State of the Economy?

Bush and Doyle addressed concern to the citizens they work for

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Less than one week apart, Wisconsin citizens were given oral reports from their highest elected officials. On Wednesday, Jan. 23, Governor Jim Doyle gave his State of the State address while surrounded by members of the state legislature. Several days later, Monday, Jan. 28, President George W. Bush delivered his seventh and final State of the Union to the elected officials. On Wednesday, the president spoke while surrounded by members of the state legislature.

For much of the nation, the Bush administration stated that economy is "undergoing a period of uncertainty," while Doyle claimed it is "in deep turmoil."

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point economics professor Kevin Neuman agreed with Bush's analysis.

"I would say that at this point we may not be in an official recession, but I would say that we are entering an uncertain and potentially negative economic situation," said Neuman.

The effects of the "uncertainty" could result in many challenges for funding in the state of Wisconsin. Doyle addressed these issues optimistically.

"In Wisconsin, we've taken steps to prepare for a national economic downturn. We've cut spending, cut taxes and deposited $50 million in a rainy day fund," stated Doyle.

However, the money that has been deposited for such a downturn is not enough, said UW-SP political science professor Ed Miller.

"He [Doyle] did mention it, which is small," said Miller. "The economy slows down. It takes jobs. Quite clearly it affects students going out into the market."

The concern for students acquainted with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus. Matt Guidry is concerned about what his future may hold if a recession is in it.

As a student, who is not quite rich enough to invest in an up and coming buyer's market, job prospects look dim," said Guidry.

Bush set forth an economic stimulus plan, giving rebate checks to millions of Americans. The House of Representatives has already passed a package, which the Senate is expected to have a floor vote within a few days, after the Senate Finance Committee passed a version of the package on Wednesday. All but one Wisconsin representative, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. of the fifth district, voted in favor of the bill.

Even with the passage of a stimulus plan, uncertainty still remains as to whether it will in fact stimulate the economy.

"The effects are far from certain," said Neuman. "If the refund checks are not spent, there really will not be any great effect on the economy."

The impact of an economic downturn would surely affect Wisconsin citizens, but possibly less than other states.

"It's really a handful of states where the bulk of it will happen," said political science professor Dennis Riley. "But it will ripple, and we'll get hit by it."

At this point economists, politicians and citizens alike are watching the markets as if their livelihood depends on it. One thing Doyle is certain about, "In Wisconsin, we are hardworking people. And when challenges arise, we meet them head on."

New food options to enjoy at the DUC

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Of all the renovations done in the Dreyfus University Center, one of the biggest differences is in the student food court on the second floor of the building.

The food court, once a single la carte venue, now features seven dining options for students' eating pleasure. Each dining facility offers something different from the next, giving students a bevy of choices.

The Dawg Deli is exactly that: a deli. Students can choose from subs, wraps, stacks and salads, and if they want, can turn them into a meal that includes chips or a salad and a fountain drink. Up In Flames offers burgers, fries, onion rings and breakfast sandwiches and is one of the two facilities that is open until 11:00 p.m. That way, if students need a break from studying at 9:30 p.m., they can go to the DUC and have a nice juicy burger.

The other late night option students have is The Spicy Meatball. The Meatball carries pizza and pasta options such as pizzas, eppi rolls, calzones and pasta combinations. Students can satisfy their Asian and Mexican cravings at Buen Provecho and Jorn Makan! The Wooden Spoon, and Buen Provecho open from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., the Dawg Deli open from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and The Spicy Meatball and Up in Flames open from 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

The hours of operation have brought up issues for some students.

"It's unfortunate that all the interesting, new places they publicized and raved about are only open for four hours. They're open during my classes, and close before I get there to work. I've only experienced the same old stuff up there that you can get below Debo," said Junior Christie Burgess.

Despite scheduling problems, students seem to be happy with what they've seen so far.

"I haven't really gotten to eat much there," said senior Sara Burke, "but so far I really like the variety they are offering. The pizza fries are pretty tasty."
Brave the needle, save a life or three

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Students are being asked to roll up their sleeves and brave the needle once again to help save up to three lives this winter when the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point plays host to a blood drive for the Blood Center of Wisconsin on Feb. 11 and 12.

"We are the sole supplier of blood to St. Michael's Hospital right here in Stevens Point," said Vicki Bohman of the Blood Center of Wisconsin.

Bohman explained that the need for blood is especially great during the winter months because of the increase in car crashes due to inclement weather and the cold and flu season.

"It's a challenging time of year for us," said Bohman. "Only 5 percent of people eligible to donate do donate. There is always a need for blood because it cannot be manufactured; we have to have people who are willing to donate."

To be eligible to donate you must be at least 17 years old, weigh over 110 pounds, be in good health and have a photo ID (UW-SP student IDs are acceptable).

Bohman suggests that potential donors eat a good breakfast the morning before they donate, be well rested and stay well hydrated throughout the day. This will help ensure that you sail through the donation process without any mishaps.

There are also two time slots open for platelet donations.

"Platelet donations are given to cancer patients, so it's a great chance to give back to someone with cancer," said Bohman.

The drive will be held Feb. 11 and 12 in the Laird Room of the Dreyfus University Center from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students can make an appointment by calling toll free 1-888-310-7555. Walk-ins are also welcome. The process takes 45 minutes to one hour, and you get to leave feeling like a hero.

Give Blood.
Save a Life.
College Republicans - Ryan Wrasse

Due to the continued progress and success of the troop surge in Iraq, there has been a declining media interest in the war. As a result, the economy has taken center stage - and for good reasons. For years the United States has seen strong economic growth: Fifty-two straight months of job growth (6.3 million jobs created since August of 2003), record revenues to the federal government, experts have increased and we have maintained historically low unemployment rates, just to name a few.

However, things are starting to change. An uneasy housing market, the devaluation of the dollar, wasteful government spending and an increasing stagnation of state and federal economies are beginning to worry Americans. That worry has promulgated into a barrage of questions for the 2008 White House contenders. So, what are they going to do about the economy?

Some of the issues, point-by-point:

- Make the Federal tax relief permanent.
- Work with Congress to successfully implement the recently negotiated economic stimulus package that puts more money into your wallet.
- Reign in wasteful government spending by working to drastically reduce or eliminate pork barrel projects.
- Create tax incentives for American businesses, large and small.
- The implementation of FHAsecure and HOPE NOW which helps struggling homeowners to stay in their homes.
- Streamline the current tax structure or eliminate the IRS and create a flat consumption tax as proposed by Presidential candidate, Mike Huckabee.
- Continue to open up new markets overseas.
- Making it harder to increase your taxes - requiring a three-fifths majority vote in Congress as proposed by Presidential candidate, Mitt Romney.

College Democrats - Saul Newton

American families are currently burdened with the rising costs of health care and energy, with no hope on the horizon. Now to add to their worries, we are facing economic hardships that no one could have imagined eight years ago. President Bush took office following the greatest period of peace-time, economic growth in history and a record budget surplus.

Fast forward to today, and the economic security enjoyed by so many Americans under President Clinton is now a precious commodity afforded only to those with estates and trust funds. Today, the value of the American dollar is extremely low with rising unemployment and a stock market that goes between 600 point drops and gains daily.

With those problems facing us, we are now confronted with a sub-prime mortgage crisis that threatens the livelihoods of millions of Americans. In 2007, 79 percent more homes entered into foreclosure than the previous year, and estimates are pointing to two million Americans will lose their homes in the next two years. Who is feeling these difficulties the most? The middle and lower classes are. We have an economy in which the rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer. Let's not even talk about the nation's budget deficit in which, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 51 percent is caused by tax cuts proposed by President Bush, and other irresponsible spending by Republicans in Congress, as well as a war that is costing us $12 billion per month.

President Bush is now in his last year in office, and Americans everywhere are calling for change. One would presume the Republicans candidates vying to be their party's nominee would hear the calls for new and fresh ideas. Instead, we hear from them the same tired answers from the conservative playbook, instead of admitting the situation we are in and what can be done about it.

On the other hand, the Democrats each have a multitude of ideas ranging from the conservative "universal mortgage credit," government aid to help homeowners prevent foreclosure, and a standardized borrower score to Clinton's five-year interest rate freeze and $5 billion to aid borrowers.

We are given a choice in the upcoming election. We can either have the same ideas that got us into this place, or we can have change. We need fresh and new solutions to this uphill battle we face. Who do you think has the best ideas for the future of this country?
Don't forget to register for your study abroad program for summer 2008 - because the world calls you and you just have to get out of Wisconsin!

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Healthy Chip Dip for the Superbowl

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Impress your guests with a healthy six-layer tortilla chip dip for the Superbowl this Sunday. This dip has been revamped by the Food Network, not only to be healthy, but delicious as well.

2 cloves garlic
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1 (15-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
1 (15-ounce) can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
2 teaspoons chili powder
2 tablespoons water
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
2 cups low fat shredded cheddar cheese
1 jalapeno, stemmed, finely chopped, (with seeds for more heat)
2 cups chopped romaine lettuce
1 1/2 cups nonfat yogurt, preferably Greek
2 ripe avocados, preferably Hass
1/2 cup fresh cilantro, leaves and stems, roughly chopped, plus more for garnish
3 ripe medium tomatoes, diced
5 scallions (white and green), thinly sliced
Baked tortilla chips, for dipping

On a cutting board, smash the garlic cloves, sprinkle with 1 teaspoon salt, and, with the flat side of a large knife, mash and smear the mixture to a coarse paste. Put the garlic, beans, chili powder, water and olive oil in the bowl of a food processor and blend until smooth. Spread in the bottom of a 2 quart casserole or gratin dish, or in individual sized dishes, as desired.

Scatter the cheese over the beans. Halve and seed the avocados, then mash with the jalapeno and another teaspoon of salt in a small bowl. Spread a layer of the avocado over the cheese, and scatter the lettuce on top.

Mix yogurt with cilantro and spread over the lettuce. Add a layer of tomatoes and scatter the scallions on top. Chill until ready to serve. Garnish with a few cilantro sprigs and serve with baked chips.

Nutrition Information:
Calories: 252
Total fat: 11 grams
Sodium: 873 mg
Total fat: 11 grams
Saturated fat: 2.4 grams
Fiber: 9.5 grams
Carbohydrates: 27 grams

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Science • January 31, 2008 • 5

T ECH

TIDBIT

Ever have a funny moment happen to you or someone you know and think to yourself, “Man, I wish I had caught that on film”? Sick of lug­ging your weighty video camera around to document the most memorable of life’s moments?

Well, my friend, rejoice. Pure Digital Technologies has unveiled the Flip Video Ultra, a video camera small enough to fit in, you guessed it, your pocket. At a measly 4.17 inches by 2.16 inches by 1.25 inches, the Flip can record up to a full 60 minutes of “America’s Funniest Home Videos” worthy fodder.

Another unique feature that sets this compact camcorder apart is its built-in software. So not only can you capture life’s precious moments, but you can also edit and organize those moments to mold them to your own liking. Part of the software also includes the capability to upload your videos hassle free to internet sites like AOL and YouTube. This is also thanks to the USB arm which flips out of the side of the camera. Now the whole world can see you become the next Internet sensation. Or ridicule you for adding more useless crap to the information superhighway.

The Flip Video Ultra comes in two models, the 1 GB which records up to 30 minutes of video and comes in black, white, pink or green, or the 2 GB that records up to 60 minutes and comes in black, white, orange or pink.
In search of vertical
difficulties

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Winter is unappealing to beach goers, golfers and the local ice cream truck driver. The cold and massive amounts of snow make indoors the perfect location for fun this time of year. That is, so in the case of Sir Arnold Lunn, who decided to turn those frosty frows upside-down. In 1921, Lunn formally introduced Alpine and slalom skiing to the Olympic games committee. Since that day many enthusiasts have been strapping long shanks of wood to their feet in search of the highest mountains around.

Skiers should be concerned about six things when selecting their hill: snow amount, snow quality, total vertical of the hill, variance of runs, run quality and cost. To alleviate some of your stress, here is a comprehensive guide to skiing in Wisconsin:

Here in our own backyard is Granite Peak, which offers the highest vertical in Wisconsin of 700 feet. Granite Peak also features 74 runs, though most of them feel the same (vertical on top, flat on bottom, no turns to speak of), high-speed chairlifts, several terrain parks for boarders and skiers alike. It also has a constant snow base of around 48 inches. On the downside it is rather expensive; a $48 day lift ticket exclusive equipment, an extra $28 for night skiing and prices between $35-$40 for less. Devil's Head in south Wisconsin carries a vertical of 500 feet and has 28 runs. Devil's Head's runs are elongated, allowing skiers to carry the vertical further. Devil's Head has a long run of 1.5 miles. Prices are $44 a day (weekend rate) and $25 for lessons, but after a drive to Baraboo, the cost is a wash when compared to Granite. Anyone who has gone to Madison has driven right past Cascade Mountain. It sits at the intersection of Interstate 94 and 90/94. Cascade packs 34 runs on 460 feet of vertical. The mountain holds its vertical to the end of runs and is packed with five terrain parks. One day passes go for $42, and only $5 extra for night skiing. Lessons start at $20. By far, the most bang for your buck at the area.

Big Snow Country had consisted of four hills: Indianhead, Big Powderhorn, White Cap and Black Jack. In the past all four were in the same promotion, but recently

Indianhead split off from the other two, which is fine, as they were the two worthwhile to anyway. Indianhead has a vertical of 630 feet and carries 29 runs. The runs at Indianhead are a lot more open, allowing skiers to choose different paths and variations to get down snow on their mostly groomed runs. Powderhorn offers a bit more terrain and technicality in 33 runs on its 425 feet of vertical. With these hills located in the upper peninsula of Michigan, they are much more susceptible to lake effect snow. Often times this results in the best snow conditions this side of the Rockies. For the full experience, www.big-snow.com offers hill hoppers passes to the two hills. Prices are quite reasonable considering the superior quality compared to Wisconsin hills. Starting at one day for $48, all the way up to four days for $156, the hopper pass is the way to go.

Lastly is Mt. Bohemia. This beast rests in the Keweenaw Peninsula of the Upper Peninsula constantly bombarded by lake effect snow. The 400 vertical feet of Bohemia stays covered with over 70 inches all season. This hill is for advanced skiers only. While it has 71 runs, the amount is endless as only about 4 runs are groomed and skiers are welcome to their back country where chutes, cliffs and waist deep powder awaits. Daily rates are $45 but be prepared to drive about six hours each way. Also, be sure to call ahead as often times severe weather can prevent them from opening.

Outdoors

Blizzards: not just from DQ anymore

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Wisconsin was treated to a blizzard this past weekend, producing weather severe enough to cancel classes on campus after 4 p.m. While the term "blizzard" is commonly tossed around in winter, a blizzard is officially a blizzard until certain wind and length plateaus are achieved. For a blizzard to achieve official status, a storm must produce 35 mile per hour winds or greater combined with visibility less than one-quarter mile. When these two things happen for longer than three hours, you have a blizzard. A Canadian blizzard is required to produce winds at the same speeds and temperatures. Extreme blizzards are known as whiteouts, where downdrafts containing blowing snow combine with falling snow to make headlines was The Blizzard of 2006, which happened on Feb. 11-13 in the northeast and left New York City, among other eastern-sea-board cities, with a record 26.9 inches of snow.

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Steve Hicklin

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Steve Hicklin played a grand game last Wednesday during the men's basketball match-up against the UW-Eau Claire. Hicklin is the 27th men's basketball player to score 1,000 points during his collegiate basketball career. It is an exciting achievement, but he is also planning on preparing great deeds after his basketball career is finished.

With plans to become a middle or high school teacher with a broad field of social studies and history emphasis, Hicklin says his family has influenced both his teaching and basketball interests.

Both of his parents are teachers and have been active in sports, especially when Hicklin was just a little hoopster. His father had a large role in the development of Hicklin's basketball talent because he coached for some teams Hicklin competed on. Hicklin wants to follow in his father's footsteps as a coach to develop young basketball players himself. "I've always loved the X's and O's that go along with basketball, and I'm excited to get more into that aspect of the game once my playing days have finished," said Hicklin.

Basketball has not always come easily for Hicklin. For many athletes, the mental struggle is the hardest part of a sports career and as a freshman, Hicklin found it a challenge to keep practicing. He was reluctant to improve himself when it was not guaranteed he would get to play in games.

"You just have to tell yourself that all of the work you are doing now is helping your teammates who are playing to get better, while at the same time preparing yourself for the moment when you get your opportunity," he said about his first year of college.

Hicklin got ready for that opportunity by spending countless hours practicing his skills on his own.

"I think to become successful at whatever you are doing, sports or not, requires dedication and hard work. It's important to be honest and identify your weaknesses and try and address them," he said about those long hours he spent readying himself for his chance on the court.

Hard work and dedication paid off when Hicklin replaced an injured starter during the national tournament in 2004. With what he calls his most memorable moment, Hicklin assisted the Pointers in their national championship. He says he'll never forget celebrating the victory as the final buzzer roared.

"That celebration is why we play the game, to reach that pinnacle is something that I'll never forget, and it has driven me the past few seasons because I want to get back there and have that same feeling again with my teammates now," he said.

Hicklin has proven himself to be an exceptional athlete for the UW-SP men's basketball team. With his experience, wisdom and a thousand points behind him, future basketball players may look up to him as a strong role model.

Watch Hicklin in action during the Pointer's next home game Feb. 2 against UW-Stout at 7 p.m.

Senior on the Spot

Chris Brown - Wrestling

Hometown: Mishicot, WI

Do you have any nicknames? Downtown Chris Brown, Browny

What is your favorite Pointer sports memory? Making it to the conference finals my sophomore year.

What is your most embarrassing sports moment? Wearing the old school throwback singlets for alumni night.

Do you have any game day rituals or superstitions? I always have to put my right shoe on first before a match.

Who is your sports hero? Cael Sanderson, 2004 Olympic Gold Medalist in Wrestling

What is your sport philosophy? Tackling can only get you so far; hard work will take you to the top.

Sports

Hoopster scores a grand

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Steve Hicklin

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January 31, 2008 • 7

Pointers smash Concordia
in two game series

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

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University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's victories bring the team to an 11-0-1 Northern Collegiate Hockey Association record and extends their conference lead to four wins over UW-Superior.

Things are definitely sailing smoothly for the third-ranked Pointers, who have yet to experience a loss this season. UW-SP may be confident this far into the season, but Head Coach Ann Ninnemann still refuses to let the ladies get too comfortable.

"We just take one game at a time, and our focus this year has been more about ourselves," she said regarding the team's upcoming match-up with UW-Eau Claire. "We need to play our best and worry about ourselves rather than worrying about what the other team is doing.

Concordia University is struggling through its first season in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association, and the Pointers took definite advantage of the team's inexperience with 8-1 and 10-0 wins against the Falcons.

"It is great to have another team in our conference," said Ninnemann. "It is always tough for a first year team to be really successful due to the recruiting process. I think that over a couple of years they will be able to catch up with the rest of the conference and be more competitive."

This past week the Pointers were not only concentrating on optimizing their game in the two Concordia blowouts, they were also working on the D-word.

"Our focus this past weekend was on our defense, and I told the girls the offense would come," said Ninnemann. "The offense did just come naturally for us with some success on our power play as well."

Pointers Irish Piskula and Nicole Grossmann led the Pointers with a trio of goals against the Falcons, while Kellye Nelson, Sarah Phillips, Jens Suter and Dana Carothers added pairs of their own.

Goalies Ann Hulme and Danielle Vaness split minutes in the net for the Concordia wins. Hulme accumulated 15 saves, while Vaness had nine.

Up next for the Pointers are traveling match-ups against the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds Feb. 1 and UW-River Falls Feb. 2. Both are NCHA conference games for UW-SP.

"February is a big month for us with six conference games, and three non-conference games against tough opponents that we need to win to give us the best chance we can to make it back to the NCAA Final Four tournament," said Ninnemann. "It is always tough for a first year team to

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Men's track starts on the right foot

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's track and field team started the beginning of the indoor season on the right foot competing at the UW-Whitewater Invitational meet last Saturday. The Pointers brought home a total victory over 20 competing teams with 124 total points in the meet.

This year's track and field team has developed a unique sense of togetherness as they have united their personalities. It is extremely challenging to unify a team that competes in many different events and has so many personal- ities that go along with the array of team or solo events.

"This year there has been a lot more interaction within the group, meaning that they really pay attention and do things within the group themselves," said Coach Rick Witt. "I really think that the term 'team' fits this year, maybe more than it has in the past..." I think they realize that if we're going to achieve some of the goals we would like to achieve, it's going to take all of the pieces to do so."

Pulling together to dominate the opposition, the Pointers had quite a few event champions at their first invite. Dominating the 400-meter dash were UW-SP's Nick Ver Duin in first place with a time of 49.32, Patrick Leonard in second place and Brad Koback in third place. Ver Duin and Leonard have both been All American Athletes three years in a row.

Witt describes the two All American Athletes as "having been through the wars." "They figured out what it takes to be really good and at the top level. They in turn have been trying to bring this along to the younger guys," Witt said about their stellar leadership qualities and willingness to share competitive mentorship.

Pointer Travis Nechuta placed first in the one mile run with a finishing time of 4:19.80. Nechuta had been out of the cross country line-up frequently in the fall as a result of injury, but demonstrates that he's back to his winning ways after the team's first showing.

Doing damage in field events for UW-SP were Derek Stone, jumping 1.98 meters in high jump and Mark Cufaude who cleared 4.87 meters in the pole vault event.

According to Witt, the team is fairly balanced and has maintained a tremendous amount of meet experience and are definitely showing themselves to be in track this season.

The Pointers will take the track at the Carthage Invitational in Kenosha this Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

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- Investigate the ecology and conservation of one of the most threatened environments on Earth.

Cost: $2975-$3275 (tentative) This includes airfare Chicago-San Jose-Chicago, lectures, accommodation, most meals, in-country transportation, coach transfer UWSP-Chicago/UWSP and 2 credits of Wisconsin undergraduate tuition or work fee. The price is based on 15 participants.

Credits: Participants enroll for two credits of Biology 498/698: Biodiversity and Tropical Field Biology in Costa Rica with an audit option. No prerequisites.

Leaders: Professor Christopher Yahnlke, Biology será tu guia en el pais (si Uds. tienen ganas a viajar!)

Lodging and Travel Information: Overnight lodging will include cabins, tent cottages, and one overnight hotel stay in the country's capitol, San Jose. Participants should be prepared to travel and live closely with a group of 15 other students (of all ages), adjust to a busy pace, be travel flexible, and enjoy scores of wonderful experiences. Participants will in Costa Rica by small plane, 4-wheel drive truck, and on foot. The travel on this trip vary in length from less than a kilometer to 10 kilometers. Some of the trails are hilly, muddy and/or rough, and at times we may be walking through flat to steep forest streams. It is recommended that participants take an effort to be in reasonably good physical condition prior to departure for Costa Rica.

Application: Deadline for application is December 1, 2007. Request an application form from UWSP International Programs or from Christopher Yahnlke (CNR 167) directly. Enrollment is limited.

Details can be had:
UWSP International Programs, Room 108 Collins Classroom Center, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481 USA
Tel (715) 346-3217, Fax (715) 346-3369, intlprog@uwsp.edu www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad
Katie's Curiosities: sampling local culture at the bars of Plover

Katie Adams
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Whether it is a curse or a blessing, I am a social butterfly. I like to be out and about; I love to make small talk with why, after the first day of an found myself in a bar on the outskirts of Plover. Some friends of mine invited me over for a game or two of cards, but having already graduated from college and accepted jobs in the already graduated from college and accepted jobs in the real world, they needed to get to bed by a decent hour. While I was sitting in my car and waiting for it to warm up, a friend of mine and I stared at the dark. Was I really going to drop him off and head home at only 10:00 p.m.? I couldn't bear the thought. Since we were already a few miles behind the clock. Was I really going to the first thing we noticed was that there were already out behind Belt's, the second thing we noticed was bare. I was just coming over for a game or two of pool at the Post Road Pub, a place neither of us had ever been to.

So we drove. But when we neared the Post Road Pub, we realized that there were a few other bars just down the road, and we’d never been to those either, so we kept driving. And as we approached those bars, we realized there was a few more even further down the road, so we drove a little more. By and by, we ended up 12 miles out of town at a little place just off the road, a bar known as Doug’s. This bar was packed. The first thing we noticed was that almost every vehicle in the parking lot was a truck. The second thing we noticed was that they were all empty and running. As we walked in, we felt incredibly out of place. Barely anyone had a jacket, despite the fact that it was pretty much the coldest night of the year. I was wearing a black pea coat—definitely too dressy for a townie bar in the middle of nowhere. I desperately needed to use the restroom, but could only see a man’s room. I asked a gent where the ladies room was and was told to point to a small clothed in a tiny television. I opened the door and was greeted by the bartender, a middle aged woman. I was shocked to see my ID before I could have my water (which came in a $1 bottle—they apparently don’t serve just a glass of tap water at Doug’s). The perks of Doug’s: the pool tables are set back from a lot of the smoke, and they are very well lit. Incidentally, they also hide a real ladies room—I had used the run-down closet bathroom in vain.

From Doug’s we moved towards Point to a bar called Jeeper, a place with a friendly bartender (again, a middle aged woman) who knew a lot about baseball. The tap water was abundant, and the pool tables were open. There were only about four people in the bar, but I still felt incredibly out of place as they all watched us play pool. Considering my skill at pool (or lack of it), this was likely a very painful experience for them. I think I even saw a few people cringe. The only real drawback to this bar is its openness—as soon as one man lit a cigarette, the entire bar was as smoky as it would have been if 10 people were puffing. We made a hasty retreat from all of the smoke and went next door to Sandy’s. A lovely older lady tended the bar, the kind who will call you darlin’ and mean it. The pool tables were set back in a separate alcove from the bar, and a video game played some surprisingly pleasing music in the background. This bar was delightful enough that we stayed for two games of pool, speculating the entire time as to whether or not the bartender was Sandy herself. When our two games were done, we decided it was time to move on.

Our last stop for the night was the one we originally had in mind, the Post Road Pub. I had high hopes for this bar—every time I drive past it I admire how quaint it looks. From the outside, it seems like I dream bar—the place where everybody knows your name, and they’re always glad you came. On the inside, though, I was incredibly disappointed. It was very smoky and kind of run-down looking. It almost reminded me of the Moose Lodge I’d visited in the fifth grade. Half of the Christmas decorations were still sitting on an 8-foot cafeteria table, and the empty glasses hadn’t been bussed in ages. Worse yet, there was no place to set a drink down while playing pool! My friend was really disappointed that he didn’t like the bar, although he was really excited about the junk food selection they had. The most amusing part of this bar was its bouncer—on the wall. If you stick a few quarters in and blow through a straw, you know whether you should call a cab or walk. Overall, it was an enlightening adventure. If you are “of age,” I encourage you to head out beyond the college bars on the square and explore the culture of the town, but be sure to drink soda or have a designate driver. Tip your bartenders well, and remember: as you get closer to Stevens Point, the crowds get younger, the bartenders get friendlier and the pool gets more expensive.

Juno: unconventional and surprisingly catchy

Dan Richter
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

Upon hearing a description of the film “Juno,” a teen is unsure of her future after she becomes pregnant, "I wasn’t sure what to think. Was it going to be a comedy following in the successful footsteps of "Knocked Up," or a sappy drama in the "Lifetime" original movie category? It’s safe to say the film has little in common with either of these. Written by first-time screenwriter (and ex-stripper) Diablo Cody, “Juno” follows the relationship, maturation and trials of high school student Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page), who loses her virginity and becomes pregnant with her best friend’s (Michael Cera of "Arrested Development" and "Superbad") baby.

What separates this film from most conventional teen pregnancy stories is that Juno isn’t confused or even disinterested. Rather, she is confident and assured in what she wants for her baby: a loving and, more importantly, “cool” family (played by Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman) to adopt it on its own. She is also, in a manner of speaking, a self-aware person. Instead, she supports her with underlying eagerness. Instead, she supports her with underlying eagerness. Since its Dec. 25, 2007 wide release, “Juno” keeps finding critical fanfare, including Academy Award nominations for Best Actress for Page, Best Original Screenplay for Cody and Best Picture. What really impressed me, though, were the performances of Cera and Garner. Cera plays father-to-be Paulie Bleeker with an awkwardly shy, yet affable, quality that can make just about anyone fall in love with him. Garner, who is so desperate to adopt a baby and become a mother—can’t help but almost live vicariously through Juno throughout her entire term.

As a dramedy, the film delivers just the right amount of emotion to pull your heartstrings, but it’s also peppered with enough unique one-liners to make you forget “Napoleon Dynamite” as your go-to source for comebacks and quips. “Juno” also has a noteworthy soundtrack, supplied mostly by indie bands, including Belle and Sebastian and The Moldy Peaches. All in all, “Juno” leaves little to be desired. Good enough to win an Academy Award? Probably not, but if it’s a film you should see and will enjoy thoroughly nonetheless.
Many scholarships are available for Summer 2008 and 2008/09 academic year. Stop in now at the International Programs Office (CCC 108) to pick up your application! Also, check out their Web site at www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad/scholarship.aspx.

Applications must be submitted by February 15, 2008.
Resident’s Evil

11

How are you holding up? Better than last night?

Well, Craig’s read as me. I probably said something offensive while drunk.

Well, you loudly confessed undying love for me, and considering how much he wants to date me.

Actually, you were incoherent, and I stayed with you until you fell asleep. I just couldn’t resist teasing you.

Ha.

Ha.

FIRE@WILL

Lo Shim

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You just moved into a new apartment and you don’t have a

Only think

we’re some

sort of hipster from the


Where I Come From

Bryan Novak

Dont call them that man...

Would you look call the cops.

Fair

FAIR

Are You an Artist?

Submit your COMIC to the POINTER!

Contact Joy Ratchman (jratchman@uwsp.edu) for more info

Pointer Poll

What is your opinion of UW-SP remaining open while area schools are closed due to severe weather conditions?

Holly LeClair

Senior

“I think it’s good that we stay open to continue our education, but sometimes if the weather is so bad we might as well close down, like everybody else.”

Dianna Sorenberg

Junior

“That’s fine because you have the choice to come to school or not.”

Rod King

Junior

“I think it actually sucks. We are paying for our education, but we are being forced to walk out in the cold, in very bad weather. But students that get their schooling for free are not going to classes.”

Ashtin Kitzrow

Senior

“I think it is depressing. I rolled out of bed this morning and wanted to throw the covers over my head and sleep for the next week.”

C.Y. Allen

Professor

“Professors, administration we ought to make it clear that we don’t penalize people who make a good decision about travel and may miss class.”

Now Playing...

Rogers Campus Cinema

Feb. 1-7

The Eye (PG-13)

(1:10) (3:10) 5:10 7:10 9:10

Atonement (R)

(2:45) 7:00

27 Dresses (PG-13)

(12:45) (2:50) 5:00 7:10 9:15

How She Move (PG-13)

(12:50) 5:05 9:15

Untraceable (R)

(1:20) (3:20) 5:20 7:20 9:20

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