One week until blackout in Wisconsin

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With only 26 days until the presidential election, students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are trying to get every student registered to vote.

These registration efforts are being headed by the student coalition, Get Out The Vote. The coalition, made up of various organizations including the Student Government Association and the Residence Hall Association, is focused on getting at least 4,000 of its peers to register to vote by the Wisconsin pre-registration blackout date of Oct. 15.

“We are confident that we will reach that goal,” said Erika Wardle, United Council of UW students vote 2008 campus organizer. “We found out this weekend that UW-SP has the highest number of on-campus registrations of the 20 member schools of United Council, and the highest number of online registrations in the UW system at StudentVote.org.”

Wardle added that all students are welcome and encouraged to help out in achieving the goal, no matter the amount of time. The students working with the coalition have been making themselves visible each day.

“Get Out The Vote has been working diligently to register students before the Wis. Oct. 15, pre-registration blackout.

We are tabling every day, all around campus, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.”

Challenges have Pointers face reality TV

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The Encore buzzed with anticipation the night of Monday, Oct. 6, as it was filled to the brim with students awaiting the crowning of the 2008 Homecoming king and queen. Students held up signs and shouted with pride in support of their respective candidates. Attaining the crown would not be an easy task for the five promising pairs who advanced to Monday night’s competition after last week's preliminary round of voting. After a six-minute rendition of “America’s Next Top Model,” pressing questions about reality television and UW-SP and a “Dancing with the Stars”-style dance-off King Joe Cihak and Queen Katie Lutzke.

“It feels great!” said Queen Lutzke.

The team Sig Tau and the Ladies came out victorious Monday night in the opening competition of Homecoming 2008. The victory gave their team, representing, Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity and Delta Phi Epsilon sorority, a quick 500 points and the early lead in this week’s competition.

“I’m really excited,” said Queen Lutzke. “The competition was really fun. I’m very excited for the rest of the events.”

This year’s competition, themed “Pointers Battle Reality TV,” involves 13 teams, 11 from Residential Living and two representing fraternity/sorority combinations. The teams will battle all week in a variety of reality TV themed competitions. Points will be awarded to each team after each competition. The team with the highest point total at the end wins it all. Members of the Homecoming council say they’ve been working since last year to make this year’s competition something to remember.

“We had a lot of ideas for possible themes, but we decided on this one because of the current popularity of reality TV, and we knew it would be fun to get creative with,” said Joa
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For the first time in six years, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was honored with the presence of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents on campus. The board is the governing body of the UW-System, consisting of 18 members, two being students. They generally review and approve university budgets, appoint chancellors and set admission standards.

The board visited UW-SP on Oct. 2 to 3 for its monthly meeting. Throughout the year, the board will visit a select few of the 26 UW System schools, making the recent visit a special opportunity for UW-SP to distinguish itself from the rest of the system schools.

While the board members spent much of their time in committee meetings, Chancellor Bunnell and the university were able to make known the importance and distinction of UW-SP in the presentation “Leading from the Center.” Bunnell explained how UW-SP’s location in central Wisconsin allows students opportunities after graduation.

“Year in, year out they [students] leave our campus and go forth to our region, to our state, to our nation and to our world, transformed by the commitment of faculty and staff for their education,” said Bunnell. “The same commitment this university made in 1894, I can assure you is still going on today.”

Before going on to their committee meetings, members of the board and guests were able to enjoy a unique lunch and special presentations by campus departments and groups in The Dreyfus University Center Laird Room. Students and staff were able to interact with board members and explain the how UW-SP stands apart from other universities through media presentations, performances and conversation.

“I think that this area of the state is a very beautiful area to be in,” said Kevin Oppenorth, student regent from UW-Platteville. “I thoroughly enjoy being here and I thoroughly enjoy the fact that we have the opportunity to have the meeting here.”

The board discussed many important topics at their meetings. One of the main discussions was the revision of UW-System Chapters 17 and 18, which deal with student conduct on- and off-campus.

The revisions to this policy include stating clearly that universities may use disciplinary procedures for serious crimes that occur off-campus and what crimes might be considered serious.

They also include other changes consisting of altering the standards for sexual harassment and sexual assault offenses and eliminating the ability for students to appeal to the board.

“I don’t see this changing how our campus reacts to situations,” said Bob Tomlinson, vice chancellor of student affairs at UW-SP. “We have good communication with our community, police and students about issues. The greatest majority of our students understand the responsibility of being a good ‘neighbor.”

Once the revisions return from the legal and grammatical review, there will be a time where the board will hold a public hearing for people to express their concerns. After this, the board will look over the recommendations and make any revisions they see necessary.

WHERE THEY STAND 2008
Energy and the environment

While Wisconsin is getting colder, the world is getting warmer. Climate change is becoming a topic talked about worldwide as people realize that perhaps this climate change is at least partially man-made, and if not, they still think man must do something. According to NASA, since 1880, the Earth’s temperature has increased 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit, with most of the change occurring recently. Arctic ice is disappearing, and the animals that call it home are suffering and dying. Even the amount of extreme weather, such as wildfires, mudslides, hurricanes and flash floods, that affect the United States and the world is often attributed to climate change. Whoever is elected president must have a plan.

Democrat Barack Obama has an extensive plan involving energy and the environment. He wants to provide short-term aid to the American people who are still struggling through the high gas prices and gas shortages by regulating energy speculation, providing grants and rebates to families to help with energy and heating costs and releasing oil from the strategic petroleum reserves. He also wants to push for long-term changes. He wants to completely eliminate our addiction to oil within the next 10 years.

“Without a doubt, this addiction is one of the most dangerous and urgent threats this nation has ever faced. From the gas prices that are wiping out your paychecks and straining businesses to the jobs that are disappearing from this state; from the instability and terror bred in the Middle East to the rising oceans, record drought and spreading famine that could engulf our planet,” said Obama in a speech on energy in Lansing, Mich.

Obama also wants to get millions of plug-in hybrid cars on the market and provide incentives and rebates for those who purchase them. He wants to institute new restrictions on carbon emissions nationwide with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050. He also emphasizes the creation of millions of green jobs by pushing for renewable energy and research on new sources of energy.

Republican John McCain’s key push is for a cap-and-trade policy when it comes to carbon emissions. This policy would set limits on carbon emissions and permit companies to purchase the ability to emit carbon, letting the market play a key role. According to McCain’s Web site “Emissions permits will eventually be auctioned to support the development of advanced technologies.” He will be using this funding to push for new developments in the fields of nuclear power, clean coal and automobile battery power. McCain also puts a lot of focus behind working with the United Nations to find solutions for climate change.

Independent Ralph Nader takes a different look at climate change and energy. If elected, he would push for clean, efficient, renewable energy and end the support and financial subsidies backing nuclear, oil, electric or coal energies. Nader also wants to lower carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050, and he wants to do it through a carbon-tax set to annual benchmarks. He coin’s the term “green industrial revolution,” as he plans to use all the money from taxing carbon emissions to create solar and wind power while creating jobs nationwide. Finally, Nader would work with countries across the world to establish a global climate treaty.

Libertarian Bob Barr, if elected, plans to remove all regulations surrounding energy and subsidies. He believes the market should decide the United States energy policy.

The Green Party’s Cynthia McKinney states her policy ideas best from her Web site saying, “We want our forests protected and restored; we want sustainable resource use saying, "We want our forests protected and restored; we want sustainable resource use."
Students travel to one-of-a-kind Wisconsin home

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On Friday, Sept. 19, a total of 55 University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point students left campus at 5:45 a.m. destined for Spring Green, Wis. The purpose of the mass exodus was education and a little hands-on fun. The trip allowed for those in the Historical Preservation Student Society and the interior architecture program to get a one-of-a-kind on-site experience at Frank Lloyd Wright’s historic Taliesin house.

Built in 1911, Taliesin was Wright’s Wisconsin home, an estate built on some of the land he used to play on as a child. While it has touches of Japanese influence, Taliesin itself is a masterpiece of the prairie style of architecture, an aesthetic that puts emphasis on a building’s blending with the landscape. The house became a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

“You can only learn so much from looking at photos, books and having a discussion on the topic.”

-Petrie

Frank Lloyd Wright’s beautiful Wisconsin home, Taliesin, was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

"We were able to get a first-hand look at Frank Lloyd Wright’s style of architecture," said Tiffany Petrie, president of HPSS. Additionally, students were able to “learn more about historical preservation and be guests at the final presentations at the Frank Lloyd Wright’s School of Architecture,” said Petrie.

Wright believed that many schools took the creativity out of students, so it was with this belief that he opened his own architectural school. "The mission of his school was to have the students learn with hands-on activities," said Petrie. "They actually practiced building structures."

The Frank Lloyd Wright School is still in operation today and continues to hold classes at Taliesin during the summer/fall season.

The value of traveling to a site, as opposed to sitting in a classroom, is important still today. "You can only learn so much from looking at photos, books and having a discussion on the topic," said Petrie. "It is especially important in the field of interior architecture. When you actually see the building and the surroundings, you have a better understanding of what is going on in the design, along with seeing the challenges that the architect/designer may have faced."

According to HPSS, the significance of the trip to Taliesin was immeasurable. "The main purpose of our organization is to study historical sites, learn more about historical preservation and to promote preservation educational activities," said Petrie. "Therefore, the trip to Taliesin really embraced all of this and allowed everyone in attendance to really soak it all in versus having a lecture on the subject matter."

There is good news for anyone interested in joining in on a future HPSS trip. "We [HPSS] are in the process of planning a trip for the spring of this size again," said Petrie.

HPSS is open to any student and, by joining, the student also becomes a member of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Benefits of becoming a member of HPSS include 50 percent off admission to several historic sites, "Wisconsin History Magazine," exciting trips and more knowledge on historical preservation than one would have thought possible. For more information on how to officially sign up, contact Petrie at tpetr591@uwsp.edu.

For more information on Taliesin, check out www.TaliesinPreservation.org.

Poetry Slam

Do you want your words to be heard?

Friday, October 17, 2008 is your chance to shine.

UWSP’s Black Student Union will be hosting a Poetry Slam at 7pm

Submit your poetry to Anthony Fuller at atfull121@uwsp.edu or to Hansen Hall Front Desk by Monday, October 13 before 4pm.

You will be notified on Tuesday, October 14 via e-mail if you have been selected to perform.

The poems will be randomly selected.
Hall-of-famers honored during Homecoming 2008

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On Oct. 11, 2008, a number of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point alumni will be inducted into the UW-SP hall-of-fame. The inductees will include six individual former UW-SP athletes and an entire team.

Marne (Boario) Fox and Kari (Groshek) Zdroik will be inducted this year for women's basketball. Mike Gaab a football athlete and Leah (Juno) Salzmann, a cross country and track athlete will also appear in the ranks. Margaret Domka played for women's soccer and Charlie Crandall, the former head athletic trainer, were also named this year. The inductions include the members of UW-SP's 2001-02 women's basketball National Championship team.

David Foemmel, the assistant athletic director, describes the process of choosing those who get inducted: "Hall-of-fame members are chosen by a committee consisting of coaches, local citizens, alumni and athletic department staff. Every spring the committee meets to discuss a list of nominees and select which nominees deserve further consideration... Once the research is complete, the qualified candidates are selected to be inducted."

"[The process is] primarily nomination driven," said Mitch Capelle, assistant athletic director for media relations. The reason these individuals and the team had to wait until now to be inducted was due to a waiting period and certain qualifications. Individual athletes must wait at least seven years after their last year of eligibility, a coach cannot be an active coach at UW-SP and a team must wait five years to be considered.

Capelle said, "[Inducting them is] something that we can do to honor them for all their great accomplishments."

The induction process will take place during homecoming at the football game this weekend.

Nominees are invited to sit in the Chancellor's box during the game at Goerke Field and are introduced at halftime. During the evening after the game, there is a formal banquet. All hall-of-fame members receive a plaque listing their year of induction and a bio listing their athletic accomplishments. A duplicate plaque is also displayed on the hall-of-fame wall in the hallway outside the Multi-Activity Center in the Health Enhancement Center on campus.

Mike Gaab '83
Football player, team MVP and captain of the team in 1983, Gaab was also named Honorable Mention NAIA All-American.

Margaret Domka '02
A member of the soccer team that made it to the NCAA Division III Final Four in 2000, Domka was named First Team Academic All-American by the National Soccer Coaches' Association of America. She also had First Team All-American honors in her time here at UW-SP.

2001-2002 Women's basketball team
The team won the NCAA Division III National Championship against St. Lawrence (New York) after earning an at-large bid to the tournament. They had a 30-3 record that year and gave Coach Shirley Egner her 200th win.

Tune into 90FM this weekend for coverage of the Pointer football team as they take on the University of Wisconsin - Platteville in this year's homecoming match-up. Kickoff is at 1 p.m. and coverage starts at 12:45 p.m. on Your Only Alternative, 90FM.

Don't forget to dial in Sportsbeat, 90FM's weekly sports show on Wednesday evenings around 6:30 p.m. for insight into the world of sports.
**Points win WIAC championship; swing into NCAA**

**Jim Wittmann**
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The women's golf team, for the second consecutive season, won the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title after overcoming a 10-stroke deficit on the final day, Sunday, Oct. 5. The victory secured the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title after overcoming a bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Championship this spring.

"Key moment for us was the minute it began to rain ... our team prides ourselves on being the toughest around," Head Coach Matt Interbartolo said. "We practice on average for six hours per day and no matter what the conditions are outside."

All the players pulled together on the last day and played an individual sport as a team, and even through the tough conditions, gutted out the win. "We have come from behind in the past, so we knew that we could do it if we played the way we should," said golfer Michelle Pascavis.

They played the way they should and all the hard work and dedication paid off with this very impressive come-from-behind win.

"We knew that we were in good physical shape and that other teams wouldn't have the same amount of energy we had to finish a round," golfer Jessica Urban said.

The team is going to work hard over the winter building strength and practicing all aspects of their game in an indoor facility that is in the planning process.

"This was the best win in my career. To come from behind to win it [was] very special," Interbartolo said.

**Pointer women's rugby ripping up the field this fall**

**Jim Wittmann**
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When Amanda Anderson didn't get immediately accepted into the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, she knew the admissions office didn't know what they were missing. It was her job to inform them.

"It ended up that I sent in a Valentine with my Point rugby jersey picture, which was my senior portrait. They received the Valentine and it said 'All I want for Valentine's Day is to be a Pointer,'" said Anderson.

"They called me the next day and told me they haven't touched their waiting list yet, but they pulled my file right away and accepted me," said Anderson.

Passion and a pursuit for perfection runs deep in the women's rugby team and starts with the very basics, like getting accepted into the university.

The team is a tightly knit group that occasionally has movie or dinner nights to pick up the bonding that practices and games may have missed.

The team has high expectations stemming from last season's success riding on their shoulders.

"We have made it to the Midwest Regional the past three years, and made it to the top eight of the Midwest last year," Head Coach Gray Zischke said. "This year is going to be a little more challenging, just because we lost 10 starters. That being said, we still have a good chance to make it to the Midwest this year."

With many first-year athletes, the Pointers know that a deep mental perspective of the game will give them an edge. They believe it could be the muscle that powers them to the Midwest tournament this year.

Christine Hintz, a sophomore at UW-SP, was recruited to the rugby team by friends and regrets not getting involved in the program sooner.

"[Rugby's] great; you're able to tackle people and have a good reason for it," said Hintz.

Hintz says she will play rugby as long as her body will let her.

"This is definitely a mental game more than anything. There is definitely physical aspects to it, but a lot of it is mental," said Anderson. "If you get inside the other team's head they start messing up; a lot of it is mental, definitely."

The world's contact sport, rugby is growing in popularity in America. United States football also derives from this old competition of strength and courage.

"Women's rugby collegiately is now a NCAA emerging sport, which allows schools to make it a varsity program. There's about five or six that turned NCAA the past few years," said Zischke.

"If we can stay focused and keep our eye on where we really want to go with everything it makes it a lot easier," said Anderson.

The team is focusing on the post-season.
Students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are being targeted by phishing scammers seeking to steal their personal information. The risks of falling for a phishing scam can range from the temporary shut down of the student's UW-SP e-mail account to the detrimental process of identity theft.

According to Peter Zuge, the Information Security Officer for the university, phishing is defined as an email or Web site tricking the user into providing personal information or convincing them to click on a link that could install a virus or trojan on the user's computer.

"E-mail is an open medium," said Zuge. "Anybody can send an e-mail to anybody else as anybody. There's no authenticity through e-mail."

All student e-mail is sorted through the university's e-mail "sifter," checking for spam and phishing before being sent out to the students' university account. Ninety percent of e-mail the university receives is rejected because it is designated as 100 percent spam. Of the 10 percent of e-mail that does get through, Zuge has seen a dramatic increase of phishing from all UW-SP accounts.

The goal of a phisher is to gain a user's password or personal information to hack into that user's personal account. Some students have seen phishing scams taking the form of university e-mails, claiming they are from Information Technology and need the student to give them their password or other personal information.

"There's a lot of money in phishing and there's a growing percentage of sophisticated e-mail attacks by phishers," Zuge said. "Phishers will mimic everything from the university's IT department to mimicking a YouTube e-mail to get you to click on that link."

Recently, the university received a phishing attack sent out to many students and faculty with a phisher claiming to be from BullsEye Credit Union and asking for students' personal information.

"The biggest risk that the students have to deal with through phishing is identity theft," Zuge said.

Three in 10 people experience identity theft in America, with many students being targeted. Identity theft can take 10 years or more to resolve. If your social security number is compromised, your credit score can go down and can lead to legal ramifications if something is done illegally under your stolen identity. An easy way to check if your identity has been stolen is to check your credit report through your bank.

"It's ultimately up to the students to protect themselves," said Zuge. "It's a matter of trust. Do I trust this e-mail? and if not, verify it."

The last six months have seen a marked increase in phishing scams through university accounts, which has caused IT to take more steps to protect and educate students about phishing.

"The most important thing," said Zuge, "is that students contact IT or the sender of the e-mail if they're unsure about the security of that email. Students should always ask themselves 'Did I expect this e-mail? Do I trust this e-mail?' and if not, verify it."

Currently, IT has protected students from phishing scams through multiple tactics. Anti-virus and anti-spam reject most of the spam e-mails sent to the student's email account. Of the 10 percent that does get through, IT uses what is called "best guess matches," where e-mails that look like they may be spam are still sent to the student, but with the warning sign of "Caution: Possible Spam." IT also uses "OpenDNS," which runs an e-mail with a link through a "phish tank." It checks the phishing scam database to see if it's a phish. Finally, as a last resort, IT personnel will actually go into a UW-SP e-mail account and strip a phishing e-mail from the account.

Future plans to protect students from phishing includes better verification of e-mails through "certificates," which is a ribbon icon attached to an e-mail that is recognized as a valid and trustworthy sender. A campus-wide e-mail policy of including contact information on all sent e-mail is also a possibility to help secure campus mail. Awareness campaigns will also be in place to help students detect and identify phishing scams to protect themselves.

"We (IT) can only do so much to protect students from scams. Unless e-mail fundamentally changes, it will always depend on the user to protect themselves," said Zuge.

Phishing affects the entire UW-SP student body and can lead to email blackouts and identity theft.

Green living makes an impact at this year's Sustainability Fair

Sam Feld

Hundreds of people traveled through the Dreyfus University Center on Friday, Oct. 3, for the largest sustainability fair that UW-SP has ever seen.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Sustainability Task Force organized the event, which aimed to help teach students, faculty, staff and community members how to go "green" in their daily lives.

Green visitors talked on how to live more sustainably, the fair showcased a mock "green room," which displayed some of the campus's unique green features. Included in the display were desks made from sustainable wood, recycled mattresses and a rented loft.

The room also gave visitors ideas on ways to make their lives more environmentally conscious. This included ideas such as reusing water bottles, using compact fluorescent light bulbs and using environmentally-friendly laundry detergent.

A member of the sustainability task force, Tony Marquez-Barritenos feels that being green is not just about helping the environment.

"Being green is also about helping yourself. It helps you become more balanced and much less wasteful," said Marquez-Barritenos.

The sustainability fair gave visitors the chance to evaluate their own lifestyle and, through a variety of speakers and things such as the mock green room, see what changes they could make in order to live a more sustainable life.
Lawrence receives three-year grant for PAPPA research

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James Lawrence, assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, recently received a National Institutes of Health Academic Research Enhancement Award for his grant proposal, "Identification of Alternative Substrates of Pregnancy-Associated Plasma Protein-A."

The grant, which will be used to purchase reagents and equipment, will run for three years and total $183,840. It will also provide research stipends for UW-SP chemistry and biochemistry majors.

Pregnancy-associated plasma protein A, abbreviated as PAPPA or PAPP-A, is a large zinc-binding protein that acts as an enzyme. PAPPA has been used in prenatal genetic screenings and studies of atherosclerosis, which is plaque buildup in the arteries.

Women with low blood levels of PAPPA at eight to 14 weeks of gestation have an increased risk of intrauterine growth restriction, premature delivery and stillbirth. It is most widely known as a first trimester screening marker for Down’s syndrome. PAPPA has also been implicated in several other biological systems including wound healing, acute coronary syndrome, aging and fetal development.

PAPPA is a protein found in all people, but abnormal levels in pregnant mothers and heart attacks make it an area of interest. For instance, since the mid-70’s it has been common knowledge among doctors that falling levels of PAPPA in pregnant mothers is the strongest early marker of Down’s syndrome. However, heart attack victims suffering from atherosclerosis show increased levels of PAPPA.

“My research is to try and figure out what PAPPA is doing. No one knows what the protein does. “We’re trying to establish what it does,” said Lawrence.

He has been working on the unique protein for five years and has students presently working on the research.

Send your Top Shots photos to Katie Boseo at kbose675@uwsp.edu

Wolves remain on endangered species list in Great Lakes region

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On Sept. 22, 2008, U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman overturned a decision that would have removed gray wolves from the endangered species list in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.

The ruling immediately stops the practice of killing wolves that threaten livestock and pets in all three states. In Wisconsin this year, 45 wolves have been killed by government personnel at the request of a landowner or by the landowners themselves.

Friedman stated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could not remove wolves from the endangered species list in the Great Lakes region, while wolves remained endangered in other parts of the country.

Wolves have recovered markedly in the Great Lakes region with surveys showing 2,921 wolves in Minnesota, 537 in Wisconsin and 520 in Michigan.

“Frankly, Wisconsin wolves are not having problems,” said Kristina Lapp, UW-SP student and head of the wolf program for The Wildlife Society on campus. “Their population is fairly well-stable and over the population goal decided by the DNR. Plus, the longer the wolf is on the Endangered Species List, more damage money is going to come from the Endangered Species funds, which will be taking that money away from the possibly less aesthetic species that really need it.”

State officials said they probably would seek federal permits allowing non-lethal methods to deal with wolves that continually harass livestock, until the lawsuit is resolved.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources spokeswoman, Laura Steffes said Wisconsin officials will revoke permits that had been issued to seven farmers, allowing them to shoot wolves attacking livestock.
The flame of India warms the first days of fall

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Through the 21st Annual Festival of India is over, the experience is sure to last longer in attendees’ minds than the henna tattoos that now grace their skin.

But above all, on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Stevens Point Area Senior High school, visitors embraced diversity deeper than henna’s superficial dye. Together, Americans, Indians and other cultures mingled to enjoy educational workshops, performances, a traditional Indian meal and much more.

“The understanding between American and Indian culture, that’s the most important thing,” said UW-SP student, Satyam Patel.

Officially, the event was in honor of the 129th anniversary of Mohandas K. Gandhi’s birthday. In commemoration, professors Arthur Herman and James Missey gave a workshop entitled, “M.K. Gandhi on Justice and Non-Violence: Some Gandhian Solutions to 21st Century Problems.” Of course, Gandhi’s call for social justice was both a pervasive theme and foundation to the festival. All participants, from artists to performers and visitors, were receptive to learning and new experience.

Among one of those who gave a standing ovation and didn’t stop clapping until the band reappeared was Craig Shipley, a junior at UW-SP.

“I loved it, the music made me want to stand up and dance, even though I didn’t,” said Shipley.

Shipley also was excited he could see Wynton Marsalis, jazz musician, visits UW-SP campus Oct. 1 to 2.

“The understanding between American and Indian culture, that’s the most important thing”

-Patel

Whatever events guests attended, people were receptive to learning and meeting new people from different cultures.

“I’d say meeting people I’ve never met before was a highlight,” said attendee Stella McDonald, “and having a great conversation while waiting to get my palm read,” she said.

With dozens of workshops, events, activities and performances, it was impossible to attend everything. But the overall experience was a welcome escape of colorful Indian culture amidst the backdrop of a dreary Wisconsin day, sure to leave a lasting impression.

International jazz musician makes Stevens Point hear music

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Internationaly acclaimed jazz sensation Wynton Marsalis shared his music at The Lincoln Center in Stevens Point Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 1 and 2 to perform and entertain a vast audience of all ages.

Marsalis said he was very satisfied with the fervent crowd, but something altogether different caught his attention.

“I liked the number of young people here, the mixture of ages of people. It seemed like they knew what was going on, the starting, the stopping and knew what the forms of the songs were,” said Marsalis.

The diverse crowd was enthusiastic about the band. At the end, they encored the band to play one more song. The band played one last song right in the theatre with the standing audience, while they snapped and clapped along.

Among one of those who gave a standing ovation and didn’t stop clapping until the band reappeared was Craig Shipley, a junior at UW-SP.

“I loved it, the music made me want to stand up and dance, even though I didn’t,” said Shipley.

Shipley also was excited he could watch an internationally known jazz musician.

“A performance at the highest level of artistic achievement not only brings entertainment, but joy and a feeling of connectedness to other human beings.”

-Buchman

“It was pretty cool Wynton came. It’s not every day you get to meet somebody world-famous,” said Shipley.
Arts & Culture

More to the Polish than just perogis

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Clearly [Poland] has a very diverse and influential history in terms of the development of Western civilization.

"I like the sense of community," said UW-SP student Ashley Huebner. "I mean, it's a small town, but there's a lot of people out and it's nice to see community activity and people together."

From baking Polish dishes and watching Polish cinema to attending events like the Perogi Fest in Franklin or a Wigilii Christmas celebration and a visit to the Polish Heritage museum in Chicago, this group knows how to have a good time, Polish-style.

"If you're Polish, it's a good way to learn about your heritage, and if you're not, it's a good way to learn about a culture not a lot of people know about," said the club's president, Jeffrey Jankowski. "And we don't tell bad Polish jokes. Though we do enjoy them."

Contrary to popular belief, the group is not a language group. Though many of the 10 members in the group have studied in Poland and may speak some Polish, none are fluent.

The group is more about a celebration of the Polish culture and dispelling stereotypes about it.

"Poland is a lot of times thought of as behind-the-times because it's in Eastern Europe. It's not as wealthy as Western Europe, not as advanced. But really for centuries, Poland was one of the centers of the European world. It was extremely advanced in the sciences and in culture. It was a cosmopolitan area with a lot of ethnic groups," said Jankowski. "Clearly it has a very diverse and influential history in terms of the development of Western civilization."

This past weekend, the group also made an appearance at Dozynki Polish Festival in downtown Stevens Point. Besides selling traditional Polish bakery and zurek soup, they also entered a food contest.

Through these culinary delights, people experienced more than just a taste for this unique culture; they were also reminded of their own.

"I like the sense of community," said UW-SP student Ashley Huebner. "I mean, it's a small town, but there's a lot of people out and it's nice to see community activity and people together."

Members of the Polish Club pose for a picture at Dozynki Polish fest Oct. 4 to 5.

Dziens Dobry! Though most people in the Stevens Point area don't speak Polish, that's no reason not to celebrate the culture.

This is exactly what the UW-SP Polish Club does every other Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Dreyfus University Center, room 236.

For more information on Wynnton Marsalis, visit www.wynntonmarsalis.org.

For further information: International Programs, 108 Collins Classroom Center
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WWW.UWSP.EDU/STUDYABROAD
Letters & Opinion

What's the point?: Celebrity sightings

Katie Leb
THE POINTER
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"So maybe we should write our number phones down and give them to him."

I actually heard this statement come out of a late-teen-early-20-something's mouth last Wednesday when actor Adam Brody was on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus. Of course when I heard this I began to think, "Why, oh, why, would you even bother?"

I seem to me that the more I look around me when celebrities are at all in the vicinity, the more I wonder why I showed up.

Over the past-month-and-a-half, I have been fortunate enough to "see" a number of famous people. Brody and Joy Bryant were the first two that I have actually talked to, but I have been within the same building as more than a dozen celebrities, including members of the Eagles, Robin Williams and Kathy Griffin.

As I looked around me at all of these outings, I spotted people, mostly females, almost leaping from their seats in hopes that the famous person(s) would notice. Some, especially those at the rally on campus with Brody, were even waiting for him after the performance. Being me, I actually felt embarrassed for the people.

I paid my money to see most of these people, and that is fine; that is what is supposed to happen. But I just cannot wrap my brain around why people get so excited to see someone that they begin to convulse and even cry.

What baffled me so much was that I saw one girl literally in a complete meltdown. It isn't like Brody did anything extraordinary. He is an actor who happened to have been on a popular television show. Big whoop-doo! Call me uncool, but I am more impressed to meet someone who battled cancer and won, or someone who backpacked around the world. To me, those are the people who have truly interesting stories.

Don't get me wrong, I watch television and have my favorite actors and actresses. I would be thrilled to meet and have a great conversation with them. Obviously, by the number of celebrities I have seen lately, I spend money to see these people. However, I do not want their first impression of me to be a weeping mess. I really don't think anyone would want my number then.

Leaving the closet ... coming out on top

Rod King
THE POINTER
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Saturday is National Coming Out Day - and I'd like to honor that event by sharing my own coming out story as the young gay grandson of a preacher man.

I come from a long line of preachers: my grandfather was a Southern Baptist minister, and my father was a deacon in one of Atlanta's most prestigious churches. So, coming out to my deeply religious family wasn't easy.

I remember first noticing guys in my dance and gymnastics classes when I was just five years old (even then I had a thing for older men!). My interest was innocent - these guys were like the older brothers I wished I had, and I longed for the day that my skinny body would muscle up and look like theirs.

I like most boys in elementary school, I thought of little girls as weird and distasteful. In all honesty, I think I was afraid of them. I had five sisters back at home who took every chance they got to pick on me, and I thought all little girls were as mean and spiteful as they were.

The summer before entering junior high school, my mother signed me up for a diving program thinking it would give me an outlet for my exploding energy. Not the best move for a 12-year-old guy besieged by raging hormones.

Damn! I spent more time cooling off in the pool then I did heating up the boards.

A few years later, I found an outlet for all those hormones when I met my first love. For the next five years, Marcus and I lived happily in the closet. Until, I told my sister.

Then came Christmas and the day I'll never forget. I got a call from my sister. She told me she had accidentally "outed" Marcus and I at Christmas dinner. A few hours later, my dad called. He told me I was a disgrace to our family and no longer welcome at home. I was on my own. He hung up. I called back and got no answer.

I then called my mom's house. I told her, angry and begging for a fight. "I'm gay and this is the time for you to disown me if you want to," The line was quiet for a moment. "Well, it's about time you told me," she finally answered.

Oh my God! Here was my father embracing me. That's when I knew that my gayness would have some difficult consequences, but thanks to my mother's unconditional love, it would also bring me great joy.

THE POINTER

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THE POINTER

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Comics

**Rabble Rousers (Formerly "Resident's Evil")**

So, did you do anything fun today?

Well...

I can't think of anything.

Me either.

**Joy Ratchman**

---

**Neverland**

Need to pick something good...

Something cool...

Something they won't make fun of...

Do you have blue hair dye here?

Lo Shim

---

**Where I Come From**

Come on! It's not like the store's gonna burn down if you're not here.

Actually, that's happened before.

Bryan Novak

---

**Roach**

I just read that Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks, Robert De Niro, Jessica Alba, Oprah Winfrey, and Sean Penn all support Obama.

I find celebrity endorsements to be a little pretentious.

Sarah Palin?

Maybe... though I still wonder what celebrity supports John McCain!

No irony there...

Dustin Hauge

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**WEEKLY SUDOKU**

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

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**from Vote pg. 1**

If students are not able to register by Oct. 15, it is still possible to register before Election Day by going to the municipal clerk’s office and registering in person. The other option is to register at the polls on Election Day, though there is the possibility of long waiting lines.

Whether through pre-registration or day-of registering, the most important thing for Get Out The Vote is that students do get out and vote.

“Get registered, get educated, get out and vote!” said Wardle.

Contact the SGA office for more information about registering to vote, getting information about candidates or learning how to volunteer with Get Out The Vote.

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**from Homecoming pg. 1**

Reality TV swoon. Tuesday, Oct. 7, night had the teams running in an “Amazing Race”-style competition in which teams participated in a cross-campus scavenger hunt. Wednesday, Oct. 8, had tested contestants’ fear threshold in a Point-style “Fear Factor.” Thursday, Oct. 9, will see a food drive and penny war, along with the arrival of MTV Real World Philadelphia house member and Wisconsin native Landon Lueck. Lueck will host Thursday evening’s event “Pointers Got Talent.”

“He’ll actually be here Thursday through Saturday,” said Homecoming Council Member Justin Toney. “He’ll be in the parade as well.”

Friday, Oct. 10, will kick off with the “American Gladiator”-style competition “Pointiators,” which will determine who has the most muscle. Friday night, however, is all about personality as a general casting call for a slew of reality TV shows will be held on campus. Casting directors will be here assessing talent.

“We actually have Stevens Point alumni who work with reality TV casting in Los Angeles,” said Adank.

The week is leading up to a day’s worth of non-competitive events and the main event, UW-SP Pointers versus UW-Platteville Pioneers on Saturday, Oct. 11. The winning team will be determined after Saturday’s parade and announced at the all-campus picnic before the football game.

With so many events throughout the week, the Homecoming council hopes students find time to get involved.

---

**Brain Damage**

Every second over 7,000 Coca-Cola products are consumed.

The toilet featured in Hitchcock’s “Psycho” was the first flushing toilet to appear on-screen.

In 1983, a tiny fleck of paint off an earlier spacecraft hit the windshield of the orbiting space shuttle Challenger at 20,000 m.p.h., causing a crater to form in its windshield.

Pope John Paul II was the first papal Harlem Globetrotter. The team made him an honorary member in 2000 during a visit to the Vatican.

When Parker Brothers acquired the rights to the Ouija board and released its first version back in 1967, the game’s early sales trounced the company’s traditional bestseller, Monopoly.
**SGA Update: Student Activism Week**

This week is SGA Activism Week!! Check out the cool things we've got going on:

**Thursday, Oct. 9:** Letter-writing for Genocide Awareness from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Dreyfus University Center Conference Communication Workshops on Speech-making, Debate and Legislation writing from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the SGA Conference Room (054 DUC)

**Friday, Oct. 10:** Anti-War March at 3:30 p.m. in front of the DUC (sponsored by the Students for a Democratic Society)
Get Out the Vote and Support Your Local Skate Park Concert at 7:30 pm in The DUC Encore

Other than Activism Week, SGA is still working on registering voters. If you would like to register, stop by the SGA office (052 DUC) or look for people with clipboards all over campus. The election is in 26 days! Get out the vote and let your voice be heard!