

the. pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

February 9, 2012

pointeronline.uwsp.edu

Volume 56 | Issue 17



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News

ACTA Carries Ambitious Goals, Serious Consequences

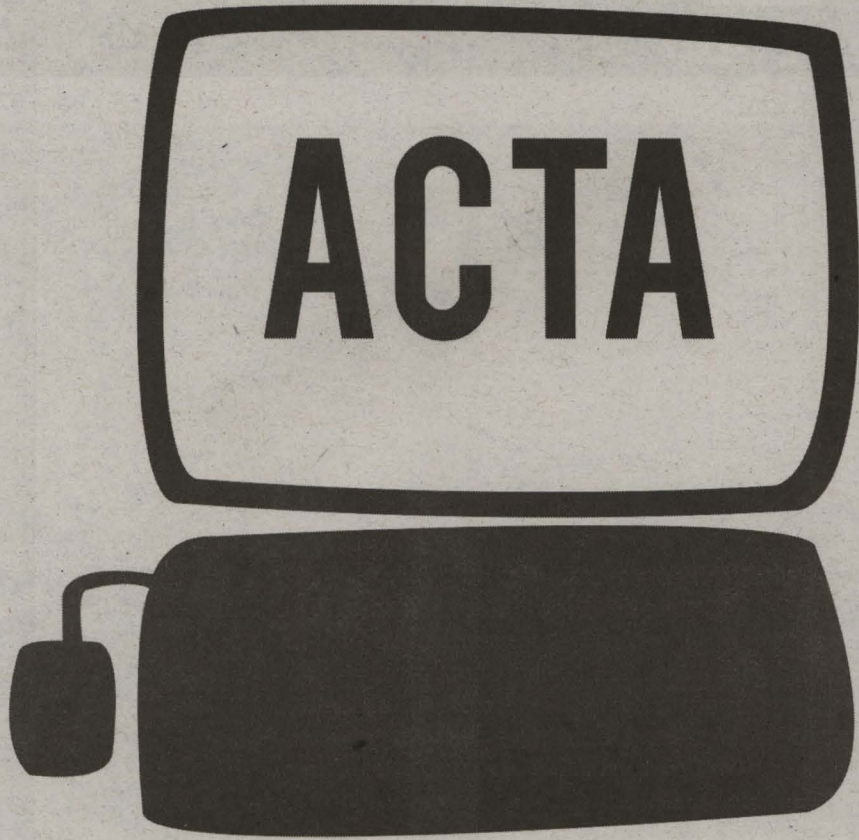


Image by Samantha Feld

ACTA aims to establish an international framework for targeting copyright infringement on the internet.

ANDY DAVIS

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In the midst of website blackouts, debates over intellectual property and the use of copyrighted material online stands the International Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, also known as ACTA. This agreement has a greater reach than that of PIPA and SOPA, targeting not

only copyright infringement on the Internet, but also the sales of counterfeit goods and generic medications.

Primarily, ACTA seeks to establish international standards for enforcement of intellectual property rights, and requires the creation of an independent governing body, the ACTA Committee, outside the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property

Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations. The agreement was signed on Oct. 1 by the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea. Last month 22 of the European Union's member states—including the UK, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Greece and France—signed the agreement without any legislation or public democratic processes.

Stravros Lambrinidis, a Greek member of the European Parliament, said that this "is legislation laundering on an international level of what would be very difficult to get through most parliaments." Being that this is an agreement between nations, much like a peace treaty, countries are able to bypass these processes and sign the ACTA with little or no public disclosure. In fact, until last year, much of the information regarding ACTA came primarily from online information leaks.

According to one of these leaks, the United States and Japan first introduced the idea of a plurilateral treaty that would aid in the fight against piracy and counterfeiting. This is believed to be the earliest draft of ACTA. It was meant to bring together developed as well as developing countries that wish to negotiate an agreement that would enhance "international cooperation and contains effective international standards for enforcing intellectual property rights." The leak goes on to say that preliminary talks about ACTA took place in secret throughout 2006 and 2007 among many of the countries that signed last fall.

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THE POINTER

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The Pointer is printed Thursdays during the academic year with a circulation of 2,500 copies. The paper is free to all tuition-paying students. Non-student subscription price is \$10 per academic year.

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

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Obama to Commission New Mortgage Committee to Investigate Housing Crash

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President Obama has announced a new task force group to look into whether or not big banks are criminals for their behavior in recent years involving home mortgages and foreclosures.

When a home owner and a bank enter into some level of loan or mortgage agreement, it is a process that can take months, so the larger super banks had to devise a way to buy and sell tens of thousands of homes in one fast transaction.

They accomplished this by bundling them together. Thousands of families' shelters were bought and sold in the blink of an eye.

After doing this enough times, the actual physical paperwork of these mortgages has, in essence, been lost, allowing homeowners to challenge their removal by asking for proof. In some cases all the home owner has to do is refuse to leave and squat in their own home.

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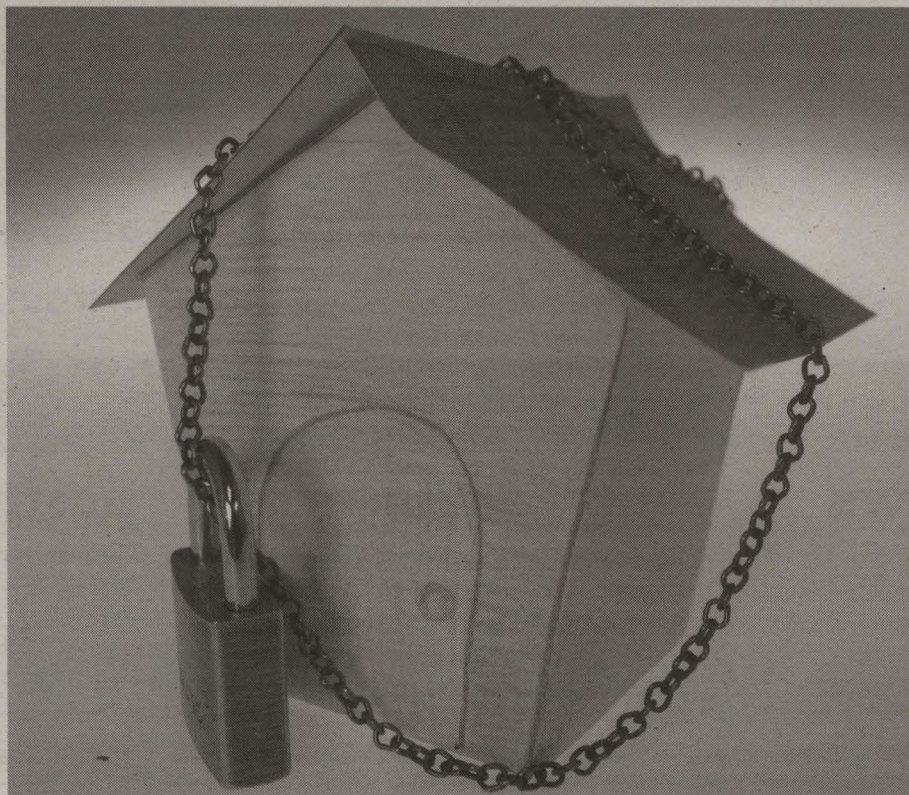


Photo by Samantha Feld

President Obama investigates big banks involvement in recent foreclosures on home mortgages.

news

[full circle thinking]

Impending Doom, or the Future of Fossil Fuels?

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Perhaps the term gas hydrate is an unfamiliar one. Perhaps it has been hushed in the media to avoid pandemonium and chaos. Maybe the media were right, but then again, they could have been wrong.

Gas hydrates are a tremendous resource of carbon deposits containing methane, propane, or carbon dioxide. These deposits lay beneath the permafrost layer in the far North and beneath ocean floors around the world. Gas hydrates are usually trapped in an ice-like cage often referred to as a lattice structure. While still definitely an estimate, scientists have projected approximately 100,000 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of methane in resource-grade deposits. That is considerably more than the approximately 6,600 TCF of global natural gas reserves and 100 times the annual global gas consumption, according to a 2011 U.S. Geological Survey paper.

The gas hydrates we will focus on are methane hydrates which "are a little like conventional oil and gas; they

come from organic material in the muds and sands beneath the sea floor. The difference is that they are low temperature," said Ray Hyndman, Professor in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences of the University of Victoria British Columbia, Canada, in an interview on Planet Earth - Our Loving Home.

The deposits are commonly found on continental slopes around the world and under permafrost in the far north. Some of these deposits are very near the seabed surface, making them accessible, while others offer production and access challenges. Several research projects like the Canadian Mallik Project are looking at the feasibility of harvesting the gas hydrate deposits.

One particular deposit along the Alaskan North Slope houses approximately 85 TCF of recoverable methane from gas hydrates. "While this represents three and a half times the U.S. current use, there is no pipeline at present from there to the rest of the U.S., so any gas produced there would be used for local power generation or for re-injection into the oil

reserves to maintain pressure and enhance oil production," said Arthur Johnson, petroleum geologist and consultant for U.S. based Hydrate Energy International.

When deposits of gas hydrate are heated or when their covering is removed in an oceanic landslide or geologic event, the gas contained can be released.

"In a very small area, less than 10,000 square miles, we have counted more than 100 fountains, or torch-like structures, bubbling through the water column and injected directly into the atmosphere from the seabed," said Igor Semilov, one of the scientists working in the International Arctic Research Center of the University of Alaska - Fairbanks.

"One of the greatest fears is that with the disappearance of the Arctic sea ice in summer, and rapidly rising temperatures across the entire Arctic region, which are already melting the Siberian permafrost, the trapped methane could be suddenly released into the atmosphere leading to rapid and severe climate change," Semilov said.

Natalia Shakhova, of the International Arctic Research Centre at the University of Alaska - Fairbanks, is another of many scientists researching gas hydrates. "The concentration of atmospheric methane increased [nearly] three times in the past two centuries from 0.7 parts per million (ppm) to 1.7 ppm, and in the Arctic to 1.9 ppm. That is a huge increase, between two and three times, and this has never happened in the history of the planet," Shakhova said.

"It would be great to capture the methane hydrates for energy before [they] decompose, that would be the best thing to do. If we do not capture it, and we let it to decompose, we first are going to lose some methane we are not using, and we are going to get some negative impacts on nature," said Miriam Kastner, of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography of the University of California - San Diego.

UW-Parkside Race-Based 'Death Threats' - Starting a Conversation?

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When a black female student at the University of Wisconsin - Parkside was found to be the culprit of a racist 'death threat' list spread across campus on Thursday, Feb. 2, the issue—framed as a hoax—was said to have been put to rest. However, the student's motivation to spread the list has deeper implications.

According to Kenosha News, the 'suspect' confessed that she had made the list with the names of thirteen black students, including herself, because she was not satisfied with the way a resident assistant (RA) had addressed a previous hate crime.

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, Parkside senior Aubriana Banks, who is studying criminal justice and ethnic studies, had presented an RA at her dorm with a set of rubber bands arranged as nooses. The issue escalated when on Thursday, Banks reported a second noose left on her door, this time with a racially charged hate message.

On Friday morning, the hit lists, which promised that the 13 students of color named were going to be killed within two days, had been spread. UW-Parkside authorities stepped up security, held campus-wide open forums and discussions, and began an official investigation.

By Friday night, the Kenosha Co. Sheriff's Department issued a press

release stating that a student had confessed to making and distributing the list. Because her name was on the list, the release declared the issue a "hoax," ensured the community that security was restored, and noted that the investigation was ongoing.

The student found as the culprit is now going to be charged for the incident. "Too many people were frightened and upset not to file charges," said a sheriff. Although the issue was put to rest, as police are unlikely to find the students responsible for the nooses, the underlying issues of racial intolerance persist, said UW-Parkside students on Saturday.

Shellya Rogers, who is studying Arts Management and is the current vice president of the Black Student Union (BSU) at UW-Stevens Point, said the sheriffs were right to charge the student. "I get her point," Rogers said about the student behind the hoax in protest, "but it's still against the law." She said it was hard to justify disobeying the law, and other avenues to express her discontent or opinions should be exhausted before resorting to crime. "You can't use racial tensions to justify breaking it," she said.

"I feel that if we're talking about equality across the board, then she should be charged," said Sequest Williams, a UWSP student and also a BSU member. She added, however, "This is not something we can just

brush off. People are going to say, 'it's just a hoax, racism doesn't exist anymore,' etcetera."

"We're going to prosecute her, but where is the attention to the underlying issue?" asked ShaQuee Jones, also a member of UWSP's Black Student Union.

Referencing recent hate crime issues at UW-Whitewater, and now UW-Parkside, Williams said of UWSP, "I don't think that stuff happens here any more or less than anywhere else. I don't feel threatened, but it's definitely a personal thing—somebody else might have had a worse experience."

"In classes, with professors, when I go out, I feel welcome and loved at UWSP," said Rogers, who said she could not speak for other BSU members, and that her identity as an international rather than African-American student meant her experiences might differ from those of other students of color on campus. "Especially around the arts, because of what they can bring, the atmosphere is open."

Rogers noted no one had expressed they felt a threat, as far as she knew, although some students had mentioned some mild signs of intolerance. "Nothing alarming," she said, "just annoying stuff."

Williams pointed that "assumptions" and "the little things people don't notice, like questions about our hair" were the greatest issues at

UWSP, in her view. "I think we need to spend more time talking about what makes people uncomfortable."

"UWSP is welcoming to international and black students. I don't know if it is the local culture, the faculty? Is it because it is intimate and small? Collectively, it's a comfortable atmosphere," Rogers said. "The Multicultural Resource Center has been very effective at trying to promote diversity and bridge cultural gaps."

"BSU's main mission is to educate others about our community," and vice versa, said Rogers, noting it can be intimidating to enter settings where your ethnic identity is not predominant. "We don't hate on people who choose to stick to themselves, but we try to bring them in, show them what we're about."

The Soul Food Dinner, the largest of several events put on annually by BSU, does just that. It is meant to "raise cultural awareness, bring people into what we experience," said Williams. "It's more important to show what we have in common, but we also try to celebrate our differences."

The Soul Food Dinner will take place on Feb. 26, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the DUC Laird Room. The night will feature entertainment, poetry, and other surprises; tickets are already on sale.

news

ACTA/Fight Against Online Copyright

Continued from page 2

Greg Frazier, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer of the Motion Picture Association of America, one of the strongest proponents of ACTA, released a public statement about his views of the agreement. In the statement, Frazier said, "ACTA is an important step forward in strengthening international cooperation and enforcement for intellectual property rights." He goes on to say that it is an "important signal that the world's largest economies recognize the critical value of intellectual property rights to their global competitiveness and are committed to moving ahead together to protect the jobs of the millions of men and women working in film and other creative industries."

Critics of ACTA believe that Frazier and organizations like the MPAA overlook some of the dangerous side effects. Rohit Malpani, a Senior Campaigns Advisor at Oxfam America, an international development and humanitarian agency, was quoted in a press release criticizing the possible impact of the ACTA: "We can only assume that the final text could do great harm in developing countries and undermine the balance between the protection of intellec-

tual property and the need to provide affordable medicines for poor people."

Here at UWSP, Dr. Mark Tolstedt, a professor of media law in the Communication Department, said he had mixed feelings about the fight against online copyright infringement. "For example, if I were a copyright holder," he explained, "I would be concerned about others using my work in a way that would deprive me of monetary gain." That he could understand. "On the other hand, most of what is used on the Internet is not edited and resold, but is instead simply reposted." Dr. Tolstedt said that this could be good for circulation of the copyright holder's product. His advice on the matter: cite anything posted online as if it were in a paper written for class.

Although many countries have signed the ACTA, it is not yet in effect. The European Parliament will be seeking to either ratify or reject the agreement in the coming months, with a vote likely to be scheduled in June. A few anti-ACTA websites have urged their visitors to call members of the International Trade Committee and recommend that Parliament reject, and therefore disarm ACTA in Europe.

Mortgage Committee/Criminal Behavior

Continued from page 2

"Anyone who has been foreclosed on should now be phoning up their lawyers and trying to find out if the foreclosure was legal," said Financial Analyst Felix Salmon. "If it was, then the borrower should be able to get their deed, and their home, back from the bank."

The President's new task force will be looking into these power banks to

see whether or not what they have been doing to millions of people with millions of homes is in fact criminal behavior.

"I'm asking the Attorney General to create a special unit of federal prosecutors to expand our investigations into the abuse of lending, packaging, and risky mortgages that led to the housing crisis," Obama said.

He said that the new unit will be in charge of speeding up the process allowing home owners to get back on track quicker, and ultimately turn the economy around.

Attorney General Eric Holder has since announced he has a working group, led by the Attorney General

of New York Eric Schneiderman, prepared to investigate the bidding, buying and selling of these bulk packaged properties and put the bankers on trial when action is needed.

"Our group is going to dig into all of the conduct that blew up our economy; it's not really a secret, everyone knows what happened," Schneiderman said. "We know what

"Anyone who has been foreclosed on should now be phoning up their lawyers and trying to find out if the foreclosure was legal" - Felix Salmon

created the bubble and we know what created the crash."

When the housing market went up, the banks were making so much money bundling these properties that they didn't allow the market to return back down, effectively allowing people to easily get in heavy debt.

The special unit was concerned with the effectiveness of their work due to the sheer amount of work needed to sort out the paper trail, which alone could take years to sift through. But Schneiderman said that the president is taking the issue very seriously and has made it clear he will throw as many resources as they need their way.

UW System Sued Over Education Syllabi



UW System's Arthur McKee (left) and Kevin Reilly (right).

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The National Council on Teach Quality, a nonprofit educational group, filed a suit on January 26 against the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents after the board and UW System schools refused an open records request over the release of education course syllabi.

The Council, along with the U.S. News and World Report, is undergoing a national review, of the nation's 1,400 colleges of education that has been met with resistance from some school's administrations.

The suit arose after UW System President Kevin Reilly sent the council a letter last spring saying that there are "serious concerns" about the review and that after consultation with the Deans of Education, they "would not be participating in this rating survey, as it is currently designed."

UW System spokesman David Giroux said, "We've long held that those syllabi are not subject to open records requests," but was not at liberty to discuss pending litigation.

"While we welcome fair assessment and encourage public sharing of our strengths and weaknesses, we believe your survey will not accomplish these goals," said Katy Heyning, President of the Wisconsin Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, in a letter to the council last April. Heyning is also the Dean of Education at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater.

"In our studies national accreditation does not show evidence that teachers are more prepared," said

Arthur McKee, the Managing Director for Teacher Preparation Studies.

On the council's website they note that no college of education from Wisconsin has complied with their request so far.

The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point denied the Council's request on November 8 of last year, and was the first UW school to do so, according to the suit.

"The Wisconsin Board of Regents has adopted policies providing that course materials, including syllabi, are the intellectual property of the faculty and instructors who create them," said Katherine Jore, the records custodian at UWSP.

The letter goes on to state that the university is willing to grant the council's other requests for records but would require a \$500 fee in order to do so.

At the heart of the case is whether or not course syllabi are subject to the state's open records laws. The UW System claims that they are not because they are "subject to copy-

right."

The council responds by claiming that nothing in the Wisconsin statutes protect records that are subject to copyright from disclosure, and even then they should be granted access due to federal laws of fair use for "criticism, comment, news reporting, scholarship or research."

The request "is not to reproduce or disseminate these syllabi or to use them for commercial purposes, but to evaluate the content of the associated courses in connection with a national evaluation."

The UW System is not the only university system to have issues with the review being conducted by the council. The council lists 25 other states that have sent letters to them saying they are refusing to participate in the review process.

"We have received a lot of institutional pushback," McKee said, "though three-quarters of the flagship institutions around the nation are cooperating."

[Middle East Update]

Libyan militiamen that are operating beyond the bounds of the National Transitional Council have been accused of torture. Amnesty International says that prisoners from Libya and other African countries have been subject to abuse at the hands of these militiamen. At least 8,500 detainees are being held in about 60 centers. There has been fighting in Bani Walid, a former stronghold of the Gaddafi regime just to the south of the capital. Heavy weaponry such as 106-mm

anti-tank guns was used, and 20 people were wounded. The president of the NTC, Mustafa Abdel-Jalil, was also mobbed by demonstrators in his Benghazi office. Ian Martin, UN special envoy to Libya, said, "The former regime may have been toppled, but the harsh reality is that the Libyan people continue to have to live with its deep-rooted legacy."

Iran has reopened talks with UN nuclear inspectors for the first time in over a year. For three days, Iranian nuclear officials and a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency met for talks as pressure has been mounting over the months of the potential military aims

of Iran's nuclear program. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi made it clear that the dialogue was solely with the IAEA and not the so-called '5+1,' or the six major powers in nuclear negotiations with Iran (the United States, Germany, Russia, China, France and Britain). IAEA Assistant General Director Rafael Grossi commented on the agency's findings from a report last November, saying, "We are not saying that Iran has one, two or three nuclear devices. We are saying that Iran has, at different stages of development, technology that is directly linked to the development of a nuclear device."

Violence continues to spread this week in Syria after Russia and China vetoed a United Nations Security Council draft resolution on Saturday that would have demanded that President Bashar al-Assad stop the violence and seek a resolution. Protests in Syria started last year as citizens called for civil rights. The Syrian army took the city of Derra under siege last year. It is believed that hundreds have been killed by Assad's government throughout the course of his reign. The violence that has spread this week is relentless in its power, killing anyone, regardless of age. Syrian citizens' anger is growing along with their casualties as international powers have yet to help.

Sports

Women's Hockey Loses Weekend Series Against Adrian College

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The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point women's hockey team faced Adrian College at home over the weekend and lost both games. The first game on Saturday ended 7-3 while Sunday's game ended 6-4, extending Point's current losing streak to five games.

Saturday began with Adrian getting on the board early in the first when sophomore forward Lauren Turner and freshman forward Lauren Zachwieja set up sophomore forward Sarah Connelly. Point answered three minutes later on a goal by freshman forward Morgan Pearson. Freshman forward Hannah Smith set up Pearson for the 1-1 equalizer.

Morgan Pearson got the Pointers up 2-1 after sophomore defender Ava Plamondon assisted her for the go-ahead score. Adrian College got even just before the end of the first period when freshman forward Hannah McGowan found the net. McGowan was assisted by senior defender Kelly Salis and senior goalkeeper Brittany Zeches.

Adrian College again scored the first goal of the period off of a power play. McGowan and freshman defender Courtney Millar assisted sophomore forward Danielle Smith to get the Bulldogs out to a 3-2 lead.

The Bulldogs took advantage of another power play opportunity five minutes later on a Salis goal, assisted by McGowan and senior forward

Olivia Rork. Salis and McGowan both finished with a game-high three points on the night.

Point brought the game to 3-4 on their own power play goal late in the second period when freshman defender Nicole Schaub scored unassisted. Both teams had 10 penalties on the night totaling 20 minutes of penalty minutes.

Adrian College again scored the opening goal in the third period to get the Bulldogs out to a 5-3 lead. The Bulldogs added two more empty-net goals in the third by sophomore forward Nina Laurie, and Salis tallied her third point.

Freshman goalkeeper Janna Beilke-Skoug recorded the loss for the Pointers and was replaced by fellow freshman goalkeeper Johanna Sommers in the second period. Zeches recorded the win for the Bulldogs with 23 saves on the night.

Adrian College again scored the opening goal of the game in Sunday's rematch in sign of a similar outcome. Junior forward Ashley Chin set up Millar for her second point in as many days. Point tied the game later on when junior forward Michelle Lunneborg took advantage of an assist by sophomore forward Allie Tanzer.

Millar again scored for the Bulldogs who, again, scored the opening period goal in the second to give them a 2-1 lead. Zeches notched the assist for the goal. A series of goals brought some energy to the game in the second period.



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

Junior Hannah Smith attempts a goal.

During a power play, Laurie took the Bulldog lead to 3-1, assisted by Turner and Salis. Thirty-six seconds later, sophomore forward Cassandra Salmen brought the Pointers within one on an unassisted goal. McGowan then answered the Pointer goal 15 seconds later. Zachwieja and Smith assisted McGowan on the play.

The third period opened with a Bulldog goal on power play when Connelly and Laurie set up Turner to take the Bulldog lead to 5-2. Under two minutes later Salis scored an unassisted power play goal for Adrian College. The Bulldogs managed to score first in every period and

trailed just once the entire series.

Senior forward Erin Marvin gave the Pointers their third goal of the night on a power play. Tanzer and sophomore defender Megan Nickelson recorded the assist on the play. Senior forward Erika Greenen got set up by senior defender Ariel Novak and Marvin, but it wasn't enough as the game ended 6-4 in favor of the Bulldogs.

Zeches recorded the win with 18 saves while Sommers recorded the loss with 13 saves on the afternoon. Next up for the Pointers is a weekend series at Lake Forest College starting Saturday, February 11, at 2:00 p.m.

From Tiger to Domestic Cat

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COMMENTARY

What do Tim Tebow and Tiger Woods have in common? Answer: when they are not playing well, they are still talked about way too much.

It almost seems that since Woods' episode on Thanksgiving of 2009, the golf world has lost a sense of 'sport' and become merely a reality show. For example, it is hard to find someone who knows that a 24-year-old from Washington is on top of the PGA standings.

Currently, Tiger finds himself all over the news in the early stages of the 2012 PGA Tour, for two reasons. First, he is playing in his first PGA Tournament of the year. Second, he performed almost surprisingly well at the Abu Dhabi Championship on

the European circuit, finishing in a tie for third.

This weekend Woods will pair up with Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo for the AT&T Pro-Am at Pebble Beach. Romo, who during the NFL lockout flirted with the idea of joining the PGA Tour until the lockout was over, is roughly a two handicap.

It's often misinterpreted that drama is a part of sports. Yes, drama is what we seek, but dramatic lives are distracting (see Kardashians, Kim). A crazy Swedish supermodel with a nine-iron is for horror movies and calendars. It's not the same as a Nike One Black hugging the lip of the hole to win a green jacket.

For the sake of golf and all its excitement, I look to 2012 as a year of pure sport. I want to see Rory

Mellroy hold off Tiger to win a Major, then follow the loss with a win at the next Major. All I ask is that greens in regulation become more important than servers in Las Vegas. Well, at least in golf.

to 13-6-2 while the Pointers went to 10-8-3 on the season.

The next game for the Pointers is Friday in Duluth against St. Scholastica at 7:00 p.m. The following night the Pointers travel to Superior to take on UW-Superior at 7:00 p.m.

"The games this weekend against St. Scholastica and Superior are huge in determining where we will finish in the conference," said Jaeger. "We just need to keep working hard in practice and when it comes to game time, we need to stay on a roll and deliver the winning performances that we are capable of."

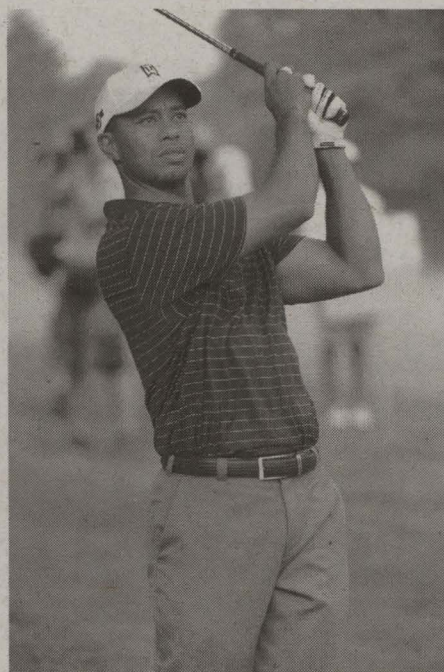


Photo courtesy of performingartsinfo.com

Would You Rather...

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COMMENTARY

An interesting question was posed by Paul Pabst of the Dan Patrick Show on Tuesday: "Whose career would you rather have right now, Tom Brady or Eli Manning?"

Before you jump on one or the other consider some of the factors in the argument. Tom Brady has been to the Super Bowl five times and has won three. Eli is two-for-two and both wins came against Brady.

Both have been involved in some of the most intense games of our generation. From Brady's Tuck Rule to Eli's clutch performances on the road, both quarterbacks handle the spotlight like a champion.

Both players have underdog stories. As everyone knows Brady was the 199th pick out of Michigan in the 2000 season. He began his professional career as the fourth string quarterback behind starter Drew Bledsoe and two guys named John Friez and Michael Bishop. Yeah, I don't know who they are either.

Even though Manning was drafted number one overall in the 2004 draft, he has been regarded as Peyton's little brother and Archie's other son for longer than he would want to remember. After watching Peyton establish himself as an elite quarterback, I never believed this dorky goon of a younger brother could ever get near his level.

Now I know what you're saying, "Gus, I'm obviously going to pick

Brady. Have you seen his wife?" Yes I have seen his wife, the international supermodel. Have you seen Eli's wife? It's not like you're putting your JV players in in the fourth quarter. There is zero drop-off.

Now here we sit. One player that no one had expectations for and another that had all the expectations in the world and two shadows looming over him.

Now for some differences.

Brady has never had a particularly stunning group of receivers to throw to. His best receiving core was during their undefeated regular season in 2007. Brady flourished that year with Donte Stallworth, Wes Welker, Kelley Washington and a still effective Randy Moss. But as good as Brady was that season with the weapons around him, he was still handed his first loss in a Super Bowl.

This season was similar to the 2007 season for Brady, in that he had players around him. Wes Welker is still a top five receiver in the league as he proved this year after leading the NFL in receptions. Rob Gronkowski is an absolute monster, and when you pair him with Aaron Hernandez they make the best tight end combination in the NFL.

Manning has had guys to throw to and has consistently had a decent running game. Victor Cruz and Hakeem Nicks played like gods this season. Mario Manningham made one of the greatest catches in Super Bowl history after Chris Collinsworth had said earlier that Manningham can't make that deep sideline catch. This season the

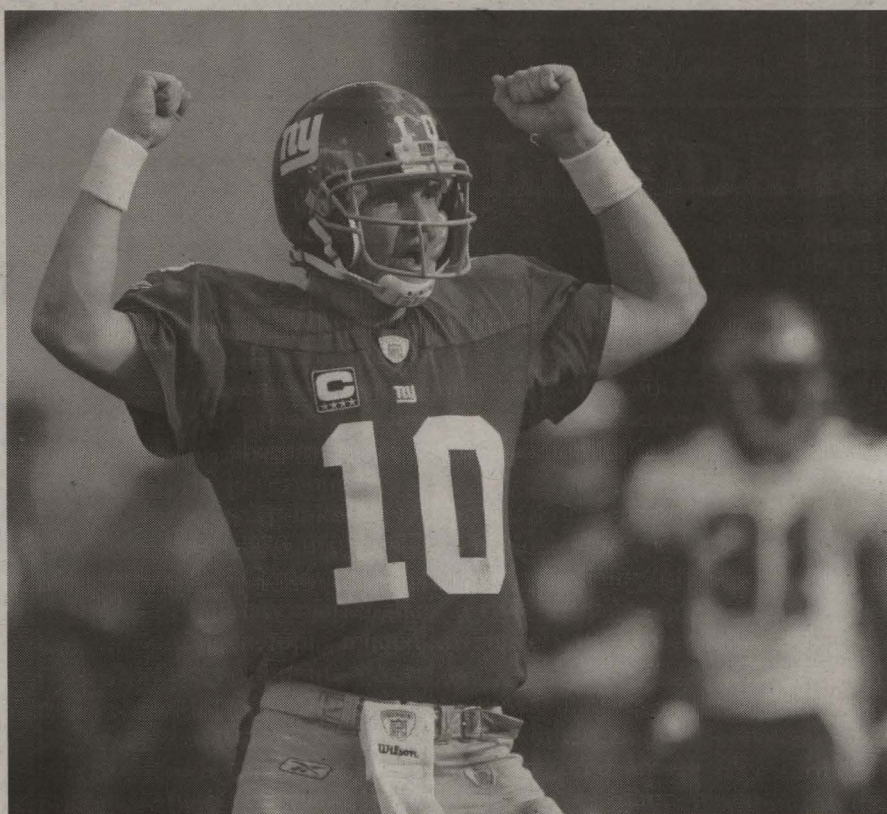


Photo courtesy of screenok.com

Giants were last in the NFL in rushing but they came on during the playoffs and have a decently consistent triple threat at running back.

Brady, especially in recent years, has had to put the team on his back because of the Patriots' weak sauce defense. And because the Patriots don't have an incredible run game, he has to toss it around the yard more than some other quarterbacks.

When the Giants' run game is on it takes the pressure off of Eli. The Giants also have a stellar defense that Manning can rely on to make stops. Eli, simply by the makeup of his team, doesn't have to do as much to put his team in a position to win.

But it is off the field that we

find maybe the most vital difference. Brady is fancy, so obviously he's going to endorse something fancy. That's why he wears Uggs and sprays on cologne. Eli is less fancy. How do I know? He and big brother Peyton endorse Oreos.

Brady is a first ballot Hall of Famer with trophies and awards coming out of his ears. Eli is a two-time Super Bowl champion and MVP. He was born into greatness, but paved his own way to potential legend status. Brady is more accomplished, Manning has years to go.

You have to live forever with the choice you make, but after seeing both their wives I don't think living with yourself will be very difficult.

[This Week in Sports]



Photo by Jack McLaughlin



Photo by Jack McLaughlin



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

The Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association honored junior guard Sam Barber and senior guard Dan Tillema as WIAC Athletes of the Week for their performances against the University of Wisconsin - Platteville and UW - La Crosse. Barber recorded a double-double against UW-Platteville, racking up 14 points and 10 rebounds. In a 79-69 victory over UW - La Crosse, Barber dropped a career-high 34 points. She shot over 70 percent from the field and connected on 4-6 from behind the arc and went 10-11 from the charity stripe. This is Barber's second consecutive Athlete of the Week award. Tillema scored 25 points last week in a 70-54 rout of UW - Platteville. Saturday he recorded a double-double, scoring 24 points and snatching a career-high 14 boards. This is Tillema's third Player of the Week on the season.

Sophomore forward Kyle Heck has been named the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association's Player of the Week following UWSP's win over St. Scholastica and a tie against UW - Superior. Heck netted both goals in Friday's 2-1 win against St. Scholastica. He followed that performance with a goal Saturday versus Superior where the two teams skated to a 2-2 finish. The Pointers enter the final week of the season tied for third in the NCHA and will face off against sixth ranked St. Norbert on Thursday. They return home for Senior Night Saturday against UW - Stout, and the first 1,000 fans will receive "White Out Night" shirts. Both games begin at 7 p.m.

The men's and women's track and field teams finished second and fourth, respectively, at the Pointer Invitational. Sophomore Dan Sullivan took first in the mile. Junior Evan Cooper finished first in the 5,000-meter. Sophomore Zach Mixdorf and freshman Ryan Wierzba finished 1-2 in the high jump.

On the women's side junior Erin Kline placed in two events, taking first in the 60-meter hurdles and second in the high jump. Sophomore Leanna Rose finished second in the pole vault. The Pointers travel to UW-Whitewater Friday for the Whitewater Quad.

Pointlife

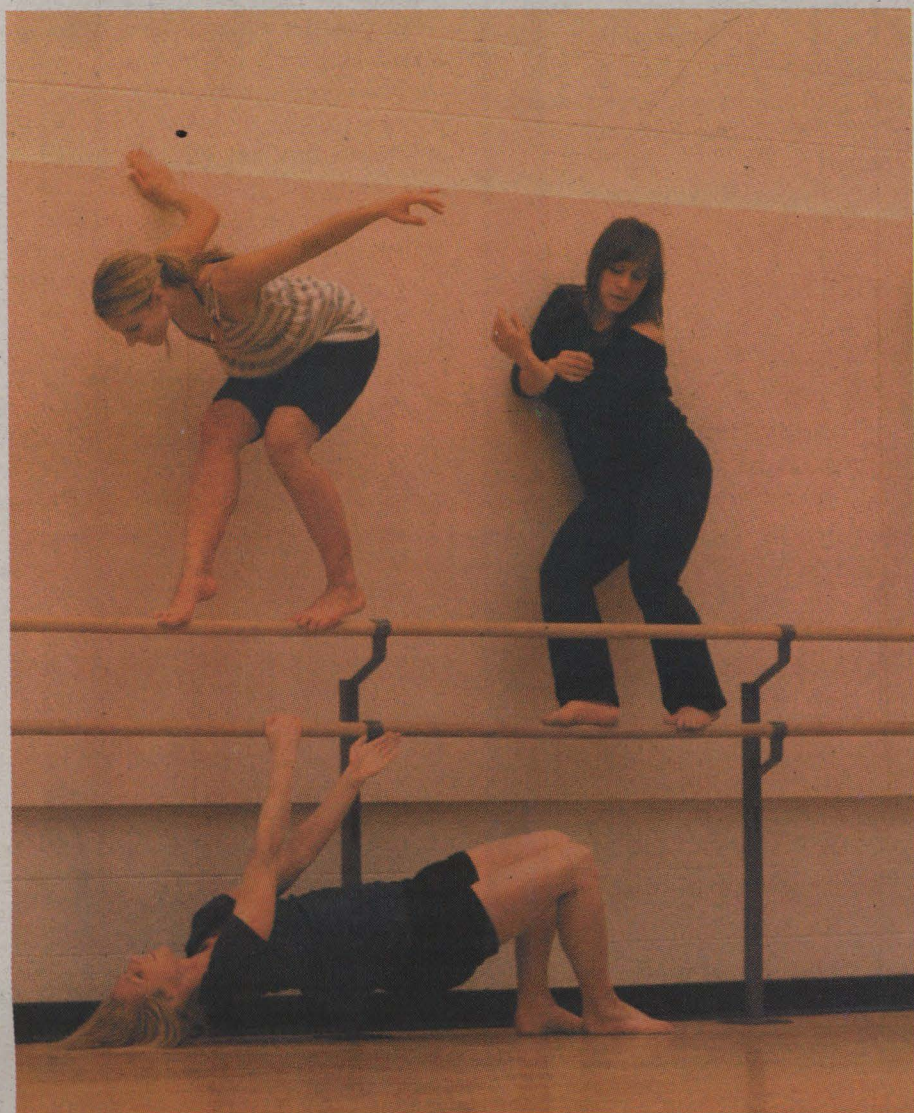


Photo by Emily Nowak

Students dance at an 'improvisation jam' this past semester.

I Feel Like Dancing

MONICA LENIUS
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Whether your life is devoted to dancing in front of a crowded audience or you secretly jam out in the privacy of your own home, Friday Forums offer a little something for everyone.

Taking place every Friday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Noel Fine Arts Center Dance Studios, students (of any major) share a style of dance or a topic related to dance with other students.

"This format allows dancers to academically explore other dance styles or topics in a structured environment, and it also gives dancers hands-on experience teaching a class," said Kailey Field, an arts management major, dance minor, and dance student representative. "For other students across campus, Friday Forums are a free and fun way to learn more about dance, while simultaneously having a good workout."

The Dance Program Student Representative, chosen by the majority vote of dance majors and minors in September, is responsible for serving as the student voice in weekly faculty meetings and organizing Friday Forums. However, the topics themselves are chosen by students.

In the past, these forums have offered tap, contact improvisation,

yoga, zumba, ballet, ballroom, jazz and hip hop dances.

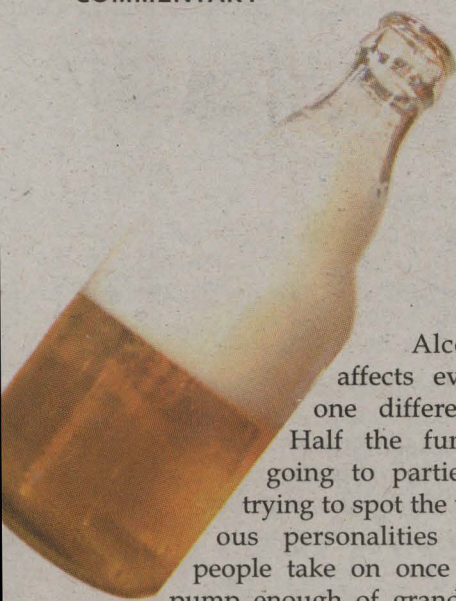
"Any student can contribute ideas to Friday Forums, that is the whole point! Friday Forums are up to you, the students," Field said. "If you want to lead a forum, jam out to a particular dance style, or learn about the topic related to dance, contact me at my email, kfiel669@uwsp.edu."

As a dance major and previous teacher of a forum class, Emily Nowak claims that "it's incredibly beneficial for participants as well as those instructing because it is all student-run. The classes are fun, energetic, and a variety you wouldn't necessarily get through dance classes within the department. The no-pressure situation lets everybody enjoy themselves and have fun. I mean one day we even got to learn the flamingo and hip hop. It's not every day that you get to do that."

Upcoming Friday Forums include the Cha-Cha Caliente on Feb. 10, Reviving Yoga on Feb. 17, and Ceilidh Dance (taught by foreign exchange students from Ireland) on March 2. As always, these events will take place in the NFAC dance studios from 3:30-4:30 p.m. To learn more about future Friday Forums, contact Kailey Field, check out the Dance Program bulletin board, or watch your Student Message of the Day.

The Five Guys of Drinking

GUS MERWIN
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COMMENTARY



Alcohol affects everyone differently. Half the fun of going to parties is trying to spot the various personalities that people take on once you pump enough of grandpa's ole cough medicine in them. I have done a lot of independent research in my three semesters of college and I have managed to classify many of the drinkers I have come across.

Fighting Guy: This guy as his name suggests is looking to get sauced and get physical. This is the guy that is ready to throw down the minute someone bumps his drink and spills some Fleischmann's on his shoes. Fighting guy comes in all shapes and sizes, but the major-

ity that I have observed are neither physically or mentally intimidating. Fighting guy always has friends that he relies on to "hold him back" once the situation escalates to something other than chest bumping and bad words.

Can I Buy Some Off of You Guy: This is one of the most unfortunate guys you can meet. Can I Buy Some Off You Guy is usually the last one to know about the party and is not prepared whatsoever. He usually walks into your room when you're pre-gaming and is surprised when he sees that you have alcohol in hand. When you ask him if he's going out he always responds with the textbook, "I don't have any booze." You empathize with his situation because you acknowledge the fact that it happens to everyone. However, once you respond with, "Oh that sucks," he honors his name and asks if he can buy some off you. You give in to his request upon either payment up front, or in the form of Taco Bell later that night.

Fun Guy: This is the guy that we should all strive to be simply for the fact that he classes up a party. Fun Guy is the one that gets drunk enough to slur his words and stumble, but is sober enough to be coherent and stand on his own. Despite his demeanor when sober, Fun Guy

is always a social butterfly when he goes to parties. He is adored by men and women alike and is the guy that is most likely to make out with someone by the end of the night. Fun guy is often very touchy-feely and loves to give hugs. He cracks jokes that are not always funny but you laugh anyway because it's Fun Guy who is telling them.

Depressing Guy: Drinking with this guy always ends up bad news bears. Depressing Guys always starts off fine and is often one of the most excited to drink. Once he slams a few shots off Mr. Boston and bongs one too many Keystones he gets that look on his face. He detaches himself from all conversation and begins to think about the emotions that have been brewing. Depressing Guy is often a former athlete who can't let go of high school and listens to Boys of Fall five too many times. He will regale his friends with tales of how he should have won conference player of the year and he'll call former opponents and brag about things that happened three years ago. Depressing Guy will then proceed to get misty eyed when he sees a girl that reminds him of his ex and he will have to leave a party because he "just wants to be alone right now." Depressing Guy is often associated with Buzz Kill Guy.

Dead Guy: Dead Guy is the least threatening and least fun guy at the party. This is the guy who "pre-games harder than you party" and ends up sacked out before the sun goes down. There are separate stages to Dead Guy. Stage 1 Dead Guy is the guy that is propped up against a wall with drool oozing out of his mouth and his head slumped in his chest, just wiggling to the beat. Stage Two Dead Guy is no longer on his feet and had posted up on the nearest piece of furniture he can find. His eyes have gone from glassy to completely closed, but he is still holding on to a drink in hopes that he can get his second wind. Stage Three Dead Guy is the one who has lost the ability to move and articulate any sound besides snoring. Stage Three Dead Guy is the one who will wake up with marker all over his face and will be tagged in 20 pictures of his friends doing despicable things to his unconscious body.

These are the five most common variations of drunk guys that I have stumbled upon during the course of my research. However, I am certain that there are more exotic strains out there of drunk guys waiting for you to discover them puking in the backyard. And don't even get me started on drunk girls.

[a vague attempt at something delicious.]



Tofu and You

JORDAN LORRAINE

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As a child, I didn't accept the fact that humans weren't carnivorous. I didn't know that vegetables weren't out to poison me. It took me quite a few years to understand that there are some people that didn't eat like I liked to eat and now in college, I've actually made friends with some of "them." They are, gasp, vegetarians!

Initially when I learned about vegetarians, it was in my eighth grade health class when discussing "what we're supposed to eat," the food pyramid and all that jazz. I learned that there are different types of vegetarians--some eat fish, others don't eat chicken eggs, and yet some go further and abstain from consuming any animal products and are labeled vegans. That blew my raptor-like middle school mind.

It is important to understand vegetarianism and veganism as someone that cooks for others. For me, learning to cook for vegetarians became important because I started to make friends who were vegetarians and I wanted them to eat what I would

make, instead of being hungry while I tried to eat a ham by myself. When making food for a party or potluck, I would make one vegetarian dish and one dish with meat.

In reality, the cuisine isn't at all different. There are black bean burgers, soy hot dogs, tofu and other meat-like materials made from soy that can replace meat in recipes. And if you're really missing meat after eating a single vegetarian meal, I think you need to get your cholesterol checked because not having meat in one meal is the least of your problems.

This recipe is an altered version of a chicken potpie that I threw together in desperation before a friend's potluck. It's so wickedly simple because for the pastry we'll use Bisquick so we don't have to bother with making a proper pastry crust. There was success in the simplicity of the dish so I pass on the recipe for you to try.

Though I'm still an omnivore with carnivorous leanings, I have sympathy and respect for those who choose an herbivorous lifestyle. You just have to think though, "Thank goodness we're not dinosaurs."

TOFU POT PIE

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package firm or extra firm tofu
- 2 c. of assorted frozen vegetables (I recommend peas, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, and green beans)
- 1 10 oz. can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 c. Bisquick baking mix
- ½ c. milk
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp. butter
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. garlic powder

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Cut the tofu into cubes and mix with the frozen vegetables, cream of mushroom soup, salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Spread the mixture on the bottom of a 9-inch pie pan (or you could use multiple loaf pans).
3. Mix the Bisquick with the milk and egg (use a splash of milk if the Bisquick appears too dry) and pour on top of chicken mixture. Bake for 30 minutes or until top turns golden brown.
4. Melt the butter a couple minutes before the pot pie is finished and drizzle on top of the crust.

RECIPE



Photo by Samantha Feld

Vegetables and tofu can easily replace meat in most every dish.

The Artist: Film Review

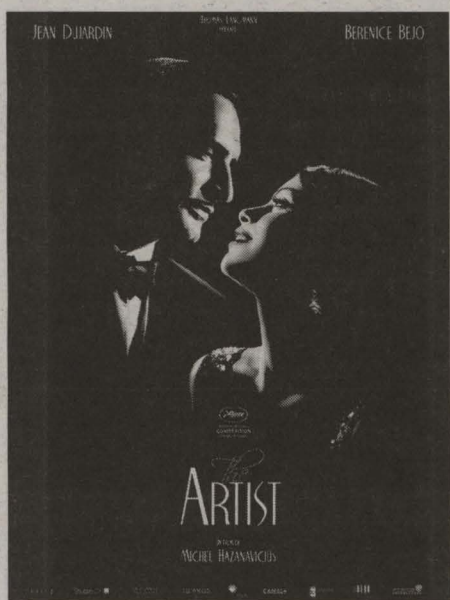


Photo courtesy of iheartcinema.net

OWEN STEVENS

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FILM REVIEW

The comedy-drama "The Artist" is an incredibly delightful film experience that bubbles with nostalgia, saluting the silent film era. Director Michael Hazanavicius had the daunting task of delivering a silent film (there is music, however) that pulsates with life for a loud, impatient world that frequently enjoys movies that arrive in theatres dead on arrival. He succeeded completely. Even sans dialog, the storyline is extremely accessible, almost as if the plot is being whispered within the film's moody shadows and shouted in the exaggerated movements of its actors.

The film's story focuses on George Valentin (Jean Dujardin), a

silent film star whose career is stunted by the advent of the dreaded "talkie." Peppy Miller's (Bérénice Bejo) fame rises with the popularity of the talkie. Miller is discovered by a chance encounter with Valentin. Romantic entanglements, arson, a small dog, and dance numbers all ensue.

Did I mention a dog? Add a small dog to an already sympathetic man, and he becomes doubly sympathetic to the point of tragic. George and his canine counterpart are rarely seen apart during the film. They are quite an on-screen duo.

Both Dujardin and Bejo were nominated for Oscars, as was Hazanavicius, along with numerous other nominations.

Hazanavicius's directing, which provides little nuances like using the 1.33:1 full frame aspect ratio to imitate the 1920s style of film, gives a glistening polish to a beaming final product. This film is a cinema buff's delight.

I couldn't help but notice some parallels between "The Artist" and our current economic state: Times change; jobs are eliminated; savings are lost. Everything else goes, but the dog stays by the side of the disenfranchised. Then things get better, little by little. Hopefully the same is true for us.

"The Artist" stabilizes between the tragedy of seeing a man broken by the changing times and the comedy of a highly animated John Goodman (He's in the film too). "The Artist" is just a beautiful film from top to bottom.

[calendar 2/9-2/15]

Thursday 9

7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. | Central Wisconsin Honors Orchestra Festival | NFAC 270

9:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. | CRU | DUC Alumni

Friday 10

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. | Centertainment Cinema: "Twilight" | DUC Theater

7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. | The Normal Heart | NFAC 120

10:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

| Centertainment: Minute to Win It | DUC Laird

Saturday 11

8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. | Nelly's Echo | DUC Encore

Sunday 12

10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. | Million Dollar Quartet Theater Trip | Appleton Performing Arts Center

Sunday 12 (cont.)

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. | Sky Quest, Planetarium | Planetarium

Monday 13

7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. | Women's Resource Center Passion Party | DUC Laird

7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. | ANCIA Saxophone Quartet Concert | NFAC 270

Tuesday 14

[Happy Valentine's Day!]

7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | Any Swing Goes Ballroom Dancing | DUC Laird North

Wednesday 15

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Winter Festival Snow Olympics | OUT DeBot Field

7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. | Women's Resource Center Self Defense Workshop | DUC Laird

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The Grammy Awards: Our Picks

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COMMENTARY

Generally, The Grammy Awards are predictable and showcase a small variety of music. Along with this being the first year where the recording academy has reduced the number of categories from 109 down to 78, it seems as if they are broadening their nominations, making the possible winners less expected. The Indie world is well represented this year, with Bon Iver and Mumford and Sons nominations in top categories, showing that last year's Record of the Year win by Arcade Fire was not just a mistake.

We have gone through a few of the top categories and chosen who we think will take the award, and why:

Record of the year nominations include "Rolling in the Deep," Adele, "Holocene," Bon Iver; "Grenade," Bruno Mars; "The Cave," Mumford & Sons; and "Firework," Katy Perry. Record of the year is given to the album's production team and the performer, not the artist specifically. With

this in mind, we have chosen Adele to win this award because, along with her 'back to basics' singing style that the Grammy voters are attracted to, "21" has sold 4.6 million records in the U.S. alone. Let's face it; it was Adele's year.

The Song of the year award (often confused with Record of the Year) goes to the songwriter of an individual track from an album. Our pick is a long shot we know, but we chose "The Cave" by Mumford & Sons to take the award. The song is timeless, delivers an unexpected sound, and builds to a point of explosion that brings a certain creativity to songwriting that isn't seen as often as it should in the current music industry.

The Album of the Year award honors artistic achievement and overall excellence in the recording industry, regardless of album sales or chart position. The nominations in this category include "21," Adele; "Wasting Light," Foo Fighters; "Born This Way," Lady Gaga; "Doo-Wops and Hooligans," Bruno Mars; and "Loud," Rihanna. Although we are dedicated Monsters, have to admit that Lady Gaga might not take this award. Due to the fact that it was

Adele's year, it's impossible to look past that "21" was a sensation.

The Best New Artist award is given to a new artist who releases a recording that launches the public identity of the artist. This year's nominees include The Band Perry, Bon Iver, J. Cole, Nicki Minaj, and Skrillex. Our pick for this category is Bon Iver. Bon Iver is the breakout star of the Grammy's this year, an unexpected three-time nominee.

For Pop Vocal Album, the choices are "The Lady Killer," Cee Lo Green; "Born This Way," Lady Gaga; "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," Bruno Mars; and "Loud," Rihanna. Due to the fact that we didn't choose Lady Gaga to win Album of the Year, we have to give her this award: her dedication and passion to the music and performance industry is unmatched.

Finally the last award: Rock Album of the Year's nominees are "Rock n' Roll Party Honoring Les Paul," Jeff Beck; "Wasting Light," Foo Fighters; "Come Around Sundown," Kings of Leon; "I'm With You," Red Hot Chili Peppers; and "The Whole Love," Wilco. Wilco will win this category because not only is Jeff Tweedy the guitar player, but this is

their eighth album and it deserves to be recognized because it's their best album since "A Ghost is Born." They took an extended time off to create this album and it sounds like a recharge.

The 54th Annual Grammy Awards will air Sunday Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. on CBS. Performers at the show will include Adele, Paul McCartney, Nicki Minaj, and Deadmau5.



Photo courtesy of ofive.tv

Normal Heart: A NFAC Production

MONICA LENIUS

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AIDS. Many of us are familiar with this term and probably know about the AIDS crisis that began in the 1980s—but do we really know?

In honor of the 30th Anniversary of the AIDS crisis, Steven Trovillion Smith, professor and director of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Theater and Dance program, is bringing "The Normal Heart" to the UWSP Noel Fine Arts Center Studio Theatre on Feb. 10-12 and 15-18.

The 12-student cast will show the audience the progression of AIDS through the emotional story of a tight-knit group of friends that refuse to let doctors, politicians and the press hide the truth behind AIDS. Following a gay activist over the course of four years, death tolls rise and the audience will watch the wall of silence fall down as he tells the world about the unspoken epidemic of AIDS. The original show opened on Broadway in New York City in 1985—just after the real life events took place.

"This play is edgy, exciting, and in-the-moment with a touching love scene. You won't be seeing it anywhere else around here. It's not a play that will be shown in your high school or at your community theater. I'm excited to see how people will be moved by it," Trovillion Smith said.

"The Normal Heart" is not for young audiences as the content is controversial with harsh language and a mature subject matter.

Junior Erik Schneider, playing Tommy Boatwright, is also looking forward to getting the message out to the audiences as he performs the play.

"People need to understand that the discrimination towards the gay community that this play presents is something that has not stopped and is something that needs to. As the only homosexual member of the cast, this message is especially important for me to portray," Schneider said.

The play is about the beginning of the AIDS crisis in New York City and the beginning of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in response to the epidemic, but Schneider says "The Normal Heart" is mostly about opening a window into the lives of people who are forced to fight for their lives.

Lauren Kacere, a senior acting major, is the dramaturg of the play. As she provides information regarding the time period of the show, she makes sure everything is historically accurate, from the places, people and events that are mentioned in the play.

"This show is not subtle; it is very in-your-face. It will make the audience think about the topics addressed in the show such as homophobia and AIDS. Theatre is a great way to enlighten people on various issues and this show does just that," Kacere said.

Tickets for "The Normal Heart" can be bought at The University Information and Ticket Office—\$17 for adults, \$12 for students (or free on day of the show with valid student I.D., if available seats).

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pointlife

[comic of the week]

POIN-TAN by Randy Shaw



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[photo of the week]

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Photo by Adam Malooly: adammalooly.com
Children in Diriamba, Nicaragua

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Opinion

Prop 8 Held Unconstitutional- Rightly So

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The past seven days has provided many different topics that I could have commented on, from the decision by the Komen Foundation to withhold funding from Planned Parenthood for cancer screenings, and their subsequent reinstatement of grants after massive social outrage. Or I could have brought up the decision by New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg to not hold a parade for returning Iraq veterans but their choice to hold one for the Super Bowl champion New York Giants on Tuesday.

There was the revelation that Wisconsin Assembly Republicans signed forms stating they would not discuss plans concerning the redistricting after the 2010 census. Finally there was the decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday that upheld a decision declaring that California's Proposition 8 was unconstitutional.

It is this last topic that I am choosing to dedicate this column to today, not only because I unequivocally support the decision, but also because I think that there is a lot of room to misinterpret what the 9th Circuit ruling actually did. So let's start with the facts of the case.

In July 2008 the California Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples have a constitutional right under the California constitution to marry each other. This overturned Proposition 22, which passed during the 2000 elections, and was merely a voter initiative, not a constitutional amendment. Then in the elections held that November, Proposition 8 was passed, amending the state's constitution to read that a 'marriage' was between one man and one woman.

Over this three and a half month span, approximately 18,000 same-sex couples married in California, and remained married after Prop 8 took effect. California still allowed same-sex couples to engage in 'domestic partnerships' that were legally identical to the benefits that 'married' couples enjoyed, and this was true before the California Supreme Court struck down Prop 22. This fact will prove crucial in the 9th Circuit's opinion.

After the California Supreme Court upheld Prop 8 it was appealed to the Federal District Court, which ruled in 2010 that Prop 8 violated both the Equal Protection Clause and the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment. Finally, on Tuesday the 9th Circuit issued its opinion affirming the ruling.

The 9th Circuit issued a very narrow opinion, holding that "Proposition 8 serves no purpose, and has no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California, and to officially reclassify their relationships and fam-



Photo courtesy sfexaminer.com

California's Proposition 8, which limited marriage to one man and one woman, was overturned by a federal appeals court in San Francisco.

ilies as inferior to those of opposite-sex couples. The Constitution simply does not allow for 'laws of this sort.'"

What the 9th Circuit did not do is decide whether or not the Federal constitution allowed the prohibition of same-sex marriage, "because California had already extended to committed same-sex couples both the incidents of marriage and the official designation of 'marriage,' and Proposition 8's only effect was to take away that important and legally significant designation, while leaving in place all of its incidents."

In affirming the district court ruling overturning Prop 8, the appeals court found that California had "no rational basis for limiting the designation of 'marriage' to opposite-sex couples," and that "Proposition 8 singles out same-sex couples for unequal treatment by taking away from them alone the right to marry."

The court noted that those defending Proposition 8 themselves admitted, "that the word 'marriage' has a unique meaning," which effectively argued against their position of withholding that term from being used by same-sex couples.

"The name 'marriage' signifies the unique recognition that society gives to harmonious, loyal, enduring, and intimate relationships ... We do not celebrate when two people merge their bank accounts; we celebrate when a couple marries ... Proposition 8 works a meaningful harm to gays and lesbians, by denying to their committed lifelong relationships the societal status conveyed by the designations of 'marriage.'"

Almost immediately after the ruling was announced it was pretty much guaranteed that the Republican

presidential candidates would come out with statements condemning the decision.

Rick Santorum called for the 9th Circuit "to be abolished and split up," and that "The people of California spoke clearly at the ballot box." The only problem with that is that rights are not supposed to be voted on—we receive them regardless of popular opinion. It is why Rick Santorum can be the bigot that he is.

Mitt Romney came out and said that he would "appoint judges who interpret the Constitution as it is written," but the only problem with that statement is that is exactly what the judges on the 9th Circuit did on Tuesday.

The equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment clearly says, "No state shall ... deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Past case precedent has established that states "have a legitimate reason for withdrawing a right or benefit from one group but not others, whether or not it was required to confer that right or benefit in the first place."

That is exactly what happened in this case after the California Supreme Court ruled that Proposition 22 violated the state's constitution and that same-sex couples could legally marry within the state.

An interesting facet about this case is that no California state official is defending the law at this point. They are still parties to the lawsuit and could choose to file motions if they so choose, but much like the Department of Justice has stopped defending the Defense of Marriage Act, they have refused to. That means those who filed the initial paperwork

to get Proposition 8 on the ballot in 2008 are the ones currently defending the law.

So what happens next? Well, the supporters of Prop 8 now have to decide whether to request an en banc hearing in front of the entire 9th Circuit, the ruling in Tuesday's decision was from a three-judge panel, or they could request that the United States Supreme Court hear their appeal.

It is unlikely that an en banc hearing would produce a different result that we saw Tuesday, so that leaves the Supreme Court as the likely destination, but the question is, will they even choose to hear the appeal?

As most casual observers of the Court know, it is ideologically split down the middle, with Justice Anthony Kennedy largely considered the 'swing' vote on the court. It should be noted that the 9th Circuit relied heavily on *Romer v. Evans*, a case from 1996 where the Court held that Colorado could not deny homosexuals equal protection from discrimination, and it just so happens that Justice Kennedy wrote the majority opinion in that case.

It takes only four out of nine justices to vote to hear a case that has been appealed to them, but with Justice Kennedy, not only voting in favor of gay rights, but also authoring the majority opinion nonetheless, it seems certain that the appeal would lose if granted review.

So while it seems certain that Proposition 8 will be struck down on equal protection grounds, it does not carve out a constitutional right for same-sex couples in other states to marry their chosen partners.

Bombay Bicycle Club: “A Different Kind of Fix”

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MUSIC REVIEW

With my first week as a UWSP “Pointer,” in the books it was nice to come back to my one-bedroom apartment in the “Polish Corners” with the rewarding job of reviewing new music for WWSP’s 90FM. Like most nights, I unlock the door, toss my jacket on the couch, light a candle, slip into some sweatpants, make a grilled cheese and usually resort to catching up on some British Lit. This night was a little different, however; I had a golden stack of new music to discover. My strategy was simple: ditch the British Lit for a night and pick the album with the best-looking cover art. I chose the aesthetically pleasing “A Different Kind Of Fix” by England’s The Bombay Bicycle Club.

“A Different Kind Of Fix” is the junior album for the club, produced by Jim Abbiss and the intriguing Ben H. Allen, who has produced tracks from both Animal Collective and M.I.A. The album result is what I would describe as the love child of British rockers Foals and Seattle’s Fleet Foxes.

We start in the beginning, with the entrancing “How Can You Swallow So Much Sleep” that mesmerizes the ear into a world of melodic guitar initiations and electronic drum beats. Escorted by the repetitive lyrics that are “Can I wake you up/Is it late enough,” the song is what I would consider a “floater;” relaxing, simple, and thought provoking. Though not what most of us would call a “hit single,” the song is a beautifully crafted tune and one of my favorites on the album.

Like most musical pieces, the mood changes. The band’s single “Shuffle” is appropriately named due to the fact that you won’t be able to refrain from shuffling a bit to this track. With quick tempo beats, broken keys, poppy guitar and walking bass lines, I can’t help but agree with my farmer friend Dave, who said, “Disco is back.” Songs like this make wiggling your body fun again.

Lastly to be highlighted is the song “Still,” where the lead singer of the club (Jack Steadman) seems to channel Radiohead’s Tom Yorke. To most people this is a good thing; sadly, to me I think the vocals of Yorke remind me more of Chewbacca

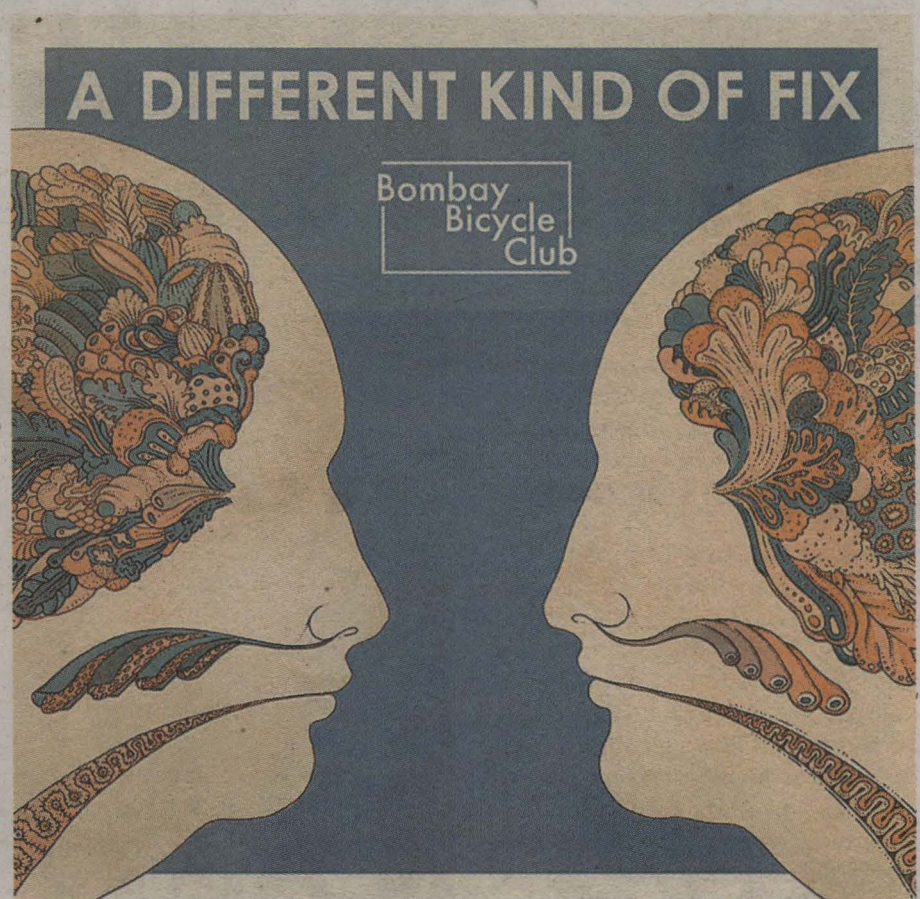


Photo courtesy of zubazaar.com

after a night of heavy drinking by himself. Thus, “Still” for me is the least attractive song on the album.

All embracing, “A Different Kind Of Fix” isn’t “flawless” but it isn’t something easily put away either. The album has its melancholy ballads and

its hip popping singles, which make it a very wholesome collection of songs. Lastly, I encourage anyone with curiosity to pick the album up and give it a listen; it’s the perfect soundtrack for your afternoon.

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Arts Bash: 2012



Photos by Teeranun Nino Nuttavuttisit

(Above, Top) Theatre & Dance students perform a piece at the Arts Bash fundraising event.
(Above, Bottom) Students perform a cabaret number at Arts Bash.