

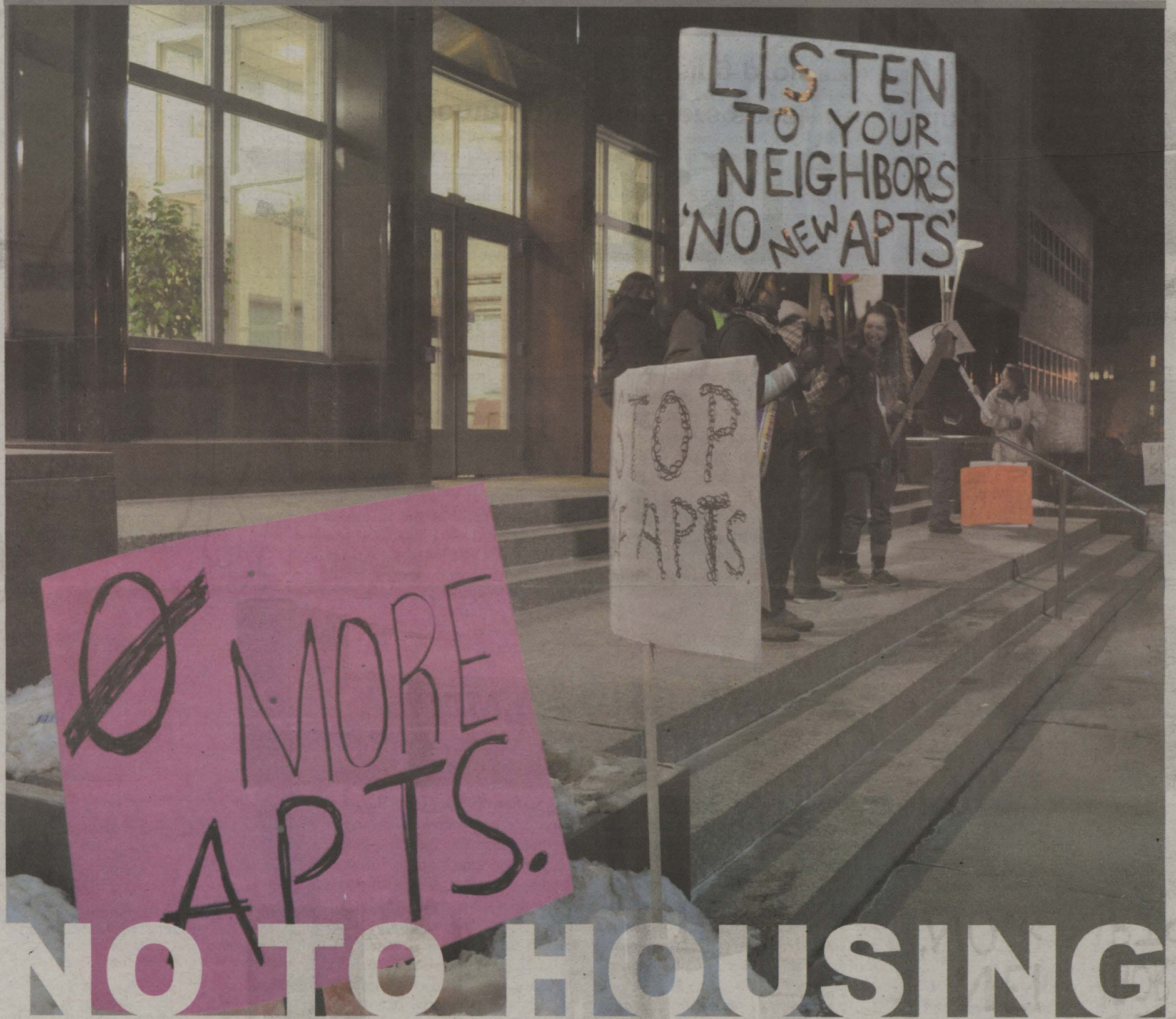
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University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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Community members speak out against
proposed housing projects **page 7**

inside

news

New collaborative research
group forms on campus **page 2**

sports

Men's hockey cruises past
St. Scholastica **page 6**

pointlife

Stevens Point drinking water
ranked "Best in Nation" **page 7**

INDEX

NEWS	2-4
SPORTS	5-6
POINTLIFE	7-9, 10, 12
OPINION	11

ONLINE: CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

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News

The Trend Towards Privatization

NATE ENWALD

nenwal28@uwsp.edu

In recent months, students have been bombarded with one news story after another about the economic downturn, budget lapses, tuition increases, Scott Walker controversies, and education cuts, without really being told how any of it translates into daily life.

At the end of the day, it ends up being a lot of information to disseminate, often leaving more questions than answers.

So what does it all mean? When you roll it all together it creates a trend that affects students of all ages across the country, the subtle and slow transition from state-funded educational establishments to privately funded schools.

State support for the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point in specific has seen a gradual yet massive decline in funding from the state government since the early 1970s.

"There are a lot of factors that explain that decline in public spending," said Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Greg Summers. "The United States had this amazing period of prosperity following WWII that was unprecedented but in the

1970s that pretty much came to an end."

Summers said that funding higher education in the '50s and '60s was relatively easy, but it has gotten more difficult for the government to keep up since then.

According to a presentation by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Al Thompson, in 1972 UW-Stevens Point received 50 percent of all its income from the state of Wisconsin - today that number is down to only 17 percent.

The rest of UWSP's operating income is coming from tuition; the less the state is able to cough up, the more economical burden is put on the private sector.

In other words, the difference is made up by the students, only further increasing the crushing student loan debts.

In a recent study by UW-Madison Professors Julie Underwood and Julie Mead, the argument is made that the trend of privatization is not completely by accident but rather, at least in Wisconsin, by design.

Their study puts some of the blame on the American Legislative Exchange Committee (ALEC), a group that has recently drawn criticism for acting as a corporate lobbying think-

tank without actually registering as a lobbyist group, effectively allowing them to bypass state balancing laws.

In layman's terms, ALEC is a group of highly funded, private individuals that secretly get laws passed to benefit their agenda, which - Mead and Underwood claim - is privatizing higher education.

As Mead and Underwood argue, "ALEC's positions on various education issues make it clear that the organization seeks to undermine public education by systematically defunding and ultimately destroying public education as we know it."

"I think the attention that ALEC has received is good but also alarming because what that suggests is that it's not just economic factors beyond our control but a concerted effort for ideological reasons that undermine public education and public higher education in particular," Summers said.

According to ALEC's website, its "Task Forces have considered, written, and approved hundreds of model bills on a wide range of issues, model legislation that will frame the debate today and far into the future. Each year, close to 1,000 bills, based at least in part on ALEC Model Legislation, are introduced in the states."

THE POINTER

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Growing Ideas, Growing Scientists: EMARL

BRIAN LUEDTKE

blued692@uwsp.edu

"I get accused quite often of having an establishing lab on campus, the Environmental Microbial Analysis and Research Laboratory (EMARL), provides students and faculty alike opportunities to conduct research, perform analysis and learn from each other.

"I get accused quite often of having ideas that are really, kind of, out there, but when you get twenty people together you find out that we all have ideas that are really out there, and that is the exciting part. You start looking at things, perhaps in a way that you have never looked at them, because you have other people that bring their interests, bring their knowledge base into the equation," said Les Werner, Associate Professor of Forestry at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.

The Environmental Microbial Analysis and Research Laboratory (EMARL) is a collaborative research group made up of faculty members, graduate students and undergraduate students at UWSP. The lab is working to advance molecular techniques to aid in the description of relationships between organisms and their environment with impacts from

management and alterations. EMARL has a good understanding of physical and chemical factors and seeks a greater understanding of biological factors that can help answer countless questions.

"The molecular techniques help us answer that question a little better. Actually, a lot better, but it helps us answer it in ways that we have not been able to historically," Werner said.

Professors oversee and mentor some of the projects going on and a huge pool of undergraduate students are involved in various projects, performing work such as chemical, physical or biological analysis for graduate projects. Some undergraduate students work on their own projects. In October 2011, five undergraduate students and two graduate students, along with some of their advisors, presented their research at the Soil Science Society of America Annual Meetings in San Antonio, Texas.

"The undergraduate students are doing their own work, they are assisting graduate students, and in the process they get a much better exposure to working in the lab and the techniques that are used to qualify and quantify characteristics in the soil and whatever environmental sample

it might be," Werner said.

Some projects currently under exploration include investigating the impact of non-native earthworms on northern hardwood forest soils, examining the compostability of various paper products, investigating changes in microbial communities across a landscape, finding a better way to get at reactive carbon in the soil, and researching bioluminescence - fungi that produce their own light.

"It is a great opportunity to get some hands-on experience with the actual research side, instead of just coursework and learning what you think you might need to learn on your own. This way you get to devise the process and gain experience," said Keith Turnquist, former graduate student with the EMARL and now Research Specialist with the Molecular Conservation Genetics Laboratory of the Fisheries Research Co-operative Unit.

"I think what the lab is going towards is creating good scientists, and allowing faculty to grow in their research pursuits and at the same time give students an opportunity to learn and I think that is really at the heart of what the lab is all about," Werner said.

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Sports

Falcons Soar Past Pointers In Semifinals

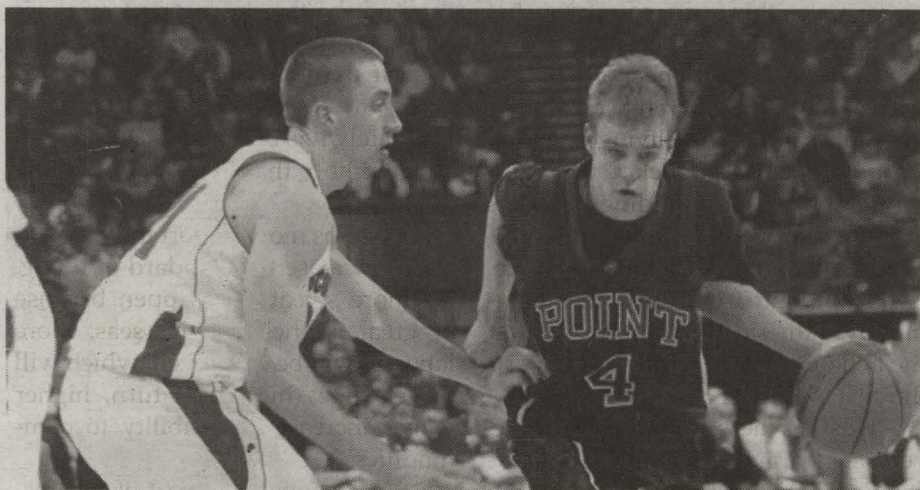


Photo by Chip Mahiny

The Tillema brothers, as well as Jordan Brezinski and Jordan Giordana, were acknowledged by the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference for their efforts in the 2011-2012 season.

ANDY HESSE

ahess342@uwsp.edu

The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point went into halftime down by 15 to the University of Wisconsin - River Falls on Friday and could not get back in the game. The host Falcons had three players score in double digits en route to a 76-51

win in the semifinals of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament.

Midway through the first period the Falcons went on a 12-2 run to extend their lead to 17 with just under four minutes remaining in the half. The Pointers shot under 30 percent from the field on nine of 31 shooting while the Falcons went 16 of

24 during the first half.

The Falcons had a 20-point advantage in the paint during the first half led by junior forward Ollie White. Senior center Jordan Brezinski led the Pointers in scoring with 20 points on the night but River Falls was able to get a 38-23 lead going into the break.

River Falls also outshot the Pointers from behind the arc during the first half, converting on three of five attempts while Point completed just two of seven. The Falcons would continue the domination going into the second half scoring 10 unanswered to open.

It took just over five minutes before River Falls gained a 28-point advantage, their largest lead of the night, which they reached twice. After the strong second half start by the Falcons, the Pointers were only able to bring the deficit down to 22.

Point increased their shooting to just over 42 percent during the second half, but River Falls shot over 51 percent from the field.

The loss did not affect the post-season chance of UWSP as they found

out Monday that their 20-7 record was enough to send them to Michigan for the NCAA DIII Tournament. Point will face Illinois Wesleyan University from the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.

Over the course of the regular season, the Pointers averaged over 70 points per game while allowing just over 64. Junior guard Tyler Tillema and brother and senior guard Dan led the Pointers in scoring this season averaging around 17 points per game each.

The Tillema brothers, Brezinski and junior guard Jordan Giordana all made the All-WIAC team this season. The Tillemas made First Team while Brezinski made Honorable Mention and Giordana made the All-Sportsmanship Team.

Other notable WIAC members in the tournament include the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater who faces Northwestern (MN) and River Falls, who is set to take on Edgewood College. The Pointers will tip off at 5:30 p.m. in Holland, Michigan, Friday.

Next Step for Braun

GUS MERWIN

amarc543@uwsp.edu

@GusMerwin

COMMENTARY

According to Dino Laurenzi, Jr., he has always performed his job with "integrity and professionalism." Those are just the traits that have come under fire in the past week.

Laurenzi collects pee for a living. In this day and age where nearly everyone is ingesting something, whether legally or illegally, I'm sure "Specimen Collector" is quite a lucrative position. But this isn't a couple samples from a cheese factory trying to see if their cheese flippers are smoking devil lettuce.

The pee in question belonged to Ryan Braun, who last week became the first player to win an appeal against Major League Baseball after calling to attention the protocol used by Laurenzi.

In Braun's press conference last Friday he said that he was the victim of a "fatally flawed" system.

"There were a lot of things that we learned about the collector, about the collection process, about the way the entire thing works, that made us very concerned and very suspicious about what could have actually happened," Braun said.

According to Laurenzi, the last FedEx planes had left by the time he left Miller Park following the collection of the sample. Protocol for his employer, Comprehensive Drug Testing, then states that it is best to keep the samples in a secure location, prompting Laurenzi to take the

samples home with him rather than leave them at a FedEx office.

Braun contends that there were five FedEx stations within five miles that were open until 9 p.m. and one location that was open 24 hours. Some reports state that Laurenzi drove past as many as 12 drop-off points on his way home.

"The protocol has been in place since 2005 when I started with C.D.T., and there have been other occasions when I have had to store samples in my home for at least one day, all without incident," Laurenzi said.

I doubt those other occasions involved a National League MVP.

In Laurenzi's statement Tuesday he said the indirect call-out by Braun has "caused great emotional distress for me and my family." What does he think Braun has been dealing with since news of his positive test broke in December?

Laurenzi is a faceless member of the drug testing process. He's a middleman. Why would C.D.T. rule in Braun's favor if how Laurenzi handled the process was, as he says it, protocol?

The MLB immediately disapproved of the decision, but because the process is a joint procedure that was agreed upon by the players' union and the league they had to abide by the decision reached by C.D.T., whom they contracted to collect and evaluate the samples.

MLB Executive Vice President Rob Manfred stated after the decision that their system is not fatally flawed. Manfred also said there will be immediate changes made to the

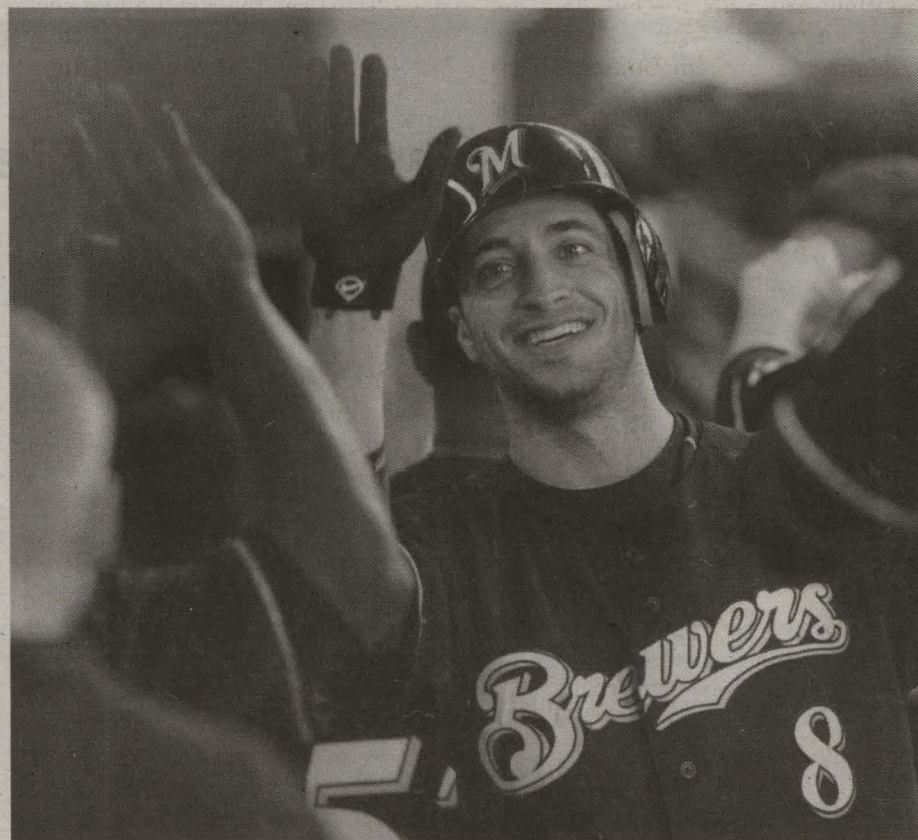


Photo by Jeff Hanisch

- Ryan Braun is the first player to win an appeal against Major League Baseball after calling attention to the protocol used by Dino Laurenzi, Jr.

process that will clarify the procedure of collectors.

Braun beat his suspension on a technicality. Exonerated? Maybe legally, but in the eyes of non-Brewer fans he is this year's fixture for resentment. From the early days of integration, to the ridicule of troubled players like Darryl Strawberry and Dwight Gooden, to last season and the barbarous beating of Giants fan Bryan Stow, fanatics of the game will always try to cut down a beautiful game.

No doubt Braun's image will be hindered by recent events and he will receive more than an earful on the road and home in Milwaukee. He has already vehemently proclaimed his innocence. The only thing he can do now is let his play continue to speak for itself.

If Braun is truly the man Brewers fans have been accustomed to seeing over the years he will respond to this adversity the same way he responds to it on the field: with towering success.

sports

We are the Champions!

WILL ROSSMILLER
wross460@uwsp.edu
@willrossmiller

The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point women's basketball team is, once again, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion.

The Pointers won Thursday's semifinal game against UW-River Falls, 70-60, and won the championship Saturday, defeating UW-Whitewater 81-60.

Thursday's game proved to be a challenge for the Pointers, as River Falls pulled out to an early 15-7 lead by the halfway mark in the first half. Eventually Stevens Point would answer, ending the half on a 16-2 run and a 32-26 lead.

The Pointers continued where they left off after halftime, bringing the lead to 14 points with 14:20 remaining in the game.

But the Falcons did not give up, staging a comeback to tie the game at 54 a piece with 6:58 remaining.

Eventually the Pointers would pull away in the final minutes, securing their spot in the conference championship.

"I'm proud of how we fought back after digging ourselves in a hole," said Stevens Point head coach Shirley Egner.

One of the keys for the Pointers pulling away Thursday was the bench, which contributed 14 points during the second half.

"Our bench was outstanding tonight," said Egner. "Our bench is our greatest strength."

The Pointers had four players score in double digits, with senior guard Cassie Bandow contributing a game-high 16 points.

Junior guard Sam Barber pitched in 12 points and a team-high seven boards. Senior post Ashley Averkamp

and sophomore post Myranda Tyler both added 10 points.

The Falcons were led by senior forward Alise Holst, who tallied a team-high 14 points.

"This was a good test for us today," Egner said. "This is what playoff basketball is all about."

In Saturday's championship contest between the Pointers and the Warhawks, the game looked like it could have gone either way, with ten lead changes, and seven ties in the first half.

Even with the back and forth game, Stevens Point held a 42-36 advantage going into halftime.

Going into the second half, the Pointers finally got their lead to 10, with 12:55 left in the game.

The Pointers put the game away by connecting on four free throws after a double technical was given to Warhawks' senior forward Chantel Burg.

After two more free throws the Pointers held their biggest lead of the night at 21, and ended up winning 81-60.

"It was a gutsy performance by our kids tonight," Egner said.

Stevens Point was led by Barber, who had a team-high 20 points, going 4-6 from beyond the arc.

Bandow also added 19 points and scored her 1,000th career point, joining only 18 other Pointer women basketball players.

Junior guard Brooke Allen scored a career-high 15 points. Tyler was the game's leading rebounder with nine. UW-Whitewater was led by junior center Cortney Kumerow, who had 16 points and seven rebounds.

"It feels like all our hard work during preseason and the actual season just continues to pay off game by game," Tyler said. "It's so exciting knowing we've made it this far and have even more to accomplish."



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

The women's basketball team won their semifinal game against UW-River Falls this Thursday, making them Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Champions.

With the win, the Pointers have now earned five conference championships in a row, and guaranteed their spot in the NCAA Division III tournament.

"To be able to win the conference championship tournament for the fifth year in a row is incredible, especially when playing in a tough, competitive conference," Bandow said.

The WIAC will have four participants in this year's NCAA tournament, the most since 1995. Besides Stevens Point, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Whitewater and UW-River Falls

all earned bids to the tourney.

The Pointers will start the tournament on Friday against Franklin College, who has a 25-2 record on the season. The game will be played at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"Our team has the experience and depth to make a long run in the tournament," Bandow said.

Heck Skates Pointers Past St.Scholastica

ANYD HESSE
ahess342@uwsp.edu

Sophomore forward Kyle Heck became the first Pointer to record 20 goals in a single season since 2001 as the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point took down St. Scholastica 5-1 on Saturday. The win propels the Pointers into the Peters' Cup Championship against St. Norbert College.

Heck scored the first Pointer goal within three minutes after being set up by senior defenseman Kent Detlefsen. The even-handed goal gave the Pointers a one-goal advantage and was one of Detlefsen's three points on the night.

The next goal came late in the first period when senior forward Chad Boeckman and Detlefsen set up

junior forward Jerry Freismuth for the 2-0 lead. Freismuth and Boeckman would then assist senior forward Jon Madden for a power play goal and a three goal lead.

The next goal in the game came from freshman forward Scott Henegar; freshman forward Andrew Kolb and freshman forward Dylan Wizner would record the assist for the all-freshman goal. Wizner would record another assist when he and senior forward Harrison Niemann set up Detlefsen for the fifth goal in the game.

The Saints would finally get on the board midway through the third period when junior forward Paul Marcoux found the net. Sophomore forward Brandon Nowakowski and sophomore forward Chad

Golanowski would record the assist on the goal.

But it was too little too late as the Pointers went on to beat the host Saints 5-1. Freshman goalie Brandon Jaeger recorded 40 saves in the win while sophomore goalie Colin Rundell stopped 25 shots in the losing effort.

Point has averaged just over three goals per game compared to their opponents, who record two and a half goals per game. Point has racked up just under 90 goals on the season while their opponents have fewer than 70 against them.

Heck leads the Pointers in goals and points while there is a three-way tie for the lead in assists. Heck has accumulated a .247 shot percentage through the regular season on 81

shots.

Jaeger and junior goalie Nick Graves split time in the net with Jaeger allowing fewer than two goals a game and Graves allowing 2.64. The two goalies have combined for 660 saves on the year.

Point recorded a season high 20 points on nine goals against the University of Wisconsin - Stout on Feb. 11. Just two days before Point surrendered 20 points to St. Norbert College, a season high.

Point looks to get revenge in the Peters' Cup Championship where they will face off against the Green Knights of St. Norbert on March 3 in De Pere, Wisconsin. The puck is set to drop at 7:00 p.m.

news

UWSP Accepts \$1.9 Million Budget Lapse

ANDY DAVIS

adavi481@uwsp.edu

The University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point will take another budget cut, to the tune of \$1.9 million. This 'budget lapse' is the last of a series of cuts caused by the Walker administration's Budget Repair Bill, which closed a budget shortfall with cuts rather than tax increases.

The lapse reflects the last of the unspecified cuts in the budget drawn up by the legislature last year, when the state erupted with anti-austerity and pro-labor demonstrations in response. The cuts will result in some financial cuts on campus, although campus officials say no adverse effects are apparent.

In accordance with the budget lapse, the UW System is required to pay a percentage of its funding back to the state treasury, as will other state agencies. The System will return \$46.1 million to the state in total; this is over 37 percent of the \$123.3 million the Joint Finance Committee

requested back from state agencies as part of the lapse. UW System advocates hold that this 37 percent cut to the state's public higher education cut is too disproportionate, as the System receives roughly 7 percent of the state's general expenditures.

Referring to the lapse, Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca (D-Kenosha) said in a statement that "Today's budget cuts are again disproportionately targeted at one of the worst places to hit in a difficult economy: our Wisconsin public education system."

In a Dec. 14 letter to Gov. Walker's budget director and the Joint Finance Committee, UW System President Kevin Reilly said, "To put this in another perspective, \$46 million is equivalent to a full year's worth of state support for 11,360 UW students or 511 faculty and staff positions."

Each UW school is required to contribute to this \$46.1 million cut, and the amount each school pays is based on the amount of money allocated to it by the state. To give

a little perspective, Stevens Point is required to pay 4.3 percent of the lapse to the UW System, compared to UW-Madison's 38 percent.

The effects of this lapse on UW-Stevens Point are not too painful. According to Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs Greg Diemer, unavailability of some class sections and a lack of IT upgrades are expected to be a couple of outcomes as a result of the lapse. The Pointer Compact, a differential tuition plan that was proposed last semester, would alleviate these problems; however, it would do so by eliminating bottleneck courses and allocating student payments directly to student services.

SGA President Ryan Rutledge said that a budget summit was held last month in order to assess the problem of the lapse. Rutledge said that, in light of this lapse, UWSP will begin to concentrate on enrollment numbers. Enrollment increases would help the university make up for monetary shortfalls.

The approval of this lapse was

neither well received nor staunchly opposed by students. "There were no hard feelings between students and faculty as far as the lapse is concerned," Rutledge said. One of the few opinions voiced by students, however, was that spending cuts should be organized in a way that would emphasize the prevalence of academic and student services, cutting the least from these areas.

UWSP administrators are confident the approval of this lapse will have no serious effects on students. Tuition in the UW System is expected to increase by 5.5 percent next year, but this increase has been planned since last year, Diemer said.

According to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, after this lapse the state budget still consists of \$51 million in unspecified cuts, which will emerge later this year. However, those future spending decreases, or cuts, might surpass the \$51 million mark, depending on tax revenues.

Twin Bill of Housing Proposals Gets Shot Down



AARON OSOWSKI

aosow812@uwsp.edu

Students and community members alike spoke out to the Stevens Point Common Council at its hearing on the two proposed housing development sites on Monday, Feb. 20.

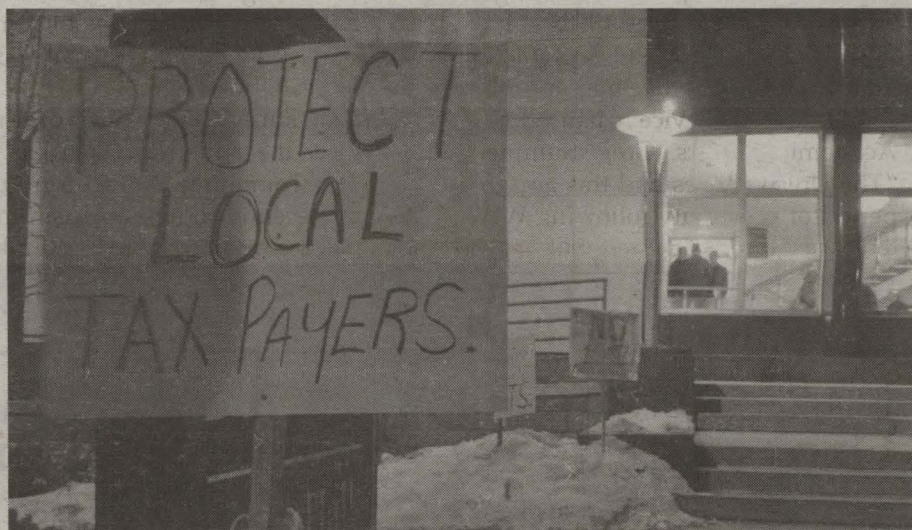
The first proposal was to build a new 29-unit student housing complex on the former Cooper Motors site on Division Street. Several property owners and landlords protested the proposal outside of Cooper Motors. The housing complex would have been a multi-million dollar project and would have included retail space.

The second proposal voted down was the plan to build a luxury apartment complex for seniors on the former Lullabye Furniture Co. site located behind Centerpoint Mall.

Landlords at the hearing voiced their concerns about the projects, saying that the city is already facing large numbers of housing vacancies.

City administrators, however, said the plans would have increased tax revenues and utilized land that has remained vacant for years.

Several current and former UWSP students voiced their concerns about the proposal as well:



Photos by Samantha Feld

Property owners and landlords gather on the steps of City Hall to urge the City Council to delay voting on the proposed housing complex.

"I think there are a lot of things that space [the Lullabye plot] can be used for. I think in terms of making it into a public space, whether that means turning it into some sort of community garden, or something like that—I think that would be a step in the right direction. I mean, it's nice with the [Sorenson] Greenhouse and stuff, but you know, that doesn't mean we can't make more community spaces." - **Randy Brown, senior Philosophy major and Sustainability Director for United Council of UW Students**

"It's more safe to farm or garden on that land [Lullabye plot], and we were doing raised beds and other stuff which we knew was more secure than digging more than four feet down, which would happen with a housing complex in the area, because of the contamination on the site." - **Katie Kloth, former UWSP student**

[global community]

Mitt Romney won the Arizona primary, and narrowly took Michigan from Santorum. Santorum has picked up steam in the last couple of weeks, after winning the Republican primaries in Colorado, Minnesota and Missouri last month. According to monitors, the Michigan battle foreshadowed the national climate. The state's voters, many of whom are Arab-Americans or working class people

dependent on the American motors industry, largely ignored the primary.

Seventeen-year-old T.J. Lane is under police custody in Ohio, after he confessed to having shot and killed three high school students and injured two others. Prosecutors have nodded against the possibility of legally prosecuting the gun owner.

The Pentagon is considering a plan to demobilize more troops from Afghanistan, where President Obama has twice escalated

U.S. forces since taking office in 2009. It is expected that Obama will make an announcement about the removal of U.S. troops during the anticipated NATO/G8 convention in Chicago this May. As NATO army-police forces have swelled to 352,000 personnel, rumors now leak that by 2014 fewer than 10,000 American troops will remain in Afghanistan.

U.S. negotiators announced Wednesday that a deal had been struck with North Korean officers, where North Korea will suspend its largest uranium enrichment program and all

its nuclear weapons tests in exchange for a U.S. food aid package.

Amnesty International, the human rights advocacy non-governmental organization, has called for an arms embargo, the dispatching of human rights monitors, and an investigation into the government crackdown of protestors in Syria, which—activists claim—has led to the killing of at least 250 people in the last three days.

news

Letter To The Editor: Why Sweatshops?

ELIZABETH LEPINSKI

elepi479@uwsp.edu

COMMENTARY

After reading last week's article on sweatshops; I looked into what companies UWSP purchases from. Then, I optimistically (or perhaps naïvely) did a quick Google search looking for any hits including the companies and possible sweatshops. To my surprise, I didn't receive a lot of hits on any of them; and it wasn't because the sweatshops didn't exist. The question quickly went from "who has sweatshops," to "who DOESN'T?"

Unfortunately, after the dust settles, the reality is the clothing industry uses sweatshops, and not just a few. I really thought about it then ... I knew from history classes that sweatshops are still very prominent parts of the market in certain parts of the world (and arguably our own). It's one of those things that, as an American, I had tried to block out from my mind. It wasn't that I didn't know they existed, I just didn't want to think of myself as a supporter of such labor policies.

So—why sweatshops? I remember sitting in my freshman history class in high school learning about sweatshops—and consequently how bad they are. Our teacher gave us pieces of paper with roller skate parts printed on them. Students were

expected to participate in an activity where we'd get in an assembly line, each with a task.

One person had to color the skates, another had to cut them out, another had to cut out the wheels, etc. There were about eight different tasks including gluing the roller skates together. Meanwhile, our teacher turned the lights off, closed the blinds, and proceeded to make a lot of noise. There were also a couple of students designated as foremen, who were assigned to yell at us about each and every blunder on the skates.

The activity was intended to simulate the conditions of a sweatshop; undeniably, one can't come close to the conditions in an Oregon, Wisconsin classroom, but nonetheless it provided for a memorable experience and lesson.

Looking back, I'm not sure if we were deliberately taught that sweatshops are bad, or if it was open-ended activity for us to make our own opinions. I do remember, though, walking out of the room, shocked by the horror stories including the conditions of sweatshops, the low wages, etc. So again, I ask: why sweatshops?

Before I answer, let me preface by saying that I cannot reconcile my economic views with my moral views on this topic. I don't support sweatshops; I just see their value in a society. It sounds ever-so contradictory, and it is, but it's an economics thing.

So the answer to "why sweatshops" is actually quite simple. Market forces.

Americans like things. It's cheaper to make things in countries that are, from our perspective, underdeveloped. Labor is cheaper in countries where there aren't fair labor laws, and the cost of living is lower. Corporate entities pocket the extra profits while still providing products at a lower price than if they'd manufactured it at home. Labor, in essence, is no different from any other commodity. Americans want to exploit the hell out of it, regardless of if it's at the cost of others.

This is where my argument gets very sticky, and certainly not popular. Economists commonly make the argument that sweatshops are actually not bad. In fact, the Everyday Economist, Josh Hendrickson, argues that sweatshops are actually one of the first signs of positive growth in an economy. Looking back at my history classes once again, this made a lot of sense to me. In the past century, since the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire and widespread use of sweatshops in America, our country has made strides in economic development.

Adam Smith argued that free people would only engage in a transaction if it benefited them. This includes transactions within the labor market. Even when conditions are not ideal, it is better off for employees of these sweatshops to work, rather than

not to work. In many cases, it means the difference between having shelter and food and not. Labor standards may not be there, but employees are working, are making some money, even if minimal, and have increased access to shelter and food. And so ultimately it is better to be working in a sweatshop, than not to be working at all.

Perhaps more importantly, sweatshops increase the standard of living. As more sweat shops open because of greater efficiency overseas, more laborers will be employed, which will drive wages higher. In turn, higher wages increase accessibility to commodities.

Sweatshops are a part of our history, and likely contributed to the comfortable lives we live today. While we'd like to ease the struggles of those overseas, how can we dull their pain? Or, is it even perceived as exploitation by the locals? Either way, can we improve labor conditions while still promoting efficiency in the economy and allowing for an increased standard of living?

My intuition says no, but I want to make it work. Or maybe we owe it to them to have their own prosperous history, as we have had ours?

Elizabeth Lepinski is an Economics student and the Student Sustainability Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.

Having a Voter Checklist for Election Day is a Good Plan With All the New Requirements, Just Ask Yourself These Questions:

1.

- Where is my polling location?
- Am I registered to vote? and if not, do I have my proof of residence?
- Do I have an acceptable photo ID?

2.

The list of acceptable photo IDs is:

- ID issued by a Wisconsin accredited university that contains date of issuance, signature of student, and an expiration date no later than two years after date of issuance. Also the ID must be accompanied by a separate document that proves enrollment.
- Wisconsin driver's license/ID card*
- U.S. passport*
- Military ID card*
- Certificate of naturalization issued within last 2 years
- Unexpired Wisconsin driver's license or state ID receipt
- ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin

*May not have expired earlier than the last November election (11/2/2010)

3.

Examples of acceptable forms of proof of residence:

- Utility bill: water, electric, cable, phone, or cell phone
- Government document, such as tuition statement with your school address*
- Residential lease
- WI driver's license/state ID card
- Bank statement or paycheck

*Students can update their address on their myPoint page and use the proof of enrollment document as proof of residence even if they are not using their student ID

Pointlife

Stevens Point Water Tastes Best in Nation, Raises Questions

RACHEL HANSON
rhan632@uwsp.edu

Stevens Point's water is this year's recipient of the American Water Works Association's "Best of the Best" taste competition for the second year in a row, beating out New York City.

The Association began this competition in 2005 to combat the negative connotations drinking water was gaining when compared to filtered bottled water.

The contest scores solely the taste of each municipality's water. This raised the question to a few Stevens Point students of just how well the water would do in a quality test.

"There are a lot of contaminants that are tasteless and odorless that they can filter out to meet EPA health standards, but they are not necessarily completely gone," said Nicole Feiten, a senior Water Resources student at The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "So you wouldn't necessarily taste them, but they could still be there."

Adam Greuel, a junior at UWSP, grew up just outside of Stevens Point and attended high school in the city.

"Between a private well on the Wisconsin River and the water we drink here in town, there is very little difference in taste," said Greuel. "I

was quite satisfied with both; I guess I've just never really worried about possible micro bacteria in the water before."

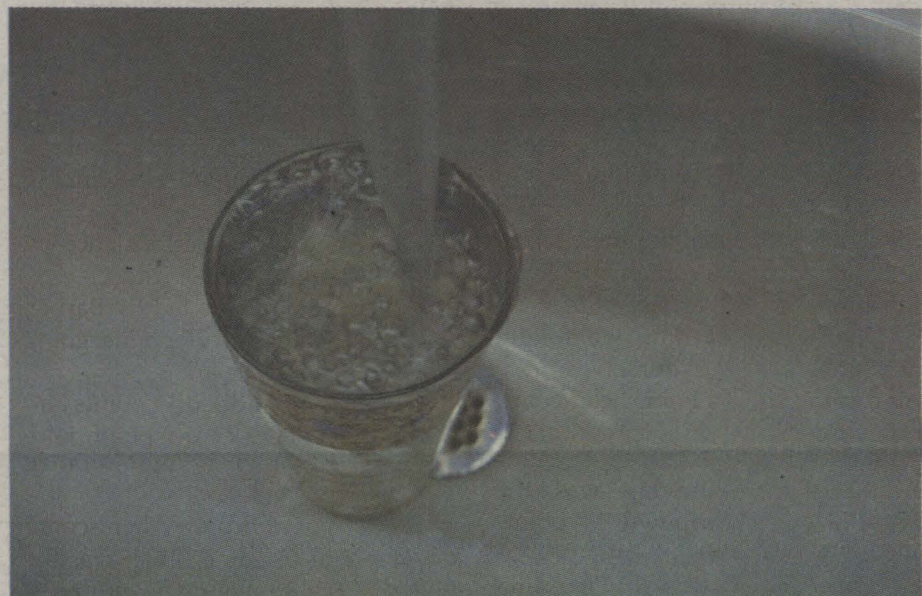
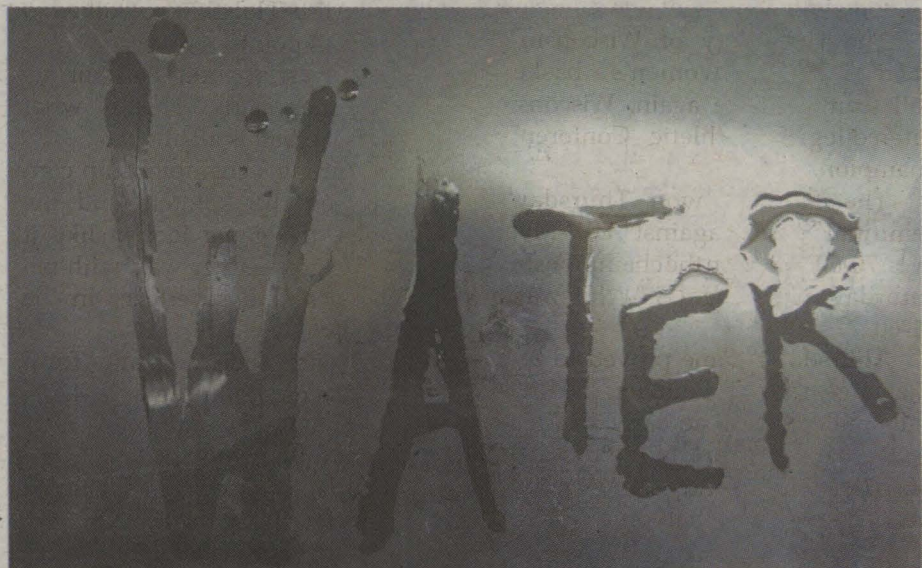
While Feiten agreed with the positive results of the contest, she was a little concerned about these "possible micro bacteria."

"In this area, agriculture is a big part of our landscape, so anything from fertilizers to pesticides could be in the groundwater. And since we have such sandy soils, contaminants that might be filtered out by clay or other soils aren't necessarily removed naturally," Feiten said.

The Stevens Point Water Department website does state that there are possible trace amounts of contaminants in the water, just like any other municipal water system. The same page says "the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk."

Stevens Point's water may be the "Best of the Best" taste-wise, but a whole different competition would be necessary to determine water quality ranks in the nation.

"It's the difference between walking into a room that's been sprayed with Febreze, versus walking into one that's genuinely clean," said Greuel. "Either one could win if you're judging it on the scent."



Photos by Samantha Feld

While Stevens Point water was voted this year's "Best of the Best" in the Water Works Association's taste competition, questions are being raised concerning the water's possible microbacterial content.

Questions to the Lawyer

I signed a lease in November for the next academic year (Sept. 1, 2012-May 20, 2013) with another student and some family issues have arisen which require me to take a semester off and stay in Eagle River next semester. What are my obligations under the lease and how does this affect my roommate

By signing a lease, assuming that it meets the legal requirements of a lease, you have obligated yourself to paying the rent for the period of the lease. If you find a subletter that is acceptable to your roommate, that could solve your problem. Check the lease requirements that relate to subletting. If the subletter skips out, then you would have to pick up the pieces, and your potential liability does not end with a subletter until that subletter has made all the payments due under the lease. If you don't find anyone to step into your shoes as a subletter, and don't pay the rent (and your roommate doesn't pay your share either) as required under the lease, you and your roommate could be evicted. Even though you might not have ever lived in the apartment, the landlord would in all likelihood file an eviction against naming both of you as defendants. Most students don't want to have eviction judgments and judgments for unpaid rent



entered against them, insofar as judgments like this affect your credit record. A judgment for money is good for 20 years and a creditor can garnish wages or utilize other collection methods against a debtor for that period of time. It is suggested that you contact the Student Legal Society for an appointment with the Staff Attorney Jan Roberts, who can look at your lease and tell you what your options are.

Students should feel free to set up an appointment with Jan Roberts, staff attorney for the Student Legal Society, with any questions related to landlord-tenant issues, or any other legal issues (tickets, criminal cases, family law issues, auto accidents, consumer issues, etc.). There is a \$5 administrative fee, and appointments are 30 minutes. Follow-up appointments are free.

To submit a question for the attorney please email Student Legal at: slegal@uwsp.edu

A Streetcar Named Desire

RACHEL HANSON
rhan632@uwsp.edu

Drama, intrigue, chaos and passion drive the storyline of "A Streetcar Named Desire," a play the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Theatre and Dance Department is preparing for in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the playwright Tennessee Williams.

"A Streetcar Named Desire" is Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning drama that is considered by critics such as Ted Pappas of Pittsburgh Public Theater as an "essential" American play. The show tells the story of a woman named Blanche who, after losing her house in Mississippi, heads to New Orleans to live with Stella and Stanley, her sister and brother-in-law, whose seemingly normal lives are revealed to be in chaos.

Mona Maclay, a Theatre Arts major, plays Blanche. Maclay is beyond excited to be a part of this

performance, seeming incredibly humbled by the opportunity and character she was selected for.

"This is like the holy grail of American theater," Maclay said. "I feel lucky to be working with such a great cast, crew, creative team, and director. We're blessed to be a part of something this big."

The cast includes Kate VanderVelden as Stella, Jake Horstmeier as Stanley and Zachary Spooner as Mitch.

All performances will be held March 2-4 and 8-10 in the Noel Fine Arts Center's Jenkins Theatre at 7:30 p.m. (with the exception of a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, March 4). Tickets are \$12 for students, \$17 for adults and \$16 for senior citizens, available at the Information and Tickets office in the Dreyfus University Center or by calling 715-346-4100. If there are still seats available the day of the show, student tickets are free with a UWSP ID.

[a vague attempt at something delicious.]



My First Taste of NYC

JORDAN LORRAINE

jlorr454@uwsp.edu

Upon first arrival in a big city, it is customary to shake with fear at all the sights and sounds that are truly uncustomary for a young boy from the Midwest. It wasn't until I sat down in a grubby looking pizzeria with a plate in front of me that I finally calmed down. It wasn't the famous, huge New York pizza slice that is polarized throughout the country, but instead chicken parmesan on a hero.

As it sat on its standard issue paper plate, wrapped in tin foil to keep its almost-too-much amount of chicken, cheese, and red sauce in one place. I felt a bit of calm wash over me; I thought, "This chicken parm and I are two peas in a New York pod. We're both struggling to keep ourselves together in the middle of a city that's pushing us to explode."

Whenever I so delicately tried to remove its foil coating, it almost exploded. Chicken parmesan on a hero is not a pretty dish to begin with, but when a random pizzeria makes it for you, presentation is not a factor. They pack so much chicken, sauce, and cheese between two breaded looking things that it's practically an open-faced sandwich with emphasis

on the open face and not on the sandwich.

Does the chicken parmesan look like it's one of the best things you've ever eaten? No. Will you look attractive while trying to eat something so messy? Absolutely not. Will you look back nostalgically, possibly while writing a food column? Probably, yeah.

That first bite, though, makes the whole mess worth it. The second to the one hundredth bite, they also make it worth it too, even if it is after a day or two sitting in the fridge.

Truth be told, you can get a chicken parmesan anywhere in New York City; there are probably over five hundred pizzerias in the entirety of the city and each one probably makes chicken parmesan, in combination with veal, steak, eggplant and more. Combine that with regular restaurants that also make parmesans and you're left with something that you can get anywhere.

That first sandwich has the magic of nostalgia though. It will always exist in my memories as my first bite in the middle of Manhattan that gave a little spark of happiness to a lost Midwestern boy in the most fast paced and unrelenting city that I know.

CHICKEN PARMESAN

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 4 skinless, boneless, chicken breasts (about 1 1/2 pounds)
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 cup dried bread crumbs
- 2 cups of mozzarella cheese
- Freshly grated Parmesan

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F.

1. Cut the chicken in half so both halves are about half an inch thick.

Put the flour in a shallow platter and season with salt and pepper.

In another bowl, combine eggs and water, and then beat until frothy.

Put the bread crumbs on a plate, season with salt and pepper.

2. Heat tablespoons of olive oil over medium-high heat in a large oven proof skillet. Lightly dredge both sides of the chicken cutlets in the seasoned flour, and then dip them in the egg wash to coat completely, letting the excess drip off, then dredge in the bread crumbs. When the oil is hot, add the cutlets and fry for 4 minutes on each side until golden and crusty.

3. At this point you top with your favorite red sauce. Might I suggest you use my red sauce recipe? After topping with red sauce, add the mozzarella and parmesan cheese to the top of red sauce and chicken and bake for 15 minutes.

• You can either eat the chicken parmesan by itself, on top of spaghetti or put it in a hero.

RECIPE



Photo by Jordan Lorraine

From New York City Pizzerias to the Midwest, Jordan Lorraine brings the New York staple, Chicken Parmesan, back home.



Cadavers on Campus

EMMA ST. AUBIN

estau255@uwsp.edu

As a Human Anatomy student, I am one of the lucky ones at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point that has the privilege to study hands-on with a cadaver.

Yes, you read correctly. I, along with many other students working toward their Bachelor of Science, spend many afternoons in a room with a cadaver, locating his organs, tissues and other aspects of the human body.

Although you may not be one of those students, you might be unknowingly passing one of the cadavers, if not all three of them, on your way to classes every day as the cadavers are stored in the buildings we visit most.

The Health Enhancement Center, where we go to watch sporting events, work out and often times attend classes, is also the home to Buddy, a cadaver used by Human Anatomy, Kinesiology and Athletic Training classes.

Buddy, who spends his days sleeping in the HEC, was purchased from the UW - Madison Medical School in the fall of 2006 for an approximate fee of \$1,000.

Like most cadavers, Buddy is preserved in a tank that consists of 50% ethanol and 50% distilled water, which is changed once a year to keep him fresh.

"There was a lab modification for Anatomy through the College of Professional Studies, so we decided to utilize a cadaver in our Anatomy course," said Rory Suomi, Associate Dean of the School of Health, Exercise Science, and Athletics and Professor of Physical Education.

The Pre-Professional students in Human Anatomy use the other two cadavers, stored in the Trainer Natural Resource Building.

Out of the 100-125 students enrolled in Biology 387 each year, the top 8-10 students are invited to dissect the cadaver the following year in Biology 498, Advanced Human Dissection, taught by Robert Schmitz, Associate Professor of Biology.

The first year that Schmitz's Human Anatomy class has a cadaver, a superficial dissection is performed, ultimately skinning the cadaver. The second year, the students dissect the internal aspects of the cadaver, such as the muscles, the nerves, the heart and much more.

The cadavers used for the Pre-Professional students are replaced each year, whereas the one used in the HEC is replaced every 5-10 years as the students do not use it for dissecting purposes.

When the cadavers are delivered, the information regarding their lives remains unknown in respect of those deceased and their families.

"When the cadaver comes, all we know is if it is male or female. We don't know the name, where they were from, or even why they died," Schmitz said.

If the thought of touching one of these cadavers makes you weak in the knees, it's okay! You are probably not in a major that requires Human Anatomy.

BSU Makes Food for the Soul

MONICA LENIUS
mleni264@uwsp.edu

"Soul food is good for the soul but starts in the kitchen," Emmitt Williams said in his informational piece at the annual Soul Food Dinner, which rang true for those who came to celebrate cultural awareness and fill their stomachs. Plates were piled high with fried and baked chicken, collard greens, mac and cheese, jambalaya, corn bread, and the ever popular sweet potato pie. Is your mouth watering yet?

Since 1993, the Black Student Union's Soul Food Dinner has been an annual event to educate students and the community about African-American culture in a variety of ways. As program of the year last year, there were high expectations in the air that were not disappointed.

"The crowd may have been small but the food was the best I've ever tasted it. The entertainment was just as great. It ended on such a great note," said Lori Graboski-Bauer, the outreach specialist at the Multicultural Resource Center.

Sunday's event brought out BSU's motto of "striving to break down negative stereotypes attached to the black community through the promotion of a positive image of our culture" by including the Black National Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing,"

a spoken word poem, wonderful food, and dancing by the children's performance group from the Ko-Thi Dance Company in Milwaukee.

"Based on my definition, it was successful. You could feel the togetherness in all of the people that came. It may not have been packed, but everyone enjoyed themselves and I think we reached our goal of cultural awareness," said Sequest Williams, head of the event and president of BSU.

Getting the food together proved to be the longest and most trying task as the kitchen crew had been working from Friday morning until the food was served on Sunday.

"I was amazed at how many students on the exec board and general assembly members stepped up and helped out in the kitchen to make this happen. They were there from 9 a.m.-4 p. m. this past weekend. I was extremely proud and honored to be a part of this event," Williams said.

The Ton Ko-Thi Children's Performing Ensemble comprised of individuals 3-18 years old and gave the audience a glimpse into African culture. The dancers wore elaborate headdresses, colorful costumes, and bare feet as they clapped, shouted and danced along with the syncopated music. It was unreal how fast the drummer's hands were beating on the authentic hand drums that by the

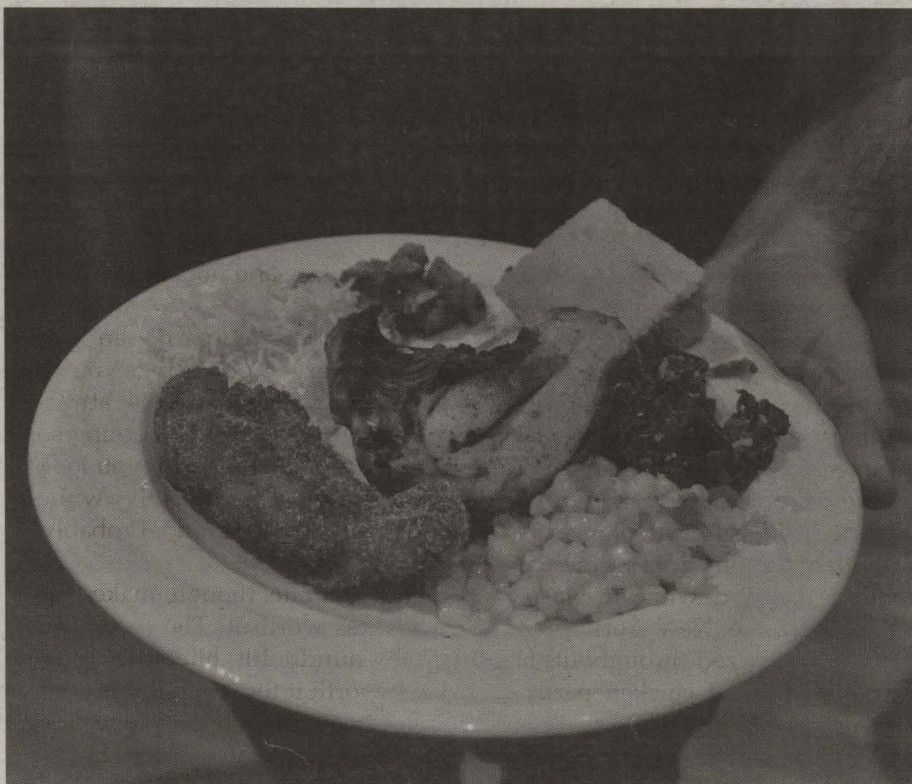


Photo by Samantha Feld
Black Student Union members prepared a variety of Southern-style dishes this past weekend, cooking for their annual Soul Food Dinner.

end of the performance, their palms ridiculously red. A crowd favorite was a younger drummer with glasses that did the Dougie during his improvised solo.

The mission of the Ko-Thi Children's Performing Ensemble is not only developing talented children in African traditions. The Ko-Thi Dance Company strives to increase school involvement in these kids by helping them get better grades, devel-

op lifelong social skills, and expose them to new audiences. These kids not only perform alone, but with the adult portion of the company.

If this event has caught your interest, check out other events that promote cultural awareness. The Chinese Lantern Festival, Celebracion Hispana, and the International Dinner are just a few examples of these types of events coming up. Check the UWSP website for more information.

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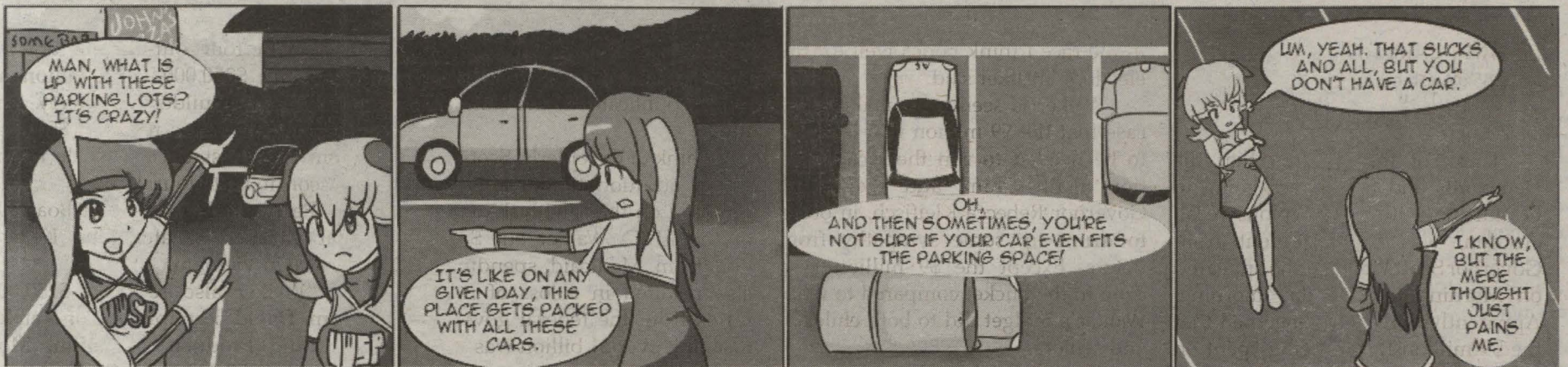
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[comic of the week]

POIN-TAN by Randy Shaw



Mr. Lovenstein

by Justin Westover



[photo of the week]



Photo by Logan Carlson

[classifieds]

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Opinion

Walker: Think of the Children and Elderly

LOGANT CARLSON

lcarl555@uwsp.edu

Think of the children that the Democrats and unions are going to be hurting with the frivolous recall election, was the argument from Governor Scott Walker as he appeared on Morning Joe Monday morning. Apparently Walker is concerned that the \$9 million that is being spent on the recall is going to hurt children and seniors.

"Well, we're focused," Walker said, "but it's a huge distraction, not just for me, for the legislature. I mean it's \$9 million of taxpayers' money just to run this. Think about the number of kids we could help, think of the number of seniors we could help in our state with the \$9 million that we didn't have to waste on this - this frivolous recall election.

"But really, I mean, in the end, I think it's amazing, after a year of being attacked by out of state special interests, the tens of millions of dollars that were poured in, the fact that we're ahead of any of the Democrats

in the race I think bodes well for the election," Walker said.

Walker is seemingly making the case that the \$9 million that is going to be needed to run the recall election against him, and Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, in order to drum up some sympathy from voters. Except the \$9 million is a drop in the bucket compared to what Walker's budget did to both children and seniors.

The biennial budget that was signed into law last summer cut \$834 million dollars from K-12 education, resulting in the largest cut to education in the nation on a per student basis.

Think of the children, Scott Walker.

That same budget also contained tax increases on seniors and the working poor when it cut the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Homestead Tax Credit. Together, both of those programs raised taxes \$70 million on those who could least afford it.

The SeniorCare program, designed to help seniors with the

costs of prescription drugs, saw \$20 million of its funds raided by Walker and Republicans in the state legislature.

Think of the elderly, Scott Walker.

In addition to the higher taxes imposed on them with the reduction of the EITC, Walker cut \$554 million from Medicaid spending. This also resulted in a loss of matching funds from the federal government, meaning over \$1 billion was cut from health care for low-income workers.

Think of those who cannot donate a quarter of a million dollars to your campaign, Scott Walker.

When Walker complained of "out of state special interests" he was trying to insinuate that it wasn't a grassroots effort within the state that was actively working to oust him from office, but the real "out of state special interests" he should have been talking about were those donating to his campaign.

In 2011, and January 2012, Walker raised \$12.1 million, the most ever by a candidate for governor in state history. "Between Jan. 13 and Jan. 17 alone, Walker brought in \$1 mil-

lion from four out-of-state donors, including \$250,000 from billionaire Texas home builder Bob Perry. The governor now has received \$500,000 from Perry," stated an article in the Wisconsin State Journal.

Perry funded the Swift Boat ads that attacked Senator John Kerry's service in Vietnam.

"Walker also received \$250,000 from David Humphreys of Tamko Building Products in Joplin, Mo., another \$250,000 from Sarah Atkins of Tamko, and \$250,000 from Stanley Herzog of Herzog Contracting, also of Missouri."

Walker talks about outside interest "meddling" in our state politics; he's ignoring the fact that he is receiving vast campaign contributions he himself is receiving.

Scott Walker can talk all he wants about the recall being a "distraction," but maybe he would be less distracted if he weren't at the center of an investigation into illegal campaign activities in his office while he was the Milwaukee County Executive.

London's Like That: Observations from a Student Abroad



Photo by Leah Wierzba
Trafalgar Square in London.

LEAH WIERZBA

lwier857@uwsp.edu

"Shoe and boot repairs...how quaint!" That was my first thought upon seeing the many shops scattered around London advertising their footwear-fixing specials. In this throwaway day and age, I figured Londoners would be more inclined to just buy a new pair of shoes than bother to repair the old

ones. However, when I noticed that the heels of my boots looked like I had held them against a grindstone for a solid five minutes after barely three weeks in the city, I realized the practicality of these repair shops. When you live in London, you're bound to do a lot of walking. And with a quality pair of boots costing 60 pounds or more here (translated: \$100), not everyone can manage to spring for a new set of kicks every

few weeks.

I love the fact that London is so walkable. I've done more walking in the month that I've been here than I do in five months back home. Not only is travelling by foot good exercise, it's also the best way to see the city. However, I've learned that there's one important rule for a successful foot journey: figure out how long it will take to get to your destination before you leave. Then double it.

Most of your extra time will result from just trying to decide with side of the sidewalk to walk on. As if they weren't being original enough by calling the bathroom the "loo" and making fish and chips the unofficial national meal, Brits also decided to drive on the opposite side of the road as the rest of the world. Although this may seem irrational, at least it's consistent. Not so with walking, however. You might think they would also stay to the left on the sidewalk. I assumed so and found myself playing chicken with quite a few fellow pedestrians. There's nothing worse than that awkward moment when two oncoming walkers both veer to the same side and end up in an unexpected dance of sorts as they shuffle past one another. With so many people in London, it's sure to happen at least once during your walk.

Then you'll need to allow time for pit stops. Speaking of the loo, I once made the mistake of popping into a store to use one. When the department stores are four stories tall and the bathroom just happens to be on the top floor, there's no such thing as a "quick" detour. You'll probably end up browsing through the aisles on the way back down. And after all that shopping, it'll be time for a coffee break, so there goes another 1/2 hour at a café.

All this is assuming you know exactly how to get where you're going. But in an unfamiliar city, especially a city as big as London, let's face it: you won't. If you're directionally challenged like me, you'll find yourself wandering through a construction zone in an area not even on the map... but that's a story for another time. Considering all of these factors, I've come to the conclusion that it's better not to be going anywhere in particular at all, but just to walk with the intention of exploring. An astute friend once told me that the best part of traveling is getting lost. In a city where you can be strolling past a Princess Diana memorial fountain in Hyde Park one minute and stumble upon Buckingham Palace the next, the walk is usually better than the destination anyway. London's like that.



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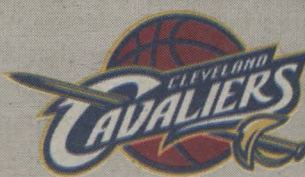
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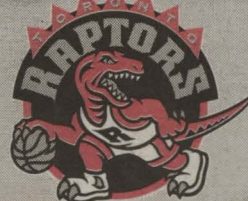
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MON, APR 23
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WED, APR 25
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VS

