

the pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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2 NEWS

January Brings New Chief for IT

SARAH MCQUEEN

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There will be a new Chief Information Officer (CIO) and director of the Information and Technology Department starting in January 2013.

The Information Technology (IT) department offers help for students with computer issues, be it hardware, software, networking, or repair issues. The IT department is staffed by just under 50 people who work to offer IT support, telephone support, web and media services and a number of other services.

Dave Dumke will be stepping down as director of the Information and Technology Department. Marsha Henfer will be taking his place as of next January.

"I look forward to learning about what works well today, in addition to technology challenges or gaps, and then finding and implementing solutions that are right for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The employees in the Department of Information Technology are a great group of professionals, and we will work together in these efforts," Henfer said.

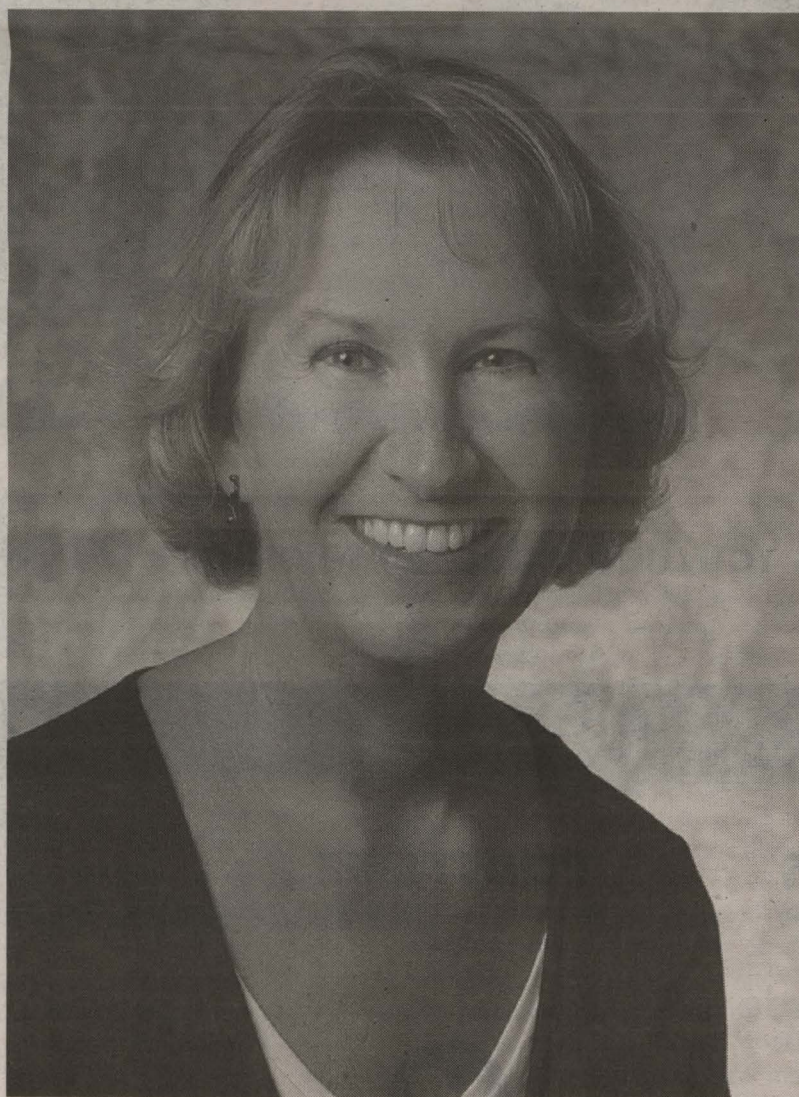
Greg Summers, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, said that the search for a replacement began last summer,

right after Dumpke turned in his resignation. Summers said that a search committee brought several candidates to campus in the fall, and the final decision was made sometime in November. Dumpke declined giving any comments on his resignation.

"Earlier this year, it was shared that UWSP would be recruiting for a new CIO. Being familiar with the campus and having a home in the area, I had an interest," Henfer said. "When the position announcement became public, I reviewed the expectations and decided to submit my application materials to the search and screen committee."

Henfer has most recently worked as the CIO for the University of Wisconsin - Extension. She has 22 years of experience in her field, including time at Mid-State Technical College and the Legislative Technology Services Bureau.

"In the past few months, I've had the opportunity to meet a number of people, staff, faculty and students and have found folks to be passionate about what they do and the school," Henfer said. "Technology can be a great tool to support teaching and learning as well as daily operations. Since technology options are endless, the trick can be choosing and incorporating the right type of technology."



Marsha Henfer is the new CIO and Director of Information Technology at The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

December 1st

10:35 p.m. - Three individuals were caught by protective services with open intoxicants outside of the HEC building.

5:01 p.m. - A female student called PS to report a harassment incident.

7:14 a.m. - A faculty member reported that she left her Ipad in a campus vehicle the previous night and requested the keys to the vehicle back to receive it. Another faculty member called reporting the same issue. Both were informed PS could not do that.

5:55 a.m. - A Pray Sims staff member called saying a student had reported that the 3rd floor bathroom urinals were running and gushing water "in a frightening manner."

2:15 a.m. - An individual called claiming to have been struck by a baseball bat, the Stevens Point Police Department was called.

2:04 a.m. - Staff from Neal Hall called PS stating that someone stole strung Christmas lights from the outside of the building.

1:20 a.m. - PS stopped an individual in front of Baldwin hall for "behaving suspiciously."

November 29th

4:45 p.m. - Staff member called to report that he observed three college students ice fishing on Lake Jonas. He explained to the students that the lake was not completely frozen and still has open water, that it was obviously not safe, and that he was not responsible for them.

November 28th

11:23 p.m. - Complaint of residents of Neal Hall shining a laser-pointer at people outside, apparently subject had not received the notification that laser pointers have been around for over a decade and were no longer a source of entertainment.

11:20 a.m. - SDDP reported receiving a call regarding concern of marijuana in the Suites

November 27th

10:23 p.m. - Marijuana odor reported coming from a Thompson Hall room.

9:57 p.m. - Caller reported that a room in the Suites had a strong odor of marijuana and requested PS assistance.

8:13 p.m. - Staff from Steiner Hall called and reported yet another marijuana smell coming from one of their rooms.

THE POINTER

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UWSP offers Grant to Improve English Skills

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The Almond-Bancroft School District received a grant from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point for the creation of the English Language Learner (ELL) Program.

Lisa Vann, a 2007 graduate of UWSP and the ELL Coordinator at the Almond-Bancroft High School, had the idea to create this program.

"Our English Language Learner Program was created to address the needs of our diverse population of Spanish speakers. Approximately 23 percent of our population has been Hispanic," Vann said. "The program helps teachers differentiate instruction through resources in the ESL department, assists with translations to and from home, and allows for interventions aligning with RTI and the Common Core to take place in the district."

The purpose of the ELL Program is to provide instruction in English, as well as academic support to students who have difficulty reading, writing, speaking, listening to and comprehending English. It was created to enable them to become successful not only in a traditional classroom setting, but the overall school environment and the community.

Growing up, Spanish was the primary language in Vann's household, so she knows how most of these students feel.

"My mother is from Seville, Spain, so I know what it is like to be an ESL student and how crucial it is to have the right resources in order to succeed academically. Technology bridges the gap for all learners, so I

knew that an effective program would increase the communication between home and school. By teaching the Spanish families English and the English-speaking teachers Spanish, we have removed the barriers of communication and opened the doors for more frequent and effective collaboration between families and faculty," Vann said.

Most of the Almond-Bancroft school district's families speak Spanish, so the ELL Program, with its online literacy labs, will help to enhance learning of the English language. The labs will go over core subjects such as math, English, social studies and science.

Vann's great idea made her the seventh person to receive the Oscar W. Neale Fellowship, which includes a \$10,000 reward. The Neale Fellowship honors Oscar W. Neale and is awarded to professional development projects that involve UWSP and other local schools.

"Oscar W. Neale spent his life serving and educating underfunded populations in rural areas with limited resources. His legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of over 300 students having access to a math and language literacy lab for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. High school students will visit the UW-Stevens Point campus to hopefully reciprocate and pay forward the gift they received thanks to the Oscar W. Neale family's generous gift," Vann said.

Patricia Shaw, the associate dean and department head of the UWSP School of Education, likes having the ability to award scholarships, this fellowship in particular.

"It is rewarding to have a former student be the recipient of such a generous award, knowing her passion for teaching and the deep compassion she has for her students. I am very proud of Lisa and of the quality education she received at the UWSP School of Education and the UWSP Foreign Language Department," Shaw said.

"As a 2007 graduate of Stevens Point, I knew where to find the best team of future educators who would help our school with interventions in literacy because I also had the same educational background with highly esteemed faculty from UW-Stevens Point," Vann said.

The ELL Program also includes a partnership with students at UWSP majoring in education so that they can incorporate these teaching strategies into their curriculum for when they begin teaching in classrooms.

"It is my belief that our students will gain invaluable 'real life' experiences working with the A-B students in this program. These experiences will, in turn, be valuable when they become teachers," Shaw said.

Vann loves her job as a teacher and enjoys working with her students every day.

"I love waking up in the morning and realizing that I have the opportunity to pay forward what my mother and father instilled in me years ago, a love for lifelong learning, while sharing a culture that has nurtured every aspect of who I am today. I adore the smiles on the faces of my students when they reach the 'I got it!' moments of a difficult lesson. Rewards also come from knowing I am helping someone to change a life for the better," Vann said.



Photo courtesy of University Public Relations and Communication Office

Belegarth Fighters Storm Debot Field

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The medieval combat re-enactment sport, Belegarth, has been a nationwide phenomenon since the 90s and has had a presence at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point since 2009.

Chris Johnson, a senior wildlife ecology major and the president of the Belegarth Club on campus, mentions that Belegarth is a sport, not a role-playing game.

"The only benefit you gain on the field is an individual skill. You don't start off with spells or abilities that would make it more of a LARP-type game," Johnson said.

Johnson mentions that LARPing (live action role-playing) and Belegarth are both part of a similar

community of games, but they do have their differences as well. The major difference would be this idea of role-playing versus raw physical contact.

"In a LARP, you're more concerned with playing a character and having a persona you adopt on the field, whereas what we do is just fighting," Johnson said.

Johnson mentions that any role-playing is optional or done off the field. Another difference between these two activities is the amount of physical contact that takes place in both games.

"We are also more heavy contact. In LARP there's a touch system. We have rules for sufficient force. You actually have to hit someone hard enough," said Johnson.

In addition to these differences, there is a scholarship for any

Belegarth student fighter in the country. The Belegarth scholarship was created by David Barely Romanin. Romanin builds and sells equipment for Belegarth fighters and groups throughout the region, including Belegarth at UWSP. All of the profits from those sales go to funding the scholarship.

Physical education major and Vice President of the UWSP Belegarth Club Mel Mikul is a non-traditional student in her second year who has nothing but good things to say about Belegarth.

"I love it. It is also a great stress reliever, especially after a tough test or a long day. There's nothing better than running around a field hitting your favorite buddies with swords for a few hours," said Mikul.

Mikul said she thinks the scholarship is a great opportunity for any

fighter and that she will have to remember to apply herself.

The national board of directors for the support decides on the recipients. The recipients receive a \$500 scholarship. The deadline is January 5, 2013 and will be award the following fall semester.

Johnson mentions that he does not see Belegarth furthering his career as a wildlife biologist, but he has gained leadership skills and has become more athletic. He also mentions that Belegarth does not stress discipline, like other fighting-related sports, but it is self-regulating.

"There have been a lot of people that have grown up in the game. Typically, if you act up on a three-day camping event, everyone gets to hit you the next day. It's self-regulating," Johnson said.

Alcohol Ban Considered

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The Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) task force was created last fall to make recommendations on possible preventative measures for alcohol and drug related incidents on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus and the surrounding community.

The proposition of banning alcohol in UWSP dormitory rooms was proposed by the AODA committee according to a November Stevens Point Journal article. In a Stevens Point City Times article last week, UWSP Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and AODA co-chairperson Al Thompson said that there was no recommendation currently being considered.

The AODA task force is a joint effort between the university and city of Stevens Point with Mayor Andrew Halverson as co-chair. Other community leaders including tavern owners are also part of the committee, offering insight into how to prevent drug and alcohol incidents around the community.

UWSP students currently have to pay a \$90 fine for their first drug or alcohol related infraction on campus. This money funds a Personal Alcohol Control through Exploration (PACE) class that the student must attend which outlines the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Incoming freshmen are also required to take a free online class called "Alcohol-Wise" to educate individuals on safe drinking strategies.

Some UWSP students scoff at the prospect of alcohol being banned in the dorms and point to the need for

better education as a way to curb alcohol and drug related incidents. Kaitlin Schuman, a senior web and digital media development major thinks a ban would be ineffective.

"Honestly, I understand the intentions behind it, but the thing is, policies like that don't stop any of that stuff from happening. There's still going to be underage drinking, there's still going to be people sneaking alcohol in," Schuman said. "The focus of a movement like that should be placed on promoting responsible drinking rather than banning it from

campus and just turning a blind eye."

Senior drama major John Laedtke had a similar opinion on the issue.

"I think it would create situations where students go out and get even more drunk than normal. It would perpetuate the culture of irresponsible drinking and take away students' chance to learn how to drink in more relaxed settings than house parties," Laedtke said.

Senior math major Callen Grulkowski said that he felt the culture of drinking surrounding college was here to stay but that it was not

necessarily a bad thing.

"People will always find a way. Even if you ban alcohol, people will still drink. As long as you have a safe way to get home, as long as kids aren't abusing alcohol, alcohol is fine. Don't drink by yourself and stay together with your friends. If you are going to drink, be safe," Grulkowski said.

There is no definite word on what action will be taken. UWSP is also still considering a campus-wide tobacco ban.



Photo by Samantha Feld

Model UN Prepares for NY Conference

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Students of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point's Model United Nations (UN) organization are preparing to represent Egypt at the National Model UN conference in New York City in March 2013.

Model UN is a conference that takes place all over the world. The conference is meant to simulate the happenings of the real United Nations by assigning specified countries to teams of students from around the world. Stephanie Metropulos, president of Model UN, will be attending the conference.

"Each school represents one or two countries depending on the number of members participating. UWSP traditionally has only one team, and this year we will be Egypt, which is huge. Right now, Egypt is a country at the forefront

of international politics," Metropulos said.

In the past, UWSP has represented Iraq, Guatemala, Columbia, Japan and a few other countries at the conference. Once at the conference, each country is divided up into committees that reflect the UN committees that each country currently represents.

The overall goal of the conference is to best represent the country assigned. This means that each school must do research and study their country: its foreign policy, economics, leaders and the culture. Committees are then made up based on the characteristics of each country in the hopes of solving a problem.

"Last year, as Iraq, I was on a committee on the status of women. In order to accurately represent Iraq on a committee about women, my partner and I had to have an understanding of the Koran," Metropulos said. "Iraq supports women's rights so long as

they do not conflict with the Koran."

There is a variation of committees for the overall conference. Some write resolutions and reports in relation to the topic, but many committee members may just observe what is going on in the assembly. The conference takes four days in New York City, and the last day of the conference is within the General Assembly room of the United Nations building.

Faculty advisor and political science professor Jianwei Wang believes that the Model UN and the conference are an excellent way to learn about the world's issues and expand one's knowledge on a variety of topics.

"Model UN is good exposure for the students. It is useful for them to immerse themselves into someone else's shoes and take a new look at the views of other people," Wang said. "It opens intellectual horizons and

nurtures an interest in the awareness of international issues."

Wang also offers a political science course that helps Model UN members get ready for the conference, something he calls "international simulation." The course is about the UN and teaches students the basics of the assembly so they can practice mock sessions before the conference.

"The conference is good practice for the students. It allows them to use what they have learned in the classroom and at our meetings for the organization," Wang said. "They are learning valuable communication skills that they can use and apply to many different things outside of the conference and classroom."

The Model UN meets weekly at 7:30 p.m. in the Reference Studio of the UWSP library. Students of all majors are encouraged to attend the meetings to learn more about the organization or join to participate.

Murder/Suicide Shocks NFL and Fans

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This past Saturday, tragedy struck the sports world. Jovan Belcher, a linebacker for the Kansas City Chiefs, killed his girlfriend, Kasandra Perkins, then proceeded to take his own life.

Belcher, in his third year in the NFL out of the University of Maine, drove to the team's facilities after shooting his girlfriend and committed suicide in front of general manager Scott Pioli, head coach Romeo Crennel and linebackers Coach Gary Gibbs.

In the saddest news, Belcher and Perkins leave their child Zoey Belcher an orphan at 3 months.

Even after the tragedy, the Chiefs still decided to play their game on Sunday against the Carolina Panthers. In less important news, they won, 27-21.

Belcher started for most of three seasons with the Chiefs after being undrafted out of college. Belcher was introduced to Perkins by teammate Jamaal Charles.

One of the truly disgusting things on Saturday and the days following had to be the coverage of the media and some fans.

Initially, the report on the suicide did not give a name for the player. It was reported that in some cases fans

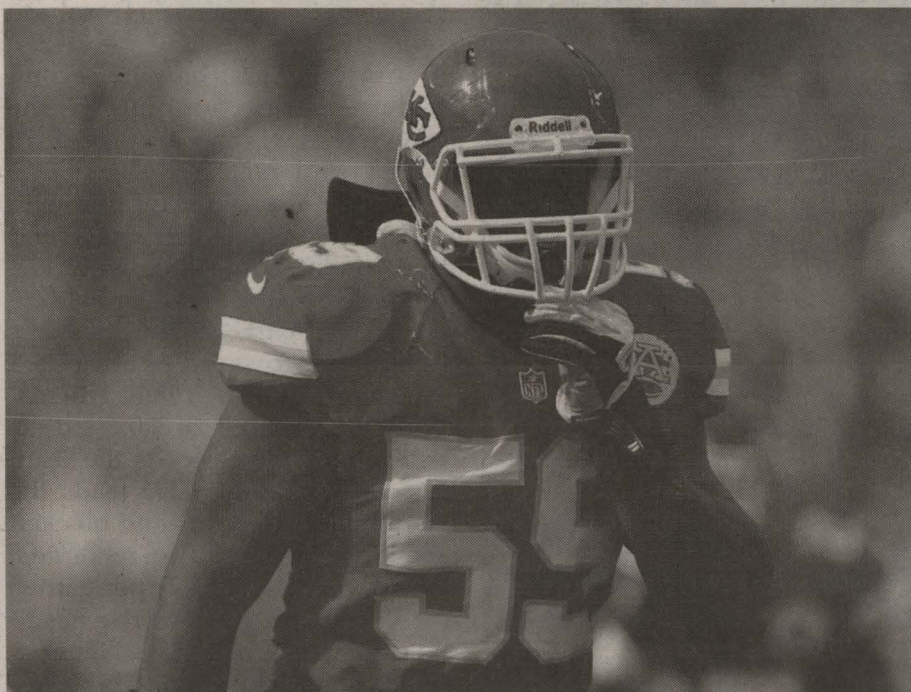


Photo courtesy of Business Insider

were complaining about not releasing the name because it could affect their fantasy team.

That is just sick. This is a person's life we are talking about, not some fantasy game that has no meaning whatsoever.

Another issue was the post-game press conference with Romeo Crennel. This man just witnessed a suicide less than 48 hours ago, but reporters still had to ask multiple

questions about it.

"I think that, respectfully, to you guys and ladies, I'm choosing not to answer any questions about what I saw yesterday" Crennel said in a post-game interview to the media. "I think you will understand that and, hopefully, you will respect my wishes on that because it wasn't a pretty sight, so I'm choosing not to talk about it."

The fact that Crennel even had to

say this is unacceptable, but media members will say they had to ask, which is blatantly not true.

Of all the things said on the Belcher issue this past week, Brady Quinn struck the biggest chord with many fans.

"When you ask someone how they are doing, do you really mean it? When you answer someone back how you are doing, are you really telling the truth?" Quinn said, in an interview with media after the game.

"We live in a society of social networks, with Twitter pages and Facebook," Quinn said. "Half the time we are more preoccupied with our phone and other things going on instead of the actual relationships that we have right in front of us. Hopefully, people can learn from this and try to actually help if someone is battling something deeper on the inside than what they are revealing on a day-to-day basis."

This tragedy has brought to light something that many of us forget from time to time: NFL players, and all professional athletes, are human just like us.

We place them on such a high pedestal that we forget that they are just like us. They have their ups and downs like we do. They have major flaws just like us. We aren't so different from them.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

with Gus Merwin

Women's basketball (4-2) completed the sweep against UW-Oshkosh with a 64-55 victory at home Wednesday. The Pointers travel south of the border Saturday for a game against the University of Chicago. Tipoff is 2 p.m.

Men's hockey (5-5-1) hosts UW-Stout at K.B. Willett Arena Friday and Saturday, both games begin at 7 p.m. Saturday's game marks the Teddy Bear Toss for charity. Bring a teddy bear to the game and throw it on the ice after the Pointers first goal to help a child in need.

Women's hockey (6-2-2) travels to Minnesota this weekend to face St. Scholastica, Friday and Saturday; games at 4 p.m. and 2p.m., respectively.

Point wrestling (6-1) will try and carry last week's success in La Crosse over to this week when they host UW-Platteville, starting at 7 p.m. Friday.

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Men's Season a Slam Dunk So Far



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

Jordan Giordana takes an acrobatic shot.

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It may be early in the season, but the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball team has put on a strong showing.

The Pointers, ranked 7th in Division III, hold an undefeated 6-0 record and have an average margin of victory of more than 12 points per game.

Wednesday, senior guard Tyler Tillema dropped 20 points as the Pointers won on the road against UW-Oshkosh, 74-53. UWSP shot 63 percent from the field in the first half.

The best part of the Pointers early season success is, according to Assistant Coach Kent Dernbach, the team still hasn't shown what they are fully capable of.

"We certainly haven't played close to our best basketball yet," Dernbach said. "We are not there

yet. Going forward, our guys know how much better we have to be on both ends of the court and continue to work to play 40 minutes rather than playing short stretches of good basketball."

Considering the perfect record so far, the team has to have done some things right. Dernbach pointed to three specifics that the team has executed well.

According to Dernbach, one of the strengths of this team is the poise they have shown in tough situations. "That is probably the most important characteristic about this team, the poise they've shown this season," Dernbach said.

Dernbach also cites that, although the defense has not played up to the coaches expectations, they have made big stops when they had to.

The Pointers have also had a strong start on the offensive side of the ball. "We've shot the ball

well from the field and also from the free throw line," Dernbach said.

Stevens Point has the second highest scoring output in the conference, with an average of 79 points per game.

UWSP is also tied for first with an 82.2 free throw percentage and third in the conference with 49.1 percent shooting from the field.

A big part of the Pointers offensive success can be attributed to senior guard, Tyler Tillema. With an average of 20.6 points per game, Tillema leads the team in scoring. Tillema also leads the team in assists, steals and blocked shots. He is second in rebounds, with an average of five per game.

But the biggest surprise has to be 6' 8" center, Clayton Heuer, a transfer student from University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Coming into the season, Dernbach and the Pointers coaching staff didn't know what

to expect from the big man, but Heuer has stepped up in his expended role with the Pointers.

Heuer is currently second on the team in scoring, with 15.8 points per game and leads the team with 5.4 boards per game.

"We've gotten some great post play from Clayton. He's developed and helped us with an inside presence," Dernbach said. "Clayton has really stepped up from game one for us."

Dernbach says that the team can still improve its defensive play to be more consistent, and the team also hopes to continue to have multiple players score points, but if everything clicks, teams better watch out for the Pointers.

Stevens Point's next home game comes Saturday against conference rival, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Tipoff is at 7 p.m., so get down to the Quandt Fieldhouse and support your Pointers men's basketball team.



Photos by Jack McLaughlin

ABOVE: Tyler Tillema was named the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference men's basketball Athlete of the Week.

BELOW: Tyler Tillema drives to the basket.

Ugly Sweater Parties Hit 54481

SAMANTHA FELD

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When I was about ten years old, my grandma bought me a holiday sweater. It was a cardigan: turquoise, featuring about ten tiny beaded snowmen surrounded by pink sequined trees. For a young girl who had an irrational fear of both anything sparkly and the color pink, this sweater brought about much anxiety.

Today this sweater would have come in handy. This past weekend, the cultural phenomenon that is the Ugly Christmas Sweater Party seemed to take over Stevens Point. I did some research on the origins of these parties and discovered a few possible sources.

The first one came from a book entitled "Ugly Christmas Sweater Party Handbook: the Definitive Guide to Getting your Ugly on." It declared that the first ugly sweater party was held in Vancouver, Canada.

In 2007, the popularity of these parties exploded with the launch of the website www.UglyChristmasSweaterParty.com, which got the word out about a use for these ugly sweaters.

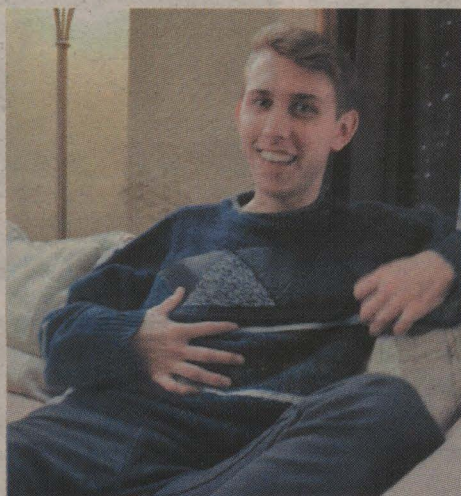


Photos by Samantha Feld

ABOVE: Marilyn Garcia wearing a top of the line holiday sweater, featuring a cozy living room complete with a tree and knitted gifts.

TOP RIGHT: Sarah Mark got creative and added a few oversized sparkly snowflakes to her bunny sweater.

RIGHT: Jacob Burr shows off his Bill Cosby style sweater. No holiday sweater is complete without a couple of joyful snowmen.



These parties were also featured on the list of Stuff White People Like in 2008. Author Christian Lander explored what he called the greatest difficulties of preparing for these parties: "Craftier white people have been searching used clothing stores since last Christmas, and so you should not expect to find anything for significant ironic value."

The part-nostalgia, part-hipster phenomenon made it to Stevens Point, where I was able to further explore the beauties of Christmas sweaters.

I walked into the house to find partygoers scattered about the festively decorated living room. It felt like a family holiday party circa 1980, considering the quantity of over-the-top holiday attire. Camera in hand, I summoned my inner Joan Rivers. As she does on any red carpet of any awards show, I began my search for the best of the best. Or, in this case, the ugliest of the ugly.

My first sweater wearing "celebrity," as we will call them, was Jason Burr. He was sporting a lovely chunky sweater that reminded me of Bill Cosby. No, it wasn't a holiday sweater

specifically, but those faux leather triangles scattered amongst the multicolored stripes really set this sweater apart from the rest.

I quickly eyed my next partygoer. Chelsey Baeb was wearing what could be called an ugly sweater party essential: the Santa sweater. The Santa sweater can come in a variety of fashions. In this case, Santa was standing stoically amongst majestic woodland creatures that were covered in a light dusting of knitted snow.

My favorite type were the do-it-yourself sweaters. The DIY ugly Christmas sweater takes the potential for kooky knitted nonsense to all new heights. A couple of my favorite DIY sweaters that I saw were by Sarah Mark and Ryland Gulbrandsen. Sarah already owned a bunny sweater but decided to take it to a new level with a few oversized, glittery snowflakes. Ryland was the owner of a sweater that had the seams on the outside but wasn't inside out. Ryland decided that the natural thing to accompany the front of this sweater was a small plaid puppy decal, making this sweater one of the most memorable for me.

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Sibling Assistance

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The Family Communication class, Communication 389/589, will be presenting a student-run workshop based on conflict management and relational maintenance in sibling relationships on December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Communication Arts Center, room 333.

The idea behind the workshop is to provide people with concrete and usable strategies for enhancing and maintaining their adult sibling relationships. The workshop will be a presentation of the research the class has been conducting all semester. In the beginning of the semester, the class selected several topics they would like to present on and then took a vote for the final choice.

"It is entirely their work, from start to finish," said Sylvia Mikucki-Envart, an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the instructor of Comm 389. "From what they wanted to talk about and the research to present on to the content of it—it's 100% their work. I have just been facilitating and guiding along the way, but they came up with it all on their own. It has been really exciting to see them start looking at research and start turning it into something meaningful."

The class consists of 16 undergraduate students and two graduate students. The two graduate students, Amanda Ferrante and Margaret Rohr, not only wrote their

own material for the workshop but also helped to edit and combine the contributions of the undergraduate students.

"I would say working on the final script was my biggest contribution," Rohr said. "It was very important to Dr. Mikucki-Envart that Amanda and myself contribute the most to it. Hopefully, with some of the tweaks she wants to make to it, it will be something worthwhile to present to the community."

"I am looking forward to sharing all of the knowledge and research that our team has found," Ferrante said. "Mostly, I am looking forward to empowering our audience by making them aware that they hold the power to change their relationships for the better or improve upon things they already practice."

The workshop is open and free to the entire community. Mikucki-Envart is looking forward to the opportunity to showcase the work her students have been doing. She is also pleased that her students have had the chance to take theories from the classroom and see them applied in real-life situations.

"I think it's a great opportunity for people to get a chance to see what the division is about, know what we do when we talk interpersonal communication," Mikucki-Envart said. "I think it is a nice display for the division to show just how talented our students are and the hard work they do."

Ferrante said one of the

challenges they faced while putting together the workshop was taking the academic research and compiling it into relatable strategies and ideas that people could use in their everyday relationships.

"There is so much research on this subject, and to narrow it down into a review can be a daunting task. However, I think that our audience will be quite pleased with what we came up with. I am looking forward

to sharing our findings," Ferrante said.

This is the first workshop of its kind to be put on in the Communication Department. Mikucki-Envart stated that this could be helpful for anyone in a sibling relationship, no matter what their age. She is hoping for interest from the surrounding community and a large turnout.



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Student Lands Awesome Internship

RACHEL PUKALL
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Megan Van Sambeek, a junior double majoring in International Studies and Spanish at the UW-Stevens Point, recently received a 10-week internship through the U.S. State Department Bureau.

"My internship is with the U.S. Department of State. I will be working in the American Embassy in Montevideo, Uruguay," VanSambeek said.

VanSambeek's internship will begin in January 2013. She will be in the public diplomacy department and will be the public relations arm of the embassy team, responsible for disseminating information to the Uruguayan public and organizing cultural events.

"I applied for the internship because I thought it would be a good opportunity and there were so many options of bureaus to apply for that sounded really interesting," VanSambeek said.

VanSambeek was shocked when she received an email stating that she was selected as a primary and that her internship would be almost 6,000 miles away.

"I never thought I would actually be chosen. I could compare it to people buying lottery tickets. Everybody knows that the odds are against them, but they buy them anyways hoping that they might be the lucky one," VanSambeek said. "Obviously my odds for the internship were a little bit better than the lottery, but I still didn't think I had much of a chance just because I go to a small school and don't have a 4.0."

Van Sambeek loves to travel. She has traveled abroad in Valladolid, Spain and will be participating in a study in Cuba from January 6 to the 20 this coming year. She has also been to Xalapa, Mexico with her Rotary Youth Exchange Program in High School.

"I have always loved traveling! It is such a rush to go somewhere you

have never been where the culture and people are so much different than your own. I also love taking pictures, and the world is full of beautiful places," VanSambeek said.

Sarah Kent, the International Studies Coordinator, is very excited for VanSambeek and glad that she applied.

"Megan is the only one that applied for the internship so far. I think she is a little unnerved, but thrilled. I know it will be a wonderful experience for her. Montevideo is quite a developed place. I believe students work mostly on secretarial things, like filing things away, and if she's lucky she'll be able to sit in on a conference," Kent said.

Kent loves her job and says that the best part is working with the students.

"International Studies attracts large amounts of students who have international career goals in mind. All

of my teaching is area specific, so it's interesting working with students to see where they can best develop their skills," Kent said.

Kent believes that one of the reasons VanSambeek had an extra edge over other students who applied is because she is also a Spanish major. Knowing another language is an advantage for internships like this. It is very tough to become a Foreign Service Officer, but the internship allows students to experience the difficult career.

"I am most excited about traveling to a new country and other travel opportunities while I am there. I hope to learn about the everyday functions of an American embassy and more about what it is like to be a Foreign Service officer," VanSambeek said. "I also hope to learn the South American style of Spanish, because I already have learned Mexican Spanish and Spain Spanish."

We Must Love One Another

AARON KRISH

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Thousands of people around the world are bullied every day over their real or perceived sexual identity. To escape the pain of being bullied many resort to ending their life because they feel they have no one to turn to or nowhere to go. In response to such behavior a group of students created a video with a simple message. We must love one another.

UW-Stevens Point student, Zach Young, directed and produced the "We Must Love One Another" video in an effort to raise awareness of the outcome of bullying that affects thousands of people around the world, especially in regards to sexual identity.

The idea for the video came from Young's attendance of UWSP's production of "The Normal Heart" in the spring of 2012. "The Normal Heart" is about a group of gay men and a female doctor who are trying to raise awareness about the AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s in New York City. Theatre professor, Steve Trovillian-Smith directed the show.

"Since the play was written almost 30 years ago and since homophobia is still something the LGBT community is confronted with daily, even on this campus, I wanted to write a prologue and an epilogue that introduced the story and made the point that this is still an issue today," Smith said. "I also wanted to make the point that if you listen to this hate language or stand by when someone else commits a hate crime, then you are guilty as well."

Young attended the show and enjoyed the message it gave. With the permission of Smith, Young took the material written for the prologue and epilogue and adapted it for

We Must Love One Another



To bring awareness to bullying, Zach Halliwell produced and directed the video 'We Must Love One Another'.

the video. Actors on campus were then requested to be a part of the production.

Production for the video took about a month and a half consisting of weeks of finding actors that would be willing to read the script, filming each scene and then putting it all together through the editing process.

"The main message I wanted to convey to the audience was the need to stop sitting by and allowing hatred and intolerance to be perpetuated in our society. There are too many people that die every year from suicide brought on by bullying because of their sexual identity or orientation," Young said.

The video also conveyed, according to Young, that bullying is a two-way street. Young explains that witnessing someone being bullied, or someone saying or doing something

offensive, makes you no better than the person who is doing the bullying.

"It's time for people to stand up for one another, to love each other and defend each other. If more people showed how much they care for one another, then maybe people who are struggling will be able to see how beautiful and wonderful they are and how much they are needed," Young said.

The video hopes to instill a sense of equality and hope to those who are being bullied and hopes to help people understand how serious of an issue this still is today. For those involved in the production, the video is something personal and real. Both Young and theatre student, Lindsey Paquette have personal reasons for their participation.

"As an openly pansexual person, this video hit close to home. I have

been bullied and bashed for who I am, yet I still fight for the equality that I am denied for no reason," Paquette said. "Don't bully someone for something they have no control over - orientation is not a choice. Stop bullying and stand up for those who can't. It's as easy as that."

"I identify as a gay man, so this topic is woven into the thread of my very existence. It's something I deal with every day and I've made it a personal goal in life to make sure I do anything and everything I can to make this world a better place. A safer place where people don't have to worry or hide," Young said.

Young also included information leading to The Trevor Project in the video. The Trevor Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping LGBTQ youth with crisis management and suicide prevention.

"If you are thinking about suicide, tell someone. If you can't get yourself to tell someone then call The Trevor Project," Paquette said. "So many people are out there to help. If you're breathing right now, then you're meant to be alive."

Within the first few days of its release, the video has reached nearly 2,000 views and continues to increase. Young hopes to spread the link as far as possible on multiple platforms so that as many people as possible will see and spread the message he is trying to convey.

"Look at the people around you. Stop, and really look at them. Each person is different. Each person is going through their own struggles and battles. There are so many beliefs out there. So many religions, philosophies, cultures and mindsets. But in all of that, one thing remains true: We are all human and we all deserve love," Young said.

Netflix Service and Students

JUSTIN SULLIVAN

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Netflix, an online digital streaming service and DVD-by-mail provider, could possibly be changing the way some students consume their media. In April of 2011, Netflix claimed that it had over 23.6 million subscribers in the United States and 26 million worldwide. Netflix also claimed \$1.5 billion in revenue from digital sales in 2011.

Rachel Wisniewski, a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point sophomore, has both cable television and Netflix but said she watches the streaming service more often than traditional cable television.

"I can watch what I want, when I want—versus watching television where it's scheduled—and watch it away from home. There is never any-

thing good on T.V.," Wisniewski said.

Wisniewski mainly watches television shows on Netflix such as "The Walking Dead," "Gossip Girl" and "The Office."

Brooke Walsh, a junior secondary math education major, lives with roommates who have both Netflix and cable television. Walsh said that their cable television is watched more.

"It is easier [than Netflix]. I don't have to plug in a computer or anything, and I don't like watching things on my computer," said Walsh, who enjoys Food Network and the History Channel.

Farrah Lisa, a senior English major, canceled both her cable and Netflix services because of monetary reasons but felt that Netflix was lacking in its content. Lisa said that she wanted to more choices with contemporary movies and television shows.

"I don't think it's worth it," Lisa said. "The choices suck."

Junior communication major Cassie Scott has neither cable nor Netflix.

"I don't watch anything on Netflix, except at some of my friends' houses who have the service.

It is handy, but a lot of times we have trouble finding a good movie to watch because the newer ones aren't on there," Scott said.

Scott opts for the free streaming services on a network's website to catch up on the few television shows she would otherwise watch on basic cable.

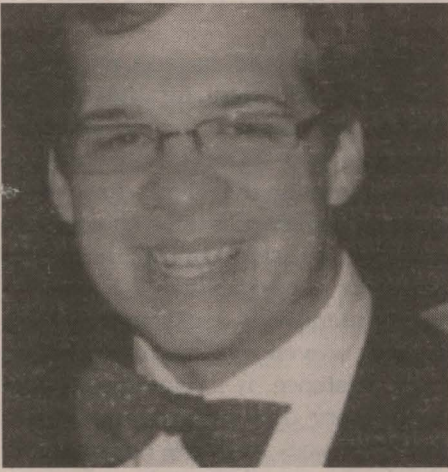
"I don't watch a lot of television because I absolutely hate reality shows," Scott said. "I rent movies from our gas station back home. They have a lot of options and are only \$3 a night for new releases."

With so many students opting for Netflix over cable television, universities across the nation are experiencing issues concerning bandwidth usage on campus. Because networks have become so bogged down with students streaming, students who need the Internet for educational purposes are finding themselves having to wait. Due to this, some universities have blocked access to Netflix during finals week.

Last year, Netflix drew the ire of students when they split their DVD-to-mail service from its streaming service, increasing the price from a \$9.99 monthly fee into two separate \$7.99 fees.

Students are continuously looking for ways to cut expenses. Although Netflix is useful for many students, others view it as just another service to be cut.

OPINIONS



RYAN KERNOSKY

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Everyone, take a deep breath in, now let it out. It's done, over, gone (for now). The 2012 Elections are finished.

But if you're a Republican, you're probably wonder what exactly just happened. I mean, the momentum behind Republican Challenger Mitt Romney was absolutely fantastic (some even compared it to the 2008 Election and the Democrats backing Mr. Obama). There was no way that Barack Obama would beat Mitt Romney. No way.

Yet... It happened. Overwhelmingly if you look at the Electoral College results.

Even the popular vote went uncontested, with Obama winning by just over 4 and a half million votes.

But what does the 2012 Election mean for the Grand Old Party? Where do the Republicans go from here, and what do they need to change?

Now before we get into this hoopla of a conversation that is guar-

anteed to get me a few nasty emails from the Republicans here in this community, let me make this clear. What I'm about to say is my complete and personal opinion (after all, this is the opinion section, right?) and does not reflect one of *The Pointer*, I'm not even a paid staff reporter.

Now that the hatchet has been buried, let us get to the meat and bones of this article, *What does the GOP need to change to stay relevant?* America is changing. We saw it all over this election, Marijuana is now legal for recreational use in Colorado and Washington State, and in Massachusetts it can now be used for medical use. Not to even mention that Maryland and Maine voted to approve Same-Sex Marriage. Lets not forget that Wisconsin elected the first openly gay Senator. No one can control the fact that America is changing, and these are the things that the GOP seems to strongly oppose.

First and foremost, the youth vote. Us, ages 18 through 29 voted overwhelmingly for President Obama. According to Edison Research National Exit Polls, Obama grabbed 60% of the youth vote, with Mr. Romney catching 36%. Think about it, what happens when this youth vote gets older? Will they tend to stay the way they've been voting, or will they become more conservative? In regards to social issues, we tend not to change. So clearly the GOP needs to push something... but what? If they want to win over the younger generation of voters, my suggestion is simple. Stop being so concerned about the social issues. Forget about them. What you need to do is push the idea

that less government control and less taxes are the better solution to go. The younger generation is less caring about whether or not to let same-sex marriage happen, or immigration issues, we are more concerned with getting decent paying jobs after college. You want to win us over? You need to tell us how big government doesn't work.

That brings me to the next point. Do not ignore your Fiscal Conservativeness. You need to win over the Tea Party backers and the Libertarians! This past election, Flip-Flop Mitt was trying too hard to please both the hard right voters and the moderate voters. He went back and forth between them to please both, and failed to do so, which gave the democrats another fantastic platform to run on. Push, push, push this idea of smaller government, and do not forget about the Ron Paul Revolution that encouraged many younger voters to vote more Libertarian (best of both worlds, small government, little government control on social issues), but when Ron Paul withdrew from the GOP ticket in May, many voters who backed Ron Paul refused to back the Republican Candidate for President (much like Mr. Paul himself). From there, the voters tended to go back to the Democratic side because of the Social Issues, not because of Fiscal Issues. I firmly believe that if the Republicans can push for smaller government with less strict social control, they will win over the support of the Libertarians and the Tea Partiers.

One big thing that the GOP needs to adjust is their eerie hatred of Immigrants. In 2004, 8% of the

electorate were Hispanic Voters, 2008 that number jumped to 9%, and this past election, 10%. According to Linda Chavez, the chairwoman for the Center for Equal Opportunity and former public liaison for the Reagan Administration, Hispanics are younger, with 22% still under the age of 18. What does that mean? The percentage of Electoral Voters that will be of the Hispanic race will increase. Simply put, if you're going to hate on Immigration, good luck getting into office. Even Mitt Romney was only able to gain support of (give or take) 25% of the Hispanic Population. The GOP needs to be serious about entertaining Immigration Reform if they want to attract the Hispanic Vote.

While there are for sure many more things that I can think of that the GOP needs to change in order to win the next election; reaching out to the youth voters, being stringent to your Conservative Fiscal Policy, and changing your feeling towards Immigrants in order to win the Hispanic Vote are by far the biggest three things that need to be adapted. America and Americans are changing. If the GOP chooses not to, I think that we can expect to see them become a smaller, less powerful political party in the future.

Ryan Kernosky is a Junior studying Public Administration and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. You can contact him at rkernosky@gmail.com or follow him on twitter @DrWisconsin.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Photo by Gus Merwin

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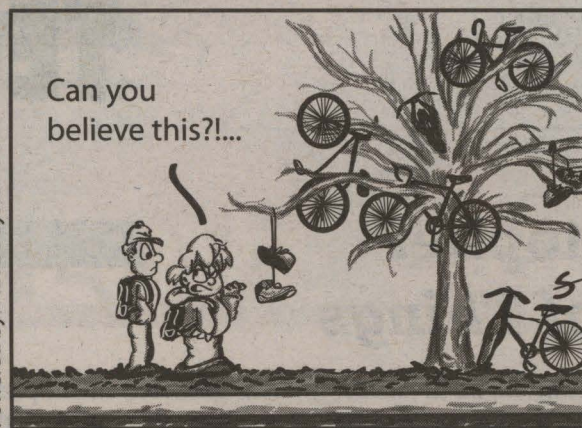
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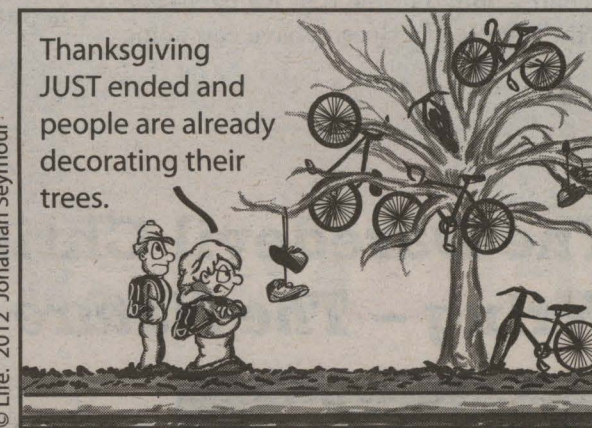
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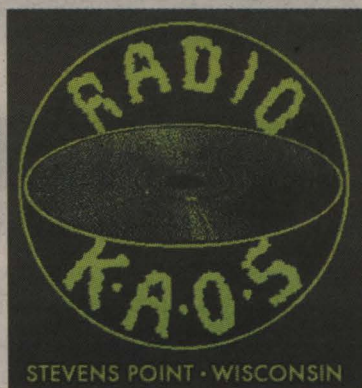


Maybe if I just.. move.. a little..



Ahh.. there we go.

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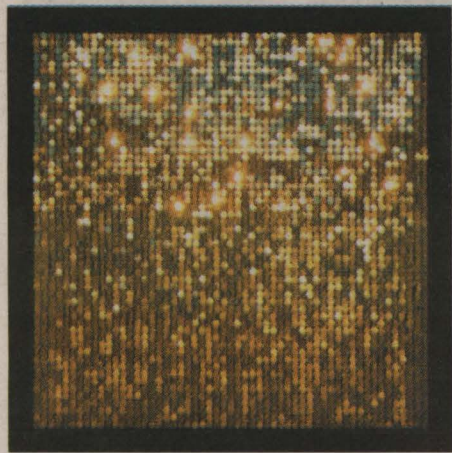
Slam Dunk- *Welcome to Miami*

KYLE CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT
90FM ALBUM REVIEW

Picture yourself for a moment, sitting at a basement party on a Saturday night. Things are a going alright, the keg is about half gone, and then some guys pull out a bunch of instruments and start rocking this music that has everyone getting up to dance and generally go nuts over. That scenario pretty much sums up my album for the week, *Welcome to Miami*. The band is Slam Dunk and it is actually their second album, but the first we have seen at the station. If it doesn't have you doing

the toe-tap along to it there is something wrong. To give you a better sense of the style, think punk music but with more brass and pieces of 50's surf rock thrown in. The vocals aren't the most refined and occasionally it just turns into yelling or but for the style they add to the gritty feel of it all. I bet these guys would put on one heck of a show, and still be up to give 'er into the wee hours of the morning.

This has been the first week I've had a hard time picking out a couple tracks that stand out in the wicked album. Each song has the same in your face style, but they are all really cool in their own way. Listening to the opening track "Can't Stand It" I just see some drunk guys at the jukebox singing their hearts out to their favorite song. "Da Dunda" has me, one of the last people you will see on the dance floor, wanting to get up and start doing some jigs (or whatever it is people do out there). With the track "Peter" the musician in me loves the way they use rhythm, offsetting the emphasis to be on beat 3 instead 1, something you don't really hear carried throughout a track in music today. I could go down the list but all I will say is check it out! Slam Dunk will be the highlight of any party play-list you put together.

The Daredevil Christopher Wright - *The Nature of Things*

KYLE FLORENCE
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90FM ALBUM REVIEW

Formed in Eau Claire in late 2004, The Daredevil Christopher Wright is an indie-folk trio made up of brothers Jon (vocals, guitar) and Jason (vocals, bass) Sunde, and fellow Wisconsin native Jesse Edington (vocals, percussion). The band hit the ground running, tirelessly crafting their own unique style of alternative music after only being existence a matter of months; this steadfast dedication would yield two critically acclaimed EP's by November of 2008, both of which were self-released. The band's first debut full-length, 'In Deference to a Broken Back', which contained a majority of songs mixed by Bon Iver front man Justin Vernon, would send waves across the indie music scene in May of 2009 on Amble Down Records. Since then, the band

has garnered an impressive level of success throughout the Midwest, participating in the indie festival Pygmalion, recording a Daytrotter session, and opening for Vernon frequently.

Likewise, the group's sophomore album 'The Nature of Things', was met with a barrage of acclaim upon its release this previous June.

"With 'The Nature of Things', we made an intentional effort to focus and tighten the writing. To try to confine the arrangements to elements that the three of us could perform," said Jon Sunde.

This effort is apparent throughout the album. The band remains true to their own brand of hippie-era influenced folk, so much so that the airtight harmonies and nimble

acoustics of 'The Nature of Things' could very easily be mistaken for some long-forgotten Simon and Garfunkel recording. The group's song-writing itself also seems to have developed, often painting an overtly contemplative picture. "Ames" tells the sad tale of a meth addict pleading for freedom from an unfulfilling life, only to be outdone by "Church", an unusually cheery-sounding tune which propels listeners squarely into the center of a collapsing marriage.

Ultimately however, 'The Nature of Things' seems to be just what The Daredevil Christopher Wright intended it to be—carefully constructed, eloquently basic, and accessible to almost any listener.

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