

the pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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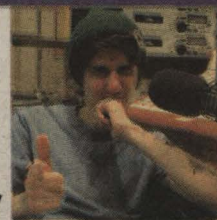
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Pointlife

'Poster Girl' Tells Vets' Stories of PTSD

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Robynn Murray was the poster girl of women in the military. She served as a machine gunner in the Iraq War and took on responsibilities reserved for the bravest of soldiers. But like many soldiers, she also found herself coping with the crushing effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) upon her return home.

Robynn is the star of the Oscar-nominated documentary "Poster Girl," which tracks her life back home over the course of two years of emotional pain. Robynn finds herself in a struggle to get treatment for her PTSD through the complex bureaucracy of the Department for Veterans Affairs.

On November 18, Murray visited the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point along with the film's director, Sara Nesson, to show a screening of the film. The film was being shown as part of the Visions of War series. Nesson decided to tell Robynn's story after she met her at a veterans' retreat at Martha's Vineyard, where she was filming her first movie, "Iraq Paper Scissors."

"Her story was so compelling to me that she had been a machine gunner in the Iraq War and was the first female that I had ever met that had served in combat," Nesson said. "And I just felt that I wanted to include her in my film, so I said, 'Is it OK if I follow you back home after this?' and she said yes."

The veterans' retreat, where Sara first met Robynn, was hosted by the Combat Paper Project, a group which helps veterans make paper out of their used combat uniforms as a ther-

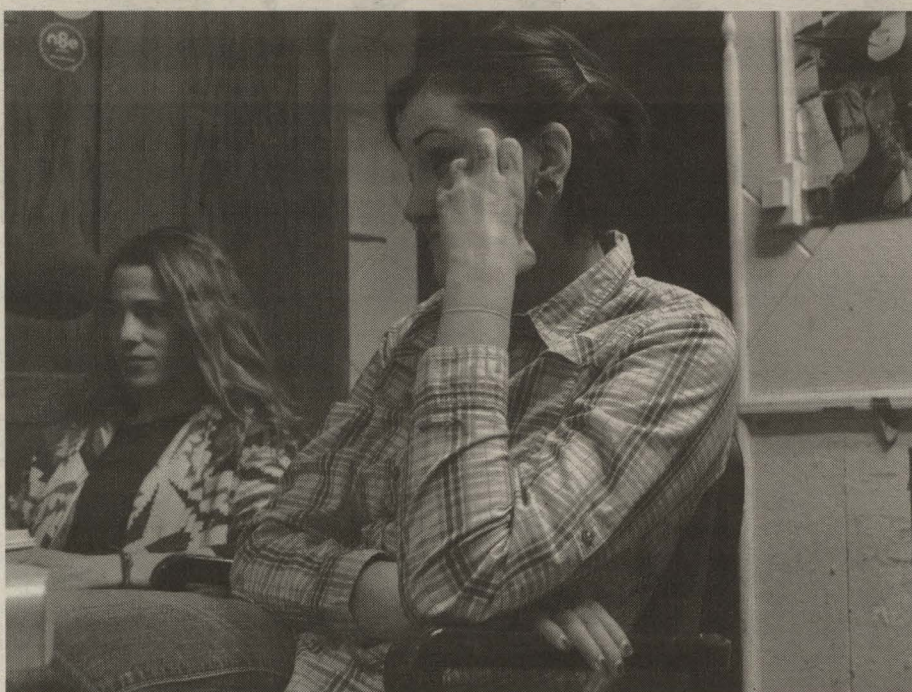


Photo by Samantha Feld
Sara Nesson (left) and "Poster Girl" star Robynn Murray (right) discuss the movie.

apeutic tool, and Warrior Writers, which encourages veterans to write poetry as a way to heal.

"The thing that first sparked everything ... was I had submitted a poem to the newsletter for Iraq Veterans Against the War," Murray said. "But the thing was, is when I was writing it, I wasn't thinking like, this is going to heal me, I was thinking, 'I'm really pissed and I really need to get something down now or I might explode.'"

Capturing veterans' emotions on screen was the main goal for Nesson in both of her films, and she saw them as avenues for veterans to share their stories that might have otherwise gone untold. Following veterans with PTSD, however, did not go without having effects on Nesson.

"I think I really began to understand what it's like being a family member or part of the community around veterans and what it's like to suffer as a result," Nesson said. "Sort of like secondary PTSD, I think I definitely was affected in that way."

Murray explained the problems

returning vets with PTSD encounter upon return, including the fear of being labeled when applying for jobs. There's an overwhelming sentiment with vets, she says, that bottling up emotions is necessary to function in society, which comes from their training in the military.

"It's a very macho setting, a very high-paced job to even process it," Murray said. "Because you could begin to process it and then, if you're still in the military you might have to go again, so it's like having to restart everything that you've just done."

Although "Poster Girl" is about Robynn's struggles, Nesson and Murray see the film and Robynn's story as a microcosm of society's greater problem in dealing with returning veterans.

"The one thing that I hope people take from this is an awareness of what war does to us, what PTSD is, what it looks like on a daily basis and, more important than that is, even though every person's story is unique, mine isn't. There's so many of us suffering that way," Murray said.

Radiothon: A Little Somethin' for Everyone

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WWSP 90FM is once again holding its Radiothon fundraiser this coming weekend, December 3rd and 4th. The annual event is an on-air auction of donated goods from local businesses and organizations that comes just in time for the holiday season.

Radiothon provides a great publicity opportunity for local shops and services.

"Local businesses are usually really supportive of 90," said Dana Scheffen, News and Public Affairs Director for the station. "[Radiothon] gives those newer businesses a chance to get their name out."

Products from local favorites like Emy J's and Radio Kaos are featured on the auction list, as well as unique items like a laser-signed Packers football and hundreds of CDs from 90fm collections.

One 90FM program out of many Radiothon supports is the highly-acclaimed Trivia contest. To bring the two events together and get teams involved, the theme for Trivia is announced at 11AM on Saturday during the auction. Trivia coordinator Jim "Oz" Oliva will announce the Trivia 43 theme, which is a mystery to everyone else at 90 until the unveiling.

"Oz comes up with questions and the theme every year. He IS trivia," said Nicole Allee, a junior communications and media production major and 90fm DJ.

Four packages will be auctioned off hourly, with new items presented every fifteen minutes. Current bids will be announced in between each song played in order to keep bidders



Photo by Rachel Hanson
CDs are often given away during Radiothon.

updated. You can even bid to dress up station manager Mason Meuleman in literally whatever you choose for his Trivia shift. The 90fm website suggests "a dress? Dump maple syrup on his head?" Now that sounds like a quality Christmas present.

THE POINTER

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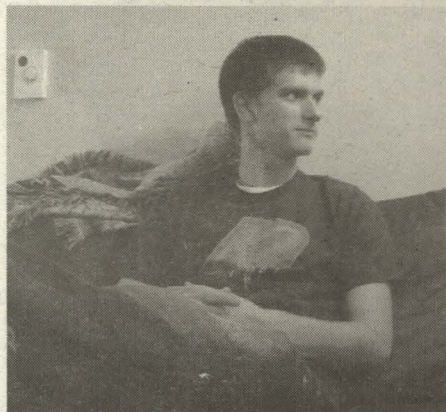
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pointlife

Student Religious Culture



Phil Barker
Undecided



Kathryn Hood
Atheist



Nicole Greenwood
Christian



Noah Levine
Jewish

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Religion and faith mean something different to every person. People that follow a religion often find that it shapes many aspects of their lives, including social interactions, family relationships and their feelings towards their own selves. Some may find that their religious affiliation has little to no effect on their daily lives. And yet others aren't sure what to believe, which becomes a part of them in its own way.

Christianity, atheism, Judaism and even lack of belief are all prominent at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I interviewed four students involved in each of these different belief systems and asked them about their religious views and how it affected their daily lives.

Christian

Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) constitutes a large presence of the UW-Stevens Point campus and one of the largest groups in relation to campus size. Nicole Greenwood, a junior Spanish major, is an active member in CRU and a Christian.

"My faith influences every decision. It makes the way I treat other people and what I think about myself," Greenwood said.

Greenwood's faith has changed much in her life. She grew up in a family that didn't attend church on a regular basis. She believed in God, but she didn't know what that actually meant.

"I lived very selfishly. I just struggled with depression and feelings of loneliness," Greenwood said. In eighth grade she met a new girl at school who took Greenwood to youth group events at her church. Eventually Greenwood and her family started to attend church. Since coming to UWSP, Greenwood's faith has strengthened due to a variety of friends and mentors.

"Getting to be involved with Christian organizations on campus has allowed me to foster my relationship with God ... and how to share my faith," Greenwood said. She feels confident about sharing her beliefs with others, and college has allowed her to articulately explain her faith.

Being comfortable with expressing faith and beliefs has sometimes led to misconceptions about CRU.

"Our real objective isn't to convert. We're just passionate about sharing the love and hope and the truth that we found in our faith ... no one ever wants it to seem like we're pressuring others into our beliefs," Greenwood said. "We just want people to understand. If you accept Christ, great ... and if you don't, it'll be sad, but we're blessed with free will."

Atheism

In contrast to most religions, atheism is the belief that there is no higher being, or no God. Kathryn Hood, a junior biochemistry major, says that she's been atheist for as long as she can remember.

"Even as a little kid I disliked religion. I can't even remember a time I even believed in Santa Claus," Hood said. Growing up, her parents were Catholic and Protestant, but her religion has never been an issue. They rarely have discussions about it.

The word "atheism" covers a large spectrum of people, all of which may have different thoughts about life. Hood gave the example that you could put three atheists in a room and they could all believe in something completely different.

"I actually didn't like the word 'atheist' ... everyone associated it with being against something. I'm not against anything," Hood said. Hood's religious views haven't changed throughout life or since coming to college. However, due to negative stereotypes, Hood isn't always comfortable with expressing her beliefs.

"At Point I'd rather not talk about it ... people think that atheists are evil, have no values, no morals. So people get the wrong ideas about me," Hood said.

There is no atheist group on campus and Hood said that it's probably because atheists don't believe in the same thing. They just don't believe in God.

Judaism

Noah Levine, a sophomore art/biology/communications major, grew up in a Jewish household. Levine's mother's family converted to Catholicism to escape the Holocaust in Europe. Levine himself has followed Judaism throughout his life and college career.

"To me I think it [Judaism] means more of just a system of general

beliefs; not rules, but suggestions on ways to be a decent person and keeping in touch with family and history," Levine said.

Levine has had different reactions at Point when expressing his beliefs.

"Walking by CRU meetings wearing my star, people stop me and say, 'You're Jewish. Does that mean you don't think Jesus exists?' They try to convert me or ask me questions to break my belief," Levine said. "It's empowering. It gives a chance to express what I believe in."

Because of this chance to defend his beliefs, Levine feels that college has not only strengthened his faith and religion; it has made him more proud.

He still occasionally runs into clichés and misconceptions about the Jewish religion, such as large noses, Jews having control over all the money, and that Hanukkah is a holiday.

"Hanukkah is not the Jewish Christmas. It's not even a holiday, it's just a festival," Levine said. "Christian holidays are more about the religion. Jewish holidays are more about family and tradition, a reason for everyone to get together."

The overflow of Christmas this time of year does not anger Levine. Instead it "situationally annoys" him. He does feel like a minority at Stevens Point, convinced that he's probably one of two Jewish students on campus, and thinks that a Jewish student organization would be a good addition.

Undecided

Some people have strong ideas about what faith means to them, but not everyone is so sure of what to believe. Phil Barker, junior computer information systems major, does not know what he feels about faith, and it isn't his first priority to do so.

"It's more about spirituality and life right now," Barker said. Barker grew up in a Methodist household and went to church frequently; in fact it's where he met most of his friends. But he wasn't always comfortable with attending church.

"It [church] felt disrespectful because I went more to fit in with my family, not myself," Barker said.

One thing that makes Barker weary to consider set religious beliefs is science. Due to all the scientific advancements in the past years, he

wonders what will change in the years to come.

By keeping an open mind about religion, Barker says that it has helped him socially. He is more open to people who hold different beliefs than he does.

"I think it's more of being free. It allows me to be social and open to people. I'm not biased in any way," Barker said.

Through not associating himself with a certain religion, Barker feels that he is freer to experience life for himself.

2011 Spring Spiritual Survey done by Student Impact and Intervarsity

Total number surveyed: 765

1. Gender:

Male: 47.7%

Female: 50.7%

2. What worldview or religion do you associate yourself with?

- a. Islam: 1.6%
- b. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon): 0.5%
- c. Jehovah's Witnesses: 0.5%
- d. Buddhism: 0.9%
- e. Hinduism: 1.6%
- f. Shamanism: 0.3%
- g. Wicca: 0.1%
- h. Christianity: 72%
- i. Atheism: 5.6%
- j. Agnosticism: 6.8%
- k. Other: 0.1%

3. Do you believe in a higher power?

- a. Yes: 80.7%
- b. No: 9.4%
- c. Unsure: 9.3%

4. What role do your beliefs have in your life?

- a. It does not have much impact on my life: 11.4%
- b. It has a place in my life: 28.9%
- c. It has a significant place in my life: 24%
- d. It defines who I am: 11.4%
- e. It's the basis for my morals: 24%

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[a vague attempt at something delicious.]

A non-traditional Thanksgiving

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The holiday season for most college students is a time of joy. There is free laundry, free food and your entire family crammed into a house that's too small for the distant, extended reaches of your family to occupy. My family is rather extended as well, but on the East Coast, so most of the time it's just not feasible for me to travel for that delicious turkey and stuffing.

Enter my roommate, who graciously offered this culinary vagabond a spot at his parents' table with his brother as well. The catch, if I can call it that, was his parents' managed The Jefferson, a rather lavish retirement home, as far as retirement homes go, in Middleton, Wisconsin.

Thanksgiving at The Jefferson would be an entirely new experience for the whole brood, so no one knew exactly what to expect. The brothers both spoke of turkey gilded with gold and stuffed with

the bread of the gods, making each other salivate while dwelling on past Thanksgivings the night beforehand.

Together we made our game plan: X amount of mashed potatoes, Y slices of turkey, and at least Z pieces of pumpkin pie. While we drifted off to sleep on unfamiliar mattresses, our minds were put to rest on top of fluffy clouds of whipped cream.

Prepared for marathon eating, we awoke just before the crack of noon. Thanksgivings past echoed around our minds as we approached the golden hour, walking through the hallways of the retirement home, passing those using walkers without remorse. This was Thanksgiving and eating is a young man's game.

We sat on the outskirts of the dining hall, sipping on coffee and cranberry juice, our orders in the kitchen. We glanced at each other making our estimations of how good the cranberry sauce was going to be. We had our forks and knives prepared to plunge into a sea of gravy, but when

our plates were placed in front of us, a little bit of disappointment escaped me.

I realized that while I've been waiting for the food, I've completely missed the meaning of Thanksgiving and swapped it with my own selfish one. I wasn't immediately thankful for the family that offered me a spot at their table, my friends and family worldwide and a million other reasons that I should be thankful. I was just eager for a plate of delicious food, which I received albeit undeservingly.

For the rest of the day, I was able to savor what actually matters about Thanksgiving, spending time with my friends and my adopted family, the opportunities I receive on a day to day basis to better myself and watching the Packers remain undefeated. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving break and are well-prepared for these coming weeks of finals and projects.



Cultures of the World



Photo by Jessica McKenna
Students pose at the Women of the World Fair.

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Traveling in and out of the country isn't the only way to gain knowledge of other cultures or to be "cultured." So to add a little pizzazz on an otherwise boring Friday night, the Women's Resource Center of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point sponsored the Women of the World Fair in the Dreyfus University Center (DUC) Alumni Room on November 18.

"It was a great event to go to because it offered a look into what women from different walks of life had to offer and share with each other. The best thing was learning something about women's roles in a particular culture," said Jessica McKenna, the Resource Coordinator for the Women's Resource Center (WRC).

The fair showcased talented women from the Dancers of Shaharazad, a club on campus that performs belly dancing routines, UW-Madison's African Drummers and SHAMA Inc. is an organization that stands for Scholarships, Home industry, Activism, Medical and AIDS Awareness and America-India Alliances. They provide education and workshops throughout Wisconsin with a mission to help women, children and communities in India.

"It was really fun to be able to connect and network with different female based groups on campus and in the community. It was almost like a fun scavenger hunt finding different groups," McKenna said.

The 65 people in attendance not only were able to watch the performances, but they were able to taste the food from other cultures as well. SHAMA Inc. provided Papad, a type of lentil chip from India that is very spicy. The Women's Resource Center brought homemade green chili salsa and Aloo Dum, a spicy Indian Potato dish that is a favorite among the members of WRC.

For more information on the Women's Resource Center, check out their Facebook page or stop by the DUC in room 065 where they say their door is "almost always open." The next sponsored event for the WRC is the annual Female Artist Showcase on Friday, December 9th from 7-10 p.m. in the DUC Laird Room. This event will show off all sorts of female art. If any females are interested in performing for this event, drop by the DUC in room 065 or send an email to jmcke450@uwsp.edu with your name, email, phone number, type of performance and whether you'll need any type of equipment.

Greek Life: Working to Their Potential

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Whether the reason is their lineup of houses, hazing, secretive nature, or the parties people wish they could attend, Greek life is hard to miss on most campuses and hard to take seriously. However, if someone were to ask you what you knew about Greek life at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, how much would you be able to tell them?

Negating Stereotypes

Many people get negative connotations about Greek life from what they see on TV, movies or other campuses. UWSP is striving to abandon these stereotypes.

"The worst thing is being judged by others and being labeled as a certain type of person. Many people think we're just a bunch of dumb students that get together to have parties and drink," said Katrina Miller, a member of the Delta Phi Epsilon (DPhiE) sorority.

Regardless of what some might think, most Greek organizations like Delta Phi Epsilon are dry. This means that none of the events held by them have alcohol present. Despite the two fraternity houses on campus, UWSP's Greek organizations do not even have housing. Therefore, the stereotypical house parties are not even associated with Greeks. In fact, it is technically illegal to have a sorority house in Stevens Point due to an old law that declares it a brothel or whorehouse.

Greeks say they are not the snobbish, super exclusive people that some movies suggest.

"If you look around, we are involved in numerous other clubs and volunteer organizations. Many leadership positions on this



Photo Courtesy of Stephanie Cortez
Fraternity and sorority members participating in Greek life events.

campus in places like the Student Government Association, University Dining Services, Centertainment, etc. are held by Greeks as well. We usually make up the majority of attendees at campus-wide events," said Deuce Griggs, a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity and president of the Inter Greek Council.

What They Stand For

When deciding to go Greek, students do more than just joining an organization.

"It's more than just a club. There's a binding behind our letters that you're part of forever. We live by our creed, morals and values," said Isaiah Matthew, president of Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity. Just like your related brothers and sisters (most of the time), sorority sisters and fraternity brothers have your back through whatever you need.

"When it comes to our sorority we put our differences and conflicts aside. We can admit our faults but we work on ourselves and build to be a better person," said Megan Cahill, a member of DPhiE.

Administration Issues

An issue surrounding Greek life lately is that they're being sent off the map for insurance reasons. Phi Sigma Chi Fraternity and Phi Omega Sorority were not given re-recognition as organizations from SIEO this past year for failure to pay the \$3,000-\$5,000 insurance money despite being local chapters.

John Schular of Phi Sigma Chi said, "It would be almost impossible to expand Greek life now and to come because most Greek organizations start as local and become national when there are enough resources. It's almost impossible monetarily without support."

Many hope that things will change with the new Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Al Thompson. As a former Greek and advisor, he plans to implement a Greek task to write up a negotiated agreement of what each side hopes to achieve and what everyone expects of one another. What each side hopes for is change for a better future, including Phi Sigma Chi and Phi Omega.

Sports

UWSP Women's Hockey Loses Series against Undefeated Falcons

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's hockey team dropped a weekend double header against UW-River Falls. The Pointers dropped the first game 5-2, then lost again the next night, 7-2.

The first score of the game came from Falcons senior forward Katie Flanagan, assisted by junior forward Jami Weiss and freshman defender Kendal Evenson. River Falls scored its second goal less than five minutes later on an unassisted goal by freshman forward Alice Cranston for a 2-0 Falcon lead.

Point answered just over a minute later from sophomore defender Megan Nickelson, assisted by sophomore defender Ava Plamondon and senior forward Erin Marvin.

The second period had just one even hand score by the Falcons from

Weiss on an assist from freshman forward Crysta Lowell, taking the River Falls lead to 3-1.

"Our main struggle is with communication. I think we have all the tools necessary for success, we just need to work as a team and use them," said senior captain defender Ariel Novak.

The next two scores came in the third period by sophomore forward Brianna Drude, off an assist by senior forward Emma Nordness and freshman defender Allie Olson.

The next goal came off a power play from Falcon junior defender Amanda Ryder, assisted by Nordness and Flannagen.

The last goal came on a UWSP power play when sophomore forward Cassandra Salmen capitalized on an assist from Marvin.

Despite the loss, the team seems confident they can compete down the road with the roster they have.

"Having a large group of underclassmen is great. They are hard workers, willing to learn and wanting to improve," Novak said.

The next night featured more of the same. The Falcons scored five unanswered goals through the first two periods.

Point got on the board early in the third from a power play goal by freshman forward Hannah Smith. River Falls answered shortly after on a solo shot from Alyssa Black, taking the score to 6-1 in favor of the Falcons.

UWSP got their second goal off an Ava Plamondon goal, assisted by junior forward Michelle Lunneborg.

The Falcons' final goal came unassisted by sophomore forward Katie Batters, securing the 7-2 victory.

The losses haven't deterred the mentality Pointers' mentality.

"We have some great team chemistry this year ... we also have a lot of hard working kids. We always refer to ourselves as a "blue collar" team. We aren't the flashy, super skilled players that can just throw their sticks

out and win a game. We win by out working our opponents," Novak said.

The ladies will try to rebound from the back-to-back losses in a series against St. Norbert. The Pointers travel

to De Pere to face off on Friday then return home for the finale on Saturday. The puck drops Saturday at Ice Hawks Arena at 7:00 p.m.



Photo by Jack McLaughlin
During the game against UW-River Falls, Junior Michelle Lunneborg makes a pass.

Coach, but Don't Touch

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This past month has been one of the most trying in sports history. The scandal shrouding Penn State University has permanently marred a historic institution and has sent one of the most legendary coaches in sporting history into exile.

Now America has turned its attention to Syracuse University and its basketball program. While the charges levied against former assistant coach Bernie Fine are nowhere as numerous, they are equally appalling.

Sexual abuse against a child is a crime of unrivaled cruelty. As a coach, you have a responsibility to be a better person. You have a direct influence on the players and personnel around you. They look to you as a model of behavior. They instill a

trust and belief in you reserved for very few.

If the allegations Fine and Jerry Sandusky are facing are true, then they have cemented their places in history. It doesn't matter how many games they win, how many all-star players they help produce or how revered they were in their previous lives. These two men, and those like them, are condemned to a brand that will never fade.

Even if found innocent of their charges, their names will forever be synonymous with the most grotesque human behavior. As quick as man is to rush to judgment, rest assured it will take much longer to convince him of anything to the contrary.

One of the most disturbing aspects of these cases are peoples' willingness to cover up instead of uncover what is happening. As we have seen with the

Sandusky case, the level of involvement in these tragedies goes much deeper than perpetrator and victim.

Fine's wife Laurie was recorded making statements that acknowledged of her husband's problems. Not only was she aware of her husband's actions, she had her own sexual relationship with Davis.

According to reporter Mark Schwarz, ESPN has been in possession of the taped conversation between Davis and Fine for the past eight years. Because those who knew about the tape at ESPN did not have access to a second victim, they kept the tape because they did not know what to do with it.

"We don't see it as our job to go to authorities with evidence that we collect," Schwarz said.

Schwarz adds that ESPN was also reluctant to reveal the tape because

no one from ESPN witnessed anything firsthand.

The disgustingly obvious theme between these tragedies is the lack of accountability. There were people at each university with knowledge of the respective situations, yet it has taken years for any of it to ooze out. Not a shred of innocence was spared in any of the victims involved because no one took it upon themselves to end it.

It is a menacing world that we live in. We are surrounded by seemingly normal people who turn into absolute terrors behind closed doors. Too many innocent people have been on the wrong side of those doors, and too many opportunities have passed where they could have been saved. It's not about being the hero, it's about being a morally competent human being.

sports

Pointer Girls Basketball Wins In Tip-Off Classic

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point took down Finlandia University 72-39, and then dominated over Alverno College the next day, winning 70-43 in the 2011 Pointer Tip-Off Classic.

The four-team tournament also included UW-Oshkosh, who beat Alverno 56-37, and Finlandia 68-49. Finlandia and Alverno did not face each other in the tournament but faced off the following Tuesday with an Alverno victory, 63-59.

Point was able to force 34 Finlandia turnovers while only committing ten. Senior center Ashley Averkamp led the way with 18 points.

"From last year to this year, our free throw percentage is better and we all intend to continue to get better to fulfill our goals for this season," said Brittini Buechel, senior post.

Point also out-rebounded

Finlandia, grabbing 39 total rebounds (22 offensive) compared to 10 offensive boards for the Lions.

"Our coaches are really emphasizing the importance of rebounding. Rebounding has been a weakness for the program the last couple of years, so we are being encouraged to box out and crash the offensive glass," said Cassie Bandow, senior guard.

In the second game of the 2011 Pointer Tip-Off Classic, Point shot nearly 48 percent in their 70-43 win. Sophomore guard Alyssa Olp led the way with 12 points, sinking six of seven from the floor.

The Pointer defense stepped up again, forcing 27 turnovers.

"While we lost three seniors who played a huge role in our success last season, we have found a way to fill the voids and win basketball games," Bandow said.

Bandow is in her fourth season on the team, starting 28 games the last two seasons and gaining honor-

able mention both years. Bandow and Averkamp share captain status of the team this season and so far are yet to surrender a loss.

Following the Tip-Off Classic, Point faced off against Millikin University. The Pointers took advantage of 22 turnovers en route to a 66-45 victory over the Big Blue. Point held Millikin to less than 29 percent shooting.

"From the beginning our team has worked hard, and is continuing to improve. We take pride in our defense and have been able to hold our opponents to a low shooting percentage," Bandow said.

The girls followed that victory by rolling over Elmhurst 65-48. Junior guard Sam Barber led the Pointers in scoring with 14 points. Bandow and sophomore post Myranda Tyler followed with 11 each.

Point takes the court Saturday in the Berg Gym where the team will recognize Alumni Day. The Pointers

tip off against UW-Superior at 3:00 p.m.



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

Senior Ashley Averkamp puts up a shot in the paint.

[This Week in Sports]

Men's basketball faces off against UW-Superior Saturday in a Parent's Day doubleheader starting at 5 p.m.

Pointer wrestling fell 14-25 Tuesday against UW-Oshkosh.

The Swimming and Diving team travels to Wheaton, Ill. Friday for the Wheaton Invitational.

Men's hockey hosts UW-Eau Claire Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

Syracuse assistant men's basketball coach Bernie Fine fired amid sex abuse allegations.

Red Sox hire former Mets manager Bobby Valentine to replace Terry Francona

Bills wide receiver Stevie Johnson fined \$10,000 for his touchdown celebration that imitated Jets wide receiver Plaxico Burress.

Former Pro-Bowl defensive tackle Chester McGlockton passed away Wednesday at the age of 42. McGlockton was serving as a defensive assistant for Stanford football. The cause of death is yet to be released.



Photo courtesy of wiacsports.com

UW-Stevens Point Men's basketball team.



Photo by Chip Manthy

UW-Stevens Point wrestler Jordan Kust.

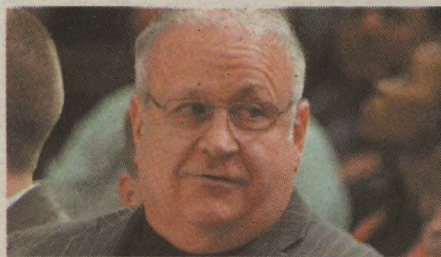


Photo by Jim McIsaac

Bernie Fine fired due to sex scandal.

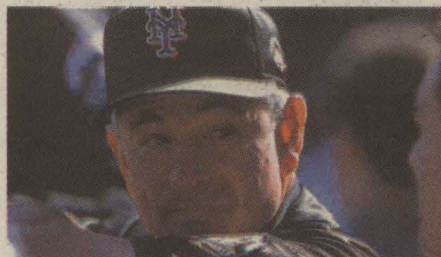


Photo by Tom Hauck

Bobby Valentine is replacing Terry Francona



Photo by George Rose

Chester McGlockton (September 16, 1969 – November 30, 2011)

Miech Named WIAC Women's Soccer All-Time Coach

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The Wisconsin intercollegiate Athletic conference (WIAC) will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a number of events including naming University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point WIAC all-time coaches. With a mile-long list of accomplishments, Sheila Miech, the UWSP women's soccer coach since 1987, has been announced the Women's Soccer all-time coach.

"I first found out about the award from a student in my class who heard it on the sports channel the evening before. I wasn't even sure what my student was talking about until I came home and read it in the paper that evening," Miech said.

This isn't Miech's first time being acknowledged for her superior coaching. Last season she earned the WIAC Coach of the Year award for the ninth time in the 19-year history of the league. She is also a three time Division III Central Region Coach of the Year, last receiving the award in 2000 when the Pointers qualified for the Division III Final Four.

Laurn Semling, a senior defender on the women's soccer team, speaks highly of Miech's countless years of success here at UWSP.

"She has all the components needed to make college soccer fun and enjoyable for everyone involved, and really makes it more of a family than a team, all while we win championships. When a team is having fun and getting along while having talent on their side, it is hard to stop them," Semling said.

"Soccer goes under the radar sometimes. So many people don't understand just how great our program truly is, and we owe it all to her. She has built it with the help of her assistants and her players," Semling continued.

Miech is just the second female coach in any division of NCAA women's soccer to reach 200 career victories and lose just 12 regular season matches in the 20-year history of the league. She has won 14 conference championships and led the Pointers through the longest conference winning streak in NCAA history with 70 straight WIAC wins from 1997 to 2003.

"Some of my favorite things about Sheila are her dedication, love and passion. She has willingness like a mother figure and will do anything for her players. She is accommodating and open to change, which is respectable because sometimes coaches get stuck to their ways and don't like to try new things," Semling said.

In March, Miech will become the first female inductee into the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame. The WIAC will honor her at an awards banquet on Aug. 4, 2012 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI.

"I have an incredible amount of respect for her and she will always be someone I look up to. I can't thank her enough for everything she has done for me and taught me," Semling said.

News

Recall Effort Kicks Off With Success in Madison

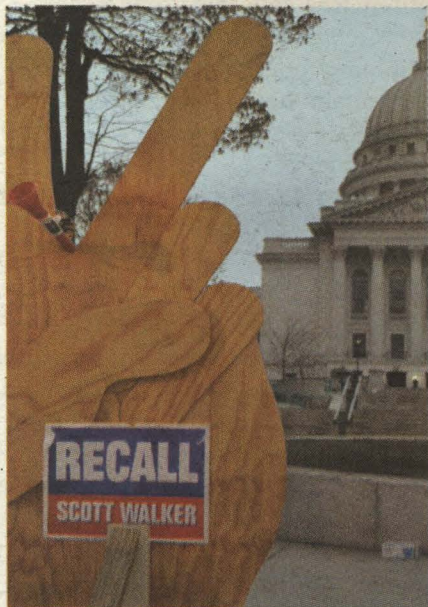


Photo by Dana Scheffen
Recall Walker signs fill the grass in front of the capitol building.

AARON OSOWSKI
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On Saturday, November 19, a Recall Kickoff Rally was held at the Capitol Building in downtown

Madison to mobilize supporters of the recall and gather signatures.

The effort to recall Gov. Scott Walker has started off with over 300,000 signatures collected in the first 12 days, or 1,040 every hour. At least 540,206 signatures are needed to force a recall election, in which case Walker would run against a Democratic candidate, who has yet to be announced.

According to police reports, somewhere between 25 and 30,000 people were in attendance. Ed Schultz from "The Ed Show" on MSNBC and John Nichols from The Nation magazine were there as well to address the crowd.

With over 200,000 signatures still needed, petitioners will have to collect around 9,000 signatures per day, as the petitions must be filed within 60 days. According to a survey done by Wisconsin Public Radio, 58 percent disapprove of Walker while 38 percent approve of the job he has done.

Students reject Pointer Compact by 2:1, SGA survey says

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Of the total 1,000 students who voted in the Student Government Association (SGA) survey about the differential tuition proposal, 39 percent, or 392 students, said "no" when asked if they supported the Pointer Compact. The Compact would raise tuition to University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point students by \$648 annually for campus operations, an increase above the UW Board of Regents allowed yearly increases of 5.5 percent. Only 20 percent of participants—202 students out of the 9,500 population—checked "yes" in support of the Compact.

Of the grand total of students who participated in the survey, 82 percent said they were "aware of the Pointer Compact," signaling that the majority of students who took the survey did so with informed opinions. Adding to the 39 percent against and 20 percent in support, 37 percent of the respondents checked either "Unsure/unknown" or "Maybe" when asked if they supported the differential tuition package.

This was despite the favorable view of the Compact in the email SGA sent out with the survey, which stated before the link to the survey, "The Pointer Compact will allow UWSP to offer more course sections, eliminate course bottlenecks, expand advising and tutoring, and allow for more resources devoted to undergraduate research. The funding generated through the Pointer Compact will be allocated through a committee of five

students, and four faculty."

Approximately 10 percent of the student body was the sample of the survey result; a valid percentage, as more students voted in the Pointer Compact survey sent by SGA earlier this month than in the SGA general election this past Spring.

Still, students were confounded when asked about the Compact. When asked if she voted and how, WWSP 90 FM staffer and UWSP tour guide Nicole Allee asked in return, "Was it emailed to us? Because, I delete those things—I use email to take care of class stuff and communicate with professors. We get so much stuff [via email], there's no way to distinguish what's important."

"They should have engaged students more, rather than send out one email," Allee said. "We only hear about things word-of-mouth, but even that way no one really knows about it."

"It's not that no one cares. It's that most people are apathetic because they don't realize what's going on," said 90 FM Promotions Director Megan Turbin. "If we're not active, someone else is going to make the big decisions for us."

The SGA email later noted that the survey "is not a binding referendum," meaning that the student vote could be ignored by the Student Senate. If SGA and the UWSP administration want to implement differential tuition by the next academic year, the Compact would have to be voted on by the end of this semester. SGA has only two remaining Student Senate sessions this semester.

Continued on page 9

OccuPoint Occupies



Photo by Samantha Feld.
Carrying the flag across the bridge, protestors use signs to express their mission during the national day of action.

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Stevens Point community members occupied the streets of Stevens Point, chanting, "We are the 99%." November 17 was called the National Day of Action, and Occupy groups around the country, including member of the Stevens Point community, engaged in demonstrations where many chose to Occupy decaying bridges to symbolize, what Occupy organizations described as the fail-

ure to put millions back to work immediately. The National Day of Action was created to mark the two-month anniversary of the Occupy Wall Street movement. Occupy organizers in Milwaukee occupied the I-43/North Ave. bridge. At the beginning of the Stevens Point demonstration, students spoke of the goals of 'OccuPoint,' and how they would like to stand in support with the demonstrators in Milwaukee by occupying the bridge crossing the Wisconsin River.

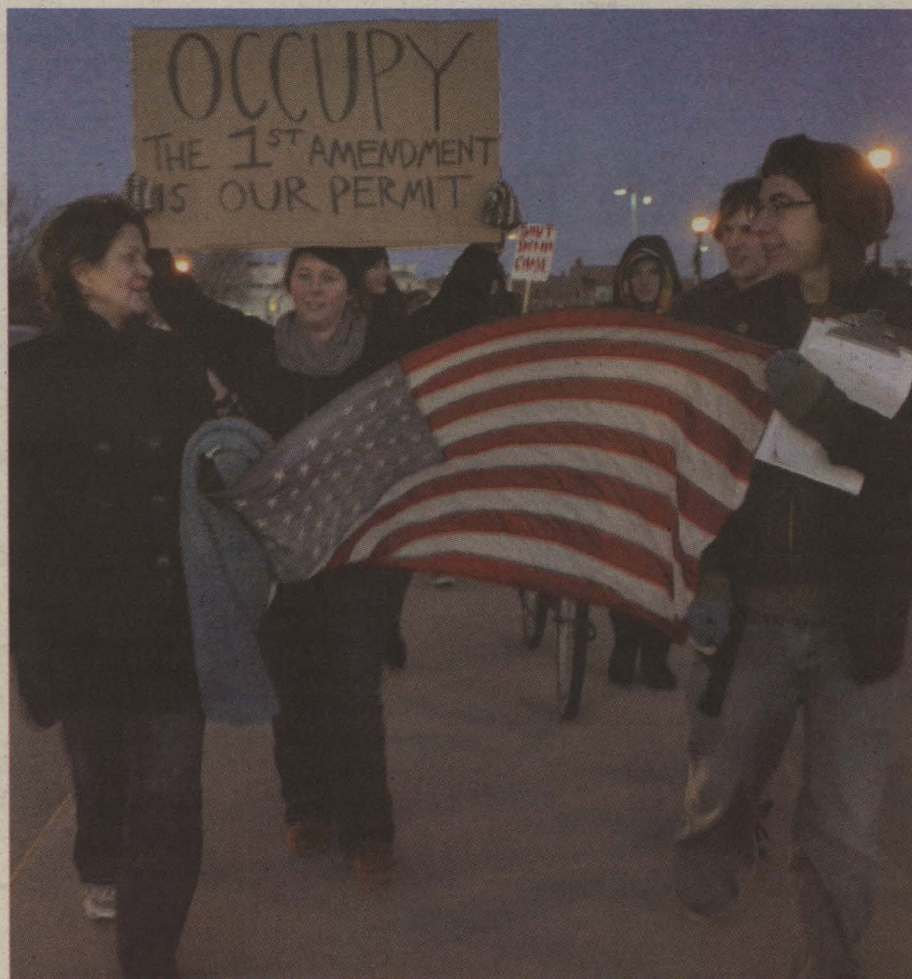


Photo by Samantha Feld.
Students hold up an American flag during the Stevens Point Occupy demonstration.



Photo by Erik Anderson

The Department of Natural Resources studies the population of bobcats south of Highway 64.

Bobcats and Mountain Lions

BRIAN LUEDTKE
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Erik Anderson, wildlife Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, has been a busy man this past season—a very busy man. Anderson, his graduate student and a team of undergraduates are working to assess bobcat populations and the presence of mountain lions in Wisconsin.

Bobcats

Currently, bobcats can only be harvested North of Highway 64. In order to make any decisions regarding the bobcat, the Department of Natural Resources must know what the population and distribution of bobcats actually is.

"What we are trying to do is figure out a way to count bobcats, which has never been done on a large scale before ... We are trying to figure out how many bobcats are actually south of Highway 64 in the state," Anderson said.

2011 was the first year of the three-year study. The year was spent performing and analyzing a pilot study to determine the sampling techniques to be applied at a larger scale in years two and three.

"We are using trail cameras in gridded systems that estimate what the density of bobcats is. And then in the same grid we are running scat-detecting dogs that can deduct scat from bobcat. We then look into the DNA within those scats, and then we can say if this scat is the same as this one, the same as this one – it's like capturing those animals multiple times. And so, based on how many are new samples that we collected and how many we get multiple samples of, we get this estimator of what the population size is in the area,"

Anderson said.

Anderson's graduate student, John Clare, is heading up the project. "He's got several undergraduates that are working with him. He's got one that has worked with us all summer long," Clare said.

That's not the only way students are involved. The Wildlife Society of UWSP is monitoring a radio-collared bobcat assessing the accuracy of the habitat model. Using this information, it may be possible to predict environments where a bobcat very likely could be, the kind of habitat worth evaluating.

Mountain Lions

For approximately 100 years there has not been a mountain lion in the state of Wisconsin. However, since 2008 there have been seven verified sightings of mountain lions moving through the state. The most recent was Nov. 8 in Price County; the large cat had moved in from the southern part of the state.

"None of the big cats that have

come through are staying yet. And they're not going to probably until we get some females into the state. It's the males that disperse the long distances and they are looking not for food, but for females, and from here until the East Coast there probably aren't any females," Anderson said.

One individual mountain lion passed through Wisconsin in 2009. DNA was collected from the animal. In Connecticut this past June, a car hit a mountain lion. The DNA of that mountain lion matched that of the one that passed through WI in 2009.

How to adapt to carnivores in the neighborhood

Calming words from Dr. Anderson:

"More people die every year from being killed by black bears than get killed by mountain lions by a factor of four or five."

"There has never, ever been anybody pulled out of their sleeping bag at night by mountain lions. Bears, yes, but mountain lions, no. Once you're in the bag you're safe."

Bobcats and mountain lions are "solitary, they are nocturnal and are very secretive so you rarely get to see them, and they usually prefer to avoid you."

If in contact with a mountain lion:

(Preventative) Keep an eye on small children and pets (bobcats love to eat domesticated cats). They are small, cute and often packaged like a piece of candy.

Do not turn and run—that just excites it.

Never play dead. If it is attacking you, it's hungry.

If necessary, defend yourself. Sticks and stones break cat bones, and pepper-spray may temporarily blind them.

Make yourself as big as possible and make lots of noises. The bigger and more ridiculous, the better. Well... don't get carried away.

Lawsuit Brought Against New Voter ID Bill

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The United Council of UW Students has joined the League of Women Voters in their lawsuit against the implementation of the new Voter Identification bill that was passed this summer.

The new law requires all voters to provide a valid form of ID to election officials, as well as lengthening the residency requirements from 10 to 28 days.

The League of Women Voters filed their lawsuit on the grounds that the Wisconsin constitution says that there are only two classes of people who can't vote: felons and the incompetent. But under this new law there is a third class: those who don't have an ID, the suit alleges.

Lawmakers who passed the law claim its intent was to reduce the

amount of voter fraud in state and municipal elections.

"There have been two documented cases of voter fraud in about the past 20 years, [and] one of them was an accident," said Seth Hoffmeister, the president of United Council.

According to a study released in October by the Brennan Center for Justice, nearly 5 million voters will find it much harder to vote in future elections because of the new law passed by Republican lawmakers.

"It's an attempt to disenfranchise

students and minorities," Hoffmeister said.

Critics of the law say that it's an attempt to exclude certain demographics of voters who vote Democratic.

"Students were targeted by this, but it also targets minorities and those who already might not have a valid driver's license or just based on history have a harder time voting," Hoffmeister said.

Hoffmeister said.

Hoffmeister, who has worked on election campaigns before, said that it's hard enough to get people out to vote. Now Republican lawmakers have targeted people who usually

vote against them and made it harder for them to vote.

Scott Walker, whose name is on the list of defendants in the lawsuit, said that the law is "common sense."

"We require [common sense] to get a library card, medicine, and public assistance," Walker said. "I will continue to implement common sense reforms that will protect the electoral process and increase citizens' confidence in the results of the election."

But the League of Women Voters President Melanie Ramey said that what Walker is talking about in that statement is generally based in business decisions of companies and are not the rights of citizens.

For more information and updates on the lawsuit, visit the League of Women Voters' website.

news

[full circle thinking]

More than you ever wanted to know about road salts

BRIAN LUEDTKE

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Road salts, or de-icing salts, are the invisible, silent warriors that battle day in and day out, keeping snow and ice accumulation at bay, and the streets clear and safe for travel. These heroes all perform the same task—lowering the melting temperature of ice.

"We go through over 160 yards of rock salt a year to keep the sidewalks and parking lots as safe as possible," said Chris Brindley, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Buildings and Grounds Supervisor.

However, there are side effects—collateral damage—from the raging battle between road salt and the freezing precipitation (like Godzilla battling aliens inevitably results in panic, helicopters crashing and buildings collapsing). These side effects include corrosion of motor vehicles and vehicle infrastructure damage, degradation of the roadside environment and unwanted salts in the drinking and irrigation water.

"For the academic and administration areas, we use bagged calcium chloride for entrances and rock salt for all other sidewalks and parking lots" Brindley said.

The campus has experimented with multiple de-icing salt alternatives including liquid and granular forms. However, many alternatives are considerably more expensive and/or result in side effects such as stained carpet. With current budgets as well as the goal of a safe campus, rock salt is the best alternative right now. "To be honest with you, safety of getting the students and faculty members to the buildings is my number one priority," Brindley said.

Road

In the United States, every year \$1.5 billion is spent on highway snow and ice control programs. About one-third of that is spent on chemical de-icers and application. Since 1970, an average of 10 million tons of road salt is applied by highway agencies each winter.

Pointer Compact/Survey Results

Continued from page 7

"I wonder if there's even anything students can do to stop it," Turbin said.

"We're happy with the plan, but we're fully aware that we're operating under a sensitive timeline and, if certain components of the plan cannot be met, then we are fully prepared to delay the Pointer Compact," said Student Senator Seth Hoffmeister.

Other students have been more active in spreading the word, such as College of Letters and Science Dean's Student Advisory Council (SAC) member Kelsey Finke, who said, "I think [differential tuition]



Photo by George Brett
A truck spreads salt on snow covered roads for safe travel.

Forest

Trees and vegetation alongside roads can be impacted by road salts through road splash and spray onto plant surfaces and cause soil chemistry changes. Of trees within 100 feet of a highway, 5-10 percent exhibited signs of salt stress in several concerned states.

Soil

As sodium accumulates, it can lead to an increase in soil density (compaction), which decreases drainage, water retention and fertility. This can inhibit plant growth and stimulate erosion.

Groundwater

De-icing salts can get into groundwater, adding unwanted salts, which can corrode plumbing. Approximately \$10 million is spent annually in the U.S. mitigating salt in water supplies.

Bridges

Since the adoption of road salts in the 1960s, they have been the greatest contributor to premature bridge deck deterioration in the Midwest and Northeast, costing \$125-325 million per year.

Underground Utilities

According to a 1991 Transportation Research Board special report 235—"Highway De-icing: Comparing salt and calcium magnesium acetate," "The chloride ions in salt (NaCl) disrupt natural protective films on metal surfaces and increase the conductivity of water, which induces and accelerates corrosion."

Automotive

Automotive manufacturers have been working since the 1960s to reduce the incidence and severity of corrosion. Over the last decade, corrosion has been greatly reduced, but with added manufacturing costs of \$1.9-3.9 billion per year.

Stream

In some extreme circumstances, fish and other stream life can be harmed by high, persistent chloride concentrations from road salts.

Plants

Too much salt in the soil makes it difficult for plants to get water, causing a physiological drought, where a plant may have water available but is unable to uptake the water.

[global community]

More than 1,000 Los Angeles police officers in riot gear descended on L.A. City Hall on Tuesday night to clear out the Occupy encampment. Dozens were arrested as police tore down tents. In Philadelphia, around 100 protestors vacated their encampment as police warned of mass arrests.

The Senate has advanced a controversial military spending bill that authorizes the military to jail any suspected terrorist without charge or trial anywhere in the world. The bill passed despite Obama's promise to veto the entire bill should such a provision remain.

Around 2 million public sector workers have gone on strike in Britain as 30 trade unions have organized over 1,000 demonstrations around the country. It is Britain's largest mass strike in over 30 years.

The U.S. government has come under scrutiny over the recent shipments of tear gas to the military government in Egypt from the American company Combined Systems. Egyptian forces have used the tear gas to break up mass protests in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Pakistan has said it will boycott an international conference on Afghanistan in opposition to a NATO cross-border attack that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers at a military checkpoint. The conference is set to discuss Afghanistan's future following a 2014 NATO withdrawal.

Britain is removing part of its diplomatic staff from Iran after protestors invaded the British embassy in Tehran chanting, "Death to Britain," and setting fire to a British flag and a car. The incident comes a week after Britain cut all financial relations with Iran as part of a concerted international sanction effort.

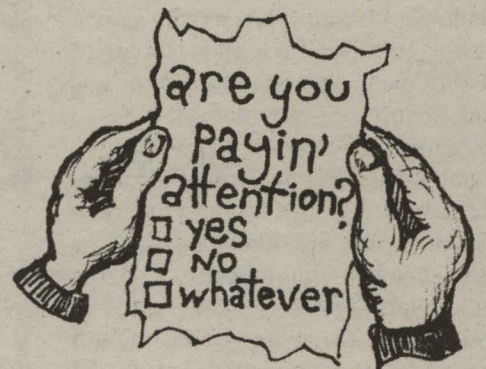
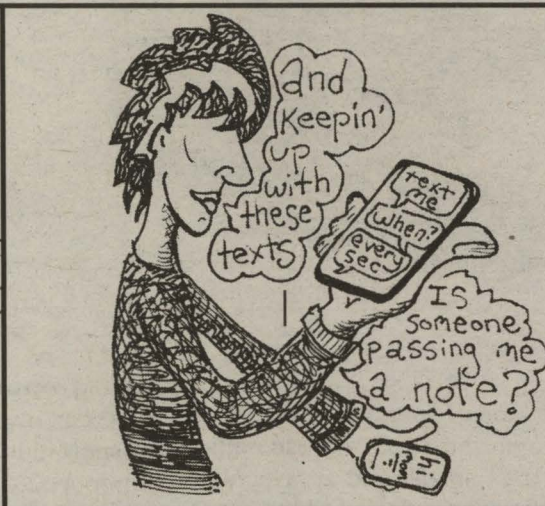
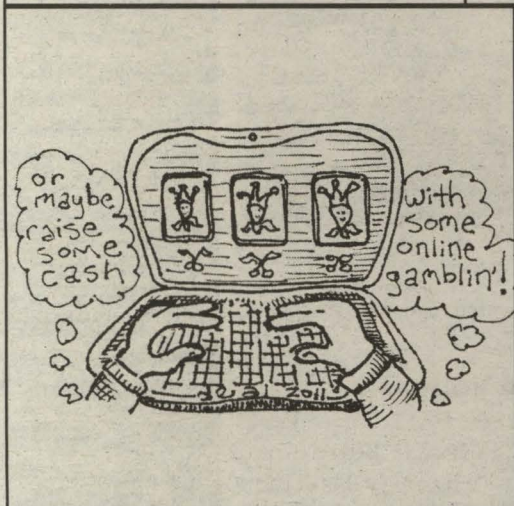
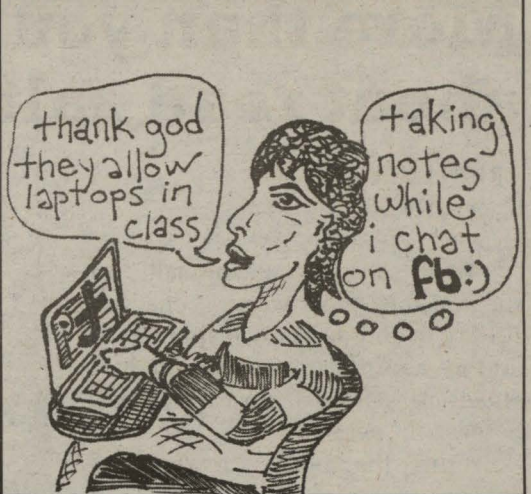
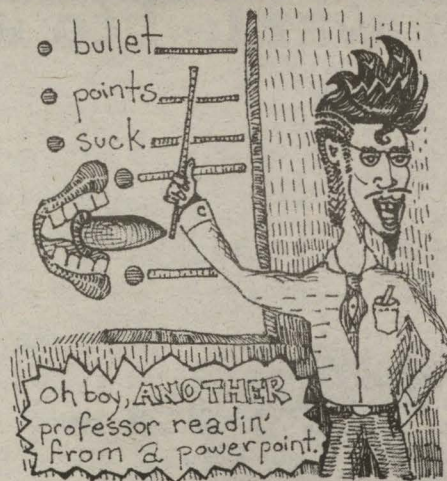
The World Meteorological Organization claims that 2011 has been one of the hottest years on record, and that human-caused pollution is to blame. According to findings, the warmest 13 years of average global temperatures have all occurred in the 15 years since 1997.

According to some analysts, the Muslim Brotherhood is set to capture around 40 percent of seats in the Egyptian Parliament. The estimates are arising after preliminary results are coming through from Cairo, Alexandria and seven other regions. The conservative Salafist party looks to secure second place.

Politicians, celebrities and cancer campaigners joined forces on Wednesday to denounce New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's proposal to allow fracking, the controversial gas drilling technique that is seen to be too risky both financially and environmentally.

pointlife

[comic of the week]



Comic by Douglas Somers

[photo of the week]

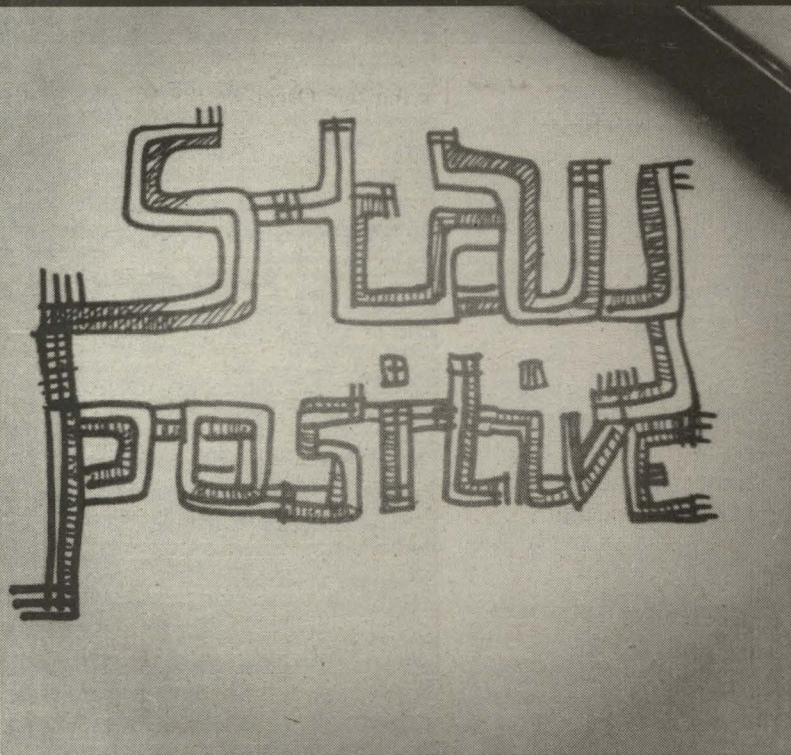
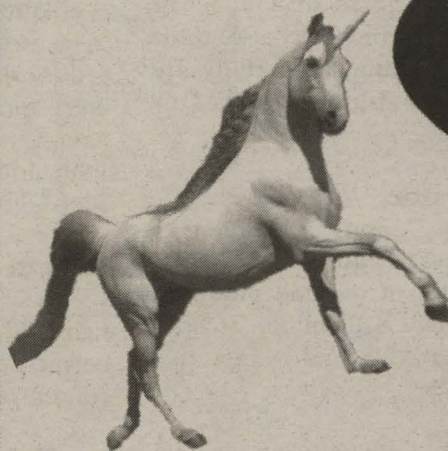


Photo by Amanda Hays



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Opinion

Black Friday: The New Thanksgiving

KAITLYN LUCKOW
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Thanksgiving: The holiday where you gather around with your family, watch some football, eat more food in one hour than you have all week, and give a lot of thanks about everything. That's what Thanksgiving is. Or at least that is what Thanksgiving used to be.

But this year and in years past, this Thanksgiving has changed. Thanksgiving now looks like shopping. It looks like lines of people wrapping around the entire store, in which people have been waiting in for hours and even days sometimes, just in the hope of getting a \$100 TV. It's mobs and mobs of people fighting to buy stupid items that they don't even need, literally climbing on top of others to get what they want.

I remember going Black Friday shopping with my mom as a kid. We would wake up at seven in the morning and go to the stores at eight, the time stores used to open up. When we got to the stores we would stroll around for a few hours and then head home. There were never any hordes

of desperate people or fights over door busters.

In the past few years, the stores have been opening up earlier and earlier. This year some stores were opening at nine-o'clock on Thanksgiving. Instead of giving thanks for what we have on this holiday, we're fighting over things they think we still "need."

People are now forced to work on Thanksgiving. Instead of enjoying their holiday, they have to schedule and plan their life around working a shift from 9 p.m.-9 a.m.

Even worse, people are voluntarily skipping out on Thanksgiving. I was watching the news on Thanksgiving night and the reporter interviewed someone who literally skipped out on his family's dinner to stand in line to get cheap electronics. And the worst part about this? No one seemed to think that this was bad. He was happy that he decided to stand out in the cold by himself instead of inside with his family.

So, I just have a question: When did shopping become more important than family?



Photo by Samantha Feld
Lining up at around 8:30 on Thanksgiving in front of a Target store, shoppers await the midnight opening of Black Friday.

Take Shelter: Film Review

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"Is anybody seeing this?" Curtis LaForche asks rhetorically as he watches a coming storm spew lightning bolts that rip through the Ohioan night sky. The question is why more theatres aren't carrying this Oscar-worthy film so we can see exactly what Curtis is seeing (I drove to Madison to see it).

Michael Shannon plays Curtis LaForche, a dedicated family man. Curtis has a comfortable life with a young family. As a friend puts it, "You've got a good life, Curtis. I think that's the best compliment you can give a man." Inexplicably, Curtis starts receiving nightly dreams of an advancing storm that brings tornadoes and a thick, brown rain. Worried for the safety of his family based on his vivid nightmares, Curtis builds out his derelict storm shelter.

But as Curtis begins to take the measures he deems necessary to protect his loved ones, his home and work life begin to come undone: He grows distant from his wife, Samantha (Jessica Chastain), friends, co-workers and in some ways, himself. Curtis begins to wonder if his own mother's paranoid schizophrenia has been passed on to himself. The question becomes clear: Does Curtis need to protect his family from whatever lies ahead, or himself?

No amount of words can be enough to praise Michael Shannon. Suffice to say, he's my early (early) pick for Best Actor come February. Chastain is fabulous in the role as the strong wife. I wouldn't be surprised to see her nominated come award season. The beauty of this film lies in its ability to blend genres: psychological thriller, family drama and supernatural horror. It does so seamlessly. This is largely due to Jeff Nichol's sensational direction. The heartrending score is fantastic as well.

"Take Shelter" is one of the strongest American dramas that anyone will see all year.

Walker's Wisconsin: Closed for Business

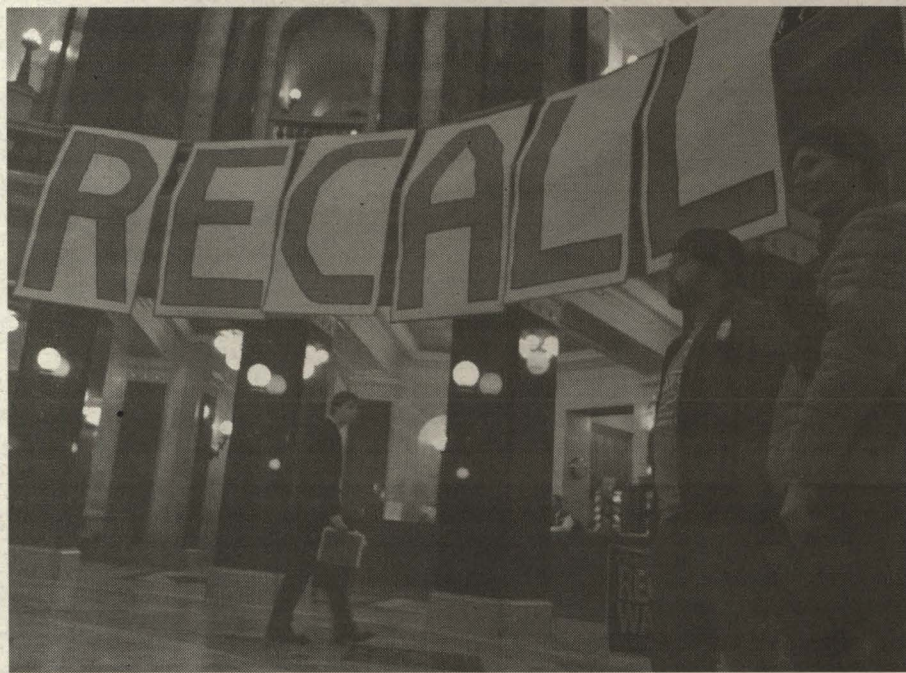


Photo by Dana Scheffen
A "recall" sign hangs in the capitol building in Madison.

LOGAN CARLSON
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The news that the recall effort against Governor Scott Walker had eclipsed 300,000 signatures on Monday came as no real surprise to those intimately acquainted with the political atmosphere of Wisconsin. Even those faintly acquainted could have figured as much just from the size of the rallies in Madison last winter.

While there was a worry that some of the momentum from the rallies would diminish, and Walker was counting on it, people were in fact itching to sign the recall petitions,

and rightly so.

It was announced last Tuesday, a great "take out the trash day," by the Department of Labor that "the only state with an over-the-month statistically significant decline in employment was Wisconsin" with 9,700 private jobs lost in October.

This is the fourth month in a row that Walker gets to preside over job losses in our state, raising the unemployment figure from 7.3 percent to 7.7 percent.

When Walker hinted that his policies were the reason for job creation in June he set himself up to own any job losses that may come in the future, and he owns this.

The fact that the economy continues to shed jobs is not the only reason there is a huge grassroots movement to recall the governor.

Wisconsin leads the nation in cuts to education according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. This is in addition to the cuts the UW System saw, totaling \$315 million between lapses and budget cuts.

In the 21st century we are competing economically not just nationally, but on a global scale. That is going to require a workforce that is educated to meet the demands of an ever-changing environment and cutting education funding is harmful to making Wisconsin competitive on a global scale.

Republicans have already started running ads in support of Walker, and are trying to portray the recall effort as a "power grab" by the Democratic Party, yet this could not be further from the truth. This is a truly grassroots effort by local citizens, not the astroturf organizations of the tea party.

In fact it was one of Walker's supporters who filed the first recall petition a week early because doing so allowed Walker to start raising unlimited money for the election that is sure to come.

It is clear that Walker's policies aren't working for Wisconsin and by allowing him to remain in office for a full term will result in our state falling behind in the global economic environment.

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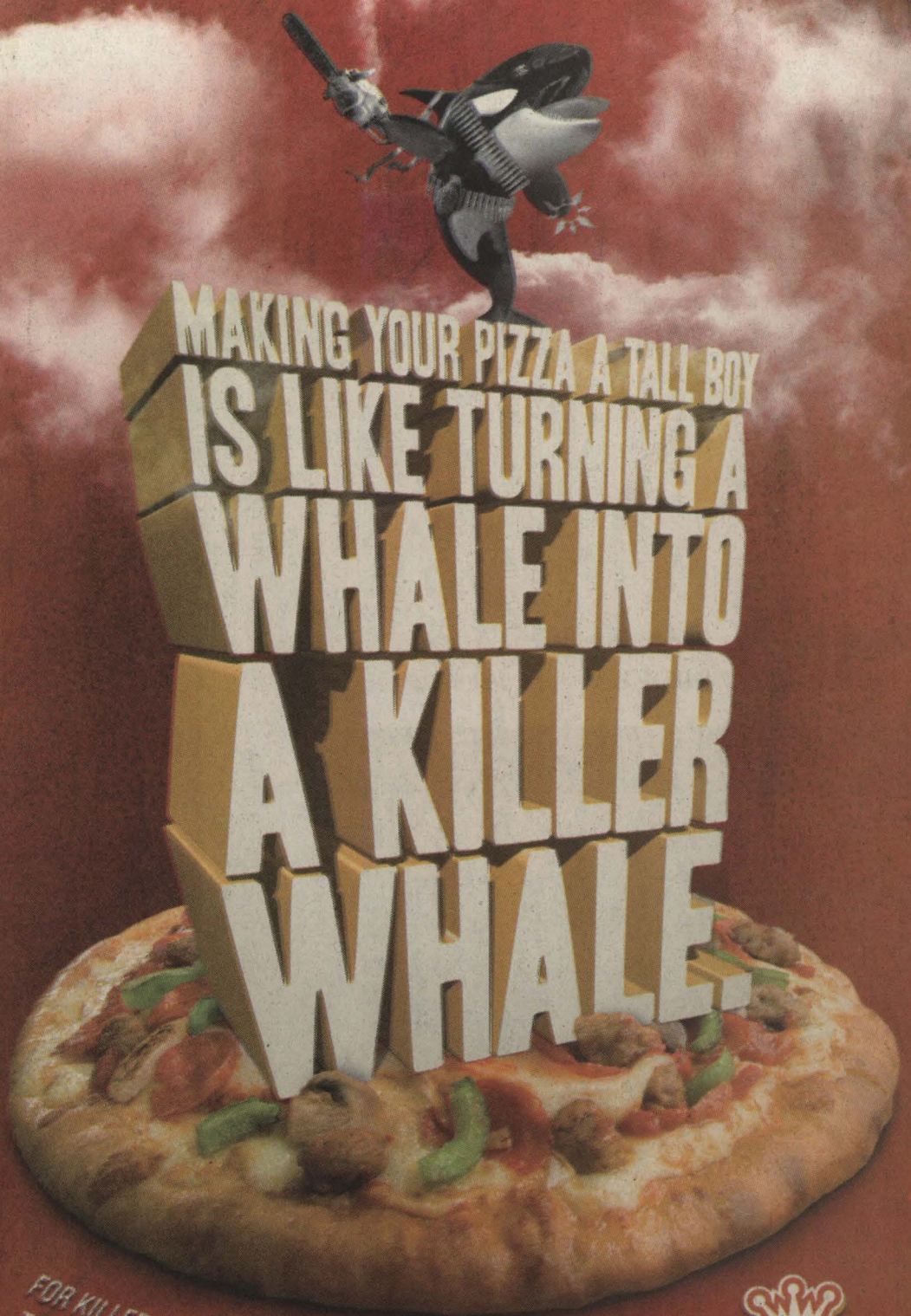
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