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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - STEVENS POINT

SGA debates if phosphorous is not for us

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Think you're drinking clean water? Think again. The Student Government Association senate will be considering the Resolution to Maintain Water Quality to show support for Wisconsin Senate Bill 197. The SGA resolution, written by SGA President Katie Kloth and student Ellie Jackson, is aimed to bring awareness to this state legislation that was first introduced on May 31, 2007.

This state legislation looks to place restrictions on the retail sale and use of phosphorous in fertilizers. The bill does not apply to land use for agricultural production. Fertilizers containing phosphorous will be made available to those who need it.

"It's been going on for awhile across the country," said Kloth. "People have been banning phosphorous in fertilizer; mainly this is geared towards people who live near bodies of water."

According to the resolution, phosphorus in fertilizers contributes to the destruction and poisoning of water systems. A single pound of this fertilizer can stimulate algae growth up to over 500 pounds according to the Michigan Environmental Council.

These algae blooms quickly become an abundance of algae blankets on the water surface blocking sunlight and oxygen for aquatic life and disrupting the ecosystem.

"Phosphorous is a naturally occurring element in nature, it's in soils," said Kloth. "What's happening is that plants only use so much and the rest of the phosphorous runs off into nearby water bodies."

Not only do the algae kill off aquatic life but they also pose a potentially lethal risk to other animals entering water where large algae blooms are. The Department of Natural Resources officials said that three dogs have died since September due to toxins released by algae when they die, giving the water a blue-green color. In 2002, a Cottage Grove teenager died after being exposed to the algae toxins in a pond he was swimming in on a golf course.

Twenty-two states already have bans or limitations in place on the use of phosphorous. Wisconsin counties Dane and Jefferson have implemented the practice as well as the cities of Oconomowoc, Pewaukee and Delafield.

"We think it's something that needs to be done and we need to show our support for and maybe through this the city will consider

Soccer scores WIAC Championship and NCAA bid



Photo courtesy of Athletic Department

The UW-SP women's soccer team won the WIAC championship title on Sat. Nov. 8, 2008. They won 3-1 against the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds at the Point Soccer Bowl. This win earned the Pointers an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament. This is the 12th WIAC Championship for the Pointers, who will host the semifinals on Nov. 15. See pg. 7 for the story.

it and hopefully the state," said Jackson.

If the SGA resolution is passed it will be sent to state senator Julie Lassa and state assemblyman Louis Molepske Jr., to ask them for support. It will also be sent to the Stevens

Point mayor, Andrew Halverson.

Kloth and Jackson see the ban as an economic way to save our waters from human induced pollution, thus keeping all that use this water

See **Algae** pg. 2

Inside This Week

News..... 1-2

Pointlife..... 3-4

Science & Outdoors... 5-6

Sports..... 7-8, 10

Arts & Culture..... 11-12

Letters &
Opinion..... 13-14

Comics &
Classifieds..... 15-16

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It looks like the state may be spending a little more than it has available.

Governor Jim Doyle's recent announcement of a \$3 to \$5 billion deficit in the state budget may cause worries for Wisconsin residents and students of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point who are already suffering from the current economic decline in America.

Wis. state budget in the bucket

The national economic situation is the main cause for the Wisconsin budget deficit. Greg Diemer, vice chancellor of business affairs at UW-SP, explains why the deficit came to be and what is going to happen as a result.

"The credit crunch that businesses have felt and the lack of purchasing that consumers are doing, that's all tied together; they're not doing it because of the credit crunch and the credit crunch is caused by the economic downturn, so it's kind of a vicious circle," said Diemer.

The lack of spending in the state is throwing off state revenue because of the lack of sales tax that would be collected.

As with the budget problems from last year, the state is working to find ways to supplement this shortage. State fees, a change in tax exempt purchases and freezing agency hires and travel expenses are all on the bill to be looked at.

"They're going to have to look at service fees," said Diemer. "The governor is going to try to hold the line on taxes."

As for students, an increase in tuition is always expected. Governor Doyle is working hard to make sure that all the levels of education are not negatively affected by the budget deficit.

A change in the availability of class sections may be a necessary action in order for the university to cope with the state deficit though. Expanding the size of sections and dropping others is one option that may be considered to cut costs.

"It may also impact our ability to have the number of sections that we need to keep everybody on track with progression for their degrees," said Diemer. "We'll do our best to do that. That will be the first priority for us. Hopefully we won't have any problems there."

The university may also have to hire adjunct or filler faculty until it receives permission to hire full-time tenured faculty.

A detailed plan for the budget deficit is scheduled for release on Nov. 20.

News

Gas prices tumble towards the two dollar mark

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The price of bottled water drops and you get a little excited. The price of gasoline drops and everyone asks why.

"The fall in gas prices reflects the concerns on the economy and the impact of the financial crisis on the economy," said Kevin Bahr, economics professor. "If the economy slows down significantly, there will be a decline in the demand for fuel. Fewer goods are shipped, production decreases, fewer people are working. Thus, the drop in the demand for gas, and consequently, prices."

Supply and demand is one of the fundamental concepts of economics which can best be described through examples. If there is a large quantity of something and no demand, the price will drop. Or if there is a small quantity of something and a lot of demand, the price will increase.

Oil prices reached almost \$150 this past year and now are only \$59 as of Wednesday, Nov. 12. In fact, the price of oil has fallen \$30 from just over a month ago as the pace of the oil industry has slowed.

"I believe that the recent sharp declines in gas prices are largely the result of the decreasing demand for

gasoline and oil in general," said Scott Wallace, another economics professor. "We are seeing a worldwide economic slowdown that is reducing the demand for energy. The magnitude of the price decrease is due to the highly inelastic nature of the supply."

Gas prices per gallon reached over \$4 across the nation earlier this year while this week the price of retail gasoline has plummeted to \$2.12 in Stevens Point. Currently, the lowest price of gas in the United States is in Vienna, W. VA. at \$1.93.



Photo by Becka Schuelke

Gas prices have been falling so fast even this photo is out-of-date.

Wallace said, "In the short-run, supply of gasoline is largely fixed given difficulties in expanding refining capacity. Because of this, any changes in demand will have dramatic effects on price. Until recently, robust worldwide growth fueled by the economic success of countries like China and India had increased demand for oil, thus spurring large increases in price."

will have a much more direct impact on students," said Senator Andrew Letson. "Maybe SGA should focus its time on those issues and allow organizations whose mission more reflects this issue to work on this issue."

The UW-SP student chapter of the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group is also working on the phosphorous ban issue. Many current and previous members of WISPIRG are also members of SGA, including Kloth and Jackson.

"We think its common sense," said Kloth, "being a green campus and with the eco-municipality initiatives of the city."

From **Algae** pg. 1

healthier and safer.

"Tuition and budget issues are really important, but if we aren't ensuring we have healthy water and air, and we're getting sick, what we do in those other realms doesn't matter," said Kloth. "Before people can learn they need to be healthy."

Some skepticism remains as to the route being taken through SGA. Some members of the SGA senate believe that there are much more relevant things for them to be focusing on that affect students directly.

"There are many other things the state legislature is working on which

High school students talk sustainability at UW-SP

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You may have noticed quite a large amount of high school students roaming the campus on Wednesday, Nov. 12. Students from all around the state came to the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point for the 17th annual Governor's High School Conference on the Environment.

The 2008 theme was "Student Power: Conserving Your Future with Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy." The Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education has been hosting this event at UW-SP since 1992.

Students and teachers learned about energy efficiency, conservation and sustainability, three things that are not strange to UW-SP. The conference showcased what students are already doing in their own schools and communities as well as provided them with ideas to bring back and use.

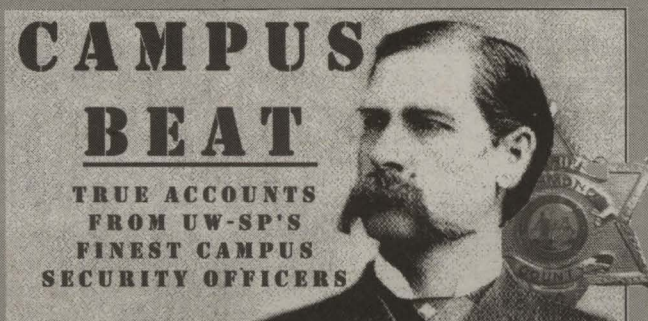
"The purpose of the conference is to provide motivated high school students with a leadership opportunity to share their research

with peers and network with energy resource professionals from state and national programs," said Sunshine Buchholz, conference coordinator. "A large focus of the day is helping students understand that they can make a difference in their community and state by becoming involved in wise energy resource management decisions."

Governor Doyle believes this conference fosters many principles that Wisconsin has come to represent, from resource management to renewable energy and always keeping the state close to its motto "Forward."

"This conference will present students and teachers with an important opportunity to learn about energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy alternatives, and energy-related careers," said Governor Doyle in a letter to students on the WCEE Web site.

This year had more interest than previous years with 41 schools represented and 12 schools turned away because of space limitations. Each school was allowed to bring up to eight students and is required to plan ahead with projects from their school or an informational poster.



Dreyfus University Center, Nov. 6, 2008 8:12 p.m.

Type: **PUBLIC INTOXICATION**

Student found heavily intoxicated. Student was not having trouble breathing but an ambulance was called and the student was taken to a hospital.

Knutzen Hall, Nov. 7, 2008 1:14 a.m.

Type: **PUBLIC DISTURBANCE**

Individuals reported yelling outside Knutzen Hall. They were told to keep it down.

South Hall, Nov. 7, 2008 2:41 p.m.

Type: **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

Individual reported harassing phone calls.

Hyer Hall, Nov. 12, 2008 12:02 a.m.

Type: **PUBLIC INTOXICATION**

Students reported a heavily intoxicated non-student in Hyer Hall. Suspect could barely walk, but was spotted leaving and heading north towards Schmeekle.

Community advisors provide gospel, not the law

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For those students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point who have lived on-campus, which is most of them, the community advisors in the residence halls can be the bane of some students' existence.

"You have to practice what you preach."

-Hiher

Their ultimate goal is not to ruin your Friday night resident hall room party, but rather to provide the means by which everyone can have a beneficial residence hall experience.

"Basically, it's not the position everyone thinks it is. It's not the enforcement position. It's more of an observation," said May Roach Hall community advisor Chris Hiher. "As a peer, it's about getting the behavior

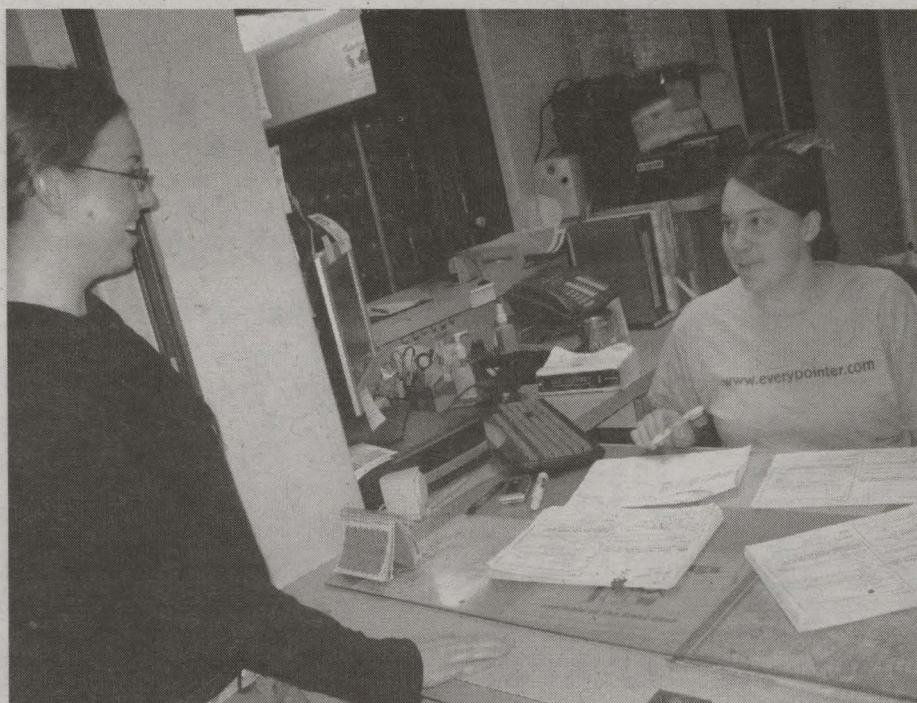


Photo courtesy of Sam Feld

A student stops by the front desk of a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point residential hall to inquire with community advisor Marlee Keyzers about student living options next semester.

to change and make the community livable to everybody else."

While enforcement of the rules and policies is one of the duties of the

CA, their bigger goal is to be a peer to the students. Being around for the other members of the residence halls and making a positive impact on stu-

dents is the major role of the CAs.

"It's a fine line you walk. You have to be a very good role model for them," said Hiher. "You have to practice what you preach. We can all get along. We can all have fun, but we have to be comfortable living with each other."

The CAs' relationship with the students helps them to become more successful in their academic careers. Having the CA around to be aware of what is going on with a student, especially in the first weeks of school, is a necessary adjuster.

"I don't think students would feel as at home," said Hiher. "You don't get the amount of programs. You don't get that sense of, 'This is a floor, we're a unit.'"

As a CA, Hiher believes that he is a necessary part of residential living and that the experience has benefited him both professionally and academically.

"It's going to help me to work with people and understand other viewpoints," said Hiher.

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Chatting reflects emotions of student users

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When a ding emanates from your computer, do you come calling? Many Pointers do.

Katie Heinz, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point only chats when on Facebook, the trendy social networking Web site. Ashley Mohr and Maggie Rolandi, other freshmen at UW-SP, both use Facebook, but also MSN and Mac Webchat, respectively.

Many that surf the Internet find themselves wrapped up in things as tame as fantasy sports to more risqué material such as pornography, although at UW-SP social networking sites still help draw interest to chatting.

"I normally stay on longer to chat because Facebook has already caught my attention," said Rolandi.

One human struggle that produces online chatting is the possible tension created from face-to-face communication.

"You don't have a real person in front of you [when chatting], so it is less awkward," said Mohr.

Heinz herself also finds it easier to chat with a friend or acquaintance online than in person. Rolandi finds that it is a faster method of communication.

While chatting online, the "walls" of anxiety and trepidation melt away.

"It is easier to talk face-to-face, because some people don't care," said Mohr.

In the same manner, sometimes anger will take the place of anxiety when communicating online.

"It's easier to be mean; you can log off if you are mad at someone," said Rolandi.

Heinz believes, along with Rolandi and Mohr, that chatting is done more than to just kill time, but it is used as a means of staying in touch.

Although chatting is still a part of life, students find that they find time to text as well. Aly Bettinger, a UW-SP freshman, and a user of Facebook chat as well, is not obsessed with it, but also finds it easy with the widespread use of cell phones, to text. Mohr noted that with a cell phone, texting is a rather smooth process.

Some internet and computer screen names are linked to their login passwords. America Online and Mac Webchat are two computer operating mechanisms which incorporate this feature. Rolandi's Mac utilizes this function.

Conceptually, chatting happens in a virtual computer world, and can be discontinued at any time. Heinz shared the belief that it would not be hard to cut off chatting as it is not an overly consuming part of her life.

Chatting can happen anywhere at anytime; only you can decide your way of doing it.

Pointlife

Protests essential to full college experience

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Vital parts to the college life: pizza, all-nighters and protests?

Protests and demonstrations on campus are an "essential part of the college experience," said Amy Zandler, a sophomore.

The most notable protests are undoubtedly the loudest ones. So far this school year on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's campus, the most memorable protests and demonstrations were the anti-abortion and the peace train.

Each of these events were very different. The anti-abortion protest was done by people not affiliated with UW-SP, on public walkways throughout and around campus, and were outwardly against an issue.

The peace train was a demonstration done by UW-SP students, on campus, during Homecoming week supporting the idea of peace.



Photo by Becka Schuelke

There is always more than one side to every story. This student takes part in one of the recent protests that took place on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus.

With these events done by different groups of people, Christopher Roubique, a sophomore, said, "Provided they don't impede the students, I don't mind who does it."

Whether it's the students or other groups doing them, Zandler said that it is up to the students if they want more of a variety of demonstrations around campus.

She also said that as long as the protesters and demonstrators are on public property and are respectful, they have the right to express freedom of speech.

Roubique had a different attitude toward the protests. He said, "They're going about things the wrong way, making me dislike them and not care about their cause."

Some students believe these protests and demonstrations are a necessary part of the atmosphere on campus.

"While we may not agree with everyone, it is important to respect their viewpoints, as long as they [do] the same," said Zandler.

geeks' corner

Mikel Rysk

GEEK GAMING AFICIONADO

Dear Geek Guru,

I have a boyfriend who keeps playing WoW and I never see him anymore. How do I make him stop playing so I can see him again?

- Un-WoWed

Dear Un-WoWed,

You have a couple choices regarding your boyfriend playing WoW (World of Warcraft).

World of Warcraft is a MMORPG (Massive Multi-player Online Role-Playing Game). It takes your boyfriend's character and puts him in an electronic world generated by the people who create WoW. The game itself is accessed through the Internet, but I hear that you can play it or different versions of it without connecting to the Internet.

Choice 1: You can be spiteful and burn his copy of the CD that has the game on it, which will only delay him. Next, you would want to sabotage his computer by unplugging it while he is playing. This will upset him in a most voracious way. Thirdly, you could try removing parts from his computer or smash his monitor. I would not recommend any of these since they may get you into trouble with local law enforcement.

Choice 2: You may want to seduce him away from WoW. Try promising sexual favors, like fellatio, in order to make him stop playing. This approach may work, although you will want to have a backup plan, like breaking up with him since you obviously do not arouse in him an urge to forget the game. These type

of gamers have become obsessed or possessed by the WoW monster. You have little left to offer. Leave this bum and find a man that will pay attention to your every whim.

Choice 3: Your third option is quite clear. You will have to become the WoW goddess and destroy his character from within. This may backfire by having the WoW monster suck the life out of you and then you will become just like him. Of course, this may be a good thing since then you and your boyfriend can participate in something together.

Choice 4: Any combination of the three listed above.

Sincerely, the Geek Guru

Readers, please game responsibly. Not only is online gaming addictive, but it slowly sucks the will to communicate with real people out of you. This type of activity, while fun, can be devastating. I had a cousin once who played "Ultima Online" and he loved to play. Unfortunately, he lost his job, which paid for the UO addiction. Next, he lost his wife, who would not support him in his addiction. Then followed the children; he lost them simply because he wouldn't let them play. Overall, he lost everything in his life that could have been good for him and traded it all to play some online game. In general, I guess what I am trying to say is game responsibly and know when to turn off the game. Life is full of adventure if you are willing to go out and look for it.

Please e-mail me at mikelrysk@yahoo.com if you have any other questions that need to be answered.

Farewell and good gaming,
The Geek

THE POINT IS...

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As part of a new series of articles in the hallowed pages of the Pointlife section, the two esteemed co-editors of Pointlife (Michael Baumann and myself) will team up to answer all your burning questions regarding life in Stevens Point.

Any queries for these articles are fair game. In fact, the more outlandish and outer limits the question you want us to investigate, the better (strictly from a research or interview or entertainment stance, of course).

Do you want to know the best place to go on a date? We don't know, but we are willing to attempt "dates," just to satiate your inquiring minds. Have you pondered what café has the best food for your money? Well, it's South Point, but you can still ask. Maybe you are not sure what there is to do in Stevens Point when it is bar time and you aren't even close to being ready to call

it a night? Drunk texting Baumann may not work for everyone (715-212-8609), I understand, so we will figure out what YOU can do.

The point is (not a bad idea for a title, perhaps...), you control us. We investigate and report back to you, the much bally-hooed and contemptible reader. Submissions of questions can be e-mailed to ekrsz157@uwsp.edu.

Baumann and I anxiously await your e-mail command and, in the case of Baumann, your text messages.

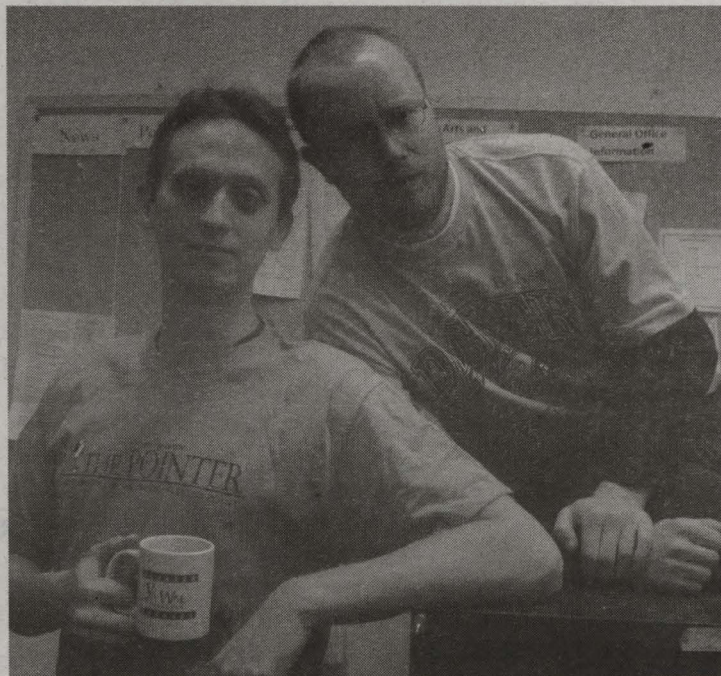


Photo by Dorothy Barnard

These two inept, non-trad editors, Eric Krszjzaniek and Mike Baumann, take on your every conundrum in their new column, "The Point is..."



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As threats of snow become more realistic in Wisconsin, Patrick Martin could qualify as one of the most excited students on campus. To him this is the most wonderful time of the year.

"[The first snowfall] makes me really, really happy. I definitely look forward to it," said Martin, president of the ski and snowboarding club at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens

Point. "My girlfriend says she only has two months of the year where I don't talk about snowboarding and that usually falls during the summer when I'm working too much."

The ski club is having their most expansive and anticipated trip of the year to Breckenridge, Co. from Jan. 3 to 11. They are also planning more local trips as well, which could happen almost every weekend.

The trip costs \$599 for UW-SP students, and guests are welcome to come as well, but for slightly more

money. The trip includes six nights lodging, four-day lift pass, discounted ski and snowboard rentals and the fifth day pass at a discounted price.

There are also good places to go skiing and snowboarding locally.

"My favorite place so far has been Marquette Mountain. All the hills by the UP are well worth the drive," said UW-SP junior Amber Hamilton. "They get more snow so it's just better conditions usually. Although I haven't been out west yet, I heard nothing is comparable."

If students are looking for quality, Martin recommends Granite Peak because of its variety of terrain, which gives skiers and snowboarders many

as lucky.

"This is going to be catastrophic for millions of people," said The Farmers' Almanac Editor Peter Geiger.

The Farmers' Almanac has predicted cold, harsh and high precipitation in the eastern part of the United States. No matter what kind of winter is in store for Wisconsin, snowboarders and skiers remain adrenalized for the upcoming season.

Martin loves to hit the slopes, but there's more to snowboarding and skiing than just carving, getting air and hitting rails. Martin enjoys all the friendships he's made and the peace of mind he gets through snowboarding.

"It's almost like you're in tune with everything; it's just the greatest feeling," said Martin. "I like the creativity behind [snowboarding] too. I ride a lot of terrain parks. I try and create new, cool and innovative ways to ride."

Kyle Poncek, vice president of UW-SP's ski and snowboard club, finds the imaginative side to skiing fun and priceless, although he admits it can sometimes be a costly hobby to get heavily involved with.

"I love the freedom of just being able to do your own thing on the hill and not having anyone telling you what you can't do on the terrain," said Poncek. "You can be really creative and try different things and not worry about final exams and other things like that."

Hamilton, as a college student, agrees that she doesn't always have a lot of money and that could work against her and her interest in skiing.

"I hate that it's an expensive sport. Besides buying all the gear, you have to pay each time to use a hill, unless you get a season pass, but that's expensive too," said Hamilton.

Although many think of snowboarding as something a person would have to go to a hill, resort or mountain to participate in, Martin believes there is an alternative choice to these options.

"Snowboarding is not a one-track sport. It can be done in your back yard," said Martin. "You don't have to snowboard at a resort; you can snowboard with anything. That's what I think is neat about snowboarding."

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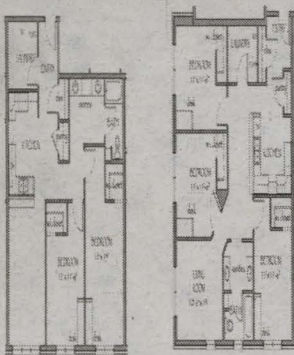
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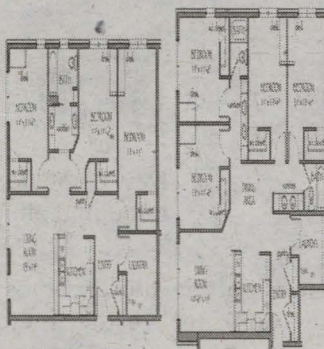
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different options.

He recommends somewhere different for the less expensive route.

"Nordic Mountain is really cheap; Tuesdays are only \$10. Their terrain park is also getting better, it's a lot smaller terrain [compared to Granite Peak]," said Martin. "If you're looking to go for the more inexpensive route and you're just learning, Nordic Mountain is a good place."

The Farmers' Almanac, a 192-year-old publication, which claims an accuracy rate of 80 to 85 percent, forecasts a very cold and snowy December. It claims that January will be milder than average, with a good amount of snowfall.

"Every year when I see the first snowflake, I immediately think of snowboarding and get really anxious," said Hamilton. "I heard we are supposed to get a lot of snow this year, so I'm really stoked."

Last year, some cities received so much snowfall, the municipalities ran out of salt to keep roads safe and were forced to find alternative choices for salt. The year before, snow didn't accumulate on the ground until January, giving snowboarders and skiers a shorter season. Although it's predicted a fairly normal winter in Wisconsin, some other states aren't

Science & Outdoors

A summer in India with GEM

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If you think this past summer was hot, you should probably talk to College of Natural Resources students Andrew VanNatta and Scott Reilly, who spent their summer in India as Global Environmental Management student ambassadors in 100 plus degree heat most of the summer. The two students were on hand Tuesday, Nov. 11 to give a presentation of their experience this summer as student ambassadors in India. VanNatta and Reilly spent 12 weeks working with the Indian non-governmental organization Foundation for Ecological Security. They helped develop a plan for resource assessment and a resource management plan in a watershed near Bhilwara Rajasthan, India. The students traveled to remote villages and learned how FES is helping communities reclaim battered landscapes and build sustainable livelihoods.

"I think a main point of GEM and future ambassadors needs to be that it's much more about the cultural experience, trying to understand how people relate to the land, and what they're doing as far as managing the land and trying to improve people's lives," said Reilly.

Much of the presentation focused on VanNatta and Reilly's unique cultural experience. Their slideshow helped the audience visualize some of the large cultural differences in transportation, cuisine, landscape, and most of all, people.

"Being in India is about people; people were very curious about us," said Reilly.

In one of the most densely populated countries in the world, the two CNR students were considered an anomaly, but this helped them to

connect with more people and gain a greater cultural experience.

The students' last part of the slideshow featured some of the animals they had seen during their time in India. Monkeys, llamas and elephants were daily occurrences on the streets of Bhilwara.

"You cannot cuss enough when you see an elephant walk by you on the street," remarked Reilly.

However, their last slide was that of a rainy, late afternoon at a national park in which the two caught a glimpse of a female tiger strolling through the jungle.

The GEM student ambassador Program is a project of the GEM Education Center in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The program was developed to provide transformative learning enrichment opportunities for capable and motivated CNR students in programs and activities, primarily with GEM's international partners.



Photo courtesy of Ben Haight

Students with the GEM ambassador program spent their summer volunteering in India.

UW-SP fire crew takes on a prescribed burn

Gregg Jennings
THE POINTER
SCIENCE & OUTDOORS REPORTER

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Fire Crew took advantage of a weather window two weeks ago and burned prairies at several private properties. The object of the cool burns was to assist in the restoration of the prairies and to rid them of noxious weeds.

Members of the fire crew began the day early at the fire cache to get "lined out" with personal protective equipment. Each qualified member was issued a hard hat and Nomex shirt and pants. Hand tools, line gear with fire shelters and other equipment was loaded into the back of pick-up trucks and SUVs.

The fire crew carpooled to the W-T Bar Land Company property where the owners were trying to eradicate spotted knapweed. The crew was split into two squads by Zachary Hartshorn, incident commander, type 5.

The fireline was used as a fire-break to prevent the spread of the fire into areas it was not wanted. The crew then hiked to an area that had been prepped weeks before. At that time, Erin Wolf, Sarah Holter and Tim Hart took turns trimming ladder fuels from pine and oak trees. The limbs were "swamped" to a tractor and dispersed to the area to be burned.

The UW-SP Fire Crew is usually called upon by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for fire suppression, but Matt Hundt, a squad boss, said that private citizens can submit proposals for prescribed burns.

The crew does not get wages for

their service, but it does get reimbursed for the fuel for chainsaws and to light the prescribed burns.

Hartshorn briefed the fire crew about how he wanted the burn to be conducted. He informed the crew about wind conditions, relative humidity and dew point. A "wetline" of foam was put down on the east flank and the fire crew members lit the prairie with drip torches. The prairie was lit in strips so the fire would not get out of control. The firelines were patrolled to make sure no fires jumped the lines.

When the fire burned itself out, the crew had a lunch provided by the landowners, Stan Thomas and his law partner.

After lunch, the fire crew burned another, smaller prairie near a red pine plantation. After the fire, a line was formed to grid the area for hotspots. A few were found and those were put out with fire tools and bladder bags. The crew tested to see if the fire was still hot using the back of their hand. If there was heat felt, more water was added and the soil was again stirred.

Hartshorn conducted an after-action review when the fire was declared out. The crew discussed which objectives were met, which ones were not, if any, and how performance could be improved next time.

The crew returned to the fire cache where all the tools and saws were sharpened put away.

The UW-SP Fire Crew can be contacted through their Web site on the student organization page.

TECH TIDBIT

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Be careful when you pull your keys out from now on. A software program was recently developed by United States computer scientists at the University of California-San Diego that can make copies of keys without the real thing.

This new software can duplicate keys merely from photos. Even photos taken with cell phones or from hundreds of feet away can be used to copy the keys.

"We built our key duplication software system to show people that their keys are not inherently secret," said in a statement Stefan Savage, the computer science professor from UC-San Diego who led the student-

run project. "Perhaps this was once a reasonable assumption, but advances in digital imaging and optics have made it easy to duplicate someone's keys from a distance without them even noticing."

The technology works because keys used in most common residential locks in the United States have a series of five or six cuts, spaced out at regular intervals. The computer scientists created a program that can process photos of keys from almost any angle and measure the depth of each cut. If you bring together the depth of each cut and you have the keys "bitting" code, along with the basic information on the brand and type of key, you have all you need to make a duplicate.

Creators of the technology warn that people using such sites as Facebook or MySpace may have

pictures of their keys already on the Internet, which can easily be used to make a duplicate.

"While people generally blur out the numbers on their credit cards and driver's licenses before putting those photos online, they don't realize that they should take the same precautions with their keys," said Savage.

Though the researchers have not



Photo courtesy of UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering.

New computer technology makes it possible to duplicate keys through a photograph.

released their code to the general public, they do acknowledge that it would not be too difficult for someone with a basic knowledge of MatLab and computer vision techniques to build a similar system.

Sports

Soccer earns WIAC Championship title, NCAA bid

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University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's soccer coach Sheila Miech has been holding her team to high expectations this year, and so far they've passed with flying colors.

"With the talented team that we have this year, I definitely expected to win the WIAC," said Miech.

The UW-Stevens Point women's soccer team (17-3) cruised to their twelfth Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship on Saturday afternoon. The Pointers defeated the Blugolds of UW-Eau Claire 3-1 at the Point Soccer Bowl for the title. That win earned the Pointers the league's automatic bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III tournament.

UW-Eau Claire controlled the ball early and got on the board first, scoring early in the game as Jamie Schiesel assisted Alyssa Walker for the header goal, her first of the season. The Pointers then tied the game when junior Jackie Spees found sophomore Leah Larson as she scored the second

point of the game, her second goal of the season.

Both teams' strong defenses held the score at 1-1 heading into halftime, senior Kaylee Weise scored an unassisted goal to put the Pointers up a point at 2-1. The Pointers eventually picked up one more goal as a misplayed ball by a Blugold defender resulted in the 3-1 Pointer win.

Senior Pam Luckow recorded four saves in the victory for the Pointers, the first championship for the Pointers since 2004. It was Luckow's seventeenth win this season.

This Saturday, the Pointers will host Edgewood College at 11 a.m. at the Point Bowl once again. Edgewood College is the winner of the Northern Athletics Conference automatic bid. The Pointers defeated the Eagles 7-0 in their meeting early in 2008 at the Point Soccer Bowl.

Coach Miech is very optimistic about the home advantage in the first round of playoffs, but still reserves the right to take the playoffs one game at a time.

"If you step out on that field and you're already thinking about the

next game, you're going to get beat," said Miech.

"I am expecting great things from this team, because we had a great season and we have great experience. I've never changed that thought from day one ... this is a talented team and the expectations are very high," said Miech.

Miech also attributes her success to her coaching staff and community support.

"I just really am excited that we have such a great coaching staff," Miech said.



Photo courtesy of Athletic Department

Two Pointer teammates celebrate after winning the WIAC title last weekend.

Pointers begin season with a tie against Ollies

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The Pointer women's hockey team officially began their season with a 1-1 tie against St. Olaf Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Ice Hawks Arena. Despite going into a five-minute overtime with the Ollies, neither team could capitalize during the extra period.

"Well after three months of preparation it was nice to finally play against someone. We were all nervous and it was nice to get the first one behind us," remarked senior forward Michelle Sosnowski. "None of us are happy with the tie; it was better than a loss."

Scoreless into the second period,

Sosnowski earned the first and only goal for the team off an assisting pass from Nicole Grossman. Sosnowski did not think the game was a chance to settle in, rather a long-awaited start to the new year.

"We were ready to go, but things just didn't go in our favor," she said.

Junior Pointer goalie d'Andra Phillips earned 34 saves between the pipes in the first regular season after playing eleven games for University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point last year. She came into this season with a 95 percent save record. Ollie goaltender Jessica Ptachick notched 38 saves during the match-up.

Next up for the lady skaters is a doubleheader weekend against

See **Women's Hockey** pg. 8

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Sports

Hockey undefeated; moves on to conference competition

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Forcing a shut-out on St. Mary's and a last-minute victory against St. Thomas on Parents' Night, the Pointer men's hockey team stretched their winning streak to five in a row.

Pointer Mike Sand put one past Tommie goalie Tyler Chestnut with

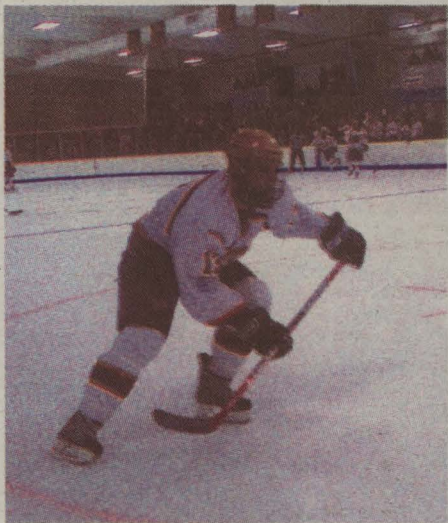


Photo by Becka Schuelke

Freshman Jon Madden stands ready to take a shot. He has scored three goals this season, in five games.

less than two minutes left in the first period and St. Thomas answered back with a power play goal of their own a minute later.

Fighting ferociously for the win well into the third period, it was Russell Law who broke the spell with 33 seconds left in the game. It was Law's fourth goal of the season, which puts him in the lead for Pointer goals.

Goalie Thomas Speer turned away 18 shots against St. Mary's University in his second shut-out of the season and tallied 19 saves for the win against University of St. Thomas on Saturday night. For his excellent performance during the weekend, he was named the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Men's Hockey Player of the Week.

Speer is a sophomore who entered the Pointer hockey program last season after playing for the Seguin Bruins of the Ontario Provincial Junior A Hockey League. He earned a 92 percent save record in 2007-2008 with the Pointers, and was named to the All-WIAC First Team as a freshman player.

The Pointers start their conference run against defending Division III National Champion St. Norbert



Photo by Becka Schuelke

UW-SP men's hockey rolls into conference play on Friday, Nov. 14, against De Pere and again on Saturday, Nov. 15 to take on Lake Forest. The Pointers are currently 5-0 and haven't had a season start like this since the 1991-92 season.

College in De Pere this weekend. That game starts at 7 p.m. and Saturday night's face-off against Lake Forest begins at 7:30 p.m. The team returns

home to Stevens Point on Nov. 21, against UW-Stout in the beginning of what will be an eight-game hosting streak at the K.B. Willett Arena.

Chewy Nuggets of NFL Wisdom

Steve Apfel
SPORTS REPORTER

Things are still crazy in the world of professional football. I know I say it nearly every week, but really people. If this season were any crazier it would be telling reporters that it can see Russia from its front porch. Speaking of government, I think some government assistance is due to some in the NFL. We'll be looking at those less fortunate this week.

The Denver Broncos backfield might as well be declared a kamikaze squad. The Broncos have lost four tailbacks to injury this season. By the end of last week's contest against the Cleveland Browns, fullback Peyton Hillis was the only one left available to run the ball. I think Uncle Sam should probably funnel some money into a real Jim Dandy of a health care plan for the Bronco backfield.

Is it too soon to declare the Detroit Lions organization a national disaster area? How much pain and suffering must fans in the Motor City endure? The Lions have become so desperate that they not only coaxed quarterback Daunte Culpepper out of retirement, but named him the starter less than a week after signing him. How did that turn out? He played three quarters on Sunday against Jacksonville before getting injured. I know George Plimpton wrote his great Paper Lions book after spending time in the Lions' camp, but I don't think even he could have expected them to crumple and fold like this.

So maybe Uncle Sam could find a friendly bookie and fix a few games just to keep things interesting? I wouldn't normally support illegal gambling, but with the worst teams in the league having to play some of the best yet this season, I feel it is my duty to support murder even less.

Heather Reinke and a four-game winless streak so far this fall.

The Pointers were the ones to come out on top in all three matchups between the teams last season. If Sosnowski has anything to say about the upcoming games, UW-SP will follow that previous trend.

"This coming weekend we are going to drive the puck to the net, capitalize on our chances and stay strong on the power play and penalty kill," she said.

From **Women's Hockey** pg. 7

Finlandia University at 7 p.m. on Saturday night and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. It will be a full weekend for the Pointers who face-off in the first two of 18 Northern Collegiate Hockey Conference games they will play this season.

Finlandia, a private college from Michigan, comes to Stevens Point this weekend with new head coach



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Sports

Non-traditional students bumping it up on the court

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Nate Pollesch, University Wisconsin-Stevens Point student and intramural volleyball player, had some problems with his hip replacement, but he stuck with it at his intramural volleyball game one Sunday.

"Towards the end of the game you could see the pain on his face, though he wouldn't admit it. With just a few points to go, he leapt up and spiked the ball to the other team, giving us the ball," said Glenn Wills, team member and student at UW-SP. "Then he yelled 'Oh, God, my sciatica!' He fell instantly and hit the ground like jello. We were so impressed with his discipline that

both teams cheered him on as it was so inspirational, plus it was a little funny."

This volleyball squad, a mixture of non-traditional students and traditional students, is more than just a sports team. They are a tightly-knit group which has no problem getting together outside the volleyball courts.

"We sit in the Brewhaus and discuss next week's uniform theme," said team member and UW-SP senior, Holly Ehrhardt.

The team sometimes gathers at places like the Basement Brewhaus in the Dreyfus University Center to discuss other issues that may or may not deal with the team, but are still important to them.

"We watch Matlock and play bingo when we aren't going to school or kicking back with a beer and

complaining about the young' uns' in the Brewhaus," said Wills.

Intramural sports are good for students who would like to play organized sports, but not take it too seriously. Though this team enjoys the social side to the game, they also enjoy the physical aspect.

"I have really enjoyed it thus far. It lets us come together for an hour once a week to exercise and have fun," said Ehrhardt.

The non-traditional students serve as a key, irreplaceable element on the team. Ehrhardt believes that the non-traditional students offer the team insight and show them wisdom, good sportsmanship and humility. Wills agrees that these non-traditional students assist in helping out those a little younger.

"I don't care that they're non-traditional, I like them anyway," said

Wills. "I very much enjoy it. My age difference with most other students is accentuated in a group of older students, but that just makes me feel unique."

The team plays every Sunday night and generally looks forward to playing. There are times when the team doesn't have games but shows up regardless and tries a new sport to delight in besides volleyball.

"There was one week when volleyball wasn't going on, but we all showed up at the scheduled time anyway instead of going home," said Ehrhardt. "We decided to make the best of our time, so we found a kickball and started playing what ended up to be very long, competitive and suspenseful game. That is something I really value about this team; we're as nostalgic as they come."

UW-SP football prepares for final regular season game

Kari Krueger
SPORTS REPORTER

The crisp cut grass, still morning air and the smell of fresh, white painted yard lines on the field; this is the smell and feeling of game day. All the long hours of shedding aggression on the practice field and pumping iron is what the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's football team lives for. Holding an 8-1 record with only one regular season game to play, these men are looking back on their wonderful season and looking ahead to playoff opportunities.

With nearly 15 seniors on the team and the season coming to a close, the last game will be very emotional and changes will be made for these young men. Many of these men have been playing football since the seventh grade, all through high school and were finally given the opportunity of playing college football with other very talented athletes. It's easy to see why it will be hard for them to end their sports careers and start living very different lives after graduation.

"Playing football has been a part of my life since I can even remember and it will be sad when it's all over, but just like everything in life, you must move on and other things become a part of your life," said Joe Francar, a senior linebacker for the Pointers.

Now with only one game left in the regular season and the possibility of playoffs around the corner, these Pointer seniors are getting ready to move on. They will leave their accomplishments behind and their knowledge of the game to the rest of the team after their last moments as a Pointer.

"I love being a good leader to the younger kids. I can tell a lot of them look up to me, and I want to make them feel welcome and feel like they belong because that is only going to make the future teams better. Our coach always tells us that it's not necessarily what you do now

that leaves your legacy, but it's what happens in four years from now when the freshmen are seniors and you can see how you helped shape them into what they have become," said senior Brad Vickroy, a defensive lineman for the Pointers.

The older members of the team are a huge help to the freshmen and even to each other. They are a team that shares the happiness and excitement which comes with winning and the anger which comes with losing, but most of all they share what's in their near future: playoffs.

"I'm looking forward to playoffs the most. I have never been on a football team who has ended the season with such a good record. Being my senior year and winning the amount of games we have and having a chance to win conference or make playoffs is something that I never thought would happen because the WIAC conference is so good and there is no such thing as a 'gimme' game," said Vickroy.

As a team, these men have worked hard to get where they are and know where they want to be when the season is over. The seniors are proud of what they have done throughout the years and wouldn't have had their college careers any other way. Through the UW-SP football program, these men have made teammates, friends and relationships that will last a lifetime.

"I love hanging out with the guys. If it wasn't for playing football here at Point, I would have never met some of my best friends in the world. Whether it's going out after games or just hanging out at someone's house, we always seem to have a good time," said Vickroy.

With friends made, lives touched, men blocked and touchdowns made, this season and the years past will never be forgotten by the UW-SP seniors.

The Pointers play their last regular season game at home against UW-La Crosse on Saturday, Nov. 15. Kickoff is at 1 p.m. at Goerke Field. The team will be recognizing both

seniors and their parents for all their hard work and dedication. This same game will also determine whether the Pointers head to the playoffs. That game and location is not yet determined, but would be held the weekend of Saturday, Nov. 22.

Bundle up and bring a friend

as the Pointers fight their way to the playoffs and say farewell to the seniors, but wish them the best in their years to come.

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Elizabeth



Churchill



Tennyson

Tradition of International Olympics

Sam Krezinski
THE POINTER
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With sports like soccer, tennis, foosball, pool, table tennis, bowling, badminton and volleyball, dodgeball just fits right in.

Friday through Sunday, Nov. 21-23, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's International Club is holding their International Olympics.

I-Club has chosen to hold the International Olympics again this year because of "its success, its tradition and continue its prosperity," said Won-Jun Cha, the president of I-Club.

The exact number of years this tradition has been alive on campus is unknown, but there are pictures of I-Club's Olympics dating back to 1977.

This year, they are expecting a good turnout due to the active involvement of the organization.

The other reason why they're anticipating a large turnout, Cha said, is that "over the summer, more than 50 international students from 16 different countries entered either the English as second language program or UW-SP."

There isn't an exact number of how many people are participating



Photo courtesy of Won-Jun Cha

Past International Olympics participators pose for a victory picture.

this year, but sign-ups are still going on through Nov. 19.

With the help of I-Club's members and friends, Cha feels this is going to be a successful year for the Olympics.

With the knowledge that more than just I-Club members help to put this event together, Cha said, "people who want to join this event don't

necessarily have to be members, but if they do it, it will be very nice chance to get to know friendly members of International Club from various countries."

As president of one of the largest student groups at UW-SP and organizing this event, Cha said that there is nothing to worry about, just organizing more exciting events.

Student art symposium

Andrew Stepan
COLUMNIST

Universtiy of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students have an opportunity to make their campus a little more artistic.

The Carlsten Art Gallery Student Advisory Committee is sponsoring its third Annual Student Public Art Symposium, an opportunity for any UW-SP student to submit artwork to be displayed permanently on campus.

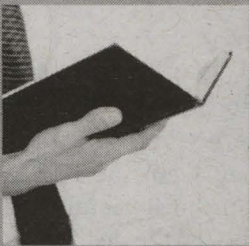
The committee will award a grant of \$3,000 to be divided among the winners in order for them to complete their proposals. In years past, two students have been chosen.

David Kuhl, student president of the committee, said this is an invaluable experience for students.

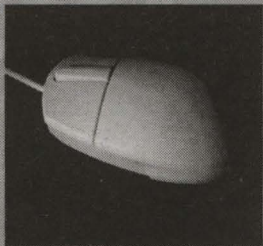
Calling public art a "catch-22," Kuhl said students are rarely given the opportunity to display their art publicly.

See **Symposium** pg. 12

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The diamond way buddhism club: effortlessly remaining in what is

Nick Meyer
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Six smiling students entered room 230 in the College of Professional Studies on Monday, giving up an hour of their day to focus on their minds in the Diamond Way Buddhist Club.

There was an element of excitement and purpose to their presence. Together they moved the furniture in the room, removed their shoes and seated themselves on pillows on the floor. Then they stepped onto the path toward liberation and enlightenment, not just for themselves, but for everyone.

"When we meditate we hold the thought that we are doing it to benefit all beings," said one group leader, Kevin Schwartz, during Monday's meeting.

Schwartz was introduced to Buddhism two years ago while attending UW-La Crosse and became very involved in the practice. When he moved to Stevens Point he wanted to share what he had learned with the new people

around him.

"In meditation and Buddhism, I had found something very practical and helpful and wanted these tools to be available to those who would want to take advantage of them," said Schwartz.

Schwartz started a group at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point last year to provide others with the knowledge he had attained and was able to hold meetings on campus through the Comparative Religions Club. This year, with the support of fellow group members, the group was able to be recognized as an official campus organization. Group members seemed excited about the official status.

"It will put us in contact with many resources the university has to offer, such as a meeting place, different levels of communication, and perhaps even funding towards Diamond Way events," said Steve Mattek, another leader of the group.

The name of the group refers to the type of Buddhist teachings they study called Vajrayana, or the Diamond Way. It is considered Buddha's highest teaching, and is one that Buddha intended for people

See **Diamond** pg. 12

Arts & Culture

Filmmaker brings political and social issues close to home

Leah Gernetzke

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This Tuesday, Nov. 11, filmmaker Francesco Taboada Tabone held a presentation in the Noel Fine Arts Center on his latest documentary, "13 pueblos en defensa del agua, del aire y de la tierra" ("13 Indigenous Peoples Defending Their Water, Air, and Land").

The film chronicles citizens from 13 Morelos villages and their struggle against environmental degradation from human misuse and industrial and commercial projects.

Tabone, who was born in Cuernavaca, Morelos, received the Rigoberta Mench (1992 Nobel laureate) prize for this political outcry, as well as the "Panel of Judges' Special Prize" at the Los Angeles International Latino Film Festival.

According to Tabone, when the Mexican government signed the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994, transnational companies began urbanizing some of Mexico's most ecologically diverse lands.

These attempts came at the expense of the indigenous people who farmed the land as a means of survival.

To keep from plummeting into poverty under this new system, Tabone said, they had three choices—joining guerilla forces, drug trafficking or immigration.

Instead, these 13 pueblos, or villages, led by a Council of Elders, joined forces and begun protesting. Especially incendiary to them is the

government's attempt to use the river Apatlaco for commercial purposes.

According to Tabone, these issues, while not well known, are a harbinger of events to come.

Underlining this idea is a quote in the beginning of the film, which reads, "In the future, our wars will be over water, not oil. In Mexico, that war has already begun."

Tabone said he feels he has a strong social obligation to communicate these problems before they get too large.

Though the pueblos are aware of the issues, they need a platform to convey them.

Cinema, Tabone said, is the platform he uses to instigate a grassroots change throughout the wider community.

"Los pueblos have a strong oral tradition," he said. "We have to promote this knowledge throughout communities. You will never find this kind of movies in commercial theaters in Mexico or the United States. But you will find this kind of movie on a small street projected on blankets."



Photo by Rod King

Filmmaker Francesco Taboada Tabone presents his documentary work to University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students and faculty Tuesday night, Nov. 11.

He said the biggest problem he faces in his work is censorship, as the Mexican government does not allow the public to view most of his films. According to Tabone, most of his films politically counteract the mass media, which is in the government's pocket.

"The mass media is not honest with the people, that's why we have a responsibility," he said. "We have very low budget films, so we don't have a lot of cinematic intentions. It's more about making people aware,

socially and politically."

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students like Lauren Martin, an interior architecture major, said she thought the presentation was an eye-opening event.

"It's great they brought this here to Stevens Point," she said. "It's just opening our eyes up to another culture that we wouldn't otherwise know about. There are people everywhere with problems larger than ours."

From **Symposium** pg. 11

Travis Lester, last year's committee president, said money is tight for most students and the symposium allows for student's work to be displayed on campus in a professional manner.

"We want students to be able to do something without financial constraints," Lester said.

While previous applicants have included proposals for sculptures, installations and performances, Kuhl said the committee is open to submissions that don't fit into any of these categories.

Public art can be anything and not necessarily permanent, Kuhl said; past displays have even included organic canvas bags printed with designs from various artists.

Kuhl, also being one of two students selected last year, said his display was inspired by a visit to Kohler, a company specializing in bathroom fixtures.

His piece, consisting of five brass figures placed above urinals in a men's bathroom, can be found in the Noel Fine Arts Center.

However, some students have discovered installing public art isn't always easy.

"I hope most students realize they will have difficulties," Lester said.

While it's up to the student to decide how they want to display their

art, Lester said they have to be willing to make adjustments.

Jay Wolf, the student chosen last year alongside Kuhl, said his project ran into problems.

Issues of funding and maintenance plagued his original idea of a fountain in the Dreyfus University Center, forcing Wolf to redesign.

Wolf's current design, a glass and steel sculpture, is still a work in progress.

Also a work in progress, the symposium, only being in its third year, is still in its infant stage, Lester said.

"It has been a wonderful experience for me to watch this project grow," Lester said.

Kuhl said he hopes with more publicity, more students will apply.

Regardless of the number of applicants, Wolf said the symposium is an educational tool for the campus.

"A lot of students don't care about art, but the symposium can get students interested in what's going on in the fine arts building," Wolf said.

All applications are located in the NFAC Art and Design Office and are due by Dec. 1.

Any student with questions should contact David Kuhl at dkuhl791@uwsp.edu.

From **Diamond** pg. 11

who have strong confidence in their own and others' Buddha nature. The group does not worship Buddha like a God but uses Buddha's teachings to fully develop the innate potential of body, speech and mind.

"We view the Buddha merely as not only a great teacher, but also a reflection of the qualities of our own mind," said Schwartz.

Meetings for the group usually consist of a talk about a different facet of Buddhism each week, followed by guided meditation, which in Buddhism means effortlessly remaining in what is. This state is brought on by calming and holding the mind or by working with the body's energy channels.

"The main thing we provide people is the opportunity to work with their minds," said Schwartz.

The goal is to attain complete development of the mind or realization of Mahamudra. The Mahamudra authenticates the mind's space, clarity and limitlessness to be the only reality, according to the Diamond Way Web site.

"Above all, our purpose is to recognize mind's naturally radiant clear light," said Mattek.

Diamond Way Buddhism was introduced to the Western World by Lama Ole Nydahl and his wife Hannah. They were the first western students of the sixteenth Gyalwa Karmapa, who is the leader of the Karma Kagyu, the largest lineage within the Kagyu school of Tibetan Buddhism. The Diamond Way teachings have been widely accepted by people living in our independent and fast-paced culture.

"The Diamond Way is very well suited to the western way of life," said Schwartz. "It recognizes that we lead busy lives, but while we go about them we can still recognize our own Buddha nature and the Buddha nature of others so that we can really benefit not only ourselves, but more importantly others."

The group meets every Monday at 7 p.m. in room 230 of the College of Professional Studies and there is no commitment or obligation once you've attended.

Letters

Letters & Opinion

to the Editor

Don't pedestrians have the right of way?

Typically, pedestrians enjoy a "right of way" when it comes to crossing the street in front of cars. It's the law, and that's the way it should be; it doesn't take a genius to figure out that a car can easily hurt a person. That's why I am simply appalled by drivers' behavior at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Reserve Street on campus. I cannot count the number of times I've been honked at, or worse, almost hit by a car while crossing this intersection.

For those not familiar with this busy intersection, it's located by the Newman Center and the east end of the Science Building; students living close to Schmeeckle, in the eastern residence halls like Pray-Sims and May Roach, and those going to their cars in Lot Q can't avoid this inter-

section. However, drivers feel the need to speed through the intersection before a group of students enters the white-lined crosswalks, or worse yet, proceed through the intersection before students have cleared the way. It is not uncommon to see a car one or two feet in front of a student in the crosswalk, impatiently waiting for clearance to proceed.

This not only scares me as a student who walks to campus one or two times a day, but angers me since one privilege of having a driver's license is knowing the difference between right and wrong and maintaining safe driving practices.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, as I entered the crosswalk, a small white car zoomed through the stop sign, slammed on the brakes while I crossed the street, and then sped past me as soon as I was out of his lane; he swerved around me and missed me by about three or four feet.

I understand that everyone is in a hurry, especially while en route to class or getting home from a long day on campus, but a driver's initial obligation is to give the right of way to cyclists and pedestrians, no matter what the circumstances may be. After all, it's not that hard to find an alternate route that DOESN'T GO DIRECTLY THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF A BUSY CAMPUS. It's every driver's responsibility to be safe, especially when driving around people, so please obey the laws before "The Pointer" has to run a front page story about a student getting killed by an impatient motorist who was just too busy to wait for that person to cross the street. At this rate, I wouldn't be surprised to see it happen before the end of the semester.

-Steve Seamandel
UW-SP student and pedestrian

Great American Smokeout

I am writing to encourage students and staff at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to embrace the Great American Smokeout next Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008. The first Great American Smokeout was in 1976 and since then, has inspired smokers nationwide to quit for at least one day. Now, the American Cancer Society encourages smokers to not just quit for the day, but choose Nov. 20 this year as their quit date - for good.

A variety of resources are available from the American Cancer Society. If you're interested in a free, confidential chat-session with a trained counselor, you can call the ACS Quitline at

1-800-227-2345. Studies have shown that the Quitline can more than double your chances of successfully quitting.

You surely know the obvious dangers of smoking, but the American Cancer Society provides some interesting statistics: "Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the United States. Each year, smoking accounts for an estimated 438,000 premature deaths, including 38,000 deaths among nonsmokers as a result of secondhand smoke. Half of all Americans who continue to smoke will die from smoking-related diseases."

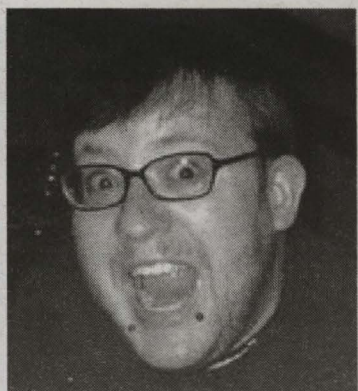
The reality of death from smoking does not just affect older adults. Your choices now affect your health for the rest of your life. Take this example

from ACS research: "Of the 15 million college students in the United States today, it is estimated that 1.7 million will die of smoking-related illnesses, most prematurely (Halperin, 2002). That amounts to more than 10 percent of current college students."

More information about the Smokeout and help for quitting can be found at www.cancer.org or by calling the Quitline. If you're interested in joining the fight against cancer at UW-SP, get involved with Colleges Against Cancer. Feel free to contact me with any questions or for additional information.

Enjoy your smoke-free Nov. 20!

-Stacie Simpson
Colleges Against Cancer



Steve Apfel
COLUMNIST

High fives for all good meteorologists, none for the bad

Welcome back, friends. It's time again for our weekly chit chat and I know you're looking forward to it as much as I am. As usual, I promise to quench the thirst for knowledge that I allowed to wet your lips last week. My Novembeard is still growing slowly but surely. I've now reached the stage where it is incredibly itchy but I remain dedicated to the cause despite the annoyance. I apologize if I come off a bit irritable between now and the end of the month, though I hardly think you can blame me. You wouldn't be your normal cheerful self either if you were trying to keep yourself from scratching profusely.

I've received quite a bit of correspondence in the past week about the lack of Avra in last week's column.



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Letters to the editor can be mailed or delivered to *The Pointer*, 104 CAC, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or sent by e-mail to pointer@uwsp.edu. We reserve the right to deny publication for any letter for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit letters for inappropriate length or content. Names will be withheld from publication only if an appropriate reason is given.

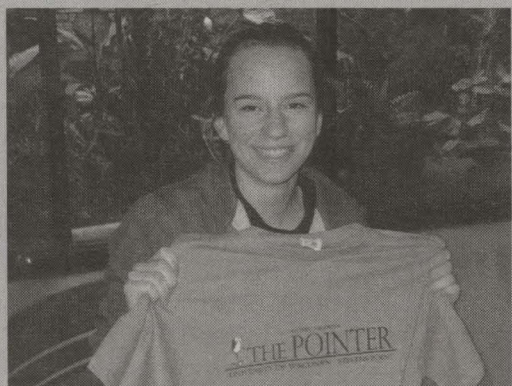
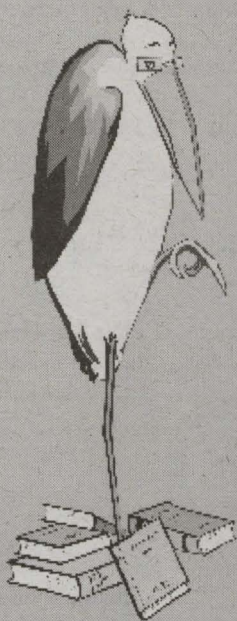
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Letters & Opinion

get caught reading

The Pointer

GOTCHA.



Senior Liz Howard likes to read The Pointer in between class.



Super senior Jeff Goering likes to read what's going on around campus.

From **Fives** pg. 13

Well, to be quite honest with you, dear readers, I have been hiding from Avra. You see I didn't know when I began my Novembeard ordeal and promoting of such a decision, that Avra has a real thing for beards. She has been in an absolute lustful frenzy since the men of campus began letting Mother Nature have her way with their faces. I advise all men on campus sporting impressive or excessive facial hair to do as I've done this week and invest in a can of pepper spray, because Avra is most certainly on the prowl!

Our final piece of business before we get to this week's fun is of course to announce the winner of last week's contest! Congratulations go out to Samantha Wilatowski, who gave my snazzy new automobile the classy yet sassy moniker "Sheila." Samantha wins a fantastic photo op with Sheila that would make for a stupendous Facebook profile picture! It was tough to pick a winner again this week, especially with Avra trying to coax me out of hiding by submitting upwards of 30 requests that I name the car after her.

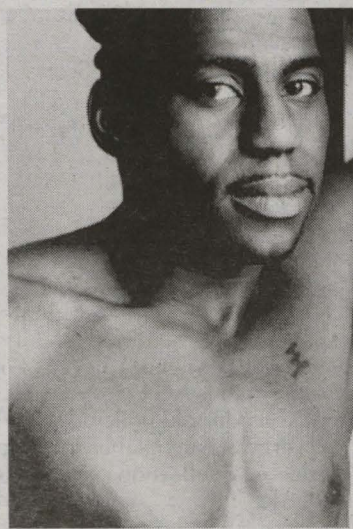
Now onto new business, dear readers. How about this weather we've been having? Is it sunny and warm? Rainy and cold? The

unpredictable state of the weather has been wreaking havoc on my activity schedule and my wardrobe. Let me give you an example.

As many of you know, I play in a flag football league on autumn weekends. My team, the Marshfield Mammoths, has a respectable record of 7-2 this season. However, last weekend we had to forfeit the game because half the team was wearing our long-sleeved team shirts and the other half sported the short sleeves. You can imagine the kind of chaos this created! Our opponent, the dread Max Rupp of the Washington Avenue Wailers, quickly pointed out that the league's rigid rulebook clearly states that any team not wearing coordinating uniform shirts will not be allowed to play. Dang you, Max! Dang you right to heck!

You see, my friends, the Mammoths could have handily beaten the Wailers had the less-than-exemplary weather not caused such a wardrobe malfunction. I can handle sun, rain, snow, sleet, gropple and anything else that may come but what I cannot stand is indecisive weather!

Sorry for losing my temper there. How about I just get to this week's contest? Super! By Sunday at 11:59 p.m. I will be taking your suggestions for what type of pie I should bake for the annual Pointer Thanksgiving Extravaganza. Make it good! See you next week friends.



Rod King
THE POINTER
RKING163@UWSP.EDU

Some things just don't matter

all the time, but you can please some people some of the time.

How cool your job is: Look, if it pays your bills and gives you extra spending cash, does it really matter what you do, if you enjoy it?

What your father-in-law will think of you: If you make his daughter/son happy, who cares, and ten to one you're either just like dear old dad or his complete opposite, so no worries, you're golden.

Religion: We all have our own moral compasses; no matter what direction is your north, it will always be someone else's south.

Death: There are only two things that you are guaranteed: life and death. So since you know it will happen, you might as well live life to its fullest.

Kids: Hey, your parents survived!

Being witty: Sometime the quiet ones are HOT.

Wealth: Money can't buy happiness, but it's a start.

Fashion: For cussing out loud, it will change next week.

Pop culture: Again this will change. Remember New Kids on the Block?

His/Her prior sexual experiences: Most likely you are not the first or the last to person to curl their toes.

Your prior sexual experiences: See above and make no judgment calls.

Anniversary gifts: Are we dating? Oh! We're married, since when? (Note: no toes curling tonight.)

Looking as good as his/her ex: Think about this: would you answer this question honestly?

The size of your penis: Okay this goes back to pleasing everyone. They will like it or they won't. Guys, we can't all be Ron Jeremy.

He makes more money than me: He also might have a smaller penis than you do.

The afterlife: I like surprises.

Let someone else worry about all this. In the end, is any of it really going to matter? Your best friend is not going to stand out to deliver a eulogy that reads:

Here lies the best friend that I ever had. He always had a full head of hair, pleased everyone he ever met, including his father-in-law and the 60 sexual partners that he had before he married the hottest person in the world, that is, after you honey (looking at his spouse.) I have never known anyone as witty, fashion-conscious and so well hung as (insert name here.)

The moral of this, don't take life to serious.

Have questions? E-mail them to Rod and you may see your answer in a future "Bare" column.

Get caught
reading
"The
Pointer!"

Get caught reading
this week's issue of
"The Pointer" and
win a FREE "The
Pointer" t-shirt.

Be on the lookout!

Well guys, here is where things get interesting. If you have made it this far in life, you undoubtedly have gone through a lot of shit and a lot of stressful things. Unfortunately, we will always have things in our lives that are less than desirable and very stressful.

However, here are some things that we should not worry or stress about. They are in no particular order.

Losing your hair: Did you know that a lot of women think that men with shaved heads are sexy? So if you start to lose your hair, get a Bic and buy a hat; this is Wisconsin, after all.

Pleasing everyone: How does the saying go? You can't please all people

Rabble Rousers



Joy Ratchman

SGA Update

Women's Leadership Conference
Friday, Nov. 14 from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Attend leadership workshops, listen to excellent keynote speakers and learn what it takes to be a great leader! ANYONE can attend!!!
*Contact Katie Kloth or Greg Hartman for more information

Environmental and Sustainability
Legislative Colloquium
Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30pm in room 170 of the Trainer
Natural Resources Building

Come learn about current environmental/sustainability legislation on the local, state and federal levels, as well as check out what environmental/sustainability initiatives SGA has done and is currently working on! Learn how to get involved and write your own legislation as well!
*Contact Colleen Kiefer or Katie Kloth for more information.

National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Fellowship Grants
Apply for the NWF grants by Friday, Nov. 14, for your chance to earn \$2,000 if you are an undergraduate student or \$5,000 if you are a graduate student!

Projects include, but are not limited to: greenhouse gas inventorying, creating a campus climate action plan, energy conservation and efficiency planning, habitat restoration, or convening climate action gatherings.
*Contact Bob Oehler or Rob Manzke with questions or for more information.

Neverland



Lo Shim

Where I Come From



Bryan Novak

Roach



Dustin Hauge

WEEKLY SUDOKU

		1			6		9	4
		4	5	9	2	6		1
	5	6			7		3	8
5	1	3	9		4	7		6
4	7							
		2				4	1	
2	8	9			5		6	
3						8	2	

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Last Week's Solution

6	9	4	8	2	3	5	7	1
5	1	2	6	7	4	8	9	3
7	8	3	1	5	9	2	6	4
2	7	9	5	4	8	1	3	6
8	5	1	3	6	7	4	2	9
3	4	6	2	9	1	7	5	8
1	4	8	7	3	6	9	4	5
9	6	5	4	1	2	3	8	7
4	3	7	9	8	5	6	1	2

To sponsor a SUDOKU PUZZLE
contact Rod King at pointerad@uwsu.edu.

Brain Damage

On average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens every year.

Enough sunlight falls on the earth's surface each minute to meet world energy demand for an entire year.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history. Spades for King David. Clubs for Alexander the Great. Hearts for Charlemagne. The diamonds for Julius Caesar.

In Natoma, Kansas, it's illegal to throw knives at men wearing striped suits.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

If someone says you are "one-in-a-million," that means that there are 1,321 of you in China.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them to mind their own pints and quarts and settle down. This is one of the theories for how we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's."

Ten percent of the Russian government's income comes from the sale of vodka.

Classified

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