guide:

Everyday adventures

By Pat Rothfuss

WITH HELP FROM SUGAR³

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 y'all. 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, its 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 that would be considered obscene by many people.

Yes, yes. I know everyone puts off going to the dentist. You're supposed to go every six months, or a year. But you forget, or you avoid it, and one year stretches into two, or three, or five.

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



when I show up they're going to say something like, "Well, it's too late. Our only option now is to surgically remove your whole mouth in the most excruciating manner possible."

So, of course, it's easier to avoid the whole situation.

How long has it been? It has been, at my best guess, 11 years. Maybe 12.

And I don't floss. At all. It would be impossible to floss less than I do, unless you somehow invented a machine that made negative flossing possible.

So, to cut to the chase, I went in to the dentist and got to experience the new tool. Apparently that sharp metal pokey thing was getting blase. Now they have much cooler high-tech version of that. It combines all the pokiness of the metal tool, with a tiny spray of water and a feeling like...

You know when someone runs their fingernail over a chalkboard and you feel it back in the base of your neck? It's like that. Except it's the pokey thing and my teeth making the noise. Huzzah for science.

But deep in my heart I know I've earned

this. 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 wanker 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 meditate in the dentist's chair. I meditate while flying through a thunderstorm sitting next to a mom with a screaming baby, while getting stitches with no anesthetic 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 pranjna 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

This week only, send in a story from the emotional trainwreck that is your love-life. I'll be reprinting the funniest 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 new kick-ass candy store downtown: Sugar³ (Get it? Sugar cubed?)

It's right next to Arbuckles, across the street from Shopko. And they have 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.wsu.edu



Sara Suchy
THE POINTER
SSUCH489@UWSP.EDU

A Woman's Intuition: Live to Ski

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 that causes my insomnia. It's knowing that in a few days I'll be standing in the freezing cold Wisconsin winter wearing nothing but spandex and lycra on my body with two long pieces of plastic fastened

to my feet at the starting line of a cross country ski race with 51 kilometers of trail in front of me.

The American Birkebeiner is a cross country ski marathon that stretches from Cable to Hayward, WI. 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.

So, to commemorate the heroic acts of those soldiers of yore, Norway started a race that followed their original trail. Thirty five years ago, Tony Wise started the American Birkebeiner, a race of similar distance stretching from Hayward to Cable, Wisconsin on the third Saturday in February.

The race still runs to this day with a few changes, the race is now run in reverse starting at the Telemark resort in Cable and ending on Main Street in Hayward. And now, instead of a mere hand full of skiers, the Birkie attracts over 9,000 skiers and over 20,000 spectators.

It's truly a sight to behold. Thousands of skiers in brightly colored tights all standing freezing at the starting line just waiting for the sound of the canon that starts the journey.

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.

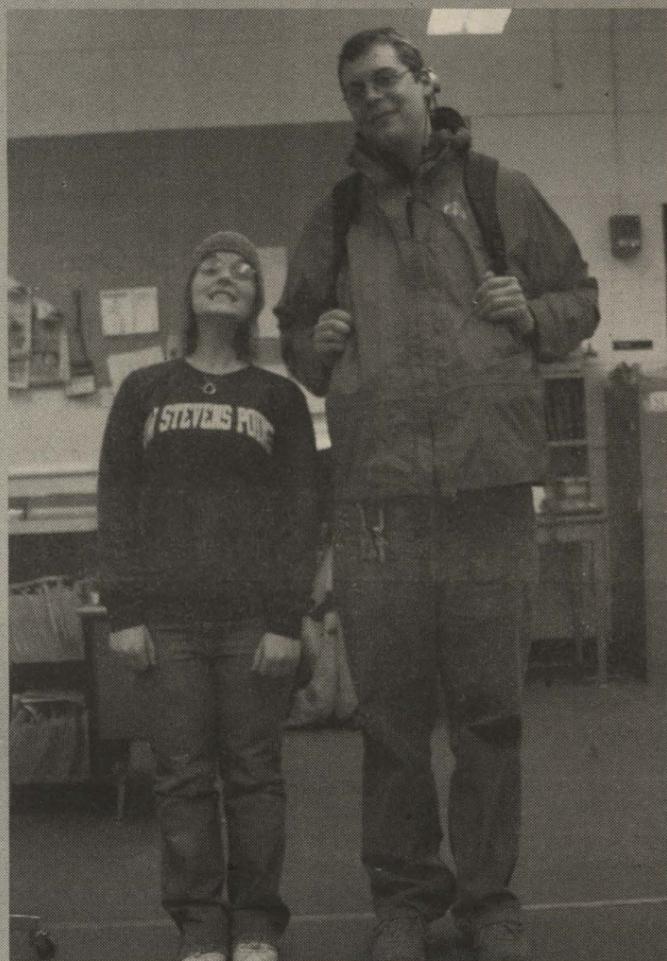
But as the leaves start to fall off the trees and those first flurries of snow fall from the sky, I am reminded of that agonizing feeling at the top of every hill, that feeling that the trail will surely never end, and the final stretch through Hayward's downtown is a mere figment of my convoluted imagination.

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.

CAPTION THIS...



What is going on in this photo? Create your own caption for this photo and send it to us at pointer@uwsp.edu by Tuesday night. Catch the winning caption in next week's issue of The Pointer. Winning submission will receive a prize!

Pointer Staff Poll

What are you looking forward to the most about spring?



Sara Jensen - Senior English Major

"The immense lack of snow and the reemergence of lush greenery."



Avra Juhnke - Junior Comm Major

"Spring Cleaning! Making room in my closet for a new wardrobe! (If only I had the money!)"

"Spring Training! It's been a lonely winter without my baseball."



Aimee Freston - Senior English & Comm Major



Jake Grotelueschen - Senior Graphic Design Major

"Roller skating in my Speedos and listening to Tupac on my headphones."



Matt Lison - Senior Graphic Design Major

"What I'm looking forward to least is seeing Jake roller skating in his Speedos."

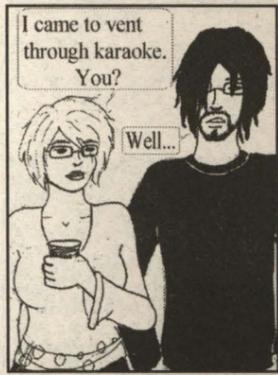
Comics

Resident's Evil

Joy Ratchman

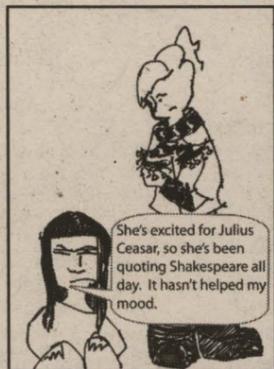
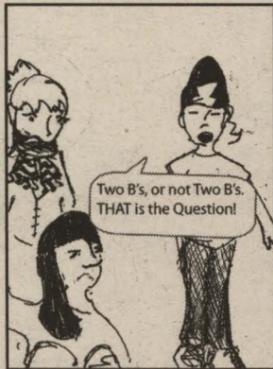
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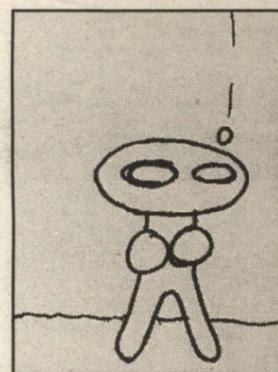
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Roger Vang



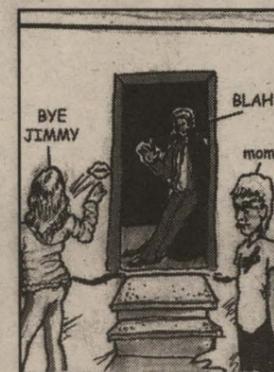
Little Cynics

Joy Ratchman



Little Cynics

Joy Ratchman



WORD SEARCH: VALENTINE'S DAY

B T S H O L P G M I B N G L E T A F X O
M H E T X S D D C T S L D O X G E S Q E
V H P U E C W G S B L R O Q Z I E I S H
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