Democrats await compromise

The state budget battle rages on as Wisconsin State Senate Democrats still remain out of state and Governor Scott Walker has extended his deadline by 15 days as of last Wednesday. On Monday, Senate Minority Leader Mark Miller extended an offer to Walker to meet at the Illinois-Wisconsin border to discuss compromise. “I assure you that Democratic state senators, despite our differences and the vigorous debate we have had, remain ready and willing to find a reasonable compromise,” Miller said in his letter to Walker and Majority Leader Jeff Fitzgerald.

However, Walker dismissed the request hours after it was made. “Sen. Miller is misleading the public, just like he misled us,” said Walker.

Democrats have been meeting with Walker’s aides and Fitzgerald over the past few weeks from Illinois, as outlined in documents released by Walker on Tuesday.

State budget battle still at standoff

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RHA brings home Large School of the Year award

The University of Wisconsin-Steves Point Residence Hall Association brought home the bacon during the Wisconsin Union of Residence Hall Associations’ Annual Conference, which was held at UWSP last month. In total, RHA won 3 school-wide awards and 2 individual awards at the conference.

The most prestigious award UWSP won was the Large School of the Year, which is awarded to the best school that has over 2,000 students living in the residence halls. Liz Westberg, the communication coordinator for RHA, said that even though UWSP falls into the large school category, they are on the small end of the spectrum.

Westberg said that more than 20 hours were spent developing the bid for the award. It was submitted before the conference, with communication coordinators for the member schools reading them. At the conference, there is a question and answer period followed by a discussion. Finally, all 16 schools vote for both large and small schools of the year.

The criteria used to judge the winning bids was based on programs as well as developing new ones. Some areas focused on were residence hall government, facilities, and communication between schools and their communities.

One feature that really pushed the bid forward, said Westberg, was all the program of the month winners that RHA has had over the past year. RHA has had numerous organizers recognized for their achievements not only at the state level, but also at both the regional and national levels. To be eligible for a program of the month award, students need to be recommended by other organizations from RHA. This process can take considerable time and effort.

UWS’s winning bid featured letters of recommendation from Chancellor Bernie Patterson, Julie Zsido, RHA Advisor, Joseph Totman, Director of UWSP Residential Living, and RHA President Kyle Lannon.

In addition to winning Large School of the Year award, UWSP brought home four additional awards. The two school-wide awards were the Wisconsin Honorary of Involved Leaders Platinum Award and the Best Banner Award.

Dan Barker and Annalyce Strohfeldt were honored with Top Ten Program Presenter Awards at the conference.

Westberg said there were few, if any glitches while hosting this year’s conference. “We have heard nothing but positive feedback from the schools who attended the conference,” said Westberg.
Future SGA leaders debate next year's docket

DUSTIN KLEIN
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Starting today students have the opportunity to select their next Student Government Association President and Vice President.

The contenders for the positions are Ryan Rutledge, junior, and Liz Westburg, junior, and Alex Mink, freshman and Jeff Hassinger, sophomore.

Rutledge has a background in student government, currently serving as the Residence Hall Issues Director, and Westburg currently serves in the Residence Hall Association as Communications Coordinator and a senator on RHA.

Mink and Hassinger don't have experience in student government, but displayed their opinions on the offices they are running for at the debate held in the, in the theater at the Dreyfus University Center on March 2.

An issue that echoed last year's concerns from students was how SGA should keep students informed and make their voices heard around the community, state and nation.

Mink stated that it relies heavily on having an active presence at the discussions happening across the state with University of Wisconsin campuses, United Council of UW Students and legislators.

"Keep an open communication with all UW campuses and United Council and various legislators around the state," she said.

Another issue that was raised heavily by Mink was the issue of segregated fees and university spending.

He pushed for decreased parking costs and increased parking spaces across the campus and focused on reducing spending on segregated fees throughout SGA as well.

Rutledge and Westburg argued that segregated fee spending was high and needed to be capped.

Differential tuition was also a topic that was discussed at the debate table.

Rutledge stated, "students should decide," while Mink declared the idea as "unfair."

Discussions focused mainly around how SGA will deal with upcoming items in the budget and how they will change how communication is handled with the UWSP student body.

"My main goal will be to ensure fairness and equality and ensure the process is followed as much as possible," Mink said.

Students can vote online through the e-mail sent by SGA. Be sure to use your@uwsp.edu after your normal login.

The winner of the elections will be announced at the Senate meeting next week Thursday and sent out by e-mail to the campus after the SGA senate has certified the votes.

Letters to the Editor

Politics has always been my passion, something which I follow non-stop. I have watched CSPAN and seeing our elected officials on the screen in DC, working to get meaningful legislation passed. I always used to hope that would be me someday.

Then, I had a new realistic dream—why not get involved in something that we could improve upon, which would make this wonderful University even better.

An issue true and blue to my heart is the budget. It affects us all, because naturally the more dense it is, the higher our tuition costs will be. Some of it is important, but other parts we could do without—and if we could lower our annual college costs, why wouldn’t we jump at the chance? I will be the first person to take that leap.

Student’s rights are another focal issue, and I promise to do my best to make sure you all are represented and fairly get your voices heard. I don’t have any problem working with others who I may not totally agree with all the time if it is for the good of our school. I personally am a conservative, but I want to look at each issue without bias, and make sure I am respecting everyone’s opinions, just as I hope they’d be with mine.

If I had to choose one quality to describe myself, it would be honesty. I am always concerned with doing what is right, and I will try to make decisions that reflect this important attribute of mine. I will always be someone you can trust, and I am not afraid to say what has to be said, if it is the infallible truth.

As an Elementary Education major, I am asking everyone in my college, the College of Professional Studies, to vote for me to represent you as your Senator. You can vote between the dates of March 16th-18th. I would very much appreciate you giving me the chance to serve you.

JOANNA K SAMMIS
UWSP Student

Why are liberals so hostile toward conservative ideals? I find it funny that someone who says, “I stand on the side of tolerance towards others…” would also say “Screw your ideals” in the very same paragraph. I also find it funny that someone who says they stand on the side of compassion is so consistently hostile in their writing toward an ideology where people from all backgrounds belong. Allow me to make my own generalization, a far more accurate one: Compassion is not the real motive for liberals. If it were, then it would make a thousand times more sense to be more conciliatory in one’s writing. If you truly cared about noble causes such as helping the poor, the repressed and promoting tolerance for others, why not write about possible proactive measures to achieve these goals? Why not lead by example? Writing a piece disparaging a large portion of the nation’s population achieves nothing. In fact, it intensifies hatred, intolerance, and more hostility.

Many liberals do not follow these measures however because it does not satisfy their personal drive for power. Writing an article about proactive measures one could take could make the world a better and more accepting place to live for all does not help a frustrated liberal rise to power, at least not as quickly as he/she would like. Much like a revolution does not induct changes unless the revolutionists resort to violence. Liberals and revolutionists are alike in that they do not care about their altruistic claims as much as they strongly desire swift and ample power.

Of course the drive for power is inherent in human nature. We are all guilty of it. However one can achieve it through positive or negative means. There is the conservative way, which condones behaviors such as hard work, honest-living, and initiative. These are behaviors constructive and beneficial to all of society, from top to bottom, and facilitated by emotions such as confidence, optimism, and self-reliance. And then there is the liberal approach exemplified through your article—through hostility, disorganization, and intolerance for ideals other than your own. All of it justified of course because you claim to have good intentions for your negative emotions and negative behaviors. So I would ask my readers what they think, instead of telling them what they should think (like a liberal), which ideology sounds more destructive to America?

TAYLOR SMITH
UWSP student

I’d like to state how totally wrong the author of ‘Democrats are Wrong’ is.

Democrats are cowards, you say? First of all, they pushed through Health Care reform. How did they not stand up to their ideology then? They passed through the stimulus bill. And are the 14 Democrats that left Wisconsin to stall the Budget Repair Bill cowards as well? They are cowards in the eyes of Conservatives because they actually stood up and are able to stop a bill from going through.

See Letters, page 3

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor can be mailed or delivered to The Pointer, 104 CAC, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, The Pointer staff is solely responsible for content and editorial policy.

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Letters to the Editor

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

Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.
A program provided by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Fire Crew enables attendees to become Type II Wildland Firefighters. In association with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the course, taught in only two weekends, uses lectures and hands-on activities to teach the students about fire safety.

Students participating are enrolled in Forestry 224, a Fire Operations course in the College of Natural Resources. Jeff Metcalf, sophomore Wildlife major, is the public information officer for the Fire Crew. This is his second year in Fire Crew, and his first year as an officer.

"I just thought that [the class] would be a great resume builder, and it's a great experience," said Metcalf. Metcalf said taking a class like this is beneficial to the students' futures.

"It's good to have fire credentials because the most natural way to manipulate a habitat is using prescribed burns," said Metcalf. "It's good to have them, because otherwise [the employers] may send you to go get them."

Matt Karges, freshman, pursued this class out of practicality.

"I'm a declared Resource Management Law Enforcement major and I intend to pursue a career in environmental law enforcement," said Karges. "As an environmental law enforcement officer, a part of our job is fire investigation and to have this background was something that made sense to me."

He decided to sign up for this course because becoming a wildland firefighter was something he always wanted to do.

Another person involved in the course is Lane Gibbons, a senior Biology major who transferred here from Roanoke, VA.

"I am a participating member of the UWSP Fire Crew even though I am not yet certified," said Gibbons. "The crew does a good job of making its members aware of opportunities such as these."

The training meets federal standards and will allow students who graduate from the course to work as entry-level wild land firefighters anywhere in the nation.

Gibbons, like Karges, is participating in this course because of its benefits for his major.

"Biology is the study of natural systems and the organisms that inhabit those systems. Fire is intrinsic to these natural systems so it is important that we understand its processes and effects," said Gibbons. "We may then develop methods to better live with it as well as utilize it as a management tool."

When certified as a wildland firefighter, Gibbons is planning to go into a career with prescribed burns, fire prevention, or anything related to live fire. A prescribed burn is mostly what Fire Crew does during fire season.

"A prescribed burn is burning a certain area of fuel that's too dry, it's in the way, or even getting rid of invasive species," Metcalf said.

March 9-13 will be a weekend of hands-on activities, such as extinguishing burning piles of wood, constructing a fire line to contain a fire, measuring weather conditions, using portable radios to transmit that information, and many others.

For more information about Fire Crew, check out http://www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/fire/.

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**Budget/Senate passes collective bargaining measure continued from page 1**

said that he fears if Walker continues on the path he has taken in regards to the budget, a recall may be necessary. Although Walker cannot be recalled for the next year, talks have been circulating at union meetings and protesters have been chanting, "recall Walker" around the Capitol building.

**Recent Developments**

On Wednesday night, the Senate pushed through the controversial measure of the bill that would strip collective bargaining rights from public employee unions. It passed by a vote of 18 to 1, with Sen. Dale Schultz casting the solitary "No" vote.

The State Assembly will take up the bill on Thursday at 11 a.m., where it is expected to pass. Senate Republicans were able to pass the collective bargaining part of the measure because the fiscal aspects of the bill were removed. Senate Democrats say this is proof that the Republicans' plan to strip collective bargaining rights is not an economic issue, but a plan to destroy unions in the state.

"They have been saying all along that this is a fiscal item; we've been saying it is not," said Sen. Jon Erpenbach, D-Waukesha. "They have been lying. Their goal is to bust up the unions."

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**Letters, continued continued from page 2**

Secondly the author claims Democrats must lie to get elected. However, they passed healthcare reform in the Patient Protection and the Affordable Act - both things that were promised on the campaign trail. Democrats also pushed through Wall Street reform, the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, START Treaty, Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act, and the stimulus bill which despite conservative rhetoric, did slow down unemployment. And supposedly the change that we were promised didn't come to America?

Now look at the 2010 midterm, talk about lying to get elected. Republicans yelled "fix the economy," but haven't done a thing about it in office, unless trying to redefine rape will stimulate job creation.

Also, as a confirmed, practicing Catholic, I'm offended. I don't have to choose to be either a Democrat or religious. There are plenty of religious Democrats including Dennis Kucinich (Catholic), John Edwards (Methodist), Gwen Moore (Baptist), and Ron Kind (Lutheran), along with Herb Kohl, Russ Feingold, and Al Franken (all practice Judaism).

On Al Gore, just because it still snows in March, and gets forty-below zero in the winter does not mean that Al Gore is not credible in the theory of climate change. Is it not plausible that Mother Nature "gasp" has a natural response to the earth heating?

The last thing I want to point out wrong with the authors article is that all Democrats are socialists. It is false that Joe Stalin is talking to Obama through Ouija board. The theories being used by the Democrats nowadays are called Keynesian economics, set up during another big economic crisis: The Great Depression. The theory was essentially that recessions can be fought off with government spending to stimulate the economy, and it worked - at least until Ronnie Reagan came into power. From then on the Conservatives have convinced Americans taxes for rich people are too high. I don't buy trickle-down economics. If you want people to buy products, give assistance to those less fortunate so they can spend. By Conservative's logic, if current Democrats are socialists, then so were Truman, Eisenhower, and Nixon, as they all had high taxes during their presidency with Eisenhower taxing the top bracket 90 percent. Currently, the top tax rate is 35 percent.

I am not a socialist, I am not a coward, I am not a liar, and I am not an Atheist, but I am a Democrat. So apparently I am a blip on the radar screen or the author is completely wrong.

CHRISTIAN FREDRICKSON
UWSP Student
Untimely death shakes community

Augustus Marcellino-Merwin
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Last week the town of Fennville, Michigan experienced each end of the emotional spectrum in a matter of moments. In the wake of their final win of the regular season, the entire gym was alive with ecstatic screaming fans. The next few minutes were filled with screams of a completely different nature.

With a perfect season on the line and the district playoffs on the horizon, Fennville High found themselves deadlocked in overtime against Bridgman High. These are the moments where the star player pulls off the incredible and saves the day for the whole town. This story’s hero was right on time. Wes Leonard sank a shot with less than 30 seconds left to put his team up 57-55. After the last few seconds had ticked away and the final buzzer sounded, Leonard was being hoisted onto his teammates’ shoulders. The 16-year-old star had preserved his team’s perfect season and kept the dreams of a championship alive. That’s when the world crashed down.

Wes Leonard collapsed onto the gym floor during one of the greatest moments of his life, while a crowd of an estimated 1,400 people looked on in horror. The sheer joy that they had shared minutes before was now replaced with pure shock as the kid that everyone loved and respected was now lying in front of them, his heart failing.

Leonard was rushed to Holland Hospital where paramedics did CPR on the young man before he was pronounced dead. An autopsy performed by the Ottawa County medical examiner revealed that Leonard had died from cardiac arrest caused by an enlarged heart.

The loss of Leonard strikes a blow to the entire Fennville area, as the passing of someone so well loved by the community is nearly inconsolable.

“He was just an amazing kid,” explained head basketball coach Ryan Klingler. “What made him special is he had a passion about everything he did. That’s what separated him—his passion. He had a passion to compete. He had a passion to be his best.”

Leonard was an athletic star since his youth and it was apparent to everyone. But his abilities didn’t change who he was.

“He was very courteous. He was respectful. But he never really was that way,” said Chad VanVliet, an umpire at Leonard’s middle-school baseball games.

A lot of towns across the nation have kids that everyone regards as the “All-American Kid” and almost every town has its own Bo Jackson. But to find someone that is seemingly the perfect blend of each is rare.

Once Leonard reached high-school his abilities only grew. He started on the varsity football team since his freshman year, the last two at quarterback. The past two seasons he also started on the varsity basketball team, leading them in scoring this season.

The death of Leonard adds to the list of athletes who have died suddenly and after an autopsy had it revealed that they had an enlarged heart. Probably the most famous being former Loyola Marymount star Hank Gathers who played for the team from 1987-1990. In his three seasons at LMU Gathers was a surefire first round draft choice to the NBA. As a junior forward for the Lions Gathers led the nation in scoring and rebounding, and during his senior year was expected to have a similar performance. However early in his senior season Gathers blacked out during a game and later was put on medication to regulate an erratic heartbeat.

While playing in the semifinals of the West Coast Conference tournament Gathers emphatically slammed home a dunk, which had become one of his trademarks in college. He made it back to half court before he tumbled to the floor. Gathers was able to get back up once more but collapsed back to the hardwood. After being rushed to the hospital the doctors tried to resuscitate Gathers for over an hour, before finally pronouncing him dead.

ESPN recently released a documentary as part of their “30 for 30” series detailing the fast-paced, run-and-gun style of offense that Gathers and LMU was known for, entitled “The Guru of Go.”

More recently, former Chicago Bears defensive end Gaines Adams died in 2010. Adams went into cardiac arrest at his family’s home and was rushed to Self Regional Hospital in Greenwood County, South Carolina. He was pronounced dead shortly after. Following the autopsy it was revealed that Adams had died from cardiac arrest due to an enlarged heart, a condition that was unknown to Adams and his family.

But the loss of Wes Leonard hasn’t deterred his team from carrying on in his memory. Monday the team began post-season play against Lawrence High School. The game, which was originally to be played at Lawrence, was moved to nearby Hope College due to the attention that Fennville has received of late.

Before the game, former Loyola Marymount and NBA player Bo Kimble spoke to the Fennville team about their loss. Kimble was Hank Gathers’ teammate and best friend so if anyone knows what it’s like to cope with a loss of this magnitude it’s him. Kimble is now a member of an organization that helps raise awareness for the condition of Cardiomyopathy, or an enlarged heart.

Following a moment of silence that was observed by nearly 3,500 fans Fennville went on to win their first game following the tragedy, beating Lawrence 65-54. Both teams wore warm-up shirts that paid tribute to Leonard. The funeral for Wes Leonard was held the following day after the Fennville win.

“Beyond his outstanding athletic abilities, Wes was a better person,” said Fennville Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer. “His fellow students liked and respected him. Their grief speaks volumes about the high regard in which Wes was held.”
It's all fun and games until someone loses a rook

SETH HOFFMEISTER
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Tension filled the air of the Encore Tuesday evening as two competitors of a game of strategy and tactical endurance prepared to meet not on the field, but on the chessboard. The dueling chess players faced each other eye to eye with an obstacle in front of them both. With any competitive sport there is an objective to accomplish first. With chess, the victory does not come from physical superiority, but an outmaneuvering and tactical outsmarting of ones opponent. Whoever says chess is not an intense game has never been to a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Chess Club meeting.

While the interaction between members and the atmosphere of the chess club's weekly meeting was friendly and inviting, it is never forgotten what the main task at hand is: to win. As each game neared completion, the light-hearted conversation took a break, and each player focused on the final drive towards checkmate. It is often like a Green Bay Packers game, in that it is anyone's game until the end.

The closer the game is at the end, the more intense the atmosphere becomes. In the fervor of the game and realizing the finality of his move, Chess Club President Parker Smith pounded down his fist like Thor's mighty hammer proclaiming "CHECKMATE." This knocked the remaining standing pieces to their sides and made a water bottle sitting on the table fall to the ground, slamming on the concrete floor almost as hard as his opponents shattered hopes of victory.

For the Chess Club, this is just another Tuesday night. Chess experts and those curious about the game meet in the Encore Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. every week. Chess Club is a place for people of all skill levels. At the meeting there were people with many different skill levels.

One member, Eli Baumann, has been playing the game since 3rd grade, and has competed in various tournaments throughout the years, some of which on the professional, or Master, level. Other members enjoy the game and are just looking for an opportunity to play. Some have never played and are looking to give it a try.

"We've had people come in who didn't know a thing about the game," said Baumann, who is not far from the Master level classification in chess tournaments. Each week's meetings consist of individual matches between people who show up, and there is no obligation to show up week after week.

If you want to give it a try or cannot always make it on Tuesdays, the club will make it work. They hope to bring the game to more people and provide different opponents to face current members. Looking ahead to the spring, the club is working on bringing a chess expert to come to UWSP to speak about the strategy of the game and to teach lessons on the game.

Like all games, the tactful employment of language to intimidate the other players is integral. Some may know this tactic colloquially as 'trash talk.' While trash talk in other sports may be brash, rude, and tasteless, it is contrastingly different in chess. The most effective chess trash talk is a statement that is clever or witty, and in reference to the complex theory and structure of the game. While the words themselves may not be harsh, the heightened intensity of the game put a whole new spin on trash talk.

"Do you want to take my queen while you're at it? I'll put it back on the board!" said one player.

Traditional chess isn't the only thing offered by the club. I was challenged by near chess master Eli Baumann to a game. He would be blindfolded, I would not be. With club president Smith announcing my moves to the blindfolded Baumann, he sat intently visualizing the situation and would announce what piece and where it would go.

After my sixth move Baumann calmly calls, "Queen take F7." Gasps and sighs of finality came from those watching the game, and I realized that it was checkmate, and I was beat by a blinded opponent. I was not surprised, as he has done this many times before and remains undefeated. To anyone out there, five dollars will be awarded to the one who can beat the blindfolded Baumann. If you think you can, stop by the Encore Tuesday nights at 6:00 p.m. To get into contact with the Chess Club of UWSP or to learn more, shoot them an email at chess@uwsp.edu.
Pointers bully their way into Sweet 16

AUGUSTUS MARCELLINO-MERWIN
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Commentary

The Men's Basketball team has continued their hammer down style of play against the best teams in the nation as they advance to the Sweet 16 for a second consecutive season.

The Pointers throttled St. Norberts College in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament last Friday. The team had the hot hand throughout the game which led to a 70-49 victory. The following day, senior forward Lou Hurd and sophomore guard Jerrel Harris combined for 35 points as the Pointers easily handled Luther College, 76-56.

In game one against St. Norberts, Hurd was unstoppable. He went 8-9 from the field and knocked down 4-5 from behind the arc, going 4-4 in a span of 3:19. Lou went into the locker room at halftime averaging a point per minute, scoring 20 in the first half. He ended the game with 22 points and led the team with six boards.

St. Norberts cut the Point lead to nine to open the second half but the Pointers quickly dashed their hopes. Harris scored nine of his 15 total points in the second half to insure the win for Point.

Point's shooting differed greatly compared to St. Norberts'. The Pointers went 8-14 from downtown while the Green Knights only made one triple the entire game.

In addition to Hurd and Harris, sophomore guard Jordan Giordana finished in double figures. He dropped 12 points and went three for three from deep.

Luther College put up an equally insufficient fight. The Norse tied the game at four a piece during the first five minutes, which was the last bit of daylight they saw in the game. Point went on a 22-0 tear that lasted over nine minutes and pushed the lead to 26-4.

Hurd played a bit more balanced in the second round, leading the Pointers with eight first half points on 3 of 6 shooting.

Luther clawed back slightly and reduced the lead to twelve before Point upped the margin to 22 once again. After that Luther got within 20 once more however the Pointers slammed the door on the Norse and came out with a 76-56 win.

Junior center Jordan Brezinski and senior guard Vinny Ritchay scored 12 and 11, respectively. Ritchay hit all three of his three-pointers.

The win over Luther was the fourth straight win by a margin of 20 or more for the Pointers.

Friday, Point will travel to Illinois to continue tournament play against the University of St. Thomas from Saint Paul. St. Thomas defeated Northwestern College 70 to 60 and Illinois Wesleyan 78-70 to advance to the Sweet 16. The Pointers will look to avenge a non-conference loss earlier in the season at St. Thomas, as the Tommies beat Point 61-54.
March 10, 2011

POI\NLIFE

Frozen treats in frozen Stevens Point

LOCA\L Landmark, Belt's Soft Serve, opened for a crowd of hungry patrons on Friday morning. Belt's Soft Serve officially opened on March 4 at 11 a.m., and many people camped overnight in anticipation of its opening. The Stevens Point school system did not have school on Friday because of conferences, so the turnout the next morning consisted mostly of high school, middle and elementary school students, along with their parents. Belt's offers many dessert items, such as flurries, cones, sundaes, and shakes. They offer a large variety of mix-ins and toppings that are very unique. Some of the mix-ins they offer includes Nerds, puppy chow, and other distinctive choices.

Cullen Sutherland, a sophomore Music Education and Vocal Performance major, decided to head over to Belt's opening day, but went at a time when it was less busy. "The lines weren't bad when I was there, but I was there around 5:30 p.m., which is dinner hour for many people," said Sutherland. Sutherland ordered a small brownie flurry, but he doesn't have a favorite item. It depends on what he is in the mood for. "I think Belt's is unique because there are so many choices," said Sutherland. "It's nice to be able to go somewhere and have options instead of getting the same thing every time."

Laura Dickman, a senior Communication major, went to Belt's on Sunday, which is different from what she usually did. This year I went to Belt's on Sunday for the first time this season," said Dickman. "I get a small strawberry flurry with cheesecake and hot fudge brownie," said Dickman. "I also learned this year that you can get a cherry on top for no extra charge, so I also got a cherry." Dickman went Sunday at 4 p.m., and she still had to wait in line for 20 minutes. "My favorite thing about Belt's is that it's the one place in Stevens Point that everyone knows about and loves, so you are always bound to see people you know there," said Dickman. Though the turn-out on opening day for college students was small, they still have an affinity for Belt's ice cream. Even winter weather doesn't keep them away.

Ice Cream Facts

- The united states has an average of 48 pints of ice cream per person, per year.
- It takes an average of 50 licks to finish off a single scoop ice cream cone.
- Vanilla is the number one selling flavor of ice cream.
- 98 percent of homes in the United States have ice cream in them.
- Chocolate syrup is the favorite topping for ice cream.
- More ice cream is sold on Sundays than any other day.
- Cherry is the number one popsicle flavor.

Venice Beach: You Want to Be Here

AARON OSOWSKI

Imagine yourself walking down an ocean-side road. A road where cars are replaced by people, street lights by palm trees, and instead of hikers, the roadside features scores of local artists and hippies peddling their eclectic wares.

This is Venice Beach. You come here and you'll find you don't want to leave. Park your car on one end of the beach, get your sunglasses and sandals on, and take a stroll. Here's what you'll find:

The beachside bicycle path is where you'll see L.A.'s fittest and finest out for their daily exercise. A sense of jealousy may be aroused when one takes a glance at these toned and tan Californians, but trust me, if you had weather in the high 70s in March, you'd be in better shape too.

Continue on down the road and, if it's early morning, watch Venice Beach come alive as starving artists and hippies alike begin to assemble their booths. The range of goods available from these vendors is downright astonishing: paintings of celebrities, animals, or marijuana leaves, hippie apparel, multi-colored jewelry, incense sticks, feathers, and many other absurd yet fascinating trinkets.

Don't forget to give that guitar player some money. Oh, and just accept that lingering scent of weed, it just adds to the experience.

Look to your other side, and you'll find a pleasant mix of outdoor cafes, restaurants, surf shops, and ritzy seaside apartments that you know have got to cost a pretty penny.

Head over to the beach and witness one of the best uses of public space. Adjacent to Mark di Suvero's compass-esque sculpture "Voxal 2000"
I was attracted to the complexity of this country. I wanted to tell my own stories about how I see my own country.

Nowak discusses the importance and difficulty of communications

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Dr. Glen Nowak, Senior Advisor of the National Center of Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases and former Chief Director of Media Relations for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) gave a speech in the Communication Arts Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on Wednesday evening.

Dr. Nowak had been invited and planned on giving a speech two years ago here on campus but was on call and whisked away to the Situation Room in the White House to meet with top ranking government officials to deal with the potential Swine Flu outbreak.

“We are very excited to have him and are looking forward to his talk, as he really works across all of our emphasis areas,” said Communications Director Rhonda Sprague.

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Beach/Imagine Yourself There

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is an ensemble of various concrete structures that are covered completely in graffiti. Local artists linger with spray paint cans in hand, and manifestations of street art can even be found on the surrounding palm trees and even on di Suvero’s sculpture.

Now get a little bit closer to the ocean and bask in the vibes of the Pacific Ocean. Amateur surfers practice their craft in groups, a fitness group is doing leg lifts at the shore, and a couple of bros are throwing the Frisbee around.

After taking in the sights, sounds and scents that surround you, you realize that you’re in the perfect place, where relaxation and enjoyment come standard. So go ahead, lay down on the sand, build a sand sculpture and immerse yourself in the bliss that is Venice Beach.

Hollywood: The Land of Broken Dreams

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Hollywood holds mystical tales of beauty, fame, fortune, and reinvention. For years, the mass media has equated the place with symbols of promise and decadence.

In the city of Los Angeles, Hollywood is plastered with symbols of extreme fame and fortune, which we are taught to desire from an early age.

As if they are shrines, these symbols line city streets in the form of celebrity billboards and memorabilia.

Driving through Hollywood, I quickly noticed these symbols of desire for fame, but more apparent was the symbols of urban physical decay. The physical decay of Los Angeles is apparent in its empty stores and vacant lots, which are alongside the most iconic buildings in Hollywood.

I found this physical decay to be a visual symbol of the more underlying reality: the social decay of the city, and the constant hope, within the people, that the city might, someday, provide the fame and fortune it promised.

The most iconic symbol of Hollywood is the Hollywood sign, which tops Mt. Lee in the Hollywood Hills. According to the Hollywood Sign Trust, the sign originated as an advertise

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Looking at the future

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For weeks now the nation and the world have been looking at Madison with eager eyes to see what is going to happen and who is going to win: labor unions or Governor Scott Walker? When looking at the actual budget part of the budget bill, something some people have forgotten to do, I agree with the steps that need to be taken. However, I will admit the actions that Walker has taken have crossed the line.

I am not going to talk about that aspect of the bill, but rather the budget part of the budget bill. This bill is necessary for the state of Wisconsin to make some progress towards getting out of $3.6 billion in debt. In such a time none of us can be greedy when it comes to money.

The legislation would require most public employee union members to increase their contributions to pen-

sions and health care plans to 5.8 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively. This isn't a large sacrifice to make considering most private sector jobs pay considerably more for both. I personally am going to school to become a teacher and I have no problem whatsoever giving up some of my own benefits to benefit other people.

Last week, Walker announced his biennial budget bill, which is built on the savings that will be provided by the budget repair bill. Walker is also looking to create new education opportunities for students. His budget proposes expanding charter schools and vouchers. The budget lifts the cap on the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. More than 20,000 low-income students currently receive vouchers in Milwaukee, and lifting the cap would make sure that all low-income students in the city have access to schools that meet their needs.

As part of the bill, Walker is also creating a new agency called the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, which will focus on creating jobs to stimulate our economy. This bill is a bold and brave move, but a move that needs to be taken. It is vital for financial stability in our state. This bill will not only save our economy right now, but will also save it for future generations.

Killing our future

DUSTIN KLEIN
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Scott Walker's budget is going to kill any hope of Wisconsin upholding its motto. Forward has been around for as long as anyone can remember. We've always hinged the idea to our top notch schools and our first rate health care in recent years. Now, it's all going to come crashing down around us under this proposal.

Walker is going to take $900 million away from schools. This one hits me especially hard. I'm studying to be a high school teacher and wanted to live in my home state for a while before moving on to my next adventure. But under this proposal teachers become expendable as schools become obsolete, and students become objects that have no value.

When we talk budgets, we often think of the monetary value. I think that this thought process is rather harmful to our society. It's a battle I often find myself fighting with my close family. Do we worry about having 45 students in the class, or should we worry about balancing the budget? I worry about the students.

You see, humanity has this weird thing that happens when we lose resources: we fall behind. The budget may be looming on the horizon with a deficit, but that doesn't mean that we balance it on the backs of the middle class, or more importantly, the future of our students. All over the state, teachers have been receiving their pink slips telling them they'll be laid off until further notice, or their preliminary layoff notices leading up to the before mentioned. In my home district I've been in contact with teachers that can't even think straight because they're so afraid of what will happen to their position or to their school.

This is the game Republicans are willing to play. Instead of looking at the human side, they only look at the monetary thing.

Scott Walker keeps claiming that the state is broke, except nobody talks about the surpluses over the next two years that the Legislative Fiscal Bureau has put out. Walker is playing a game with the people of Wisconsin. And it's not a game that is going to be easy on us, in our universities, or when we try and find jobs when we graduate.

It's a scary thought that this is how Walker wants to create 250,000 jobs. I don't see how that is going to happen when Wisconsinites can no longer compete with the world market due to low education standards and lack of health economically and physically after all the cuts to BadgerCare and Medicaid.

It's time to tell Scotty that he needs to stop playing with us. We're not dollar signs that can be used to balance budgets, we're people. We live and breathe and die along with the rest of our state.

It's been eight weeks, and I'm ready for a recall. Too bad it has to wait until he completes his first year.

It's not a game that is going to be easy on us, in our universities, or when we try and find jobs when we graduate.

Letter to the Editor

I am absolutely disgusted with your “article” in the Pointer. It was not based on fact, but merely name-calling and broad generalizations. Instead of ticking each person into a Democrat or Republican category, you might want to take a step back and look at each person for who they are individually and what they stand for. As you said in your own words, you criticized and stereotyped, which is not one's job, but yours. For starters, you called all Democrats cowards.

Alas, so going on your belief that the democratic senators who left the state were cowards. They left because your beloved Governor was unwilling to compromise or talk about the issue with them. The only choice the senators had was letting Walker push through this bill immediately with no changes, or to leave the state, since the time span between Walker announcing the budget proposal and having them vote on it was a mere SIX DAYS, which is a very, very short time to go through a biennial budget bill. Walker's refusal to change ANY of it, or even listen to possible changes for the bill, left them with no choice.

Second of all, going off of what you said again…if anyone who leaves the premises to avoid voting on something are cowards, then your dear republicans are cowards as well. Republican Abraham Lincoln on one occurrence, went so far as to jump out of a two story window to avoid vote. Also, all news sources are biased to an extent, but at least MSNBC isn’t showing protest footage that has palm trees in it insinuating that this “violence” was at the Wisconsin protests.

You also claimed that being a democrat = sex scandal. That is actually not true at all. Republicans have more scandals than democrats (34 to 27). Don’t believe me? Read it here: http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-03-30—which-party-has-more-sex-scandals/

The article also states: Democrats tend to have more problems with harassment, staffers and underage girls: Republicans tend to have more problems with prostitutes, hypocrisy and underage boys.


In closing, I would like to remind you that before you attempt to write something that the public may read, go through your facts. Your piece has toned only with emotion and pointed fingers.

Tiffany Baake
UWSP Student
ment for a real estate development project in 1923, during the midst of expansion in Los Angeles. The sign was originally intended to stay in the Hollywood Hills for only a year and a half, but has remained.

After a young actress named Peg Entwistle headed to Hollywood in the late '20s to make a career and fulfill her dream of fame, and she failed. She then climbed on top of the 'H', took one last look over the city she had failed to conquer, and jumped.

Her suicide linked the Hollywood name to failed dreams, and came to embody the metaphor of Hollywood as the land of broken dreams.

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Hollywood name to failed dreams, and came to embody the metaphor of Hollywood as the land of broken dreams.