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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - STEVENS POINT

Museum in jeopardy

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The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point's Museum of Natural History may have to fight for its survival yet again due to university budget shortfalls for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

The 41-year-old museum, which houses exhibits ranging from the African Savannah to the native Menominee clans, could be closed down or moved in the upcoming year.

"All programs are being evaluated in how they fit the core mission of the university," said Mark Nook, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs. "We're in the very early phases of how we will be evaluating our budget."

The museum has experienced the difficulty of a fluctuating budget and neglected artifacts throughout its existence.

"It suffered because it never had a real clear mission statement," said Ray Reser, interim director of the museum and director of the UW-SP archeology department. "You need a clear mission statement and focus to have a successful museum."

Reser spoke to professionals at Split Rock studios, a museum outfitter, and they estimated that moving the museum would cost \$800,000.

Although not opposed to the idea of moving the museum, Reser is concerned for the placement of artifacts, all of which have been donated.

Last year, Provost Nook developed a committee to make a value assessment of the museum.

"They turned in over 200 pages of recommendations, all in favor of keeping the museum and expanding its programs," Reser said.

The museum serves to educate not only UW-SP students, but the general public also. Its displays show real-life habitats from around the world, as well as the unique and diverse characteristics of a variety of ancient cultures.

Hundreds of eggs collected from various birds and containing valuable documented scientific data can be found in one area. Down the next corridor, an array of ocean mammals can be viewed.

Claire Smith, museum employee and research assistant to Reser, would like to initiate slow-food movement dinners at the museum "incorporating local foods." This would be an opportunity to bring in multiple departments she said.

The museum has granted visits to hundreds of schools around the state every year. It's open to the public while UW-SP classes are in session and cost of entry is free.

In order to increase exposure of the museum, Reser and Smith proposed the idea of representing a timeline from the Cambrian period to the present by placing stone-relief carvings along the east side of the Learning Resource Center.

They were denied due to the permanent nature of the project and

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Photo by Becka Schuelke

The UW-SP Museum of Natural History showcases many Native American artifacts in the library lobby area, including this bear.

Snow covers campus



Photo by Becka Schuelke

Chaos ensues as nature surprises Wisconsin with a day of snow and wind on Tuesday night, ruining the weeks of melting snow and semi-warmth that had brought out bikes and outdoor activities amongst all.

Clinton acknowledges significance of UW-SP students' Thailand Project

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Two art students from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point flew to Austin, Texas, this weekend to further expose their Thailand Project at the Clinton Global Initiative University.

Students Joseph Quinnell and Susan Perri, with vice chancellor of student affairs Bob Tomlinson, shared the stage with former President Bill Clinton as their project was featured in front of thousands Friday night.

They were one of four groups chosen to present at the CGI-U, after passing a rigorous application process, because of the commendable ideals encompassed in their project.

"I think it's a wonderful thing they're doing," Clinton said of the Thailand Project. "And again, we wanted them up here to show you that this is an affordable, doable thing that could be replicated on every campus in America."

Along with Clinton and university students from across the globe, Quinnell and Perri shared the Thailand Project with actress and activist

Natalie Portman, documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock, CNN's Paul Begala, NBC's Luke Russert, Cambodian author and human rights advocate Somaly Mam, author of the New York Times bestseller "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier" Ishmael Beah, and president of San Francisco State University Robert Corrigan.

"This is one of those things that everybody is against and hardly anybody does anything about it," Clinton said.

As part of the Clinton Foundation, CGI-U facilitates as a networking tool for students who design special projects initiating global change. The exposure could be beneficial to finding support for the Thailand Project.

Although the main hope is to gain awareness for the project, the issue of funding the two Thai students remains.

They need about \$16,000 per year for each student to receive their four-year bachelor's degree, said Quinnell. Currently, their funds will run out by the end of this summer if they don't raise enough money.

"There's no state resources going

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News

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into this," Tomlinson said. "Every penny that people donate goes to support the two students from Thailand."

The project has survived off of private gifts and donations since it began.

Quinnell and Perri worked tirelessly for three years persuading international officials on both ends to bring two stateless women with no citizenship and no birth certificates from Thailand to study at UW-SP.

Stateless individuals can be found in many third-world countries around the globe. These often disenfranchised nobodies are highly susceptible to horrible environments like human trafficking, such as sex slavery and exploitative child labor conditions. They are denied health care, education and the ability to travel outside their district.

The project was thought to be impossible by several, but this did not stop Quinnell and Perri from achieving the incomparable as they brought Srinuan "Aor" Saokhamnuan and Fongtip Boonsri to the United States on Aug. 25, 2008.

Fongtip and Aor spend about 20 hours a week in an English as a second language class. Students from previous winterim abroad programs to Thailand volunteer their time to help the women study outside of the classroom.

"It's a remarkable story about what one student can do," Tomlinson said. "I'm just proud to be associated with it."

To provide further awareness, Quinnell and Perri created a winterim study abroad program at UW-SP sending College of Fine Arts and Communication students to Thailand.

"It's the creative problem solving through being an artist," Quinnell said. "That's how we do our work."

Students traveled to Mai Sai, Thailand, to share their artistic abilities with the young people attending the Development Education Program for Daughters and Communities. It's a non-government organization that serves to educate and accommodate young girls and boys at risk of human trafficking. It was founded by two-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Sompop Jantraka.

"I feel very fortunate about this opportunity to see the world. It changed the way that I live my life here, in America," said recent attendee Kelsey Madsen. "There's greater work to be done than just making money ... It made me realize all the gifts we have and let go to waste in our society."

It's unmistakable that the winterim program has impacted many of the students who have gone abroad contributing their efforts in Thailand.

"I want to go back so bad. I think about it every day," KatyBeth Austin, another recent attendee, said. "I miss my kids."

The short-term goals of the Thailand Project are to raise enough money for the two women to continue their college education.

Looking further into the future is "kinda crystal ball gazing right now," Tomlinson said.

Quinnell and Perri are being encouraged to set up an independent, non-profit organization which will partner with UW-SP.

"If UW-SP wishes to serve as the mother ship [to higher education as humanitarian aid], then, we will set up an endowment at the university of over \$2 million," Quinnell said.

This would allow for two students at a time to be constantly attending UW-SP far into the future.

"I don't want them [Thai students] to be seen as victims. I want them to be seen as the solution. I want people to clearly understand that there is no quick fix for the issue of child prostitution and human trafficking," Quinnell said. "Our project is a long-term process that's an investment."

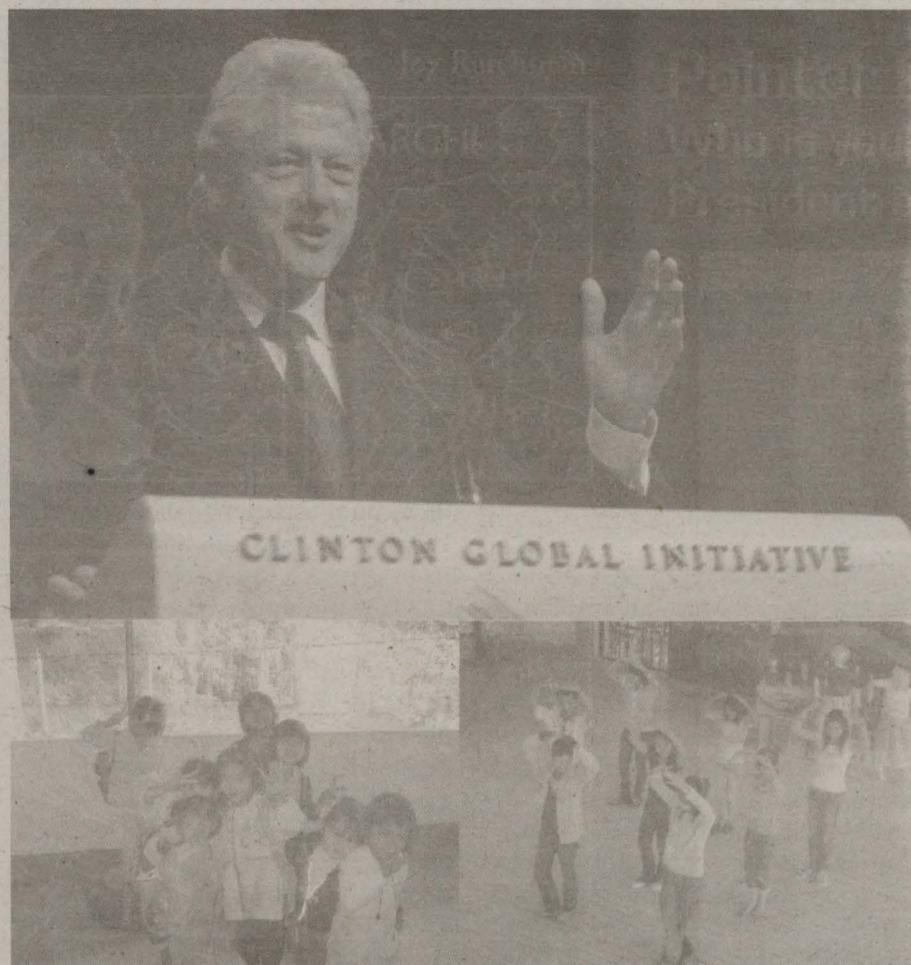
After they receive their degrees and go back to Thailand, Aor wants to be a spokeswoman for Sompop's organization and Fongtip wants to counsel victims of human trafficking. They will continue their fight against statelessness and child exploitation from inside their country.

"We are still not good every day as we are in an emergency," Clinton said at the CGI-U.

Quinnell expressed his continued concern for the urgency of the issues at hand.

"I just want to say the rape of children is an emergency," said Quinnell.

For more information about the Thailand Project and to help Aor and Fongtip continue their education at UW-SP, visit <http://www.thethailandproject.org/> or join the Facebook group: UW-SP Thailand Project.



Courtesy of Clinton Global Initiative and KatyBeth Austin

President Bill Clinton brought students on stage from UW-SP to speak about the Thailand Project at the Clinton Global Initiative University in Texas (top). Children from Thailand pose happily for photos taken by UW-SP students recently in the country (left). Children from Thailand practice dance while within the schools (right).

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO <http://www.uwsp.edu/InfoSecurity/Awareness/Phishing>

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the uncertain future of the museum, said Nook.

The museum has also lacked a proper accession, or a complete inventory, including detailed description, identification and photos of its artifacts. This is the first step in determining the museum's educational value and its research potential, said Reser.

This process will lead to professional accreditation which is vital for any possible grant funding, active research and exchange

programs among national and international institutions, said Reser.

"We really do need to have this collection properly accessioned before a decision can be made for the future of the museum," Nook said. "Without it being completed, we cannot move forward."

Reser will submit his report of the accession by the end of May with his assessment of the educational value of the museum.

The administration will be meeting with others at the end of this month to further discuss the outlook of the museum.



Photo by Jenna Sprattler

The museum displays many animals that students do not always get to see.

SIEO attempts to recognize students for volunteering

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The Ultimate Service Challenge is an opportunity for individuals and student organizations alike to volunteer around the Stevens Point community.

The Student Involvement and Employment Office at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point instituted the challenge this year as a way for volunteers to be recognized and rewarded for their volunteer efforts.

The challenge is ongoing and volunteers can sign up and log hours until April 1.

"Individuals and student organizations can determine how many hours they want to pledge," said Shannon Chronister, student involvement and employment coordinator. "They're not really competing against other people. They're basically setting a goal for themselves."

SIEO has an online form that volunteers have to fill out in order to pledge a certain number of volunteer hours. After the volunteer activity has been completed, the hours worked are logged into the SIEO Web site.

Volunteers have pledged as few as 10 and as many as 250 hours.

"It's really up to each individual how many hours they wanted to volunteer this year," said Chronister.

When the number of pledged

hours have been completed, the volunteers are eligible for a prize drawing. Prizes include gift certificates, catering vouchers for a student organization and other UW-SP items.

Volunteer opportunities can be found at the SIEO desk in the lower level of the Dreyfus University Center.

This year, students have served dinner at the Salvation Army and taught religious classes at their churches. Tao Kappa Epsilon worked the finish line at the Frostbite Run. The Public Relations Student Society of America worked at a Habitat for Humanity ceremony.

Other volunteer opportunities are available at the Boys and Girls Club and Destiny Point, a women's shelter.

"Most of the service work that's being done is through a non-profit agency in the community," said Chronister.

"Be the Change" is an upcoming, community-wide volunteer opportunity on March 28. For more information contact SIEO at sieo@uwsp.edu.

"I'd like to see more participation," said Chronister, "I think we could do a better job of trying to promote it to individuals. We've really pushed it with student organizations. I would like to show... that this is for anyone and everyone, not just student organizations."

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Pointlife

The debate over Debot dining

Katie Holden
POINTLIFE REPORTER

Rumors about Debot dining continue to raise questions about the food's quality. Despite the cheap options, many say they wonder about nutritional value and believe they can get a better deal elsewhere.

Many University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point freshmen say they have never eaten at Debot after hearing complaints from older students and friends. The word has spread to stay away from Debot, but is the food really that bad?

Many seem to favor the lower level over the upper level in Debot. Students feel that the upper floor reminds them of high school cafeteria food. For various reasons, people have a variety of excuses to opt out of eating there.

Michael Debruin, a UW-SP student, cites nutritional value for choosing to stay away from Debot.

"Every time I ate at upper Debot, I felt sick and the amount of grease on everything was horrible," Debruin said.

Then there's the biggest problem of them all: bowel movements. A student who wishes to remain

anonymous states what many probably already know.

"The food has to make you have to poop about 15 minutes after you eat it."

Despite being tight on money, UW-SP students think that sparing extra cash on food is worth the expenditure, because eating the same food gets sickening.

When students aren't eating on campus it doesn't mean they are spending a lot of money elsewhere in fancy restaurants. The two most common alternatives are frequenting grocery stores and cheap restaurants.

Some students who frequent Debot agree that the food at times can be unpleasant, but is often delectable. They feel that hype over the "bad" food overshadows the actual taste.

Jerry Wilson, a University Center dining employee, cites low funding as his biggest obstacle. He notes that the program gets merely \$5.08 per day to feed one student three meals.

Despite being on a tight budget, he wants students to know that the food is brand name, including the beef, chicken and fish all of which aren't filled with chemicals. Wilson adds that the variety of choices, from pizzas to the burgers in The Grill, give students plenty of options. Also, everything is baked daily.



Photo by Becka Schuelke

Much has been made of the appetizing choices, or lack thereof, at the Debot Dining Facility. This student who has made his way to the dessert salad bar island in upper Debot has to make a few fateful decisions. The first one, which food should he dish up on his plate, and second should he eat it.

Health wise, two soups are offered per day, along with a full service salad bar and plenty of fruit and juice options.

"Where else in the community can you get all of these options for just over five bucks per day?" Wilson

asks.

Interestingly enough, UW-SP dining will stop contracting from the company. As of June 1, UW-SP dining will be run by the state. Perhaps this turnover will once again raise the debate over Debot dining.

Stevens Point: A place to rest your head

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Stevens Point may represent entirely different things to you and your fellow students. For instance, some think of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as their personal "boarding school" if you will, returning home every summer and a great majority of weekends. However, where is the divide? Do some students feel at home in Stevens Point, or is it merely the location of their higher education?

First, let's take a basic look at Stevens Point. Relocate-America.com ranks Stevens Point, Wis., as the sixth best place to live in the nation. The site comments, "Conveniently located in the center of the state, the Stevens Point area has something for everyone!"

Indeed it does. Surrounded by green space, such as the Portage County Park System and Schmeckle Reserve, not to mention the prestigious Sentry World golf course, Stevens Point does not disappoint the outdoor enthusiast.

Besides its outdoor attributes, Stevens Point also offers major employers, including Sentry Insurance, AIG Travel Guard, Lands' End and many others. Families are happy to find a wide variety of public, parochial and private schools as well.

But what things make Stevens Point a comfortable place for students?

"People feel at home...not too big, not too small, plenty of places to go out

and play pool, darts, shuffleboard or volleyball and softball leagues," said UW-SP Senior Hayden Schoone.

Indeed, Stevens Point has a number of activities that appeal to students, and it's quite clear that the ones that prefer a bigger campus, or bigger city, move on at their own will. Some prefer a larger mix of culture, or size of student body, disliking the almost "high school feel" of the Stevens Point campus.

Larger cities in Wisconsin, such as Madison, also draw a lot of students away from Stevens Point.

Mid-State Area Technical College student Ben Wurl-Koth how larger campuses can attract students.

"When moving from the northwoods looking for the right city to live in, Madison [has] more to offer than any others in the state, in terms of school and activities," said Wurl-Koth.

Significant areas of interest that make Madison more attractive are sporting and music venues, as well as Division I athletics.

"There are so many great shows in Madison that are hard to find anywhere else in Wisconsin," said Wurl-Koth.

Aside from being a great place to go to school, do students feel that Stevens Point is a good place to settle down? Senior Adam Mazzara sums it up best in his opinion.

"I would settle down here because Point is a growing metropolis with a wide variety of opportunities here and near by, it has a small town feel, in not such a small town," said Mazzara.

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Employers encourage attendance at job fair

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Need a job? Got a resume and nice pair of slacks? Perfect.

Get the ironing board out and get rid of the wrinkles in your resume and dress pants because the annual Central Wisconsin Collegiate Job Fair will take place this Tues., Feb. 24 in The Laird Room of the Dreyfus University Center from 12-4 p.m.

This job fair allows current students or graduates to connect with employers throughout Wisconsin who are seeking graduates interested in careers, as well as continuing students interested in internships or other practical experience.

Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Mid-State Technical College and UW-Colleges in Marshfield/Wood County and Wausau/Marathon County, the job fair offers free admission for UW-SP students or graduates as well as students from other Wisconsin colleges and universities.

"We recognize the importance of providing efficient ways to connect our students and graduates with employers," said Lorry Walters, associate director at UW-SP Career Services.

Approximately 40 employers from diverse divisions of the market, including employment services, non-profit, insurance/financial services, software/computing services, retail, manufacturing/production, transportation/logistics, sustainable agriculture, government/military, and medical research, will attend.

Some employers will return this year, such as Enterprise Rent-

A-Car, Footlocker.com/Eastbay, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network and Sentury Insurance. Others, such as Del Monte, Kmart, LaForce, Nekoosa Coated Products, Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative and UniFirst Corporation, are attending for the first time.

Employers that have attended the job fair in the past advise that students come professionally dressed with a proficient resume and knowledge of the companies attending.

Walters agrees, advising that this is a "professional event." She recommends dressing in business professional or business casual attire, bringing copies of resumes and materials to take notes with, and most importantly, a positive attitude.

Staff from Career Services will be on site at the fair to provide assistance to students and graduates that have questions or would like their resumes critiqued.

In addition, UW-SP Career Services staff will be in the concourse of the DUC from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. to answer questions and provide information on Thursday, Feb. 19 as well as Monday, Feb. 23.

Programs are offered by UW-SP Career Services to help with resume writing, interview preparation, job fair preparation and other topics. This is available at <http://www.uwsp.edu/career> (select "Career Programs Spring 2009").

For further information, contact Stephany Hartman from MSTC at 715-422-5389 or Lorry Walters from UW-SP at 715-346-3938.

The Web site for the event provides a directory of participating employers at <http://mstc.edu/jobfair.hrm>.

Self-Defense is more than one swift kick

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In the 1990s, a popular phrase was to "kick 'em in the jimmy." However, it is suggested that in self-defense, this is not always the way to go when trying to save your life from being victimized.

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, Gamma Phi Delta sorority sponsored a women's self-defense class at the Allen Center. Created by the sorority to primarily be a wellness event for their organization, it was also presented as a serious means of protection for women on campus.

"With our primary focus being

end up in less pain, and chances are, more angry," said Mealy to the eager and willing female participants.

Mealy proceeded to discuss the most effective methods for avoiding attacks before they start.

When walking, maintain posture by walking tall and confident and sustaining eye contact with those on your journey.

When approaching a car, do it with a key in hand, ready to unlock the door, not in a purse, so it doesn't have to be searched for. Take time to notice if there is a van parked adjacent to your automobile; be wary of it, as assailants may simply grab the victim and toss them into the van. It is also recommended to check under your car as attackers may seek to hide

"The attacker can block your knee with his knee, and chances are he will end up in less pain, and chances are, more angry."

- Mealy

philanthropic events on campus and in the community, we very much felt this was a prime example of this," said Holly Soik, Gamma Phi Delta president.

Kyle Mealy, president of the Tae Kwon Do Club on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus, led the presentation. Right off, Mealy suggested that going straight for the groin, although a known method, may not be automatically effective.

"The attacker can block your knee with his knee, and chances are, he will

underneath and grab at the ankles of the victim. Finally, when entering the car, do a cursory check of the backseat to make sure the assailant is not camping out there.

He went on to explain how to break hair holds, chokeholds, wrist holds and bear hugs and also how to emphasize and center on the attacker's pressure points.

The main action for the victim if they are found to be in the attacker's grasp is to be thinking attentively in the moment. Recognizing how each hold is applied, and how the attacker is standing, are principles the victim can use to their advantage. Whichever way the attacker moves, the victim should move the opposite way. If one technique does not work it can be counteracted by another one. If that does not work, try another option. Not all hold breaks work on every attacker, so it is very important for the victim to be cognizant of all the breaks available to them.

Towards the end of the session, when asked by a participant if it "is ok, to just act crazy or frantic, to take the place of action?" Mealy was in wide disagreement with that idea.

"You can scream 'fire' to catch others' attention, but in order to break free, the resistance provided the attacker must be directed," said Mealy. "Anything must be done physically to get away from him."

This is when, and only when, the widespread methods such as kneeling in the groin and poking in the eyes should be employed.

As not all techniques for protection were covered comprehensively in this article, please note that if your organization is looking to learn more about women's self-defense, Mealy is open to teaching further classes and giving further pointers. He can be contacted at kmeal695@uwsp.edu.



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Science & Outdoors

UW-SP group to help ban phosphorus in fertilizer

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A group at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is committed to assisting in the goal of passing the first environmental victory of the year for the state.

The hope is to encourage legislators, through petition signatures, e-mails and postcards, to pass the Clean Lakes Bill, which prohibits the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers.

The Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group at UW-SP is finishing up their "Save our Lakes" campaign with about 90 postcards and 80 e-mails petitioning the bill, said Kevin Hite, the group's environmental coordinator.

"It's calling for a statewide ban on the retail sale of phosphorus containing fertilizer," said Colleen Kiefer, WISPIRG president. "It's not a ban on agriculture use; it's only for non-agriculture commercial products."

Polluted runoff is the state's number-one water quality problem,

according to the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. It occurs when chemicals like phosphorus flow into nearby surface waters instead of seeping into the soil.

This has led to eutrophication in many lakes which develops from the access of nutrient-rich chemicals in fertilizers or sewage, like phosphorus. These nutrients contribute to an overgrowth of plant life which depletes the amount of oxygen in the water, such as an algae bloom. Plants and organisms in these infected waters become threatened by the lack of oxygen.

These lawn fertilizers are degrading 90 percent of Wis. inland lakes and could be triggering an increase of invasive species, said Hite.

Minnesota was the first state in the U.S. to pass a ban on the retail sale of phosphorus fertilizer in 2002.

Dane county followed in 2004, and like Minn., the ordinance allows citizens a soil test to determine whether or not their soil is depleted of nutrients and, therefore, able to use phosphorus lawn fertilizer.

"You need to get a proper soil test to prove that there is a deficiency,"

Hite said. "Then you can purchase the proper fertilizer, which is very few spots in Wisconsin."

WISPIRG has been tabling in the Dreyfus University Center to get students to send their comments to legislators to pass the bill, said Kiefer.

Members of the group will be attending the WI League of Conservation Voters Lobby Day in Madison next Wednesday. They will speak with state representatives to show how important this issue is, said Hite.

Postcards can be filled out at <http://www.wisconsinenvironment.org/action/clean-water?id4=ES> or you can e-mail a representative with any concerns.

WISPIRG meets every Monday at 7 p.m. in conference room 054 of the DUC.

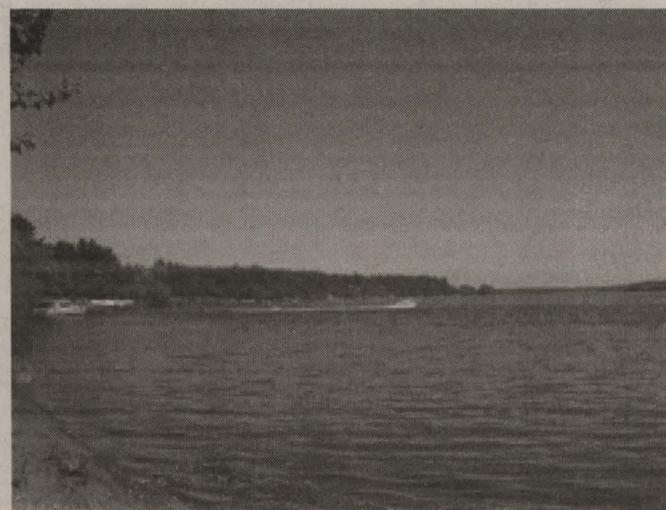


Photo courtesy of wisconsinlakes.com

WISPIRG is trying to halt the spread of phosphorus in Wisconsin's lakes, such as Lake Dubay in Portage Co.

Send your health & medical questions to:

kbose675@uwsp.edu

Have them answered in Health Point!

A week of wellness

Allyson Taubenheim
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The annual Week of Wellness at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point isn't over yet. Starting Feb. 16 and ending Feb. 20, these five days, sponsored by the Allen Center are devoted to encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

During the event, students, staff and alumni are able to enjoy a week of free workouts, food, prizes and other services.

The Week of Wellness debuted three years ago under the supervision of Stacey Duellman, the programs and promotion coordinator at the Allen Center. Duellman promotes the week as a way to "celebrate wellness." She defines the program as "a way for students to become familiar with how to maintain a healthy lifestyle through the programs and equipment offered at the Allen Center."

"It's great for people who want to get healthy, but maybe don't know how," said Melissa VanWeele, desk attendant at the Cardio Center.

Free admittance to the Cardio Center kicked off the week on Monday, Feb. 16, allowing any student to workout with no charge by simply showing their student ID. The offer ends on Friday.

Free fitness assessments were also available on Monday. Sponsored by the Student Health Promotion Office, these assessments were given from 7-9 p.m. in the Cardio Center. Testing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle

endurance, strength, flexibility and body composition, this assessment placed students into specific categories based on performance, with tips on how to improve wellness.

The second day devoted to wellness offered a free Group Fitness Zumba class at the Cardio Center. It lasted nearly two hours, giving prizes to those who completed the class. Prizes included water bottles, sling bags and t-shirts.

Other prizes can be won through raffles available by sign-up at the Cardio Center.

Sophomore Lydia Schultz, who attended the Group Fitness class in last year's Week of Wellness, said it was demanding, but very fulfilling.

If you still want to get involved, it's not too late. Free chair massages are available Thursday from 5-6 p.m. in the upper Allen Center. Sign up at the Cardio Center front desk.

Paraffin hand dips, sponsored by Mind and Body Connections, are also available at the upper Allen Center from 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. on Thursday.

Finally, on Friday, Feb. 20, a free stress relief session will take place from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in room 004 of the lower Allen Center.

Health advocate, Lyndsey Genin calls Wellness Week fun and a great opportunity to promot services offered every day, that studens may not know about.

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Skill, Care, and Comfort Beyond Your Expectations

Health Point: Dry drowning

Katie Boseo
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A 10-year-old boy from South Carolina was enjoying a nice day of swimming in the summer of 2008, just as many people do during the warm summer months. However, the night after he went swimming, his parents found him dead in his bed.

Medical records show that the boy had suffered from pulmonary edema, but most believed it was dry drowning, a medical phenomenon few people had heard of prior to this incident.

The fear of dry drowning spread rapidly through the country and many people are still confused about what dry drowning actually is.

"Dry drowning occurs when a noxious or extremely cold stimulant, such as water, comes in contact with the vocal chords, causing them to automatically close," Dr. Robert Wiprud, associate professor at the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, said in a news release. "When they close, you can't breathe. The harder you try to breathe, the worse the situation can become because the entire airway can

collapse."

When water is taken into the lungs, there is a natural mechanism for the larynx to spasm to stop more water from entering the lungs. Dry drowning can occur when a person is not in any sort of liquid. The spasm of the larynx can cause asphyxiation (choking) and pulmonary edema (respiratory failure), such as the case of the 10-year-old boy.

The statistics vary, but somewhere from 15 to 20 percent of drowning victims suffer from dry drowning. Though dry drowning is rare, there are signs to watch for.

"Look for shortness of breath, unexplained fatigue and sleepiness and mental status changes," said Dr. Wiprud.

According to WebMd.com, children and adults with underlying lung problems, such as asthma, are at a higher risk for drowning. If caught early enough, dry drowning can be treated by supplying oxygen to the lungs and restarting the breathing process.

Dr. Wiprud also warns against overreacting about dry drowning. Millions of people who go swimming every summer are completely safe and are never victims of dry drowning.

Outdoor Ed Ventures and RENTALS

Number two in the woods

Dana Johnson
SCIENCE & OUTDOORS REPORTER

When looking to spend some time outdoors, there are a lot of questions to consider: where are the best spots, what sort of clothing to wear and what gear is going to hold up the longest? These are all very good to ponder, but if you get one wrong, you just add a little more adventure and learn for the next time. Now, it's the things that don't get asked that can really ruin a trip. Case in point: Ya'll need to know how to poop in the woods.

Don't worry, you have options!

The tree hugger and reverse: This is fairly simple. Use the tree as though it is a wall and lean your back up against it to hold you as you bend your knees to 90 degrees. The reverse works just as well. Here, find a tree you can comfortably reach your arms around. Hug your new friend, and bend your knees to a comfortable angle to do the doo doo.

Frog and the crab: These are unassisted positions. For the frog, you need to be confident of your aim. This is just a plain squat. The image conjures up the bomb drill stance or lightning stance. The Crab lets you open up more. Remember gym class when you had to cross the floor on hands and feet with your face to the ceiling and your buttocks trailing on the ground? Do that, but lift your rear a little.

The logger: This is perhaps the most comfortable position because it most closely resembles the position we are used to. It can, however, get some bark or moss on the back of your thighs. Find a downed tree, drop trou, and

hang off the back side. Or, to avoid the gritty thighs, modify the crab and give yourself a little elevation with your hands.

Partner time: No logs? No trees? Don't have good balance? This is the one for you! Find your buddy, stand face to face and hold both of their hands. You then lean back, counter force until you are positioned in a similar stance as the tree hugger. What's the best part of this? You don't have to wait turns! This works simultaneously for both participants!

As always, remember to avoid attracting little and big fuzzy creatures by digging a hole six inches deep to mask your smelly smells. No shovel? No problem. Turn over a rock for your potty and simply replace the cover when you are finished. No TP? No problem. Leaves, smooth sticks and small smooth stones work just as well. It's actually much better than having to pack up your soiled papers. Just remember this rule of thumb for using leaves: reach from above, not below and look at the leaf before you go.



Photo courtesy of argusworld.blogspot.com

Life would be much easier if nature came equipped with toilets, but since you rarely find one in the woods, you will have to use some other method to relieve yourself.

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Sports

Pointer wrestlers injured, on the mend for WIAC

Rochelle Nechuta
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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point wrestlers finished their regular season on a winning note Saturday, Feb. 14, against the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Despite the discouraging 35-10 loss to number one Augsburg the night before, the Pointers handled UW-Eau Claire in a definitive 26-15 win.

"It's a pretty tough match to come off of wrestling number one Augsburg last night," coach Johnny Johnson said. "It was a tough loss to take, but I think that we wrestled pretty well today."

The team will focus on wellness in the upcoming week in order to prepare for the Wisconsin Intercollegiate

Athletic Association Championship tournament in Oshkosh, Wis.

"The first thing we're going to focus on is getting healthy," Johnson said. "Then we're going to focus on going out and wrestling in our style, which is aggressive."

The team will need to work themselves hard in the next week to prepare themselves both physically and mentally for the tough tournament ahead.

"The reality of our sport is that if you go to the conference tournament one hundred percent healthy, you're an anomaly because most guys are beat up," Johnson said.

Seniors Jake Wozniak (141), Chase DeCleene (165) and sophomore Ben Engelland (184) tallied the only wins against Augsburg on Friday, Feb. 20. All three added victorious matches in the 26-15 Blugold win as well.

"It is kind of a prelude to the conference tournament," Johnson said.



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

Sophomore Kris Magruder at 149 lbs. battled UW-Eau Claire's Andy Johnson for a 3-1 loss.

"Every match is important. Now we just need to sit back and start training and get ready for conference."

The unsung heroes of UW-SP sports: The pep band

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It's safe to say men's basketball and hockey games are big events in Stevens Point. Students and citizens show up to see the checking of bodies into the glass and the sinking of three point shots before the buzzer. The praises of the games' heroes are audible all around the arena after the game the arching sound of voices is second only to that of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Pep Band.

As this year's basketball and hockey seasons come to a close, so does another year of playing songs to rally the crowd for pep band members. Pep band, which is offered as a one-credit course at UW-SP, was close to becoming non-existent this year after the retirement of Paul Doebler who had directed the band for 27 years.

The pep band found its savior in UW-SP alumna Abigail Kreisa. Kreisa, who now teaches elementary music in Wisconsin Rapids, took the

position and gave up some of her nights off, using her energy to keep the tradition of pep band alive.

The band has around 35 members, 15 to 20 of which can usually be found at the games. For most of the students participating in pep band is just a hobby, most of the players aren't even music majors. Unlike many of the bands in the music department, no audition is required so anyone who wants to join can join.

"The purpose of pep band is just to play music, not so much talent level, the music isn't too difficult you can catch on pretty fast," said percussionist and third year pep band member Scott Clark.

Most of the commitment involved with pep band is simply showing up the games ready to play. The band only practices three times before the first game of the season. The practices are always on Thursday and the structure is rather simple: they run through their complete list of songs.

"That's all the practicing we do. It's not that we don't care, but they're

easy songs and we play them every weekend. A lot of people come back every year. Especially after your second year, you just know all the songs," said Clark.

These students offer their time and talents to make men's hockey

and basketball games more enjoyable for everyone. Pep band is there for the moments when the team is down by 20 with only a minute to go and all hope is essentially lost so all the

See **Pep band** pg. 10



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

The pep band pumping up the crowd at a men's hockey game.

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Pointers say farewell to seniors with win

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Men's hockey team notched its fifteenth win of the season Saturday night, outscoring the Blugolds of UW-Eau Claire 5-4.

UW-SP, 6-7-1 in NCHA play and 15-8-2 overall, gave Point fans a Valentine's Day gift to remember in what was a high-scoring, physical showdown.

UW-Eau Claire wasted no time getting on the board when right wing Jesse Vesel lit the lamp early in the first period, only to see UW-SP forward Luke Nesper score back-to-back goals in response.

"It was nice to score two goals, but we knew we had to keep playing hard," said Nesper. UW-SP senior Taylor Guay added another high wrist shot shortly after, but the Blugolds had other plans as Tyler Trudell found the back of the net to leave the score at 2-3 in Point's favor going into the second period.

Fans saw UW-Eau Claire take control of the game early in second period as the quick Blugold offense put away two goals in the first nine minutes from Greg Petersen and Tyler Romasco, but the lead would change hands yet again late in the second period. Sean Fish and Reed Lally both beat the Blugold goaltender to secure



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

A group of 12 senior men's hockey players saluting the home crowd for the final time on Saturday, Feb. 14, before the 5-4 victory over UW-Eau Claire.

the lead going into the third period 5-4.

The third period remained scoreless despite close chances and a 6-on-3 Blugold power play in the final two minutes to give the Pointers the final decision in their last conference game.

"**-"We just kept on our heels in the third period and outplayed them," said head coach Will Nichols.

Pointer fans were not disappointed on senior night, as they saw the Pointers, unranked but still receiving votes, clench their fifteenth home game, a feat that hasn't been accomplished since the 2002-2003

season. However, the Pointers post-season will be decided in the WIAC tournament, whose winner will receive an automatic bid to the national tournament. If UW-SP fails to win the tournament, a committee will decide who receives an at-large bid from the conference to the national tournament.

With the Pointer win Saturday night, UW-SP secures the No. 5 seed in the NCHA playoffs and will travel to Cornerstone Community Ice Center in Ashwaubenon, to face last year's NCAA Division III Champion Green Knights of St. Norbert College on Friday and Saturday.



Rochelle Nechuta
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Women's hockey

The Pointers skated their final home game to a 0-0 tie against the Gustavus Adolphus women's team Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009.

It was the second game this season that the teams ended in a deadlocked overtime period. UW-SP took 17 shots in their sixth tie and Pointer goalie d'Andra Phillips stonewalled 24 shots for her fifth shutout in the nonconference match up.

Currently 10-3-6 overall, the Pointers travel to Adrian, Mich., where they will play a double-header on Saturday, Feb. 21 and Sunday, Feb. 22.

Men's basketball

The Pointers beat UW-La Crosse on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, with a 78-62 victory that ushered them into their 25th Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference season title.

With an additional win in their 14-1 WIAC record, and a UW-Platteville loss against UW-Eau Claire on Wednesday night, the Pointers were placed into the top seed spot in the upcoming WIAC Championship tournament.

Senior guard Khalifa El-Amin led the charge with 17 points, while Matt Moses and Bryan Beamish both added 12-point contributions in the win.

Up next for the Pointers is the final regular season game at Bennett Court against number four-ranked UW-Platteville on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m.

Wrestling

Senior wrestler Chase DeCleene earned the WIAC Athlete of the Week award for Feb. 17, 2009.

DeCleene earned two wins during the past week to finish the regular season with a 24-10 record and a total of nine pins on the mat.



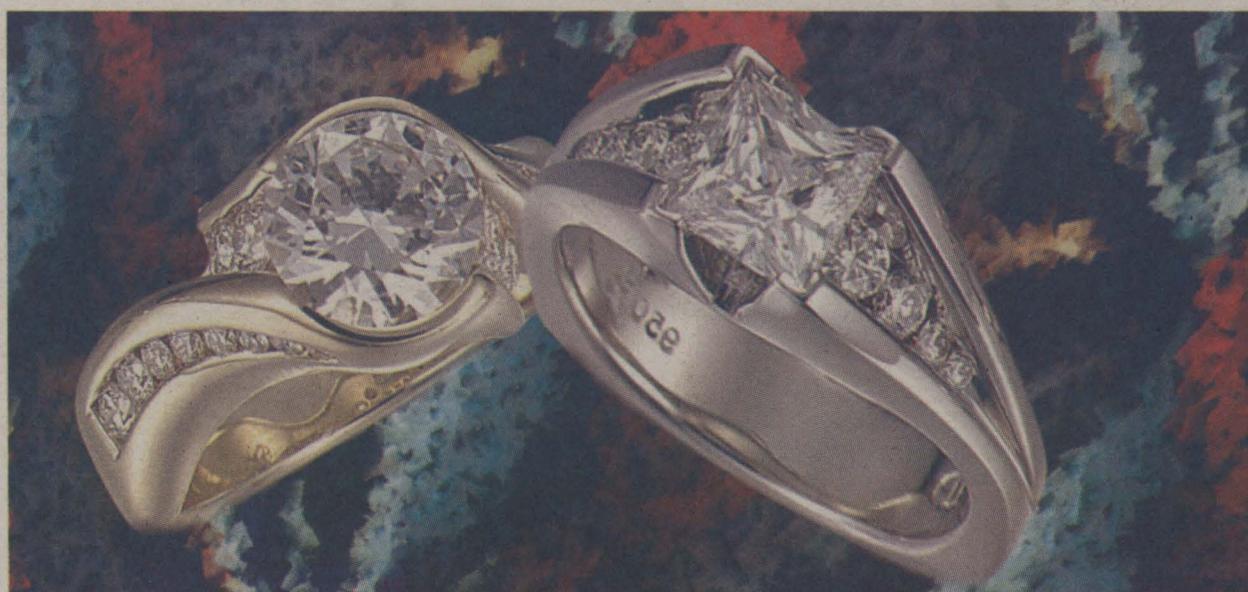
Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

Senior Tim Manthey at a face-off.



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

Pointer freshman Jon Madden fighting for the puck against Blugold defenders. Madden leads the Pointers with 16 goals and 13 assists.



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Sports

Pointers beat La Crosse, snag top WIAC spot

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The Pointers women's basketball team won at least a portion of its fourth Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season title in history, their first since the 2005 season.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point cemented the title in a 63-61 victory against the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse on Wednesday night. The team will need a win

"I think everyone pulled together tonight; we played really great together at the end and came up with the win."

-Baker

next week against UW-Platteville on Saturday to pick up the top spot in the upcoming WIAC Championship tournament.

The Pointers defeated the Eagles after tying the game 25-25 at halftime and once again at 45-45 midway through the second half. Three key free throws from freshman Cassie Bandow within the last minute of play led the Pointers to the victory.

From **Pep band** pg. 8

purple and gold hearts in the stand can be lifted with the sound of "Zuit Suit Riot."

"I think it gets people pumped up, you know; we play upbeat exciting music that people like; its entertaining," said Clark. "I think when no one else is getting rowdy, we do; it's been the role of the pep band to get people into it."

The excitement of the crowd, one credit and the enjoyment of playing music are the few perks of being in the pep band.

"It's a tribute to our program to win 20 games every year, year in and year out, bringing in a batch of new kids every year," UW-SP coach Shirley Egner said. "It's a tribute to our kids buying into our system."

The Pointers scored 24 points off turnovers in the win, taking advantage of the opportunities they were handed. After a disappointing loss to UW-Whitewater on Saturday, Feb. 14, the team needed to get back on track to cement the top-WIAC spot, even if they end up sharing it with UW-Whitewater, who needs a win and a Pointer loss on Saturday, Feb. 21, to share the title.

"It's really exciting and it says a lot about all the hard work our team puts into the program," senior forward Ashley Baker said. "La Crosse definitely put up a fight tonight; I think everyone pulled together tonight; we played really great together at the end and came up with the win."

Baker led the team when she earned a career-high 18 points and eight rebounds in the game. Britta Peterson added 14 points to the scoreboard and also had eight rebounds.

"I do it just to play music; I've played music all my life. To bang on the drums or play that cowbell, it's for my pleasure," said Clark.

There aren't many incentives beyond personal enjoyment, but that doesn't mean that pep band isn't a valuable part of home games. Without pep band, the events wouldn't be the same. The entrance of the hockey team onto the ice wouldn't be as exciting without the "Hey Song." The battling of teams from Minnesota wouldn't be as satisfying without the roar of the crowd during "On Wisconsin." Just a static of voices ringing throughout the arena would be left; where's the fun in that?

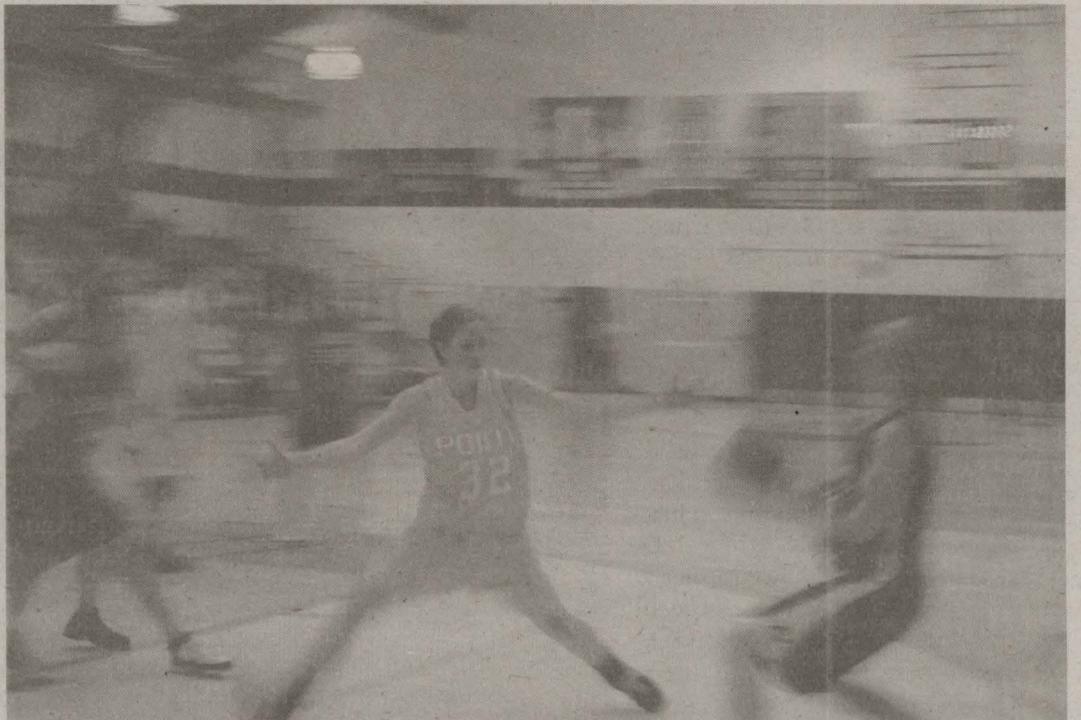


Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

Senior Ashley Baker defending in the UW-La Crosse victory. Baker donned a pastel pink jersey for Pink Zone night in honor of breast cancer awareness.

This past week, the UW-SP women's basketball team was ranked eighth in the D3hoops.com poll despite suffering a 61-59 loss to UW-Whitewater on Saturday, Feb. 14.

The team will need a win next week against UW-Platteville on Saturday to pick up the top spot for themselves and knock UW-Whitewater into second place. They would then become top seed for the upcoming

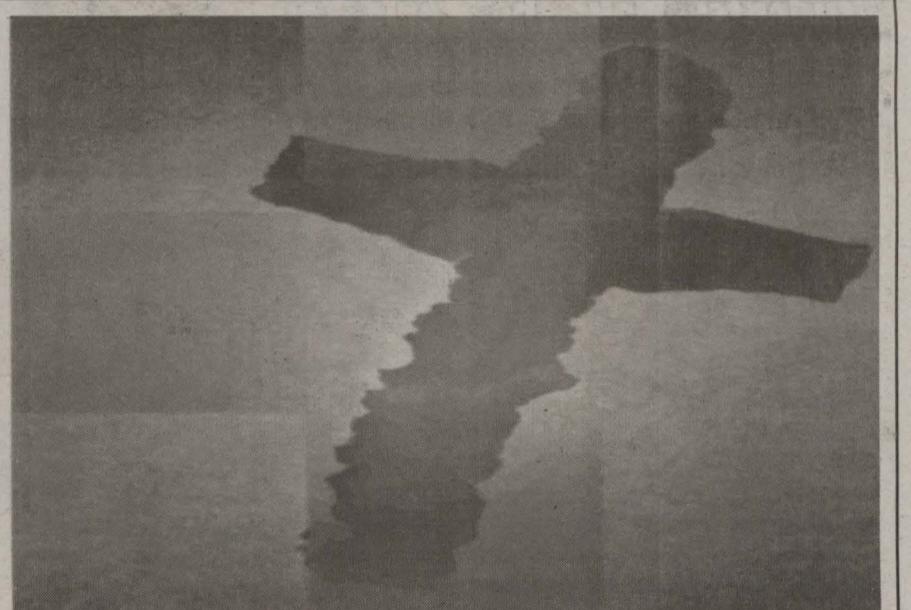
WIAC Championship tournament.

"When you can win a WIAC championship and position yourself for the number one seed and if we can take care of business on Saturday, it doesn't get any better than that," Egner said.



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

Pep band percussionist Scott Clark is responsible for keeping the beat at a Pointer men's basketball game.



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Attendees of Soul Food Dinner left singing praises

Leah Gernetzke
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"Will we be serving ramen tonight?" This was the rhetorical question posed by Black Student Union member Charmario McMichael at the Sixteenth annual Soul Food Dinner last Sunday, Feb. 15., in The Laird Room of the Dreyfus University Center.

His counterpart in this introductory skit, BSU sergeant at arms Ebony Rhodes, was quick to retort, "I'm almost insulted you asked ... BSU members slaved in the kitchen all day to make this meal."

This meal, which was indeed cooked by members of BSU, as well as former restaurant owner Bill Right, may have included macaroni and cheese, but no ramen was in sight. Other comfort-food dishes like fried chicken and catfish, collard greens, cornbread, yams, sweet potato pie, peach cobbler, jambalaya and corn also graced the plate.

"We constantly have the chance to eat Chinese food or Japanese food, but we don't really have, especially in Stevens Point, a restaurant of African American food," Martina Spears, BSU's public relations representative,

said. "We put on Soul Food Dinner to have our university and people of Portage County to have the opportunity to feel what we look for in a meal and what we eat on a daily basis."

Although soul food may have been the main attraction, it wasn't all the event had to offer.

After the welcome speech by Rhodes and McMichael, BSU member Timothy Fair sang the black national anthem. The lyrics, an excerpt of which reads, "Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us/Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us/Facing the rising sun/Of a new day begun/Let us march on till victory is won," imbued a feeling of hope in the audience.

Another attendee also delivered a personal poem. The ending, which read, "And I know that when I leave it will seem as though I was never here/But I know just as well/That in time/Others will find/That we were/No, I was never here though

See **Soul Food** pg. 12



Photo by Leah Gernetzke

Milwaukee dance troupe Ko-Thi performs traditional African dance at Soul Food Dinner.

Cinema Appreciation Club brings diverse showing of films to campus

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The Cinema Appreciation Club, run by founder Sean Smalley and Jennie Wood, is back in full swing this semester, beginning with the films "Fanny and Alexander," directed by

Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman and "Tokyo Story," directed by Yasujiro Ozu. Both are considered masterpieces in the eyes of many film critics.

They continued their quest to share their knowledge of film this week, showing "Bringing up Baby" on Tuesday and "Down by Law" on Wednesday. "Bringing up Baby," directed by Howard Hawks and starring Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant, is a screwball comedy that tells the story of a scientist winding up in various quandaries involving a woman with a slightly skewed sense of reason and a leopard named Baby.

The films made for a very different, less abrasive start to the semester for the club in comparison with last semester's opening showing of "Pink Flamingos," much to the dismay of many in the audience. Directed by John Waters, this American transgressive comedy has become one of his most notorious films as a result of the shocking, taboo displaying of perverse acts.

"I knew after the involvement fair we were going to have a huge turnout and I kind of wanted to shock people and also at the same time wanted to weed some people out," Smalley said. "I know people go to the involvement fair looking for things to sign up for and they see movies and they think, 'oh, they're going to show 'Stepbrothers' or something, and that's not what we're about."

Audience members prematurely exiting from a film screening is nothing new for Smalley, who said he experienced it often when Cinema Appreciation Club was still known as Horror Film Society. According to Smalley, the intention of the club was never to shock people, but to show them great films they have no outlet

to see in Stevens Point.

"I am essentially trying to provide a forum for historically important and aesthetically important films that people don't have access to normally," said Smalley. "Some of them are 70-to-80-years-old and there's no way to see them in a theatrical setting in a place like Stevens Point."

Smalley started the organization after his freshman year of college after discovering the checkout program for films at the IMC, which includes loans from other university libraries. From there on out, he was hooked and began learning all he could about film.

"I found out that you can check movies out from the library and you can also check movies out from other university libraries," Smalley said. "So when I had that open to me, I took advantage of it and I was able to get copies of a lot of historically important films and see films by all these great directors."

After immersing himself in film books, blogs and taking the communication department's art of film class, he was ready to share his love of film with the campus. He began with founding the Horror Film Society. Eventually, though, he decided to broaden the scope of movies he showed, choosing movies from all genres instead. Now, he shows two films a week on campus for mostly small crowds.

Smalley tries to choose his movies from a critically objective standpoint. He said he looks at how each film is historically important, how it is aesthetically important and how it affected the ways filmmakers thought about the medium.

"I want to try and educate people about film history. For me, I consider film an art form and with any art form or medium of expression, there

See **Cinema** pg. 12

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Arts & Culture

Play "40 Days" floated to stage this past weekend

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"40 Days," the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's most recent production by the theatre department, provided a magnificent performance along with a profound message and advice to viewers of all ages and life stages.

"The playwright was very happy. She came to see the show and she was really thrilled with what we had done with it," director Tyler Marchant said.

it makes sense as the play continues. As the river level rises, the bathtub slowly fills and eventually overflows at a slow trickle until an unseen dam breaks and water comes rushing onto the stage, flooding it for the final duration of the play.

"There were over 600 gallons of water that were put on stage," said Marchant.

The actors, all UW-SP students, engaged in a stunning performance that makes the viewer truly care about their lives.

Senior Megan McHugh starred as Casey, the narrator of the play and a guiding force through many of the

changing dynamic that comes with marriage.

Junior Derek Prestly played Ed, a young man absentmindedly looking after his grandmother while at a stalemate with life. Senior Eric Harper played Ed's high school friend Paul, who is in town for a friend's wedding.

Prestly and Harper's characters interacted in a kind of stubborn awkwardness that is universal when seeing someone from long ago. The flood shocked Prestly's character into opening up to Harper and realizing who he is.

Junior Elizabeth McMonagle and senior James Roland Freer played Nicole and Vincent, an older couple who, after years of marriage, still don't fully understand each other.

A chorus of seven also moved the story along, uniquely acting as stagehands, props and extras.

Members of the audience have likely met all these characters before in daily life; everyone can relate to fighting couples, young people stuck in a life they don't fully know yet and someone coming back to their hometown to find that much has changed.

Through the traumatic experience of the flood, the young couple realizes their marriage isn't what they thought it was and the older couple comes to find they don't know everything they thought they did about each other.

The plot of the play revolves around the before-and-after events of the flood, but the water is just a catalyst for what is to come. The underlying theme is the good and bad that come from stress, tragedy and crises.

"The story was something that people in our part of the country can really relate to," senior Emily Groves said.



Photo courtesy of University of Relations and Communications

The cast of "40 days" performs around their central prop.

"40 Days" is the first fully-staged performance of the play written by Laura Eason. It's the story of seven people in a small Midwestern river town, not unlike Stevens Point.

The river running alongside the town is represented by a bathtub. Though this may seem obscure at first,

scenes. Her calm narration brought the audience along with the story and provided a guide throughout the performance.

Junior Tricia Collenburg and senior Andrew Hollenbeck played Anna and Dave, a young married couple, obviously still developing the

From **Cinema** pg. 11

are classics of each medium," Smalley said.

Even though they've taken a less brash route with film screenings so far this semester and the intention is to not shock but share, Smalley says there are still a few films they will show this year that people will walk out on. His film list for this semester is already decided and, according to him, contains some intense films.

"Some of the films we're showing this semester are really intense. We're showing a film called "Crash" that is essentially about people who enjoy crashing cars, and having sex in the cars, and watching crash test footage and getting off on that. It's a really bizarre film," Smalley said.

In the future, Smalley hopes to open the door for more discussion after the film screenings, something

from **Soul Food** pg. 11

I was born /But we will always be" likewise ended on a hopeful note and conveyed a sense of unity.

After the dinner, an award ceremony recognized Right and Multicultural Affairs Director Ron Strege for their contributions to the BSU.

Adding background ambiance before, during and after the meal were student jazz musicians Nick Claudio, Chris Dalzell, Ben Hedquist and Matt Andres.

For the first time in the 16 years the event has been held, a feature African dance troupe from Milwaukee, called Ko-Thi, entertained the satiated crowd. Audience members moved to

the rhythm of the group's hypnotic performance, which included the use of traditional African drums, costumes, music and dance.

"We definitely had something different this year; we never had an African dance group before," president of BSU Anthony Fuller said.

Overall, Fuller said he thought the sold-out event was a success.

"This was an amazing turnout," he said. "A lot of people came out to support us."

This support is in accordance with BSU's overall goal, which is to create a greater degree of unity and understanding among the

community. "The main goal for us is to have as many people join BSU as possible so we can make it more united for minority students on campus," Fuller said. "Our group wants to bring people together; we want to make everyone feel like family and that everyone is welcome."

Other upcoming events sponsored by the BSU include Gospel Fest on Saturday, March 28, in Michelson Hall and Cultural Fest on Saturday, May 2 at Stevens Point Area Senior High School. Contact Martina Spears at (414) 793-5204 for further information.

Librarian's pick of the week: "Hemingses of Monticello"

Patti Becker
COORDINATOR OF REFERENCE
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Arts and Culture editor's note: Librarian's pick of the week is a new addition written by a member of the library staff in order to engage and educate UW-SP students on diverse types of literature available through the IMC loan program.

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a piece of property? Considered three-fifths of a person by a Constitution that denied you rights?

In the "Hemingses of Monticello," Annette Gordon-Reed provides a look at a family that was the property of President Thomas Jefferson. Descendants of a union between an English sea captain and an enslaved African woman (whose name is now unknown), the Hemingses became Jefferson's property through his marriage to Martha Wayles Skelton.

Gordon-Reed focuses on the lives of several members of the Hemings family at Jefferson's Monticello estate and in Paris, where Jefferson lived for five years while on a diplomatic mission and where the widowed Jefferson entered into a thirty-eight-year relationship with his sixteen-year-old slave, Sally Hemings, his wife's half-sister who bore him seven children. Gordon-Reed discusses this often-disputed relationship in her book "Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy," which was published before DNA testing lent scientific credence to their alleged productive liaison.

After returning from Paris, the lives of Jefferson and the Hemingses continued to be intertwined, and members of the family, including his own children until they were twenty-one, remained his slaves until his death, when the family was dispersed as a way of settling Jefferson's debts.

"The Hemingses of Monticello" gives voice to the voiceless in this reconstruction of slave life by mining Jefferson's ledgers and other records, as well as extrapolating from contemporaneous events.

Check this book out at the library under the call number E332.74 .G67 2008.

To view video book recommendations by faculty and students, go to BookPointers, located at the bottom of the Library homepage: <http://library.uwsp.edu>

Letters & Opinion



Katie Leb
THE POINTER
KLEB524@UWSP.EDU

No clowning around: Let's quit this Wisconsin weather

That's it; I am joining the circus. In case you have not been to the circus, the events either take place inside (under the big top) or outside in more tropical-type temperatures. I have come to the conclusion that if I join the circus I will not have to deal with Wisconsin's yo-yo weather.

When I woke up yesterday morning, got ready for the day and then stepped outside, I was taken back to my childhood, a time when snow was beautiful. I gazed at the frosted trees and the Wisconsin terrain all wrapped up in its white blanket.

However, as soon as I stepped down from the front step, I snapped back to reality, remembering that it is mid-February and I was about to walk nine blocks to campus.

It baffles my mind that on Tuesday I was outside running on mostly clear sidewalks, but less than 24 hours later, I was trudging through a mess of snow and underlying slush. Thankfully I had my rubber boots to help me keep from having very cold and wet toes. Those of you who wear the ugly Uggs, I can only hope you also wear thick socks.

I have decided that the weather is a tease. It gives us one beautiful day, allowing pet owners to take their dogs for a stroll and young children to play in the driveway. But then, in true tease form, the very next day, the dog and child alike are stuck

with droopy eyes, staring out the frost-covered glass that is their living room window.

When I look back on my childhood, as if it was a great many years ago, I remember when the weather was predictable. Instead of the yo-yo effect, we had something more like the classic toboggan ride. The weather would march up the hill slowly, huffing and puffing as it went. Once it got to the top, though, it was all smiles. The following ride down the hill may have been short, but at least all of us watching the ride knew the outcome.

Now, you might as well toss a coin or shoot a dart to guess what the weather will be. I advise dressing in

layers each day in the hopes that you may be able to shed even one article of clothing by the end of the day.

In all my life I have only quit one thing: chewing gum. And even at that, I did chew a piece after a three-year hiatus, so really, did I quit?

I feel that the times are a changing; I declare here and now that I officially am quitting Wisconsin weather. From now on, I will not even acknowledge its existence. Instead, I am going to control my sense of weather. This will take great mental willpower from me, but I am up for the challenge.

The way I see it, the (at moment) weather is so bad, I have nothing more exciting to do.



Photo by Becca Schuelke

Waking up to see freshly-fallen snow can be refreshing, but when you get the tease of spring, snow is the last thing you want to see.

THE POINTER

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

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

Letters to the Editor

I would like to address something on my mind today. It's an issue of parking. I begin my daily routine trekking across Lot Q to reach the science building on time for classes. But, along the way, I have begun to notice more and more of something I find both comical and irksome. Yes, I am referring to those people who seem to insist on parking incompetently.

I am not referring to slight deviations from parking in the lines, I mean those cars that are halfway or even three-quarters over the line into the next space. Another problem is those cars that are only into a space a quarter of the way, blocking half the drive. There are even a few cars parked in the drive where they should not be. It's incredible. And it's not as if there is that much snow to obscure the lines.

Please, people, learn how to park properly so you do not end up on someone's "pictures of the crappiest parkers" Internet archive. It is not brain surgery.

Thank you,
-Eric Roscoe



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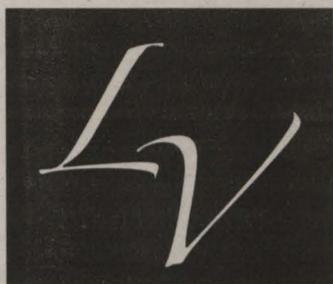


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Letters & Opinion



LADY V
LADYVUWSP@YAHOO.COM

Creeping around

smaller, even with a hunchback, and have a tendency to sneak up behind you when you least expect it. It even may be the off-handed vernacular It uses all the time and then is the only one who laughs (or grunts, snorts, whatever). Creepers also talk to themselves a lot. Make sure you look for headphones before you make any judgment calls.

*This level is when the creeper orders your drink for you. It is ready for you when you get there. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Just because It can. Some may mistake this for a friendly gesture, but if it possesses any of the creeper qualities, beware!

Severe - "I-am-so-calling-campus-security-on-your-ass"

Creeper: This is when you should be afraid. It is there every time you are alone. Because It knows your friends know, It scouts out when you aren't with anybody. Until you notify authorities, make sure you have someone with you at all times. Or just think, "WWSO" (What would Steve do?). Bracelets will be available at the bookstore, Brewhaus, dining service locations and all Centertainment events very soon. (Maybe next week there will be a coupon in the paper!)

*This is the final level you should worry about as far as this scenario goes. It is when the creeper drops Its Tuesday and Thursday class just so It can work at the Brewhaus and make your drink "just the way you like it."

There is really no way to avoid creepers, especially in a town this small, where college students frequent many of the same establishments. When you begin to feel uncomfortable is when you need to do something. Call your local authorities. If they get annoyed enough Stevens Point may have to implement the very first Creeper Control Unit. Let's start something to improve the social realm!

I would love to take your questions! Please send them to ladyvuwsp@yahoo.com. I will answer damn near anything!

Please note, I am not making light of stalker situations. If you ever feel threatened or in danger please notify campus Protective Services at x3456 or call 911.

Okay, so we all have at least one. If you are lucky, depending on how you want to look at it, you have quite a few. They are always there when you least expect it, whether you want them or not. Some people, as sick as they are, are flattered by the constant presence of these people. People that I, like many, like to call...

Creepers.

Creepers do just that. You notice your creeper more often than you would ever desire.

It (I am going to refer to creepers with this pronoun because they can be of either sex) may not even be doing it on purpose. But maybe It is.

Mild - Moderate Creeper: This is the creeper that may just spend a lot of time in the same building as you, has a similar class schedule or is very sedentary. Once you notice this creeper, you notice It all the time. But you seem to be the only one who does.

*There are different ways of creeping. The accidental creeping is obviously the least you should worry about. (I am going to use a Brewhaus example here.) This is someone who just happens to frequent the Brewhaus at the same you do, every Tuesday and Thursday. You should start to worry when It orders the same thing you do because It taste-tested yours last week on accident when your orders were mixed up.

Moderate - Severe Creeper: This level of creeper may be one you should be a little bit more cognizant about. Make sure you point It out to your friends every time you see this creeper. Make sure they know what it looks like and how It creeps. Usually you notice someone creeping at this level when it has distinctive qualities.

Some people just give off that creepy vibe. It may be the way It walks or looms over people when It walks into a room. Some can be



High Five: Fan favorite

Steve Apfel
COLUMNIST

Holy wow, friends! Do you realize what you hold in your hands? Can you feel the winds of change blowing from within these very pages? Yes, you are holding your first all-digital copy of "The Pointer!"

As many of you know, this past Tuesday, Feb. 17, was the original switch-over date for the great digital television conversion. But did you know that all mass media was expected to make the switch? And even though President Obama pushed the switch date back, we at "The Pointer" felt there was no need to put off the future. Carpe diem!

I'm sure you've noticed the differences between our old analog publication and the new digital version you are so tightly grasping. Our colors are brighter and more vibrant. The fonts have a crisper contrast to the paper. Even the rustling sound of the turning pages is cleaner and nearly harmonious. Breathe deep, dear readers. You hold the future in your hands.

To commemorate this momentous occasion, I've decided to give something back to all of you. Without your dedicated readership, this would not be the publication that it is today and I certainly would not be the man I am. It is because of you and for you that I write, and the fat paycheck I receive is just an added bonus.

However, I've begun to feel bad about hoarding all of this fat cash because I would gladly do this job for free. I don't even really consider it a job, more like a chance to have a conversation with my best friends every week. I've been thinking how I can share my wealth and good fortune with all of you, which is why I am happy to announce the formation of the new international fan club, High Five Worldwide!

I have invested considerable time, effort and finances into the creation of this fabulous new organization. It is

not only a way for me to connect with all of you, but for all of you to connect with one another as fans of High Five. You may not realize, it but the person sitting next to you in class or your residence hall neighbor might be a High Fiver just like you!

So how do you join this High Five Worldwide? For you on campus fans, just stop down in "The Pointer" office to pick up the membership application form. We will be asking for your ID, so don't try any trickery! My off campus friends can shoot me an e-mail or even a Facebook message to request that a form be sent to you.

Once you've filled out the appropriate paperwork, then the fun really begins as you will receive the special High Five Worldwide gift package absolutely free! Inside the package, you will find an exclusive High Five Worldwide button, a signed 3x5 glossy photograph of yours truly, an attractive bumper sticker reading "I High Five, Do You?," an instructional diagram featuring Avra demonstrating the correct way to perform the High Five secret handshake and a special secret bonus gift! What a deal!

Also, to announce the organization officially and with a bit of style, we will be having a High Five Worldwide mixer next Saturday, Feb. 28. Refreshments will be provided and grooves will be spun, specifically the love jam mix created by last week's contest winner, MC Michelle Geiger! If that mix is any indication, that girl knows how to party! I know many of you have attended the High Five mixers in the past, but we're really going all out this time. We will have two karaoke machines and a Bop It! competition! Golly gee!

I don't have a new contest this week because I know you will all be rushing out to join High Five Worldwide, and when that happens, everybody wins.

get caught reading

THE POINTER

GOTCHA.

Junior Chris Petrie likes keeping up with the news on campus.

Check out "The Pointer" online.
pointer.uwsp.edu

*Soon featuring Multimedia packages

Comics

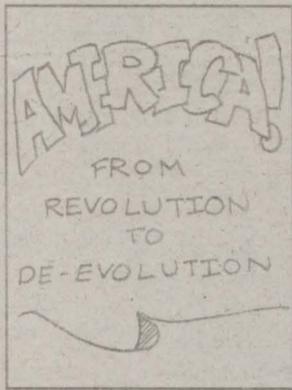
Rabble Rousers



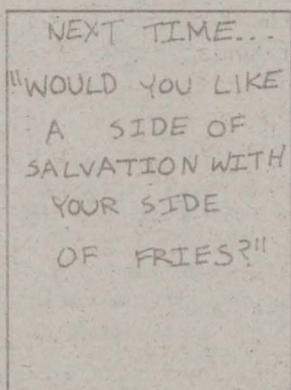
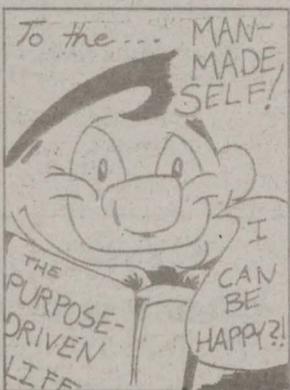
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Roach



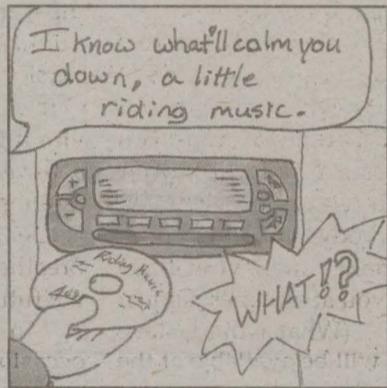
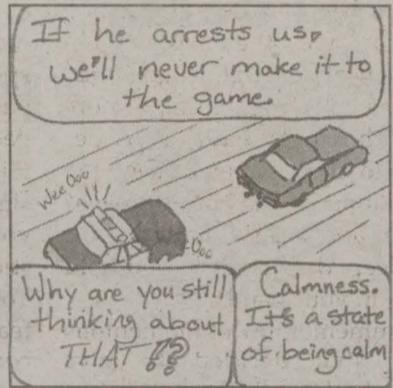
Dustin Hauge



Where I Come From



Bryan Novak



Neverland



Lo Shim



Pointer Poll: Who is your favorite U.S. President and why?



Jeffrey Jankowski - Super senior Theodore Roosevelt because he was the president who really started government involvement in natural resource conservation.



Amanda Walsh - Junior Jessica Wagner - Junior FDR because under his administration not only did he help us get through The Depression, he helped shape the country into the way it is today.



Katie Kloth - Senior Abraham Lincoln because he was misunderstood for the good things he was doing.



Ryan Miles - Junior William Henry Harrison because his term was short and sweet, granted he died one month into his term.



Elizabeth McMonagle - Junior I'm hoping it's going to be Barack. I think he is going to be the change we need. He is going to speak for our generation.

Wordle

Create as many words as you can out of these 6 letters. Spaces are provided below.

A S E S R V

Check back next week for the answers.

PLAY WORDLE!
It's a great way
to think outside
the box.

Last week's answers:

DUE DUFF
DUH FEUD
FED HUED
HUE HUFF

Classified

HOUSING

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SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
The School of Education announces the
availability of scholarships for the 2008-
2009 academic year. Application forms
are available outside CPS 470. Deadline:
February 26, 2009

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