



Students listen to the candidates

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SGA President
and Vice President
Nominees

Left: Jenn Boyd and
Matt Guidry

Right: Erika Wardle
and Katie Kloth



Photos by Katie Leb

Katie Leb
THE POINTER
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Now that the Wisconsin primary is over, students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are gearing their energy toward another presidential campaign. Students at UW-SP have only a few weeks to decide who they would like to elect as the 2008-2009 president and vice president.

Contending for this year's positions are Matt Guidry and Jenn Boyd against Katie Kloth and Erika Wardle.

Students had their first opportunity to meet the candidates on Wednesday, Feb. 27, in the College of Professional

Studies building. Kyle Borkenhagen, chair of the elections committee, explained to the audience the rules and purpose of the debate before it began.

"This debate is to inform the students on the positions of the two presidential teams that are in this election season," said Borkenhagen.

Heather Gedamke, who sits on the election committee and served as moderator for the debate, explained the process for deciding which questions were to be asked.

"When we were coming up with the questions, we thought about the issues that students would want to hear about and what is important to them," said Gedamke. "Included

were things like fees, budgetary issues, getting SGA more known to students, varied representation, as well issues that SGA has been struggling with in the past years and how they plan to resolve those issues."

Differences in campaigns were quickly apparent in issues including the difficulty with the judicial branch of SGA and what should be done to resolve it.

"I believe the only way is to literally clean it out," said Guidry, "and put a fresh set of judges that are better trained."

The Kloth/Wardle campaign disagreed. "They have been very inefficient, but we also believe they were put in for a reason, and it shouldn't just be resolved" said Kloth. "It is not what we are planning to do."

However, both campaigns focused much of the debate pointing out the importance of getting students involved on campus.

"A lot of students aren't represented," said Wardle. "We've been focusing on trying to reach out to those students and make them aware. No matter what kind of student you are, you are in SGA."

The Guidry/Boyd campaign pointed out the need for making everyone heard. "These people need a voice," said Guidry. "We need to make sure we get the students back in the student government."

"A very important part is making sure that SGA is rep

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Budget results are in...

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With the economy on a downward slope, any issue dealing with money has been difficult to discuss. For the members of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Finance Committee, money issues are inescapable, especially during the first half of the second semester each year.

During the first half of February, the members of the committee were responsible for deliberating on budget requests for 105 of the 183 student organizations on the UW-SP campus. Each student organization wishing to be allocated funds by the Student Government Association was required to submit an electronic copy and 13 hard copies to the finance committee, along with a narrative explaining the purpose and reasoning of the student organization by the end of December.

Until February, the 12 members of the committee, along with budget director and chair David Davila read through each budget request.

"For annual budgets, we are given the requests weeks in advance," said Assistant Budget Director Rachel Von Holdt. "We can sit down on our own time, go through the budgets, [and] do research."

Feb. 9 and 16 were used as presentation days, giving organization representatives opportunity to explain specific items of their budget requests and allow members of the committee to ask questions.

While time was limited to 10 minutes for each organization, there were ways to get more time.

"We can make motions to extend the time," said Vice President Adam Lehmann. "We spent lots of time on certain organizations who had vast amounts of line items."

One of those organizations included SGA, which requested and were allotted the highest budget (\$73,787.43). The committee allocated just over \$550,000.

However, some organizations were disappointed to find out that the committee

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Breaking down barriers

Leah Gernetzke
NEWS REPORTER

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students from different backgrounds had the rare opportunity to see outside perspectives at "Boxes and Walls."

Student organizations including Hmong and S.E. Asian American Club, Social Justice Issues Committee, Sociology & Social Work Organization, Women's Resource Center and Student Alliance for Latino Studies and Adv. sponsored the event. Each group featured an interactive site designed to raise awareness about a relevant social issue, using skits, videos and open discussions to allow students to exchange thoughts and ideas.

"Many of these subjects are like the elephants in the room," said junior Louie Edwards. "If you don't address them, they just keep getting bigger."

HaSEAAC discussed the forced repatriation of Hmong-Lao refugees in Thailand. During the Vietnam War, the Hmong supported the United State's fight against Communism.

When Ho Chi Ming's government was successful, many Hmong's were exiled to brutal retribution camps. Others began a mass exodus to Thailand, while others sought refuge in Laos.

Now, the Hmong-Laos people are still seen as dissenters to the Communist society and fear treatment upon forced return. HaSEEAC strongly encourages promoting awareness by writing letters to congressmen, petitioning and donating money to related organizations like doctors without borders.

Sophomore Emily Lindahl said, "I really liked the HaSEAAC presentation because I had never heard of it before."

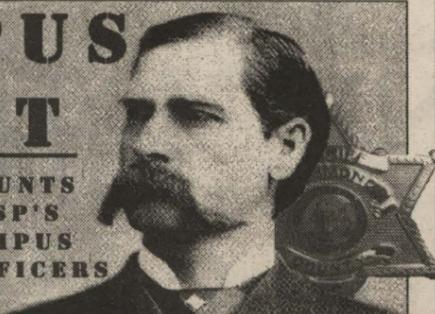
Social Justice Issues Committee addressed domestic violence against women. This segment featured a domestic violence scenario, followed by role-playing to create strategies against non-violence in the home.

"The most eye-opening experience was role-playing as a victim because it really puts you in that position," said junior Kayla Schmidt.

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CAMPUS BEAT

TRUE ACCOUNTS FROM UW-SP'S FINEST CAMPUS SECURITY OFFICERS



C-Store

February 20, 2008 9:49 a.m.

Type: **THEFT**

C-Store has a suspect in custody who was believed to have stolen some item(s).

DUC

February 21, 2008 10:07 p.m.

Type: **HARASSMENT**

Employee at US Bank in the DUC called to report an individual making derogative statements.

Hansen Hall

February 22, 2008 5:54 p.m.

Type: **DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

An individual was charged with disorderly conduct towards campus cab drivers. This individual struck the back of one employee's seat violently. Citation will be issued.

Knutzen Hall

February 23, 2008 2:26 a.m.

Type: **DRUG USE**

A strong smell of marijuana was coming out of Knutzen. The source of the smell could not be found.

Parking Lot P

February 23, 2008 8:23 p.m.

Type: **DRUG USE**

Officer is watching individuals for possible illegal transactions. An illegal alcohol transaction was observed. Individuals are meeting with an officer in Steiner Hall lobby.

Parking Lot F

February 24, 2008 12:12 a.m.

Type: **ORDINANCE**

Open intoxicant violation on Isadore by Lot F. Individual had a Nalgene bottle that didn't appear to have alcohol in it.

From Candidates on pg. 1

resenting all students, not just a majority of students," added Boyd.

While not all the issues were able to be addressed, students were encouraged to have a one-on-one conversation with the candidates after the debate.

Overall, both campaigns felt the debate went well.

"The debate went really well," said Boyd. "I feel like it gave both campaigns a really good chance to get their message across, and I'm glad we got the opportunity to talk to so many people."

Wardle agreed and added,

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passed a motion to not allocate any money for the next school year. Organizations receiving no money include Recreation Advisory Council, UW-SP Psychology Peer Mentoring Program, History Club, South Asia Society, United Nation Student Organization, Sociology and Social Work and Women's Rugby.

Organizations are allowed to appeal back to the finance committee on two different grounds.

"If an organization was unhappy with what they [were] allotted, they can go to administrative error or viewpoint neutrality," said Von Holdt.

Among others, organizations such as Psychology Club, Men's Rugby, Black Student Union, SALSA and Judo Club were fully funded, as requested.

Reasoning for fully funding an organization is a case by case basis said College of Professional Studies Student-at-Large member Andy Letson.

"The organizations that

From Boxes on pg. 1

The Social Justice Issues Committee encourages people to be an advocate for non-violent behavior by watching for clues and offering assistance to people in abusive relationships.

The Women's Resource Center featured negative portrayals of women in the media. "This event opened my eyes to how women are portrayed in the media, and how they are often portrayed as less than human," said junior Z Drews.

The advocates of the group then spread awareness about negative gender portrayal. They encourage people to stop buying magazines that objectify women and write to companies to avoid becoming passive consumers of the material.

SALSA presented Myths of Immigration, highlighting prejudices in society against Mexicans through statistics, highly informed speakers, and visual art to refute myths like, "they're taking our jobs."

With the importance of this

"I think that no matter what happens at the end of the day, it's people who are passionate, and you have people who are interested and dedicated."

Audience member, Jessica White also felt the debate was worthwhile for students to hear. "I think it went really well," said White. "Both sets of candidates have good ideas and networking and know everyone on campus to get the job done."

Students have one week to decide which pair they would like to vote for. Elections will be held March 7 to 13. Results will be announced during the SGA Senate meeting on March 13.

didn't get cut are the ones who more often than not came to us with a budget that was already fiscally responsible, and they were able to justify why they needed this much for each line item," said Letson.

Along with deliberating on specific budgets, the finance committee voted to apply certain guidelines when deciding budgets for every student organization. Motions passed include limiting every student organization, with the exception of new organizations, to a maximum of \$30 for office supplies and according to the minutes, to "fund all speakers for no more than \$2,000." Again the committee stipulated possible exception.

The committee also approved to raise minimum wage to \$6.55 and supervisory wage to \$7.05 for student organizations that fund paid positions within their group. Both increases indicate a \$.05 raise in wage.

The Senate will vote Feb. 28 to approve the minutes for the annual budgets.

issue, SALSA encourages people to become informed and understand the impact on society and individuals.

Sociology & Social Work Organization represented the movement to spread awareness about mental illness and to negate social stigma against people who suffer from it. They stress that victims of mental illness are no different than victims of other illnesses and highly encourage people to become educated and raise awareness in the community.

"I think it's important to get the knowledge out there and to have support for people that need it," said sophomore Amy Crane. "A lot of people realize that this happens to people our age."

Each issue undoubtedly addressed the many ways we build walls and how to break them down on both a local and global scale. As senior Jaclyn Munch said, "for people who are open to learning about different perspectives, this was the place to be."

THE POINTER

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ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

Mythical lizards and resilient plant life in TNR

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Argus Monitors, plant life and a wet wall are all part of an exhibit no University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student should overlook. Located within the College of Natural Resources, the Vivarium offers beauty, onlooker participation and allows students to gain both biology and herpetology experience.

The main attraction most would say is the *Varanus panoptes*, more commonly known as Argus Monitors. These lizards that live within the Vivarium are named after Argus, a giant from Greek mythology that had a hundred eyes. The numerous spots on the lizards resemble the eyes of the mythical giant.

Subspecies of the monitors are located in New Guinea and North Eastern Australia. As a family, monitors represent what is perhaps the most intelligent group of reptiles. Their preferred habitat is open eucalyptus savannas and primary forests. All monitor lizards are carnivorous with an exception of one subspecies. Argus Monitors will eat a variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. This is why no other animals may live in the Vivarium with the monitors.

UW-SP students, with the help of faculty members, plan and take care of the plants and monitors. "The Vivarium facility itself is managed by the Department of Biology's Botany coordinator. The plants are cared for by the student greenhouse crew, which is composed primarily, but not exclusively, of biology and CNR majors. The animals are tended by the Herpetology Society's Vivarium managers and volunteer Herpetology Society members," said John Hardy, the botany coordinator.

According to the Vivarium project, the "intent is to conduct a long term behavioral

study of captive lizards and integrate public participation." Onlookers are urged to list timely behaviors of the lizards on a provided clipboard located in front of the Vivarium. The onlooker must first identify which lizard he or she is observing. The male has a blue band painted around his tail, and the female has an orange band.

The monitors are usually found sun-bathing beneath their heat lamp, but can be quite active throughout the day; sometimes causing trouble. "We've run into some problems with them. For one, they knock the plants down, so we don't have as many plants as we have in the past. The male wants to mate with the female, so he's aggressive. He can hurt her because he's a little bit bigger. When she tries to escape and climb up on the walls, [she can] fall and hurt herself," said Erik Wild, the advisor of herpetology. The male monitor also sometimes gets aggressive towards the student caretakers.

But the involved students are in the process of fixing some of the Vivarium's problems. "Right now, we're dealing with how to deal with these two guys and making it aesthetically pleasing. And when I say we, I mean the students. Most of them have planned it and are carrying it out under supervision of myself and John Hardy," said Wild. Experience is gained for UW-SP students studying in this area by caring for the plants and animals. "We kind of just look over their shoulder a bit to make sure they don't go too far astray. It's their baby to take care of," said Hardy.

From the 20 species of plants to the mythical aggressive monitors, do not pass by the chance to see and participate in this special Vivarium exhibit located in the CNR.

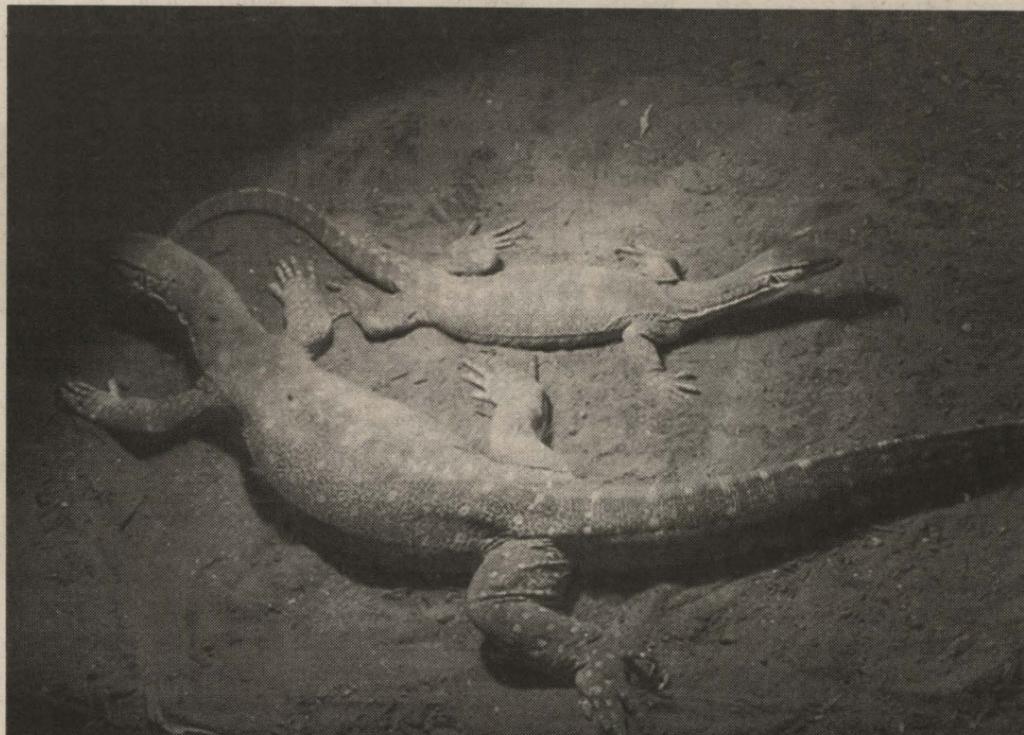


Photo by Ashley Schlosser

The resident Argus Monitors in the Vivarium in the TNR.



Photo by Ashley Schlosser

Tired of the same old struggle? Do something Original.

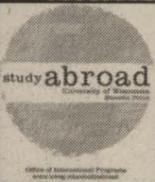
Go away!

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Winter goes to the dogs: major sledding events approaching

Gregg Jennings
OUTDOORS REPORTER

Dog sledding is enjoyable not only for the riders, but the dogs love what they do also. They love to pull sleds in the snow. Musher's love their dogs and take good care of them. They feed them well and adorn their feet with booties so they don't get cut on the ice, and it keeps snow balls from forming between the dog's toes.

The common voice commands used in dog sledding are "gee" for turning right, "haw" to go left, "hike" to get going, "on by" if you want the team to go straight, "pull tight" to pull the tug lines tight, and the familiar "whoa" for the dogs to stop. Musher's like to have a "lead" dog in front that is intelligent and listens to commands well.

The next dogs in line

are the "swing" dogs. They help bring the team and sled around curves and are sometimes lead dogs in training.

The dogs directly in front of the sled are the "wheel" dogs. These are usually the biggest, strongest dogs. The sled jostles them around, so they need to be able to handle it. The dogs between the wheel dogs and swing dogs are the "team" dogs.

The sled sometimes has a "basket," which is usually enclosed and contains supplies and safety gear. The rope that is tied to the sled and runs up between the dog teams is called the tow line. The tug line ties the back of the dogs' harness to the tow line, and the neck line connects the front of the dog close

to the tow line. One musher hooked up a fish weighing scale to the tow line and found that it pulled only 12 pounds

musher would get very cold if they just rode on the runners all the time.

There are many types of sleds made from traditional wood to lightweight titanium.

The runners usually have an attached plastic or Teflon slides on them that are also waxed.

Reducing the weight of the sled and reducing the friction of the runners can allow a sled to be pulled along at about 20 miles per hour or more.

The sled still needs to be able to stop, so they are equipped with a brake. It is as simple as a pedal with a metal fork-like protrusion that points down and is connected to the handle bar by a bungee-like cord.

The musher steps on it to keep the sled from running into the team as he says

"Whoa."

When sled dogs are hooked up to a sled, all they want to do is pull, so an anchor, a large two-pronged hook, is stomped into the hard packed snow or ground to keep the sled in place.

The world's most famous dog sled race, the Iditarod, starts in Anchorage, Alaska on March 1. A new and closer race is the WolfTrack Classic taking place in Ely, Minn., March 2. It is the first dog sled race in Ely, Minn. since 1985 when the All American ran last.

Wisconsin has several races, too. The closest is the Pine River Run in Merrill, Wis. A great Web site to consult for dog sled racing schedules and other information is <http://www.sleddogcentral.com>. See you in Ely this weekend!



Photo courtesy of www.sleddogcentral.com

of weight.

Most sled dog courses are flat and are generally groomed by snow machines. The musher's will help push the sled with a foot like on a skateboard and get off to help push up hills. Besides, the

UW-SP students train to be Type II firefighters

Gregg Jennings
OUTDOORS REPORTER

The last two weeks of Tuesday and Thursday evenings saw about two dozen dedicated University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Fire Crew members participating in the S-131 course.

The course, taught by Brad Kildow, forest ranger with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Unit 1, familiarized the Squad Boss trainees with the Fireline Handbook and Incident Response Pocket Guide. These guides are used to quickly look up how to address the many situations that can arise from a forest fire.

For example, in exercise one, the "squad boss" must build a fireline downhill with his or her crew. Building fireline downhill with a fire below it is a dangerous situation, or a "watch out situation."

However, on page nine, item three in the IRPG suggests establishing what is called "The L.C.E.S. System." That is to have a lookout in place that can see both the fire and the crew at the same time; to have communication with the fire crew in case the fire behavior becomes more threatening, having designated escape routes that the crew is aware of, and safety zones for crew to resort to in case fires occur.

Unit 2 deals with the types of communication used during forest fires. Communication is most important on forest fires because without it, lives can be lost. Some forms of communication used on fires are notes, flagging, mirrors and body language. The best and most efficient form of communication is face-to-face, but during a fire, that is not always a reality. Radios are the main form of communication used during forest fires. Radios can be so clear, common and easy to understand, speech is emphasized.

This unit also discusses the importance of documenting various events such as changes in fire behavior, weather observations and spot fires.

Tactical decision making is the topic in Unit Three. The workbook described a number of forest fire scenarios which the groups discussed the best course of action to take for each.

The initial attack exercise deals with the size of the hypothetical fire, relative humidity, air temperature, height of the flames, wind direction and aspect. A plan of action was decided after analyzing all the information.

Kildow called the groups back together as a class and each group shared their solutions. For the most part, the tactics were fairly close to the textbook answer.

The night of the last class, several sandbox exercises were

conducted. Kildow and his assistant, UW-SP Crew Leader Brian Puckett, set up two sandboxes complete with sand, toy helicopters, fire engines and firefighter figures. They created the same fire scene in both sand boxes.

A curtain was placed between the sandboxes so the squads could not see each other, and a basic situation was described to both "squads" by Kildow and Puckett. Both squads used "radios" to communicate their positions, the fire behavior on their part of the "fire" to each other. Each squad moved their toy pieces according to what they understood they were told by the other squad. Occasionally Kildow and Puckett rearranged the fire in the sandboxes and the squads had to change their tactics to meet the new situation, which did become quite stressful and chaotic. The instructors then critiqued the exercise, and after several more sandbox exercises, a final exam was given.

The Squad Boss trainees take several other courses and complete the fire requirements in a task book under the tutelage of more experienced firefighters before becoming full-fledged Squad Bosses.

If you would like to know how you can become a member of the UW-SP Fire Crew, go to their Web page at <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/fire/>.

Ace-Holes fare well in Massacre

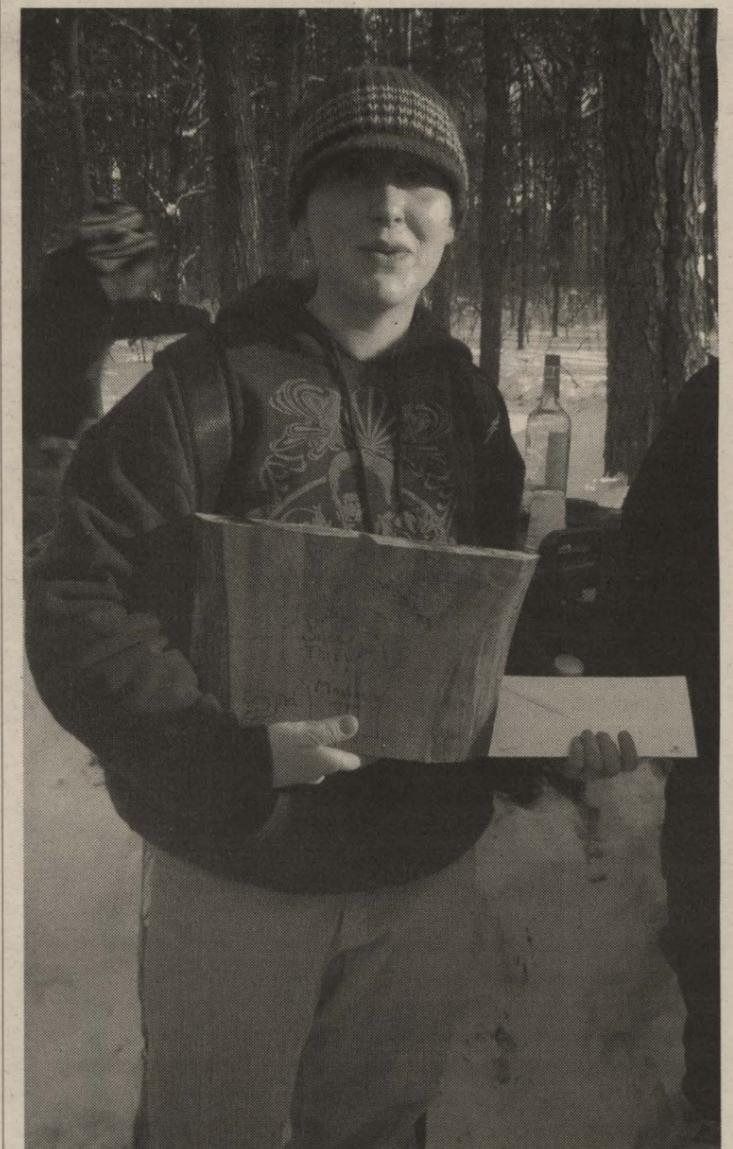


Photo courtesy of UW-SP Disc Golf Club

Toni Osiecki, a UW-SP Ace-Hole, brought home the second place trophy in the women's division at the Snow Throw Massacre II at Yulga on Saturday. The Ace-Holes, as a team, finished one stroke behind Whitewater for second place.

Pointer women's basketball advances to semifinals against UW-Whitewater

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In a game of great significance, the women's basketball team excelled to move on up in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference on Feb. 26 in Berg Gym.

The team fought hard and finally took the lead during



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

The Pointers made a move and gained victory over the Titans.

an intense second half against sixth ranked University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. The Pointers beat the Titans with a 84-62 score at the final buzzer.

"I thought our passion clearly was different," said Head Coach Shirley Egner about the difference between the first and second halves. "I just challenged them, and right now, we're in that survive and

advance mode. That's it. It doesn't have to be pretty. We just have to have more points than the other team to move on and that's all."

Advance the women will on to the next stage of the WIAC playoffs after defeating the Titans. They will travel to play against UW-Whitewater in Semifinals on Thursday, Feb. 28 in Kachel Gym.

Both teams had an ugly start in the first half at Berg Gym on Tuesday night. Neither team could spark an extremely successful offensive movement and were caught making few baskets. The Pointers touted a low 32 percent shooting in the first 20 minutes, while UW-Oshkosh hardly beat them with only 35 percent of their shots making it to the hoop.

"We needed to get in the gaps and really work on rebounding because they were rebounding us, and it was all about effort in the second half," senior Jesirae Heuer recalled after the match-up.

That second half of the

ballgame was the trick as the Pointers would jump from a tie three minutes in, to a 20-point lead that the team found in the last four minutes of the game.

"We got after the ball defensively, we forced the ball inside and took advantage," Egner remarked after the Pointer win.

Janell Van Gimple led the Pointers with an inspired 16 points and was 100 percent on the line with two 3-pointers, on the court. Senior Laura Neuenfeldt also added a lot of effort in the game with three 3-pointers and a total 13 points in the game. Haley Houghton and Jessi Sporle followed not far behind with game totals of nine for both players.

"We have a class of six seniors that are very deserving to play in the NCAA Tournament, and we need to be able to get to that conference championship game on Saturday to be able to play in that NCAA Tournament," Egner said.

Those seniors are

Houghton, Neuenfeldt, Heuer, Ali Nicastro, Chelsea Kranz and Megan Pehler.

"We have to win to survive, so I guess we're going to take this game, play it at Whitewater and hopefully match their intensity," Heuer said, mirroring her coach's perspective of either survival with a win or a loss for their season's fatality. Heuer scored four free-throw points during the UW-Oshkosh game.

The Warhawks will be a competent foe on Thursday night. They beat UW-Platteville in a 93-53 blowout and were seeded second going into the WIAC Tournament.

"It's going to be a heck of a ballgame. Neither team's going to be blown out. It's obviously a game of runs," said Egner regarding the upcoming battle with UW-Whitewater. "If we can handle their pressure, stay out of foul trouble, shoot the ball well and defend, we'll be OK."

Pointers stumped by UW-Stout in playoffs

MEN'S HOCKEY

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Doubling the amount of wins from the 2006-2007 season, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point hockey team ended their season with a 14-9-4 record. The winning record is the highest the team has seen since 2002 and includes an exciting 11 game winning streak.

Despite this year's improvements, a sixth place conference finish and first round playoff exit has left Head Coach Wil Nichol not completely satisfied.

"We need to get better. We can't be satisfied with what we did this year," said Nichol. "All of our guys have to come back better than they were this year. As a group, collectively we have to improve."

Coming on as head coach at the beginning of the 2007-2008 season, Nichol didn't

know what to expect, but was pleasantly surprised to find a strong group of players.

"These were a bunch of young men who were willing to change, willing to trust a new coach," said Nichol. "I thought they did a very good job of checking their egos at the door and putting the team above everything."

Nichol is proud of the effort the team put forth throughout the season on and off the ice.

"They did a lot of neat things," said Nichol. "They did a tutoring program during the winter break and also volunteered some time to the October festival and used the money from that for Christmas for Kids."

"We had one-fourth of our team earn all league academic honors. Seven of our guys are NCHA academics meaning they had to have at least a 3.2 GPA and completed 50 credits or more."

Junior forward Brett Beckfeld and freshman goal tender Thomas Speer were named to the All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic

Conference First Team, an honor Nichol feels was well deserved.

"Both of them had excellent years. Especially with Thomas being a freshman and a goal tender on a team that gave up over four goals per game last year and won only seven games last year. To do what he did, I thought, was awfully special," said Nichol. "Beckfeld was one of the best captains I've ever had. He was one of our go-to-guys night in and night out."

As for next season, Nichol is all ready preparing.

"The team will be attacking an off-season workout awfully hard. Me personally, I am actually going on the road recruiting. I'll be gone most weekends in March and April recruiting in hopes to bring in a couple more impact-type players," Nichol said.

Overall, Nichol is happy with his first season coaching at UW-SP.

"For me, it was everything I thought it would be and more, Nichol said. "It was extremely challenging and yet very, very, very rewarding."



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

Ali Nicastro (44) fights for a shot against a UW-Oshkosh defender.

UW-SP Athletes of the Week

Men's Basketball - Pete Rortvedt
Women's Basketball - Laura Neuenfeldt
Women's Hockey - Michelle Sosnowski
Men's Track Events -
4 x 400 Relay Team:
Brad Koback, Adam Lang,
Joshua Schwinn, Nicolas Ver Duin
Men's Field Events - Chris Petrie
Women's Track Events - Ashley Woest
Women's Field Events - Stephanie Hennings

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Pointers swing for third straight World Series

BASEBALL

Micah Schroeder
SPORTS REPORTER

Coming off a third place finish in the NCAA Division III World Series last year, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point baseball team looks to continue their recent string of success in 2008.

Led by a group of seniors who have compiled a record of 107-46 along with three consecutive WIAC tournament titles and two consecutive World Series appearances, the Pointers are expected to make another run at the national championship. They have already garnered national attention as indicated by their number six ranking in the D3baseball.com preseason poll.

Fifth year Head Coach Pat

Bloom is also excited about the upcoming season, but understands the challenges that come along with success.

"Success comes at a price," he said. "The price you pay for success is that you get everybody's best shot. We are working hard everyday to try to uphold our standards and get our 2008 team to reach our goals and be the last team to walk off the field with the trophy."

Even with the team's hard work and abundance of returning talent, the Pointers will have to fill in some holes in the lineup left by departed players.

"Losing [Adam] Evanoff and [Ryan] Byrnes in our lineup leaves a major void," Bloom said. "However, we return several seniors and others with big game experience who we feel are capable of producing us runs."

On the mound, the Pointers are looking for some players to step up and fill in the gaps left by a couple

of key pitchers. The biggest departure was that of Jordan Zimmerman, the two-time All-American who left school a year early to enter the draft where he was taken in the second round by the Washington Nationals.

"On the mound, we have a situation where we need to replace our ace and closer. Jordan had been our workhorse for the last two years and [Matt] Mehne had been a shutdown closer," Bloom said. "Replacing them will be difficult, but we have some capable upper classmen who should be able to step up."

Those players will need to step up quickly as the team jumps right into an unmerciful schedule. The Pointers will be playing six of their first 11 games against ranked opponents.

"We try to put together a difficult schedule every year," Bloom said. "We don't ever want to look away from a quality opponent, we look at it as an opportunity for our

program to move forward developmentally and prepare ourselves for the conference and regional tournaments."

That tough schedule should tune up the players for what looks to be another challenging season in the WIAC. UW-SP, UW-Oshkosh, and UW-Whitewater are once again expected to be the top contenders for the conference title this year, although the WIAC projects to have a little more parity than in recent years.

"I think traditionally Whitewater, Oshkosh and ourselves have gotten a lot of notoriety in the preseason. You can expect to see the top three in contention again, but you can expect to be a lot less predictably this year than in years past," Bloom said.

The Pointers are doing their best to prepare for the difficult schedule, although the unforgiving Wisconsin winter has no end in sight which forces the players to practice indoors. The Pointers

will see their first action on dirt since fall when they travel to Florida over spring break, only to return to the cold and unpredictable climate for conference play.

"(Practicing indoors) is associated as a disadvantage, but at the Division III level it has its pluses and minuses," Bloom said. "We don't get to practice outdoors like southern schools, but because their games are so early the northern schools tend to play a little sharper baseball when the postseason rolls around."

Fortunately, the Pointers won't have to worry about the cold and snow for their opener. They will be traveling to the Metrodome in Minneapolis for a doubleheader against St. Thomas on March 3. Then they travel down to Port Charlotte, Fla. for nine games starting March 15 before starting the conference schedule against UW-La Crosse at home on March 29.

Pointers dominate Blugolds in semifinals

MEN'S BASKETBALL

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The Pointers are on a roll after an 88-65 win in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Semifinals against University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire on Feb. 27 in the Quandt Gym.

Next up for UW-Stevens Point is the WIAC Tournament Championships against UW-Whitewater on Saturday, March 1 at Kachel Gym.

The Warhawks receive home-court advantage after winning the WIAC regular season title and the first seed position. The team surpassed UW-Superior in their semifinal match-up.

"We've got ourselves in position to win a WIAC Tournament Championship and gain the automatic qualifying berth to the NCAA Tournament and that means so much to my young men," said Head Coach Bob Semerling.

Starting a steady offensive trickle, the Pointers maintained the lead from three minutes into the game until the final buzzer. The first 20 minutes

ended 46-33 in UW-SP's favor, with two free throws from Khalifa El-Amin to seal the half.

Senior Steve Hicklin made huge strides for the Pointers, adding 13 points to the scoreboard in the first half and accumulating 19 total points to lead the team. He has a simple philosophy for the upcoming championship game.

"Just keep it rolling," Hicklin remarked with a

"Now we have to cash in. We're playing a very good team on their home court."

stone-serious demeanor. "I don't want to play my last game, so every game we just have to win."

Victory was in the Pointers' future as they soared over the Blugolds in the game's remainder. UW-SP made 22 shots in the paint during the sec-

ond half and tallied 16 points from the bench when the remaining roster hit the court in the substantial lead.

"It was a difficult game because they are so good on offense, that it is hard to stop them consecutively," Semerling said about UW-Eau Claire's play. "We had to out tough them and outlast them on defense, and I felt we did that for more possessions as the game went on."

Pointer Bryan Beamish went five for seven on the 3-point line and gained 16 points in the game. Pete Rortvedt also added 10 points. Blugold Dan Beyer led his team with 22 points and six 3-pointers during the game.

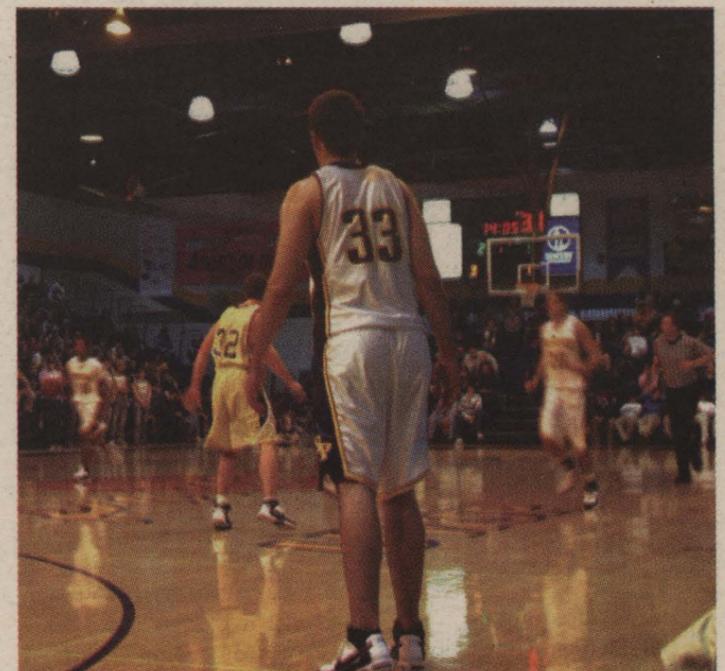
Semerling is convinced that now is time for all the Pointer's hard work to pay off though the team will face daunting odds this weekend.

"Now we have to cash in. We're playing a very good team on their home court," he said. "They won the banner this year. They won the WIAC Championship for the regular season, and they won it for a reason."

"It's going to be a huge challenge and a very difficult task, but we're going to go down there and give it our best shot."



Pointer starter Bryan Beamish scored 16 total points against UW-Eau Claire.



UW-SP moves on to the WIAC Tournament Championship game.

The top 10 excuses for not sticking with your workout

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If you thought the first 11 excuses featured in last week's issue were unavoidable, just wait until you get to number one. As was said before, there are very few valid excuses for not sticking with a workout routine. If you want to be healthier and get into better shape, read on to see how you can pass over these exercise roadblocks.

Excuse 10: "I always get hurt."

This usually happens when you suddenly try to enhance your workout. Gradually work up to running for two hours or focus on losing one pound at a time. Don't go from usually lifting 50 pounds to 90. That's when you'll get hurt. And work with a spotter to make sure you're lifting properly. Also focus your

attention on the difficulty and form of your workout.

Excuse 9: There's pain in my elbows/shins/pinkies.

Pain indicates you aren't doing something correctly, or else the exercises you've chosen aren't right for you, at least at this point in time. Focus your attention on all of your muscles; they should be working as a team. Find a variety of that works for you—it meets your fitness goals and doesn't cause injury.

Excuse 8: The machines look difficult, and I don't want to look stupid trying them out.

Be more enthusiastic about trying new things. Not only will it give new life to your usual routine, but it will also help work parts of your body you haven't been focusing on as much. Before you begin using any new machine, read the placard or ask a personal trainer to explain it to you. And most health enthusiasts

say no one is really paying attention to what others are doing anyway. They're all too focused on their own workouts.

Excuse 7: "I'm bored again."

Mix things up a little then. If you usually focus attention on your arms and legs through varying exercises, switch to a different muscle group like the back and chest. Try alternating upper-body with lower-body workouts. Or you could even throw in a total body workout a couple of days a week to keep things interesting.

Excuse 6: My friend can't come with me today.

So what does that have to do with you? You're the one who has to stay on track. And if you really do need someone else there to keep you motivated, pick someone who is going to be just as motivated as you are. You wouldn't hire an employee who never showed up, so why choose a

workout partner that's always going to skip out?

Excuse 5: I don't like working out alone.

Somewhat similar to the previous excuse. Take someone with you; someone who will help keep you motivated and that will go with every time. Or go to the gym at the same time on the same days and start saying hi to people. There will at least be a handful of you there on a similar workout schedule. This could be your opportunity to meet some new, friendly faces.

Excuse 4: I should stay home to do homework/help out the roommate/spend time with my significant other.

Bring them with you. Working out can be a bonding experience for you and your roommate or significant other. And many treadmills have a ledge, perfect for holding up textbooks right at eye level.

Excuse 3: "Everyone's going out for drinks."

It's okay to take a night or two off to go have some fun. Everybody needs a little social time. Just be sure to eat something before you go drinking. This will not only help alcohol absorption but also keep you from snacking or eating later on in the evening.

Excuse 2: "But my favorite show is on!"

Make your workouts a commitment you can't escape from. If you work with a trainer who charges whether you show or not, you're going to be less likely to skip your appointment for an episode of "The Colbert Report."

Excuse 1: I have a long commute and don't want to get back into my car.

Drive to your gym straight from work or class at least two days a week. Work out at home for the rest of the week. There are even exercises you can do while watching your favorite episode of "The Office."

Wash your hands everyday, keep staph away

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Staph can be a scary word. If you've never had it, you're not sure what to expect. If you have had it, it's not something you'd like to experience again. The good news is most staph is treatable. The bad news is that some is not.

Staphylococcus Aureus, referred to most often as "staph" are bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people.

According to the Center for Disease Control, approximately 25 to 30 percent of the population carries the colonized bacteria without getting an infection. Sometimes the bacteria will cause minor skin infections such as boils or pimples that can be easily treated with antibiotics. It is possible, however, for staph bacteria to cause more serious infections such as pneumonia, bloodstream infections and surgical wound infections.

Staph infections occur most frequently among people with weakened immune systems in hospitals and health care facilities, but it is becoming more common in the community setting. Unsanitary nail salons and spas have been found to be hotbeds for staph, and athletes can also pick up the bacteria in locker rooms.

"It is ubiquitous," said Dr. Bill Hettler, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Health Services director. "Everyone in the world has it. Schools have it, universities have it, and work places have it."

In September 2005, football player Nick Zaffarese from Iona College in White Plains, N.Y. contracted Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus.

MRSA is a type of staph that is resistant to antibiotics called beta-lactams. Included in these antibiotics are methicillin, oxacillin, penicillin and amoxicillin. According to the CDC, approximately 1 percent of people colonized with Staph are colonized with MRSA.

"There's more and more of these bacteria around because of inappropriate use of antibiotics. The bacteria develop resistance, that's what it's all about," said Hettler.

Zaffarese is currently suing Iona College over the unsanitary conditions of the football team's locker room. The college recently disinfected a weight room and discussed hygiene advice after 10 members of an athletic team were diagnosed with MRSA in September 2007.

Staph and MRSA skin infections can be passed to others through close skin-to-skin contact, openings in the skin, contaminated items and surfaces, crowded living conditions and poor hygiene. These infections can be prevented by practicing good hygiene such as keeping your hands clean, keeping cuts and scrapes clean, avoiding contact with other people's wounds or bandages and by not sharing personal items such as towels or razors. Keeping bathroom and kitchen areas clean will also help to stifle the infections.

"It's around. Wash your hands a lot, wash surfaces a



TECH IDBIT

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After 60 years of instant photography, the Polaroid Company has decided to close its doors an American icon. The company will no longer be producing its famous instant print film; consumers have until the end of this year to stock up on their instant film needs.

Digital photography has, as many are aware, swept the industry. Unfortunately for Polaroid, they did not jump on the bandwagon soon enough. The instant film technology which put the company on the map will be up for licensing, but if there are no takers, Polaroid camera users will have to join the millions already living in the digital age.

The company won't be disappearing completely though. It will continue to focus on its other projects which include ZINK, a pocket-sized instant digital printer that uses no ink to print its pictures, and Freescape, a digital hub capable of recording, managing, sharing, and storing digital media with no monthly fee.

Goodbye Polaroid!



Photo courtesy of notes.xythian.net/

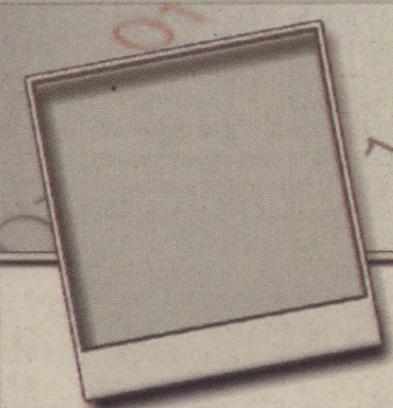


Photo courtesy of www.photomark.com

lot," said Hettler.

Despite preventative measures it is still possible to contract a staph infection. Most staph infections are treatable with antibiotics. Some infections, however, may be treated by draining the abscess or boil and may not require antibiotic.

Although the threat of staph infections is very real, taking

preventative measures and sanitary precautions can greatly reduce your chances of contracting an infection.



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Ask the lawyer: tips for student leasers

Randy Pflum
POINTLIFE REPORTER

Landlords have created the "October rush," during which time students feel that they have to find housing and sign leases for the next academic year. Students are made to feel that they will miss out on decent housing unless they participate in this madness. As a result, landlords win, and students lose, unless you are talking about high, or at least good quality housing at a reasonable rate. There are some landlords who provide exactly that and take good care of their rental property. And as in all walks of life, there are some landlords who fall short.

First, look for reasonable terms in the lease. If the lease calls for all the rent for the term of the lease to be paid up front, prior to moving in, beware. That is not a reasonable expectation of a tenant. As a student, you are not being treated like the rest of the tenant universe. You are being discriminated against because you are a student. Unfortunately, discrimination laws do not list student status as a prohibited basis for differential treatment. If a landlord is lucky enough to get a group of tenants to pay a year's rent up front, the landlord has little incentive to deliver on promises on repairs that need to be done prior to the move-in date, and little incentive in general to deliver on their responsibilities during the lease period.

Secondly, make sure that the monthly rent expected per tenant is a reasonable amount, and similar to what other students

are paying for comparable housing. The fewer number of bedrooms in a unit generally results in a lower amount of rent per student, which makes sense, as tenants generally pay more for a greater level of privacy.

Third, if rental premises have more than two residents, the property, if in the city limits of Stevens Point, must be licensed by the city building inspection department for the number of residents. Check with the building inspection department to make sure the premises are licensed for student housing and to see if there are any outstanding code violations on the property, or a prior history of code violations. Take your landlord's name (it should be on the lease) and do a check at the courthouse of court records in that landlord's name. See if there has been prior litigation, or if other students have had to sue this particular landlord to get their security deposit back.

Fourth, take a good look at the condition of the premises. Find out if there is separate metering for utilities. Ask for the last year's record of utility charges. Heat and electric can be extremely high in a poorly insulated property. Ask the landlord when the furnace was put in (the more recently, the more likely it is a high-efficiency furnace) and look in basements at furnaces and water heaters. If they are ancient, beware. If looking at rental property in the winter when roofs have blankets of snow on them, compare the blanket on the prospective property to the blankets on well tended houses on Main St. If there is no blanket of snow,

or if there are huge icicles and ice dams, that is a sign of inadequate insulation. If you are lucky enough to have a friend or family member in the construction business, take that person along when you inspect the apartment or house. Also, look at electrical outlets, flush each toilet, look at ceilings for signs of water damage and look at the condition of the carpets and flooring. Bring along a notebook to take notes when you inspect the premises. Find out if the landlord intends to repaint prior to the next tenant. Get all promises to repair in writing with a date by which they are to be completed. Unfortunately, a quick visual inspection of rental premises doesn't tell much to the untrained eye, and many students get hoodwinked into signing expensive leases on properties which leave much to be desired in terms of their physical condition. Talk to current tenants (when you are not in the company of the landlord) about any problems in the condition of the premises and how the landlord has responded to maintenance requests. A landlord/tenant relationship can sour quickly, kind of like a bad marriage, if when one side or the other does not take their legal responsibilities under the lease seriously.

Any questions about a lease, can be directed to the Student Legal Society. Students can also set up an appointment with the staff attorney of the Student Legal Society, who holds office hours on Thursday evenings.

Museum inspired by popular condiment

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"There is a Mustard Museum?" my friend exclaimed when I told her how I spent my Saturday touring the Mustard Museum for my food and travel writing class. "I've decided that museum must have been a product of a winter spent inside pondering the importance of mustard because it is too freakishly cold outside to do anything else!"

In fact, the Mount Horeb Mustard Museum was born not from boredom, but from depression.

On Oct. 27, 1986, Barry Levenson witnessed his favorite baseball team, the Boston Red Sox, lose the World Series. Depressed and unable to sleep, Levenson wandered the aisles of a 24-hour convenience store at 2:30 a.m. In the condiment aisle, Levenson had a revelation.

"This is ridiculous! A grown man bent out of shape because of a baseball game," Levenson said. "Get a life; collect something."

At that moment, as he looked at the mustard bottles,

Levenson claims he heard a voice say, "If you collect us, they will come."

Levenson walked out of the store that night with a dozen jars of mustard and started his collection. He began collecting mustard bottles, jars and memorabilia, but it wasn't until he took a mustard bottle from the Hyatt hotel that he knew his hobby was getting serious.

Levenson worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Wisconsin and was leaving the Hyatt hotel to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

On his way out, he noticed an unopened jar of mustard on the maid's cart outside of the room. Levenson stood there for a minute debating whether he could ethically take the bottle of mustard.

"So, I think I did what every good lawyer would have done, I looked to my left, looked to my right, saw no one was watching, and I put it in my left hand pocket," Levenson said.

Levenson argued his case in the Supreme Court with the jar of mustard in his pocket and won the case.

In 1991, Levenson left his job as the Assistant Attorney General to work on his mustard collection full time. One year later, Levenson opened the Mustard Museum to share his collection with the public.

Today, the Mustard Museum has 4,800 jars, bottles and tubes of mustard from all 50 states and more than 60 countries, including hundreds of valuable memorabilia, such as mustard pots and vintage mustard advertisements.

In addition to viewing Levenson's collection, the museum also offers a viewing room that plays educational videos about mustard and has a variety of mustard to sample and buy, such as honey, chocolate and fruit mustard.

"My favorite part was tasting the different types of mustard," said senior Kelly McAvoy. "When I heard the name of a certain type of mustard, like caramel mustard, it was surprising to find that the taste was actually good."

Even for those who do not like mustard, the museum provides many new insights.

"Initially, I was a bit skepti-

Intolerant for Intolerance

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The Gay-Straight Alliance of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point welcomes every student, faculty and community members to join its friendly, safe and educational atmosphere. "We wanted a place for people to feel welcome and safe, and also we wanted to educate people about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer [lifestyles]," said Amy Snyder, GSA co-president.

According to the GSA mission, "The purpose of the UW-Stevens Point Gay-Straight Alliance is to provide a social, emotional and education sup-

port group for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally populations on campus and in the surrounding communities. The Gay-Straight Alliance also acts as an educational

student organization to provide greater awareness of the issues that concern the members themselves, the university and the surrounding communities." With the GSA's new office located in the basement of the Dreyfus University Center in room 70B, this fairly new organization is taking off with a proud multi-colored space nicknamed the "Rainbow Center."

GSA hopes to increase its visibility on campus and uplift the idea of being "intolerant to intolerance" to central Wisconsin. "From an activist standpoint, I think it's a really great thing to be able to educate people and promote tolerance," said Snyder.

"In the future, especially in

the next upcoming two months, we have a lot of events planned. I really encourage people to come out," said Stacey Cooper, GSA Treasurer. April 1, on Fool's Day, GSA is teaming up with the Resident's Hall Association in order to bust the misconceptions of the LGBTQ community with a pancake dinner. All the money collected will be donated to the American Federation for AIDS research. The planning of the location of this event is still in progress.

On April 10, GSA will host Erin Davies, an educator on homophobia and LGBTQ. During college, Davies struggled with intolerance for her sexuality. "She will talk about her



Photo by Ashley Schlosser

Members of GSA (l to r): Dejan Kuzmanovic, Stacey Cooper, Justin Wilder, Amy Snyder and Matthew Marjenka

experience of having her car vandalized with homophobic graffiti. She'll also talk about the project she's been working on. [She] drives around the country in this car and talks

about homophobia," said Dejan Kuzmanovic, GSA faculty advisor. The car will be displayed in the sundial during her visit.

The last week of April will be full of pride, as GSA sponsors a variety of events. Such events may include "The Coming Out Ball," a movie, a speaker and a fashion show. Check the Student Message of the Day for upcoming details about each event.

"This semester's momentum we have gained is really great," said Justin Wilder, GSA co-president. New members are always welcome and can attend the weekly meetings every Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. in the Rainbow Center of the DUC. The curious may also contact GSA at gsa@uwsp.edu.

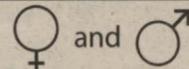
cal. I'm not a mustard fan... I was pleasantly surprised to find a mustard I actually like," said senior Emily Groves.

The Mustard Museum has been featured on Oprah, the Food Network, HGTV's "The Good Life" and dozens of national magazines and newspapers.

For Barry Levenson, the Mustard Museum is more than just a hobby or a job.

"No matter what happens, people still have to be able to laugh," Levenson said. "Get people to have a good time, and forget the trivial worries of the day. When you come here, you get lost in your thoughts. I love what I do... I will do it forever."

SUMMER IN MAINE



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- | | |
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"Truth & Lies" showcases video as narrative art

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The Carlsten Gallery is currently showcasing the brain-child of co-curators Diana Black and Travis Lester: "Truth & Lies: video as new narrative."

Lester, the president of the gallery's student advisory committee, said the show was a collaborative effort that began in the summer of 2007. "Diana and I really wanted to bring a new form of art to the area that challenged and educated its' audience," said Lester.

The show addresses many contemporary issues that soci-

ety faces. The works focus on consumerism, war, isolation, death and truthfulness of media, among others.

Finding artists was the most difficult part of putting the show together. "I had never taken on a project of this size before," said Lester. "Even after eight months of research, my knowledge on video art is still so infant. With artists moving constantly and a limited budget, it was difficult to track down the right artists."

Video art is a relatively new art form. It began in the 1950s. Most video artists consider Nam June Paik to be the father of the genre. According to Lester, Paik's work inspired the showcase's feature piece.

"The TV wall is based on Paik's work with video as sculptural work," said Lester.

In addition to the TV wall, the showcase features work by Matt Rappaport, Andrew Gribble, Laurie Clark and Doreen Maloney. Each artist takes a different approach to the concept of video narrative.

Rappaport's work reflects on the idea of memory as a paradox. "His piece, 'Way,' recreates a nightmare in a non-traditional sense. It is not as high intensity and uses a poetic beauty to stress the idea of separation and disconnection," said Lester.

Both Gribble and Clark use video to present multiple messages. Gribble's "Untitled

Poems" conveys different messages depending on whether or not it is viewed with its audio accompaniment. Clark's "Veracity" is a two-channel installation. It features pieces on a feminists' outlook on the death of their fathers and interviews on contemporary truth professions.

Maloney has a three piece suite that provides an introspective look at death and the cycle of life. "A View from My Porch," was shot from her porch after Sept. 11 and has audio footage from the invasion of Iraq set over the actual sound.

The exhibition is completed by a fifth exhibit called "YourTube," which is located in the Schnieder Student

Gallery. "YourTube" was Lester's personal project. Students were invited to produce their own two-minute clips on the subject of "Truth and Lies" in a format that resembles YouTube.com. The gallery has been furnished to resemble a college living room. Mismatched furniture lends authenticity to this false environment, which is itself emblematic of the "Truth and Lies" theme.

"Truth & Lies: video as new narrative" will be on display through March 2 in the Carlsten Gallery. The gallery is located upstairs in the Noel Fine Arts Center. For more information on the showcase contact Travis Lester at tlest087@uwsp.edu.

Katie's Curiosities: beauty and life lessons from the open road

Katie Adams
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER



In 2006, I participated in my first Eagle Walk, a 200 mile hike during spring break. I walked again in 2007. Right now, I am gearing up for the 2008 walk.

The Eagle Walk is truly the hardest thing I have ever done.

I have never learned so much about myself as I learned on this trip. One of the walkers made a fantastic point when he was asked what he thought of the walk. He said, "I was surprised to find out how much of the walk is actually mental."

I really expected the hardest part of the walk to be the pain of blisters and sore muscles, but what was really hard was to keep your mind occupied enough through the six to eight hours of hiking, to ignore the pain and *just keep going*. The open road really makes you re-evaluate your beliefs—about cars, about environmental issues, about yourself and about other people.

I used to think that 12 miles was a short distance. Now, I think about that distance as a three hour hike, and every time I see a hill, I wonder if I have what it takes to walk up it. In the end, the answer is always yes. The hill may be rumored to be the longest, largest hill in southwestern Wisconsin, but I

know that I have what it takes to overcome such obstacles.

One of my most enlightening experiences happened when I thought that I could not make it any farther. I sat down beside the road and began to feel sorry for myself. A car pulled off the road beside me. A girl about my age got out and asked if I was all right, and I shocked myself when I thought, "I am all right." Deep down I knew it, but it took a stranger who cared enough to stop to make me realize it. We often aren't offered such an opportunity to evaluate ourselves, and it's important that we take the time to do it.

This trip really opened my eyes to the world. I saw, heard and even smelled things that I would probably have continued to pass by for the rest of my life were it not for the Eagle Walk. It was absolutely amazing to see the flat, forested lands of central Wisconsin become the rolling hills and the open farmlands of southeastern Wisconsin. I cannot even begin to describe the feeling of walking past the only tree in a horizon of flat farmland and hearing such a cacophony of birds that I couldn't even hear the voice of the person beside me.

I discovered all of this, all of these wonders, because of the support of strangers and my openness to try new things. In two days, I raised \$170 for the Nature Conservancy, which I like to think of as \$10 for every pound in my backpack. That was a weight that I would gladly carry again, for it was well worth every ounce.

If you would like to participate in the 27th Annual Eagle Walk, March 14 through 23, please contact Katie Adams at kadam961@uwsp.edu.

"There Will Be Blood" is an unsettling film with a literal title

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As a title, "There Will Be Blood" is quite literal, and the final bloody scene left me wondering what on earth I had been watching for the past two hours. Then "Based on 'Oil!' by Upton Sinclair appeared in the credits, and it all made sense.

In essence, the film is a psychological battle of two madmen: Daniel Plainview (Daniel Day-Lewis) and Eli Sunday (Paul Dano). On the surface, Plainview is a sweet-talking oil tycoon who shows disturbing tendencies on a frequent basis. While Plainview's chief "antagonist" is Sunday, the cause of most of his grief is his son, H.W. Plainview suggests that he adopted the boy for business purposes, but his most violent outbursts come when someone accuses him of abandoning the boy. H.W. seems to be the only one who really knows what's going on in the movie, as evidenced by his actions.

Sunday is less of an enigma. He's almost a stereotype of a fundamentalist preacher. The only atypical thing about him is his youth. He originally comes into conflict with Plainview when Plainview strategically edges him out of an oil derrick first drilling ceremony. Sunday is obviously jealous of Plainview, who will not allow him any authority.

The film's soundtrack adds to the unease. The first series of scenes contains no dialogue at all. When present, music hums and buzzes discordantly or crescendos into an overbearing, percussive assault. Words spoken by faraway characters are disproportionately loud in the audience's ears. The music occasionally drowns out impor-

tant dialogue. At certain key points, the music is conspicuously absent.

Unsettling framing complements the music. Some scenes look like poorly-shot photographs. Others center on unpleasant subjects or people and draw intimately close to them. The light is bleak, dusty, dry and dead.

Paul Thomas Anderson probably had a message about modern connections between blood, religion and oil. However, "There Will Be Blood" has so many interesting obscurities that the modern sociopolitics are too obvious. I'm more interested in trying to understand the abrupt ending: "I'm done now."

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Your College Survival Guide: Superpowers

Pat Rothfuss

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: THE AFTERDARK

Dear Pat,

I'm so glad that you decided to keep writing for the Pointer. I decided I'd help you out by asking a question.

Do you have any Superpowers? If so, can you tell me what they are?

Danny.



Fig. 1: My vocabulary has reached superpower status.

Well Danny, I'm glad that you wanted to help out, but I think you're confusing this column with a Strong Bad e-mail. The College Survival Guide is here to answer your pitiful, mewling cries for help, not random fan questions.

But, as it happens, I do have strange and wonderful powers. They are too many to conveniently name and explain, but one of them has seen a lot of use recently, so I thought I'd share it with you...

I am good with words.

At first, this might not sound like a superpower, but you see, I'm *really* good with words. I've been building this skill for over 20 years now. Imagine how much of a badass I'd be if I spent three hours a day practicing kung-fu for 20 years. I'd be Shaolin-monk tough, able to jump from rooftop to rooftop, and shatter bricks with my head.

But I've spent my time maxing out a different skill tree instead. I've still got that level of bad-assedness, but it's all with my brain and my ability to manipulate people using words.

Over the years I've crafted this ability to the point where it has officially reached superpower

levels. [see figure one] Generally speaking, I can get people to do anything I want using 15 words or less. Rest assured that I use this power only for good. Or when I'm bored at parties, when I use it to win bets and amuse myself.

Another aspect of my writer powers is that I have the ability to make extremely accurate judgments about a person's character based on nothing but a few seemingly insignificant details.

I know I know... you're all thinking, "That's not a power, I can do that," or "Pat, that's called being judgmental, and it's not cool."

No. You see, when other people do it, it's called jumping to a conclusion, or stereotyping, or racial profiling. But I'm different. What I have is a highly developed sense of extrapolatory causality.

It's like this. When I'm writing, I need a way to portray a character very economically. I don't want to give a description that's two pages long and reads like a police sketch. I want to drop just a few key details on you. If chosen properly, those few details drop quietly into your brain, then blossom out into a fully realized character.

Reverse engineering this process allows me to understand fundamental aspects of people's personalities using just one or two details.

Let's take, just for example, something that occurred to me a couple of days ago after the big snowstorm. While out walking, I could tell at a single glance which houses were owned by dicks.

Now, I'm not talking about giant, anthropomorphic peni. I'm talking about people who are, well, dickish. People of contemptible moral character.

Here's how it works. If, after a snowstorm, you shovel out your driveway and leave the sidewalk all full of snow, you are a dick.

If you have a snowblower, and you snowblow your driveway, but you leave the sidewalk full of snow, then you are roughly twice as much of a dick, plus you're lazy.

Note: This also applies to businesses. Don't pay someone to plow your parking lot and then leave the rest of us to trudge through the snow on your sidewalk. Yes, Pizza Hut, I'm talking to you.

Now, some people will think that I'm being reactionary. That I'm just upset I had to trudge through the snow and my socks got wet. That's not it at all. I've walked through plenty of unshoveled sidewalks and didn't think anything of it. If you don't shovel anything, I give you the benefit of the doubt. I assume you're busy, or you were waiting for it to quit snowing, or maybe you were out of town.

But if you shovel off your front steps, snowblow your driveway and leave the sidewalk full of snow, then you are one of the people who deserve to be noisily culled out of the gene pool for the good of society. If you catch me in the right mood, this is a service that I will provide free of charge.

The driveway is only for you. The sidewalk is for everyone. Yes you, house on Illinois Avenue. Yes. The one on the corner. I've got my eye on you...

Remember Folks, it's an advice column. So ask for advice at proth@wsunix.wsu.edu.

Despite the fact that his letter was somewhat off-target, I will buy Danny the beverage of his choice at The Afterdark.

That's the Afterdark? Well, for those of you who have been in town for a while, it's the coffee shop that used to be the Mission. Except now it's owned by people who don't actually have asses for heads. The new owners have been fixing the place up, and they're ready to open back up. That means this Saturday at 8:00 there's going to be a Ska show featuring the Ska'tTsmen. You should really come check it out.

Seriously. Even I'm going to be there...

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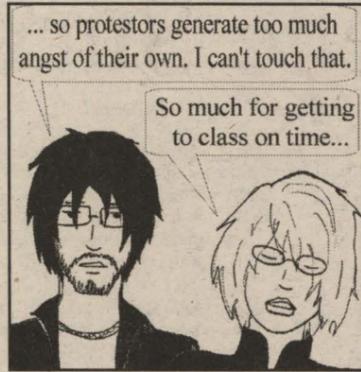
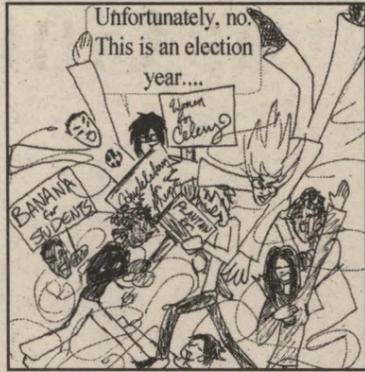
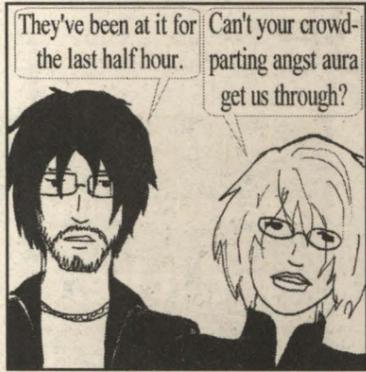
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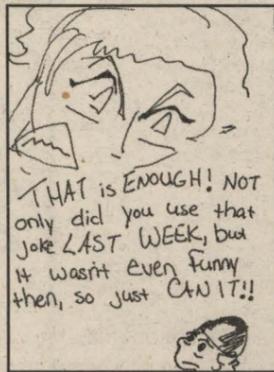
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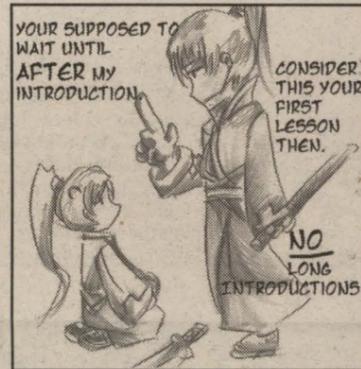
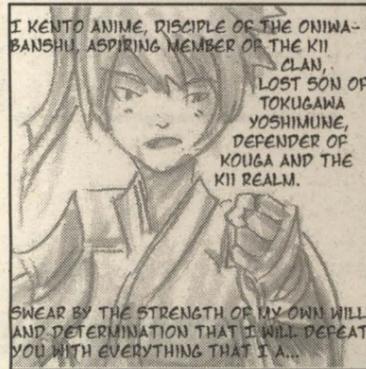
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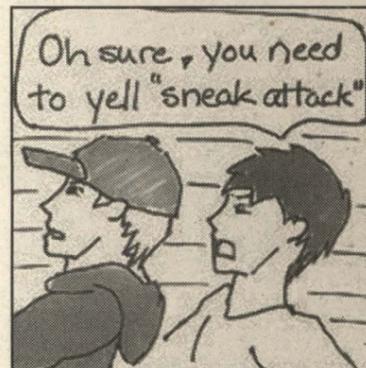
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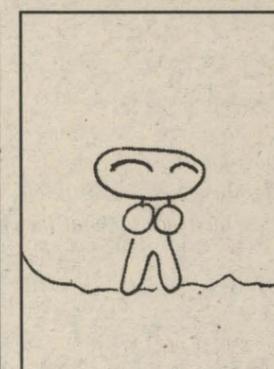
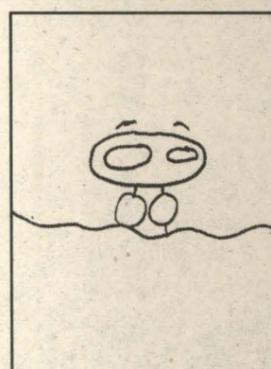
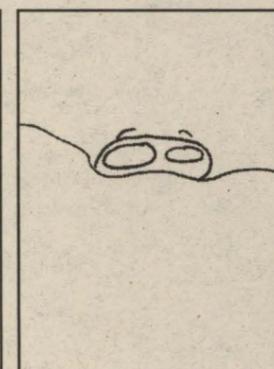
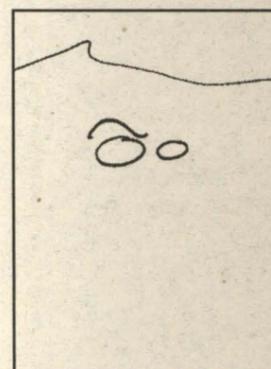
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Bryan Novak



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(1:15) (3:15) 5:15 7:15 9:15

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(1:00) (3:00) 5:00 7:00 9:00

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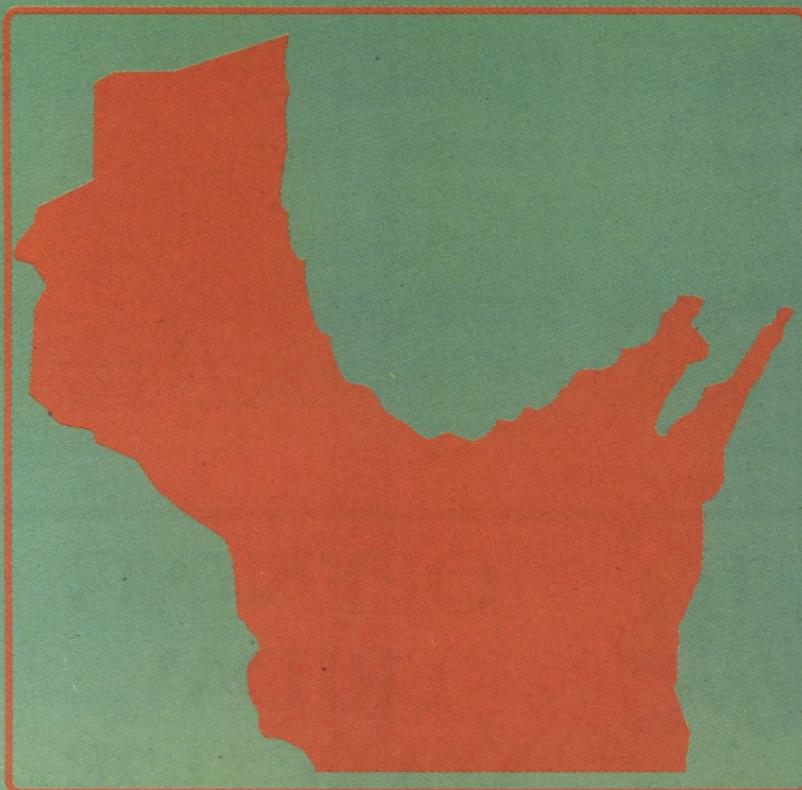
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