Yes we did: Obama wins

Clockwise: Fans cheer on Barack Obama as he becomes President-elect of the United States. John McCain congratulates Obama on his victory. UW-SP students studying abroad in London enjoy the festivities as people across the globe celebrate. Obama and his family come out for one last round of applause Tuesday night, Nov. 4.

Justin Glodowski
The Pointer
jgls0170@uwsp.edu

People across the nation who had not stayed up late Tuesday, Nov. 4, awoke Wednesday to hear that Barack Obama was elected the President of the United States in a very decisive victory over John McCain and other candidates.

This junior senator seemed to defy odds throughout the past two years. He came from being an unknown in the national public to almost superstar status. He defeated his fellow democrats in a long primary season and went on to be victorious against his closest competitor, McCain.

“It was an impressive victory,” said Dennis Riley, professor of political science. “The map looks different than it has in a long time and there is a chance it will stay different.”

Many ask how he could have defied the odds and become president of the United States, especially with such a large victory.

“First, the economic meltdown brought that issue to a level of public consciousness I haven’t seen in 30 years. It was an issue that really helped him,” said Riley. “Second, President Bush’s low approval ratings have poisoned the word republican for a large swath of the public.”

Aside from those initial benefits for Obama, the difference between campaigns had a dramatic effect.

“McCain tried to scare people out of voting for Obama, but never gave them any reason to vote for him. His campaign was filled with mistakes - a chance it will stay different. - But mostly it was anti-Obama and not pro-McCain. Obama’s campaign was much the opposite from McCain’s in tone and substance, and he had the best ‘ground game’ anyone has seen in years,” said Riley.

Whatever the key factor that swayed voters away from McCain and towards Obama, Obama emphasized the importance of uniting as a country in his victory speech.

“As Lincoln said to a nation far more divided than ours, we are not...
National Results *

President

Barack Obama (D)

349 electoral votes**
63,685,482 of total votes

John McCain (R)

163 electoral votes
56,280,519 of total votes

* 270 electoral votes are needed to win the presidency

Senate

Democratic Party - 56 senators

Republican Party - 40 seats

District Attorney

Thomas Eagon (D) - Uncontested

Treasurer

Stephanie Stokes (D) - Uncontested

Register of Deeds

Cynthia Wisinski (D) - Uncontested

Surveyor

Joseph Glodowski (D) - Uncontested

County referendum

No - 25,807
Yes - 9,408

Notable Results *

California Proposition 8:
Ban on gay marriage
Yes - 52%
No - 48%

President - results from
Washington D.C.
Barack Obama (D) - 93%
John McCain (R) - 7%

* These results are still pending.

Wisconsin Results *

House of Representatives

District 1
Paul Ryan (R) - 64%
Marge Krupp (D) - 35%

District 2
Tammy Baldwin (D) - 69%
Peter Theron (R) - 31%

District 3
Ron Kind (D) - 63%
Paul Stark (R) - 35%

District 4
Gwen Moore (D) - Uncontested

District 5
Jim Sensenbrenner (R) - Uncontested

District 6
Tom Petri (R) - 64%
Roger Kittelson (D) - 36%

District 7
David Obey (D) - 61%
Dan Mielke (R) - 39%

District 8
Steve Kagen (D) - 54%
John Gard (R) - 46%

Local Results *

State Senate - District 24
Julie Lassa (D) - 26,220
Tom Kimmel (R) - 10,568

State Assembly - District 70
Amy Vruwink (D) - 5,514
Dennis Severs (R) - 2,196

State Assembly - District 71
Louis Molepske, Jr. (D) - 19,242
Daron Jensen (R) - 8,357

State Assembly - District 72
Marlin Schneider (D) - 479
Jeff Tyberg (R) - 277

* These results are still pending.

States won by Obama are in dark grey.
States won by McCain are in light grey.
States undecided are in middle grey.
Demolition to destroy the out-of-business Point Pizza building began on Nov. 4, and has continued throughout the week.

It will give way for a new student-friendly complex called The University Point Apartments. "The apartments, first of all, are obviously brand new and very, very energy efficient," said Joey Roberts, property director at The University Point Apartments. "The average cost per student is about $25 to $35 for their utilities."

The apartments will include two, three and four bedroom apartments with floor plans consisting 1,016 square feet to 1,371 square feet. This new facility will include 18 apartments with kitchens that are open concept snack bars and will include appliances.

"The apartment has high speed Internet wiring throughout the entire building, but does not include Internet. Tenants will be responsible to secure their own Internet Service Provider," said Roberts. Security seems to be a high priority for this new complex as many precautions are being taken into account throughout the development process.

"[Some other features are] off-street patrolled parking, as well as 24-hour security cameras with high security locks on all the doors," said Roberts. These apartments are aimed for students, being conveniently located very close to campus.

"They're close to campus; it's basically right on it, so I would live there if I could," said University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point freshman Helena Saatkamp. "No one uses [the building, it's just there. So I like the idea."

Students also expressed the general need for more apartments in the area. "I think it is a good idea because we need more [apartment complexes]. I'm only a freshman, so I will be living in the dorms next year, but more apartments would be good," said Saatkamp. Tracy Feldman, professor of biology, believes that it is a good idea if the space isn't being used by any businesses right now. He also believes some other good can come from this new project in the community. "Donate some of their building materials to organizations, to Habitat for Humanity or other organizations like that," so that demolition crews have less to demolish and the materials in good condition can be used again," said Feldman.

"It is has not been confirmed if there are any green aspects to the building structure, but the building is supposed to be very energy efficient, an important factor to many UW-SP students." "There are different things to think about; there are fewer ecological concerns about the building process itself if it were green," said Feldman.

The apartments will be opening for students on Aug. 1, 2009.

Demolition crews rumbled around Baldwin Hall as they crushed the vacant buildings that once housed a myriad of different businesses. A new apartment complex will be constructed with an emphasis on students and being energy efficient.

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Thursday, Nov. 20
3:30 - 6:30 pm
Daniel O. Trainer Natural Resources Building, rm 122
OR stop in the building earlier to visit our Information table
Questions? Email Tammy: tduve@peacecorps.gov

Power and carbon monoxide detectors part of renovations

Avra Juhnke
THE POINTER
AJUHN217@UWSP.EDU

Avra Juhnke
THE POINTER
AJUHN217@UWSP.EDU

The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point plans on installing fuel-burning generators for all the residence halls on campus.

As of now, the 13 buildings are the only on campus that do not have back-up generators. They have a battery back-up system that only lasts a limited amount of time during a blackout.

In the next year, Steiner Hall will be the first renovation.

"It will power all of south Debot buildings. When we move up to north Debot we will put in another generator that will power those four buildings. And then eventually we’ll move on to the Allen side of campus and loop those buildings together so we have a total of three emergency generators," said Mike Zsido, the assistant director for Building Services and Residential Living.

These are for the sole purpose of emergency lighting in the event of power outages, like the one campus experienced Oct. 12.

Installation of the fuel-burning generators will require putting in carbon monoxide detectors as well.

"That obviously will require a CO detector. Other than that we don't have anything that would be burning anything that would require a carbon monoxide detector," said Zsido. Wisconsin legislation that went into effect Oct. 1, 2008, calls for the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in any building that houses sleeping quarters and is heated by fuel-burning appliances. The rest of the buildings on campus use generators that burn fuel but are not intended for sleeping purposes.

The university's power supply when operating normally is powered by steam. The detectors are installed for security purposes in the event they actually have to operate.

Students in the Noel Fine Arts Center reported no generators were working during the blackout.

"I was in the NFAIC at the time of the blackout. There is a resource room down the hall from the two computer labs on the ground floor, and I was in there just about to use the lighting studio and take photographs for a project and all of a sudden everything went black," said Jenna Frey, a student at UW-SP. As far as I know, there wasn't any generator that kicked in. I left within a half hour, and didn't come back until around seven at night, when the electricity was back on."

No one was available for comment from facility services.

Students in the Dreyfus University Center at the time stated that the back-up generators operated properly.

Student, Emily Groves, was holding a meeting at the time. She said, "While we were sitting there, the power went out and about a minute later the generators kicked on, but nothing else came back on."

Zsido explained as soon as the generators are not sensing power they should kick in.
While most students are nursing a hangover or enjoying their day off from their studies, a non-traditional student, David Menzer, at the University Wisconsin - Stevens Point is saving Americans all over the world.

"I am a traveling emergencies coordinator; basically I deal with travel emergencies worldwide. It could be something as simple as someone from a neighboring state car break down or as complex as 'I'm in Budapest and I got mugged and my fiancé just died,'" said Menzer.

This job is a big deal because if a United States citizen is mugged in a foreign country and is without his/her credentials, he/she could be in some serious legal trouble, especially in a country like China.

"I try and keep them organized, find them embassies to go to. Of course they're all in a panic; they don't know what to do," said Menzer. "It's more or less extreme depending on their emotional state, not necessarily that we can't help them. People in those situations are so emotionally out there they don't know what's going on; the world is ending as they knew it."

A vast majority of students sleep in Saturday and Sunday mornings. This is based mostly on the fact that most students only get a set amount of time to relax and this is the perfect time to slow down and take it easy.

"Usually on Saturdays I'll sleep until two, so when I wake up after that I probably won't do anything, or just play video games with other people on the floor," said UW-SP freshman Sam Bolgart. "Around 4 p.m., I'll shower and get something to eat with people, so that's my Saturday morning."

Ellie Jackson works at EmY's, a local coffee shop on Stevens Point on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

"I'm making coffee, espresso drinks or serving ice cream. Making little kids' days with ice cream cones," said Jackson, a senior at UW-SP.

She likes the perks of working at a coffee shop, and doesn't mind getting up early to serve people and maybe make their day better, although there are those days where she wishes she could have an extra four hours of sleep," said Jackson. "Sometimes it's really hard to be inside and see how beautiful it is outside; there are those days I would rather be outside on a bike or something."

Although some students do more productive things on these mornings and some do absolutely nothing, most people are quite content with their habits for these weekend mornings.

"During the week [due to] all my classes, I have to get up in the morning and I'm usually up late either working on something or doing homework," said Bolgart, a resident of Neale Hall. "So having the weekends to sleep in is nice because otherwise you get burned out."

UW-SP does offer classes on the weekend, but this isn't the most popular time to get some credits or study.

"I wouldn't take a class that implies more homework," said Jackson. "I would hope most students sleep in, because if wasn't working, I would probably be sleeping."

Menzer agrees that this time should be utilized to just lay low and realizes it's okay to not worry about studying for finals coming up.

"I've been here for a while and definitely remember the more college days when people are sleeping because they had a rough night before. I'd definitely think that most students sleep in," said Menzer.

Bolgart is pleased with how he spends his time these Saturday and Sunday mornings and has no intention of mixing up his schedule.

"I did [wake up early] for 18 years of my life, now it's time for a change. I think it's good, it's all I really need," said Bolgart.

Whether a student is a freshman or a non-trad, both can agree that these Saturday and Sunday mornings should be used in a way that makes the student exultant.

"Just hanging low; if I got work to catch up on something, I'll do that but otherwise it's nothing major, just trying to lay as low as I can," said Menzer. "If you want to see no one at the cafeterias, go on a Saturday morning."
Get up to speed with mo-ped safety regulations

Mike Baumann
THE POINTER
mbaum0925@uwsp.edu

Zoom. Zoom. Zoom. You don't need to own a Mazda 3 to fly around campus these days. A mo-ped will do. Mo-peds are not as relegated to teenagers who had just passed as they once were, primarily when relegated to teenagers who had just received their license. Even with the popularity of the item, regulations must still be followed.

A matter of concern throughout the student body is: Should we mo-peds there is that chance that students may venture on them.

"It seems students use of their mo-peds in winter has more to do with personal tolerance than anything else," Rowe said. Although mo-peds are seen more and more, there has not been a shift from registered bicycles to registered mo-peds. In fact, mo-peds are not required to be registered on campus, but owners are restricted to park them on or near bike racks.

Of the growing number of mo-ped drivers on campus, many appear to be good citizens as none of them have received any more tickets or violations than the average student who drives an automobile. "There has been good compliance," said Rowe.

Students who follow mo-ped restrictions to the letter of law are required to follow similar guidelines to those who drive automobiles to and from campus. Mo-peds must meet federal emission, safety and equipment standards in effect at the time of manufacture. Brakes, lights and turn signals must be maintained in safe working order.

Mo-peds must follow the flow of traffic on city streets and avenues. A valid driver's license is a must, but no motorcycle license is required. Mo-ped owners must have a title for their vehicle, can be charged with non-registration or driving while intoxicated while riding and are not required to run their headlights during daylight hours.

For more information on mo-ped usage, visit the Protective Services office on campus located in the basement of the George Stein Building or www.dot.wisconsin.gov.

Do mo-peds have free reign around the UW-SP campus?
Fall pulpcut: A CNR fall tradition at UW-SP

Gregg Jennings
SCIENCE & OUTDOORS REPORTER

The student chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and two forestry professors conducted the annual fall pulpcut successfully again this year. The pulpcut usually takes place in red pine stands of cooperating landowners in the county. Pulpcut provides a learning experience for all involved.

Mike Schreiber and Maureen Schafer, the two co-activities coordinators of SAF, organized the student supervisors and made sure the equipment was on site and in good working condition. Dr. Michael Demchik and Dr. Paul Doruska found the willing landowners. Usually these properties are in Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law program and this year was no different.

Dr. Demchik did the administrative work of filing notice with the county so the council knew what was being cut and could collect taxes. He negotiated a price with the landowners and, like usual, had a small fee to make up the difference. Dr. Demchik taught a pulpcut safety class for about an hour on topics such as chainsaw operation, safety and proper personal protective equipment.

The professors took turns every other weekend to supervise and transport students to the site with a College of Natural Resources bus. A different group of students participated each weekend. Either Dr. Demchik or one of the supervisors demonstrated how to fell a tree. The demonstration included limbing and bucking a tree into 100 inch pulp "sticks," too. The students were divided into crews of four to five, and assigned to a supervisor. Supervisors have taken pulpcut previously or have taken a Forest Industry Safety Training Alliance chainsaw course.

The supervisor kept a close eye on the pulpcut students as they felled, limbed and bucked two to four trees over the weekends. The supervisor sometimes made suggestions such as how to use the line on the chainsaw to drop a tree where the student wanted it.

The logs are carried to staging areas with peaveys, tongs and muscle. The logs are loaded onto a trailer and hauled by a landing to a small tractor. One tractor was borrowed from Treehaven. Schreiber explained that a logger had agreed to haul the logs to the mill. The logger then issued a check to Dr. Demchik and he paid the landowner the amount agreed upon. Whatever was left went to SAF to pay for saw fuel, bar oil, equipment upkeep and replacement.

Tom and Maureen Brocken and the W-T Bar Land Company were the two landowners that allowed pulpcut to occur on their properties this fall.

Tom Brocken said the loggers they spoke to wanted to clearcut their red pine stand in order to be profitable. Brocken wanted some sensitive areas untouched and clearcutting would have damaged those areas. Brocken said the professors tailoured the cut to their request and kept them informed.

UW-SP utilized low impact logging, performed safely, and avoided baby spruce and other sensitive areas.

Brocken said it was fun watching the students learn and that they learned from watching the students.

"We were satisfied with the job and everyone acted professionally," Brocken said.

CNR Dean Christine Thomas and her husband grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and cooked chili for the entire pulpcut group when they logged the W-T Bar Land Company's red pine plantation. When thanked by the students for the great meals, Dean Thomas said, "I was happy to do it. It was fun."

Wisconsin residents' health insurance rises again

Katie Boseo
THE POINcER
KBose675@uwsp.edu

Students nearing graduation at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus may face rising health care costs as they enter the working world. Many students do not realize that upon graduation, they will no longer be covered under their parents' health insurance and must begin planning for health care coverage on their own.

Citizen Action of Wisconsin released their third annual Wisconsin Health Insurance Cost Ranking Report on Tuesday, Oct. 28. Citizen Action of Wisconsin is an issue-focused coalition of individuals and organizations committed to achieving social, economic and environmental justice.

North Central Wisconsin had the second highest health insurance premium throughout the state, averaging at $674.98 for single monthly premiums. Stevens Point, along with Wausau, Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids all tied for the fourth most expensive, with average single monthly premiums being $636.70.

The report also stated that Wisconsin health insurance inflation has been 30 percent above the national average since 2000. Stevens Point had a 151 percent insurance inflation increase from 2000 to 2009.

"The striking numbers in this report bring down to the regional and local level the huge economic price we are paying for health insurance hyperinflation in Wisconsin," said Robert Kraig, director of programs for Citizen Action of Wisconsin. "It shows that the run-up in health insurance costs that began a decade ago has been a heavy burden for Wisconsin businesses and families."

During the interval between the time a student graduates from college and begins their job, they have two primary options for acquiring health insurance. One option is a continuation of benefits from their parents' health insurer and the second option is individual short-term health insurance policies.

"A key difference between continuation and short-term plans is that continuation covers pre-existing medical conditions whereas short-term plans do not. With a short term plan, you are essentially buying accident insurance to make sure you have some protection against unforeseen injuries and mishaps," said Jorge Gomez, commissioner of insurance in a 2004 press release.

The full report, which includes many additional city and county rankings, can be found online at www.citizenactionwi.org.

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process as a freshman and continues to still do it as a junior.

Marian Maerzke, a senior biology major, transferred here the spring semester of her sophomore year.

The science building is often seen as a maze of classrooms and hallways by many UW-SP students.

When going to search for her first classroom in the Science building, she was very confused.

Maerzke said, "Those first few weeks were very stressful, the room was tucked back in some hidden corner behind the planetarium, and I never would have guessed there'd be rooms back there at all, let alone that it was considered the 'A' section! Also the fact that there were so many stairwells, and that not all of them allow you to get to the floor or area you need to go was frustrating."

The 'A' Section is yet another way the science building is different from all the rest on campus. It has four different sections, one section for each corner of the building. Some people feel this helps them find their way around and some just find it more confusing.

On the flip side of things, there are those that are in the Science building every day of the week and have figured it out. Melissa Wanasek, a freshman paper science major, is one of these people.

"At first it was really confusing, but after a while I got used to where everything was in the building," Wanasek said. "I feel really comfortable in the building."

Maerzke has also gotten more used to the building with time. She said, "Today, I still don't understand where all the stairs go, or get turned around and end up in a place I don't mean to be in."

Burrows said, "Whenever I have a class in the Science building it makes me feel like a freshman again because I don't know my way around."

Schmeeckle Reserve cracks the whip on regulations

Nick Meyer
THE POINTER
smeyer17@uwsp.edu

Schmeeckle Reserve at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was created in 1977 to protect and restore native ecological communities, serve as an outdoor classroom for students and teachers and provide recreational opportunities to all visitors, according to the reserve's Web site. It was not created to have visitors, according to the reserve's guidelines.

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Reserve has served students at UWSP providing a place of leisure and natural tranquility, an escape from the cement structures and the buzz of the city. As much as the reserve has served students, students have served the reserve as well.

Currently, $4 of your $164 student activity fee helps to fund the reserve annually. Don't let all that hard work and money go to waste; get out there and enjoy this gift we've been given. Remember to follow the rules and regulations and Schmeeckle Reserve will continue to be a valuable place we all enjoy.
Cross Country men take conference title, women fourth at WIAC Championships

Rochelle Nechuta
The Pointer
nechuta.42@uwsp.edu

In a victory that has been four years in the building, the men's Pointer cross country team topped the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships this past weekend. The squad ran the twisting 8,000-meter Wisconsin River Golf Club course in Stevens Point and finished with a total of 52 points to earn the victory over eight other teams in the WIAC.

Senior Corey Towle came in second behind UW-Oshkosh conference winner Willy Kaul with a 24:37.16 time. Two other senior runners, Dominick Meyer and Phil Richert, finished within the top 10 for the Pointers. Meyer finished third after running 24:42.51, and senior Jason Lisowe rounded out the UW-SP's top four runners in seventh.

"We had one of our main guys fall in the beginning of the race but the rest of our guys really stepped up," said Phil Richert about earning the first only two junior and one senior. "We knew it was going to be tough between us, La Crosse and Oshkosh. It pretty much just came down to the last 400 meters; we just wanted it more I guess."

The women's team finished within the goal of a top-five finish and secured the fourth place position out of nine teams. UW-SP's Allison Wolter was named to the WIAC All-Sportsmanship Team and finished nineteenth. Sophomore Kelly Haen had the best finish for the Pointers and coming in seventeenth out of 100 runners in the 5,000-meter run.

Nick Meyer
The Pointer
meyer.17@uwsp.edu

On Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball team, the 2004 and 2005 back-to-back Division III National Champions, will host its eighth annual pre-game cookout before the "Purple-Gold" inter-squard scrimmage. Tip-off for the game is 7 p.m. and a cookout called "Runnin' with the Big Dawgs" will be held. The Pointers begin the season and took eighth place in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, winning only one conference game this year, much more than their overall record indicates. The team just could not come together at once. They set goals of keeping a positive attitude, continually improving and coming together as a team.

"We tried to keep things in perspective and focus more on improvements by individuals and the team rather than just what the score indicated," said White.

On a team with young players having strong leadership is essential. The Pointers looked to their team captains, Nora and Amanda Mix, to keep everyone's spirits high and make sure they all focused on team goals despite growing pains.

"Our captains did a good job of continuing to keep the players going," said White. "The players also started to realize that even though the game may have been a loss in the record book, that improvements were made and people continued to get better."

The highlight of the season was when the team did exactly what their goals set out to do. Everyone came together as a team and individually performed to the best of their abilities. This moment came in a match against UW-River Falls that went five games and saw the Pointers come out on top.

"Every player on the court was backing each other up and working their butts off with the undying support of the bench never taking a breath from cheering," said Mix. "It was just a really proud feeling after that win and I think it was what we needed to show, that all of our hard work can pay off."

Now the team is looking to take what they've learned this year and head into next year with more confidence and experience. In the off-season, Coach White indicated the team will work to continue building on the foundation they set this year by having lots of gym time, lifting, and working on specific skills.

Players Nora and Jen Rueter were named Honorable Mention All-Conference Players this season. Nora was also named member of the All-Sportsmanship Team. Both will be returning next year.

SPORTS REPORTER

Men's b-ball begins season with a bang

Marques Trost
SPORTS REPORTER

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's volleyball team finished the 2008 season at the UW-Whitewater invitational tournament and went 0-4 over the weekend.

The Pointers finished 12-23 in the season and took eighth place in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, winning only one conference game this season. This was a surprising outcome for a team that finished 23-12 and qualified for the WIAC post-season tournament last year.

"I feel that this season was an eye-opener to how competitive the conference is and how in one year things can change," said junior and co-team captain Pamela Nora.

Though the season seemed a bit bleak for the Pointers, the team has looked realistically at the season. The Pointers were a young team this year with only two juniors and one senior. The combination of inexperience and tough conference competition proved to be too much for the Pointers and head coach Stacey White was positive about the season, calling it an overall success.

"We were so young and inexperienced," said White. "Our team continued to improve every time they stepped out on the court, so that is success."
FACE COVERED WITH MARKER?
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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point hockey team, off to a tremendous 3-0 start, is hard at work preparing for this weekend's games against St. Mary's University on Friday and St. Thomas University on Saturday.

Head Coach Wil Nichol is in his second season as head coach of UW-SP hockey. In his eleventh overall season as a hockey coach, his experience brings valuable knowledge to the team.

"The guys have done a pretty good job of buying into the system and playing hard," said Nichol.

The team had no seniors to lose at the end of last season and gained five new players this season, so their numbers are healthy.

"They've played some key roles already," said Nichol about those newcomers who have recently joined the ranks.

With 23 of 28 players returning, the veteran team's previous experiences have helped in their success.

"We have a real veteran team," said Nichol. "We shouldn't have as many learning experiences.

Both upcoming games will be played at the K.B. Willet Arena, giving UW-SP the home ice advantage that Nichol finds especially helpful. The rowdy fans and pep band give the team an extra boost. Saturday's game against St. Thomas should provide some extra support from the players' families because it is Parents' Night.

"They're our seventh man," said Nichol about the fans that habitually fill the ice arena with screams, chants, cheers and jeers.

Even with a 3-0 unbeaten start to the season, UW-SP has a lot to work on during practices this week before those games. Coach Nichol said the team must become more disciplined and eliminate lazy, selfish penalties that have been occurring during competition.

St. Mary's University enters the game this Friday 0-2 with big losses to St. Scholastica and UW-Superior. St. Thomas comes to UW-SP with a record of 1-0-1 overall.

Senior Brett Beckfeld scored a powerplay goal against Northland College in UW-SP's season opener.

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Belly dancers and musicians from around Wisconsin will gather in Stevens Point this Friday, Nov. 8, for the fourth annual belly dancing fundraiser to end domestic violence. All proceeds from the event will go toward local non-profit agencies. This year, the event will kick off with a silent auction of gifts and services donated by local businesses and area artists. Dance performers and live musicians will entertain throughout the evening. An open dance will also be featured later on.

Since this is the fourth year, we hope to continue to expand fundraising and awareness," Luedtke said. This year, the event will begin with a silent auction of gifts and services donated by local businesses and area artists. Dance performers and live musicians will entertain throughout the evening. An open dance will also be featured later on.

The suggested donation for the evening is $5, which can be paid at the door. Although the elderly and children are affected, she said, "The group dynamic is a way of doing that." The event has grown substantially over the past four years as word spreads. Proceeds grew from $150 the first year to about $2,000 last year.

Leah Gernetzke
The Pointer
LGERN177@UWSP.EDU

Belly dance your way to a more peaceful future

From student to favorite

Brianna Tarpey
ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Rising musician Ari Herstand will make an appearance Saturday, Nov. 8, at Stevens Point for the first time in six years, this time performing for a different crowd.

"The last time I was here I was auditioning with my trumpet to get into the music program," he said. Although he did not attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Herstand said he initially went to the University of Minnesota as a music major. He said he spent his first year in Minneapolis, Minn., performing at local coffee shops before he realized what his true passion was.

"I dropped out of school and decided to pursue music industry school," he said. "I went to school in St. Paul, Minn., to learn the business side." Part of the musician's unique style involves incorporating a live looping technique into his music. The new technology involves looping and layering different instruments or musical techniques, including trumpet, beat boxing and lyrics.

"I discovered it three years ago when I stumbled into a club," he said. "It was being used to loop guitars. I brought it home and locked myself in my room for a couple weeks. It helps to compensate when I don't have the band there, and helps me stand out." This loop station changed the way he approached his writing and live shows. He said he could incorporate everything he heard in his head. Herstand said it is very difficult to explain what he sounds like. He described it as more of an experience.

He also said he has written all his lyrics and music on his own and pays close attention to detail.

"I spend two hours for sound check for every show," Herstand said.

"I want my passion to be obvious so I make sure to cover everything on my end," Herstand said. He has to work hard on the business side as well as the music side.

Through Herstand said that he still considers himself a beginner in the music industry, he quit his day job this past January to start recording his current album and devote himself to music.

Billy Collins, former two time Poet Laureate of the United States, engaged a receptive audience with his poetry on Thursday, Oct. 30 at the Stryker Theatre.

Students, faculty, and community members alike assembled to hear Collins. He read poems from his many published poetry collections, including "Sailing Around the Room," "The Trouble with Poetry," and "Other Poems," "Nine Horses," and his most recent collection released on Sept. 9, 2008, "Ballistics.

Dr. William Lawlor, a professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a former student of Collins,' introduced the celebrated poet.

"I was in the study /Looking up · the word 'remaining' /Thinking about how could I be interested in that word," Collins said. "I was trying to explain the purpose of the poem.

Collins discovers unusual things when writing and this is no different in his poem "Tension." After taking a writing class in which he was taught not to use the word "suddenly," he mocks this rule and the use of the adverb.

"In poetry we don't have to fall such dog and don'ts. In fact, violating them is the idea," said Collins. He rectified, "Suddenly you were planting some yellow petunias/Outside in the garden/And suddenly I was in the study/Looking up the word oligarchy for the thirty-seventh time."

Collins' poems about dogs were also crowd favorites. Not necessarily written from nostalgia or a love of pets, his poem, "The Revenant," was written from a deceased dog's point of view. He said, "I wanted to see if I could write a poem about a dog that was rather clean of sentimentality."

He recited the poem, "I am the dog you put to sleep/As you like/To call the needle of oblivion/Come back to tell you this simple thing:"

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"I dropped out of school and decided to pursue music industry school," he said. "I went to school in St. Paul, Minn., to learn the business side."
The third annual Central Wisconsin Film Festival hosted by the Arts Alliance of Portage County will be held Friday, Nov. 7 and Saturday, Nov. 8. The event will feature award-winning short independent films from Wisconsin directors.

The festival will also feature 10 films, including an award-winning documentary, several short humorous narrative films, creative animation/music mixes and several contemplative narrative films from Wisconsin filmmakers that explore contemporary issues.

The most prestigious film coming to the festival is a documentary by Madison directors Greta Wing Miller and Aarick Beher. The production, entitled “Keeping the Lights On,” looks at the impact on a Vernon County community when the Dairyland Power Cooperative needed a place to dump ash scrubbed out of their coal processing plant.

Their analysts calculated that the best location for the landfill was the acres-wide indentation in the hills several miles down the road, home to several century-old family farms. Essentially, the film passionately illustrates the dilemma faced by the providers of electrical power, the Wisconsin farmers who fought to save their land, and the question of coal now facing our state.

The Central Wisconsin Film Festival also showcases emerging and established independent film and video makers.

Established in 2006, the festival supports film and video makers that demonstrate a high regard for moving images as artistic expression. Their intent is to promote understanding, tolerance, entertainment and social awareness while providing a stimulating and enriching cultural experience within central Wisconsin.

The 90-minute program will open Friday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Jensen Center in Amherst. On Saturday, Nov. 8, the program will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the Ben Franklin Junior High School auditorium.

Admission to the film festival is $7, with tickets available at the door as well as in advance from the Information and Ticket Center (346-4100) and the Jensen Center (824-5302). Refreshments will be available at both venues.

From **Art & Culture**

"I am my own manager right now," he said. "Balancing everything is the hard part: life on the road, songwriting, practicing and keeping up with everything."

His college Midwest tour includes stops in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri and Illinois. The tour began in late August and will continue on and off through December.

Herstand said he has played with different kinds of bands and musicians that have opened him up to different styles.

"It's nice to expand outside of a certain genre," he said.

Artists like Dave Matthews, Coldplay and Ben Folds have all served as an inspiration to Herstand, but his music has evolved over time.

"I've opened for some of my music idols with crowds of 3,500 people," he said. "I've had shows with five people in the crowd; those are always hard. There are so many ups and downs and there will be [more] in the future."

Herstand said right now he's just trying to reach as many people as he can with his music, no matter what direction that takes him.

"It's cliché to say, but I'm living the dream," he said. "I play music and make a living doing it."

From **Collins**

never liked you - not one bit."

Collins ended the recital with a satirical poem about a milestone birthday called, "On Turning 10." The poem takes the idea of aging and death and applies it to the life of a child hitting his tenth birthday.

He reads, "The whole idea of it makes me feel/Like I'm coming down with something/Something worse than any stomach-ache/ Or the headaches I get from reading in a bad light/A kind of measeles of the spirit/ A mumps of the psyche/A disfigur­ing chicken pox of the soul."

After the reading and a short "Q-and-A," Collins was also available to sign books.
Letters & Opinion

What's the point?:
The history we've witnessed

The election results are in, and it is not even December yet. I know you are all as excited about this as I am. No more negative campaign advertisements, no more automated phone calls and, best of all, friends can be friends again without worry of offending each other because they supported opposing candidates.

During Tuesday's historic Election Day, I caught myself in a few "what's the point" moments. Though I have studied our Electoral College and its purpose, I still could not help thinking "why does it exist?" I know the founding fathers established the Electoral College as a compromise between electing the president by popular vote and election by Congress. The founding fathers essentially were trying to let everyone get a piece of the pie.

But, when you see that millions of people are voting and ultimately the next president could be elected not by popular vote, but rather a small group of electors, you have to ask "what's the point?" The Electoral College was established by the founding fathers as a compromise between election of the president by Congress and election by popular vote.

However, in this election you really saw what an impact the individual vote can have. In fact (at least at the time of this publication), there are still four Senate races up in the air. The one sparking the greatest interest is right next door in Wisconsin. Independent Republican Senator Norm Coleman has claimed victory over challenger Democrat Al Franken, with a margin of less than 500 votes, but it is not over. We may have escaped a recount election for president this time around, but we did not escape it from the Senate races. At least in Minnesota there should be no worries of the hanging chad. Like in Wisconsin, individuals need to fill in the bubble.

I will put in one last congratulation to all of you for voting. If you did not vote, I am sorry. Having voted or not, we have all witnessed possibly the most historic election ever. We do not know what will come of the Obama presidency, but we do know that there will be change.

Do you hear that, my friends? Listen closely. What is that beautiful silence? That's the sound of the absence of political ads on the airwaves! As much as I love a good election, I can't tell you how happy I am to get back to ad spots about things that people really care about, like beer, cat food and erectile dysfunction medications. God bless America!

Also, I'm just ticked pink at the overwhelming response to the First Annual Pointer High Five Costume Contest! I have never been so thrilled to see my inbox bursting with new messages from so many friends. And in such impressive costumes, too! Making the decision on this one was tough, especially with the knowledge that you had your hopes up so astronomically high about the possibility of winning that Pointer date at the DUC! I really think some of you must have misunderstood the rules though; I can't believe that 48 of you really wanted to win a date with me! Aww shucks, you make me blush! However, the winner will, in fact, be going on a romantic rendezvous with yours truly. And that lucky student is (drum roll please)... Shay Carlson! Believe you me, dear readers, she was the cutest dang bunny anyone has ever seen! Congratulations, Shay.

The smashing success of the costume contest made me decide that this kind of reader interaction should become a regular staple of our weekly correspondence. Some of you have come up to me recently and asked me if you had really seen me driving around in a slick new set of wheels. Yes, it's true, the successor to the Golf has been found in the form of a brand-spanking-used 1999 Hyundai Sonata. However, a ride this swanky really a November I will put in one last congratulation to all of you for voting. If you did not vote, I am sorry. Having voted or not, we have all witnessed possibly the most historic election ever. We do not know what will come of the Obama presidency, but we do know that there will be change.

What? Why on Earth would I ever want to part with my luxurious facial adornment? Well it was a tough decision, friends, but for it was for the purpose of showing my dedication to a cause, the cause of the Novembrbeard. For those of you who are not familiar with the practice of growing a Novembrbeard I will provide a short primer on the subject. The Novembrbeard goes back many years and is rumored to have started in deer hunting camps where men felt the need to shave their beards in the cold of winter.

High Five: My November decision deserves a high five

The Pointer is a student-run newspaper published weekly for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The Pointer staff is solely responsible for content and editorial policy. No article is available for inspection prior to publication. No article is available for further publication without the express written permission of The Pointer staff.

The Pointer is printed Thursdays during the academic year with a circulation of 2500 copies. The paper is free to all tuition-paying students. 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.

Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.
Letters & Opinion

The best part of waking up:
He will never call you again

Lady V

A friend of mine has been a victim of a quickly growing prank that men play on unsuspecting women. It is what they call "hogging." I only know about this because I have heard what their friends are doing.

The next part may play out differently for each individual situation. They go home that night and receive a text from him about an hour after the bars closed. They begin to talk dirty via text and then he calls her, asks her where she lives and he comes over. With her consent, of course.

From there, they fool around, have sex, whatever. He also makes sure to do a good job of being real rough with her, even to the point of hurting her.

Then, of course, he never calls her again. Ladies, believe me, this is the best part.

Some of you may be reading this thinking, "why would a woman fall for something like this?" In the heat of the moment, with alcohol in the system, it is really easy to do. Just ask my friend.

Anyway ladies, I know you are out there. You feel bad enough about yourself that you will take anything you can get. You will even let him tell douche bags like this make you feel even worse. You're beautiful. You deserve better.

Martin Guernsey-Freshman

I am going to miss seeing my friends at the voting polls.

Cody Stingley-Junior

How excited the college kids got, just in general.

Laura Spencer-Sophomore

Just being aware of political issues and debating about them; otherwise I am not too informed during the year. And I am going to miss Adam Brody coming to Stevens Point.

Devin Rogers-Junior

What is there to miss about the election season?

Get caught reading “The Pointer!”

Get caught reading this week’s issue of “The Pointer” and win a FREE “The Pointer”-shirt.

Be on the lookout!
enemies but friends. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection," said Obama in his speech. “And to those Americans whose support I have yet to earn, I may not have won your vote tonight, but I hear your voices. I need your help. And I will be your president, too.”

And as people watched around the world to see history being made in the U.S., Obama called out to them with the diplomatic ideals he emphasized during the campaign.

“And to all those watching tonight from beyond our shores, from parliaments and palaces, to those who are huddled around radios in the forgotten corners of the world, our stories are singular, but our destiny is shared, and a new dawn of American leadership is at hand," said Obama.

Obama will be working to establish his cabinet within the coming weeks. He will also be briefed by many parts of the government. He also emphasized keeping in touch with his supporters as he had throughout the race through e-mails. He finalized his speech with the tagline that was emphasized throughout his whole campaign.

“Yes we can.”

The Stevens Point Starbucks distributed $1500 worth of free, tall, black coffee on Election Day.

The Stevens Point Toppers closed down at 10:07 p.m. on Election Day after running out of food due to their own pizza specials.

In 1776, one vote made the national language of the United States English over German.

Monopoly was very popular in Cuba until Fidel Castro took power and burned all the Monopoly sets.

Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

If a statue of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle; if the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

If NASA sent birds into space they would die very quickly because they need gravity to swallow.

The town of Los Angeles, California, was originally named “El Pueblo de la Nuestra Senora de Reina de los Angeles de la Porciuncula.”
Contact Rod King at pointerad@uwsp.edu to put your classified here!