

# the pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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# News

## UWSP Prepared to Implement Voter ID Law

LOGANT T. CARLSON

lcarl555@uwsp.edu

While questions over the constitutionality of the state's voter ID law are still being decided by the judicial system, UWSP Student Government Association officials are saying the campus is ready in the event the law is upheld.

The voter ID law outlines specific requirements for UW System ID cards to be used during elections, namely an expiration date two years from the issuance of the card, and the student's signature.

The current ID cards that the university issues to all students do not meet the conditions outlined in the legislation to be compliant for use at the polls on Election Day.

This has prompted the university to design a new ID card that would be available to students, for free, upon request. The University Centers is currently paying the costs for the new IDs, which cost less than \$5 per ID to produce, according to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Al Thompson.

Requiring students to pay the costs could potentially constitute a poll tax, and violate the twenty-fourth amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

These new ID cards would only be used for voting, and would not replace the traditional ID cards issued to students.

SGA officials identified the costs to the university would be too great to have these new IDs replace the current ones, namely because of them expiring every two years and the fact that not every student that attends UWSP would need a voter ID from the university.

Lindsey Brick, the outgoing Legislative Affairs Director for SGA, says 85 percent of UWSP students are from Wisconsin, and as such would be eligible to receive a free ID card from the Department of Motor Vehicles upon request.

SGA says the Government Accountability Board, the non-partisan committee that oversees elections in Wisconsin, approved the new ID cards.

If the voter ID law is upheld by the courts, students wishing to use

the ID card issued by the university would also need to produce a university issued letter stating the student is currently enrolled for the time period that the election is being held.

This letter can already be accessed by students through the academics tab on their myPoint, SGA officials said.

However, two separate university-issued ID cards could cause confusion for students over whether they have the proper one to be used during elections.

"If voter ID were to go into effect, I would rather have it be standardized," said Seth Hoffmeister, SGA President for 2012-2013.

Students who have lost their current university ID card, and need a new one, currently have to pay \$10 to replace it.

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau issued a memo when the voter ID law was being debated, stating it would cost the entire UW System \$300,000 to issue brand new IDs to students every two years.

year. Now student representatives in the SUFAC have access to review and even possibly challenge the "non-allocable" budget, even if they cannot change the numbers.

Of the \$1,053 each student will pay over the 2012-2013 academic year,

- \$513.60 will go to the University Centers,

- \$257 will pay for University Health Services,

- \$135.60 will supply the Text Rental Service,

- \$11 will be charged as a Municipal Fee, and

- \$274 will fund UWSP's student organizations.

The final category represents the "allocable" fees. In order to fund the university's 101 student organizations, SUFAC approved a total of \$840,957.38 for student org budgets.

The organizations with the most funding, in order, are: 90 FM, Student Government Association, The Pointer, Student Television, Newman Center, Women's Resource Center and Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship.

Together, these organizations make up \$366,518.16 (43 percent of the total for student orgs).

The Student Health Advisory Committee, Illuminating Engineering Society, Society for Human Resource Management, Math Club and Student Alumni Association were the five lowest-funded orgs. Of these five, the highest funding will go to the Student Alumni Association, which will have a budget of \$420 next year.

## THE POINTER

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### Business

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.....Adam Malooly

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.....Liz Fakazis

### CONTACT US

NEWSROOM.....715.346.2249

BUSINESS.....715.346.3800

ADVERTISING.....715.346.3707

FAX.....715.346.4712

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Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to *The Pointer* becomes the property of *The Pointer*.

## Student Fee Allocations Approved

NATHANAEL ENWALD

nenwal28@uwsp.edu

MICHAEL WILSON

mwils249@uwsp.edu

Student organizations are a huge part of campus life; they are widely accepted as the starting place for students to get involved with the field they are interested. While student involvement is a key element in the longevity of a student organization's life, equally as important are the segregated fee allocations each year.

By state law, students in UW campuses have the primary responsibility for the review and allocation of their segregated (or "student activity") fees. On April 12 the Student Government Association unanimously approved this year's budget allocations.

Every year, the treasurer of each student organization writes up a budget request to be submitted to the Segregated University Fees Allocation Committee (SUFAC).

"Segregated university fees (SUF) are charges, in addition to instructional fees, assessed to all students for student services, activities, programs and facilities that support the mission of University of Wisconsin System institutions," said SGA Budget Director Kanishka Bhattacharyya.

If a student is taking over 12 credits next semester, he or she will be paying a total of \$535.50 out of their tuition towards Segregated

Fees, which is defined by state law as "Student Activity Funding."

In other words, a chunk of that fee is given to student organizations.

However, the student organizations on campus represent only about 25 percent of the total segregated fee allocations. The other 75 percent of UW - Stevens Point student tuition goes to other elements of the campus such as SGA, Health Services, and the University Center, which gets the largest cut of the money pie.

Bhattacharyya said that the reason the UC gets the largest cut of segregated fees is because the university is still paying off the loans taken out to build the Dreyfus University Center.

The funds that are distributed to student organizations are referred to as "allocable" and the rest, most of which is distributed to University Centers, is defined as "non-allocable."

However, Wisconsin's law books show no distinction between the fees students have the right to directly allocate and those fees students cannot touch. That distinction is only a UW System policy, which students across the state have been working to eliminate.

Up until last year, the UWSP Student Government Association did not have any authority to review the non-allocable budget. Student rights advocates and even some legislators publicly claimed the university was violating state laws.

Students and administrators partly reformed the process by April last



## news

## Farmshed Hosts Event-Filled Weekend



Photo by Emily Hoffman

The Central Rivers Farmshed hosted a community supported agriculture open house Saturday, to help consumers better connect with their local farmers, and better understand what CSA means.

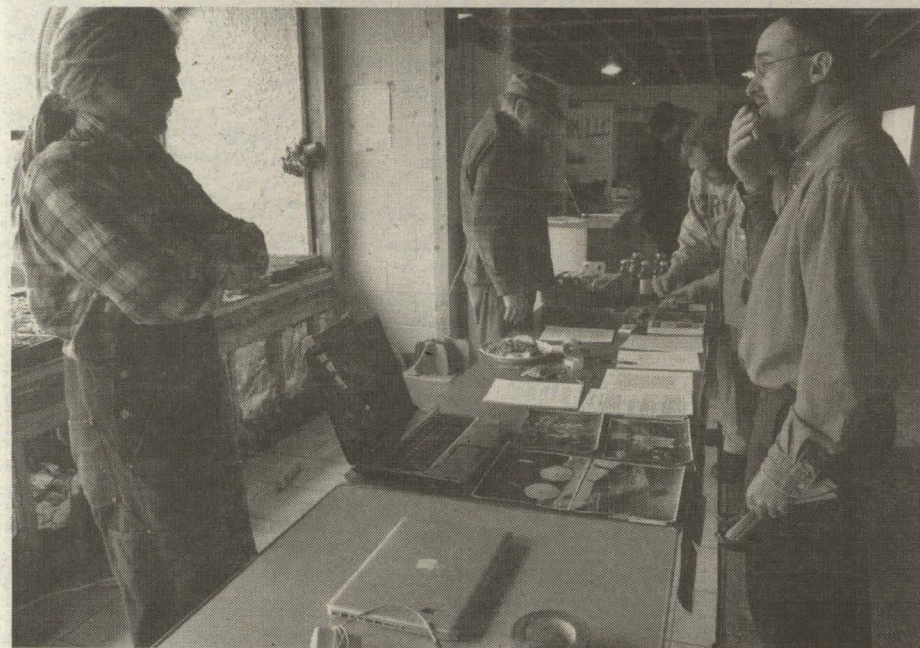


Photo by Emily Hoffman

The open house held workshops on the basics of storing and cooking foods with community supported agriculture.

BRIAN LUEDTKE

blued692@uwsp.edu

Saturday, May 5, was an event-filled day for Farmshed, Stevens Point's local food advocacy group. Starting at 9:00 a.m. volunteers participated in "Climate Impacts Day" as part of 350.org's "Connect the Dots" action. Then, at 11:00 a.m. the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) open house began, where interested parties could meet with local CSA farmers and sign up for this year's shares.

The workday, organized by Dan Dietrich, focused on combating climate change as part of a global initiative organized by 350.org, an organization dedicated to bringing CO2 levels below 350 parts per million (Levels are at 394.45 parts per million at Mauna Loa, Hawaii as of March 2012). Volunteers disassembled glass panes, which were the roof of two of the greenhouses at The Greenhouse Project. These two wood-framed greenhouses will be removed to make room for a courtyard. Shortly after removal, excavation will begin and a solar hot water system will be installed.

The second part of the day, the CSA open house, was an event intended to introduce the farmer to the consumer. Community supported agriculture is where the consumer pays the farmer at the beginning of the season for a weekly, or bi-weekly, share. The share could include a smorgasbord of vegetables, eggs, maple syrup, honey and even mushrooms.

"Buying a share helps (the farmer) get the money when they need it, which is in the spring ... Then you get to produce all summer long," said Marty Cable, 1995 UWSP graduate in biology.

But, there are many other reasons to get a CSA share. "Expanding my menu would probably be the biggest benefit of a CSA," said Jim Wroblewski, 2000 UWSP graduate in biology.

Wroblewski has a large garden of his own but sees the benefit of a CSA in trying new types and varieties of vegetables.

"I like the idea of a CSA as a community builder, because they have their own little events, like barn bash-es with families and vegetables - it just seems like fun ... families and food," said Meghan Hogfeldt, sophomore at UWSP.

"One of the most important things for us is the connection and it is nice for (the producer) to face-to-face meet (the consumer) and say, 'I'm going to be producing all of these things this year and how would you like to be a part of that, and be able to receive that every other week or every week?'" said Layne Cozzolino, executive director of Farmshed.

There are many types and kinds of CSA memberships, including winter shares, summer shares and worker shares. Winter shares are just that, shares beginning at the end of summer and continuing to spring. These are usually meat shares. Summer shares are the traditional CSA share, which normally includes a vast assortment of vegetables all growing season. A worker share is similar to a summer share but usually requires a day of service per week in exchange for a discounted price on a share.

"You have your regulars at the market and stuff, but when you have a CSA you get to know (the customer) a lot better. We do a newsletter, talk about our lives, what is new, what is going on at the farm so they get a look at what we are doing ... It is more of a longer term relationship ... more of a consistent relationship anyways," said Chris Holman, CSA farmer. "People come out to the farm and take a tour and stuff, to see what we're doing and all that."

A CSA share can be an amazing thing for the right person. Most shares come with newsletters, recipes and workshops on cool new ways to use the produce included in the share.

## Anonymous Source Releases Planned Budget Cuts

MICHAEL WILSON

mwils249@uwsp.edu

A source has released to The Pointer the results of two emergency meetings held last semester by university administrators, including members of different university governance groups, to affirm investment priorities and plan specific cuts to the university budget.

The assembled think-tank hoped to address the changing relationship between the university and the state, which has put a chokehold on funding for public education.

The groups met in mid-December of 2011, as convoked by Chancellor Bernie Patterson. According to University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point librarian Nerissa Nelson, this

"was a closed meeting that included the University's budget managers, vice chancellors, deans, and representation from faculty, academic staff, classified staff and students."

Although the specific cuts planned have not been publicly released, the Chancellor did issue a statement and a summary to the faculty in December. Chancellor Patterson was unable to reply with comments this week, but asked his Executive Assistant to provide these two documents. Manzke noted that these two documents are posted online.

Now, an anonymous source has made the full notes and documents from the meetings available for the campus. The source confirms specific plans, including what percentages of each college and departments' budgets will be trimmed, as well as cuts

to positions and services.

Two questions are being asked: what are the implications of having this information released? Furthermore, what kinds of personal and institutional sensitivities must be considered before informing the campus about these cuts?

"Making the budget meetings open meetings is the step that I think needs to happen," said Andy Felt, president of SPARC, the faculty union. "I understand that it's scary, making such meetings open. One imagines crazy people disrupting the meeting and not allowing you to have frank discussions. I think the potential upsides outweigh that potential disadvantage. Erring on the side of openness is probably for the best. It's also the law in Wisconsin."

"It's hard to say at this point," Nelson said. "I'm very concerned about program cuts or program realignment. I'm far more concerned and angry that no one is fighting tooth and nail (I mean this more globally) for state funding. Only 17 percent of our revenue comes from the state, which forces the institution to garner money through other means, including increased student tuition. In effect, that makes us more like a private institution - except that we are still subject to state laws and regulations."

"We're all grown-ups," Felt said. "We understand the concept of cuts. I like to think that we would handle a discussion about cuts with maturity and professionalism."

Continued on pg. 4



# news

## Why Students are not Reimbursed for Unused Meals

ANDY DAVIS

adavi481@uwsp.edu

At the end of every semester, all students who purchased on-campus dining plans lose their unused meals. Many frustrated students wonder why it is they are not reimbursed for the meals they paid for but did not use. If it is their money, why are they not entitled to it? Director of Dining Services Mark Hayes says the system is far more complicated than it seems.

"Once a student pays for a meal plan, the money goes into the state fund and it cannot be refunded," Hayes said simply when asked why refund checks could not be signed and delivered at the end of each semester. "It's state money." Hayes went on to explain that the money spent on things like residential living and on meal plans is put into a reserve account and is eventually used for campus expenditures.

According to the University of Wisconsin (UW) System's finance webpage, this practice is part of a "Reserve Accumulation Policy." It is written in the policy that these "funds should be accumulated to meet debt service requirements, to ensure that equipment and facilities can be maintained, replaced, remodeled, or refurbished as needed, and to ... offset short-term revenue losses or unanticipated expenditures." Hayes said that this auxiliary reserve is comprised of between 5 and 15 percent of the previous year's revenue, although it is typically closer to 5 percent. Essentially, the money spent by students on meal plans is used for many

purposes other than food.

The means by which funds for campus services—such as dining facilities—varies between the universities in the UW System. For example, at UW-Madison, a \$1,607 "operational cost" for dining facilities is tacked onto residential living costs. This fee is charged to students living in the residence halls regardless of whether or not they plan to purchase a meal plan. This money is then used to cover the overhead charges associated with operating dining services (e.g. worker salary, cost of food and preparation, maintenance of dining halls etc.). Hayes said that this is the reason students using meals to purchase food or groceries from an on-campus location are not charged taxes. "That amount has already been covered," he said.

Currently, every student here at UW-Stevens Point pays a different amount of money based on how many meals and Dawg Dollars they plan to spend in a semester. Hayes said that the percentage of used meals increased from 70 percent to 90 percent since the implementation of the current system. About four years ago, Hayes said, students had to purchase meals at the beginning of each week, and any unused meals would be lost

that weekend. "A little inconvenient, but it worked for some students," Hayes said.

Plans to revise the meal plan system here on campus are underway. Hayes explained that a "Declining Balance Plan" is probably the most efficient meal plan option. Under this plan, all students pay the same amount of money for their food. Hayes said the changes made to this campus would most resemble UW-Stout's current "Baseline" meal plan system. According to the Baseline webpage, students are charged a "Board Fee Cost" of \$887 each semester. The page explains that these costs cover "such things as: mortgage/rent, utilities, labor, supplies, maintenance" and the like. Each student then pays for their desired amount of "dining funds."

A proposal for a Declining Balance Plan was proposed to the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and the Student Government Association (SGA). Hayes said SGA voted 18-0 in favor of the new plan, but because RHA did not express as much interest in the plan—and because meal plans are linked closely to students in the residence halls—no changes were made. Hayes said the issue will be revisited at some point next year.

### University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Meal Plan	Meals/Week	Cost	Approximate Cost/Meal
150 meals + 75 Dawg Dollars	10	\$1170	\$7.80
200 meals + 25 Dawg Dollars	13	\$1225	\$5.63
250 meals + 0 Dawg Dollars	17	\$1275	\$5.10

### University of Wisconsin-Stout

Meal Plan	Board Fee Cost Per Semester	Dining Funds	Total Cost Per Semester
Plan 1	\$887	\$200	\$1087
Plan 2	\$887	\$270	\$1157
Plan 3	\$887	\$340	\$1227

\*all rates in chart are subject to approval by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents

## Budget Cuts/Colleges to Sustain Substantial Cuts

Continued from page 3

MICHAEL WILSON

mwils249@uwsp.edu

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## [Protective Services Report]

April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup>

April 29<sup>th</sup>

12:33 am: A suspicious vehicle was reported in Lot Q.  
3:11 am: A male was observed urinating on Thompson Hall.  
7:30 am: A gold Geo Prism was reported with possible front windshield damage in Lot P.  
7:44 am: A mother duck and her ducklings were trapped in a sewer grate between the CNR and Science building.  
1:44 pm: Smith Hall staff reported complaints of a student smoking marijuana.  
3:57 pm: A student reported that their bike was stolen.

April 30<sup>th</sup>

10:31 pm: Thompson Hall staff reported vomit on the third floor.

May 1<sup>st</sup>

12:43 am: Received a noise complaint of a car alarm going off in Lot P.  
10:20 am: A female student called stating she was afraid to go on the bus because of a male that had been bothering her.  
12:22 pm: A parking pass was stolen from a vehicle in Lot Q.  
12:32 pm: Received three complaints regarding the religious protestors outside the Science building and HEC.  
1:06 pm: A student walked out of the food court at the DUC again without paying for their food.  
1:18 pm: Thompson Hall staff reported several complaints from students about the religious protestors outside the HEC and Science building.  
2:28 pm: The Chancellor's Office requested Protective Services check on the religious protest to make sure it was not getting out of hand.  
10:32 pm: A student reported the breaks on their bike were cut.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

3:18 am: A known male and a second suspect were seen going into Schmeckle Reserve after dark.  
9:18 am: Custodial staff called and reported someone was washing their clothes inside Schmeckle Reserve.  
9:36 am: A student called to report damage to their vehicle in Lot J.  
8:16 pm: A noise complaint was reported between Knutzen Hall and Debot.  
10:54 pm: The city had opened the fire hydrants next to the HEC to flush the water lines, and people were seen gathering around them.  
11:48 pm: A male was seen entering Schmeckle Reserve after dark.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

4:13 am: A student called stating they were unable to start their dirt bike and requested the jump start kit.  
3:01 pm: A caller reported two males, one with a "machete like knife" and the other with a "wooden like knife" outside the DUC. Caller reported one of the individuals had stated, "better walk fast."  
5:54 pm: A student reported their bike was stolen from outside the DUC.

May 4<sup>th</sup>

12:19 am: Caller complained about people yelling and screaming in front of Knutzen Hall.  
3:05 am: A fight broke out in the Taco Bell parking lot. Individuals were seen running towards Steiner Hall.  
4:37 am: A red Mercury was found in Lot Q with the windshield and mirrors broken. The antenna was bent and the gas cap broken.  
10:45 am: A student reported the side mirrors on his car in Lot P were broken off.  
12:37 pm: A student was backing out of a parking stall in Lot P and ran over a glass bottle, resulting in a flat tire.  
2:15 pm: A sports bag was reported from outside the weight room.  
11:31 pm: Someone was reported climbing on the roof of the NFAC.

May 5<sup>th</sup>

12:15 am: Vomit was reported on the second floor bathroom of Smith Hall.  
12:30 am: An intoxicated student was seen between Baldwin Hall and the HEC.  
12:35 am: Staff from Thompson Hall reported the smell of marijuana from a room.  
3:56 am: A white vehicle was seen doing burnouts in Lot R.  
8:46 pm: Thompson Hall staff called about vomit on the first floor.



# Sports

## Point Track Takes Seventh, Eighth

ANDY HESSE

ahess342@uwsp.edu

The Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference held the 2012 WIAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Whitewater on Friday and Saturday. The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point women took seventh place while the men took eighth out of nine teams present.

Senior Kelly Haen won the 5000-meter run posting a time of 17:47.04. Haen's teammate, freshman Julia Colling finished third in the same event with a time of 17:57.75.

Junior Erin Kline won the 100-meter hurdles with a finals time of 14.39. She also snatched a fifth place finish in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:05.73.

Other notable finishers at the championships were sophomore Leanna Rose, senior Amy Krzykowski, and the 4x800 relay team consisting of freshman Nicole Hanson, freshman Kelsey Laska, freshman Kristen Mathes, and Haen.

Rose took a fourth place in the pole vault with a vault of 3.54 meters. Krzykowski placed fourth in the hammer throw with a distance of 51.48 meters. The 4x800 meter relay team seized a fourth place finish with a time of 9:24.95.

Sophomore Dan Sullivan won two conference titles to lead the team. Sullivan retained a first place finish in the 800-meter run posting a time of 1:53.79. He then took the 1500-meter run with a time of 3:52.80.

Other notable finishers for the

men were sophomore Zach Mixdorf, senior Sean Hasentein, and junior Brian Thill. Mixdorf took fifth in the high jump with a height of 1.95-meters. Hasentein finished the 5000-meter run in fourth with a time of 14:48.59. Thill scored 6416 points in the decathlon, good enough for a third place finish.

The 4x800-meter relay team, consisting of sophomore Scott Berry, freshman Ryan Wierzba, junior Alex Steiner, and senior Nick Duchow, placed third with a time of 7:50.02.

Kline broke the WIAC championship record for 100-meter hurdles the previous day with a preliminary time of 14.33. Kline broke Eau Claire's Jennifer Stafslein record previously set in 2005 who posted a time of 14.38.

Haen was nominated for the

WIAC Scholar-Athlete Award Program. The program requires a minimum GPA of 3.25, in the last year of competition, a minimum of two years in competition, and graduating following the season.

Along with being nominated for the Scholar-Athlete Award, Haen was the 2012 Athlete of the Week for the week of April 10. Senior Evan Hutchinson and senior Chelsea Czarnecki were awarded the WIAC Sportsmanship Award which is voted on by all of the coaches in the WIAC.

During the next two weeks the Pointers will be competing in a series of last-chance meets in attempt to qualify for nationals. Nationals will be held at Claremont Mudd-Scripts University in California from May 26-28.



Photos by Mark Kinslow

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships Saturday afternoon.

## Why Doesn't Wisconsin Have an NHL Team?

ANDY HESSE

ahess342@uwsp.edu

Commentary

Ever since I began watching hockey I have always wondered why Wisconsin does not have a team in the National Hockey League. Milwaukee plays host to the Milwaukee Admirals which play in the American Hockey League, but have you ever followed the AHL?

Name three Packers: Aaron Rodgers, Greg Jennings, and Clay Matthews. Okay, now name three Brewers: Ryan Braun, Nyjer Morgan (or T-Plush if you follow him), and Carlos Gomez. Now, name three Bucks: Brandon Jennings... didn't they trade some guy for another guy this year...? Umm...

I have read that Wisconsin does not have the market for a hockey team and with Chicago and Minneapolis so close, our market is made even

smaller. But correct me if I am wrong, doesn't Chicago and Minneapolis have a football, baseball and basketball team as well? They get away with it.

The Bucks may be terrible and not exactly "followed" but it hasn't stopped them from conducting basketball operations in Wisconsin. Regardless of who watches the Bucks, the fact of the matter is enough people are watching them for them to be televised and funded.

Another excuse used is that with so much dedication to the Packers, Wisconsinites would commit themselves too much to football in the fall. But the problem with that is hockey is played virtually every day of the week, let alone the same time as Packer games. It would be uncommon to see an overlap.

So maybe Wisconsin doesn't have a city as big as Los Angeles or Phoenix, but we do have the cold climate.

When kids in Arizona and California were playing backyard football in the heart of winter, Wisconsin people found ice, grabbed their skates and dropped a puck.

The most southern birthplace on the Los Angeles Kings roster is center Trevor Lewis from Salt Lake City, Utah. The Kings even have a Wisconsin-born player in defenseman Davis Dreiske from Hudson.

The top five colleges (determined by number of championships) for hockey are: University of Michigan in first with nine, University of Denver and University of North Dakota tied for second with seven, University of Wisconsin in third with six, and a three-way tie for fifth with five.

If we have all of this tradition and culture surrounding hockey, what makes critics think it can't be done? They add another excuse that the Bradley Center is a terrible venue for an NHL team, but again, the Bucks

are getting away with it.

I have heard and talked to people about what their favorite NHL teams are and the most common results are as follows: "San Jose because Pavelski plays for them," as well as "Nashville because Suter plays for them." We are forced to follow players from Wisconsin because we don't have a team.

The only legitimate argument I have heard is that Portland, Oregon, is ahead of us because they have a bigger market and are in need of another professional team. Valid, but does Florida need two teams? Do California and New York need three?

The distribution of teams could use an adjustment to the benefit of Oregon and Wisconsin. Owners are talking and Wisconsin may have a team within a few years. If not, revisit this article.



# sports

## Pointers Stumble Down the Strech

**WILL ROSSMILLER**  
wross460@uwsp.edu  
@willrossmiller

The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point baseball team finished up their regular season with a rough patch, losing five of their last seven games.

The losing started in the second game of a double header against UW-Whitewater. The Pointers would play another double header the next day against their division rivals, but lost both games.

Stevens Point then traveled home to play a pair of double headers against UW-Platteville, and lost the first two games in the series before righting the ship and winning both games in the next double header.

"We just hit a funk offensively," said Pointer head coach Pat Bloom. "I don't know if it was physical or mental fatigue, but we just got out of our routines and we weren't putting together quality at-bats."

It's not a good time for the Pointers to be struggling, as the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference baseball tournament starts this Friday.

When asked to define the season with one word, Bloom said 'inconsistent.' "We've shown glimpses of good baseball, and other times we look very average," Bloom said.

Although they have had their troubles, the Pointers have had some great positives come out of this sea-

son so far with individual achievements.

The Pointer pitching ace, junior Cam Seidl, has had a breakout year. In 67 1/3 innings pitched, Seidl has 46 strikeouts and an ERA of only 1.49.

"I attribute my success to the success my teammates are having," Seidl said.

Seidl has signed a temporary contract with the Northwoods League summer ball team, The Wisconsin Rapids Rafter, and will be joined by fellow teammate, junior shortstop Dan Douglas.

Offensively, junior catcher Ryan Schilter has played a big role for the Pointers. The Concordia University transfer has 35 RBIs, 21 stolen bases and a team-high .383 batting average.

Schilter will also be playing summer baseball in the Northwoods League. He will be on a temporary contract with the Green Bay Bullfrogs.

But the team knows that individual honors will not get them to where they want to be - earning a spot in the Division III World Series.

"The rankings and the predictions mean nothing this time of year. You can talk all you want about being able to do it, but ultimately you got to be tough enough to stand up and show that you can," Bloom said.

The third seeded Pointers open the WIAC tournament at 1 p.m. on Friday in La Crosse against UW-Whitewater.

Even if Stevens Point loses on Friday, they still have a chance to win



Photo by Mark Kinslow

The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point baseball team finished their season after a double header against UW-Whitewater.

the tournament, although they would have to beat a team twice to claim the title.

"I certainly think that we have the ability to win the conference tournament," Bloom said. "Our kids are up for the challenge."

"I think we have a real good shot

at repeating this year," said a confident Seidl. "I definitely feel like we have the ability to compete against any competition brought our way."

## Rest in Peace, Junior

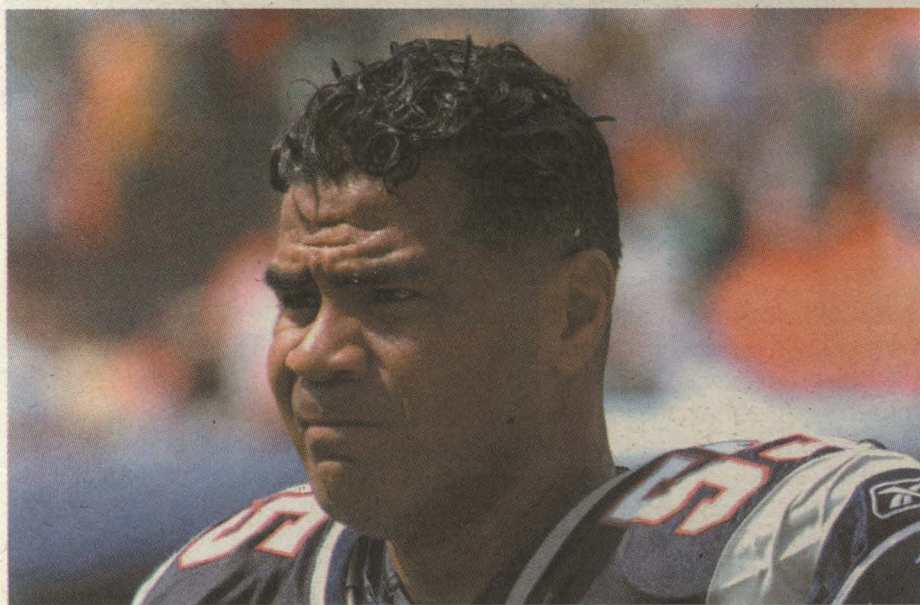


Photo courtesy of boston.com

Former all-pro NFL linebacker Junior Seau passed away last week.

**WILL ROSSMILLER**  
wross460@uwsp.edu  
@willrossmiller

Last week, the sports world was shocked by the sad news of the passing of former all-pro NFL linebacker, Junior Seau.

Police reported that Seau's death was a suicide, a very sad end to one

of the greatest people to represent the NFL, on and off the field.

Seau played 20 years in the league with the Dolphins, Patriots and the San Diego Chargers.

During his career, Seau was on 12 Pro Bowl teams, named to the 1990's all-decade team, and received the Walter Payton Man of the Year award

in 1994 for his service off the field.

Seau brought the passion and intensity that every football player should bring to the game everyday. He loved his job, and he played that way.

But Seau's excellence didn't end on the field; he continued it in the community by starting the Junior Seau Foundation.

In his foundation, Seau's mission was to "educate and empower young people through the support of child abuse prevention, drug and alcohol awareness, recreational opportunities, anti-juvenile delinquency efforts and complimentary educational programs."

Before researching information about Seau I had never known of his foundation, but with all of the great things being said about the man he was, it makes sense.

Seau's suicide comes as a surprise to everyone that knew him or was ever a fan. He was viewed as a very happy person that had so much to live for.

The news of Seau's death could have made even the most hardened of football fans break down.

During the day, Seau's friend and teammate, Marcellus Wiley, gave a heartfelt interview that brought the big man to tears.

It was just last season when Seau was inducted into the San Diego Chargers Hall of Fame. He was honored before a game, where 71,000 fans chanted his name.

The legacy of Junior Seau will not soon be forgotten, a point that current Chargers president, Dean Spanos, wants to make clear.

"...An icon in our community. He transcended the game. He wasn't just a football player, he was so much more," said Spanos in a letter to the public after he learned of Seau's passing.

With the death of Seau, the dark side of the life after the NFL has showed up once again. In the past 25 years, 12 former players have committed suicide.

It's a growing issue that needs to be looked at now, and if anything positive can come from Seau's death, it is that it can bring light to the bigger issue of NFL suicides.

Initial reports indicated that Seau's family was considering donating his brain for research to find out if there was any correlation between Seau's brain activity and his suicide.

Seau leaves behind two daughters, one son and both parents. Rest in peace Junior Seau, we all hope you are in a better place.



# Pointlife

## Saving the Penokees, One Festival at a Time

EMMA ST. AUBIN  
estau255@uwsp.edu

What better way to celebrate the end of yet another school year than a day filled with eclectic live music and local food and drink for a costly price of nada?

The Save the Penokee Springfest raised awareness of the effects of mining in northern Wisconsin, particularly the potential mine in the Penokee Mountains near Mellon, WI.

The 12-hour-long festival was held last Saturday on the large and open green space at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Student Recreation Fields.

For those who don't know what the Penokee mine is, it is a proposed iron mine to be built in the Penokee Hills. This could threaten a 40-mile stretch of continuous forest home to 71 miles of rivers and streams that flow through the proposed mining area and empty into the Bad River, which flows into Lake Superior, containing 72 rare and endangered plants and animals.

The mine would also be constructed of a 300 megawatt power plant to provide for the energy needs of the plant, using coal, which would emit extremely high levels of pollution and could further harm the area.

Local communities would be directly impacted by the effect of the mine on the Penokee Range and rivers as it provides tourism and outdoor recreation for canoeing, kayaking and fishing.

"A recent bill was turned down regarding the construction of the mine, which sparked the interest to raise awareness," said Adam Greuel, one of the co-directors of the Springfest who organized the festival.

Many large research companies are still interested in the mine, and by raising awareness on campus indi-

viduals were able to understand the possible issues regarding the mining.

"We held the event so that next time the issues come up politically we will have a better understanding of the dangers of our decisions," Greuel said.

Among the many spectators, junior Jeff Hyma was initially drawn to the Springfest for its 12-hour music lineup, showcasing many student bands from bluegrass and reggae to folk and funk rock.

"Other than the music, it was free! I mean unless you have a great excuse to not make it, such as 'Oh, that's the day of my colonoscopy!' or 'Ahh jeez that's when my brother is getting married in Bora Bora and I'm the best man!' Those are good excuses to miss this, but anything else just won't fly," Hyma said. "Everywhere you turned people had just giant smiles on their faces. It wasn't put on by some corporate hot shots, the whole thing was put on by some local kids who like to play music."

Yes, most of us are here to get an education. But admit it, our idea of a relaxing and fun-filled day doesn't usually include learning. However, the festival provided students with a fun afternoon while learning a lot in the process as speakers such as Tom Barrett and Arthur Kohl-Riggs talked about the social and environmental issues of mining in northern Wisconsin, along with a few words regarding solutions to the problem.

"Seeing as how there is such political turmoil in the state it was nice to hear these people speak without having to drive down to Madison," Hyma said.

Throughout the course of the day, an estimated 500 to 1,000 people attended the festival.

"Festivals like that shouldn't be a one-time thing because there was too much love going on there to not have it spread more," Hyma said.



Photo by Rachel Hanson

Progressive Republican candidate Arthur Kohl-Riggs, who is running against Scott Walker in the primary, attended Spring Fest and spoke about many issues Wisconsin faces today.



Photo by Rachel Hanson

Green Tea including members Trevor Roark (right), John Coletta (center), John Julka (left) and Zach Hubert (back) perform at Spring Fest.

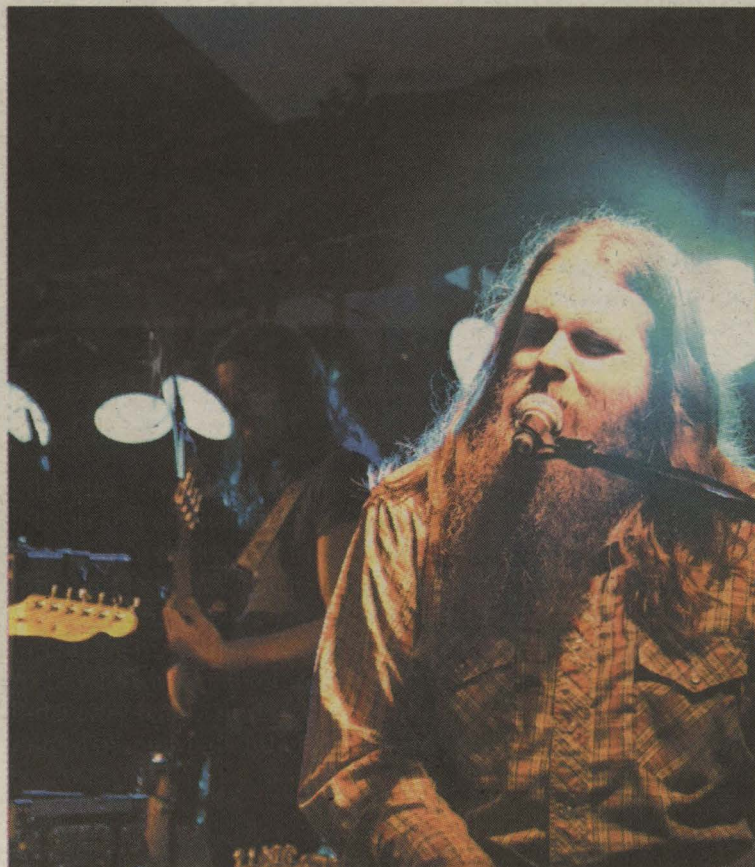


Photo by Rachel Hanson  
(left) Adam Greuel of Horseshoes & Hand Grenades.

The Giving Tree Band was the final performance of the night, and Erik Norman, the keyboardist and mandolin player, blew the crowd away.



## Culture Fest Will Show Diversity in Portage County

ANDY HESSE  
ahess342@uwsp.edu

Games, music and food from the cultures in Portage County come to life on Saturday, May 12, at Stevens Point Area Senior High. The festival, with over 100 different activities spread out through the high school, is designed for all ages and is completely free.

The festival costs roughly \$40,000 to run each year and is made possible by in-kind donations, financial donations and volunteers. There are currently 160 volunteers helping out, but it takes about 350 to make it work well. Volunteer Coordinator Carol Okray says she hopes the other 190 volunteers will sign up/show up to help this week.

"We have a few big groups that come and help out with setup and breakdown which is always nice," Okray said. "It's nice working with them. We are still looking for more people for taking down."

The kids craft area has about 30 different stations where kids can do hands-on activities led by teachers. The children's area itself requires about 100 volunteers because it is that

well-attended, according to Okray.

"The kids can go around with a passport where they can get them stamped by different vendors," Okray said. "They can learn how to say hello in a different language. It is big at the schools and a lot of teachers have them fill out passports and ask them where they went over the weekend."

There are foods that people can try made by professional chefs and cooks who just go around to festivals. Anyone who is cooking for the festival has to go through a rigorous test to ensure the food is delivered in a safe manner.

"Egg rolls are real popular at the Asian tables," Okray said. "People always have a smile on their face and it is just really pleasant. I know the African booth always has really hot sauces; the Indonesian has a mango spice."

Portagecountyculturefest.org lists three reasons for the Culture Fest: First, it brings together the people of the Portage County area to celebrate the richness of its many cultures. Second, it provides excellent opportunities for children and adults of central Wisconsin to learn about other cultures and hopefully learn

some new things about their own. Finally, it is fun and educational for everyone involved.

This year's Culture Fest will be the 20th anniversary of the event. Okray touched on the history as well, talking about how it started as tents down by the river with Hmong, USA and Germany booths. Since then it has expanded to SPASH which initially took up a couple rooms; now it

takes up the entire school as well as tents set up outside.

Information for visiting the Portage County Culture Fest can be found at [www.portagecountyculturefest.org](http://www.portagecountyculturefest.org). Volunteers looking to help support the festival can sign up by contacting Carol Okray at [crwokray@charter.net](mailto:crwokray@charter.net) or visiting [www.volunteersrock.org](http://www.volunteersrock.org).

**20th Annual**  
**2012 Portage County**  
**Cultural Festival**  
**Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**10 am – 5 pm • SPASH**  
**Stevens Point Area Senior High**  
**1201 N. Point Drive, Stevens Point**

Photo courtesy of [portagecountyculturalfestival.org](http://portagecountyculturalfestival.org)

## Danstage 2012 Joins Forces with Basketball Team, Math Department

RACHEL HANSON  
rhans632@uwsp.edu

Danstage 2012 continues this weekend with groundbreaking new collaborations. Along with faculty-choreographed premieres, this year's program is infused with guest influences from unexpected places.

Joan Karlen, Dance Program Coordinator and Director of Danstage, recognized that many seemingly unrelated programs at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point do indeed have a lot in common. Beyond that, she says, they have the ability to build with each other to realize new levels of performance.

"This is branching in a whole new direction for us," Karlen said. "We've had music collaborations, interactive media collaborations, set design collaborations... but branching into the sciences and math is an exciting new area for the dance program."

This year's Danstage brings in the creative work of UWSP Women's Basketball Assistant Coach Diane Hawkins, guest artist Luc Vanier of UW - Milwaukee, UWSP Percussion Ensemble Director Sean Connors, and Cindy McCabe, Chair of the UWSP Department of Mathematical Sciences.

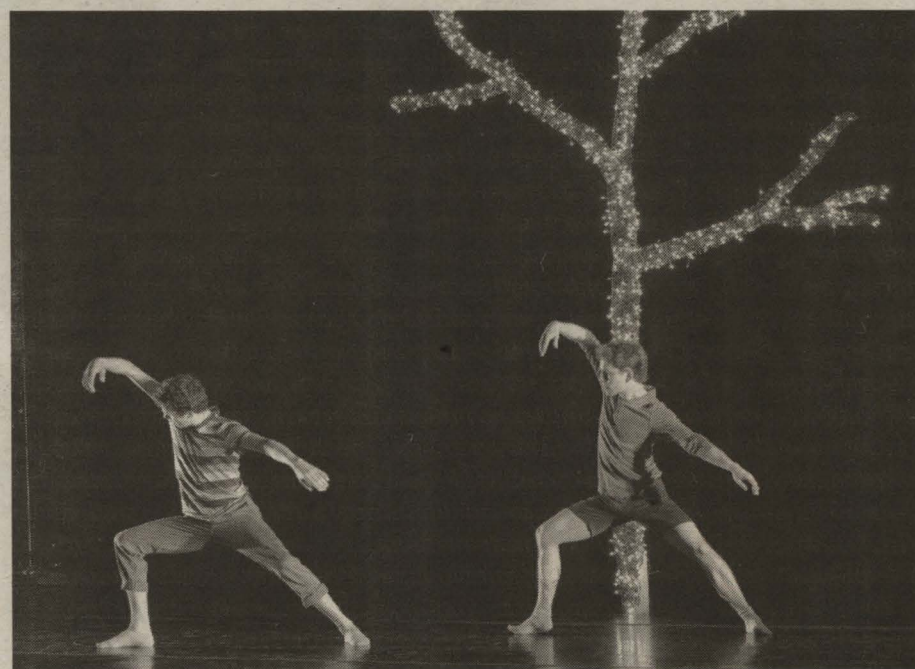
In Associate Professor of Dance Jeannie Hill's piece "The Sum is Greater," six members of the UWSP Women's Basketball Team perform choreographed basketball plays on stage. According to Karlen, Hill was "very impressed" by the suppleness of the players' skills.

Other performances include "Inhabitants of Tall Grass" and "Homeland" by Associate Professor Michael Estanich, "Round the Corner" by Joan Karlen, and "Triptych" by Luc Vanier.

Estanich notes that Danstage brings out the best in dancers, allowing their motion to speak volumes about human connectedness, both with each other and the natural forms around them.

"I noticed that it is through their articulate, passionate dancing that the range of work presented in this concert has a real sense of unity," Estanich said.

With 43 dancers, a percussion ensemble, and guest basketball players, Danstage 2012 features a full stage of performers at the top of their game. Performances are held at Jenkins Theatre in the UWSP NFAC this Wednesday through Friday, May 9-11, at 7:30 P.M. Student tickets are \$4.50 in advance, and free the day of the performance.



Photos by Robert Rosen

Danstage 2012 will feature 43 dancers, a percussion ensemble, and guest basketball players.

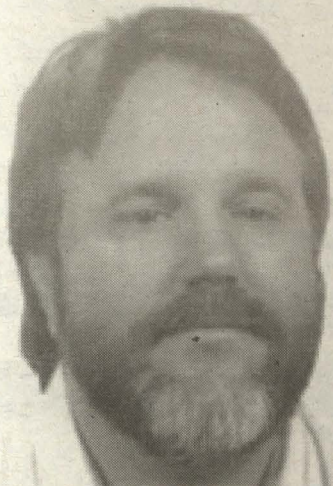


## A Look Into the Lives of the Scholarly and Wise

MONICA LENIUS  
mleni264@uwsp.edu

As students, we sometimes forget that our professors have led lives before teaching. We take the time to keep track of friends during class or check Facebook while doing homework but have you ever stopped and thought about what your teacher's lives must've been like when they were faced with the same challenges as us?

### Mark Tolstedt



Mark Tolstedt, a communication professor here at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, is living proof that there's life after all the stresses in school.

"I was involved to the point of being too involved. Church, family, friends, and sports essentially took up all of my time," Tolstedt said.

When asked what he typically did on weekends, Tolstedt replied, "I was always so involved with things that

I would just go to bed. Sometimes I would go out on a date with a girlfriend or something of that nature, but most of the time I just went home and went to sleep."

While being a sports fanatic kept Tolstedt occupied most evenings, he still managed to have time for fun.

"Oh yes, my friends and I got into some trouble. Just the typical stupid stuff we weren't supposed to do," Tolstedt said. "My favorite memories were taking long weekends and going camping, canoeing, and backpacking with friends."



### Erlinda Reyes

Growing up in the Philippines has allowed Erlinda Reyes, a professor in the education department, to live a very different life from those here in America.

"Being family oriented was the most important part. I was helpful at home, did track, and studied," Reyes

said, "Philippians value the meaning of family and education above all else."

Because of their strong family values it was mandatory for her and her family to take the 3-mile ride to Reyes' grandmother's house every Sunday to drink cocoa, eat cookies, and bread for two hours before studying hard the rest of the day.

"Now it is so difficult to get kids to do anything on Sundays," Reyes said.

Reyes dealt with some culture shock when coming to America.

"Life is so different because we wouldn't go out with our friends that often," Reyes said, "We were expected to stay home and help with the family. We were never allowed to go on dates or movies unless it was in groups; we went to school and study, study, studied. Our one joy was listening to the radio."

Being too poor to own a television, Reyes and her family would listen to scary stories, fables, and fairy tales before going to bed but when their mother said it was time for bed; it was time for bed.

"In Asia, whatever the mother says, goes. I sometimes have a hard time when younger people question everything," Reyes said. "There is that level of respect that has been lost."

### Helena Alden

As someone who had a teenage lifestyle more similar to those in America than Reyes, Helena Alden, a sociology professor at UWSP still admits to having to adapt to American culture.

"I came here in 1995 when I was 21 from England so it was a tad bit of a culture shock coming to the states," Alden said.

The education system is very different in England where generalized schooling essentially ends at 16 and the following two years students have a more focused class schedule.

"We are focused on adulthood more quickly in England. There are certain expectations in that you choose whether you want to continue with your education at 16 and decide if you want to go to tech school or college. Even though I was a bit of a rebel, I got through those years in my life," Alden said.

Although she acted out a bit and was a occasionally truant, Alden still managed to get good grades, win awards for her achievements, and play for every women's sports team available. She describes her typical weekends as hanging out with friends until she was 18.

"The drinking age in England is 18 so we would then go to this heavy metal biker pub and I would ride my motorcycle around," Alden said.

It's clear to see that although we spend hours on end every semester with faculty, we don't usually know the adventures they've embarked on that made them the person they are today.

The next time you feel like professors don't understand how busy you are remember that they were students at one point and played the game too.

## YOU KNOW YOU'RE A POINTER IF...

### THE POINTER STAFF

-you go to Partners on Wednesdays for \$1 bottles

-you're at taco bell at 3:30 a.m.

- the K-Mart parking lot only serves as a road

-you chew in class

-your dorm has a separate freezer for dead animals

-you de-stress with Belt's

-you see more squirrels than people on the way to class

-you always have to park in lot Q

-you only wear camo and/or plaid

-you almost get run over every day in the HEC crosswalk

-you seriously critique University landscaping

-you leave your house five minutes earlier to cross Division

-you think you're going mall shopping only to find ShopKo

-your printing charges are more than your car payments

-you don't ask your friends what they were up to in Schmeekle

-half of the places to eat on campus close before 3 p.m.

-you get lost in the Science Building

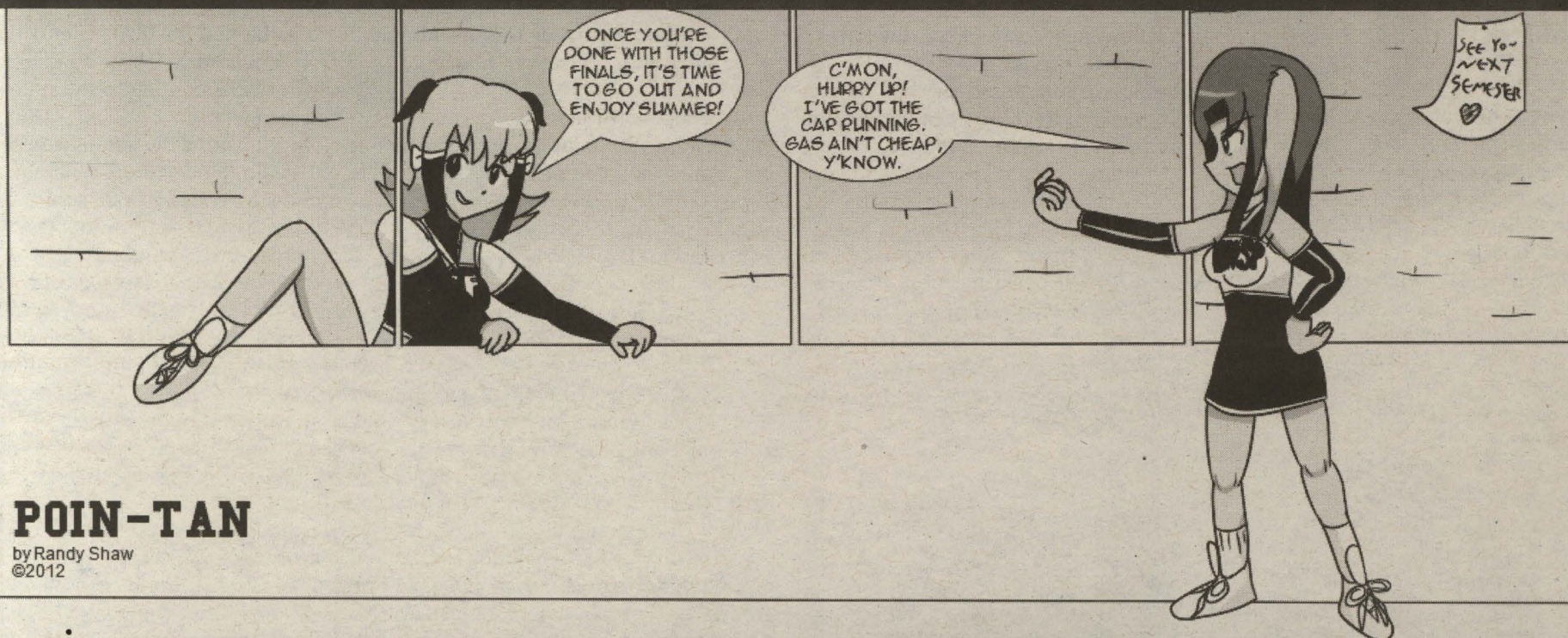
-a healthy meal choice is Marvin's

-you wait for 10 minutes to log onto a computer

....you get an acceptance letter from UWSP.



## comic of the week



## POIN-TAN

by Randy Shaw  
©2012

## photo of the week



Photo by Samantha Feld

## classifieds

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Most utilities included  
Contact Matt at (715) 340-9377

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It's time for taxes - what do I choose?  
Save \$\$\$ with DIY online?  
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Now you can do both!

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...but you stay at home  
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## MISSING KEYS?

Protective Services has had several keys turned into our campus lost and found. Please feel free to stop by our office in the lower level of the George Stein Building or call us at 346-3456 to identify your lost keys.

## WANTED:

Female to share spacious three bedroom apartment with two females. Internet/cable TV included, \$1695/semester. Summer optional. Available 9-1-2012. Call 715-340-7285

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5-6 BEDROOM HOUSE 1  
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# Opinion

## Is the Internet Making Us Stupid?

NATHANAEL ENWALD

nenwal28@uwsp.edu

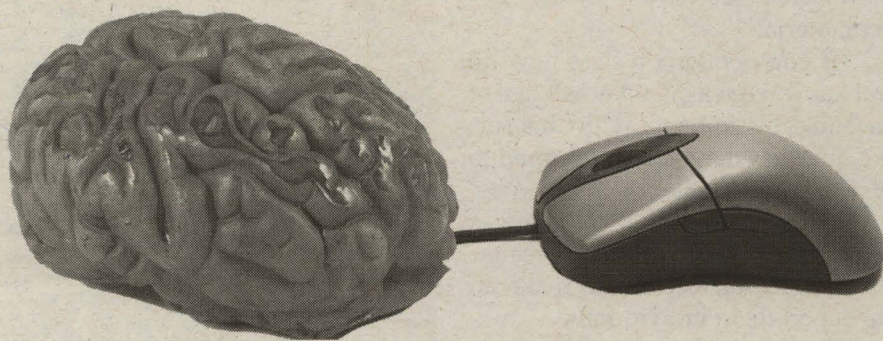
I submit to you that, in fact, it does make us stupid. You'll get no argument from me that the sheer quantity of information on the Internet is as vast, but does information being so readily available really mean anything good for our intellectual capacity?

If anything, the effect it has on our cognitive abilities is problematic. It's BECAUSE of the immense amount of data passing through our skulls that our thought processes and attention spans have grown shallow and aphoristic. If we need an answer to a question all we have to do is Google it, answer it, and forget it.

Ask yourself, what did you Google last week Monday? Can you remember any specific details? How did it end? What about the last book you read? Or the book you read 5 years ago. I would bet money you remember more about the book and at least remember how it ended.

A growing number of researchers are starting to uncover that the oversaturation of stimulation and the constant distractions the Internet provides is causing us to become superficial thinkers.

Nicholas Carr, the author of *The Shallows: How the Internet is Changing How we Think*, said, "My interest in the subject is not just academic. It's personal. I was inspired



Photos courtesy of blary54 & somadjinn on stock.xchng

to write the book after I realized that I was losing my own capacity for concentration and contemplation. Even when I was away from my computer, my mind seemed hungry for constant stimulation, for quick hits of information. I felt perpetually distracted. Could my loss of focus be a result of all the time I've spent online? In search of an answer to that question, I began to dig into the many psychological, behavioral, and neurological studies that examine how the tools we use to think with — our information technologies — shape our habits of mind."

What he found was alarming; people who read text online comprehend significantly less than those who read off of printed pages. People who watch multimedia are less likely to absorb information and retell it later than people who read it. And people who multitask and juggle

information are less productive and even, in some cases, are considerably less creative.

Is that really all that surprising though? All you can do to a book or newspaper is read it. But if you read that same article or book online you can be distracted by an ad, an email, an instant message, or a hyperlink.

Hyperlinks have made our lives so easy, too easy. We've all done it, read half way through an article, clicked on a hyperlink, got two paragraphs into that article and clicked on yet another "related article."

There you have it, in this process we started to read three articles and failed to actually finish any of them.

Our brains are de-evolving because of a lack of challenge to it, people forget that being stimulated is entirely different than being introspectively challenged.

Whether by design or just a side

effect of an arguably organically growing world of technology, we are being conditioned to be distracted and retain less and less knowledge in our brains.

The argument can be made that with all the world's information being stored digitally, it opens up the conscious areas of our brain to be more creative and expand on to other things. In other words, moving all the data online frees up our brain's hard drive.

But that argument is leaving out one key element, humans are inherently lazy. I'm not saying that there isn't an ambitious few who do utilize the online "info-bank" to free up some memory for scientific endeavors, but by in large that isn't what people do.

The rest of us spend our time YouTubeing funny cats and the latest video game trailers, filling our frontal lobe and short term memory with useless information that doesn't need to be cataloged into our long term memory. So, it isn't.

We've all heard the saying; our brain is a muscle that needs to be exercised. Well, we run short bursts with our short-term memory and are forgetting how to store important information for long periods of time.

So, is the Internet making us stupid? I don't know... Google it.

## Militarism is the Problem

MICHEAL WILSON

mwils249@uwsp.edu

Global military spending makes the international system and its economy go around. By far, the largest spender is the United States, which according to the War Resisters League will spend \$1.355 trillion on "defense" in 2013.

Even if media covered this gigantic expense, their efforts only ever scratch the surface. For instance, MSNBC, the "liberal media" in the U.S., is owned by G.E., one of the largest weapons manufacturers in the world.

That is because without the war economy, oil prices would be higher, there would be less military contracts, industrial production would drop, etc. Interestingly, these subsidies are extremely anti-capitalistic. A study showed the U.S. has subsidized 30 percent of price of oil: by spending money on invasions and occupations since the first oil shock in 1973, we keep prices down. Of Fortune Magazine's top four corporations in 2012, three are oil companies. The other is Wal-Mart.

And that's just a part of it. Our

entire economic and political structures are dictated by these "national security" doctrines.

Meanwhile, we are not getting any safer. Access to weapons is widespread, and Raytheon, Boeing and G.E. are loving it. Without the war economy, the corporations that own our media and their associates would lose profits, big time.

It's too bad they determine policy. I think if we lived in a democracy, people would not be afraid to challenge these numbers more often.

Last year, U.S. Department of Defense funding reached its highest point since 1965. Let's look at the consequences. K-12 schools are told "there is no money" for the programs they need. Nurses are told that our states are "broke" and we can't cure our sick. Student loan debt surpassed \$1 trillion. Global income inequality has grown immensely over the last three decades. The minimum wage of the middle class in the U.S. has stagnated or declined in the same period.

Are you feeling the "national security" yet?

At the beginning of the academic

year, the U.S. was involved in seven conflicts, including the longest war and military occupation in our history. Today, we pretend we're getting out of Afghanistan, but we'll leave "advisers" there to carry out our bidding. We have a military presence in over 100 countries. In Germany, there are still 60,000 U.S. military troops stationed. Didn't that war end in 1945? Didn't the Berlin Wall collapse by 1993?

The income ratio of the one-fifth of the world's population in the wealthiest countries to the one-fifth in the poorest went from 30 to 1 in 1960 to 74 to 1 in 1995. In the United States the National Taxpayer's Union estimated that 10% of the population controls 71% of the wealth. A United Nations University study reported that in 2000, 10% of adults in the world accounted for 85% of total wealth.

The combined wealth of the world's 200 richest people hit \$1 trillion in 1999; the combined income of 582 million people living in the 43 least developed countries is \$146 billion. The GDP of the poorest 48 nations is less than the wealth of the

world's three richest people combined.

Each day, more than 34,000 children under the age of five die from malnutrition. Almost one billion of the world's people is facing food insecurity. Half of the people in the world subsist on less than \$2 per day, and one-sixth of the world's population lives on less than \$1 per day.

Are you safe yet?

The answer is hidden in plain sight. We spend almost unlimited TAXPAYER money on the military-industrial complex. However, the UN estimated that for \$10 billion annually, we could reach global sanitation; for \$10 billion more, we could provide universal primary education; \$30 billion would provide clean water to everyone on earth; for \$30 billion annually, we could feed the entire world; for \$80 billion, we could stop the spread of AIDS. For \$180 billion annually, we could have global environmental sustainability.

All of these numbers sum up to less than \$350 billion. That is \$1 trillion less than the U.S. will spend on "security" next year.

God Bless America!



## Taking a Look into the History of Student Evaluation of Instructors

DAN NECKAR

dneck184@uwsp.edu

KATHRYN WEAST

kweas558@uwsp.edu

CICILY FILTZ

cfilt290@uwsp.edu

Although the teacher evaluation process and its ramifications may be familiar with students and faculty in the state and here at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, the evaluations have been raising eyebrows on campus since the 1960's.

The current evaluation process involves an 18 question Likert Scale-type question set rating teachers and the course on criteria based on helpfulness of the instructor, the instructors' interest in the material, and the student's opinion on whether or not they thought their courses were good overall.

The effects of the evaluation are felt by faculty and serve as more than a guideline for the teacher to improve. Chapter 4B, Section 3 of the University Handbook states that: "Student and colleague evaluations of teaching, and colleague evaluations of teaching-related scholarship, shall be considered in making decisions on retention, promotion, merit, tenure, salary, and general improvement and recognition."

The establishment of the evaluations was voted on and approved in 1969 by Student Senate and has seldom been changed. The most recent updates took place in 2007, according to Faculty Senate documents.

The Likert Scale evaluation was not always in place; in 1981 the Faculty Senate recommended that all departments and units adopt certain questions in their student evaluation questionnaires. The questions were to be answered "Using the standard grading scale of A, B, C, D and F." It wasn't until the early 1990's that this format was removed from standard teaching evaluations.

Professor of Communication Chris Sadler did not find the old format effective and understands why it was removed. He believed that the evaluations lacked definition or classification as to what each letter grade meant. "Without either of those two things, students are grading professors on what their assumption of each letter grade is and it had no real value," said Sadler.

According to Professor of Communication Richard Dubiel, the evaluations have been updated at

least two times in his 27 years at the university. Dubiel remembers one time a question was tossed out because of irrelevance. The evaluations used to ask if "the professor shows great knowledge of the subject material."

"If you're taking a class how do you know what a great knowledge of the subject is to begin with? It's sort of a question they're not equipped to answer," said Dubiel.

Sadler believes that changes were made infrequently because it's difficult for teachers to make an impact on them individually.

When these evaluations were being proposed by Student Senate, teachers were already skeptical that the evaluations would be effective and hesitant to involve them in personnel decisions. A column compiled in the May 4, 1967 issue of "The Pointer" titled "If You Ask Me," features several faculty members who were asked if they favored an evaluation system being installed on campus.

Overall, there tended to be differing opinions, but there is a clear disagreement on whether or not students are qualified to make evaluations, and none of the professors were inclined to evaluations having an outcome on personnel decisions, as they do today.

Roland Trytten, former faculty of the Chemistry department, was quoted as saying, "the student is not always in a position to evaluate intelligently, particularly as regards the content of a course or the requirements for a major." Trytten went on to say, "Let any evaluation be the result of careful thought, not of inertia or immaturity."

To try to balance this, the current evaluations are grouped by course type. That is, each course is weighted by factors like size, reason for taking the course and how the student expects to be graded.

Although some remain skeptical on whether students are properly equipped to answer evaluations with such serious implications, Sadler feels that students are definitely a proper authority of whether or not teachers are effective.

**"...shall be considered in making decisions on retention, promotion, merit, tenure, salary, and general improvement and recognition."**

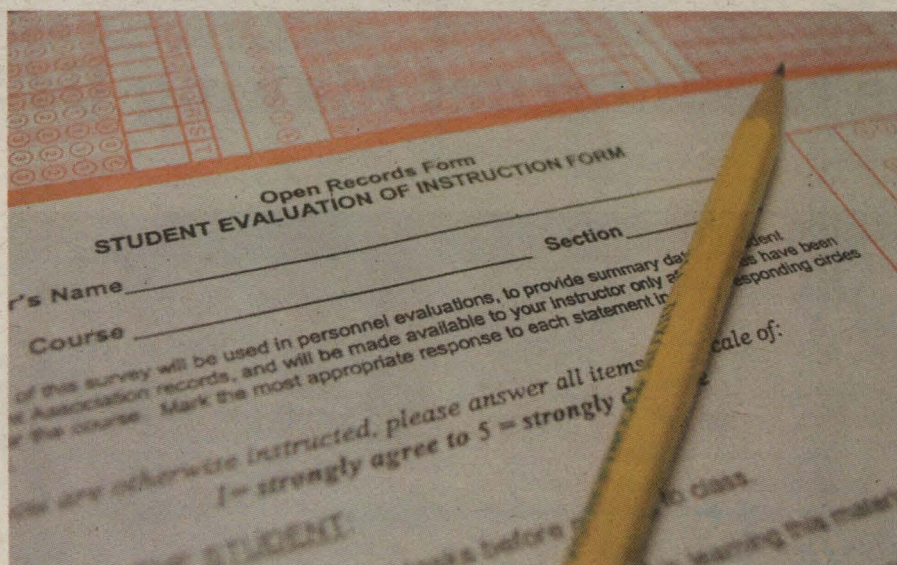


Photo by Samantha Feld

All student teacher evaluations are based on an 18-question Likert Scale-type question set.

"Students should have a voice," Sadler said. He believes that "students are good at determining whether they have learned something valuable or not".

Dubiel however said he prefers an open-ended essay question. He offers his own to students for a non-mandated evaluation because

it garners more constructive criticism for him to improve on. He said he gives students a blank sheet of paper and asks them to tell him the

things they liked about the class and offer suggestions for some of the things they would do differently.

He said that these responses are far more helpful than the university evaluations.

In the 1967 article from the The Pointer, Philosophy faculty member John Zawadsky said that the "best form of evaluation is students talking about teachers over a cup of coffee—or maybe a beer." To this Dubiel said, "If you get students into too personal, sort of a social situation they're going to tend to tell you only good things."

He added that he likes his "open-ended essay question because it gives students the chance to be constructive since it is only coming to me. I tend to get a lot more constructive remarks, which is far more helpful than just saying they liked the class or learned from it. These remarks give me ideas to change or experiment with."

A Faculty Senate document

from 2001 details the change made to allow the results to be posted online: "The Faculty Senate recognizes the desire of students to have access to instructor course evaluation results and their right to view such materials under Wisconsin's open records law."

Sadler said that even though the teaching evaluations are made public and available for viewing on campus, they do not include the comment sections, which are on the original evaluation sheets. He told me that those sections "are kept private for a professor's own developmental progress."

Mark Nook is the Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University of Wisconsin System. He is a former Provost and Interim Chancellor of UWSP.

"I'm one that has always believed that it's really necessary to have student input on faculty evaluations. I've always seen them, first and foremost as a way to evaluate my teaching, and then balance them with peer reviews and comments from my colleagues."

Nook emphasized that the evaluations are taken into consideration, but are never the singular reason for decisions.

"As an administrator, I take those evaluations into account but I don't rely solely on them. They are not weighted more heavily than the information I get from the peer reviews or other members of the department. I think that's the thing that's important, both as a professor and as one moves into administration," Nook said.

**To our readers:**

**Thank you for your dedication The Pointer this semester!**

**Have a fantastic, safe summer!**

**Stay classy, Stevens Point.**