Gov. Walker steals coffee for budget

SAM FELD
KAITLYN LUCKOW

Walking through the streets of Stevens Point this week has been tiring to say the least without the extra kick of coffee. Elsa Weber woke up on Monday morning and went to go make her daily pot of coffee only to find an empty bag of grinds. “I was stunned and then I thought who would do such a horrible thing? At first I thought maybe one of my five hundred cats, but they’re not evil enough. This is so evil and immoral, something only someone would do if they were Scott Walker.”

Scott Walker is indeed responsible.

Stories of coffee theft have swept the state all week long. Students and professors alike are dropping left and right while the seven coffee shops professors have fallen asleep while watching them. A Brehwau barista witnessed a coffee theft first hand. In the early morning, she went to open up the coffee shop when she saw a shadow flinging bags of coffee out into a truck behind the DUC. “I was terrified. I didn’t know it was coffee at first because who would ever do something like that?” she said.

When asked about this coffee theft, Scott Walker only had two words to say: “Budget Cuts.”

See Coffee, page 2

Photo by Samantha Feld
Students all over the UWSP campus passed out from lack of coffee.

New Pokémon Masters program at UW-Stevens Point

KAITLYN LUCKOW
luck7971@uwsp.edu

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point announced a new masters program that will be starting next year: a Pokémon masters program.

The program is large with 150 credits to earn in order to get the degree. The 150 credits compose of 150 Pokémon. Pokémon are creatures that resemble animals, they just have bigger eyes and are more colorful. Some Pokémon resemble uglier things such as rocks or goo. “Pokémon are important in life and can be your best friends,” said Professor Samuel Oak, creator of the Pokédex, and head of the master’s program.

Classes in the program include classes such as “Walking through Tall Grass,” and “How Not To Break Your Pokéballs.” Another class has students memorize the ever-challenging Poké-rap.

The main focus however, will be on the battle aspect of becoming a Pokémon Master. In order to gain credits, the students must battle with their little monsters and gain specialty badges along the way. During battles students will fight each other and even other professors, the gym leaders. They will use their own Pokémon’s special attack powers such as charge and harden. They will fight until their opponent’s Pokémon have fainted; no one ever dies, because that’s just too violent.

Some students are excited about the new program.

“Want to be the very best like no one ever was,” said Ash Ketchum. While some seem genuinely interested learning, others want to enter the program for different reasons. “I’m in it for the ladies,” said Brock, who does not seem to have a last name.

Not everyone is excited about the program. Students Jesse and James expressed their weaknesses of the program and said that they would be ready to take action if need be to see that it does not succeed. “Prepare for trouble, and make it double. To protect the world from devastation, to unite all people’s within our nation. To denounce the evils of truth and love, to extend our reach to the stars above. Jesse, James, Team Rocket; blast off at the speed of light. Surrender now, or prepare to fight.”

The students can choose three emphases at the beginning of the program: Bulbasaur, Charmander, and Squirtle. All of these choices have their strengths and weaknesses, the choice the most important of a student’s whole academic career.

“Squirtle, squirtle squirtle, SQUIRTLE!” said Squirtle on why students should choose and emphasize with him.

The new Pokémon masters program will start next fall. If interested, contact Professor Oak.

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Kleefisch divorces husband, cites how awful he is at certain things

FRANKLIN ALBERT MOORE
flmoore@uwsp.edu

Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, in a recent interview elaborated on her comments on gay marriage. She explained that she found, in fact, to be opposed to all marriage because it leads to indecency.

Kleefisch yesterday announced her divorce to her husband, Joel, also a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

"Today I'm announcing my husband and I are getting divorced because ever since we got married I can't seem to get him off his fat butt and do some work around the house," she said. Joel was unable to be reached for comment, but his answering machine said it all.

"Hi you've reached Joel, I'm not h-here r-r-right n-n-now," he said in assumed tears before the message cut off.

Kleefisch explained further on her divorce and her reasons why.

"Back when we were campaign-

ing I compared gay marriage to a clock, but really I should have just said all marriage is stupid. Because eventually people have sex and that's just wrong. Especially when you do it with someone like Joel Kleefisch," she said.

Governor Scott Walker commented on the divorce after Kleefisch stood up at the podium without her husband.

"I support Ms. Kleefisch in all of her endeavors, even if she is drinking Four Loko all day long and can't tell if I'm the Governor or her chair to sit on," said Walker.

He was able to be reached for comment, but his answering machine said it all.

"I support Ms. Kleefisch in all of her endeavors, even if she is drinking Four Loko all day long and can't tell if I'm the Governor or her chair to sit on," he said at a hearing on the meeting.

"Sir, I demand to be recognized! We all deserve, the people of Wisconsin deserve to see Ms. Kleefisch naked just like we was do," he said in his signature style.

Kleefisch commented on the divorce at the podium without her partner that they have broken open meetings laws by not informing the public that they were able to see Kleefisch in her underwear for last month's odd display.

"No, I demand to be recognized! We all deserve, the people of Wisconsin deserve to see Ms. Kleefisch naked just like we was do," he said in his signature style.

What is to become of the Walker administration is unknown to refer-fing as fringe leftist groups like the Democratic Party hold recalls on to the Republicans, but we know one thing in Wisconsin: Walker and Kleefisch sure do make one heck of a team! Go Badgers!

Coffee blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah

continued from page 1

An insider tells us that Scott Walker thinks that coffee is immoral and is the cause for the overall demise of our nation.

Now the only question is Where is the coffee being stored?

Logan Carlson, head of the UWSP News Army led a state-wide search for the coffee. Through spiffy technology, disguise and great investigative technique, Sam Feld, with the help of her own creation, the X-Ray Camera Ring found that all of the coffee was being stored in one place: Scott Walker's office.

Who knew that Scott Walker was such a Justin Beiber fan? Aaron Osowski, the spitting image of Justin Beiber, knocked on Walker's door and Walker invited him in to satisfy his Beiber Fever.

Walker soon realized Osowski's true identity, but it was too late, Osowski saw Walker drinking all of the coffee.

So, get your sharpies ready because this is something to protest about.
March 31, 2011

THE POINTLESS

Gadhafi reveals emotional childhood

AARON OSOWSKI
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As the United States and other UN nations continue to bombard Libyan military targets with air strikes, some very revealing news is coming to light from the country's capital, Tripoli.

Libyan Leader and Colonel Muammar Gadhafi said on state-broadcast television on Tuesday that the United States and its allies have no part in interfering in Libyan affairs and that the international community does not understand him.

"I am tired of hearing that war is the only policy. War doesn't work, because they don't care when Iwas a young age. I already felt that at the time, that the United States and its allies are interfering in Libya and that enough is enough. Someone must stop this." Gadhafi said. "We are reading the situation in this country and our的位置 is very clearly visible."

Gadhafi revealed emotional childhood memories of being tortured and beaten by Libyan military targets with air strikes, some very revealing news is coming to light from the country's capital, Tripoli.

The emotional state of Libyan Leader and Colonel Muammar Gadhafi was revealed on state-broadcast television on Tuesday that the United States and its allies have no part in interfering in Libyan affairs and that the international community does not understand him.

"The United States is concerned first and foremost with the citizens of Libya," Obama said. "But we cannot just stand by and watch as our people descend further into an emotional breakdown. Something must be done."

Enter UN Resolution 1974. Led by efforts on the part of Obama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, the resolution states that "the UN and its member states will seek, through multilateral action, to repair the emotional state of Libyan Leader Muammar Gadhafi through the following approaches:" (1) Offering congratulatory cookies to Libya when he played a friend's warm, homemade cookies, and (2) Offering congratulations with a game of Rock, Paper, Scissors to Libya, when he played a friend's warm, homemade cookies, and (3) Offering congratulations with a game of Rock, Paper, Scissors to Libya, when he played a friend's warm, homemade cookies. Sarkozy said he has been accused of calling Mr. Gadhafi "cozy" and repeating chilling phrases such as "Don't make a enemy of a Gadhafi leader in Libya, please." The key to solving the problem of Gadhafi's emotional breakdown is to make him feel appreciated.

"I think it is well past due that we have a talk with Mr. Gadhafi," Sarkozy said. "It's enough. Sometimes you just have to say, 'Let's hug it out, bitch.'"

Gadhafi's mouth waters at the sight of the cookies, he is hungry.

Gadafi's mouth waters at the sight of the cookies, he is hungry.

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Around for a few years, but it has impact to inspire baseball to spawn it was introduced, I was playing NFL Blitz 2000 on the N64, and was thrilled the same sort of creation in 2011. If you or anyone else has ever thought about a real life league of the anything ballers.” Game play is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2012, and the slogan “Take that MLB, this is the end of your world,” has been trending on the limelight to announce the creation of the “X-treme League of Base­ball.”

Barry Bonds has been in the news times of economic downturn, along with Bonds, baseball leg­ends Pete Rose has been working hard to start this up again. Halverson made a plea to former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold to lead the rebellion against Walker. “Years ago he served the state in Washington D.C. We beg that he helps us in this struggle against Walker. Help us, Russ Feingold. You’re our only hope.”

Walker brushed off concerns of Feingold getting involved in the cur­rent conflict. “Surely he must be dead by now. The progressives are all but extinct. Their fire has gone out in FitzWalkerstan.”

Following Walker’s actions, President Obama held a press confer­ence where he made a personal plea towards Feingold: “Why don’t you take a look around? You know what’s about to happen, what they’re up against. We would use a good leader like you Russ.” Feingold released an initial statement in response to pleas from both Obama and Halverson, stating, “Attacking FitzWalkerstan ain’t my idea of courage. It’s more like suicide.”

Anonymous sources close to Feingold, who spoke on the condi­tion of anonymity, said they were not authorized to speak to the press, reveal that he hasn’t made up his final decision at this time.

Remember the XFL? It was a football league that was created in the early 2000’s to make the sport of football a little more extreme. When it was introduced, I was playing NFL Blitz 2000 on the N64, and was thrilled to see a real life league of the anything ballers.” Game play is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2012, and the slogan “Take that MLB, this is the end of your world,” has been trending on the limelight to announce the creation of the “X-treme League of Baseball.”

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Baseball Dissidents to Start EXTREME League

Montgomery Banks

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A day in the life of my cat

Zoe the cat is very, very busy. Being a cat in the Heid household isn't something to take lightly. Her day is chockfull of engagements that she just can't ignore.

Her day starts off with a stretch and a lick on her owners' bed. She has to get up when the female owner gets up because she receives her daily treats. Zoe needs her sustenance for the day if she'll be able to make it all of the way through.

After the treat-eating, she heads for her morning bathroom run. It is mundane, but necessary. Conveniently, her food and water are located near her bathroom area, so she has a bite to eat. Once the morning routine is completed, it is time to start her day.

She begins to make the epic journey from her food and water to her favorite couch cushion. The task sounds simple, but there are factors that could slow her approach. As she rounds the corner, she confronts her first obstacle—a box. Zoe is very interested in boxes. Like a moth drawn to the flame, she has to hop inside and sit there for a while.

After setting a spell in the box, she realizes how far behind she is on her schedule, and presses on towards her couch cushion. Surprisingly, not many more obstacles are encountered until she reaches her final destination. This particular couch cushion has the mark of Zoe imprinted on it. Instead of being a fluffy, happy couch cushion, it is more of a sad, droopy couch cushion. She makes her way up to her throne, and circles for a good minute until feeling comfortable enough to sit.

About 4 hours of sleeping later, her schedule is still tight. She jumps up, and makes her way back to ground level. Before moving on with her schedule, she notices something shiny and clear on the ground. She soon realizes it is her favorite toy to chase around the house—a clear plastic fastener. Of course, she must run around and get a good 15 minutes to get her exercise in.

Around 2 p.m., Zoe is substantially fatigued from the minutes of exercise she had to endure. This time, her male owner had just stood up from sitting in the recliner for a while. Zoe saw this as a prime opportunity to be the “warm spot stealer.” She trots over and hops up on the recliner, and makes herself happy in the warm recliner spot. She knew this was a prime spot, and wasn’t about to move anytime soon for anyone.

A brief 5 hour nap seemed to suffice for Zoe, and it was back on the rigid schedule. Now, it was time for dinner and a bowel movement. She took care of both of these things pretty quickly, and then her favorite time of the night was here. Around 8:00 p.m. every night, it seemed as though both of Zoe’s owners would retire to the recliners to watch some television. This meant that two extremely comfortable laps would be open for business.

Zoe raced to her female owner’s side and jumped up onto her lap. For a good hour, she stayed curled up on her owner’s lap until the owner became restless. The hour of 9:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. is always an awkward time for Zoe. Her owners are slowly getting things ready for tomorrow, and preparing themselves for bed.

One last bathroom stop ended Zoe's extremely busy day. She meanders over to her owners' bed, and nestled into her spot right between both of them. Zoe is happy with her day, and knows she better get a good 8 hours of sleep in. Her schedule will be tough to keep up with, if it is anything like this day was.

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AUGUSTUS MARCELLINO-MERWIN

With the shadow of a lockout looming over the National Football League, many people are officially out of work. While football fans will miss the constant entertainment that the game provides, the people who are actually employed by the NFL will miss out on paychecks, health care, and a portion of their career.

Considering the lack of a multi-million dollar income for an entire year, many players have been forced to take on a separate job in order to supplement their lifestyle. Some have turned to such establishments as local gyms and training facilities so that they may lend their professional expertise to the athletes of tomorrow. Others have decided to use the year off as a reason to return to school and continue their education. With a career in the NFL shining like a lighthouse in the distance for many young men, a degree falls by the wayside in many cases, and these young men forgo graduation for a paycheck. Now with the urging of their mothers and lawyers some players have returned to the classroom to pursue degrees in various areas such as physical training, biochemistry, and machine repair.

"A lot of guys have been doing nothing but playing football since they were 13-years-old," said Patriots quarterback Tom Brady. "Most people don't know this, but in the last few years I've been utilizing my drop dead good looks to begin a career in modeling. I already have contracts with Victoria's Secret and Aeropostale to go along with my own line of UGG boots."

Brady of course was voted the number one least liked NFL player by fans, Sports Writers of America, and everyone employed by the NFL, excluding Bill Belichick who was voted least liked coach.

Green Bay defensive lineman Johnny Jolly is another player currently searching for a new line of work during these hard times. Jolly, who sat out the entire 2010-2011 season due to legal troubles, has become the Lil Wayne of the NFL. His problems stemmed from a prior arrest for possession of codeine syrup. Under the terms of his deal Jolly would have his charges dropped if he could stay out of trouble for a year. An entire year without sippin on some Purple drank? I don't know about you, but I don't think I could go that long, and neither did Jolly. Just recently he was arrested following a traffic stop where police found 600 grams of syrup in his Escalade. Prior to this incident head coach Mike McCarthy had stated that Jolly was definitely in the organizations plans for the future. However it's hard to play football high on syrup. Jolly was gone from behind bars with cuffs on your ankles. Unlike the rest of this article, the whole paragraph you just read is completely true.

Guys like Clay Matthews have decided to take a break from the stresses that the National Football League induces and realize some lifelong dreams. "Football was never what I actually enjoyed. I only played to live up to the family name and now that I've done that I feel like it's time to do what I'm really passionate about," said Matthews.

Clay Matthews can hand-plow a 20 acre field of rocky soil in under an hour. Matthews has grown out a beard to complete his already stunning mane and has parachuted deep into the Canadian wilderness. Clay took with him only a hatchet, a pocket knife, and an ipod filled with Metallica and Miley Cyrus. During his first day he built a cabin and began to harvest sap from the surrounding trees. On his second day he wrestled a grizzly bear to the ground and shaved him bald so that he could make a suitable coat. He taught a second bear to lie down on his cabin floor so that he could have the only living bearskin rug in the world. On the weekends he walks to a stream and catches salmon in his teeth so he can have a fresh mountain man dinner. The Discovery Channel has already canceled all their shows in order to provide 24/7 coverage of "Matthews Mountain."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has remained optimistic that a deal will be met before the start of the season, despite the fact that he is being angrily bombarded by nearly every player. "I didn't do this to the NFL, the players did," stated Goddell. "With all their hip-hop music and their Beavers, Benz, and Bentleys they think they can call the shots and get outrageous benefits like health care added to their contracts. The Pioneers didn't have it when they settled the West, why should professional football players? It's not like they're constantly getting injured and receiving concussions and later developing deadly addictions to pain killers."

In an effort to calm the waters between the NFL and the players, Goddell lowered his salary to $1. Many throughout the League and the nation saw this as a dramatic step forward and a selfless act by a leader trying to spearhead the negotiations. Insiders, however, report that this is not the case. The self induced pay-cut was not a "for the good of the league" type action. The move was actually prompted by the job that Goodell had recently found for himself in the midst of the lockout. As it turns out, a portion of a stripper's paycheck generally comes a dollar at a time.
Japan’s nuclear crisis: Where to go from here?

AARON OSOWSKI
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Some of the greatest forces Mother Nature could conjure clashed Japan’s nuclear power plants, most notably in the Fukushima Prefecture just north of Tokyo.

The Fukushima Daiichi plant has six nuclear reactors at its facility, and it’s been reported that radioactive water is seeping from 4 of the 6 reactors’ turbine rooms. How does this happen?

Well, in old boiling water reactors such as these, there are dozens of holes that allow for control rods to be placed stopping nuclear fusion. At temperatures of 350°F, however, these rods begin to melt, and the water can seep from the reactor vessels into broken pipes, eventually into the turbine building and beyond.

At Fukushima Daiichi, nuclear fuel rods that were spent were collected in “overcrowding pools” which, under the conditions of the recent catastrophe, caused fires and explosions at the plant. There are very few alternatives in disposing of nuclear waste such as this, but one suggestion has been to place the waste in salt mines. This, says University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Physics Professor Mick Veum, brings up a new set of problems.

“The downside of that is that you’re concentrating all of it [the waste] in one particular place,” Veum said. “Also, how do you decide who to put it near?”

There currently is no clear-cut solution for dealing with nuclear waste, which is why Veum says he is skeptical of fully backing nuclear power.

Don’t Eat That

One of the main concerns in the aftermath of this nuclear crisis in Japan is the food supply. There were reports immediately after the leak of the contamination of milk, spinach, and other leafy greens, and Japan’s health ministry recently created a new list of contaminated foods.

Testing foods that were positive for either iodine-131 or cesium-137, Veum said, “Also, how do you decide who to put it near?”

There currently is no clear-cut solution for dealing with nuclear waste, which is why Veum says he is skeptical of fully backing nuclear power.

What the response will be within the United States is yet to be seen. The problems in dealing with waste and contamination issues make nuclear power always a risky option.

Veum stresses that Americans need to know and care about where their energy is coming from and how it is being produced.

“I think it’s really important for people to be literate in the field and to understand what the pros and cons are of various ways of producing energy,” Veum said.

The alternative, Veum noted, is to reduce our consumption and begin to explore other ways of producing energy outside of coal and nuclear.

He expressed some cynicism with this idea, however. “I don’t know if we’re going to cut back or not,” Veum said.

These radioactive materials only have a half-life of eight days, meaning they will not cause harm after that time. However, it’s crucial that precautions are always taken before consuming potentially radioactive foods.

“The problem you run into is that you ingest it and it has the potential to get into your bone structure,” Veum said.

Radioactively contaminated foods are of particular threat to infants, who can develop thyroid cancer from certain isotopes.

What Next For Nuclear?

The Fukushima crisis has caused other nations to reassess their use of nuclear power, and Germany recently completely phased out their nuclear power program.

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Budget Repair Bill blocked for second time

LOGAN CARLSON
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Dane County Judge Maryann Sumi has blocked Scott Walker’s controversial Budget Repair Bill for the second time in as many weeks on Tuesday. Sumi had initially ordered an injunction on the bill, preventing its implementation on March 18 until a full hearing could be held to determine the legality of Republicans by-passing Wisconsin’s open meetings law.

In her statement, Sumi said she was either “misunderstood or ignored” when she ruled that the law could not go into effect.

Under Wisconsin state law, “Public notice of every meeting of a governmental body shall be given at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of such meeting unless for good cause such notice is impossible or impractical, in which case the notice may be given, but in no case may the notice be provided less than two hours in advance of the meeting.”

The Conference Committee that was held that passed an amended version of the Budget Repair Bill that would later be approved by both houses of the legislature was announced at 4:00 p.m. and held at 6:00 p.m. on March 9. The Senate later voted that night, without any Democratic senators present.

Sumi’s order is that there was no good cause to rush to hold such a meeting and pass the bill. Republicans claimed they were not held to state statute as special session rules indicate that no prior notice is needed for any meeting, only that such meetings are posted on the legislative bulletin board.

Sumi’s initial order prevented Secretary of State Doug La Follette from publishing the Budget Repair Bill, which is required by law to be done within ten days of the law being signed by the governor. Walker had ordered the bill published on Friday, issuing a statement saying they believed the court order only referred to the Secretary of State. The statement also read they do not believe that by the LRB publishing the bill, that it was actual law.

Walker disagreed with this opinion and started implementing the bill as if it were law.

Department of Administration Secretary Mike Huebsch announced on Monday that the state was now charging state employees more for their health insurance and pension contributions and no longer deducting union dues from employees’ pay checks.

It is unclear whether the state has stopped the implementation of the bill, as the only statement from the DOA following Tuesday’s ruling was that they were reviewing Sumi’s ruling.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald said he was disappointed in Sumi’s ruling and that “if a judge is able to tell the legislature when to converse, what bills to take up, how to debate them, that’s dangerous territory.”

The Fourth District Court of Appeals issued an opinion on March 24 that moved the case directly to the Wisconsin State Supreme Court.

In the opinion, the court declared the case “presents significant constitutional issues and as such ‘the Supreme Court is the proper forum’ for the case to be decided.”

This moves the case to the Supreme Court, where a proxy battle over the bill is being fought in the lead-up to next Tuesday’s elections involving current Justice David Prosser and his challenger JoAnne Kloppenburg.

Prosser issued a press release in December claiming that he would work as a “compliment to both the new administration and legislature.”

One Wisconsin Now and Greater Wisconsin Committee, both independent organizations, have been running TV ads critical of David Prosser, claiming a vote for Prosser is a vote for Walker and the Budget Repair Bill.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Election: April 5, 2011

What educational, professional, civic and community experiences have you had that you believe qualify you for this elective office?

My 12 years as a Supreme Court Justice are my most obvious qualification. I have written 132 majority opinions and participated in 900 published decisions. Eighteen former state bar presidents and many judges have endorsed me based on my performance. No other candidate has judicial experience. In addition, I have worked at all levels of government in all three branches of government: law teacher (UW, IUPUI); staff attorney, Office of Criminal Justice; administrative assistant to Congressman; elected district attorney; 18 years in Wisconsin State Assembly; Assembly Speaker; Tax Appeals Commissioner; Uniform Laws Commissioner. This breadth of experience is unprecedented.

JoAnne Kloppenburg:

What procedural or legislative changes might improve the operations of the court?

I've been a litigator and prosecutor, so I have a procedural understanding. I'm impressed with our system of government and the independence it offers. Our rules are so great.

What educational, professional, civic and community experiences have you had that you believe qualify you for this elective office?

I've been a litigator and prosecutor, so I have a procedural understanding. I'm impressed with our system of government and the independence it offers. Our rules are so great.

Questions and candidates’ answers were taken from the website of the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization which encourages participation in government and seeks to increase understanding of public policy (http://www.lwvwi.org).
Spring Training: The Ultimate Fan Experience

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The beer is expensive, the brats are undercooked, and the sun is brutal. Little kids are either running into you or hitting you in the back with a stray baseball. Your favorite players stick around for five innings then head into the clubhouse. You'd be lucky to get to a game and even know the first name of the starting pitcher.

Yet there is a certain allure to Major League Spring Training that is unlike any other in the realm of sports. It is undoubtedly the most fan friendly event you can attend. An eight dollar ticket gets you access to virtually any seat in the house. You can lay a blanket down in the outfield lawn and sit directly behind stars like Ryan Braun, Josh Hamilton, and Jason Heyward. You can slip down to the first row and come within feet of Albert Pujols, Miguel Cabrera, or Joe Mauer.

You have free reign to wander a ball park that is something between Wrigley Field and the playground down the street that you grew up with. None of the parks are the gargantuan cement cathedrals that pop up out of the asphalt jungle. Many are nestled within residential areas just like any Target or Walmart, and have a maximum occupancy to match.

You still need to pay $6.50 per beer and you still need to spend ten bucks to get a hamburger and fries. A souvenir bat for your little sister and a hat for your dad will still cost you $40.

But the best souvenirs are the ones that don't cost you anything but your time; and its time well spent. Things like a catcher warming up a pitcher in the bullpen. One's a 25-year-old kid who got invited to make it big. The other is a 40-year-old coming back from shoulder surgery, hoping he can resurrect the ability that got him there.

One of the greatest features that fans get with spring training is the access to the players. To established stars these games are just another workout. To young guys trying to break out of the minors these games make or break a career. But regardless if it's the face of the franchise or a no name from Double A, both players are equally obliged to sign autographs. With the relaxed atmosphere of Spring Training come the relaxed attitudes of the players.

There are those who sign a few and jog into the clubhouse to shower and change. And there are others who stay for as long as it takes for the crowd in front of them to slowly dissipate until that last kid walks away smiling with his signed ball.

Spring Training gives baseball fans the chance to see teams play that they otherwise would probably never get to see. Having teams from the American League and National League just minutes away allows for a new experience each day. You can watch the Royals play the Indians at beautiful Surprise Stadium; the next day you can drive to Scottsdale and see the Diamondbacks play in the Fenway Park of Spring Training facilities. A different field, a different team every day. Your favorite players from around the league, regardless of team, are just a highway drive away.

For some players the games don't mean a thing. For others, these games can be the difference between floundering in the minors and making a name in the majors. For some fans the games don't mean a thing. For others, they can be the difference between sitting at home with pizza for dinner, or doing something meaningful and fun. To a corporate executive who gets the tickets for free these games could be just a place to sit with a drink after work and talk about work. For a divorced father with two young kids and a tattoo shop, to run these games are an opportunity to spend some time with the most important people in his life.

This is the place where he gets to sit back and watch as they run and play, make friends and make memories. And for a dad there are few greater things in life than the feeling that his kids are genuinely happy.

The games don't count in the record books. The players might never be seen again under the big lights. The autographs you get will fade. But the majesty of baseball will forever be rooted inside you, and it will be apparent every time Spring Training gets brought up in a conversation. The passion that resonates from your voice will easily convey the memories that you made. Memories that will live on because you took something from a game that means nothing.

Spring training starts up for the Brewers in Arizona.
India beats Pakistan by 29 runs in cricket World Cup semi-final match

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It is well known that India and Pakistan's relations have been rocky at best since the 1940's, but diplomacy took a different form on Wednesday when the two countries faced off in the Cricket World Cup Semi-Finals. It was the first time the two teams have played in either of their own countries since 2008, when Pakistan based militants allegedly attacked Mumbai, India.

More than a billion people were thought to have been watching Wednesday's match played in Mohali, India. In attendance was the Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, and Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani. While sports matches between rival nations has ended in riot and even war in the past, this match proved to be a step forward for the two nations. The two leaders shook hands before the match, and Singh hosted a dinner in honor of his guest, Gilani.

People across the world hold Cricket as high as Americans do baseball. The World Cup Semi-Finals is normally a big deal, but since it was between these two rival nuclear nations, there was a particular excitement in the air. Before the game, excitement in the two nations was at an all time high. Flags, banners, and posters could be seen everywhere in pre game celebrations for the match.

During the game, the two countries were practically at a standstill. It would be like the NFC Championship if the Packers and the Vikings were playing.

One Cricket fan, Omar Ehtisham Anwar, told Reuters news agency, "There is no way I would miss even a second of this match- I will try to not even blink during the game."

This appears to be a milestone in the relations between the two nations, because even though India won by 29 runs and Pakistan's season is over, the people of India and Pakistan seem to have been united by the game. Before the match, Indian supporter Ravi Ansal told the AFP news agency, "We do not have any animosity toward the Pakistani team. They are a fine team and if India go on to loose the semi-final, I will cheer for Pakistan in the final." That is something that would never be said by a Packer fan about the Vikings.

Whether or not this marks a new beginning in relations between the two nations or is simply a pause in hostilities for now, the game of Cricket has taken one of the most intense, hostile national rivalries and brought the governments and the people of the two nations together.

India will go on to play Sri Lanka in the Final match Saturday in Mumbai. Cricket, popular worldwide, particularly in former British Colonies, is a game similar to baseball, with two wickets, flat paddles, and bowlers instead of three bases, bats, and pitchers.

Cricket, although nowhere near the popularity of baseball, has a small but loyal following in the United States. If you're inspired by what is being described by the BBC as "Cricket Diplomacy," then start playing; it's a great game and easy to get the materials needed to play.

American Cricket enthusiast and team India supporter Bill Scherkenbach said after the game Wednesday, "I am very very happy to see my team go on to the finals, I know it'll be a very very good game. This is an inspiring game. I liked cricket before, but the cooperation between the two nations truly proves that this is a wonderful sport. I can't wait to take on the Golden Ducks this summer in the Manitou Cricket Championship circuit."

“There is no way I would miss even a second of this match - I will try to not even blink during the game.”

India flag Pakistan flag
Save a Life with Marrow

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What comes to mind when you think of someone who saves lives? Firefighters rushing into a house engulfed in flames? A SWAT team that fearlessly penetrates an enemy-infested building to save hostages? Superman? What about bone marrow donors?

Although firefighters, SWAT teams and Superman are all exceptionally tough and brave people, any average Joe can save somebody’s life, and at no risk to his own. Nearly any healthy 18-60 year old can save lives by registering as a bone marrow donor.

Registration is easy; get a quick mouth swab, complete a form, and you’ve become one of millions that could be a 5 year-old child or someone could be a 5 year-old child with leukemia, a mom with multiple myeloma, a close friend who has cancer. Whatever the case, you just might be the only person in the whole world who matches their specific DNA gene, and the only person that can save their life.

All the firefighters, SWAT teams and even Superman won’t be able to save that person (Superman comes from Krypton), only you, the compatible donor.

Donating bone marrow benefits so many more people than just the recipient. It is an act of extreme generosity helping you and the donor to grow as a person.

Donating bone marrow can always decline. If you are still committed to donating there are two possibilities.
The first and easiest way doesn’t involve any surgery. You take a drug that enhances the number of your bone marrow cells. After 5 days you get hooked up to a machine that removes the extra bone marrow cells in your bloodstream and simultaneously returns the remaining blood back to you. Congratulations, you’ve just saved a life!
The second option is surgical, but you won’t even need stitches afterwards. A small amount of marrow is removed from your pelvic bone and after 4 to 6 weeks your body will completely replace whatever bone marrow was lost.

Donating bone marrow benefits more people than just the recipient. It is an act of extreme generosity helping you and the donor to grow as a person. It is an act of kindness towards all the people who care for and love the person receiving the transplant. And it is a profound gift to every single person in the future that gets positively impacted by the transplant recipient.

This upcoming Monday, April 4, is an opportunity for you to register as a bone marrow donor. The registry will be held from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the DUC Laird room. I urge everyone to register and I hope that one day you can become someone’s Superman.

Feel free to contact me with any questions about this event, or contact the representative of Be The Match RegistrySM, Kelli, at (920) 419-3802.

Secret’s out about Postsecret event

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Many people have made Postsecret a routine part of their Sunday. Now, they will be able to see the creator in person and find out about University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students’ secrets.

"Even if the postcard was sent in by a stranger, you may still have a connection to it in some way," said Diekroeger.

The event will be on Wednesday, April 13, at 7 p.m. in the Dreyfus University Center Laird Room. The event is first come first served, and it is free to the public.

Frank Warren founded the blog in 2005, and it was created for people to anonymously share secrets they have never shared before through postcards. Bonnie Schwab, a senior Business Administration and Music major, is the special events and volunteer coordinator at UWSP.

"[Postsecret] fosters a sense of community and focuses on the idea that we’re all connected, even though separately everyone has his or her worries," Schwab said.

Schwab was the person who took the initiative to try and get Postsecret to come to UWSP and she started with contacting Warren’s agent.

"I wanted to see how much money it would cost to bring him in because I’ve been following Postsecret since high school,” said Schwab. “I then started asking around student organizations and academic departments for donations.”

This event will involve more than sharing, postcards. Warren will talk about the history of the blog, some of the more controversial postcards, and then invite UWSP students to share their own secrets.

Greg Diekroeger, who is the assistant director of campus activities, is happy something like this is coming to UWSP.

"If the postcard was sent in by a stranger, you may still have a connection to it in some way," said Diekroeger.

Once the event is finished, Warren will stay and sign books that will be sold at the event. There is no official end time for it, and he will stay as long as he has to. He has compiled 5 books, and the majority of them are best-sellers.

"This is such a unique opportunity, and it's not a usual event on college campuses," Diekroeger said.

Bri Tarpey, a junior communication major, will be attending the event.

"I want to go to the event because I’ve been reading Postsecret for years and I think it’s an awesome idea," said Tarpey. "I've heard that Frank is an amazing motivational speaker and I really want to hear everything he talks about and everything he has to say about what goes on behind the scenes.

Tarpey thinks that an event like this will help people, especially in our age group, deal with struggle.

“We’ve all been or had friends that are depressed, especially as high school students or college kids ‘finding our selves’ or dealing with heartbreak, so I think he’s very relatable,” Tarpey said.

She said her secret is very general, and is probably one that most people have, and looks forward to what others have to say.

For more information about this event, check out http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=149112735143360.

Political upheaval showcased at NFAC

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This week the Noel Fine Arts Center. "Another Voice: Political Illustration of the Late 20th Century" art gallery is showing.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point art history professor and curator Caren Heft organized the gallery that has been exhibiting works by Ralph Steadman, who became famous for his book cover illustrations for the controversial political and sociological writer Hunter S. Thompson.

The gallery’s main focus is art depicting the political upheavals of the last 40 years, during which political illustrators were under a lot of pressure to conform to their editor’s view of what was acceptable for publication.

Since the 1960’s, the art world has been no stranger to political and civil unrest. The civil rights movement, Vietnam, and economical exploration of the working class has led to stunning and monumental illustrations voicing those concerns.

Much of the art produced by artists like Steadman, Carl Dunn, Michael Duffy, and Brad Holland among many others were producing works that got censored.

"In the few years that I worked at the Times, I came to realize a significant level of frustration among illustrators, especially in terms of making art and what was permitted by the editors," said Patrick JB Flynn, founder and national curator of the Another Voice exhibition.

Flynn also said that after the United States survived the changes of the country moved into the era of disco and government corruption, setting the stage for these political illustrators to weigh in during wildly erratic times.

The exhibit, sponsored in part by the UNI College of Humanities and Fine Arts, has made its way across the nation from the Carolinas to Memphis, UW-Madison to UW-Stevens Point.

For more information on the Another Voice exhibit visit www.anothervoice.org