



The Pointer

14,000 protest loss of union rights



Wisconsin citizens filled the Capitol Building in Madison on Tuesday to continue the protest against Governor Walker's Budget Repair Bill. The repair bill contains measures that limit, or strip, the collective bargaining rights of public sector employees.

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"I was told by one professor that it's about the ability to keep and recruit good staff and faculty. If we can't keep people here, you're being cheated as students. Your tuition dollars are being cheated," said State Sen. Julie Lassa at a town hall meeting at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Noel Fine Arts Building.

Lassa was referring to the protests occurring in Madison over Governor Scott Walker's newly proposed Budget Repair Bill. With the passage of this bill, workers at UWSP and across the state are looking at having their collective bargaining rights stripped of them.

A crowd of about 220 people gathered to listen and ask questions of Lassa as well as State Representative Louis Molepske Jr.

Groups all over the state are criticizing the bill, which is aimed at bridging a gap explained by Walker to be \$134 million wide.

"It's malarkey," said Molepske. "There is no need for this bill."

The crowd at UWSP was supportive of the message Lassa and Molepske were spreading. The bill that Walker has introduced will cut

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Referendum will allow city to buy mall, renovate

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The referendum that will allow the city of Stevens Point to borrow \$5.9 million dollars to purchase the Center Point Mall downtown passed Tuesday by a margin of 2,597 in favor to 1,925 opposed. The passage of the referendum will permit the city to purchase and renovate the mall, which will allow Mid-State Technical College to move into its location. The second phase of the mall renovation is yet to be decided by city officials.

Critics of the referendum claimed that there was no rush for the referendum to be voted on, but this was not true according to Steve Smith, Dean of the Stevens Point campus.

"We are already working on our fiscal year 2012 budget and we needed time to get that budget in order. April was simply too late," Smith said.

Smith said that overall, Mid-State will contribute \$1.5 million dollars to the project. The sum of \$3.15 million was contributed by the city and \$750,000 was granted by a Department of Commerce block grant. If the referendum had failed, the block grant from the state would

have gone away, Smith said.

Mid-State currently enrolls approximately 3,000 students, which make up a full-time equivalency of about 570 students. Their current building is approximately 36,000 square feet. By renovating a portion of the mall, Mid-State will move into a building that will expand their size to 56,000 square feet. Smith envisions that the student body will double over time.

When asked why there was a need for a movement to a bigger building, Smith said, "We are just plain out of room in our current loca-

tion. We just cannot expand anymore. If we wanted to add a program, we would have been forced to remove a program in existence."

The relocation will allow the school to better adjust to the future needs of their students and their changing demands, Smith claimed.

The move downtown by Mid-State will free up their current building for the city's Parks and Recreation Department, which then allows the Portage County Boys and Girls Club to move into their vacant building.

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NEWS

Budgets are underway and under scrutiny

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The Student Government Association has passed its budget for next year, enabling business to continue with student organizations.

The vote occurred at the first meeting of the semester for the Student Senate on January 27, 2011. The vote was 13-2 in favor of the budget.

However, the budget was not met without opposition. Sen. Patrick Testin of the College of Letters and Sciences proposed cutting the proposed SGA budget from \$20,600 to \$17,800. The budget saw an increase this year due to the removal of Dr. Laura Ketchum-Ciftci as the SGA advisor.

Budget Director Ashley Riederer explained the shift.

"I know it looks like there has been a drastic increase in some of these line items but some things have been changed around. The only real difference now is the advisor compensation of \$5,000, because it used to be covered by the Centers, but now that our advisor is no longer a Centers employee we have to suffice for that," Riederer said.

Testin rescinded his motion after the increase was explained.

However, the sudden increases would come to an end if Testin had his way. At the finance committee meeting, Testin proposed lowering costs by making segregated fee spending increase or decrease with inflation.

Testin explained, "If we cut costs in our own house, it will send a serious message to Governor Walker that he won't have to cut the university budget as much."

"If we cut costs in our own house, it will send a serious message to Governor Walker that he won't have to cut the university budget as much."

-Testin

The proposal was pushed aside as Kirk Cychosz, interim SGA budget director, motioned to postpone the idea indefinitely.

The finance committee is still going through budgets for student organizations and will hear what stu-

dents want and then decide what the groups actually need. At any time this could mean that a club or group could have their budget rejected or accepted on a line-by-line basis.

Bin Xia, speaker of the senate, explained the meeting timeline for budgets.

"I have heard that Ashley chaired one meeting this past weekend, and another meeting is scheduled in two weeks; also, Ashley will publish the minutes when next meeting is done," he said.

SGA senate will have final authority to vote on the budgets by approving the minutes of the SGA finance committee. The vote can take place anytime after the last of the student organization budgets are approved. After the vote they are sent to Madison where the UW System Board of Regents accept them and compile the data for the UW System.

Students can contact their SGA senators or finance committee representatives to give input on the budgets before they vote. All information on SGA can be found online at www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/sga or by stopping by their office, DUC 052, during regular office hours.

THE POINTER

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Differential Tuition: A Beneficial Increase?

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With state budget cuts looming and the price of tuition expected to go nowhere but up, students are finding it more and more financially difficult to attend college.

However, the price is not the only factor that students put into consideration when applying to a university. The knowledge as well as the practical, real-world training that a university provides is far more important when making this decision.

Thus, administrators here at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point have been attempting to find a way to make sure that the campus is providing its students with the best and most efficient educational experience. The main initiative they are focusing on is called Differential Tuition (DT).

DT, which has already proven successful at the UW-Eau Claire and La Crosse campuses, is a student-approved tuition fee whose funds go to support projects such as student/faculty research, internship and career assistance opportunities as well as certification programs.

The issue of differential tuition was discussed last Thursday during the Student Government Association's weekly Senate meeting.

Greg Diemer, the vice chancellor of business affairs at UWSP, was present to speak about the issue, which was brought up by SGA President Michael Wilson.

When asked to explain the positives and negatives of DT, Diemer addressed what he perceived to be the one negative aspect of the initiative.

"The negative on it is that you would see an increase in your tuition bill," Diemer said.

He then explained what the positives of DT would be; one of which would ensure that students are able to get into the sections of classes they need in order to complete their general and major classes. This, Diemer said, would possibly allow many students to graduate a semester or even a year earlier.

The UWSP DT initiative would also build off of UW-Eau Claire and La Crosse's efforts to fund student/faculty research, and would enhance students' resume-building opportunities. Diemer noted that these two campuses also have benefited from higher retention and graduation rates, and that DT has been a prime factor.

As far as cost is considered, Diemer said that the estimated tuition increase for DT would be anywhere from \$200-\$400 per semester. This would be put on a progression, such

as a 25% increase over four years.

When asked how those in the lower income brackets would adjust to the increase in tuition, Diemer explained that a financial aid addition would be granted to those students who are already Pell Grant-eligible.

"We would hope that those students who are struggling would have additional resources available to help progress towards their degree and not end up dropping out of school or leaving because of academic issues," Diemer said.

Students will have a major voice in how differential tuition is dealt with, and Diemer ensured that a student/faculty/administration oversight subcommittee would be formed that would be able to make priorities in how funds are spent.

Diemer believes that there will be substantial student support for DT and is optimistic of its potential.

"The students who are working with us on the differential committee, I think, have seen the value and seen what's happening on other campuses," Diemer said. "We're getting indications that there's definite support."

Although it is an issue that will not be dealt with for some time, differential tuition is an issue that all students can become actively engaged in, as it will determine the quality and efficacy of their very education.

Editorial Policies

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Protest/Protesters plan to continue beyond bill decision

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a plethora of items that the state's unions have relied upon for the past 50 years.

They include emergency provisions for Governor Walker and his cabinet to deny people BadgerCare or coverage under BadgerCare for specific health care items, Molepske said. Changes to Medicaid have been proposed that will limit the amount of people included in the program. Public employees will also have to pay a larger percentage of their benefits than they already do.

The UWSP administration has taken a public stance on the issue, defending public employees.

Chancellor Bernie Patterson was at the public forum and spoke about the meetings he has been setting up throughout the day on the phone as his staff attempted to track down legislators to "kill the bill."

"Never have I seen an action like this that is more damaging to higher education," Patterson said.

This attitude was shared by 14,000 people in Madison on Tuesday and roughly 30,000 on Wednesday as workers and students were bussed into the heart of the isthmus and marched on the capitol building.

Students and several faculty members from UWSP met outside the Dreyfus University Center early each morning to be bussed to join the demonstrations.

They carried with them a message that they wanted to deliver to the legislature in force; a message that Patterson has now asked all people to tell their legislators.

"Tell your stories, tell it passionately. If not by phone, you can get their emails," Patterson asked.

Busses started arriving at 9:30 a.m. in Madison unloading workers and students from all over Wisconsin, as far north as Superior and as far south as Kenosha.

The early arrivers were asked to attend a lobbying training session and attend the Joint Finance Committee's hearing on the bill that will decide whether the bill can have debate in the Capitol over the next three days.

At noon the capitol reached full capacity for protesters. They began their rally with chants of, "kill the bill" and "recall Walker."

The rally featured several speakers that told stories about their experiences in the public sector.

Afterwards, 3,000 people stormed inside the capital and engaged in chants and cheers as the firefighter's union broke from their endorsements of Walker in the general election and joined in with unionists from across the state. Some were even driven to tears by the scene.

Gerry McEntee, the local American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees executive board member, spoke about the emotion that the movement brought him

tuesday at the town hall meeting.

"I'm getting choked up just talking about it," he said.

Protests began on Monday in Madison with about 1,500 students and union workers engaging in a march down State Street. They are expected to continue well beyond the passage or failure of the bill, according to union officials at the town hall meeting.

Students took again to their buses on Wednesday for a second round of protest rallies with unionists.

UWSP education student Luke Williams came to the Tuesday town hall because he was concerned about his future.

"How does this affect me as a student studying to be a teacher, or school teachers in general?" he asked.

Lassa and Molepske took the question with help from an audience member.

"Do your protections go away automatically? No," Molepske said.

Lassa explained that even though they don't go away automatically, the decisions that would normally be unionized would be left in the hands of the school board. Issues such as seniority, pensions, amount of years worked, number of school days per year and family partners would be things school boards would have to be charged with rather than unions and administrators, under the passage of the bill.

It was a decision that the Wisconsin Education Association Council has criticized and organized against.

After the initial protests from the AFL-CIO affiliates, WEAC brought another 8,000-10,000 teachers and students to the Capitol to protest the destruction of collective bargaining. Protests continued into the night as the Joint Finance Committee continued debate until early Wednesday morning.

"They will pass this in the dark. They already have the votes," Molepske said.

Molepske pointed out action items that people were asked to do. Among them was calling various moderate Republican senators.

Patterson thanked both Molepske and Lassa on their work for the unions.

"On behalf of the 11,000 students, faculty and staff, we cannot say thank you enough. You have never let the students down, but more importantly, you have never let public employees down," he said.

As the audience applauded, Patterson went on to say these final words: "We are not the problem; not the enemy; we are the solution."

"There is no bigger government than a government taking away people's rights. That's what's happening here," Molepske explained.

He went so far as to say that State Assembly members would disobey quorum calls and be arrested by State Troopers to enter into a vote on the bill.



Photo by Samantha Feld

Protestors of Gov. Scott Walker's Budget Repair Bill marched in front of the Capitol Building in Madison all day Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Many Students and union workers came in from all over the state to protest at the Capitol this week.

Molepske was met with a standing ovation and cries of support from the various union members in the room.

Referendum/Boys and girls club to gain space

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The organization currently is located in a donated 2,000 square foot building on Ellis Street downtown, which serves as their headquarters for the county as well as their Teen Center, said Kevin Quevillion, the Executive Director for the agency. The move to the recreation center means that the organization will move into a building that will afford them 15,000 square feet.

The organization currently has 1,500 registered members and averages about 250 participants per day throughout their seven different locations throughout the county.

Quevillion says that their current Teen Center sees about 15-20 kids per day but they hope to be able to provide services for 50-100 kids at the new location. The move also makes sense due to the proximity of PJ Jacobs Junior High School.

"The building would require a little remodeling to suit our needs but we wouldn't get any money from taxes," Quevillion said.

The organization is a non-profit, 501(C) 3 organization that relies on charitable contributions to operate. They are an independent organization but are affiliated with the national Boys and Girls Club of America.

UWSP Dance Team leaps to Nationals

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The Dance Team of UWSP is wrapping up yet another great year and is preparing to take their show on the road to the Super Bowl of collegiate dance competitions. They will be in Minneapolis from February 24-27 bringing their A-game to UPA Nationals, competing against the best teams in the country.

The team is no stranger to doing well in competitions. For the past eight years in a row, they have placed first at the Raider Classic, a regional competition. In many other local and regional competitions, the UWSP Dance Team has brought the heat and is rarely beat.

While the team has been successful in years past, the energy and spirit is at an all time high. "We spend so much time together. It doesn't happen every year, but this year it just clicked. We are a family," said dancer Krista Lass. The chemistry of the team combined with hours and hours of practice is making this team's chances of success look good.

Outside of competition, the team is a staple of the UWSP Football and Basketball games between halves. Not only do they provide entertainment, but they display their talent in the art of dance.

Depending on which night you see them, you will either see their pom or jazz routine. When they need to bring



Photo by Krista Lass

the energy and get the crowd energized, they perform their pom routine. When showcasing the technical aspects of dance and the skill of the team, they perform their jazz routine.

"It has a very tribal sound to it with a lot of drums and back beats," said Lass.

If you haven't gotten a chance to see them yet, time is running out. Unless the men's basketball team

makes it to the playoffs, their season will be over after their trip to nationals next week.

Unfortunately, the Dance Team of UWSP is not recognized by the school as a sport, but as a competitive club. Many involved with the dance team would like to see this changed. Despite being classified as a club, these girls take it to the next level and

compete as a team.

After trying out the first week of school, narrowing the candidates down from 50 to around 18, and practicing two hours a night, five days a week, the dance team has proved that through hard work and dedication, a team can come together to surpass their greatest expectations and give us one heck of a halftime show.

Diet-Football

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Commentary

In my search to fill my free time since the Packers won the Super Bowl, I have found what could possibly be the next best thing to football. Rugby.

We've all heard of Rugby. It's like soccer, but rougher and tougher, and also like football, but less pads and faster paced. While flipping through the channels in search of something to replace the void left in my heart in wake of football season being over, I stumbled upon a game of Rugby. Initially, I was drawn in because it is a sport of running until you get tackled. It's like Diet-Football. But then I realized this game has more to it than just being almost like football. It has a complex series of rules and well thought out formations, with contingencies for different possible outcomes in the game. This isn't Diet-Football, it's like

Football Throwback.

If anyone has played Rugby before they know that, although with similarities to other sports, it's set of rules make it stand apart from other sports. To score, a player must run the ball into the try zone and touch the ball to the ground. This gives that team five points, with two additional points in the field goal. Simple so far, eh? To get the ball into the try zone, it must be ran in. While running downfield, only backward passes are allowed. To stop a player with the ball, they must be tackled, but if the tackler doesn't stay on top of them, then the runner can get back up and keep going.

When most people think of Rugby, they think of scrums. Scrums occur when there is a penalty. Each team gets into formation and faces each other. There are three people in front for each team and they have their arms around each other's shoulders. The one in the middle of the three is called the hooker, and he is surrounded with props. Behind the front line are the locks, who stick their heads



Photo from 2010 season

in between the thighs of the front line. It is their job to push. Behind them is the flanker. He pushes too. The team who the penalty was committed against has their scrumhalf roll the ball into the middle. The two teams then push forward to get the ball. It is the hooker's job to 'hook' the ball with his foot back to his team, the remainder who are waiting behind and beside the scrum. After possession is gained, then normal game play ensues. While it is generally thought to be more dangerous than football because of the lack of pads, this 15-on-15 person game is actually safer for the same reason.

Without helmets and pads, hitting the opposite person gives you direct soft tissue contact, rather than plastic on plastic contact.

In watching this game, I found it to be a combination of my favorite aspects of my favorite sports. Although it doesn't get any better than football, and football doesn't get any better than the Packers, this game will provide you hours of enjoyment. In the spring, it also makes for a great pick up game. If you're looking for a good team to watch, I have it on good authority that New Zealand, South Africa, and the French are the teams to watch. Enjoy!

SPORTS

The NFL and the ever lingering impossibility

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In today's world there are very few absolute truths. Self-doubt and doubt about the world around us has become as commonplace as a cup of coffee. However, there are a select few things we can hold on to and treasure. Things like a scoop of ice cream on a slice of apple pie. A good cold beer on a warm Summer day. A backyard barbeque with the scent of brats and burgers wafting throughout the neighborhood.

But one of the all-time greatest things that man has ever engineered for this earth is in serious jeopardy. Something that is enjoyed by millions of people across the nation. An institution that brings together more Sunday followers than your local church and bar combined. I'm talking about professional football.

A game that got its start right in the heart of the nation and has become as much a part of the American fiber as the Constitution is staring at a crossroads. Unless a deal is forged between the owners of the National Football League and the NFL Players Association, we will be without our beloved Sunday sanctuary.

March 4th marks the deadline for a Collective Bargaining Agreement to be reached between the NFL and the Player's Union. The Collective Bargaining Agreement is a list of issues that both sides can come to terms on before the season can begin. The current agreement expires at the end of the day March 3rd and due to the continuous breakdowns in discussions between the two organizations, a delay in league proceedings seems imminent.

This CBA focuses on four main points of agreement between the players and the owners. Probably the most talked about point is the extension of the regular season to an eighteen game schedule. The proposed idea was to eliminate two pre-season games in order to make way for an additional two during the regular season.

The eighteen game schedule has met with great opposition from both players and former players. After the league cracked

down on violent hits this past season and shelled out several high dollar fines to players, namely Pittsburgh's James Harrison, the extension of the regular season is deemed by many to be hypocritical. An increased emphasis on player safety coupled with an extension of a season filled with hard hits and possible career and life threatening injuries does present a certain duality to the priorities of the league.

Possibly the most important issue being discussed revolves around the

a contract giving him \$50 million guaranteed. It's these sorts of contracts that have irked veteran players. Therefore, the union has proposed a simple salary cap for all rookies in order to ease the flow of cash being shelled out to unproven players.

The final point that cannot be agreed upon is how the organizations will split about 9 billion dollars in annual revenue. The old agreement stated that the owners would receive a billion dollars before the rest was divided

a proposal and became upset at the document. When the two groups cannot even be clear on the language contained in the forms they are reading, it's no wonder reaching an agreement has been delayed for so long.

The NFL has recently filed an unfair labor practice charge against the union with the National Labor Relations board on Monday. The NFL has stated in their complaint that the union "consistently has failed to confer in good faith." In response, George Atallah, a spokesman for the union, sent an e-mail to The Associated Press. In the e-mail Atallah said: "The players didn't walk out and the players can't lock out. Players want a fair, new and long-term deal. We have offered proposals and solutions on every issue the owners have raised."

With each side pointing fingers, and neither even willing to discuss the issues, the possibility of a lockout is becoming increasingly evident. With viewers constantly looking to feed their sports addiction, a lockout would be disastrous for the American people. Some may argue that without professional football, some of the hysteria surrounding the sport would be allowed to cool; however, an NFL lockout could turn ugly very quickly. When you take away a man's cane he is sure to stumble. That would be the equivalent to taking football away from the fans. And as the flagship organization in all of sports, it is the NFL's responsibility to make sure such a thing does not happen.

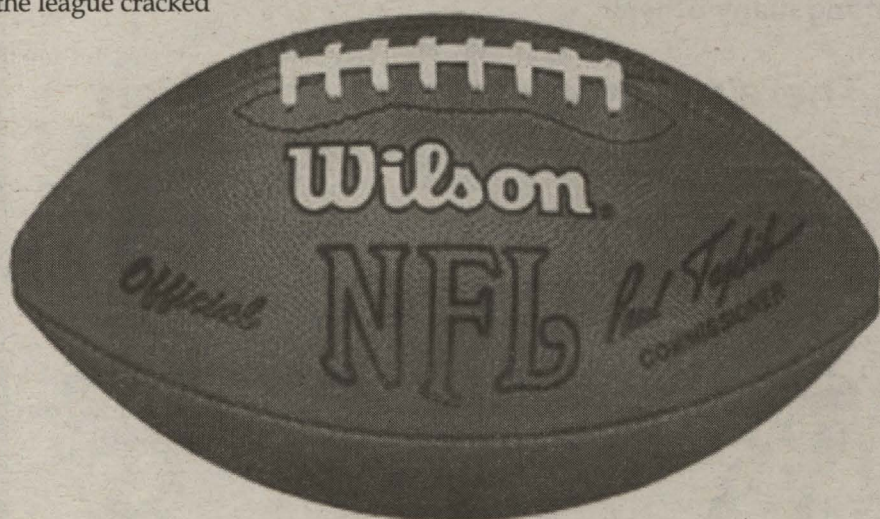
amongst the players. For the new settlement, the owners are attempting to negotiate an initial two billion dollar payment off the top, and then disperse the rest among the players.

With these issues facing the Players Union and the NFL owners, you would think the two sides would have their priorities in line and be working together to reach an agreement. Wrong. The two sides currently are not even speaking. The last meeting that took place was cut short after the owners became overly distraught and walked out. ESPN's Adam Scheffer reported that The Players Union recently drew up a list of ideas, which the owners interpreted as

But one of the all time greatest things that man has ever engineered for this earth is in serious jeopardy.
~ Marcellino-Merwin

benefits that retired players receive once their playing days are over. One of the main reasons the NFL had to make the decision to take some of the violence out of the game was because of the multitude of retired players with serious health issues in their later years directly resulting from their former profession. ESPN's Outside the Lines recently featured a special chronicling the serious addiction to pain killers that many players are overcome by after they retire. If the two sides cannot agree on a CBA, members of the Players Union and their families will no longer receive health insurance. And with the constant unveiling of problems resulting from a career in football, that is a very big problem.

The third major point of the debates is the development of a rookie salary cap. NFL teams are paying kids fresh out of college millions of dollars in hopes that they blossom into the player the organization thinks they can be. Jake Long, the former Michigan left tackle, was the number one overall pick in the 2008 NFL draft. The Miami Dolphins signed him to a five year, \$57.5 million deal, making him the highest paid player at his position and he hadn't played a single down. This season's Offensive Rookie of the Year Sam Bradford signed



SPORTS

Pointers basketball topple number one teams

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball team maintained the weekend theme of upsetting number ones after the Pointers avenged an early season loss to first ranked UW-River Falls. The 86-70 victory forces Point into a tie with the Falcons for the top spot in the WIAC.

Sophomore guard Jerrel Harris proved yet again why he is a potent offensive threat in the WIAC. Harris dropped 28 points, a new career high, and dished out eight assists to propel the Pointers past River Falls.

Jerrel and senior guard Vinny Ritchay spearheaded the attack in the first half. During the opening 20 minutes Harris scored 15 points while Ritchay added eight of his own, including two three pointers. Ritchay ended the game with 11 points.

The Pointers kept up their impressive shooting throughout the entire contest. They owned a 41-33 lead at halftime after shooting 66 percent from the field. Point ended the night shooting 58 percent, converting on 29 of 50 shots, and hit seven from behind the arc.

Sophomore guard Tyler Tillema and senior forward Louis Hurd also broke into double digits during the game, scoring 14 and 13 points respectively. Hurd also dominated the boards during the game, racking up a game high eight rebounds. Point had the edge in that category as well, going on to outrebound River Falls 30-26.

Senior forward Jake Voeltz led the Falcons with 24 points. He was also a perfect 10-10 from the charity stripe.



Jerrel Harris blows past a Falcon to score for The Pointers

Photo by Mark Kinslow

Another game of high scoring and hot shooting brings The Pointers season average to 52 percent from the field and 38 percent from downtown. Their average of 79.5 points per game is tops in the conference, ahead of River Falls by 4.5 points.

The loss to Stevens Point is River Falls' second in conference, which drops them to 12-2 in the WIAC. Both Point and River Falls have two conference games remaining. River Falls first travels to La Crosse to take on the WIAC's leading scorer Tony Mane. They will then round off the regular season at Platteville.

The Pointers will first face Platteville a team that has a chance to sweep the season series against Point. UWSP will then go on the road and try to beat a talented La

Crosse team, in their attempts to finish the regular season with at least a share of the conference title.

Point and River Falls have both already clinched first round byes for

the WIAC Tournament. Number one seed tie-breaker scenarios are available on the WIAC website in the event the Pointers and Falcons finish the regular season tied.

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POINTLIFE



Some of this year's businesses include the Steven's Point Brewery, Three Lakes Winery, Russet Potatoes, Mullins Cheeses, Capitol Brewery and Nueske's Meats, among a plethora of others.

"Most of the businesses, particularly for beverages, are vendors we currently serve at the Basement Brewhaus and additionally the

products we don't serve, we might serve in the future," said Assistant Director Greg Diekroeger of Campus Activities.

Each participant will be given feedback cards upon arrival to write down their favorite products from

each individual business's tables, the best products may be served in the future at the Basement Brewhaus.

"The intent is to give exposure for all of the vendors, for participants to be able to buy their products elsewhere, and as well as to give us feedback in the Brewhaus," said Diekroeger.

The Taste of Wisconsin has been going on for over 10 years and it has been sold out every year for the last three years by the start of the event.

It used to be held each year in the Alumni room, which had a room capacity of 175, but since the Dreyfus University Center has reopened the new Laird room holds 250 people.

Over 20 businesses are signed up for this year's tasting event and because of the increase in room size, event organizers expect more businesses to be in attendance.

Faculty Jazz Trio will be providing background music for Taste of Wisconsin.

"I think it is the most fun event of the year we do," said Brewhaus'

Laura Spencer, "My parents always come, my aunts and uncles, it's an event that brings students and the rest of the community together." The annual Taste of Wisconsin event will be held in the Laird Room of the Dreyfus University Center on Friday, Feb. 25.

The event, sponsored by the Basement Brewhaus, will start at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available from the University Information and Ticket Center, (715)-346-4100 or (800)-838-3378.

Tickets for students with a valid student ID will be \$20 dollars if paid in advance and \$25 dollars on the day of the event. For non-students tickets are \$25 dollars in advance, and \$30 dollars at the door.

Only a limited number of tickets are available and participants must be 21 years of age or older to attend.

Taste of Wisconsin is a sampling event in which businesses from all around the state of Wisconsin bring their best beers, wines, cheeses, meats, potatoes, fishes, pizzas, and much more for customer taste testing.

NOD-ding off on campus

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The critically acclaimed Madison based band, The Nod, are fans of Stevens Point.

"We'd like to note that we have taken the Point Brewery tour three times, that's how much we love Pointer country," The Nod commented.

The Nod will be playing in the Encore room of the Dreyfus University Center at 8 p.m. on Feb. 19.

The band has had a successful year touring as an opening act for the bands Third Eye Blind, OK GO,

fashioned after Japanese Rock music and has recently hired someone from Japan to help facilitate their music across Japan's music scene.

"Have you seen 'Most Extreme Elimination Challenge'? That's exactly the mentality of Japanese Rock n' Roll, fearless and ridiculous. Anything goes," said Newski.

Having recently chosen to cover RC Succession, a Japanese band that helped define Japan's guitar-rock sound of the 70's, was an easy choice given their similarities to The Nod's own blend of modern and classic alternative rock. They are hoping to

Out of the wiles of Wisconsin, The Nod's sound crackles with a refreshing energy that's both contagiously melodic and intellectual.

- ZeitGeisty Report in New York

and Cage the Elephant after releasing their underdog LP "Easy, Maverick", which was recorded in the basement of an old motel under a late night liquor store.

"Out of the wiles of Wisconsin, The Nod's sound crackles with a refreshing energy that's both contagiously melodic and intellectual," said the ZeitGeisty Report in New York.

The nod consists of singer/songwriter and guitarist Brett Newski, voices and 4-string player Eric Maloney, and on drums Charlie Lynch. The Nod consider themselves in the "alternative power fun" genre. The Nod's high-energy style is

bring some international support to the Madison music scene.

The Nod will showcase "Night Sky after the Rain" at an upcoming Madison performance to launch a string of summer dates, maybe even in Japan. "The Japanese don't lock their bikes. No one litters. There is virtually no crime," said Newski. "I've always been fascinated with the culture."

The Nod recently released the music video "Night Sky after the Rain" off of their LP album which can be viewed on their website: www.thenodmusic.com

"I really hope that the Japanese



Band members include singer/songwriter and guitarist Brett Newski, voices and 4-string player Eric Maloney, and on drums Charlie Lynch.

Photo courtesy of www.thedailypage.com.

dig all the crazy stuff we're up to in this video. We had a great time creating the song and filming the video, and I think it shows," said drummer Charlie Lynch.

By embracing their inner rock ethic, the "Night Sky after the Rain" music video features the band breaking out of a dull workplace environment.

"We're just trying to get as sweaty as we possibly can at every show. We want to work our asses off on stage and play each one like it's our last."

POINTLIFE

Dean appointed to federal advising position

LOGAN CARLSON
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Christine Thomas, Dean of the College of Natural Resources, has been appointed to the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (WHCC). The Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Department of Agriculture Secretary Tim Vilsack appointed Thomas along with 17 other people from various wildlife and conservation groups to the commission.

The WHCC advises the federal government through the Department of the Interior and Agriculture about helping recreational hunting and wildlife resources.

In the WHCC there are six representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest

Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Thomas has been appointed as the Vice Chair and will serve a two-year term on the council, which had its first meeting in October. The council plans on having their next meeting in February and will also meet in June and November in hopes of finishing their work by February 2012 when their initial charter is scheduled to expire.

Thomas will represent the only university selected to the commission. "This is important for our national reputation as a leader in natural resources education and says a lot about how well respected we are," said Thomas.

When asked what specific issues

the council would be focusing on in relation to hunting and conversation, Thomas said, "We are working on 'bigger picture' issues largely related to public lands management and recruitment and retention of hunters.

There are sub-committees working on Recruitment and Retention, and also on Alternative Funding for Wildlife Conservation. There is also a group focused on provisions in the upcoming re-authorization of the Farm Bill.

We have sent a letter to the secretaries advocating for full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

The council also looks to foster and raise women's participation in conservation and management of wildlife and habitat resources through outreach and education.

The charter also designates that the council will look at ways of improving the association between "the public, the sporting conservation community, the shooting and hunting sports industry, wildlife conservation organizations, the states, Native American tribes, and the federal government."

The council was created in 2010 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and has an annual operating budget of \$300,000.

It replaces the Sporting Conservation Council by increasing the amount of organizations from major hunting organizations as well as including hunting and shooting sports industries that were previously excluded.

Love and Laterns

CHRISTOPHER LEMMER
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Valentine's Day has passed and most couples spent it shopping together, seeing a movie, and going out to eat. The Chinese Lantern Festival, widely known as the Chinese Valentine's Day, is approaching. So if you want another excuse to wine and dine and entertain your special someone, by all means, look no further.

The Chinese Culture Club will be holding its Lantern Festival on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. in the Laird room at The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The Lantern Festival is celebrated every year by the Chinese, and is known to be

there Valentine's Day. The festival marks the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations and is carried out by the hanging of many colorful lanterns.

The festival will begin at 6 p.m. The buffet, consisting of what you would expect to find at most Chinese themed restaurants, opens at 6:15 p.m. The buffet, consisting of traditional Chinese food will include the famous Chinese sweet dumpling soup; something Remya Sarma-Traynor, UWSP, foreign language professor, takes great pride in spending her, and her students' time preparing.

"Come fast, because we can only make so many and everybody loves them," Sarma-Traynor said.

Performers, dancers and the choir will begin performances at 7:15 p.m. The performers and dancers will be of traditional Chinese style, and are very entertaining. Junbo Feng, president of the Chinese Culture Club, said.

Those that solve the riddles on their table lanterns will also win prizes.

The festival is a great place for couples looking for a fun, classy night out. The apparel is very formal—suits and dresses. Some may even

wear Chinese traditional style clothing as well.

The festival doesn't have a designated closing time, so guests will be able to enjoy themselves as long as they please. This is one of the club's biggest events of the year and all attending participants are in for a real treat. So bring a date or a friend, and help celebrate a Chinese Lantern Festival.

Tickets are being sold currently at the DUC Booth: \$15 for front row seats and \$12 for everywhere else. There are 346 tickets total and they are expected to sell out, judging from previous years, Feng said. "Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the experience."

Don't be a Drag, Just be a Queen

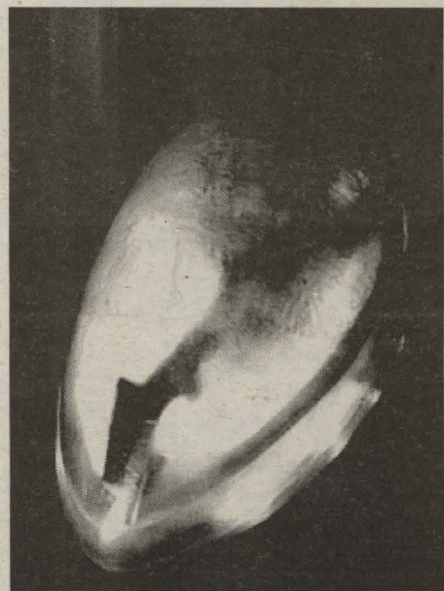
SAMANTHA FELD
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Lady Gaga's arrival at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards had the world talking right away on Sunday night.

Lady Gaga arrived to the Grammys in a giant vessel carried by four dancers. Gaga stayed in this 'embryonic state' for three days before the Grammys, and wasn't born again until her performance of her new single, "Born This Way," later that evening.

The vessel, which was designed by fashion designer Hussein Chalayan, was, as described by Gaga in her interview with Ryan Seacrest, "a very creative experience. It was a time for me to really prepare and think about the meaning of the song."

"Born This Way" was released last Friday and had her fans, which she calls little monsters, across the globe up early in the morning to get their first taste of Gaga's anthem of acceptance.



Lady Gaga's dedication to her art continues to rise as she furthers her mastering of the art of fame. This mastering began with an incredible, and constant, dedication to her art.

Lady Gaga's unprecedented passion is apparent throughout every performance she gives, including her performance of "Born This Way" at the Grammys. Dressed in sheer gold outfits designed by Lady Gaga in collaboration with the Haus of Gaga, her performance was simple, beautiful, and powerful.

The performance was about the message. Professing the reality that you cannot control who you are at birth but, as Lady Gaga states in an interview with Jay Leno, "It is never too late to harness your inner superstar and realize the person you were destined to become."

The performance ended in a beautiful, unified movement symbolizing that we are all of the same human family. This performance was the ideal

way to present such an anthem.

Just minutes after its release, Gaga's single had people talking. Many began comparing it to Madonna's song "Express Yourself," mentioning the similarities in beats.

Gaga's lyrics are so powerful that comparing her to someone else is illogical, and as Gaga stated in an interview with Jay Leno, "I got an e-mail from her sending her complete support...and if the queen says it shall be, then it shall be!"

Lady Gaga is deeply respected by a wide variety of public figures ranging from Elton John to the Queen of England. This respect is derived from not only her musical expertise, but also her mastering of the art of fame. In an interview with Anderson Cooper, Gaga states, "One of my greatest artworks is the art of fame."

Gaga uses the paparazzi as much as they use her; she controls what the public pays attention to. Every outfit she wears is designed to get people talking about her art, not about who she is sleeping with. She studies the

designers and makes sure she understands the vision behind the piece she is wearing.

"I want to give my fans everything they deserve, and they deserve more than sweat pants and sneakers," said Gaga.

She has studied fame intensively, and truly understands how she can maintain a sense of privacy while hiding nothing from her fans. Lady Gaga does not lie, and this is why her fans adore and respect her as much as they do.

Her fans find her to be a real, genuine person, making her a powerful role model. Her fans see themselves in her as much as she sees herself in her fans.

Lady Gaga supports those who have been erased by the rays of humanity, and gives them a sacred space, and a tremendous amount of courage to reach out beyond their insecurities and accept exactly who they were born to be.

"I want to give my fans everything the deserve, and they deserve more than sweat pants and sneakers."

- Lady Gaga.

Left: Lady Gaga performed at the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards after being "born" out of this vessel.

Both photos courtesy of the Nicola Formichetti Blog



Lady Gaga's new single "Born This Way" was released on Feb. 11 and brought much excitement as well as controversy.

Jake the Grizz comes to UW-Stevens Point

LOGAN CARLSON
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Cornerstone Press, run by 24 students in English 349, is planning the launch party for the book they are publishing, called "Jake the Grizz and the World's Fastest Snowboard" by Kit Kiefer. The launch party is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Feb. 20 at the Portage County Public Library. The party will feature games and activities and an excerpt read by Kit Kiefer and free pizza and soda.

Kit Kiefer is a professional writer and editor from Plover. "Jake The Grizz" is going to be his first fiction book published; however, he has had other non-fiction books published before such as a Marvel Comic Book Encyclopedia.

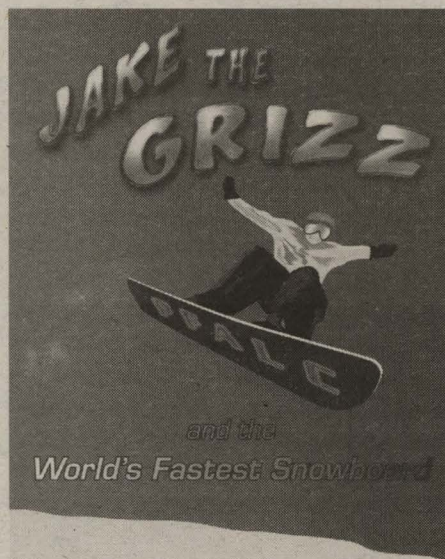
Professor Per Henningsgaard teaches the class. The students elect themselves to the different positions within the organization ranging from marketing, design and copyediting. Henningsgaard said that they saw the creation of a new position this semester.

Thea Tracanna "was selected from the class to head up the project during the spring. There is still a lot of work to be done during the spring," said Henningsgaard. Tracanna was the advertising manager during the fall and is working hard on preparing for the launch and marketing for the book.

Tracanna said the best thing she has gotten out of the project has been "Working with other people and learning how to look past differences. It has been a great learning experience and Per trusting me with a lot of stuff."

Henningsgaard said the biggest hindrance to the project has been the logistical aspects of turning power over to the students. Tracanna said often there were times where she would have to get Henningsgaard to call and authorize the group to do things such as tabling in the DUC.

The students chose "Jake the Grizz" from among approximately 25 manuscripts that were submitted to Cornerstone Press. Henningsgaard said that authors submitted manu-



Kit Kiefer

Kiefer front cover.

Photo courtesy of Per Henningsgaard

scripts "from as far away as Alaska, California, and North Carolina. Though, unsurprisingly, most were from writers based in Wisconsin."

Normally, Cornerstone Press publishes one book per year, but this year they published a second book.

"Fugitive from Spanish Fascism" by Richard Barker. It was selected two years ago, but due to legal reasons it was delayed.

Both books are for sale in bookstores around the Stevens Point area and online through Cornerstone Press' website. Henningsgaard said students took copies back home during break and asked local retailers to sell the book as well.

Due to the distributional limitations of being a small publishing house, Henningsgaard said, "We think of Cornerstone Press as a stepping stone for these authors," to reach bigger publishers that have the distribution networks available to them.

So far Cornerstone has published 30 books in the past, with three of them purchased by larger publishers. More information can be found on Cornerstone Press on their website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/english/cornerstone/>

Puzzles

Sudoku 12x12 - Puzzle 1 of 5 - Easy

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
	20			21							22			
			23							24				
25	26	27						28	29					
30						31	32					33	34	35
36				37	38							39		
40			41									42		
			43						44	45				
46	47	48						49	50					
51					52	53						54	55	
56					57						58			59
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

ACROSS

- 1- BLACK, IN POETRY
5- LONG STORIES
10- BROWN-BAG STUFF
14- HUMORIST BOMBECK
15- RUBBISH
16- LONG LUXURIANT HAIR
17- HINDU PRINCESS
18- AWAKEN
19- GLOBES
20- A TYPE OF EVIDENCE
23- KILLER WHALES
24- BUTLER'S LOVE
25- A DEMON IN JEWISH FOLKLORE
28- AREA OF 4840 SQUARE YARDS
30- MATA ____
31- HOMOGRIFT
36- MAN-MOUSE CONNECTOR
37- FREE FROM CONFINEMENT
39- COLLEGE SR.'S TEST
40- CUNEAL
42- NOTHING, IN NANTES
43- ENDURE
44- UNCOVERED
46- SAVORY JELLY
49- FEELS FOR
51- CURTAILMENT IN SPENDING
56- I SMELL ____!
57- SALIVATE
58- DISTRIBUTE CARDS
60- ADORABLE
61- VISCOUNTS' SUPERIORS
62- EMPLOYS
63- CUPID
64- WHITE POPLAR TREE
65- BIBLICAL BIRTHRIGHT SELLER

DOWN

- 1- ALWAYS
2- BRIC-A-____
3- OLD DODGE MODEL
4- CAPITAL OF KENYA
5- HIT
6- FRAGRANCE
7- UNIT OF MAGNETIC FIELD STRENGTH
8- KIND OF PROF.
9- QUEENS STADIUM
10- SUFFOCATE
11- "WEST SIDE STORY" SONG
12- OPEN, AS A GATE
13- UNIT OF MAGNETIC INDUCTION
21- FRENCH VINEYARD
22- NORWEGIAN NAME OF NORWAY
25- ARAB SAILING VESSEL
26- DEXTROUS, LIVELY
27- ACTOR PITT
28- WINGLIKE PARTS
29- LONG-LEAVED LETTUCE
31- CAME DOWN TO EARTH
32- ALBANIAN COIN
33- NOT "FER"
34- AT LIBERTY
35- LOOK AFTER
37- HIT BACK, PERHAPS
38- GOLFER ERNIE
41- SPARKLE
42- REMAINDER
44- END OF A THREAT
45- COMPOSE
46- FIBER OBTAINED FROM A BANANA PLANT
47- TRUTH ____
48- ARISTOTLE'S TEACHER
49- TASK
50- BIKINI, FOR ONE
52- BRAIN WAVE
53- SEIZE
54- CAPONE'S NEMESIS
55- GREEK GODDESS OF THE EARTH
59- BATON ROUGE SCH.

Brainteaserz!

MCE
MCE
MCE

Brainteaserz Answer: 3 blind mice (no it's)

									7					
8		6	9		a				2					4
			2					1	9	3				
c		8	7		5							4		
	1			a					3		6			
					7				1					
3	5		1						9					
		2		c					6					
a		c		2					4	8		3	1	
		b							a		8			
								c		a	4			
7	6											2	9	

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Sudoku 6x6 - Solution 3 of 5 - Easy

1	4	3	2	5	6
5	2	6	1	4	3
3	1	5	4	6	2
2	6	4	5	3	1
4	3	1	6	2	5
6	5	2	3	1	4

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1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12						
E	A	T		E	L	E	C	T		B	A	R	E						
13	A	N	I		14	M	I	N	O	R		15	S	A	T	A	N		
16	S	K	E	D	A	D	D	L	E			18	I	R	O	N	Y		
19	E	L	T	O	N			20	D	Y		21	S	T	O	P	I	A	
22	L	E	O	P	A	R	D			25	S	O	O	N					
				26	E	T	H	O	S		28	S	U	I	T	O	R		
32	33	34		35	E	E	L	E	R		37	T	A	R	R	Y			
38	N	A	R	C		40	A	L	L	A	N		42	L	I	E	N		
43	A	P	E	A	K		45	S	L	I	E	R		47	O	S	E		
48	P	E	L	M	E	T		50	S	N	E	A	K						
				52	B	R	A	C		54	Y	T	T	R		56	U	M	
58	59	60						61				62	T	O	R	T	E		
63	E	R	O	D	E			64	D	E	P	R	E	C	A	T	E		
67	U	N	T	I	L			68	E	D	U	C	E			69	T	E	T
70	S	E	T	A				71	T	I	T	A	N			72	E	R	S

Answers from the Feb. 10th issue.

OPINION

Walker needs to walk out of office

LOGAN CARLSON

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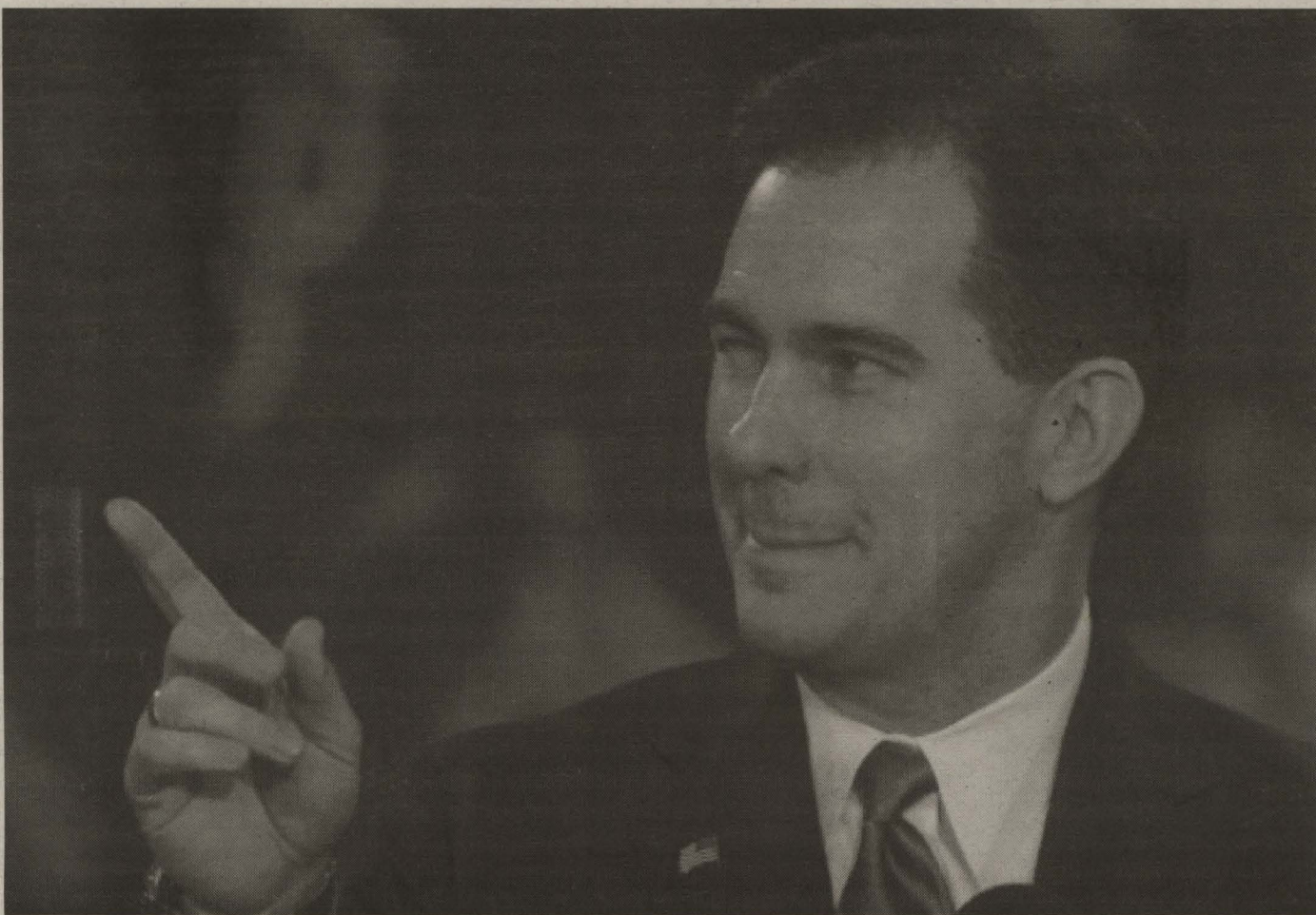
Governor Scott Walker announced his budget repair bill last Friday and it was immediately regarded as a threat to Wisconsin public-service workers everywhere and the greatest attack on the middle class in my lifetime. When President Mubarak stepped down from the presidency in Egypt last Friday, I did not expect for him to show up as our Governor in Wisconsin that very same day.

Governor Walker launched an unparalleled and unprincipled attack on those loyal public servants that make this state run. Do not be mistaken; this bill is Union Busting 101. This is just the first strike in a right-wing assault on public-service unions. These public servants are teachers, health care workers, sanitation workers, prison guards, and transportation workers. They did not cause the fiscal situation the state is facing. Yet Governor Walker singles them out to try and balance the budget off their salaries and benefits.

Absent from these severe collective bargaining curtailments are local police and firefighters as well as the State Patrol. Governor Walker thinks that because of Wisconsin's long tradition of treating police and firefighters differently allows them separate privileges. He forgets Wisconsin's long tradition of progressive policies that protect workers. The second largest union in the country, Association of Federal, State, County, and Municipal Employees, was founded in Wisconsin back in 1932. If Governor Walker thinks unions are perfectly fine for police and firefighters, then they are suitable for the rest of public-service workers.

The real reason Governor Walker protected these unions smacks of political cronyism. It is true that the two largest police and firefighter unions in the state endorsed his political opponent for Governor, Tom Barrett, but a number of local police unions from Milwaukee, as well as the State Trooper Association, endorsed Governor Walker. Just a few days before he announced this disastrous bill, Governor Walker appointed the father of Scott and Jeff Fitzgerald – two prominent and indispensable Republican allies in the state Legislature – as State Patrol Superintendent. Quid Pro Quo at its finest.

The bill would also require state workers to pay 12.6 percent of their health care premiums as well as half of the cost for their pensions. This equates to an 8-10 percent pay cut for the average state worker, when they already receive 4.8 percent less than private sector counterparts. The average state employee also devotes more into their non-wage benefits, com-



Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker

Photo courtesy of Volumeone.org

pared to their private sector counterparts; 27 percent compared to just 20 percent.

Governor Walker knew this bill would be wildly unpopular when he introduced it at his press conference last week. Why else would he have felt the need to alert the Wisconsin National Guard of a possible activation? The National Guard is to be used in times of emergencies, not to enforce Governor Walker's unpopular legislative priorities against his political opponents. I have served with many veterans, who are union members, and who still serve; it would be unfortunate to see them forced into activation to destroy their hard earned benefits. If the state is broke, how does Governor Walker propose to pay for such an activation? Does he expect the National Guard soldiers to beat up protestors for free? If this bill is passed it might actually cause Wisconsin to lose jobs, not gain them as Governor Walker promised. It would do so by driving teachers out of the state to look for work in states that still respect educators. I have talked to many teachers and education majors who said they would be forced to either look for other work or leave the state.

Governor Walker does not value education, as evident from the fact that he dropped out of college, but an educated workforce will attract high-tech businesses here to Wisconsin that will replace the manufacturing jobs that we have lost.

Governor Walker is wrong in pro-

posing such vindictive and retributive sanctions on collective bargaining rights for public-service unions. The way he has gone in trying to ram this bill through the legislative

process is a smack in the face to our democracy. Governor Walker, you are not my Governor and I will lead the charge to recall you from office in 2012. I savor the opportunity.

Letter to the editor

Many of our founding fathers had described the government as a necessary evil that should be guarded, fearing that it might abuse its power in different times and at different places. It resembles, in the words of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, a fire always ready to grab more power and more control to restrict the liberty and the livelihood of those being governed.

In the event of the recent developments regarding Governor Scott Walker's proposal to end "Collective Bargaining" for state employees, I would like to pinpoint that such an action is an example for the norm of what the founding fathers had warned us against. It is imperative for the government not to use its powers to restrict the free choices of its people. When people choose to organize, let it be.

As a student, the recent proposals can have dramatic consequences on the quality of education me and my fellow students receive. How? First, it will push our qualified fac-

ulty away for different states. Further, it will push new qualified faculty away from applying for employment with our schools here in Wisconsin. Consequently, we could find ourselves facing a "brain drain" effect.

Moreover, as many of my fellow students who plan to further their education, attend graduate schools, apply for teaching and research assistantships to help us pay for our tuition, this proposal will make it hard for us to focus on our schools frankly because faculty can load TAs and RAs with all kinds of duties and students can have no say about simply because they had their voices as a group silenced.

Students and faculty please call your governor and your state representative and ask for this proposal to be dropped. It is not in the interest of our state to do so for the reasons mentioned above.

YASIR KUOTI
UWSP Student

POINTLIFE



How's the weather?

5-day weather forecast for Stevens Point, WI
Courtesy of www.weatherchannel.com

Tonight Feb 16

Thu 17

Fri 18

Sat 19

Sun 20



Showers

N/A

High

38°

Low

Chance of Rain:
50%

AM Showers

52°

High

32°

Low

Chance of Rain:
30%

WINDY

Partly Cloudy /
Wind

34°

High

20°

Low

Chance of Precip:
20%

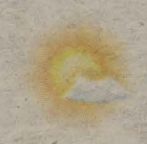
Partly Cloudy

34°

High

22°

Low

Chance of Precip:
0%

Partly Cloudy

27°

High

19°

Low

Chance of Precip:
20%

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- Recognized Brand
- Comprehensive Marketing Plan
- Aggressive Advertising Program
- Strict Inventory Controls
- Innovative Beverage Program
- Chef Created
Made-from-Scratch Food Items
- Owner & General Manager Support



Conversion opportunities available
Proven business model
Flexible building designs

~ Full or Partial
Menu Options Available

~ 12 Month
Promotional Calendar
of Events

"Brothers exemplifies
the best of the best
of the industry"

Winners of
"Innovators of the Year"
by Nightclub & Bar Magazine

If you've thought of starting or converting your Bar & Grill ~ NOW is the time!

If you are interested in becoming part of the Brothers family, finding a model that delivers consistent results, and establishing a fast-paced, fun environment, please email us at franchising@brothersbar.com or contact Scott Severson, our VP of Franchising & Development at 608-784-1225 x245.

or additional information about our brand and franchise program, visit us at:

BROTHERSBAR.COM

"Always the 'Best' Specials, Always the 'Most' Fun!"

* This ad does not constitute an offer of a Brothers franchise.