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THE POINTER

A Student Publication

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENSON POINT

WELCOME TO THE BEST OF POINT

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Pizza Business

Local Restaurant

PG 11

BEST BAR

PG 8

BOWLING ALLEY

PG 17

Pointer Sport

PG 5

COFFEE JOINT

PG 6

Dr. Dennis Riley:

Best professor

Katie Leb
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"Spring of 1965." After 44 years, three universities and countless baseball anecdotes, Dr. Dennis Riley remembers the precise moment when he knew that being a political science professor was his life's passion. It was on a Thursday during Riley's senior year when his mentor Dr. Ed Stillings had him go to the front of the class.

"That spring, he [Stillings] had to go to a conference. He said to me, 'my freshmen can't take the two days off so you're going to tell them about the Congress,'" said Riley. "It was just like it is now, alternatingly terrifying and really exciting. And I loved it from that moment. I knew that's what I wanted to do. That's how it all started."

Passion and a desire to educate others are just a few reasons why Riley has been named the best professor on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus, beating out 592 other competitors.

Riley has been on the UW-SP campus for 31 years, but his tenure here almost never was. After teaching at Gonzaga University and the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Riley thought about stopping teaching after nine years.

"I was actually thinking of getting out of the business all together, but I thought I would try one more place and see if I find what I am looking for. And in some very important respects, I have. I really have," said Riley.

Had Riley chosen not to give UW-SP a chance, thousands of students would have missed out, explained mayor and UW-SP alumni, Andrew Halverson.

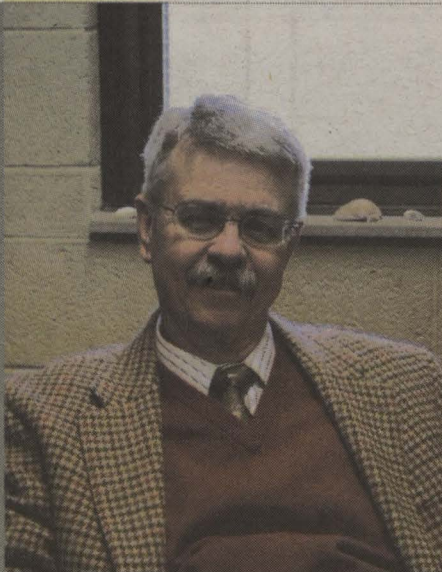
"The impact that Dennis Riley has had in terms of his personality, in terms of his knowledge and perhaps more importantly, the way in which he engages his students to think is a remarkable talent that I really have not experienced in many professors," said Halverson. "[He] has affected my life. I am a better student, better person [and] better human being because of the teachings of Dennis Riley. I am thrilled and very proud of him."

Riley's ability to engage his students in the learning process goes beyond the textbook. Political science professor and colleague Jennifer Collins explained that Riley has the ability to make politics accessible to every student.

"He really has a way of connecting and making [students] feel included in his dialogue and making them realize how interesting and significant politics is to their own lives," said Collins. "He tries to translate politics for people and make relevant the issues at play to students."

Riley incorporates his own personality into his teaching, allowing students to feel at ease about politics, which may not always be an easy topic to discuss.

"I think students relate to the



Riley

informal style, to the fact that I don't appear to take it inordinately seriously, but I also don't think of it as a joke," said Riley. "I take the material more seriously than I take myself, which I think is a good thing."

Riley makes his classes worthwhile by taking the advice he was given by retired UW-SP professor Woody Bishop.

"Basically if you know your material, and you know yourself and you know the kids and you like all three of them, just go in there and be yourself," said Riley. "One thing that our students do is they spot a phony and they just don't like it. It is hard to take. Just be who you are."

Students see Riley as himself each day with the four items most associated with him: beer, baseball, jazz and weird neckties. Each day brings a new tie, whether it be his favorite yellow "Grandpa" tie made by his "pride-and-joy," granddaughter Sophie, the second-favorite Declaration of Independence tie or one of the many ties that students have given him over the years. Once a week, students learn of which famous baseball player or jazz musician has a birthday, while every other week, students get a quick update on how his boys from Amherst are doing; his boys being the owners of Central Waters.

Riley has not let the title of best professor go to his head. He remains humble about the whole process of the university and, like that first time he stood in front a group of freshmen, still gets nervous. But, he would not want to be doing anything else, except for maybe being the radio play-by-play announcer for a major league baseball team.

Favorites

Movie: Mister Roberts

Song: "Kind of Blue"-Miles Davis

Beer: Central Waters Coffee Stout

Word: Baseball

Saying: "Just a couple things before we get started."

Politician: Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Class to teach: American Political Thought

Family: Wife of 15 yrs., Pam; 3 daughters: Emily, Lena, Annie; 4 grandchildren: Sophie, Aiden, Jonah, Liam

Top Professors

No. 2 through 15

(in alphabetical order)



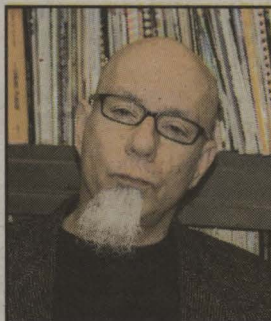
Helena Alden
Sociology
6 yrs.



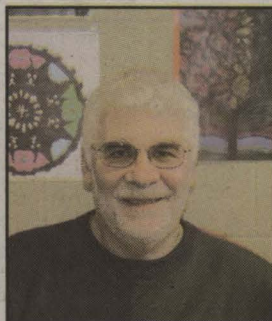
Eric Anderson
Wildlife
18 yrs.



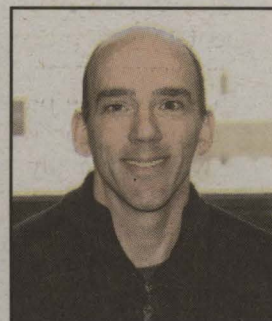
Dave Arnold
English
9 yrs.



John Coletta
English
18 yrs.



Brian Hale
History
9 yrs.



Bob Holsman
Wildlife and Natural Resources
7 yrs.



Todd Huspeni
Biology
5 yrs.



Bob Rosenfield
Biology
20 yrs.



Justin Rueb
Psychology
9 yrs.



James Sage
Philosophy
6 yrs.



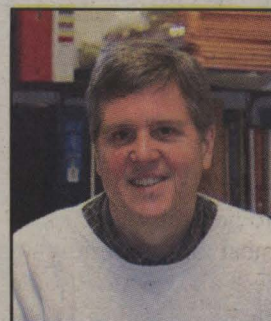
Jeffrey Stephens
Theatre History and Dramatic Literature
2 yrs.



Craig Wendorf
Psychology
7 yrs.



Les Werner
Forestry
6 yrs.



Steve Wright
Chemistry
27 yrs.

CPS Café: Best campus dining

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At the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where eating naturally and organically is a top priority for both students and staff, the CPS Café offers a wide array of healthy foods to suit any appetite. Nestled on the first floor of the College of Professional Studies, the café was established in 1971, to give the nutrition management students an opportunity for hands-on experience.

Compared to other student dining locations, the café uses local, seasonal and organic ingredients and free-range meat whenever available. Their environmentally safe practices go far beyond the actual meals. The café uses green, sustainable practices and strives to eliminate food waste. They also cook with minimally processed or unprocessed ingredients.

Kim Beckham, café manager, said, "Our coffees are fair trade and organic and roasted nearby in Wisconsin Rapids. The menu is filled with interesting and exciting dishes from a broad repertoire and includes world and regional flavors."

Walk into the café during the lunch hour and you will see masses of students and faculty alike dining on foods such as chicken pasta gratin or wild mushroom soup. It's often

difficult to even find an open seat during busy times, but since students and faculty helped to select the recipes for the menu, it's easy to see why the café is such a popular place for on-campus dining. With at least two soups and two sandwiches priced under \$3.50 every day, students flock here for a healthy, hearty and inexpensive meal.

This past year has brought many changes to the café. The bakery offering in the morning now includes breakfast cookies and boiled eggs. Also, an espresso machine and fresh coffee bean grinder were just added last semester.

"The café is selling cappuccinos and other coffee drinks flavored with organic Monin syrups and fresh-whipped organic cream," said Beckham. "Fresh from scratch breads are also new for the café."

Other menu additions include burrito Tuesdays, pressed sandwiches on Wednesdays and Thursdays and a third soup choice on Fridays. For those who can't go without listening to their favorite songs, an MP3 and iPod docking station was just added so you can listen to your own or the café's music in the dining room.

"More changes in the dining room are coming," said Beckham. "A cashier kiosk is planned to accommodate the increasing number of diners and an expanded carry-out program is in the



Photo by Becka Schuelke

Students and staff in line at the CPS Café. Many enjoy the natural and organic selection.

works, too."

The café's Web site, www.uwsp.edu/hphd/sites/Cafe/cpsCafe.html, updates their menu weekly to keep everyone informed on the latest dining options. Whether you strive to live naturally and eat organically, or if you just enjoy the taste of some of these truly unique dining options, stop by the CPS Café, voted best on-campus dining!

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Fri. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Phone: 715-346-4848
Address: 1901 Fourth Ave.
Manager: Kim Beckham
Est. 1971

Norman E. Knutzen Hall: Best residence hall

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Knutzen Hall has had its roots deeply embedded in environmentalism long before it was named the "Eco-Hall" 10 years ago. In 1967, this four-story residential hall was built and dedicated to Norman E. Knutzen.

Knutzen was a former professor and student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, first arriving on campus in 1911. He taught English from 1931 to 1963, with an emphasis on writers such as Emerson, Melville, Whitman and Thoreau.

"I like to think that I have many of the same philosophies about love of nature that Mr. Thoreau possessed," Knutzen once said.

He had his students spend time near lakes in order to feel the mood of literature.

Knutzen was well-respected and loved by his students. He was such a popular professor that it took some students years to get into his class.

He spent most of his time at a cottage on Pike Lake, which some called his "Walden."

Today, Knutzen Hall holds about 255 residents and is home to the Environmentally Aware Residents Thinking Holistically organization.

"E.A.R.T.H. is an organization

that aims to help feed the ravenous eco-conscious spirit of the Knutzen community," said E.A.R.T.H. president Helen Leavenworth.

E.A.R.T.H. put on the Eco-Involvement Fair at the beginning

awareness include organic versus non-organic food tasting, bike workshops, nature walks, walks to the Stevens Point Area Co-Op and Farmer's Market and a plastic bag recycling program.

the Knutzen Hall environmental programmer.

Knutzen Hall has also been composting their food waste with worms since 1999. They recently celebrated the tenth anniversary with a "Feast of the Worms" and ate spaghetti and dirt cake with gummy worms, said hall director Ann Grissman.

Solar panels were installed to the roof of the building in 2004, and have since been used to heat the water system.

Knutzen Hall is also home to one of the two natural resources Freshmen Interest Groups on campus.

"I think it's a great hall and the staff works well together to provide good programs for the residents," said Grissman.

The legend of Knutzen lives on through the hallways and residents of what is now Knutzen Hall.

"Properly speaking, there can be no history but natural history, for there is no past in the soul but in nature," Knutzen wrote in a personal memoir.



Photo courtesy of Ann Grissman

Knutzen Hall was named after a former professor and student at UW-SP.

of the school year to display what other student organizations were doing about sustainability issues on campus.

Some of the activities E.A.R.T.H. has done to raise environmental

"We watch documentaries focusing on nature and environmental issues to gain further knowledge of the Earth, and the earth room is loaded with magazines and textbooks on the environment," said Alyssa Untiedt,

Phone: 715-346-4559
Address: 209 Isadore St.
Hall Director: Ann Grissman
Est. 1967

The Basement Brewhaus: Best campus hang-out

Allyson Taubenheim

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ATAUB878@UWSP.EDU

What started out as couches from rummage sales and lamps from thrift stores has transformed over the years into a coffeehouse pub and is now what University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students call the "best campus hangout."

Located in the basement of the Dreyfus University Center, The Basement Brewhaus started from scratch many years ago as a concept developed by a group of students. They wanted a place on campus where they could come and just hangout, a place that feels like a basement. And that is precisely what they got.

There is a garage door that opens to a room filled with second-hand furniture, pool tables, board games and darts. It was set on top of a cement floor and also serves food and refreshments.

But in this reproduction of a basement there never were, and still aren't, any electronic games or entertainment.

"Just good, old-fashion fun," said manager Ed Richmond.

However, even if the fun is still "old-fashioned," the newly-renovated Basement Brewhaus is not.

Closed for nearly two years, The Basement Brewhaus reopened with new furniture, games and food.

"It has changed from just a

basement, to a brew house," said Richmond.

And by "Brewhaus," Richmond is not only referring to the brewing of coffee; that's right, he is referring to the ice-cold beer that is also served at this popular campus hang-out.

Under age 21? Don't worry. The Basement Brewhaus is a place for everyone. It is open to students, faculty, staff and guests to the university, such as freshman Jackie Lutze.

"It's a great place for a laid-back night out," said Lutze of the place she often utilizes for homework and hanging with her friends. Lutze enjoys playing board games and admits that she has spent up to five hours in a single day at The Basement Brewhaus.

"I like getting out of my dorm room and going to a nice, quiet, but yet social place," said Lutze, who also likes to indulge in the specialty coffees.

The various coffees offered at the Brewhaus come from Stone Creek Coffee Roasters in Milwaukee, which suits the "all Wisconsin" theme that The Basement Brewhaus possesses. All the coffee, cookies, bars, bagels, pizza and more come from local companies such as: Morning Song Baked Goodness, Big Apple Bagels and Portesi Pizza. In addition, all the beer that is served is brewed in Wisconsin.

However, as many lounge in the inviting atmosphere of The Basement Brewhaus, others utilize what is called "The Workshop." This additional space serves as a meeting room for up to 30 people at a popular location on campus. It is open to anyone and reservations can be made weekly.

So, next time you want a relaxing atmosphere with plenty of good brew and fun, give The Basement Brewhaus a try.

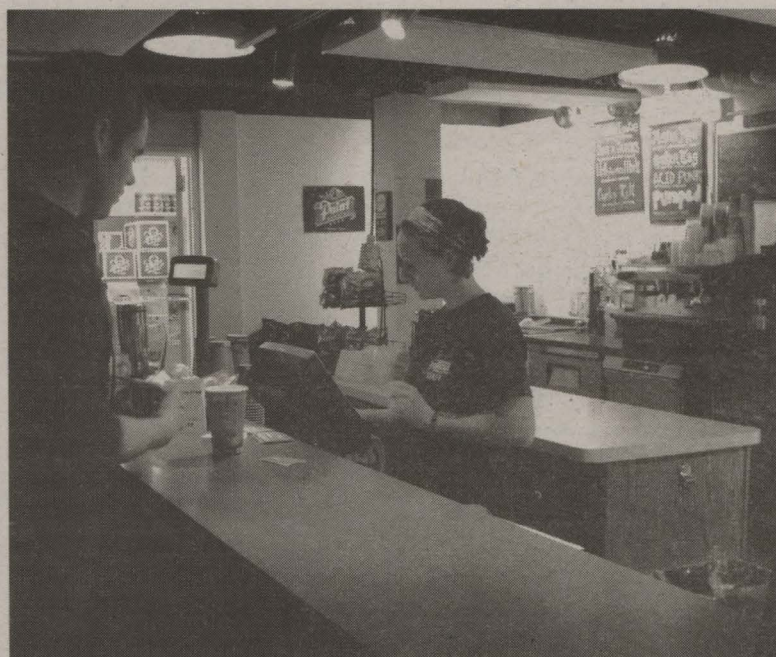


Photo by Becka Schuelke

Brewhaus employee serving up a classic cup of coffee.

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sat. and Sun. 12 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Phone: 715-346-4949
Address: 1015 Reserve St.
Student manager: Deanna Deising
Est. 1997



Photo by Becka Schuelke

Students passing time together in The Basement Brewhaus.

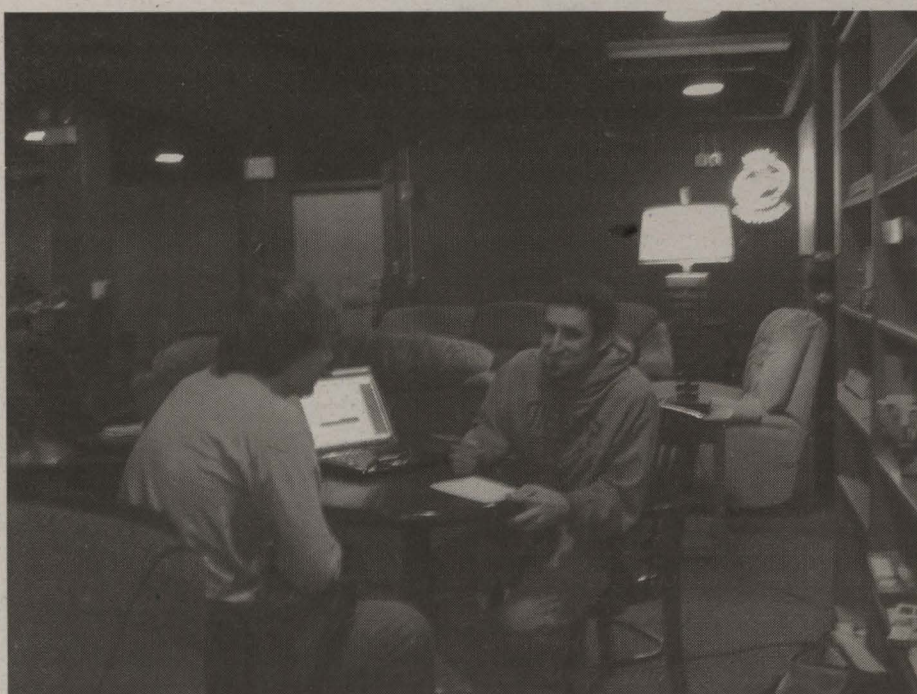
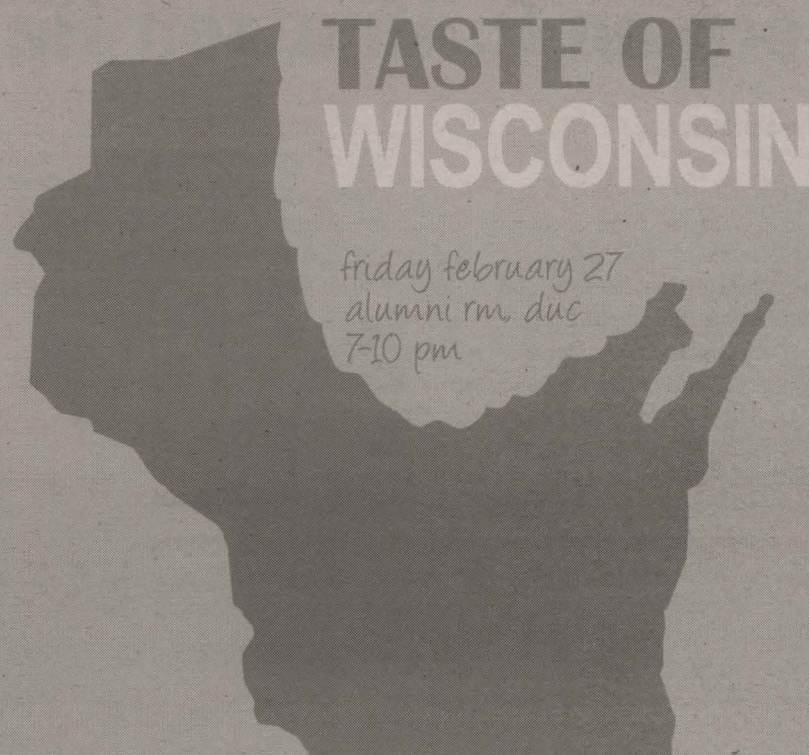


Photo by Becka Schuelke



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The Basement
Brewhaus
UW-Stevens Point

UW-SP men's hockey team: Best sport

Rochelle Nechuta

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Whether it is the fast-paced action of the game, hard hits or the thunderous rowdy crowd making noise on Friday and Saturday night home games, the Pointer hockey program definitely draws an impressive number of fans.

"I believe the atmosphere at the K.B Willett is unlike anywhere else in DIII hockey," senior forward Russell Law said. "In my four years playing here, I have yet to play at a rink with fans more energetic than ours."

In a time that could only be described as the "Era of Brotherhood" for the team, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's hockey squad leads the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association in total fan attendance.

They have drawn over 14,000 fans to their 13 home games throughout the season, compared to a combined 2,797-attendance rate from their opponents. That means the Pointers draw in an average of 1,115 fans to the 1,800-person capacity home facility per competition.

It is no wonder the team also earned The Best of Point best sport category as well this year.

"Winning this award is a tremendous honor because our fans mean everything to us," Nichol said. "This campus has so many incredible sports teams with winning traditions, so for the students to pick us is truly an honor."

Head coach Wil Nichol has been adding to the excitement since he arrived to head the program. The Dawg Pound (the students section) numbers have been building, as has the enthusiasm for the program.

A Pointer himself at UW-SP from 1994 through 1998, Nichol wanted to

realize the intimidation potential of the home crowd he had experienced during his time as a defenseman for the team. He considers UW-SP's fans to be a part of the team, a presence to be respected.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the seating at the arena. The fans are right on top of the action; it is a low ceiling, the band and the rowdy crowd really create an incredible atmosphere," Nichol said. "A big thank you to our fans; they truly are our seventh man and they have made the Willett an incredible place to play."

Working together with the community, the team has forged a bond with its fans. It attracts students and common folk alike to the games at K.B. Willett Arena.

Law said the team is a well-bonded group that works hard and knows how to compete. He also said it meant a lot to be a part of a team that the



Photo courtesy of UW-SP Athletic Department

The Pointers are currently 13-5-2 overall and 4-4-1 in conference.



Photo courtesy of UW-SP Athletic Department

UW-SP hockey has attracted over 14,000 game attendees in the 2008-2009 season.

UW-SP students named the "Best sport" for 2009.

"I think that it is a great honor to win this award," senior Andrew Cankar said. "It shows how much support we have from our students."

The Pointers are currently 13-5-2 overall and 4-4-1 in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association, in its last leg of the season. The Pointers have five more conference matchups scheduled, including their final regular season showdown against UW-Eau Claire at home on Saturday, Feb. 14, in a Valentine's Day finale.

"I just want to thank all the fans for supporting us and cheering so loud; we appreciate it so much," senior Taylor Guay said. "The fans make Stevens Point the best place to play hockey."

The regular season finale is a home game for the Pointers on Feb. 14 at 7:30p.m. They take on the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds.

Season notes:

- * Garrett Suter has racked up 26 penalties for 60 minutes in the box.
- * Jon Madden leads the point-ers offensively with 15 goals and 11 assists.
- * Senior Russell Law has 12 goals and six assists.
- * Goalie Thomas Speer owns .898 after playing two-thirds of the time between the pipes.
- * Newcomer Travis Erstad has 43 penalties so far this season.
- * Goalie Marcus Paulson has a 93 percent save record after playing in 10 games this season.
- * Both Law and Erstad have three game-winning goals, while Matt Stendahl has tallied two.
- * Luke Nesper and Jonathan Ralph are tied for most assists with twelve.
- * Korey O'Brien has the highest shot percentage on the team with three goals in six attempts.
- * The Pointers are 9-4 playing on home ice at K.B. Willett Arena.

The next month in Pointer hockey:

- * @ UW-River Falls--- 01/30/09
- * @ UW-Stout---01/31/09
- * @ St. Scholastica--- 02/06/09
- * @ UW-Superior--- 02/07/09
- * Home vs. UW-Eau Claire--- 02/14/09

Home ice: K.B. Willett Arena
Address: 1000 Minnesota Ave.
Head coach: Wil Nichol
Est. 1981



Photo courtesy of UW-SP Athletic Department

Treat your sweetie to a Valentine's Day Pointer game against UW-Eau Claire.

The Wildlife Society: Best student organization

Katie Boseo
THE POINTER
KBOSE675@UWSP.EDU

From trapping deer in Schmeckle Reserve to ear-tagging gray squirrels, The Wildlife Society is not your typical student organization. With over 17 on-going research projects that TWS participates in, it's not surprising that it was voted the best student organization.

The student chapter of TWS was established at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1971 and has grown to become the largest and most active student organization in the College of Natural Resources. TWS's goals include developing and promoting sound stewardship of wildlife resources and the environment. Members take an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation, as well as increasing awareness of wildlife issues at UW-SP and throughout the community. Though a majority of the student members consist of natural resource majors, TWS welcomes all majors to participate.

"I think one of the things that makes TWS so rewarding, for so many students is that we allow them to explore areas of interest to them," said Adam Murkowski, vice president of TWS.

Even if owl banding doesn't suit your taste, TWS offers many other activities including two nature art contests, an annual broomball game

during our activities," Murkowski said, "we get a lot of job postings we can distribute and because of the reputation UW-SP has, and especially

they've had previously.

"This wasn't our first year winning this award. In fact, since the national TWS began giving out the award they have re-written the rules so you can only win it once every three years because UW-SP has won it so often," said Murkowski. "I think that alone says something about the caliber of our organization."

The organization's Web Site, www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/wild.life/TWS/index.html, offers students information on projects, the annual TWS conclave, and various links such as wildlife issues and national or state projects. For students interested in joining TWS, stop by TNR 170 Tuesday evenings at 5 p.m. to sit in on a meeting.



Photo courtesy of Adam Murkowski

The Wildlife Society participates in many events, including broomball.

against the Society of American Foresters and field trips to conferences and conventions. The weekly meetings often include professional speakers, which gives members a chance to network with natural resource professionals.

"Because of all the projects and people we have come in contact with

TWS, we routinely get our members jobs they otherwise wouldn't have had the opportunity to get."

Even though TWS was honored to be voted best student organization at UW-SP, they aren't strangers to winning awards. They just won the National Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society this year, a tribute

Other Tops:

2. SGA
3. Student Wisconsin Educators Association
4. Residence Hall Association
5. PRSSA

Phone: 715-346-2016
E-mail: wildsoc@uwsp.edu
Address: 359A CNR UW-SP
President: Eric Michel

Starbucks Coffee: Best coffee house

Ben Haight
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Traditionally, you would think students would be partial to their own on-campus coffee shop. However, that doesn't exactly hold true as Starbucks has won The Best of Point award in the coffee category.

Many students may recall that on July 1, 2008, the company announced it was closing 600 under-performing company-owned stores and cutting U.S. expansion plans amid growing economic uncertainty. On July 29, 2008, Starbucks also cut almost 1,000 non-retail jobs as part of its bid to re-energize the brand and boost its profit. These closings and layoffs have effectively ended the company's period of prolific growth and expansion that began in the mid 1990s.

However, one of the things that made Starbucks so successful was its unique company culture and store atmosphere. The Stevens Point Starbucks still holds true to its core qualities, which makes it an optimal choice for students.

Upon entering the Division St. Starbucks location, one may find an array of different types of people. In one corner you may find the lone businessman with a venti (that's Starbucks for large) full of steaming coffee, black as the night itself. In

another corner, it's no surprise to see several middle-aged women sharing one of Starbucks delicious flavored cappuccinos, lattes and macchiatos. You can also expect to find any number of students lounging in the cafe, sipping on practically anything, working on their laptops or taking time to read a good book, or the alternative, a textbook.

"We've put a lot of effort into

our work here," said barista Edward Lupella. Starbucks customer service is second to none when it comes to order taking, efficiency and presentation of the warm beverages.

"They're always so friendly and give really great suggestions if you're unsure of what you want," said UW-SP junior Brittany Winek.

Kaitlin Dumm, night manager at Starbucks, attributes their award to

their great atmosphere and location.

"We try to make it a genuine experience," said Dumm.

Indeed they do. Although a corporate chain, Starbucks always strives to make the customer feel at home, no matter the time or location.

Although the company has experienced a bad string of events this summer in a suffering economy, it's easy to see why the Stevens Point location is still thriving. The same great customer service and gourmet coffee is offered as when they first opened in 2006. Howard Schultz, a past CEO of Starbucks, tried to make each store a "unique Starbucks experience" in which people could feel at home in a "third place" away from work and home.

The Division St. Starbucks emulates the vision of Schultz by giving students a comfortable area to divulge in delicious beverages away from the residence halls and library, with the added customer service that doesn't abandon the consumer.



Photo by Ben Haight

Starbucks employees enjoy the fruits of their labor in the form of a steaming hot beverage.

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 5:30 a.m.-10 a.m., Sun. 6 a.m.-9 a.m.
Phone: 715-344-8738
Address: 101 Division St #C
Store Manager: Sarah Berg
Est. 2006

Belts' Soft Serve: Best ice cream joint

Nick Meyer
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NMEYE177@UWSP.EDU

The Best of Point in some areas was a close call for the winner. This was not one of those areas. Belts' Soft Serve has been voted best place to get ice cream in town. Considering the tents that appear every year in front of the shop at the beginning of March, it's safe to say Belts' is a hometown favorite and going there for the largest cone you'll ever pay so little for has become a tradition.

"We are really happy; we get a lot of business from the university and most of our employees come from the university, so we're very happy," said owner Dan Racine.

Belts' is known for its homemade ingredients, the fresh fruit they use in their ice cream dishes, the puppy cone and for being the home of the large cone. What more could college kids ask for?

"It's really good; it's really cheap, and they give you a lot of ice cream," said junior Heather Grimm.

The small cone is literally the size of the large cone you receive at most places. All these things make it easy to see why people wait in gargantuan

lines to fill up with the frozen treats. It's easy to say they make ice cream a meal. The secret behind all this is hard work.

"Our most popular things are the items that include baked goods and fresh fruit," said Racine. "We bake all our brownies, peanut butter cups, cookie dough everyday, because we use so much."

Not only are the baked goods fresh, but so is the fruit. All the fruit used is Wisconsin grown and usually freshly picked. Every strawberry, raspberry and blackberry ripens right here in Wisconsin; then it's picked and delivered, guaranteeing the taste is intact.

"Our fruit is never older than one day; we get it fresh everyday straight from the farmer," said Racine. "Locally ripened fruit tastes better."

Belts' Soft Serve opened in 1981. It was opened by current owner Dan's step-father whose last name is Belt.

"My dad opened it and ran it before me," said Racine. "I've been running it about 18 years now and my son has worked there since he was eight, and he runs it now just as much as me."

As much of a tradition as it is for the family, who start preparing



Photo by Katie Leb

Belts has been serving the Stevens Point area for 28 years.

for their March opening in February, Belts' has become a tradition for many citizens as well. Every year campers appear the day before the opening. They wait sometimes in the bitter cold to be the first of the year to get a taste of the chilled masterpieces.

According to Dan, it all started 10-to 12 years ago with a group of college kids.

"It started with three college kids; two of the guys were from Point and went to Point for college; since then, somebody has been there every year," said Racine.

The devoted mindset of these campers is even a surprise to Dan himself.

"Two years ago I left to go home at about nine to get back to open at six or seven and on the way home, the weather was so bad it was like a blizzard, but sure enough, there were a few tents the next morning," he said. "We appreciate it every year ... you look out at the crowd and ... we're lucky."

Belts' Soft Serve is set to open this year on the first Friday in March, so unpack the tent.

Hours: To be determined in March
Phone Number: 715-344-0049
Address: 2140 Division St.
Owner: Dan Racine
Est. 1981

Partner's Pub: Best birthday bar

Jacob Mathias
THE POINTER
JMAT438@UWSP.EDU

Starting eight years ago, Partner's Pub introduced the all-important "birthday mug," which has become a tradition for Stevens Point residents celebrating their twenty-first birthday and subsequent birthdays thereafter, making Partner's Pub the number one choice for best Stevens Point birthday bar.

"That shows that what we're trying to do is successful and people are having a good time," "Publican" Tim Mckeown said.

"We give people free drinks on their birthdays as long as they provide themselves a designated driver, and they get a souvenir mug," Mckeown said. "Every year it's a different color so people keep coming back to keep their collection going."

This year's mug is orange and can be filled with Partner's large variety of tap beer and rail liquors. The idea for the birthday mug came from a Madison bar called the Nitty Gritty, which opened a bar in Stevens Point.

"After they closed, we started doing it," Mckeown said.

Mckeown and the other employees' main goal with the birthday mug is to bring customers to the pub and to keep them coming back, but that's not their only draw.

"We have a friendly staff. That's what people look for. We try to have a friendly staff and people feel welcome here. It doesn't matter



Photo by Jacob Mathias

Partner's offers free drinks in a speciality mug all night on birthdays.

what kind of specials you got. If you've got surly, crabby bartenders, nobody wants to spend their money," Mckeown said.

Along with the birthday specials and friendly staff, Partner's offers a variety of specials including drinks, food and free snacks.

Some specials are on double drinks, mugs of beer, one liter Long Island iced teas and discounted Bloody Marys on Sundays. Along with the daily specials, others can be

found throughout the month—just ask the bartender.

"We're always throwing some different specials up there," Mckeown said.

The pub also has food specials including homemade pizzas and complimentary hors'd'oeuvres on Fridays.

Partner's also provides entertainment for fun seekers entering the bar. Either Wednesday or Thursday of each week is karaoke night with

"Sing That Tune Karaoke." Disc jockeys are brought in every week to liven up the party and live music is also available, featuring acts such as local folk musician Tuck Pence. Free pool is also available on Sundays.

Hours: 10 a.m. – 2 a.m.
Phone: 715-544-0661
Address: 2600 Stanley St.
Est.: 1977

Guu's on Main: Best bar

Leah Gernetzke
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Among all esteemed establishments in a town, only one seems to universally hold a place in our hearts (and social lives) as much as the local neighborhood bar. Called by many names, from tavern to pub to watering hole to izakaya if you're in Japan, these places water our souls and dehydrate our bodies with beverages, usually of the alcoholic nature.

The best of the best of these establishments are societal oases in which customers can share a bit of gossip, banter and commiserate in a relaxed atmosphere. Fusing part English pub, part northwoods Wisconsin mom-and-pop establishment vibes, Guu's on Main in Stevens Point is classified by many as just that.

One of Guu's long-term employees, Brian Tamling, said owner Scott Gulan established the bar in 1998.

"We wanted to make a bar everyone would feel comfortable in," said Tamling. "It's got a really old-school feel."

This feel may partially be attributed to the fact that the building itself is estimated to be about 100 years old. Rumors that it was a former brothel have also circulated for some time, Tamling said.

Or perhaps it's the outdoorsy decor, which includes an over 100-year-old mounted buffalo head named Chief, that lends Guu's its uniquely vintage appeal.

Old photographs, posters and

Accordingly, customers are more likely to uphold the archaic practice of talking to one another rather than shouting half-inebriated pick-up lines at the stranger across the room. Or at least, they have the option.

In fact, Guu's relaxed ambiance seems to have rubbed off on the customers; Tamling said in the seven years he's worked there, he's only witnessed three fights.

"It's just overall a really chill atmosphere; everyone is cool with each other," he said.

It's this dynamic aspect of community that Guu's staff members try to create with an easygoing and upbeat work philosophy.

"The number one rule we have is to be cool and be respectful," said Tamling. "We try to keep it friendly between staff and customers. Most people here are our friends, and we also welcome newcomers...it isn't like Cheers, people we don't know can come in here and we'll still razz them and have a good time with them."

Many UW-SP students said the friendly staff is part of what makes Guu's a popular downtown hangout destination.

"I like Guu's because we know most of the bartenders and stuff so we can take over the jukebox," said Jarad Olson, a frequent customer at Guu's and UW-SP student. "It has everything from really popular music to really alternative stuff...We can have dance parties and no one ever tells us to stop."

"The jukebox actually has stuff we want to play," added Val Barbarian, another customer and student.

Of course, the laid-back atmosphere isn't the only thing that keeps college students and locals

coming back time and time again. With an ongoing Pabst Blue Ribbon special plus 26 beers on tap, 10 of which are from within a 30-mile radius, Guu's offers impressive variety. The staff is also highly trained to make other specialty drinks.

"Generally during the week Guu's is more preferable because it's not as crowded and the drink specials are really good," Olson said. "I like that they actually support local breweries."

The culinary menu is equally varied as the drinks, offering upscale bar food that ranges from specialty burgers, gourmet sandwiches, salads and appetizers. Vegetarian options, such as the grilled portabella

mushroom sandwich, are also offered.

Kyle Babicky, a regular patron of the bar on Friday nights, said he is especially partial to the traditional Wisconsin fish fries.

"It's pretty much the best fish fry in town," he said. "And I've been almost everywhere."

So, whether customers are hungry, thirsty, cantankerous, looking for conversation, relaxed or ready to party, Guu's is the quintessential local bar—ready and waiting, whether it's Friday night, Wednesday evening or Monday afternoon.

Or, in the words of Tamling, "It's nothing pretentious, just a place you can sit down and have a beer."



Photo by Becka Schuelke

Guu's offers a relaxed and casual atmosphere for customers.

high ceilings, which advantageously mitigate smokiness, are also reminiscent of a bygone age.

But perhaps what most endearingly sets Guu's apart from other local establishments is its music, which is not only refreshingly diverse and eclectic, but also always slightly modulated.

**Hours: 11 a.m.-bar close
Mon.-Sat., closed Sun.
Phone: 344-3200
Address: 1140 Main
Owner: Scott Gulan
Est. 1998**



Photo by Becka Schuelke

Over 100-year-old buffalo head named Chief overlooks the bar shenanigans.

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Toppers: Best pizza

Mike Baumann
THE POINTER
MBAUM925@UWSP.EDU

In an environmentally-friendly community cluttered with 5-second attention spans and apathetic behavior, Toppers Pizza sets itself to blend in. They use green peppers. Outside of that, they actually tend to set a different tone.

"The pizzas made here at Toppers tend to be unique creations," said Kelly Collins, manager of the Stevens Point location.

The pizzas aren't the only point of interest that comes from the well-known building on Division Street. Many of the slogans for these pizza connoisseurs are inventive and done to entertain the customer base. Their newest, "You can sit back, watching the economy crumble, or you can order Toppers and sit around and watch the economy crumble" is a sure-fire example of this.

Its location, on one of the main streets in town for the community, and for the student body, just across parking lot P from the residence halls, creates a distinct connection between the students and this pizzeria. With DeBot closing early and as students in the halls have yet to get a feel for other local eateries, it's proximity to campus is ideal.

"The majority of our customers are college-aged, although people in their seventies still order from us as well," said Collins.

Collins mentioned that most Toppers locations, in the Midwest as well as in North Carolina, are not all that far away from campuses. Emily Fuger, a University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point student, has prior experience with one of these Midwest locations.

Fuger, a native of DeKalb, Ill., was present at the grand opening of that store. A number of individuals, including Fuger, won the grand opening contest. The winners received one pizza a week for a full year. During this period, Fuger refined her tastes for Toppers products.

"Where else can you get a baked potato pizza?" said Fuger. "Their chicken bacon ranch is delectable. The California is also another favorite."

Another Pointer, Kat Stratton, is impressed by the menu at Toppers.

"The barbecue chicken pizza at Toppers is to die for," said Stratton.

As there are four months out of the year when students disappear from the area like the winter break UW-SP just experienced, Toppers fiscal-heart grows fonder for it's wayward Pointers.

"There is a steep decline in business when students are not in town," said Collins.

Students, now that you know that you are missed, there is no better time to try out the special that Toppers is currently running: a large one-topping pizza and a triple order of Topperstix for \$14.99. When asked why Topperstix appear more popular than the pizzas themselves, Collins kept it simple.

"Because people just love them," said Collins.

Even when there are not regular

store specials, there are student specials that come along every so often when a PointCard is in hand. So those of you that think the PointCard can only be used on campus, this should come as a pleasant surprise.

Collins does not find that the competition in town is not overly threatening, and besides, no other location in town is open as late as 3 a.m. all week long that serves pizza cravings. In a college town, there are plenty of those.

"Drunks are not so much of a rambunctious crowd, as they are entertaining," said Collins. "Even more so, during home deliveries."

As any experienced drinker can speak of their stories from yesteryear, rest assured Toppers' employees might be able to compare notes with them.

It's not that sober students are not privy too. When dollars are not coming in from the rail drink crowd, the hottest day for pizza sales is normally homecoming.

Alumni weekend also tends to spawn an increase in business. Super Bowl weekend, which is on the horizon, brings in the greenbacks hand over fist as well.

As the year goes by, Collins notices others reaching out, not customers for pizza, but Toppers to Stevens Point.

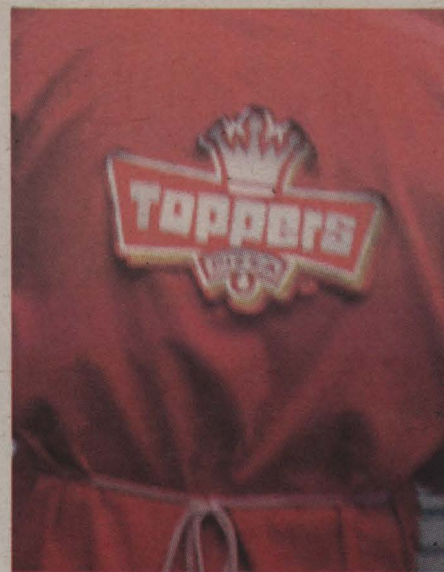
"There is a 'good amount' of involvement with the community," said Collins.

At the same time, Toppers does give out donations to student organizations for fundraisers and other campus promotional programs. Even before Collins was informed that Toppers had been given "The Best Point" honors from The Pointer, he was abundantly clear that this store loves the students.

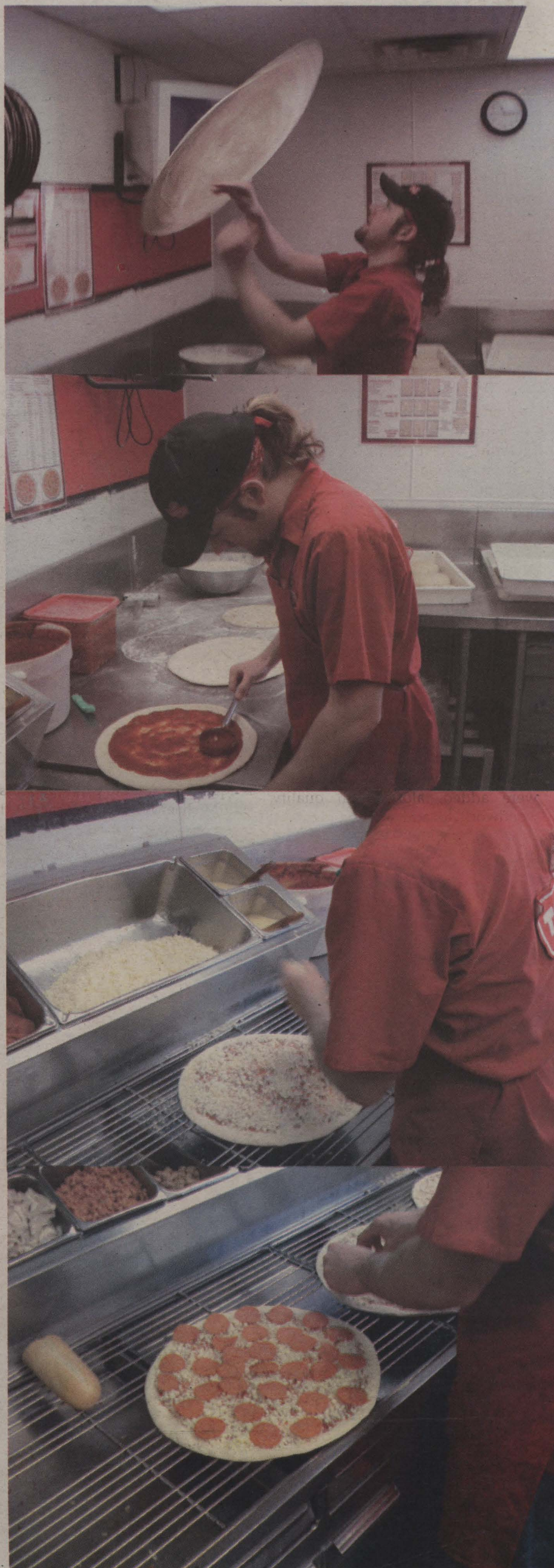
And after he was informed...

"After I talk to the company representatives, we will do anything we can do in reply," said Collins.

As voted by the students of UW-SP, best pizza bar none, or after bar.



**Hours: 11 a.m.-3 a.m.
daily
Phone: 715-342-4242
Address: 249 Division St.
Manager: Kelly Collins
Est. 1997**



Photos by Mike Baumann

Topper's Pizza artist Peter Hanson works his magic the way he knows how. Hanson spins and flattens the dough with decadence, spreads the sauce with elegance, tosses the cheese with ease and spaces pepperoni with style.

Hilltop Pub and Grill: Best local restaurant

Mike Baumann
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Driving east on Hwy 10 you may develop a gut feeling. You find it hard to identify what is going through your mind. Do you want to drive by the husk of the old Wal-Mart building? Continue out into the country and visit the John Deere Implement dealer? What if that gut feeling was an actual gut feeling and you were hungry? Then there is a solution. Hilltop Pub and Grill.

Located not very far from Iverson Park, Hilltop has multiple areas to choose from for your dining pleasure. When conditions are more welcoming than they are now, there is the outdoor patio. There is also an enclosed deck in which to wile away hours. Hilltop also has a formal carpeted dining room, a bar area and the Keg Room. Between 1987 and 1993, most of these additions were affixed to the original property, but it wasn't until 1997 that perhaps the most noteworthy of the these, the Keg Room, was added.

As the Point Brewery was undergoing a remodel, Hilltop also found themselves in the same situation, and the keg that was at the former ended up at the latter. In addition to the keg, 20 more tables were added, along with quality woodwork to add an exciting new



Photo by Mike Baumann

The only way to access the Hilltop is through its legendary keg. The keg was purchased from the Point Brewery in 1997, and now forms an iconic visage to all restaurant patrons.

wrinkle to the place.

"Eating outdoors, in the summer, is equally popular to eating indoors," said Michael Ziner, a manager at the

level, we are behind them," said Ziner.

The business already is a

Hilltop.

Regardless of where you choose to dine at the Hilltop, the ongoing special they have is the daily offer of a Friday Fish Fry. Not only that, but they offer a multitude of the area's micro brews and other area beers including Central Waters and Point Beer.

The Hilltop likes to make it abundantly clear they care deeply about the community.

"Being locally owned and operated, any local charity, or any community team, whether it be the Pointers on the college level, or the Panthers or the Cardinals on the high school

reoccurring sponsor of local events, sporting events such as Pointer hockey and is host to the Pointers' basketball radio show.

Alumni weekends and homecoming weekends do bring in waves of customers to the pub and grill in addition to students and Stevens Point citizens.

Outside of local residents and alumni, Hilltop does see a good deal of action from travelers.


"Being right off the highway, tourists on way to their cabins become familiar faces," said Ziner.

As time goes by, the Hilltop looks to provide continued excellent service by means of food and drink and through neighborhood charitable measures.

"With business continually growing, we look to meet our communities' needs," said Ziner.

This should only lead to greater benefits for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the town it calls home.

Hours: Sun. - Mon. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Phone: 715-341-3037
Address: 4901 US 10-E
Managers: Mike and Sara Mitchell
Est. 1983



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Gepetto's Workshop: Best downtown shop

Jenna Sprattler
THE POINTER
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She wanted to give children the experience she had as a child. After spending endless hours researching toy companies and their products, in 1981 she was ready to put her knowledge to the test. Bonnie Brown's dream of opening Gepetto's Workshop, "kinda started on a hope and a prayer," she said.

Upon entering the shop, it's quite easy to become enraptured by the array of unique toys. The display cases, on each side of the center aisle, glow with globe-style lights casting a pastel hue throughout the doorway. An urge to venture deeper into the store brings back a nostalgic feeling of youth as the vivid colors beyond the display cases seize attention.

In a world full of Wal-Mart and Toys 'R' Us stores, it's quite remarkable that a small downtown toy shop like Gepetto's remains unbeaten by the current economic downfall.

"We're holding our own, which is really good in this time," said Brown. "I think the big 'box stores' are feeling it more than we do."

Brown and manager Karen Pawelski take the time to carefully consider the best interest of the children for whom they are supplying toys. Instead of providing cheaply made toys, they hunt for something special that will make a difference in a child's life. Toys that combine the qualities of fun, education and safety can be found throughout the store.

"I'd say one-third of our product is made in the U.S. or Europe," said Pawelski.

The reason behind purchasing toys from these two continents is because of their strict safety

rules and higher quality products.

"Really, we've had no recalls ... Nothing compared to the mass market, and you can go to K-Mart or Wal-mart and they have a wall just filled with recalls," Pawelski said.

Brown and Pawelski have also noticed a trend of interests shifting back to more traditional toys, as opposed to the newer technological toys such as Wii and PlayStation.

This could be due to companies going "green" with eco-friendly products and stricter safety guidelines, or kids needing more interactive toys to broaden their minds, said Brown and Pawelski.

Brown went on a whim to open the toy store that she had always imagined. With one step into Gepetto's Workshop, anyone can experience what it's like to be a kid again.

**Hours: Mon.-Thur. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Phone: 715-341-8640
Address: 1121 Main St.
Owner: Bonnie Brown
Est. 1981**



Photo by Becka Schuelke

The scenic neighborhood is overlooked by the king of the jungle and his long in the tooth neighbor, the elephant.



Photo by Becka Schuelke

This panoramic shot of Gepetto's shows the true nature of a child's mind. A child's mind is left to creative wonder, with an amalgamation of exquisite colors and dynamic beasts like the giraffe and panda bear.



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Taco Bell: Best after midnight dining

Allyson Taubenheim
THE POINTER
ATAUB878@UWSP.EDU

"Fourthmeal": the meal after dinner and before breakfast. It is the meal that is craved by countless college kids and consumed throughout the wee hours of the morning. Fourthmeal is the meal that earned Taco Bell the "Best After Midnight Dining" award.

But what makes Taco Bell the most popular place to munch after midnight? Perhaps it is the bright interior or the complimentary sauce packets. Maybe it's the late hours of operation or the cheap prices. But one thing is for sure: when Pointers get hungry after dark, they are typically found at the local Taco Bell.

"Sometimes the line stretches all the way out the door," said freshman and frequent fourthmeal consumer Dayna Reisterer. She also said there have been times when she waited up to 45 minutes to get her food in the busy restaurant.

Part of this wait may come from the Big Bell Value Menu, which offers a range of food below a dollar.

But can this crowd be too much stress for employees? Shift manager Derek Silloway thinks so, and he is not the only one. Silloway said that many



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

Taco Bell provides a close to campus late night meal every day for hungry students.

employees have walked out due to rude or drunk customers and other employees simply refuse to work on the weekends. Even prospective staff are warned of the out-of-hand situations before they are hired.

"I could write a book about all the crazy things that happen here on the weekends," said Silloway, who said fist fights and alcohol poisoning are the reason they keep the police on speed dial.

"It's like working at a bar,"

Silloway said, "you never know what's going to happen."

Silloway also said he questions why people choose to eat at Taco Bell when there are visibly up to 100 people in the building and the wait can sometimes be longer than an hour.

"It's so close to campus, plus it's one of the only places still open at 2 a.m.," said Reisterer.

Reisterer also said that going to Taco Bell is like the "after party." She often sees a lot of old friends and even

makes new friends while socializing in line. However, she too admits that the chaos can be "ridiculous," recalling times where she has seen chairs stolen, loud arguments and students stumbling around.

But this behavior does not stop Reisterer or other students from going back to Taco Bell every weekend for one main reason: the food. Some students even go to great lengths to get to Taco Bell-enduring cold weather, hiking across campus and even hoping the fence between Taco Bell and the university parking lot.

"It's delicious," said Reisterer, "and when I am coming home late at night, it's all I want."

Hours: Mon. - Thurs.: 9 a.m.-3 a.m.
Fri. - Sat.: 9 a.m.-4 a.m.
Sun.: 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
Phone: 715-342-0933
Address: 433 Division Street
Store Managers: Sarah Popp and Jim Eberhard

Bruiser's Nightclub: Best place to dance

Eric Krszjanek
THE POINTER
EKRSZ157@UWSP.EDU

Long rumored to be a hot dance spot, Bruiser's Nightclub has now officially been recognized as the "Best Place to Dance" in Stevens Point.

While this recognition is of little surprise to those who frequent the downtown on weekends, some may find it surprising to learn that this fixture of the downtown-area

has been around for quite some time. Celebrating its twenty-sixth year as a dance club, Bruiser's Nightclub has been pumping out the bass since before many of its booty-shaking patrons were even born.

As it turns out, remaining such a popular place for so many years has been quite easy. The key is to not just be about the dancing, it's also in the atmosphere.

"We offer great music, and a fun and interesting staff," said Bruiser's owner Tim Schertz. "We also offer a clean and presentable dance floor and bar, as well as reasonable prices. We've kept the same pricing structures in order to offer consistent value for the dollar. That's the secret to our success."

For an example of how prices have remained reasonable since Schertz bought Bruiser's in 1995, tap beers in that year were \$1.75.

Similarly, mixed drinks in 1995 cost \$2. Today, prices have only gone up slightly.

Additionally, the current tap beers you can get at Bruiser's are: Bud Light, Coors Light, Spotted Cow, Michelob Golden Draft Light and Rolling Rock. And, in case you were wondering, the tap beers in 1995: Pabst Blue Ribbon, Red Dog, Miller Lite, Bud Light and Old Style.

"I love the bar business," said Schertz. "It's a people business, it's about the people. Everybody that walks into anybody's bar is there because they want to be there, not because they have to be."

Some reasons for patrons to want to be at Bruiser's this semester include: the annual St. Patrick's Day party, which includes an all-you-can-drink green beer and green vodka at a marginal cost, Mardi Gras and the Spring Break party, where Bruiser's gives away a vacation in cooperation with a beer company.

"We've sent up to six people a year on vacation each year for spring break," said Schertz.

But people don't have to wait for a holiday to enjoy specials at Bruiser's. Each Friday, beginning Feb. 6, Bruiser's is bringing back the "Crowd Challenge" in which a boxing ring is set up and anyone can enter it and challenge other patrons to a boxing match. Also on

Fridays, patrons can purchase an all you can drink cup. Saturdays bring a new special: a free shot with any drink purchase.

If you're looking for a place with reasonable prices, a fun atmosphere, and a whole lot of bass pumping out the latest and hottest songs in a three-floor, 11,450 square foot space, head on down because every night at Bruiser's is exciting. As Tim Schertz jokingly adds: "The bar business is a circus and I have a front-row seat!"



Photo courtesy of Ashley Schlosser

The party never ends at Bruiser's, with students gathering often to dance away the night.

Hours: Thur.-Sat.: 9 p.m.-close
Address: 956 Main St.
Owner/Manager: Tim Schertz
Est. 1982 as restaurant, re-opened as nightclub in 1983

Gyros and Kabob House: Best ethnic cuisine

Leah Gernetzke
THE POINTER
LGERN177@UWSP.EDU

Walking in downtown Stevens Point in late January is kind of like a sadistic game of hide-and-go seek with the cold—and cold, that inexorably cunning fiend of winter, wraps itself ubiquitously around corners and under leaky doors, vanquishing the smallest vestige of warmth and settling into creaky bones and staircases. Indisputably, no one wins

Not only does the colorful interior of the restaurant beckon to those who value aesthetics, it's also quite comfortable for customers who venture to sit on what is most likely one of Stevens Point's only dining areas not elevated above floor level. For less than intrepid customers, not to worry, as carpeting and cushions with intricate designs evocative of the Ottoman Empire are plentiful.

Draped fabric also enshrouds the dining area, lending an ideal atmosphere for the belly dancing events that are sometimes held here on Saturday nights.

"I like the atmosphere of it," said Katrina Mijal, a frequent patron. "It's one of my favorite restaurants because of the look of it and the feel when you go there."

However, ambiance with an exotic vibe is not all the restaurant has to offer. Of course, the Gyros and Kabob House's array of ethnic dishes from different Mediterranean and Middle Eastern areas singularly grabs customers' attentions. The menu has also recently expanded to include pastas, sandwiches, organic ingredients and options to accommodate vegetarians and vegans.

"I really like their gyros; they're my favorite," said Stacey Lilla, a customer at the restaurant. "They're big, and you get a

lot for your money. And the cucumber sauce is the best."

Each dish on the menu also has a traditional name conveniently translated into English, so those who don't happen to speak any languages endemic to the Middle East or Mediterranean can still know that not only is Babaganoosh, for instance, a fun tongue twister, but also a delicious and healthy eggplant dip.

Baback, who does most of the cooking, said although the most popular item is the gyro, he is partial to the spinach pie, or Spanikopita.

Above all, though, he said he doesn't care what customers, who are largely college students, order as long as they enjoy the food.

"I really enjoy seeing people appreciate food, appreciate the effort I put into it and appreciate that we have something different in this town finally," he said.

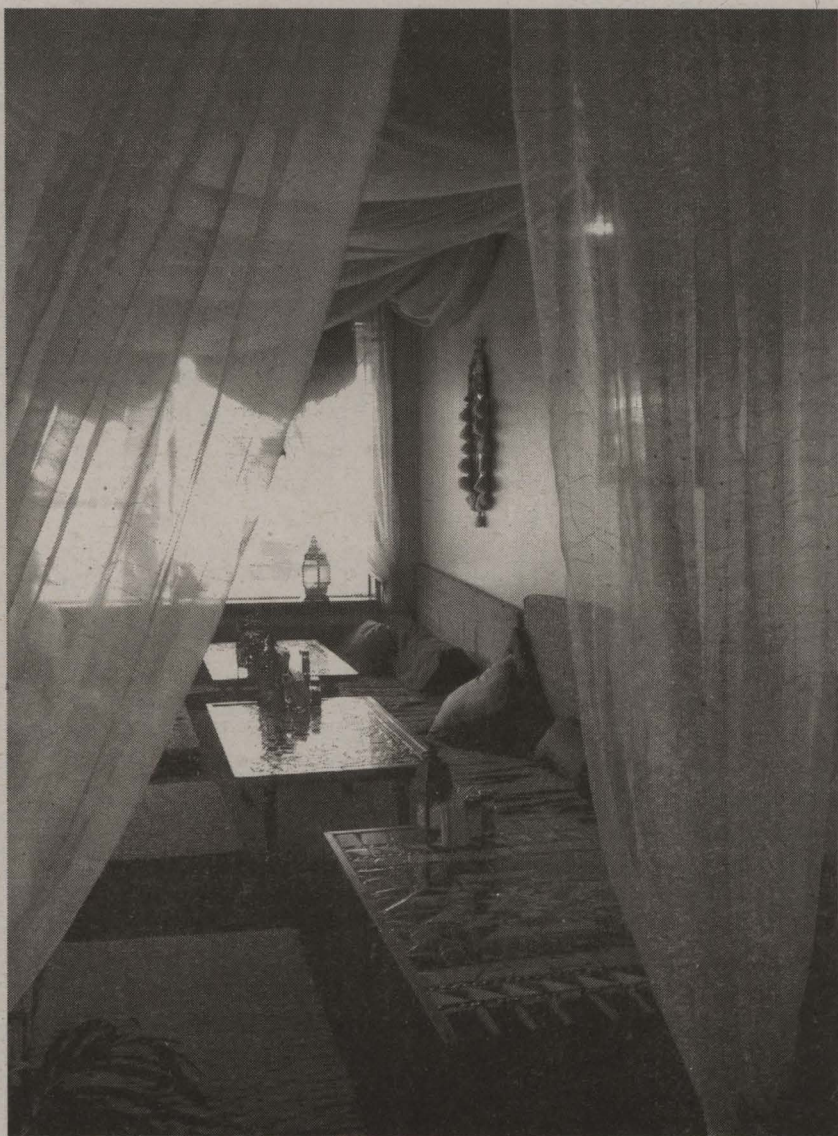


Photo by Becka Schuelke

It's customary to remove one's shoes upon entering the dining room.



Photo by Becka Schuelke

The Gyros and Kabob House provides a medley of cultural dishes with an atmosphere to match, including intricate tapestries and exotic trinkets.

against this formidable element.

But even in the most hostile of wars or most inhospitable conditions, havens still exist where harsh discomfort gives way to cathartic ambiance. With its colorful décor that contrasts so brilliantly with the monochromatic winter blues, the Gyros and Kabob House just might be one of those places.

The restaurant's owner, Baback, who was previously an education professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, said opening it three years ago was a risk.

"I wanted to have something different and diverse in town, someplace where people would like to eat out," he said. "I think it's turned out pretty well so far."

Hours: Mon.-Thur. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3 a.m., Sun. Closed
Phone: 715-341-5411
Address: 1157 Main St.
Manager: Babak
Est. Feb. 2006

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Subway Sandwiches and Salads: Best sub

Ben Haight
THE POINTER
BHAIG870@UWSP.EDU

Even with the addition of Jimmy John's this past fall, Subway Sandwiches and Salads still takes home "The Best of Point" award for the subs category this year. Subway recently made their "five dollar foot-long" marketing campaign into an all-year deal, offering all of their basic sandwiches at 12 inches for just \$5 each.

Subway has also reached its pinnacle atop the anti-fast food industry through its line of seven different sandwiches for six grams of fat or fewer. These sandwiches are six inches long and mostly have deli meat in them, including turkey, ham and roast beef. The calorie values are appealing as well, with most sandwiches estimated at about 220 calories.

The quality bread of Subway

also contributes to its overall success. There are generally five types of bread: white, Italian, hearty Italian, wheat and Italian herb and cheese.

"It's good because it's affordable and you can decide what you want on your sandwich rather than a Big Mac where all you get is grease," said University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point junior Emily Felbab.

Subway is one of the only Stevens Point sub restaurants where you can actually watch your sandwich being made and have as much, or as little, toppings as you desire.

UW-SP senior Michael Babbitts agrees.

"I like the freedom of having my sub any way I want it; there's some times that I want extra mayo, and I usually always like it hot," said Babbitts.

Abby Studinska, assistant manager at Subway, was quick to comment on the service aspect of their venue.

"We have a very energetic staff. We care about the subs that we make," said Studinska.

It should also be noted that Subway has an array of soups, salads, cookies and a delicious line of breakfast sandwiches.

Whether you're looking for a healthy meal with low grams of fat, a \$5 Black Forest ham footlong, or a steak and cheese sandwich,

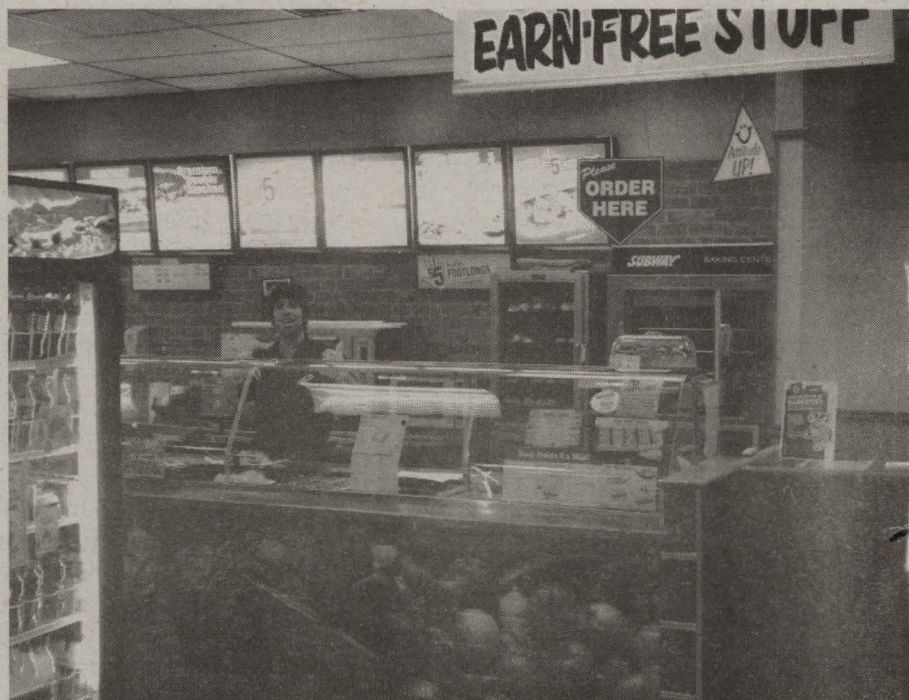


Photo by Ben Haight

Subway's close proximity to the UW-SP campus and its wide array of healthy and filling sub and salad choices makes it an affordable dining location for students.

Subway seeks to deliver you the highest quality sub sandwich available, made exactly the way you want it.

It's comforting to know that a restaurant that was opened in 1996 still provides the same fresh ingredients and attention to detail that allowed it

to have such rapid growth in the past decade. It's no wonder that Subway is still the students' favorite place to purchase delicious sandwiches, a just \$5 a foot!

Phone: 715-341-7777
Address: 135 Division St.
North # 1
Manager: Jenny Krazinski
Est. 1996

Book World: Best bookstore

Justin Glodowski
THE POINTER
JGLOD170@UWSP.EDU

Downtown, near some of your other favorite hotspots like Guu's, The Afterdark, Gepetto's Workshop and the Gyros and Kabob House, lies a small bookstore voted the number

now has over 40 stores in Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota. The location in Stevens Point is celebrating its 30th anniversary at this location throughout 2009.

Location is not the only reason that Book World shines as the number one bookstore in Stevens Point.

"We have friendly service," said Brittney Schuh, manager of the Stevens Point Book World. "We try

to be as prompt as possible with special orders and try to get books to the students as quickly as possible, so they can read them for classes and such. We are also the closest bookstore, other than the University Bookstore, to campus."

Book World gains much of its reputation for its dedication to its customers, providing service above and beyond just what is in the

store. Unlike many larger chains, if Book World doesn't have the book you're looking for, they will go out and find it.

"If we don't have the book you're looking for, we can special order almost anything," said Schuh. "If it is in print, we'll try and find it for you. If we can't find it for you, we'll find someone that can."

Book World doesn't stop at selling some of the best-selling books in the nation; they also sell newspapers, magazines, educational tools and many other products. Books, movies and music can also all be purchased online <http://www.bookworldstores.com/index.htm>.

"We've been online for about a year-and-a-half now," said Schuh. "Our Web site connects with all the Book Worlds in the state, as well as our warehouse, to find you the product you're looking for."



Photo by Becka Schuelke

Book World offers more than just books. Magazines and audiobooks are just some of the extras located at the store.

Hours: Mon. - Thur. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Phone: 715-344-5311
Address: 1136 Main Street
Manager: Brittney Schuh
Est. 1979



Photo by Becka Schuelke

Book World offers a wide selection for readers of all ages. Their extensive collection of fiction, non-fiction and children's books makes it a reader's paradise.

one bookstore in Stevens Point. That bookstore is none other than Book World, a small book chain established in 1976 in Rhinelander, Wis., which

Cost Cutters Family Hair Salon: Best hair salon

Rochelle Nechuta
THE POINTER
RNECH142@UWSP.EDU

Only a block from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Cost Cutters Family Hair Salon is a convenient spot for students who require routine hair grooming throughout the school year.



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

Cost Cutters offers a wide variety of products for purchase.

Freshman Candice Sanchez was one such student this past week. Visiting the Cost Cutters Division St. location near campus, Sanchez got highlights and routine trim for her long brunette hair.

According to Sanchez, the spot is convenient and meets her needs.

"Even in my hometown I always went to Cost Cutters," she said. "Their service is always friendly, polite and I've never had a problem (getting in)."

With over 850 locations in the United States, Cost Cutters is a large chain of hair salons with a helpful staff. The company is a division of the Regis Corporation, which has headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn. and is one of the leaders in the beauty industry.

Despite being a branch of a national company, the location near campus was named the Best in Point because of its helpful customer service, convenience and competitive prices. There is a large staff at the Stevens Point location that continues their education through a minimum of three classes a year in order to keep up with current trends and to maintain their skills.

Manager Carol Wesenberger said that the staff and the shop's convenience are some positives. She said around 30 to 40 percent of the



Photo by Rochelle Nechuta

Cost Cutters' location to UW-SP makes them a hot spot for students' to get their hair done in almost any style.

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shop's business includes students and that she would like to thank the students for choosing them as the best hair salon in town.

"We can tell when they are here and when they are not. We certainly appreciate their business and we're here to stay," Wesenberger said.

Freshman David Kratz lives in Steiner Hall and was in for a cut on Tuesday afternoon. He said the prices may not be as low as the barbershop back home, but it's conveniently located near campus.

"Most of my friends get their hair cut in their hometown because their parents pay for it," said Kratz. "I just can't get around to it, so here I am."

The shop has a number of different services offered to the public on a walk-in basis. Cost Cutters is a popular haunt for those in need of a quick trim, waxed eyebrows or a drastically new look.

"I think it's a really good idea," Sanchez said. "It's only a block away. It's not that expensive because I know other places are pretty expensive, and it fits my schedule, so it's good for me."

The salon also offers quality hair products like Sexy Hair Milk Chocolate Soy Shampoo, organic products and top brand names such

as Paul Mitchell.

As it says on www.costcutters.com, "Cost Cutters is the perfect choice for busy, value-conscious families and men. Our customers appreciate the range of styles offered, at a price easy-to-afford."

Students can also receive a student membership card that offers perks to area college students, including \$2 savings on haircuts and \$7 price cuts for color or perms. There is also a membership card available where you can buy three cuts at once and receive them at a discounted \$9.95 price each.

"[The services] are still lower priced, trying to help them with their expenses for the year," said Wesenberger.

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: 715-345-0300
Address: 101 Division St. North #4
Manager: Carol Wesenberger
Est. 1986

Skipp's Bowling Center: Best bowling alley

Nick Meyer
THE POINTER
NMEYE177@UWSP.EDU

The votes have been tallied and all the victors have been decided for this year's Best of Point contest. Skipp's Bowling Center has been named the best place to put on some used shoes and toss a 12-pound ball at some pins. The Opiola family was happy to accept the title of best place to bowling alley.

"It's surprising and an honor," said Tara Opiola. "I wouldn't have guessed; you hope, but there is competition."

Skipp's Bowling Center was

every Friday and Saturday night. The stage is set for a night out for some college friends, but the biggest draw may be something else.

"I think it's partially location, atmosphere and the college league is big with students," said Tara.

The college bowling league at Skipp's is held on Wednesday and Thursday nights at 9:30 p.m. and anyone is able to join. To reserve a spot all you need to do is call ahead of time, which may be good advice.

"We get anywhere from 60-90 [people]," said Tara. "Call ahead and sign up your team 'cause we only have so many openings; Thursdays are almost full."

Besides the college league, Skipp's offers leagues for every type



Photo by Nick Meyer

Skipp's Bowling Center brings in the crowds to play the lanes in leagues and just for fun.

of bowler. There are men's, women's and mixed leagues as well as a junior league on Saturdays.

Beyond bowling, Skipp's has a ballroom upstairs for every type of event: parties, weddings and even concerts. Last year, Skipp's played host to Wisconsin natives The Crest and their brand of hip-hop for an all-ages show.

Skipp's bowling is a business grounded in family tradition, something lost in the world of store chains and big business. Tara seemed very happy to know her family's work is appreciated, but more so expressed appreciation for the business of the students.

"Thank you, a big thank you,"

said Tara. "It gave me the chills; I'm so excited."

The Skipp's college league begins next Wednesday. The cost to bowl is \$3 per game.



Photo by Nick Meyer

Away from the lanes, students can enjoy the myriad of other activities within Skipp's Bowling Center.

established in Stevens Point in 1955, by Anthony Opiola and has been run by the family ever since. Anthony, a Chicago native, owned a bar on the square before taking a chance on the location for sale at the corner of Strongs Ave and Park St. The business gets its name from Anthony, whose nickname is Skipp.

"This location came up for sale and he decided to try it," said Tara. "But he was never a bowler."

When Skipp's was first opened there were eight bowling lanes, which were located upstairs. It wasn't until the late 1960's that the lanes were moved downstairs to where they are currently located. Now there are 24 lanes, more than enough for whoever ventures in. Whoever does wander in is sure to be greeted by a member of the Opiola family. This is the third generation of the Opiola family to run Skipp's.

"It's definitely a family affair," said Tara. "We all work; we all put in a lot of hours."

Skipp's was voted the best place to bowl by the campus student body. The atmosphere at Skipp's is definitely inviting; a massive wrap around bar, an ATM that gives you drink deals, good food, the best game room in town and moonlight bowling

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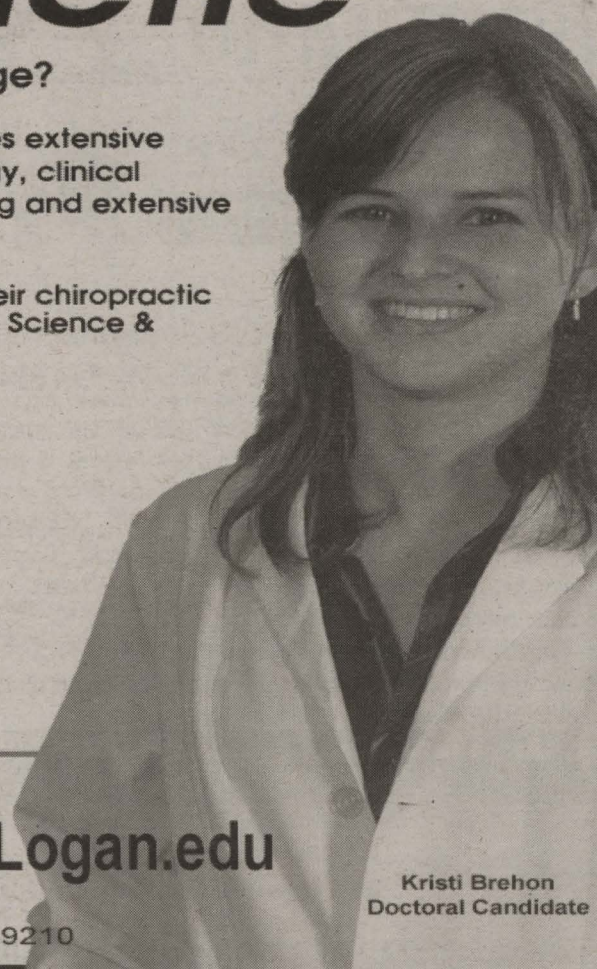
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Kristi Brehon
Doctoral Candidate

The Afterdark Coffee House: Best music venue

Jacob Mathias
THE POINTER
JMATH438@UWSP.EDU

Multiple music acts every week, local and nationwide artists and great coffee make the Afterdark Coffee House a natural selection for the best music venue of Stevens Point.

"I like to think I book a lot of different stuff," owner Sheldon Schroeder said. "Usually during college I mix it up a heck of a lot more."

Afterdark owners Sheldon and Dawn Schroeder took over on Feb. 29, 2008.

Schroeder originally grew up in Guam where his father was in the Air Force, but he knew Stevens Point from different visits to family. When he moved to Stevens Point, he wanted to keep the business the way it was when he first moved here in 1993.

The business has grown since he first moved to town and the music is now in a larger venue adjacent to the coffee shop.

"What I'm trying to do, and we're pretty much in the middle of it, is bringing up the local scene," Schroeder said.

The Afterdark is host to many different music stylings and events throughout each week.

For their upcoming one year anniversary on Feb. 28, the After Dark



Photo courtesy of Afterdark

The Afterdark contains the best music venue according to UW-SP students. It offers an atmosphere that brings the performers up close to the listeners but providing a comfortable setting to enjoy.

is hosting Hypno5, a group from France.

"It's progressive metal, very integrated. European metal is more of a cross between Iron Maiden and Motorhead," Schroeder said. Local bands will also be performing that day.

The group is also hosting a

Superbowl Party on Feb. 1 with a myriad of local bands performing during and after the game. Local and regional bands performing are No Wings to Speak Of, Solidarity, Wholehearted, Iron Thrones, Glasgow Memoirs and well-known local band Secret Secretions.

"Precore is coming from Washington State. They're kind of an indie-grunge band, kind of in the vein of Nirvana," Schroeder said about Superbowl Sunday.

The Afterdark is going to be the kickoff point for local band Wrath of the Girth.

Local favorites Carmen Lee and Clinton Miller will be performing at the Afterdark on Feb. 7.

Friday, Feb 20 is the CD release for Fifty Foot Fo. Joining in the celebration are Shattered Red and Imaginary Friend.

"Shattered Red used to play here many years ago. Many of their shows are super packed," said Schroeder.

The Afterdark also hosts a weekly open-mic night, Thursdays at 8 p.m. Another weekly event is the presence of latin and reggae musician Bobby Aleman who performs every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

"Every other week we have Bobby G. He comes in and spins records," Schroeder said.

Sheldon Schroeder's love of music and his business has brought music to the forefront of downtown Stevens Point and has earned him and his business the title of best music venue in town.

"I just would like to see the majority of people get along. The more people you get in here, the better it is for the music," Schroeder said. "It's all pretty much about the fun."

Hours: 10 a.m. - 3 a.m.
Phone: 715-254-0049
Address: 1319 Strong's Ave.
Owners: Sheldon and Dawn Schroeder
Est. Feb. 29, 2008

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Brain Damage
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The number two cause of accidental death in the United States each year is falling with 14,900 incidents. This includes falls from ladders, down stairs, over curbs, off buses, into manholes and through plate glass windows. Falls are only beat by motor vehicle crashes.

The second most widely spoken language in the world is English with 508 million speakers. It is the official language of more countries than any other language though. Mandarin is the most widely spoken language in the world.

The second largest living organism in the world is the Grove of Aspen Trees in Utah. It is named "Pando" and stretches over 200 acres, weighing in at approximately 660 tons. It is only defeated by the largest organism, the Humongous Fungus, which covers over 2,200 acres.

The next closest star after our very own sun is Proxima Centauri, which is about 4.2 light years away.

The second best movie according to the American Film Institute is "Citizen Kane," being defeated by "Casablanca."

The cheetah gets all the praise for being the fastest mammal on land at 71 m.p.h., but the pronghorn antelope ranks number two, clocking in at 57 m.p.h.

The second highest selling alcohol in the United States is Bacardi Rum, selling 9 million cases a year. Top selling goes to Smirnoff Vodka, which sells 9.3 million.

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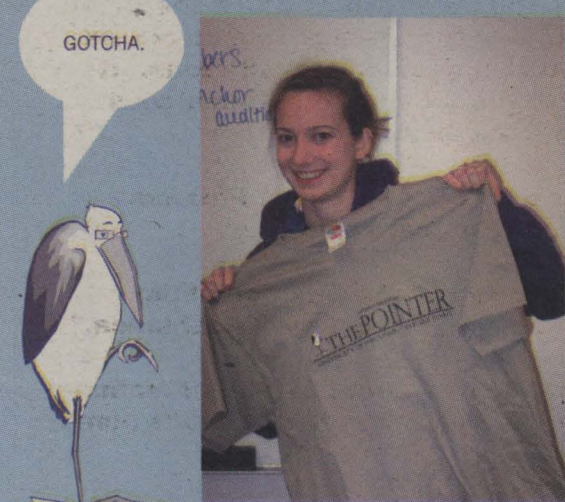
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Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.

Thanks to all who
voted for this
week's issue "The
Best of Point."
For those who
didn't, hope you
do next time!

get caught reading
The Pointer



Junior Anna Wiltzus likes to keep updated on student issues.



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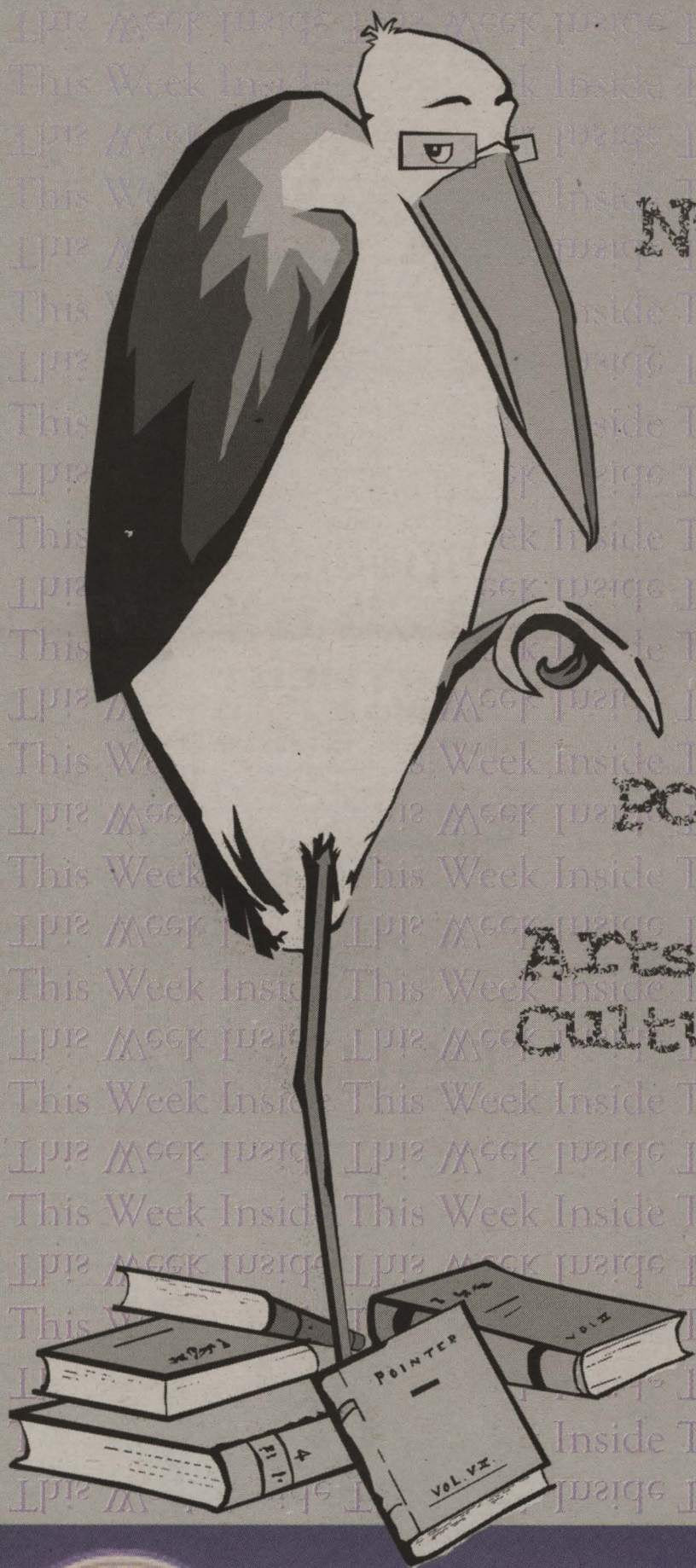
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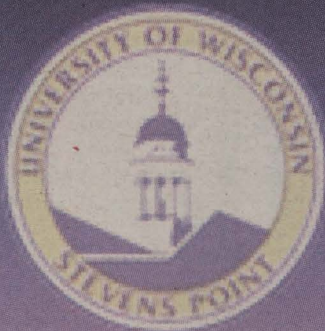
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