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An interview with UWSP graduate and Wisconsin Rapids Mayor Zach Vruwink

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In our last issue, The Pointer ran an article about young people seeking social change, noting how different paths—from music and art to academia to political office and journalism—play a role in this endeavor.

"Running for office is the least effective way to make change. Getting together with other people and demonstrating is one of the most. So is educating people about how our society really works," said Matt Rothschild, editor of The Progressive, in an interview with The Pointer.

This week, we were able to get an interview with the new mayor of Wisconsin Rapids, Zach Vruwink. At age 15, Vruwink founded his own business (ZAXX Technology Specialists) in 2003. He then studied Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point, and graduated only two years ago. As of last week, he is also the youngest mayor in Wisconsin Rapids history.

MW: Why did you run for office?

ZV: When former Mayor Mary Jo Carson decided not to seek re-election, many people suggested I run for the office. I was hesitant to make the leap initially since I was a recent (2010) UWSP graduate who felt I could live anywhere in the world. After forming an exploratory committee and strongly considering my options, I decided to seek the office.

MW: Have you planned to hold public office for a while?

ZV: I had always dreamed of holding public office. I chose to pursue a degree in Political Science to gain a better understanding of our political system to complement my real world business experience. My dream to be a public servant and role model for young people was fulfilled by being elected as the youngest mayor in Wisconsin Rapids history.

MW: What did you set off your candidacy, what is your political and electoral strategy?

ZV: My political strategy was to reach Wisconsin Rapids citizens of all political spectrum and age groups. I formed a diverse, strong kitchen cabinet that became very active throughout. When I formally announced, I stated that we would be different from any local political campaign ever experienced. We utilized online and offline communication strategies through social media, newspaper, radio and direct literature drops. We had a significant group of volunteers who put in many hours the final 2 months. Overall, the all-in, aggressive campaign paid off through a record turnout (nearly 50 percent and garnering nearly 70 percent of the vote against 4 opponents).

MW: Did your years as a student help you in organizing politically (experience, network, etc.)?

ZV: Yes, I participated in Student Government where I learned how to run meetings, organize students and create legislation. I was also involved with other student groups that were active in organizing students.

MW: Do you have any state or national politics aspirations?

ZV: I wish I could get a dollar every time I am asked that question. I will continue to serve the City of Wisconsin Rapids as long as I am making an impact. Life is all about seizing opportunities. I am a very opportunistic person and wouldn't deny an opportunity to serve!

MW: Is there anything you would like to add?

ZV: I am a proud Pointer! I feel that my time at UWSP was a tremendously wise investment. Through study abroad, student involvement, and of course, academics, I wouldn't be where I am today. I look forward to working with UWSP in the future!

Stevens Point Hosts Forum for Recall Candidates

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It isn't often that Stevens Point plays host to a major gubernatorial campaign event in April, but the previous 16 months since Governor Scott Walker's inauguration have been anything but normal for the state of Wisconsin.

Both State Senator Kathleen Vinehout and Secretary of State Doug La Follette agreed that Governor Walker's policies were failing Wisconsin, and that it is necessary to replace him as soon as possible.

Around 70 concerned citizens gathered at the Econolodge in Stevens Point Thursday night to hear firsthand how two gubernatorial candidates would govern if they were elected in the recall election being held in June.

"We need a governor who can hit the ground running, who knows where the roads are buried," said Vinehout, a former dairy farmer and health administration professor.

Vinehout has been serving in the state senate since 2007 and proposed an alternative budget to the one signed into law last year.

"Walker has been very short sighted," said La Follette, a founding member of Earth Day. La Follette, who has been serving as the Secretary of State since 1983, highlighted his ability to be elected statewide by both Republicans and Democrats.

"The cuts to education have been a disaster," La Follette said, especially to the technical college system. "Many men and women want to attend but can't go because of costs. There are jobs waiting for them [once they graduate]."

Vinehout said she was very concerned about the deep cuts to education "across the board" and that Wisconsin is likely going to see more of their effects in the coming school year.

When asked about The Pointer Compact, the differential tuition plan UWSP was planning to implement for the 2012 academic year, Vinehout said she was in favor of the bill that would have lifted the moratorium on non-residential tuition programs at UW System schools.

Vinehout said, "it would have leveled the playing field" between UWSP and those schools that already have implemented differential tuition.

Both Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and former Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk declined the invitation to the forum sponsored by the Portage County Democratic Party and Portage County United Wisconsin.

Also in attendance were both Lieutenant Governor candidates, Mahlon Mitchell and Ira Robbins.

Mitchell is the current president of the Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin and has been an outspoken critic of both Walker and current Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch since the protests over the budget repair bill last year.

"Walker and Kleefisch are taking away our opportunity and promise," Mitchell said. "It's embarrassing for the state of Wisconsin."

Robbins, a former police detective and private investigator, says he doesn't consider himself either a Democrat or Republican and is running to get the corruption caused by campaign contributions out of government. Robbins is self-financing his campaign and is not accepting any contributions.

A poll released last week, conducted by Public Policy Polling for Daily Kos, showed Barrett leading the other candidates at 38 percent. Falk was in second with 24 percent while La Follette and Vinehout each polled at nine and six percent, respectively.

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Introduction to Composting

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What is Compost?
Composting is the intentional decomposition of organic materials. So, what is decomposed organic materials. It is often dark brown and smells of sweet summer. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, yard trimmings and food waste make up 27 percent of the US municipal solid waste stream. Of this only 2.8 percent of the food waste were composted in 2010. For the most part, the food waste collection and separation costs are the barriers to widespread food waste composting.

What can be composted at home?
Materials such as vegetable scraps, coffee and tea grounds and filters, yard scraps (not black walnut or rhubarb parts), non-glossy paper and cardboard, cotton products, hair and yes, fingernails (avoid chemicals) can all be composted.

What cannot be composted at home?
Materials which should be avoided in home compost piles include: weed and disease infested materials, meat and dairy products, fatty, greasy, oily, salty items, pet waste, coal or charcoal, and items with toxic chemicals such as pesticides, paint, plastics or glues.

How composting works
Through nature’s majestic and amazing rejuvenating processes, organisms that cannot be seen by the unaided eye perform an invaluable service by recycling organic matter and nutrients for our, and the Earth’s, benefit. These microorganisms, and there are more than would be sensible to count, will colonize an actively managed compost pile and go through three main stages which we will call stages 1, 2, and 3.

During stage 1 is where microorganisms begin to decompose the readily available and easily decomposable organic matter. Similar to having an afternoon snack, the first items go are the most delicious and easiest to access. After a while the heat generated by the activity of the Stage 1 microorganisms creates conditions for Stage 2 microorganisms. This is usually at about 110-120 degrees F. Stage 2 microorganisms take over and generate even more heat, up to 155 degrees F. This is where weed seeds and pathogens can be killed or neutralized. After air (oxygen), moisture or the right organic materials become limiting, the temperature will begin to decrease. Once below about 120 degrees F, the Stage 1 microorganisms will again take over in Stage 3.

In Stage 3 the temperature will continue to decrease to ambient (outside) levels. Once at ambient levels the pile of organic materials can be called compost. However, like calling a 13-year-old boy a man because he is sexually mature, the compost at this stage is not mature. In a bonus fourth stage, the maturation stage, the compost is left to mature for a period of time (usually a month to a year or two). After the compost has time to mature it will be similar to really light, fluffy, awesome potting mix in touch, smell and texture.

How to compost a backyard batch compost
The following compost process is for batch composting, where fresh organic materials are added to the pile initially, but not thereafter.

In general fresh organic materials like vegetable scraps and fresh, still green leaves and grass clippings are called “Green” materials. Dry, and often brown grass clippings, leaves, hay, woodchips and non-glossy paper are called “Brown” materials.

Organic materials should be as small as possible within reason. Sawdust is too small and whole sheets of newspaper are too big. The average size of brown materials should be about the size of your toes if possible.

In at least a 3 cubic foot pile alternate layers of two to four parts brown materials to one part green materials, wetting the materials to the consistency of a wrung-out sponge as you pile (getting enough materials to make a pile of this size may require careful sourcing and collaboration with friends, neighbors, relatives and local businesses). Always end on a brown layer to act like a blanket over the pile.

As a general rule, the composting process will go faster the more frequently the pile is mixed. Always mix, or turn, the outside of the pile to the inside and keep the pile as moist as a wrung-out sponge. I like to turn my pile once a week for about three weeks after making it. Then I turn the pile every other week for about another month or so. At this point I screen the pile through a one-half inch screen and pile whatever makes it through to screen to continue composting. I screen the compost through a one-half inch screen and pile whatever makes it through to screen to continue to the maturation stage. Stage 4, somewhere out of the way. There it sits for a month or two, or until I need compost in the garden. Whatever was left on the screen goes into the next pile I make a pile of this size may require careful sourcing and collaboration with friends, neighbors, relatives and local businesses.

When finished, it can be nice to screen the compost through a one-half inch screen to get a fine product that you will be proud of and can be easily handled.

Use in the garden or landscape plantings
- Incorporate/mix into the soil to improve soil quality
- Top dress (carefully place on top of soil and around plants about 1/4 - 1/2 inch thick) plants
- Use on the lawn
- Spread across the lawn and rake to settle the compost through the grass and onto the soil.
- Use in potting mix
  - 1 part compost to 1 part coco coir or peat and 1/2 - 1 part perlite or sand is a great all-purpose potting mix. Adjust the perlite or sand component for more or less drainage.

Vegetable scraps, coffee and tea, yard scraps, non-glossy paper and cardboard, and cotton products can all be composted.

What to do with compost
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How to tell compost is finished
When you cannot tell what anything in the pile is anymore and it all looks like good soil.

When number 1 is true and the pile smells like sweet, sweet soil.

If not satisfied by the fulfillment of numbers one and two, place a small scoop of compost into a plastic bag and seal it; if it doesn’t burn your nostril hairs after a day and it still smells sweet, the compost is finished.

Of course every compost is different so use your judgment and if in doubt, contact someone who may know. For this reason, it is good to keep records of what goes into the compost pile and how often the pile is managed and any out-of-the-ordinary occurrences such as a really dry pile, a very stinky pile or an excessively wet pile.

Vegetable scraps, coffee and tea, yard scraps, non-glossy paper and cardboard, and cotton products can all be composted.

HINT: To kill weed seeds, place compost in a white bucket with a good lid or plastic bag. Wet the compost to the consistency of a wrung-out sponge. Place the bucket in the sun and roll/mix the bucket every day for a week or two, or until satisfied. The weed seeds should germinate and then be cooked in the sun’s heat.
Suites @201 Could Be Co-Ed Next Spring

[Protective Services Report]

April 15 to April 21

April 15
1:14 a.m.: The Stevens Point Police Department was let into Neale Hall.
1:39 a.m.: A bike rack by the CCC was dragged onto the sidewalk.
12:35 p.m.: A student reported their driver-side mirror was ripped off their car in Lot P.
8:26 p.m.: The Stevens Point Police Department called to be let into a room in Neale Hall.

April 17
1:06 p.m.: A citation was issued to a student at May Rock Hall for underage drinking.
1:23 p.m.: A citation was issued to a student at Thomson Hall.
2:30 p.m.: The smell of marijuana around Knutzen Hall was reported.
3:00 p.m.: A citation was issued to a student at Pray-Sims Hall for underage drinking.
3:09 p.m.: Two citations were issued to students at Neale Hall for underage drinking.

April 18
12:11 a.m.: Baldwin Hall staff called about vomit in the second floor restroom.
6:09 a.m. - A faculty member called stating they had found a suspicious backpack between the door and dumpster by Lot D.
6:59 p.m. - An individual reported an aggressive dog brought into the CAC by a graduate student.

April 19
2:02 p.m. - Someone from the Science Building called about a person skateboarding inside the building after repeated attempts to have him stop.
10:08 p.m. - Someone reported a suspicious person wearing a “hoodie” by the vending machine of the CCC.

April 20
2:05 a.m. - Made a welfare check on an intoxicated student on the south side of the Science Building.
9:43 p.m. - A call was received about someone digging in the trash outside Steiner Hall.

April 21
6:31 a.m. - A call from the National Guard about a student who lives in Pray-Sims Hall and was supposed to report for drill that morning.
11:19 p.m. - A citation was issued to a student at Neale Hall for underage drinking.

Letter to the Editor

GREGOR WALZ

As a Boston native, I’m disappointed in Will Rossmiller’s half-hearted reporting (or research?) for “Happy 100th, Fenway”. For starters, the Bill Buckner blunder in the 1986 World Series happened at Shea Stadium, not Fenway Park (hence the walk-off win for the Mets). While the “Curse of the Bambino” was a fun talking point for (most) baseball fans, “The Curse” was never truly out of fruition until its namesake was published in 1990 by Dan Shaughnessy (who, by the way, is despised by most Boston sports fans). In short, “The Curse” was one sports writer’s fable to make a few bucks.

Fenway Park was not the only home to “one of the greatest come-backs in baseball history.” The Sox won Game 6 (Schilling’s sock) and Game 7 (Damon’s grand slam) of the 2004 ALCS at Yankee Stadium. Rossmiller may have been better suited to highlight Dave Roberts’ steal during the series, so as to better fit the theme of Fenway’s greatest moments.

Rossmiller may have also wanted to note how close Fenway came to being demolished in favor of a new park/stadium in the late 1990s/early 2000s. Incredible support from the public saved Fenway Park. Instead, Fenway got a makeover with Green Monster seats and a deck in right field (among other additions).

Lastly, the 1999 All-Star game at Fenway Park was just incredible. One of my all-time favorite baseball moments was when Ted Williams was introduced during pre-game ceremonies. The Splendid Splinter was chauffeured around the field in a cart. He received a standing ovation that seemed to never end. When he arrived to the pitcher’s mound, every all-star player that night crowded around Williams, hoping to just shake hands with the greatest hitter to ever play the game.

Although I’ve never heard anyone call it “Fenway Stadium,” I agree with Rossmiller that all baseball fans should make it a point to take in a game at Fenway Park.

Andy Davis
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On April 2, the Policies and Facilities Committee of the campus Residence Hall Association (RHA) drew up a proposal for desegregating the individual Suites at 201 Reserve St, meaning that men and women could potentially live together in the same suite. On April 17 the proposal passed the RHA General Assembly with 13 votes in favor, one against and one abstaining. It was then resolved that this proposal be forwarded to Chancellor Bernie Patterson, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Al Thompson and Director of Residential Living Joe Totman.

President of the RHA Andrew Minten, one of the authors of the proposal, said that this legislation was written right around the time the Student Government Association was formulating legislation to implement gender-neutral bathrooms. Minten is fairly confident this proposal will be approved. "When they built the building, this was the original intention," he said.

In the proposal, it is argued that upperclassmen already occupy the Suites and that one should assume "a higher level of maturity from such individuals." It also asserts that "sexuality and gender are now greatly de-emphasized and gender" and "policies (is) no longer practical in the way, is despised by most Boston fans, 'The Curse' was one sports writer's fable to make a few bucks.

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**Tough Test Ahead For Pointers**

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The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point baseball team has been on a hot streak of late, winning nine straight games. But the Pointers have a tough test in front of them, as they return home from conference games away from home.

The Pointers started their winning streak way back on April 11th, the second game of a double header. Stevens Point then accomplished an impressive feat, sweeping UW-Superior in a four-game series over two days.

Point’s next opponent was Edgewood College, who the Pointers outscored 25-9 in a two game set. Then this past weekend Point won both games of a double-header against Ripon College.

“Our team chemistry and our willingness to buy into the team’s goals have been a key to our success. We play hard together and put trust in one another,” said Point closer Ryan Bosen.

Stevens Point has been impressive, but they now come to a very challenging part of their schedule. Point will play two games at UW-Oshkosh, and then travel to rival UW-Whitewater.

Whitewater has compiled a record of 19-11 and are 8-6 in the conference, good enough for third place behind Stevens Point and UW-Lacrosse in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

But just because the Pointers are ahead of the Warhawks doesn’t mean that a four-game series will be easy. All four games will be at Whitewater, and the two always play each other close.

“They are certainly one of our biggest rivals,” said Point head coach Pat Bloom. “Every game we have with them is an all-out battle.”

“Whitewater always fields a tough team. Every year they are going to give us good competition and this year is no different,” Iverson said. “I feel that if we play to our capabilities, it’s going to be a great weekend to be a Pointer.”

Not only will Whitewater pose a challenge, but the always-present four-game set in two days is a challenge for any team.

“36 innings in 48 hours is tough,” Bloom said. “The mental fatigue is just as much taxing as the physical fatigue.”

The Warhawks have had a couple of players that have stood out this year, including freshman first baseman Marty Herum, and senior pitcher Kyle Stewart.

Herum has burst onto the WIAC scene, hitting .400 and leading the Warhawks in hits and RBIs. Herum is in the top three in almost every offensive category for Whitewater.

Stewart has started eight games for UW-Whitewater this season, winning seven. The big right-hander has an ERA of 2.50 in 50 and 1/3 innings pitched, including 54 strikeouts.

Whitewater has players they lean on, but for UWSP it has really been a team effort in all aspects of the game.

The Pointers have nine players that are hitting above .300 this season, as well as six players with 22 RBIs or more.

The Pointer pitching staff has also been effective by committee. Seven different pitchers have gotten starts for Stevens Point, and five of them have contributed 25 innings or more.

Even with the balanced attack, coach Bloom knows that there is a lot of room for improvement for this team to reach its full potential.

“We have a young team; sometimes you run into points where the mental and physical points of the game aren’t connecting,” Bloom said.

But when the Pointers are clicking on the mound, at the plate and in the field, look out. “If we string together some good pitching, and some clutch hitting, I think that we can beat anybody,” Bloom said.

“From day one, our team has had our eye on making it to the World Series. We have very talented players and if we play our game. It doesn’t matter who the opponent is, we will have a good shot at beating them,” Iverson said.

The Pursuit of Perfection

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Merriam and Webster define perfection as, "being entirely without fault or defect."

Very few things fall under this definition, in fact it’s probably one of the most difficult adjectives to assign. But White Sox starter Phil Humber needed only 96 pitches to earn it.

Saturday Humber became the 21st pitcher in Major League Baseball history to achieve what is regarded as one of the most difficult acts in all of sports.

The first perfect game in MLB history was thrown June 12, 1880 by John Henry Jewett of the Worcester Ruby Legs of Worcester, Massachusetts. The second was thrown just five days later by John Ward of the Providence Grays. At 20 years and 105 days Ward is the youngest pitcher to ever throw a perfect game.

Those two games, however, aren’t looked at with the same reverence since they came before the modern rules of the game were adopted. Richmond and Ward threw their perfect games underhand, from 45-feet away.

The first perfect game to be thrown from 60-feet, 6-inches was by pitching deity and Hall of Famer Cy Young.

The first, and only, perfect game ever thrown in the postseason was by Don Larsen of the Yankees in Game 5 of the 1956 World Series.

Dennis Martinez became the only player born outside the United States to throw a perfect game when he did it in 1991 for the Montreal Expos.

Since the turn of the century there have been five perfect games thrown including two by future surefire hall of famers; Randy Johnson and Roy Halladay.

Humber’s was probably the unluckiest of the recent perfect games. After being drafted third overall by the Mets in 2004, Humber’s professional career was put on ice when he received Tommy John surgery the next year. Humber’s first win the majors didn’t come until 2010 with the Royals.

The White Sox claimed Humber off of waivers from the A’s last year. His 9-9 record and 3.79 ERA in his first full season with a big club was good enough to merit a spot on the team this year.

In his first start this season Humber threw 115 pitches with seven strikeouts and three walks in a no-decision against Baltimore. A decent line for a pitcher with just 29 starts and 11 wins since being drafted in 2004, but certainly not numbers that would make you think his next game would be perfect.

But that’s the greatest thing about a perfect game; everything has to be perfect.

Humber has to have the right catcher, he has to have teammates that are going to have his back and make plays, and he has to catch the opposing team off guard.

“Perfect game isn’t a pitcher going out and mowing down a lineup. A perfect game is the culmination of hundreds of different factors all going your way in that game. It’s the most difficult thing in baseball because there’s only so much you can control.

If the temperature changes then the ball flies different. If a cloud moves then the sun gets in an outfielder’s eyes. If the batter puts a bigger wad of Red Man in he gets a better look at the ball and breaks up the entire thing.

It’s a perfect game because everything in that instant is literally perfect in every aspect of the game.

Some people don’t think perfection equals beauty, but for Phil Humber things couldn’t be more beautiful.
2012 NFL Mock Draft

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The first round of the 2012 NFL Draft will be held tonight, and with the draft becoming more and more popular every year, here is a mock draft of the first round. Check back to next week’s issue of The Pointer to get analysis of the players selected from the NFC North Division teams. Enjoy!

Indianapolis Colts: Andrew Luck, QB, Stanford: This pick has been in the making ever since the Colts found out that Peyton Manning was out for the season last year. Luck is a no-brainer, and will be an excellent NFL player.

Washington Redskins: Robert Griffin III, QB, Baylor: The Redskins can’t screw this one up for nothing; they are going after their franchise quarterback. One thing is for sure; these two quarterbacks will be compared for a long time.

Minnesota Vikings: Matt Kalil, OT, USC: This pick is as much of a no-brainer as the first two picks. The Vikings need a franchise left tackle, and that’s what Kalil is. It’s possible the Vikings might take Morris Claiborne or Justin Blackmon, but that doesn’t make sense.

Cleveland Browns: Trent Richardson, RB, Alabama: Not many running backs like Richardson come around very often. The Browns need a new running back after the departure of Peyton Hillis. Sounds like a perfect match.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Morris Claiborne, CB, LSU: With Tampa’s top corners Asghar Bilal likely spending some time in jail and Ronde Barber being 37-years-old, the Buccaneers need a huge playmaker in Claiborne, who can shut down one half of the field.

St. Louis Rams: Justin Blackmon, WR, Oklahoma St: The Rams have needed a big play receiver ever since Torry Holt’s glory days ended. With Blackmon, they get a player that could develop into an elite receiver in the NFL. Sam Bradford will be happy.

Jacksonville Jaguars: Melvin Ingram, DE, South Carolina: The versatile Ingram will slot in perfectly for the Jaguars as a pass rushing defensive end, which the Jags desperately need. It’s also very possible that the Jaguars could trade out of this pick.

Dolphins: Ryan Tannehill, QBS Texas A&M: The Dolphins get, who they believe, is their quarterback of the future. If they are afraid another team wants him, don’t be surprised to see them trade up.

Carolina Panthers: Stephon Gilmore, CB, South Carolina: Gilmore has been shooting up draft boards and really fits a need for the Panthers. Carolina gave up 28 passing touchdons, and their cornerbacks only accounted for four interceptions.

Buffalo Bills: Riley Reiff, OT, Iowa: The Bills shore up the blind side for Ryan Fitzpatrick. Not a flashy pick, but a very good value pick for what the Bills need.

Texas City Chiefs: David DeCastro, G, Stanford: It’s rare to see a guard this high in the draft, but DeCastro is not your regular offensive lineman. He will step in and play either guard position for the Chiefs, and will be a rock for them for years to come.

Seattle Seahawks: Luke Kuechly, ILB, Boston College: The Seahawks lost starting middle linebacker David Hawthorne to the Saints this offseason, and Kuechly will fit perfectly in his absence.

Arizona Cardinals: Michael Floyd, WR, Notre Dame: The Cardinals finally get a passing threat to pair with Larry Fitzgerald. Kevin Kolb will also be pleased to have more options to throw to.

Dallas Cowboys: Mark Barron, SS, Alabama: The Cowboys secondary is a mess, but Barron can help them out right away at the safety position. He has been a big riser of late, and could possibly go higher.

Philadelphia Eagles: Fletcher Cox, DT, Mississippi State: Cox will be a dynamic player up the middle for any defense, and will be a big help to Philly’s run defense. This is a steal for the Eagles, as Cox could go in the top 10.

New York Jets: Courtney Upshaw, OLB, Alabama: Upshaw will fit well in a rush linebacker position for the Jets, who really need a player to get after the quarterback.

Cincinnati Bengals: Dre Kirkpatrick, CB, Alabama: Even with possession of marijuana charges against Kirkpatrick, the Bengals cannot let this dynamic player slip past them. Kirkpatrick is an athletic freak, and will be a good corner in the NFL.

San Diego Chargers: Whitney Mercilus, OLB, Illinois: Mercilus is the best pass rushing outside linebacker left on the board for the Chargers, who have needed one for a very long time.

Chicago Bears: Quinton Coples, DE/DT, North Carolina: Coples could fall a long way, but the Bears will be very happy to stop the fall. Coples, paired with Julius Peppers, will haunt the dreams of NFC North quarterbacks.

Tennessee Titans: Dontari Poe, DT, Memphis: The Titans have spent their first round on their defensive line this offseason, but cannot pass on Poe, who is possibly one of the most athletic defensive tackles ever.

Cincinnati Bengals: Cordy Glenn, C, Georgia: With their second pick, the Bengals attempt to improve their offensive line. In Glenn, the Bengals get a player that can play both guard positions, and right tackle.

Cleveland Browns: Kendall Wright, WR, Baylor: With their second pick, Cleveland gets a fun new toy for quarterback Colt McCoy to throw to. This pick fits a need, and Wright is one of the best remaining players on the board.

Detroit Lions: Janoris Jenkins, CB, North Alabama: The Lions add to their bad guy image by drafting Jenkins, who had to transfer from Florida for off-field issues. Minus these, Jenkins is a top 15 talent.

Pittsburgh Steelers: Don’t call Hightower, ILB, Alabama: The Steelers add their next great linebacker. Hightower, who will be a beast up the middle for this defense. Hightower fits perfectly into one of the Steeler’s 3-4 inside linebacker position.

Denver Broncos: Michael Brockers, DT, LSU: The Broncos don’t have anyone for the middle of their defensive line, and Brockers can come in and make a difference.

Houston Texans: Jonathan Martin, OT, Stanford: The Texans need some help on the offensive line, and Martin is one of the best players available. Martin can come in now and start at right tackle.


They won’t make the mistake again, and fill one of their big needs.

Green Bay Packers: Shea McClellin, OLB, Boise State: You may be asking, who? But McClellin has been skyrocketing up a lot of team’s lists, and will help the Packers find a pass rusher across from Clay Matthews.

Baltimore Ravens: Peter Konz, C, Wisconsin: The Ravens will soon need a replacement for current center Matt Birk, and find that in Konz. He may not start right away, but the Ravens have the luxury to wait.

San Francisco 49ers: Stephen Hill, WR, Georgia Tech: Alex Smith will be happy with this selection, as the 49ers got a play-making wide out that can really stretch the field.

New England Patriots: Harrison Smith, SS, Notre Dame: The Patriots will continue to improve the secondary defense in the league by adding the second-best safety in the draft with Smith.

A Taste of Something Local

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Observations from a Pointer in Ireland

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Food brings people together. It brings out conversation, makes friendships, builds relationships and creates bonds.

In little more than 50 years, we have turned our backs on this important cultural pastime. We seek convenience foods manufactured as cheaply and as efficiently as possible. This not only hurts our health, but negatively impacts our environment as well.

The only way to reverse this is to return to a simpler time - a time when we not only understood how our food was grown, but when many took the time to grow it themselves.

The Central Rivers Farmshed is working to rebuild that connection between our food and us as they expand the local food economy and strengthen our community's relationship with regional landscape.

The Farmshed is a network of people, businesses, organizations and productive lands which strives to provide opportunities for participation, education, cooperation and action to support a local food economy in Central Wisconsin.

Layne Cozzolino, the Interim Executive Director for the Central Rivers Farmshed, came to Stevens Point as a graduate student and took on an internship through the Farmshed's Beginning Farmer Course at Whitefeather Organics and began working at Café Espresso.

"The internship was the best possible thing for this city girl," Cozzolino said. "I knew how to cook, but growing was an entirely new thing for me. I lived in a tipi, learned a ton from a great local farmer and became more in touch with the struggles of those going against the norm in commodity style agriculture the in return trying to build a new food system."

Cozzolino predicts that this time of overabundance and cheating manufactured food will not last forever.

"It's important to set ourselves and future generations up for success. I believe that taking a deep look at the food system is a huge step in creating resilient communities who care for themselves and each other," Cozzolino said.

The Farmshed works hard to ensure that local foods are easily found with easy access, whether you are looking to dine out or find local ingredients to create your own masterpiece.

For all you chefs, the downtown market is a great place to find local foods all year round. If you have a pair of wheels, the Country Store in Plover, Family Food Group in Wisconsin Rapids, and Downtown Grocery and The Plant Seed in Wausau also sell local foods.

For those a little more challenged in the kitchen who are looking for someone else to do the cooking, Café Espresso at Emy J's, the Main Grain Bakery and Zest all incorporate local, organic and seasonal ingredients.

Jacob Marchant, the Manager and Co-Owner of Zest, finds it important to use local foods and to support local and small businesses.

"I know how hard it is to be a small business so it's nice to support. The only two reasons we don't use 100 percent local foods is because of the cost, and it's really hard to find enough fresh produce in the winter," Marchant said.

"We rotate using local foods. We mostly have local fruits and berries because we get them during the summer and freeze them to use during the winter. We also get local chicken that we use in our lunch menu," Marchant said.

After using the word "local" 14 times now, hopefully the word is rolling around in your temporal lobe enough to get you questioning its true meaning. However, the term local is hard to define.

The SACS campus garden is one of many locations in the area that is working to bring more local food to the community.

"Local shouldn't have an exact mileage rate, but should rather be built based on relationships that place resilience, fairness and value in the food we eat and how it is produced," Cozzolino said.

The Farmshed has an annual publication called "The Central Wisconsin Farm Fresh Atlas" that spans 11 counties and lists farms throughout Central Wisconsin. The Farm Fresh Atlas is a great resource to help anyone source local foods. It lists farms throughout Central Wisconsin and what each of them offers, along with markets, grocers, restaurants and many other businesses that support local farmers.

To learn more about the local farmers that feed you, the 2012 version of the Farm Fresh Atlas was recently released and can be found in various places around the town, including the Stevens Point Co-Op.

"The currency is Great British pounds and the smallest note they make is the "fiver" or the five pound note. A single pound is a coin so there are a lot more purchases made with coins rather than notes. We don't want to say bills here because bills apparently mean your underwear so they refer to them as notes. The way that we would say five dollars versus five bucks is the same as them saying five pounds versus five quid. On the second night here with all of my flatmates, one of them asked us Americans if we wanted to go for tea. There was a pizza party planned on the main campus to meet all of the international students so we told him we would go get tea with him but we had no idea. Now after we got back. After eating our fill of pizza and making it back to creative campus, we walked down to a pub/restaurant which I wasn't expecting. I was thinking we would go to a tea shop or coffee house but I soon learned that tea means dinner. We was asking us to go to dinner with him but we had no idea. Now we know.

Local shouldn't have an exact mileage rate, but should rather be built based on relationships that place resilience, fairness and value in the food we eat and how it is produced."
Beer Bottles and Broken Promises

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COMMENTARY

It is apparent at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point that alcohol consumption has and continues to affect its students. However, it is the college's effort and ability to provide services to students that measures their triumph. Outside providing these services, there is a lot of talk about "drinking in moderation" and if that is even possible.

After speaking with Emily Anderson, a senior arts management major and a member of the executive board for the Student Government Association Office, it was evident that this idea of "drinking in moderation" could be possible and that people have their own unique perspectives about drinking. Anderson tells me about how a beer after a long day's work hits the spot.

"I like to go home and have a beer after work, but I don't have a hard time controlling their intake. Some can drink moderately and some irresponsibly. Some think that this is because of the environment as well as the fact that times have changed. Christensen sometimes attempts to get students to do an experiment for which they do not drink for three weeks. "Students will come back even after a week and say, 'I did not realize how interesting that professor was ... I stop drinking and he gets more interesting ... I can't figure this out," Christensen said."

Although these stories may be worth a handful of giggles, there is seriousness in these students' experiences. What they have discovered is that this issue of drinking may only be a hard time controlling their intake. This is why the counseling services in Delzell Hall exist. Dale Christensen began to explain the relation between binge drinking and academic apathy.

"There are students though they are graduating from this campus, they're not able to get in the career they wanted ... so basically thirty months of misusing alcohol off and on destroys or eliminates the possibility of a thirty year career," Christensen said.

Binge drinking is a very important issue. A lot of college students struggle with it. Some can drink sociably and others have become addicted. However, only about six percent of people are dependent on it. This proves it is a selective addiction and drinking in moderation can be attained. Most students just have a hard time controlling their intake. This is why the counseling services in Delzell Hall exists. Dale Christensen would love to talk and help you with any substance abuse issues you may or might have.
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An Activist's Journey Made Public

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It's no secret that students like videos games; pass through any dorm room in the United States and there will be at least a few Call of Duty battles or Sheppard epics waging war against the stars. But it's also no secret that college students aren't the fiscally wealthiest demographic. This is causing a major problem for game developers.

And it isn't just college students that aren'tforking over the average $60 for the new installment of favorite franchises. The NPD Group, an organization that specializes in consumer market research, reports that the sales of physical game copies dropped 8 percent last year.

That number may not seem like much, but it equates to a $2 billion drop. In 2010 the gaming industry brought in $18.6 billion, in 2011 that number plummeted down to $16.6 billion and continues to fall.

While game sales have been on the slide, the PS3 and XBOX 360 console sales went up 9 percent.

"Overall industry results are not entirely surprising given that we are on the back end of the current console lifecycle, combined with the continued digital evolution of gaming," Anita Frazier, industry analyst for The NPD Group, told Plugged-In. "Core gamers continue to be engaged and spend on established franchises across both the digital and physical format using multiple devices for different gaming occasions."

According to a report by the NPD Group, the cause for this drop in core blockbuster game sales is the emergence of free-to-play web based, tablet, and smart phone downloadable games such as the smash hit 'Angry Birds,' which is available for one dollar.

As the smart phone and tablet technology increase in quality, so does the downloadable game sales which has recently given gamers who don't want to spend the $60 on a new hard copy game a new enjoyable alternative.

"People are having fun playing more affordable games," said respected game critic and blogger Rich Greenhill. "The choice and product quality at the bottom end of the pricing scale -- anything under $15 or so -- has grown tremendously in a relatively short period of time. Games like Draw Something, Angry Birds, and Infinity Blade aren't only played by 'casual' gamers."

"Psychologically, $60 just sounds expensive; this isn't anecdotable, its common sense," Greenhill said. "Unless you're financially independent, $60 outright repels a vast slice of the entertainment consumer populace that the games industry desperately needs to convert to grow and survive."

So what does this mean for gamers? Both casual and hardcore alike can expect to see some changes in the coming years in the way games are sold. Downloadable games are one example of a viable future for game makers, downloading a product reduces the manufacturing costs for the industry which then allows them to sell for cheaper.

"It's not just Facebook and smartphones that threaten to steal that audience, the consoles themselves have thriving online stores in Xbox Live Arcade and PlayStation Network, offering game alternatives with high production value and more relaxed pricing," Greenhill said.

The days of high priced console games are being forced by the consumers to come to an end. The trend of dropping sales can't continue and game makers know it.

For Tony Doubek, a sopho­more political science major at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, the past three months have been the most empowering of his life.

"It has been the craziest three months of my life ... but it's been the most freeing," Doubek said as we sat down with him for a cup of coffee on the rainiest day of the month.

Through the Gay Straight Alliance Facebook page, we discovered Doubek's blog telling his life as a transgender student. As soon as we sat down with Doubek it was evident that this blog was more than just his story, but a platform to empower others.

Doubek created the blog, "not because I want to be popular, but I want to reach those kids stuck in that moment of complete self-loathing ... they need to know they are not alone."

Doubek came out as transgender this past February after attending a conference in which he called himself Tony instead of his given name.

"And that's exactly what I needed," Doubek said. On the name tag they asked what pronoun he wanted to use and "I finally decided on 'he'."

Doubek is a spiritual person and the thought of being transgender terrified him.

"To me, altering your body is so wrong ... but I knew what I was but it wasn't acceptable to me," Doubek said. Doubek admits that was transphobic and even had panic attacks over the transition.

"I had a conversation with another transgender friend, a flip switched. His friend asked him, if it was socially acceptable and affordable, would you be transgender?"

"And I said yes ... within a mileisecond I said yes," Doubek said. "I realized was who I was and I couldn't fight it anymore."

Doubek's family has been supportive through his transition.

"My mom struggles with losing her only daughter but I'll give her this, she hasn't kicked me out and never fails to tell me that she loves me," Doubek said.

"Many people ask Doubek how to deal with parents who may not be as understanding. In response, Doubek told them what to do, and slowly take them where they want to be taken and where you need them ... they're transitioning too ... everyone's always in transition."

At the same conference that Doubek first identified as Tony, he also emerged as an activist. Doubek noticed the divide when two groups were arguing what to call gay marriage.

"I don't give a sh*t what you call it ... these arguments are what's stopping us from actually getting things done," Doubek said.

After coming back from the conference he saw "The Normal Heart," put on by the UWSP Theatre and Dance Department. "I realized how badly I wanted to be an activist," Doubek said, and soon changed his major to political science.

Doubek wants what he calls the "Universe of Rights" movement to unify encompass all human rights. Doubek finds it ironic that in a land of free people "I am actually a second class citizen."

In the future Doubek wants to continue his activist work without forgetting the power of art.

"I will be an activist and I will work hard, but I will never lose my art," Doubek said, who is a former music major.

A passionate activist, Doubek's journey continues as his blog currently hits 28,000 views and is growing by the day.

"When I was little I had two things: I wished on the evening star to be a boy and I prayed to God that my life would be worth something ... be careful what you wish for because it'll become true.

Doubek's blog may be found at http://boxersandbinders.blogspot.com/
POIN-TAN by Randy Shaw

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The Pointer

comics of the week

Photo by Amanda Hayn

Photo of the week

classifieds

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# An Alternative take on ‘The Crisis of Civilization’ by John Zerzan

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I was disappointed to find a hos­tile letter in last issue’s opinion sec­tion from a student who attended philosopher John Zerzan’s talk, “The Crisis of Civilization.”

I have to admit, it was a pretty dense lecture that could have been tailored better to students not famil­iar with social and environmental problems or anthropological termi­nology. Also, I can understand that the philosophy Zerzan espouses might be unsettling- even aggravat­ing- for some of the people who heard him speak. Especially for mid­dle class, college students (many of whom were probably only in attend­ance for extra-credit opportunities) that may have never considered the magnitude of well-hidden, structural violence necessary in order to make many of the cheap and convenient luxuries (McChickens, gasoline, elec­tronic gadgets, etc.) possible for their consumption. But what upset me enough to write this was that much of the opinion letter was riddled with emotionally charged rhetoric, and read more like a passive-aggressive “straw person” to defame a person, rather than a critical review of the lecture’s content.

Many of the questions that were present in the letter (to my knowledge, only one was asked by the writer of the “review” during the actual lec­ture) could have been answered if he would have just stayed for the whole thing. Zerzan defined prim­itivism as being a society not practic­ing domestication (agriculture and the division of labor) and he explained Green Anarchy as being a way of life not characterized by controlling/ dominating people and nature. He differentiated between a tool (which is a technological object) and tech­nology (the systems of technological processes, objects, and developers of objects, knowledge, users, and the worldview responsible for them). For Zerzan, modern technology and industrial innovation will never solve the environmental and social problems we face, simply because it is the cause of our environmental and social problems. Zerzan thinks that the only way out of this mess is to transi­tion towards a more decentralized, land-based way of life and hunter­gatherer band societies offer inspira­tion for what this future way could potentially look like. If anyone had any problems with what he talked about, instead of interrupting (this is a public lecture remember, not a class lesson) they could have waited until the Q&A. Plenty of insightful questions to the lecture’s contents were answered and many folks stuck around even after the conclusion of the event to chit­chat with Zerzan about his ideas.

As far as “the majority of the audience” leaving in disgust and the inflammatory question of Zerzan’s “intoxication”: this is downright defamatory slander, written in a vengeful tone by someone who was probably angry to find that a lecture with more than 230 people in atten­dance cannot be paused to accom­modate the needs of an individual person who “just wasn’t getting it.” This is what social psychologists call a confirmation bias: the tendency of people to selectively remember infor­mation in a biased way that confirms their beliefs or opinions. From the very back of the theater I could see more than half (which qualifies as a majority) of the audience stayed until the Q&A. Additionally, every single Zerzan book and pamphlet that was brought to the event (more than fifty) were taken by people who were seemingly satisfied. The amount of individuals- those who were so inter­ested that they purchased books and took pamphlets- dwarfs the amount of people asking the question of his intox­ication by a factor of more than fifteen. But to be fair, the reviewer did leave more than an hour early, so how would he know?

## 25 Reasons to Throw Your T.V. Out the Window

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1. It would be ridiculously fun!
2. You would learn how to repair a window (and quickly, before the landlord noticed)
3. You would have an average of two and a half hours more free time in the day.
4. After a few weeks of no TV the first time you watched TV again it would seem amazing and you could really notice how fast technology is improving.
5. The amount of time spent being brainwashed by corporate media might increase your ability to think for yourself (whether you realize it or not).
6. It would decrease your viewing of 3,000 plus advertisements per day to just over 1,000.
7. You could decide how to live your life instead of being told how to live.
8. That’s a lower electricity bill (assuming you throw the TV out of the window when not heating or cooling the room).
9. That’s a less noticeable ass­crevice in the couch.
10. More time spent learning a new skill, or on a hobby, or convers­ing with other sentient beings, or playing with a pet, or gardening, or exercising, or dancing, or cooking, or cleaning... well maybe not cleaning... making a mess! Or reading, or educ­ing yourself.
11. More time spent actually living- touching, seeing, smelling, you know, tasting the real world for your­self.
12. A chance to do some interior decorating to replace that space that held that electronic god with all the chairs pointed at it.
13. You will feel like a raging caveman symbolically rejecting the evils of modern society.
14. By destroying a TV, which then needs to be cleaned up and recy­cled properly, and having two and a half more hours per day to do other stuff like volunteer or have a hobby, you will help end the great recession by stimulating the economy.
15. Depending on the size and shape of the TV, finding an appropri­ate window could be difficult, caus­ing the brain to be exercised.
16. Once you throw your TV through the window you can act as a consultant to your friends on how to best eject their television from their living quarters. Then you can lend a hand and teach them how to fix a broken window properly.
17. Once the TV is no longer the stick. A hand and teach them how to fix a broken window properly.
18. The rubble on your lawn will keep bikers and squatters off of it while providing habitat for beneficial insects.
19. The simple act could catalyze a series of events which could change your life forever.
20. You will have room for another home project - book shelves.
21. Because you have a laptop and that’s enough.
22. It will be a good story for your grandchildren (Of course you will have to explain what 2D images and television were).
23. Now you can have crazy-fun circus acts in the living room stress free.
24. It would make a really cool youtube video (especially if you dressed up in a gorilla costume!).
25. Since you are planning to do it anyway, you could wait for the perfect situation and prank a friend for free or two by screaming profanities then hurling the TV through the nearest window in a “fit of rage.”

Photo courtesy of Ambrozjo on stock.xchng
Eco-Fair Spreads Awareness

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Amid the shouts of booth vendors and cheers of lunchtime in the Dreyfus University Center, the Eco-Fair was taking place all in its glory.

Used as an educational tool, the Eco Fair brought to light environmental issues that the average person may not be aware of. As a part of the Natural Resources 478 class, "Environmental Issues and Action," students highlighted different aspects of environmental awareness, such as composting.

"It’s a good way to get the issues out and raise awareness to incorporate compost in everyone’s day-to-day life and choose more sustainable practices," said Tessa Trezbiatowski, a student in NR 478.

The issues’ awareness extended to more than just classes as student organizations brought their own information to the mix. One in particular was Students for Sustainable Communities (SSC) advertising their organization as a whole and Earth Day, which took place on April 21.

"The best thing about this Eco Fair is that it showcases how many possibilities there are for everyone on campus to be environmentally aware and to take responsibility for the environment," said Jordan Winklel, the president of SSC.

Amphibians are used in a wide variety, such as studies to produce antibiotics, cancer research and learning more about how eco-change affects the environment.

To promote community change, the Raptor Education Group from Antigo, WI, had their booth set up to educate students on the rehabilitation center for orphaned birds and safety procedures to help save injured birds. As wildlife educators, they take the birds that wouldn’t be able to survive back into the environment and instead use them as education birds.

"These birds are not given names because they are not pets. You actually have to get a state/federal permit to have an education bird. Becoming an education bird is a rare case because 60 percent of the birds found are released back into the wild," said Karissa Mohr, a wildlife educator and UWSP alum.

Along with information, the wildlife educators brought along education birds - a Saw-Whet owl who lost its eye and experienced brain damage from a car accident, and a Warbol Falconer who can’t hunt because of weak feet. These birds showed students first hand what rehabilitation is all about.

This goes to show that educational fairs and events can offer insight into deeper issues that affect the student body and even the world as a whole. Look for the Eco Fair next year to learn about more ways to get involved in environmental protection or at the involvement fair next fall.