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As we draw closer to the election, it is becoming clearer what issues will be the deciding factors in which candidates voters will cast their ballot for.

Considering the scope of national issues, it is easy to forget about the local politics and concerns. However, with the issues closer to home, it is important to vote. Students are more involved than ever this year at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.

"The issues I'll be considering in this year's elections are women's health and reproductive issues, as well as gay rights, the gay community and healthcare," said Elly Kelly, a psychology and French major here at UWSP.

State Assembly candidates for the 71st district, Patrick Tostin (R) and Katrina Shankland (D), came to UWSP on Oct. 23 for a forum about Q-and-A with students and locals. They touched on health care, state budgets, the school budget, creating jobs and bipartisanship. They both wholeheartedly agreed on the importance of revitalizing the economy.

"Absolutely, number-one issue would be jobs and the economy. Every single person, nationally or countywide, is concerned about the job situation," Shankland said. "We have lost a lot in Central Wisconsin. We need to focus on not only attracting new jobs but keeping them here."

"It is jobs and the economy. That is the number-one issue I keep hearing over and over again," said Tostin. "We need to make sure that we are creating a pro-growth environment for job creation. We need to get UWSP back to work so they can start providing for themselves again and start helping out their families."

Voters who attended the forum agreed that jobs are the top issue right now.

"From my perspective, it is important that people have livable lives and are able to find good jobs, good paying jobs," said Brady Gregors, a graduate of UWSP. "The energy policy is nice for the federal level, but from a local standpoint, it is all about taking care of people and making sure that they can provide for themselves."

When Gregors and Kelly, who both attended the forum to hear Tostin and Shankland speak, were asked which of the candidates' comments stood out for them, the most, they were attracted to different aspects.

"The candidates stand pretty equally in a lot of ways. I think the one definitely has more motivation and experience than the other, and it shows. So I am pretty set on who I will vote for," Kelly said.

"For me it was a big thing that Pat has lived here, he has worked here, been to school here," Gregors said. "While Miss Shankland seems to care about the area and like the people, and she wants to work to make things better here, that feeling of somebody who has been here and has actually been around the community for over six years—that feels homegrown to me."

No matter who is elected, students here at UWSP will be affected, and the student votes are important to the candidates. Both candidates were asked what they would like students to consider in this election, and both had a message to send.

"Our unemployment rate is double the national average," Tostin said. "I think we need someone who has a proven track record, who is willing to work with both sides of the aisle to get the job done and make sure we have new opportunities, especially for our soon-to-be-college graduates. What we are going to need is common-sense solutions and to get Wisconsin working again."

"I think the first thing that is most important is just to vote, period. We need everyone to vote, turnout among students especially," Shankland said. "I would suggest you consider the funding of not only UWSP and our school system, but also the funding of Badger Care and health care in general in our state, women's rights and worker's rights. Additionally, I think staying educated not only before you vote, but after you vote is really important. Student involvement doesn't end at the polls. It only begins there."

The three presidential debates are already taking place. The debates now look forward to casting their votes on Nov 6. With less than a week before Election Day, both candidates are making their final bids to sway voters.

One of the biggest surprises this year was President Obama's poor showing in the first televised debate on Oct 3. Many analysts are saying that if the president fails to win re-election, Obama's much-maligned performance could be the cause. In a CNN poll of registered voters after the first debate, 70 percent said that the Republican challenger Mitt Romney won.

Though President Obama's performance was rated much higher in the following debates, political analysts are finding that the debates themselves may not hold much importance to voters. According to an NBC/Wall Street Journal survey, debates made no difference for 47 percent of registered voters.

Some University of Wisconsin Stevens Point students held similar opinions of the debate:

"I thought each debate offered a good background with both candidates, but I also think the debates alone shouldn't be as big of an influence on voters' decisions as some make them out to be," said junior urban forestry major Benjamin Kollock, who watched all three of the presidential debates. "The debates definitely are important, and I think they help show an in-depth view of each candidate's personality, which can be one that needed to convince an undecided voter to vote for them."

Cassie Scott, a junior communication major, said that she did not watch the debates but felt that they do have at least the possibility of educating voters.

"I feel having the right to vote is a chance to make an impact and to choose who you believe would be the best candidate for presidency. Every person should have the personal drive to vote, regardless of all the political issues and campaigns," Scott said. "The outcome will affect you, so it can change your life."

Corey Lepak, a senior political major who watched the first of this year's presidential debates, found the debate important to watch but that it should not necessarily be the sole factor deciding which candidate someone votes for.

"I got to know the candidates a lot more than I did in any other format. It was pretty enlightening. I feel like the debates have some influence, but a lot of what people draw from the debates can be pretty overblown like, 'Obama had a good debate' or 'Romney was the better debater.' I don't think any of that matters, come election time," Lepak said.

Not all students agreed that the debates or politics in general were important.

"I honestly don't really care at all because none of it really affects me right now," said senior English major Theng Khang. "The debates are pretty much just drama between the candidates."

With an Oct 24-28 survey by the Pew Research Center finding President Obama and Republican challenger Romney tied at 47 percent apiece, this election will surely be as close as ever. Either candidate's performance in the debates might just be the reason for any outcome.
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Votestock: Tune In, Turn Out, and Vote Now

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Votestock, a midday music festival sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA) and Centertainment Productions (CP), will be held this Saturday, Nov. 3 to promote voter awareness among students for the upcoming election.

Votestock will be held in The Encore of the Dreyfus University Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point from 12-4 p.m. and will feature the musical groups Guarantees, Horseshoes & Hand Grenades, The People Brothers Band, and The Mustache. David Boardman, an SGA representative, explained the final push to encourage students to get out to vote.

"The last convention we were at, the United Council made the decision that there was going to be a statewide day of action," Boardman said. "Votestock is a combined effort of multiple University of Wisconsin schools in the system where students will see concerts on campuses around the state."

The idea behind the day of action is to get students excited to cast their vote in Tuesday's presidential election. Six UW campuses will be bringing in bands to promote this awareness in students.

Votestock, as explained by Boardman, is one event for the larger campaign that SGA and the Student Vote Coalition (SVC) have been working on since the beginning of the fall 2012 semester. Both organizations have collaborated in efforts of voter registration, held screenings of every debate and candidate forums and have invited every candidate on the ballot to every event they have put on.

"This is really our final push to engage a wide audience and the student body and encourage them and the community to cast their vote," Boardman said.

UWSP SGA President Seth Hoffmeister, UW-Marathon County President Ian Reese, and President of the United Council of UW-Students Geoff Murray will all be present at Saturday's Votestock event. Each will be on stage helping to introduce the musical acts as well as promote voter awareness.

SGA also reminds students that if they are already registered, they may show up to the polls on Election Day at any time to cast their vote. Registration is still possible the day of the election, as long as voters bring a valid Wisconsin identification card with them. If they do not have a valid ID, they will be asked for the last four digits of their social security number and proof of residence.

Opportunities to volunteer on Election Day will also be available and SGA will be able to assist any students who are seeking additional information on volunteering while attending Votestock.

"Our mission is to provide the opportunity to vote and to be educated when we are doing so," Boardman said. "Going to Votestock is a good way for students to educate and inform themselves."

While representatives of SGA and the SVC cannot advocate whom students should support in the upcoming election, they have made it clear that it is important for students and young voters to be aware of who is running for which positions. They encourage students to take advantage of their right to vote on Nov. 6.
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Vanderlin played college football at Michigan Tech. In his four-year career he totaled 117 tackles and 20 sacks, only 1.5 shy of the school record. During his short time with the Packers, Vanderlin met some interesting people in the organization. "The most interesting people I've met during my experience with the Packers would have to be the defensive line as a whole," Vanderlin said. "They are true professionals, and in my short time there they taught me a lot."

Vanderlin pointed out Ryan Pickett as a person that he really respected while there. "To be able to learn from guys like that was an amazing experience."

As a member of the practice squad, Vanderlin participated in almost everything the members of the regular roster would do. "You go to the same meetings, you're in the weight room together, and you practice together," Vanderlin said.

"The only difference is during the team portion of practice, the practice squad players are on the 'look team,' " Vanderlin said. "The week I was there, we were playing St. Louis, so we had to simulate the Rams defense for our offense."

How did Vanderlin end up at UWSP? Head coach Tom Journell has a lot to do with that.

"Coach Vanderlin interviewed in July, and right away I knew I wanted to hire him," Journell said. "He has energy, football intelligence, charisma and is just a people person."

"Now back at UWSP, Vanderlin knows that his brief stint with the Packers doesn't mean the end of his career but possibly the beginning. "After this past week, I think anything is possible," Vanderlin said. "But no matter what happens I will be happy."

Journell is happy that Vanderlin is back on the coaching staff but knows it may not be for long. "He could get called back next week. You just never know," Journell said.

"Vanderlin will continue to strive for playing in the NFL, but he really enjoys coaching. "Coaching is my passion, and helping young people develop into not only great athletes but good people is my ultimate goal," Vanderlin said. "I've had so many coaches who have helped me get to where I am today, and I want to be able to give back like they did."

Either way, Vanderlin knows that he has support here in Stevens Point, and he appreciates that.

"Stevens Point is a great community that I am happy to be a part of," Vanderlin said. "The support that I have gotten from not only the football team but the entire athletic department has been amazing."
Pointer Upset Warhawks

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point football team stunned 15th ranked University of Wisconsin-Whitewater last weekend with a 17-14 upset.

The win is the Pointers’ first in conference this season and the first time UWSP has beaten Whitewater since 2008.

A key factor in the game was the nine first-half penalties for Whitewater, which helped the Pointers claim an early lead.

“I’m a fourth-year senior here. This is the first time we’ve beaten Whitewater while I’ve been here,” said senior wide receiver Theo Maglio. “It feels amazing, like a dream come true.”

Head Coach Tom Journell knew it would come down to two key points if the Pointers wanted a chance to win the game. “If we don’t turn the ball over, and if the defense steps up, it’s going to be a great game,” Journell said.

The Pointers didn’t turn the ball over, while Whitewater had two costly turnovers. UWSP’s defense bent but did not break against a formidable Warhawks offense that only found the end zone once in the day.

The first score in the game didn’t come until six minutes into the second quarter, when Pointers sophomore quarterback Matt Behrendt’s pass and returned it 22 yards for a touchdown.

Less than six minutes later, the Pointers struck again with an 84-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Mitch Beau to Maglio, bringing the score to 14-0 at half.

But the Warhawks wouldn’t go quietly. Whitewater and UWSP alternated field goals in the third quarter. Whitewater junior kicker Eric Kindler connected from 23 yards.

UWSP’s freshman kicker Jesse Vervelde connected on a field goal of 23 yards. Kindler then connected on a 41-yarder, making the score 17-6 going to the fourth quarter.

With less than four minutes going by in the fourth quarter, the Warhawks had an opportunity to tack another three points on the board, but Kindler missed a 35-yard field goal.

The Warhawks would need those three points later in the game.

Whitewater finally found the end zone at the 8:06 mark with a one-yard run by freshman running back Nick Patterson.

No other scoring threats happened in the fourth quarter until the 1:30 mark when Whitewater was on the UWSP 23-yard line.

The Pointers defense held the Warhawks and forced Whitewater to attempt a 47-yard field goal. Kindler’s kick was blocked by sophomore defensive lineman Matt Cuadra, sealing the win for Stevens Point.

“I think we played a full-team game today. It was a lot of fun,” Beau said. “We grinded, we made plays when we needed to and we found a way to win the game.”

Maglio was a standout for the Pointers. He continued his stellar season, finishing with the game high of 142 yards receiving.

Whitewater’s offense was led by senior running back Zach Vallafskey picked off Whitewater sophomore defensive back Desmin Ward who compiled 33 yard on the ground.

Whitewater has now lost two games in a row, for the first time since the 2001 season. The Warhawks’ record now stands at 5-3, 3-2 in conference. They play the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire next weekend at home.

UWSP improves to 2-6 with a 1-4 conference record. The road doesn’t get any easier for the Pointers as they play 6th ranked University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh next weekend in Oshkosh.

Out of Bounds with Forward Kyle Heck

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The world is obviously serious. But it doesn’t have to be. This column is testament to that. In a life full of nuisances, pain, and strife there can be found a rich abundance of hilarity and laughter. Sports may seem a trivial and complex choreographed performance, but it’s really just a game. And what are games? Fun. Just like this column.

I think Thad Castle from Blue Mountain State summed up hockey fairly well when he said, “They play their sport on the hardest surface in the world with knives on the bottom of their feet.”

You need to be a badass to be a hockey player. You need to be able to rock sick flow and a shirt and tie with equal enthusiasm. And few do it better in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Conference than junior forward Kyle Heck.

How old were you when you first started skating?
“Two and a half.”

Approximately how many times have you fallen on the ice since then?
“A million.”

What’s your favorite thing about nachos?
“The cheese.”

Is your slapshot better than Happy Gilmore’s?
“Yeah right.”

If you could go pro in a sport other than hockey, which would it be?
“Golf.”

Would you rather drink out of the Stanley Cup or the Goblet of Fire?
“Stanley Cup for sure.”

Who let the dogs out?
“Baha men.”

Do you have Gangnam Style?
“No, hate that song.”

How often do you sharpen your skates?
“Two times a week.”

Would you rather have a breakdown song written about you by Taylor Swift or Adele?
“Taylor Swift.”

What’s the first thing you do when you get home from a game?
“Eat as much food as I can.”

What advice would you give to kids developing an interest in hockey?
“Stick with it as long as you can, best sport in the world.”

WORD ASSOCIATION
Puck: “I want it.”
Pointers: “1 Point.”
Zamboni: “Me, because I always fall down.”
Deep fried Oreos: “Gross.”
Bacon shortage: “How do pigs go extinct?”
Why Vote?

We asked university Faculty and staff ‘Why Vote?’ Here is what they had to say.

“We are at a turning point now, and it matters A LOT which party wins this election. The parties are very different in the amount of support they would offer for higher education and financial aid. We are all tired of the negative ads, but students need to use their critical thinking skills to cut through the rhetoric to figure out which candidates would act in your best interest.”

Karlene Ferrante - Professor of Communication

“Many people around the world have no right to vote. You do have that right, but if you don’t exercise it responsibly, you simply it’s worthless.”

Dan Dieterich- Senior Lecturer of English

What’s Influencing Your Vote?

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The presidential election is just around the corner and most of us have already made a decision regarding our vote, but what exactly is influencing that choice between Mitt Romney and Barack Obama?

Tune on the television and find a channel on a commercial break and you are sure to find a campaign advertisement. Go for a walk and enjoy the fall air along with the abundance of picket signs. Listen to Pandora radio and rather than jamming to 90’s pop, jam to the advertisements telling us why to not vote for the opposing candidate. Log on to Facebook and Twitter during the debates and notice the immense amount of political updates.

Joseph Rohrer, SGA director of academic issues, finds the political ads to be aggravating and uninformative rather than tackling the important issues. “Students might be feeling influenced by the social media in a sense that they are seeing what others have to say, but I’m not sure how much of an influence it is,” Rohrer said. “Rather, I think it’s more of a place to express their opinions and reinforce those opinions already in place.”

Steven Blank, a junior elementary education and Spanish major, has been watching the debates to educate himself throughout the political campaign instead of listening to the oftentimes biased ads we see on television and the Internet. “I really think that social media affects the way we think. I tend to have more liberal thoughts, but then sometimes I see ideas from conservatives that I like via YouTube, Twitter, and/or Facebook and I sometimes change my perspective. You can also tell a lot about a person by what they say about things like the debates,” Blank said.

YouTube videos that “songify” the highlights of the debates and portray the candidates in certain views aren’t always reliable sources for learning the facts, but many students find themselves getting information regarding the campaign through these subjective means nonetheless. “I always tell myself that no, political ads on TV don’t influence me, but sometimes they really do,” Blank said. “I end up remembering a lot of random statistics that jab the other candidate.”

Advertisements on television and the Internet have recently been bombarding our everyday lives and might be resulting in more of an influence than we care to admit to. “I feel like ads are effective in persuading our votes because there are lots of college students who have lots of ideas, and who are like me and are easily influenced when they hear an idea that they agree with,” Blank said.

Rohrer has been trying to veer away from the influence of the political ads and is educating himself through the debates, candidate forums, and the screenings of the senate debates on campus. “I enjoy a good, civil debate, but when that isn’t the case, the entertainment value is a good incentive to tune in,” Rohrer said.

After what seems to have been an eternity of persuasion, it all comes down to one day: November 6, 2012. On that day there will be an immense amount of diverse feelings across our nation. However, after all is said and done we will all hold one feeling in common, and that is the relief that, although temporary, the ads are finally over.

Sponsored by SGA and PRSSA
The 2012 Presidential Election Student Survey

90% of students said they will be voting in the election.
10% of students said they will not be voting in the election.

82% Predict Obama will win the election
2% Predict a different candidate will win the election
16% Predict Romney will win the election

The Issues Most Important to University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Students In Choosing a Candidate

| Economic Issues | 18% |
| Education       | 37% |
| Healthcare      | 17% |
| Social Issues   | 22% |
| Defense         | 3%  |
| Other           | 3%  |

How informed do you feel you are for the Upcoming Election?

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Obama

- Children brought to the U.S. illegally can be exempted from deportation.
- Wants to increase government spending for education.
- Wants to lower taxes on the wealthy.
- Plans to eliminate tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas and tax breaks for domestically producing companies.
- Wants to have all troops out of Afghanistan by 2014.
- Supports same-sex marriage.
- Supports abortion rights.
- Supports the "No Child Left Behind Act." 
- Believes the decision is up to each state.

Romney

- Favors U.S. Mexico border fence.
- Opposes education benefits for illegal immigrants and denies legal status to those who go to college, but not those in the armed forces.
- Would end immigration caps for spouses and children of legal citizens.
- Wants to eliminate the "No Child Left Behind Act."
- Believes government should have less control over education.
- Would cut federal programs in hiring low-skilled workers.
- Would cap federal spending at 20 percent of gross domestic products.
- Wants a constitutional balanced budget amendment.
- Supports the War in Afghanistan.
- Would seek an increase of armed forces and increase of Defense budget.
- Pro-Life
- Would end funding for Planned Parenthood.
- Opposes gay marriage.
- Believes it should be in the constitution, and should not be up to the states.
- Opposes civil unions.
- Hospital Visitation rights are appropriate.
- Would seek to ban openly gay members in the military.
- Opposes Obamacare.
- Would leave policies up to states, not the federal government.
- Would, expand individual, tax-advantaged medical savings accounts.
- Wants savings to be used for insurance premiums and personal medical costs.
Students Hope to Bring Thanksgiving Early This Year

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Each year, the Black Student Union (BSU) throws a semi-formal dance during the fall semester and accepts non-perishable food items as admission to the dance. This year, they will be collaborating with the Latino Student Alliance (LSA).

"We decided to collaborate because we’re trying to get student organizations to work together, starting with our own," said Maira Avila, president of LSA.

Nigel Golden, the president of BSU, holds similar beliefs.

"Maria and I are already good friends. It only makes sense to bring our two organizations together to collaborate and try to bring ethnic groups together," Golden said.

Although the collaboration is new, the main objective that remains set in stone is to raise support for those who are in need. This year they will be supporting The Cupboard.

"The canned goods are a way to show that it can be fun and does not require a lot of work," Avila said.

Golden mentioned how most of us know what it feels like to run low on meals or be short on cash, and this is a way to support The Cupboard and be a helping hand to students in need.

However, giving to The Cupboard because they are giving back to the university and can relate better to it.

"Many of us as college students have been there where we couldn’t afford food or ran out of meals. So we’re giving to The Cupboard where they’ll give back to our peers who may be in a situation where they are in need," Avila said.

On top of giving, there will be a lot of dancing going on.

Avila and Golden both say it will be fun and memorable night. They encourage everyone to come out, dance and bring a friend.

It is a black and white, semi-formal dance, so remember to wear those same colors. If you bring a non-perishable food item and feel free to dance as much as you want.

The dance will be Thursday November 7th in the Alumni room. It starts at 7 p.m. and will go until 11 p.m. Start your weekend early and help BSU and LSA bring Thanksgiving to The Cupboard a little early this year.
Zeppelin Display at the Library

NERISSA NELSON
librarian

The University Library has had a number of interested spectators of the popular Zeppelin display located in the Lobby. The Zeppelin airship display includes materials from various sources and formats, including videos, old books, photos, magazines, and pamphlets. Many of the items in the display are from the collection of Rudolf Schmetzke, the father of Axel Schmetzke. Axel is a librarian at the University Library and is the Coordinator of Instruction.

Rudolf Schmetzke was born in Berlin in 1907 and was the son of a merchant. Fascinated by the emerging aviation technologies, he enthusiastically took to the air himself—first in balloons, later in gliders, and finally in small engine-powered planes. He studied business and actuary science and then worked in the insurance industry until WW II broke out. Drafted into the German air force for logistics, planning and setting up air fields in German occupied territories.

Upon arrival we stood in line in the lobby of the University of Cologne in 1975, and he died in 1999. While he had given up flying after becoming a family man and after suffering severe injuries in a plane crash, his interest in aviation persisted and he continued to add to his collection of aviation books until close to his death. The German books on display here are just a few examples of his extensive collection (some 2000 volumes).

Please stop by the Library to see this unique and popular display that will be up through mid-November. It is also posted on our Facebook page and Blog that you can find on our Library Homepage http://library.uwsp.edu.

A Day at Fort McCoy

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COMMENTARY

Saturday Morning I found myself wondering what I had volunteered for as I sat on a bus that was bouncing for about 50 other students had signed up for a one credit course, sponsored by ROTC, called Joint Field Training Exercise.

Upon arrival we stood in line in squads we had been divided into, shivering in the early morning frost. By this point in the day my arms and legs were completely numb with tired. But there was one more event to come: repelling. "It's okay as long as it's taken care of. I don't like the wolf look," said ShaQuese Jones, a junior at UWSP.

My tactic of hiding in the shrubs, not like they just woke up," said Dana Christel, a senior soil and land management: water resources major. "I don't mind facial hair as long as the person manages it," said Cheryl Fu, a junior communications major.

"I don't have that strong of an opinion about it, honestly," said Elizabeth McElroy, a sophomore graphic design major.

"I happen to be a big fan of beards and facial hair," said Dana Christel, a senior soil and land management: water resources major.

Tips Guys Can Take Away From This

Although most of these women claim neutrality regarding their opinions on facial hair, they still prefer a clean-shaven look. If you haven't mastered the scruffy beard yet, stay away from it. Your facial hair is a compliment to your personality. Although your overall appearance might matter when you're trying to pick up a lady, it's more about personality.
Tame Impala - Lonerism

Kevin Parker is at it again. Tame Impala have just released its second full length album and it's a zinger! The Australian musician/producer, known from his work with Pond, The Flaming Lips, and various Aussie projects, earns his keep on this marvelous album. Experimentation at its finest and the melodic psychedelic nature almost makes me feel like it's been ripped from a few Beatles records. A lot of the singing even sounds very similar to Lennon and McCartney except it's far more hypnotic, repetitious, and enigmatic, and I say that with the best intentions. This type of music is hardly mechanical, it's more of an organic goop of sex and bliss. It's provocative, magical, and most of all energetic, with all the fuzzy bass tones you'll be stroking the furry wall in no time. The entire album is really worth the listen, but a couple of songs really stood out to me. Apocalypse Dreams is one of the most stylistic songs on the record, utilizing a serious amount of layers. The musical cadences seem to be all over the place, but they still hold onto a similar instrumental tension and release found most noteworthy in the chorus. The song starts in a way that's very upbeat and steps back to ease the chorus in, where the bass line has your ears yearning for the resolution. It changes subtly and varies from part to part in a way that is rarely seen. Making it feel like four different songs smashed into one. It speeds up and slows down the chorus several times, with new effects, to create a truly inspiring masterpiece. Listening to this is absolutely refreshing, and sets up the following song incredibly well.

Mind Mischief is a quintessential psychedelic song. Everything about it, from the repetitive distorted guitar, the superb reverb on the vocals, and the pleasing delay make this a top tier experience. With phaser effects coming later in the song, it's a dreamy wonderland of effect modulation, with a space age kick that makes you realize the power of music. Parker's obsession with recording experiments has served him well in this mind-blowing, polished extravaganza of a head bobbing groove. Every time I listen to it I find new things I like about it, especially the chunky bass, so, so chunky. The bass is so chunky that my ears can hardly swallow, let alone make love with its enormous sound. This is a song, and an album, that aliens would destroy Earth for, or at least abduct Kevin Parker for!

Flashbulb Fires - Gasconader

Patrick McGuire has a swing to his voice reminiscent of '50s soda-pop, swoozy and melodic, which he fits into the indie style surprisingly well. The instrumentation is varied but typically has guitars, drum set, and a keyboard, fairly standard there but they include brass and strings for some tracks as well. The overall style I would describe as imaginative yet grounded by the vocals. In this respect I liken them to Arcade Fire as both have whimsical backdrops to vocals that generate the intensity. However, the album is set at a fairly slow pace that drags if you aren't listening to the album in its entirety, but key tracks make up for it and keep the album alive.

My favorite tracks of the album are "Serious Way", "I Beat My Body Down", and "Dark Ghost (I've Got Arms)". "I Beat My Body Down" is the starting track and it sets the pace with its laid back yet strong style. "I've Got Arms" brings a more upbeat style and leaves you with a melody you will be whistling for the rest of the day. "Serious Way" is my favorite track of the album. It is the second to last track and by this point McGuire is winding down the narrative of his religiously divided family. "Serious Way" is slower paced but the vocals hit the emotions hard, especially in the chorus "I will help you out: when you're on your way down: like a cigarette lit up". Gives me chivers every time. So bringing it all together I would say Gasconader by Flashbulb Fires is a near little album definitely worth checking out. 
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