UWSP professor aims to develop drought-resistant wheat

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point professor of biology, Devinder Sandhu, is working with other scientists to create drought-resistant wheat and other cereal grains with improved seedling emergence, abiotic stress tolerance, root characteristics and nutrient uptake.

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With the looming threat of climate change, the future of our world food supply will depend heavily on how key crops such as wheat are able to withstand the extreme conditions such as drought.

Because of this imminent threat, there is an international effort afoot to develop a high yielding wheat plant that is resistant to drought.

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are playing an active role in that quest.

This past January, UWSP Associate Biology Professor Devinder Sandhu received a $1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation (Basic Research Enabling Agricultural Development) to research potential forms of drought-resistant wheat.

Collaborators with Sandhu on the project include Purdue University, Washington State University, Pioneer Hybrid International, as well as two universities from India and Pakistan.

According to NSF’s website, the objective of the BREAD Program is “to support innovative scientific research designed to address key constraints to smallholder agriculture in the developing world.”

“In this grant, actually, the focus was on developing some technology which can help in real-life agriculture,” Sandhu said. “You are supposed to develop something – some scientific method, some technology which is going to be used later for practical applications.”

Working with students, who do the bulk of the research on the project, Prof. Sandhu is analyzing 18 different “dwarfing genes” in wheat, which are genes that make the plant grow taller.

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See Wheat, page 2

Rape: The Silent Epidemic

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Rape is an unfortunate and ever-present threat to many women across the world, and is frequent in college communities. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is no exception.

Wisconsin Statistics, a data gathering organization, UWSP had 10 reported sexual assault cases in the year 2005, but an approximate 60 percent of sexual assault cases are not reported to the police.

Dana Smith, the executive coordinator of the Women’s Resource Center, said the problem is that “rape is something that is perpetrated and sometimes even encouraged in American media and culture; the two are confounded.”

Alcohol is often a component in rape cases, where freshman girls are a specific target. These “guys are not your average Joes, they’re predators,” said Dr. Patricia Dyjak, a member of the Women’s Studies advisory committee. “It’s very targeted. It isn’t a misunderstanding.”

Identifying the problem is one thing, but a clearly effective plan to eradicate this epidemic is unclear. The only thing that can change is for men and women to learn how to protect themselves, and to raise awareness.

Anne Hoffmann, Assistant Director for the Allen Center said, “To address sexual violence at UWSP, we need to do two things simultaneously: increase the reporting and hold perpetrators responsible.”

The event of sexual assault doesn’t always fit the cliche. “Rapists aren’t waiting in every alley to jump on an unsuspecting person. Most assailants personally know the person they are assaulting,” said Smith.

It’s always important to move with a group of people, and never to find yourself alone at a party. Even the way you hold yourself in a public place can affect how you are perceived.

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It’s always important to move with a group of people, and never to find yourself alone at a party. Even the way you hold yourself in a public place can affect how you are perceived.

See Rape, page 2

Please Recycle.
Wheat/Students get involved in research

"Why you want dwarf plants is because, theoretically, if they're not putting as much energy into growing taller, hopefully they're putting more energy into growing other things; for instance, parts of the plant that we actually use in a crop sense," Ott said. Some genes might actually lengthen the plant's root system while shortening its stem, which would prove beneficial in drought-ridden environments where water is scarce.

Research as an opportunity

Undergraduate training through research projects such as this is a primary focus for Prof. Sandhu. He recommends that any student in the sciences get involved in research on campus, as most professors are engaged in a project of some sort.

Get involved in some kind of practical aspect of research, somewhere, with somebody. Get this training. Try it out for six months. Start early. Don't wait until your final year, because then there is not enough time to get training," Sandhu said.

Ott also attests to the benefits of getting involved with research, and says that it can add a meaningful and tangible dimension to material that is learned in class. She urges all students to engage in practical research, no matter what kind.

"There's no reason why you shouldn't do research. It'll help you get jobs, it'll give you letters of recommendation because you're working closely with a professor, and it's just really fulfilling for yourself. You learn so much more than sitting in a class," Ott said.

Many of Prof. Sandhu's research students have gone on to publish multiple scientific articles, and others have spent the summer doing research at Iowa State University, where Sandhu used to work. Sandhu appreciates that many of his students are dedicated to the research, and he remarked on the type of students he looks for.

"I don't need extraordinarily smart students. I need students with determination who want to stay, who want to do something," Sandhu said.

"Many times, people underestimate undergraduates. What they need is a little bit of motivation, some direction, some support. That's all they need."

Rape/WRC raises awareness of women's issues

setting can help protect you. Predators "see politeness as a sign of submission," said Dyjak. Predators infer that due to because we are unintelligent, we just many rapes go unreported. A reason for such a low percentage of victims reporting sexual because we are seen as weak in our community, we are unimportant, we just don't know how to deal with the fact that "good boys' rape," said Hoffmann.

Many agree that changes need to be made on campus and in our culture to alter the way sexual assault is viewed, and ultimately to give more of a way for women to protect themselves and to report their situations.

"Other institutions are light-years ahead of UWSP. I wonder what the objection is for when we have not adopted best practices for reporting and perpetrator accountability?" asked Hofmann.

The Women's Resource Center on campus can be found in Room 65 in the Dreyfus University Center. It is a student-run center that focuses on one awareness of women's issues through programs and activities. They provide resources on sexual assault, domestic violence, and eating disorders. Their door is always open.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of rape, call the police, a friend or family member, or contact the Sexual Assault Victim Services at (715) 343-7125.

USA SUMMER CAMP: This is an English language program for Japanese students, elementary school age through college. During the summer, UWSP counselors take part in the camp program for approximately 27 days/22 nights.

During the program the students from America will act as camp counselors, working with the Japanese students on a variety of English language drills and activities. Counselors will also participate with the Japanese students in recreation activities, meals and variety of social activities. This is a VERY rewarding program, but be prepared to work hard. It is a wonderful way to enhance your résumé, especially if you are going into an educating field.

COST/COMPENSATION: UWSP students pay only $950-1150 to cover costs such as UWSP tuition and mandatory health/travel insurance. Included: Round-trip air transportation, host family arrangements, food and lodging during all assigned days at the camp program, transportation expenses between host family's home and the camp program, three UWSP undergraduate credits, health insurance policy for stay in Japan through the UW-System.

DATES: The period of stay in Japan will vary from team to team. Departures from the United States will range from late June to early July. Returning dates will range from mid to late August.

Japanese language ability is not required to apply for this program.

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COMMUNITY

Main Grain Bakery to replace Emry J's Garage

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Emry J's Garage, a live music and event venue aimed at serving the community, closed at the end of November. Taking its place will be The Main Grain Bakery, scheduled to open in mid December.

The Garage was a space owned by Emry J's, but was free to community members to hold events such as social issue meetings, movies, comedy/music performances and art shows. The Main Grain plans to sell bakery items including artisan breads and fine pastries.

Emry J's Owner, Guy Janssen said, "The Garage didn't earn a whole lot in financial terms but it was a great way to have people use the space - We never looked at it in terms of making money but more of a community space for all. Emry J's and Cafe Espresso did benefit from the extra foot traffic so there were extra earnings associated with The Garage."

Though The Garage increased traffic at Emry J's, Janssen thinks the Main Grain will do as well - the added rent money brought in by the bakery will also give Emry J's a boost.

"We had the opportunity to lease out the space to a great bakery idea and we think it will be an added benefit to Emry J's and Cafe Espresso," said Janssen.

Will Calkins, senior wildlife major, said, "Emry J's is great. I think they provide a lot to the Stevens Point area and UWSP - it's too bad The Garage is closing, but I think The Main Grain is going to be really cool and I'm glad Emry J's is making a positive move for their business."

Janssen said that he does think Stevens Point could use a space like The Garage, but now he thinks the city would benefit from a great bakery.

"Things do change, maybe it's time for someone else to step up and offer something like The Garage," said Janssen. "We do a great many things for this community and are rewarded greatly by the patrons that choose to buy our products and service. A community can be best served by what type of businesses are in the community and so in the long term I think we will all have a great future."

The fallout, if any, from The Garage's closing may not be clear, but as Emry J's website says, this change is "good news for bread and pastry lovers, bad news for music lovers - no more music but lots more flavor."

CAMPUS

Senators speak out on UCAPB, organization goes about business

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The Student Government Association and the University Centers Advisory and Policy Board are geared up and ready to go for a new system, whatever the outcome.

According to Kathleen Gould, UCAPB chair, the five shared governance organizations are ready to sit down and address their differences in the arguments that students have been involved in with segregated fees.

"At this point, the presidents and co-chairs of the five shared governance organizations are sitting down together to have a moderated meeting with Ashley Riederer, the SGA Budget director; to discuss our options of moving forward together with some of the issues we've had this semester," Gould stated. This meeting will be held on Dec. 7.

However, this is not exactly up for much discussion in the minds of some SGA Senate leaders.

Pat Testin, President of the College Republicans and Senator for the College of Letters and Sciences, refuses to recognize anything that UCAPB is doing as any of the members of the body.

"They are in direct violation of the law and are ignoring the voice of the student body. I find their actions and behavior on the same level as a five year old child. They need to grow up and do as the student body says," Testin said.

This belief isn't just that of Testin's, others in Senate have spoken about UCAPB's position that it is not breaking system policy 30-5 set out by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents.

Robert Lass of Letters and Sciences has also worked extensively on the issue of UCAPB and the segregated fees process.

Some consider that the e-mail sent by Stephanie Aleman, advisor to Gould, as an ongoing personnel issue.

"While UCAPB is in the midst of the fight to save their organization, they will continue to go about business as usual," Gould couldn't comment on this, only saying it is an ongoing personnel issue.

"While UCAPB is in the midst of the fight to save their organization, they will continue to go about business as usual," Gould couldn't comment on this, only saying it is an ongoing personnel issue.

According to Gould, "UCAPB has been and will continue business as it has since the beginning of the semester until we are told from the Chancellor to turn our responsibilities elsewhere. We are in the middle of budget presentations and review-
Seniors lead the way in successful season

GUS MARCELLINO-MERWIN
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Pointer Football Commentator

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Pointers finished second in WIAC play this season behind the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawks with a 5-2 conference record, 7-3 overall. The Pointers were the ninth best rusher in the conference with 1760 yards and his total of 19 passing touchdowns were good enough for second in the conference with conference leading 12 interceptions.

The defense was led by a stellar group of seniors that could stack up evenly with any lineup in the conference. Senior defensive back Joe Mleziva was second in the conference in tackles with 88 total, and was fourth in interceptions with three. Fellow senior, linebacker Peter Peterson was fifth with 80.

Senior defensive lineman Brandon Bruger led the conference with nine and a half sacks. Matt Lunder wasn’t far behind with six of his own, placing him in fourth. Lunder and Bruger topped the list in tackles for loss. Lunder was first with 175 total and Bruger was second with 165. Peter Peterson was close as well, tied for fourth with ten.

Lunder and Peterson tied for the lead in forced fumbles with three and four. Lunder led the conference in fumble recoveries with the same. Lunder, Peterson, and Mleziva were all voted First Team defense while Bruger was voted Second Team.

Also receiving conference awards for their play this season were; senior offensive lineman Shane Winterfeldt: First Team Offense, senior Center Justin Orada: Second Team Offense, senior defensive lineman Joe Callier: Honorable Mention Defense and junior corner back Colton Zimmermann: Honorable Mention Defense.

Senior linebacker Brandon Stremkowski was voted to the All-Sportsmanship Team. After suffering a possible career ending injury two years ago, Brandon came back strong for the Pointers. He finished the season with 48 tackles and was another senior leader for the Point defense.

Although the Pointers are losing a successful and talented group of seniors, it creates opportunities for a new class to step up to the challenge. While the offense will lose their top two receiving threats, the run game will remain for the most part intact with the exception of the loss of senior back Kyle Furhman.

Freshman quarterback Casey Barnes will be asked to pick up where Swank left off next season. On the defensive side there will be losses on the defensive line. But with returning starters such as Zimmerman and linebacker Curtis Krump a drop off in leadership and talent is unlikely.

All roads to the conference championship lead to Whitewater. Only next season will tell if a new team is up to the challenge and can carry on the winning tradition established by the Pointers before them.

Women’s volleyball finishes with a strong record

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With a disappointing loss to end the season against the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawks, the 2010 Pointer volleyball team finished the season Nov. 2 with a record of 21-13, earning their majority of the conference, the Pointers will only lose one senior this season - Kaitlin Wolfe, who was selected to be part of the WIAC’s All Sportsmanship team, led the team in digs, and is recognized by teammates and coaches for her presence on and off the court. Although Wolfe is the sole senior leaving the roster, coaches and players agree that she leaves a substantial hole to fill.

"Kaitlin was who the team looked for in tight situations," said Tanking. "Our setters knew they could set her to win the big point when needed... she will be missed tremendously on and off the court next year."

Other team leaders include Sophomore Lauren Krum, who despite injuring her knee during an Oshkosh tournament, maintained a positive spirit and continued to provide vocal support.

Sophomore Morgan Bartkowiak, who led the team in kills this year and was instrumental in the team’s success, earned an Honorable Mention nod for the All-WIAC Volleyball Team.

"If we work hard this off season I really do have a feeling that we are going to be on the top of the conference next year and it’s a really hard conference," said York. In their conference four teams went on to the D-III NCAA playoffs. We were 5th.

Photo by Mark Kinslow
**SPORTS**

**Pointer Cross Country Teams run to Nationals**

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's cross country team finished their 2010 season as the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) champions and finished sixth place at the Division III NCAA Championship race. The Pointers ran to the beat of their own drum as they met and conquered their pre-season goals and expectations.

"I thought we could be a pretty good team, I thought we could win a trophy," said Terry Witkowski. "We needed to run good races," Junior Terry Witkowski explained. Terry is a junior pursuing a physical education major and a senior on the team.

Kelly Haen, a senior and physical education major, explained "We sat down individually and as a team and discussed our team goals, we wanted to make it into nationals and place top three or four in conference we placed second." Haen is also a captain on the women's team.

"I guess I got a little worried midway through the season, our fifth runner was a freshman and we score five, so it was a little bit scary due to the inexperienced level. But I think after we beat UW-Oshkosh at conference, we started to believe we could do some special," said Claire Roberts, a senior business administration major and a senior on the team.

It seems both the women's and men's team had similar situations battling through injuries and illness during the season, be it in practice or at a race.

The two runners expressed that the seniors helped set the tone to succeed this year and hope it rubs off on the younger runners for seasons to come. Witkowski and Haensen along with the men's team also want to send out a special thank-you to Head Coach Rick Witt as he has always pushed them to succeed no matter what.

The team will lose three of their top seven runners, but is very optimistic and looks forward to repeating their pre-season goals and expectations.

**Pointer Women's Soccer finishes strong**

SAM SCHWANEBECK
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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's soccer team had another phenomenal year, finishing 18-2-2 and advancing to the NCAA Division III Sweet 16. The Pointers went to overtime in their Sweet 16 match, eventually losing on penalty kicks as Denison University (Ohio) made all five, while the Pointers made four.

Five Pointers were awarded with WIAC (Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) honors. Senior midfielder Mary Jean Cornelius earned her third consecutive first team honors, along with the All-Sportsteamship team. Other Pointers joining Cornelius on the All-WIAC first team: Vicki Bieschke, senior goalkeeper Liz Hunter, senior defender Kelly Lloyd, and junior defender Lauryn Semling.

"We were so successful because we genuinely like each other," senior forward Vicki Bieschke said. "How can you not succeed when you are giving 100% for each other?"

Head coach Sheila Miech was awarded WIAC coach of the year, the ninth of her career at UWSP.

With their third consecutive WIAC title, the UWSP women have been extremely successful recently, especially the seniors. Over their four years in the program, they are 69-15-5, along with three consecutive conference titles, four trips to the NCAA playoffs and three Sweet Sixteen appearances.

"I will miss seeing my teammates every single day and how much fun we had when we were all together," Bieschke said.

Thank you for your four wonderful years at UWSP seniors Liz Hunter, Ashley Anders, Vicki Bieschke, Mary Jean Cornelius, Andrea Peiffer, Kelly Lloyd, and Stephanie Wolf.

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University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
Student orgs help out this holiday season

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Student organizations are known to lend a helping hand during the holiday season, and this year is no different. Many various organizations all over the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus are conducting events to help others in need and involve students.

One of the many organizations that are participating this holiday season is the Student Involvement and Employment Office (SIEO). They will be having many events, but there are two that are their biggest endeavors. One of the causes they are working towards is the Toys for Tots program. Cari Rutledge, junior elementary education major, is the community outreach coordinator for SIEO. "Toys for Tots is going on, which is through the Marine Corps league, and we donate new unwrapped toys and they'll be shipped out to families in our community for children on Christmas," Rutledge said.

Another program they are premiering this year is the Wooly Tree. People can donate gloves, hats, scarves, and even coats and put them near the tree and they will be donated to the Salvation Army Hope Center in Stevens Point.

"I got the idea because at home there is a Wooly Tree at my church, so I thought it would be good for the community and the Stevens Point campus to help out the community," Rutledge said.

Both of the programs SIEO are hosting are going on right now, and both will be ending Dec. 10. Another event is called "'Tis the Season," and is being run through Students Engaged in Rewarding Volunteer Experiences (SERVE).

Bonnie Schwab, a senior business administration and music double major, is the special events and volunteer coordinator for SERVE. "We are going to be decorating holiday cookies and making cards and door decorations for the residents at Oakridge Senior Living Center," Schwab said.

This event will be held on Dec. 11 from 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Encore, located in the Dreyfus University Center.

Another student organization that is bringing the cheer this year is the Residence Hall Association (RHA). RHA will be conducting a food drive throughout all of the residence halls by putting out boxes for people to drop off food. They are eventually taken to a local food pantry, and this event is going on now until Dec. 16.

An additional program they are hosting is free gift wrapping in Debot Dining Center on Dec. 15 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be an opportunity to have your gifts wrapped for free in time for the holidays.

The other event that RHA is involved in is something that they have been doing for years now. RHA will be sponsoring a family, and will give gifts and food in time for Christmas.

Andrew Minten, a junior political science major, is the fundraising chairperson for RHA, and enjoys doing programs like this. "RHA just wants to give back to the community and give UWSP a good name," said Minten.

Most of the events will be done by the Social and Contemporary Issues Committee (SCI), which is part of RHA.

Along with these two featured student organizations, there are many more that will be conducting holiday events. There will be more information about other student organizations as the holiday season draws near.

90 FM to host annual radiothon auction

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Looking for some great deals? Want to take part in supporting central Wisconsin's local businesses? Local radio station 90 FM will host their annual Radiothon on December 4 and 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. each day.

The Radiothon, as 90 FM's website describes it, is an on-air auction of goods and services donated by area businesses. Listeners call in and bid against each other on items that make perfect gifts for any holiday or special occasion. A package will be announced every 15 minutes, with bidding ending one hour after the original announcement.

Masan Meulemans, junior communication major, is president of the radio station. He hosts an alternative music broadcast from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Mondays, and a sports chat on Thursday nights. His co-workers and listeners know him as "The Mule Man."

"Many listeners that we never hear from out of their shells to support Radiothon," Meulemans noted. Radiothon has been going on for over 15 years now and has shown a great amount of enthusiasm from the community.

Meulemans also said that all proceeds from the event go directly into capital for 90 FM, in effect helping to keep the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point's radio station up and running. "We basically auction off anything and everything we can get. Donations come in from local businesses... they know that if they help us out, we're gonna do what we can to help them out."

This year's packages range from gift certificates to local restaurants, such as Plover Express and Christian's Bistro; CDs from local record store Radio Kaos; and even a 50 lb. carton of potatoes from Okray Family Farms.

Meulemans said there are a lot of good reasons to come out and support 90 FM during Radiothon. He said there's a lot of opportunity for college students to get a great deal on many cool items while supporting UWSP's radio station.

Also of note to many 90 FM enthusiasts, the theme of 90 FM's gigantic trivia contest will be announced during Radiothon. Trivia will take place on April 8, 9, and 10 of 2011.

Tune into 90 FM this weekend to check out Radiothon, or call in a request to the station at 715-346-2696.
Winter Entertainment Preview: Mr. Rager’s Soulful Sleigh Bells

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Album: “Man on the Moon II: The Legend of Mr. Rager”
Artist: Kid Cudi
Labels: Good Music/ Dream On/ Universal Motown

Kid Cudi (Scott Mescudi) the 26-year-old Cleveland, Ohio native released his second installment of his Man on the Moon series Nov. 9. “The Album pays respects to prine with winter in WI feel.”

Arcel is Kid Cudi’s chance. Kid Cudi uses a vast array of instruments throughout the album, as he displays his lyrical genius track after track. Similar to his debut album, “Man on the Moon: The End of Day,” Cudi focuses most of his music and lyrical content close to home. While his debut album thrust us into the dreams of Kid Cudi. “The Legend of Mr. Rager” depicts a darker side of Kid Cudi’s life, his reality good and bad.

The album is cut up into five acts; Act I: The World I am Ruling, Act II: A Stronger Trips, Act III: Party On, Act IV: The Transformation, Act V: You Live & You Learn. Kid Cudi pushes the envelope musically and is sure to stimulate your ear buds or at least spark conversation. Try tracks; “Ghost,” “Maniac,” “The End,” “Ashin’ Kusher,” “Wildin’ Out I’m Young,” heck, just listen to the whole album and make sure to read those credits.

Other hip hop artist to try; Wiliz Khalifa, The Cool Kids, Kanye West, Chip the Rapper.

If you’re more of a blues/rock or noise pop/dance punk, type person I also recommend these interesting, yet fulfilling stocking stuffers.

Artist: The Black Keys Album: Brothers
Labels: Nonesuch/ Alive/Fat Possum Genre: Blues-Rock

This two man band has released their sixth album, sure to have you head nodding and dancing your butt off. This album is family friendly and sure to please the older generation. As The Black Keys have a distinct rock sound laced with soulfulness able to warm your bones on those brisk winter evenings.

Artist: Sleigh Bells Album: Treats
Label: Mom + Pop Genre: Noise pop/Dance punk

If you love heavy baselines and loud trance-style melodies, then Sleigh Bells is the band for you. This guy-girl duo based out of Brooklyn, NY released their debut album, “Treats,” May 11. 2010. The album is sure to help set the tone for any holiday dance party.

Eternal winter makes good for “Eternal Sunshine”

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When the snowflakes start to fall, everything just seems to kind of slow down. That’s why I always grab my favorite movie, bundle up on the couch and settle in for the winter. “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind” was the movie I had received as a gift about five years ago, and ever since, I can’t find a better movie to get me through winter.

The storyline takes place over winter, the movie is a cold romance and it’s a semi-comedy with dramatic overtones.

Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet are among a star cast and a surprising fit in the film for an odd relationship.

The film is sure to spike an interest among those who enjoy indie films as well as people who obsessively follow some actors along through their films.

But the film also has another following from people in the science community who desire to learn the ways of selective memory loss. So if you’re one of those people, I’d say hunker down for the winter and leave this in your computer, or DVD player for the reminder of winter.

While you might think the outcome of a film’s story would be out of only one possibility, you’ll just have to watch the film to actually figure it out.

Album pays respects to prime with winter in WI feel

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Folk-singer John Prine represents every warm piece of nostalgia that still clings to my jaded old brain. Earnest, witty and irreverent – don’t mistake his sincere presentation for simplicity. These lyrics have layers.

On “Broken Hearts and Dirty Windows,” a motley cast of alternative-country’s finest gathers for a round table talk with John Prine.

On the sleeve of “Broken Hearts,” Justin Vernon remembers the first time he heard the music, on route to a cabin in rural Wisconsin, “balancing that CD player like a plateful of pearls.” I can’t think of a more perfect introduction to Uncle Prine.

The album pays respects to prime with winter in WI feel. His 2007 debut release “For Emma Forever Ago” was recorded in a cabin in Northwestern Wisconsin. And Emma’s sparse, emotive lyrics soundly personify our state’s stark, heartbreaking winters.

Vernon is the ideal voice to “Broken Heart’s” effort. His opening song “Bruised Orange” is more a duet with Prine than a cover. He’s followed by Conor Oberst, whose tumbling, jaunty delivery fits the whimsical “Wedding Day in Funeralville.” “My Morning Jacket,” “Drive-By Truckers,” “Deer Tick” – there’s not enough space for me to pay homage to a collection this raucous and fitting.

Perhaps the album’s most pleasant surprise comes from “Lambchop,” an ever morphing Nashville lineup led by Kurt Wagner, whose enigmatic and strangely appealing vocals serve as an intriguing vehicle for the mysteriously dark, “Six O’Clock News.”

Yet my vote for Broken Heart’s most gripping pairing of voice and lyrics goes to “Mexican Home,” performed by Josh Ritter. Idaho’s Ritter, who studied folk music in Scotland before he returned to the states to earn a hefty-following, drives “Mexican Home” with his melodic, Dylan-esque vocals and simple chord arrangement. “The cockroach has died of shock, and the windows feel no pain. And the air is as still as the throatle on a funeral train.”

Vernon concludes the album’s note with a simple statement offered up to Prine. “Your songs are still here, John, beautifully breathing and beating us up. Thank you.” I’ll second that.

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Kt Tunstall’s “Tiger Suit”

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Almost everyone remembers being mesmerized by KT Tunstall’s solo performance of her song “Black Horse and a Cherry Tree” which conquered the radio airwaves, granted her a Grammy nomination and put her into the public eye and on the billboard charts in 2007.

Tunstall’s debut album “Eye to the Telescope,” also, hit the U.S. Billboard Hot 100. Audiences are often left in awe by Tunstall’s use of the loop pedal throughout her performances.

After gaining attention in the public sphere in 2007, Tunstall took a three year hiatus, only producing one small acoustic album later that year. Tunstall announced on her Twitter in 2010 that she was, “coming out of her creative cave” with a new album. This album is entitled “Tiger Suit,” and was truly worth the three year wait. This album is filled with organic instrumentation mixed with dance-friendly beats, resulting in what Tunstall calls “nature techno.”

A stand out track on the album is entitled “Push That Knot Away,” where an acoustic guitar line soars through an electronic rhythm. This track is a signature track on the album, according to Tunstall, and she immerses itself as taking place in a forest at night and it’s about confronting fear rather than running away.

So gather up some friends, and take part in what Tunstall calls her new musical adventure.

“Champagne and Reefer” gets me through the winter

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When another white Wisconsin winter forces me inside, there are a few time-tested techniques I use to cope with the weather. Personally, I like to saddle up in my recliner with a mug of Irish coffee and watch some old westerns. Nothing tickles the fancy or enchants the soul quite like John Wayne and Clint Eastwood.

No matter how many times I watch “True Grit” or “The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly,” I always end up feeling satisfied. Of course, I don’t limit myself to just throwback John and Clint. You can’t go wrong with “Open Range” or “Silverado” either.

When I run out of movies to watch, I turn to another winter must, football and college basketball.

The snow always signals the final flag of the NFL season. The Packers are coming down the wire and looking for a playoff berth and even if they don’t go all the way, the Super Bowl is still sweet to watch, as long as the Bears aren’t playing. Even though college football is over with the exception of bowl games, which are a nice way to greet the New Year, I transition easily into watching college basketball.

NCAA basketball is where it’s at if you’re looking for constant upsets and big thrills. I also find that certain shows on TV have the uncanny ability to drag me away from the depressing darkness of winter and gently place me on an island of upbeat salvation.

One such show is “House.”

Doctor Greg House dazzles me on every episode with his crude sense of humor, his blackened emotional intel­ligence, and his unparalleled diagnostic abilities. But when I’m driving the back roads and drifting in unplowed parking lots I need something to keep my spirits up.

However, I personally can only handle about five minutes of Christmas music therefore I need some alternatives. For some easy holiday listening I recommend the soulful crooning of some of the all time blues greats such as BB King, John Lee Hooker or Buddy Guy. Muddy Waters’ “Champagne and Reefer” is sure to brighten the darkest winter days.

Viva! Gourmet

Pork Chops with Caper Sauce

With Thanksgiving break now behind us and only a few weeks left of the oldest hard not to feel swamped. So much work to be done, so little time to do it. That’s also how I feel about this column. Writing my weekly food column for all of you has been one of the greatest joys of my college career.

And as I count down the days until I graduate I am fully aware that I won’t be able to share all of my ideas with you. That’s why for the next few weeks I’ll only be sharing the recipes most near and dear to my heart. The ones that I can come back to time and time again without ever getting sick of them.

This week’s recipe is known as pork chops with caper sauce around my home. A variation on the filet mignon with horseradish sauce classic, this dish is always accompanied with a rice pilaf, green salad and glass of red wine. Simultaneously a comfort food and an elegant dinner for two, it’s hard not to love this dish.

Here’s how to make it:

Here’s what you’ll need:

- 2 bone-in 1/2” thick pork chops
- 2 T. olive oil
- 2 T. butter
- 1/2 cup shallots, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 2 T. capers + 1 T. of their brine
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 3 T. brown sugar
- 1 T. coarse/stone ground mustard
- 1 tsp. dried tarragon (optional)
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Salt

In a medium sized skillet, heat olive oil over high heat. Add the pork chops in a single layer and sear for 2-3 minutes on each side, or until evenly browned.

Transfer pork chops to a bowl and cover tightly with saran wrap. In the same pan, melt the butter over medium-high heat. Add the shallots (or onion) and sauté until translucent and slightly browned.

Turn the heat down to medium and add the chicken stock, capers, whipping cream, brandy, mustard, tarragon and black pepper to taste. Simmer for 10-15 minutes, until reduced by about half.

Add in the pork chops plus any juices accumulated in the bottom of the bowl. Simmer for another 5-10 minutes or until the pork chops are fully cooked. Season with salt to taste and serve immediately.

Dress It Up:

For a more fully realized flavor substitute cognac for the brandy. Serve with a fine red wine, such as pinot noir, rice pilaf and salad.

Dress It Down:

Substitute onion for the shallots. Use half and half in place of the whipping cream. Dijon mustard would work in place of the costly stone ground mustard. Tarragon can be left out entirely.

Other Healthful/Sustainable Options:

You can buy most, if not all, of these ingredients from the local Co-Op. Go with fresh tarragon in place of the dried variety.

Martin Smith explains how to make this delicious dish.
**Sudoku 6x6 - Puzzle 1 of 5 - Easy**

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ACROSS
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5  GIVE IT
10  PORTICO
14  WARTS AND ALL
15  PILFER
16  LIKE SOME ORDERS
17  TRENT OF THE SENATE
18  PLANT ANEW
19  INTER
20  BRIAN OF ROXY MUSIC
21  CHARITABLE DONATION
22  IN A BAD WAY
23  THIN AND WATERY
24  BEDWEAR: VAR.
25  GERMAN MRS
26  LIKE SOME ORDERS
27  BASS'S COUNTERPART
28  BACKS OF FEET
29  THORNY FLOWERS
30  BUNDLES
31  A TOGETHER
32  ORCHESTRAL INTERLUDE BETWEEN ARIAS
33  NOTHING, IN NANTES
34  ADDITIONAL
35  FRUSTRATED
36  LIKE SOME ORDERS
37  A DISH WITH MANY INGREDIENTS
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15  PILFER
16  LIKE SOME ORDERS
17  TRENT OF THE SENATE
18  PLANT ANEW
19  INTER
20  BRIAN OF ROXY MUSIC
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Answers from the Nov. 18th issue.

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A S P I R A G U S   H A R D S
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L A S S   H E S S E   R A T
A K I N   A B S E N T
N E V A D A   C A R R I A G E
E R E B U S   A G L I T T E R
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S L A T T E R N   E L A P S E
T E S S E R A E   R E S U M E
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M A I N E   L I N E O L A T E
E G R E T   I N U N D A T E S
R E E D S   T E S T A M E N T
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www.sudoku-puzzles.net
They call them porn machines. They're being called this because recently a group of girls had to go through the x-ray machines at the airport and they are so revealing that a man found it okay to do some things to himself that you should never do in public. Needless to say, he was caught.

This is what they are: The x-ray machines that are meant to make traveling by air more safe actually destroy your constitutional right to privacy.

Many airports are introducing this new measure of security. They are making it so that if you set off the metal detector that you have to either be screened by the porn machine or you have to be felt up by some Transportation Security Administration guard.

It's become a national scene on the television every day. There was a man who videotaped the pat-down with his camera phone. In it he warns the guard that if he "touches his junk" he would have the guard arrested. Good for that guy!

Then there was also a man who was traveling to a traditional Scottish wedding wearing a kilt and wearing nothing underneath, as men do with kilts. He had to go through the scanner but refused and instead chose the pat-down. Imagine the guard's face as he realized he was holding a man's genitalia in his hands. Good for that guy!

But alas, there are also serious arguments against this.

Imagine the woman who was raped, molested or abused who is made to go through a machine that makes her naked in front of someone she doesn't know; or also the pat-down that goes over every part of your body.

It's a terrifying experience. It causes emotional stress and damage. But the base of the argument against these machines stems from the Founding Fathers who wrote the Constitution and signed our Declaration of Independence.

The Fourth Amendment to our Constitution reads, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

This is one of those things that doesn't seem up for debate to me. It is the right of every American to be secure and safe within their own person from unlawful and unwanted searches and seizures of their body.

To those that say the idea of terrorism in our airports gives TSA the authority to have warranted searches: what does a terrorist look like? It's a slippery slope, isn't it?

It's interesting to me to see the type of people that are actually being searched. If it's much like racial profiling. In a country where we claim to have moral authority over all other nations, how can we put into practice something like this?

I understand that there is a need for greater security in our airports, our rail stations and our country, but this is not the way to do it. Personal freedom must not be sacrificed in order to make us feel more secure when these machines will actually do nothing but make us less secure.

ELIMINATING THE TERRORIST THREAT IN AMERICA

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Let's look back at September 11th, 2001. Let's look back at all the heroes on Flight 93 that took their own lives to save others, and all the heroes who helped people escape from burning buildings and rubble.

Where are those heroes today? In order to prevent such events from ever happening again, people don't want to help. They don't want to save other people's lives because of the 'invasion' of personal space.

The new security measures being taken at airports are causing quite a stir amongst fliers. Many are worried and upset about the new full-body scanners and what they can show.

The new technology can detect metallic as well as nonmetallic threats such as weapons and explosives. But in order to do this, the machine can see through clothing, which is where people are hesitant about the new security measure.

But the pictures taken by these machines may not be what people expect. The machine uses millimeter wave technology, which takes a picture that is fuzzy and not as intrusive as some people may think. The image is more ghost-like than it is pornographic. The officer who assists the passenger is not the same officer that sees the image. The officer that views the photo never sees the actual passenger, and is in a remote room.

The image is on the screen for a few seconds to make sure that you don't have any explosives or weapons on you, and then it is immediately deleted.

Another worry amongst passengers is that the millimeter wave technology emits radiation, and is therefore a health concern. However, the technology meets national health and safety standards. The machine was inspected by many health organizations such as the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. In comparison, the radiation emitted by the machine is thousands times less than a cell phone radiates.

Those who do not wish to go through the full body scanner because they don't want an "invasion of privacy" have another option, a full body pat-down. Because that isn't invasive at all.

The new machine also eliminates the issue of racial profiling. Everyone has to go through the scanner, no matter the person's race or religion. No one is discriminated against or stereotyped.

Contrary to popular beliefs, the new airport security isn't a violation of personal privacy, but an effective measure to keep the skies and people safe. It's a step toward effective prevention of terrorist attacks.

It ultimately boils down to do you want security or privacy? Do you care more about everyone being safe or your own personal privacy?
Daisho Con is a Central-Wisconsin based anime- and gaming- conference that was held in Stevens Point, Wisconsin this November. University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point’s Anime Society attended the event where ‘con-goers’ could discuss anime, comics, video games, science fiction, and everything in between.

Photos by Jason Leis.