

the pointer

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News

Political Update: Party Conventions Republican National Convention

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Republican National Convention: Republicans from around the nation gathered in Tampa, FL on Aug. 28 for the National Republican Convention (RNC). The convention was originally scheduled to begin on the 27, but due to the approach of hurricane Isaac toward Florida, an abrupt recess was announced by Chairman of the RNC Reince Priebus. Speakers over the course of the three days included numerous GOP senators, governors, mayors and representatives. At the end of the convention, Mitt Romney formally accepted his nomination as a candidate for the presidential election.



Photo Courtesy of US News

Tuesday Aug. 28:

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker gave a short speech, the first half of which was spent referencing his June 5 recall election victory in Wisconsin. "On June 5, voters in Wisconsin were asked to choose between going backwards to the days of double-digit tax increases, billion dollar budget deficits and record job loss, or moving forward," he said. Walker touted the growing economic climate of his state due to job creation and the reduction of the state deficit. The following night, about 10 minutes into Paul Ryan's speech, Scott Walker was seen shedding a tear.

Ann Romney took the podium and spoke not about politics or the budget, but about love. "I want to talk not about what divides us, but what holds us together as an American family." This speech served to familiarize delegates and voters with their party's presidential nominee. The tradition of nominees' wives speaking at national party conventions began in the early 1940s, with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Over the next several decades, speeches made by candidates' wives have served to describe aspects of their husbands' personalities that may not be recognized otherwise. Ann described Mitt in a way that humanized him.

Wednesday Aug. 29:

Former Secretary of the State Condoleezza Rice spoke of America's strength as a united country, and took the opportunity to convey the image of an America rehabilitated by a global market and fair trade under the leadership of Candidate Romney. Shev did not specifically call Barack Obama or the Democratic Party to account for broken promises or the slow economic recovery. Instead she instilled a sense of national pride. "The essence of America—what really unites us—is not nationality or ethnicity or religion. It is an idea, and what an idea it is," she said. "That you can come from humble circumstances and you can do great things. That it does not matter where you came from, it matters where you are going."

Vice Presidential Candidate Paul Ryan spoke for close to 40 minutes and formally accepted his nomination for candidacy. Some of the comments Ryan made during his speech have caused some confusion for voters, particularly those comments made about the closing of the General Motors (GM) plant in Janesville, WI, Ryan's home town. Obama gave a speech at the front of the plant in February of 2008, and stated that he believed the plant would be open for another hundred years under his plan. Ryan said "That's what he said in 2008. Well, as it turned out, that plant didn't last another year. It is locked up and empty to this day."

GM announced plans to close the Janesville factory in June of 2008, and manufacturing ended in December of that same year, one month before Obama's inauguration. In April of 2009 the plant was temporarily reopened, and a small crew of workers finished an order for Isuzu trucks.

Furthermore, the plant has never actually closed but has been in a "stand-by" status, meaning it could be reopened if the economy and GM production recover.

On Tuesday, Ryan appeared on the Today Show, and was asked by Matt Lauer to clarify some of the confusion. In his defense, Ryan said, "What they're trying to suggest is that I said Barack Obama is responsible for our plant shutdown in Janesville. That is not what I was saying, read the speech. What I was saying is the president ought to be held to account for his broken promises."

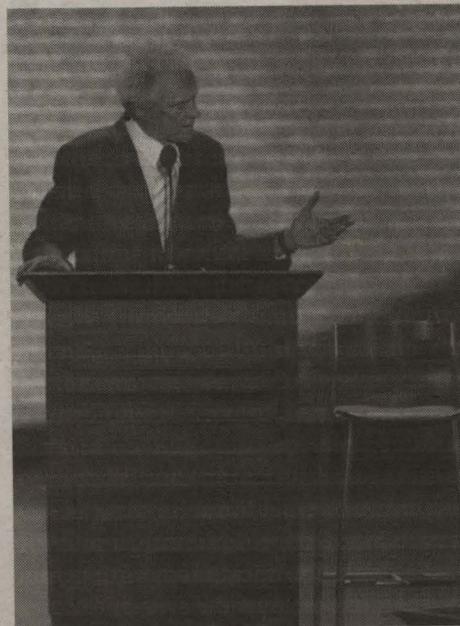


Photo Courtesy of The Hollywood Reporter

Thursday Aug. 30

Mystery Speaker Clint Eastwood made an impromptu speech, addressing the convention and an empty chair to his left that was meant to represent President Obama. When Eastwood gestured to the empty chair and announced that he was speaking with Obama, the audience at the convention reacted with a mix of laughter and unease. Eastwood questioned the symbolic Obama about the war in Afghanistan and unemployment, and made a few jokes, stopping mid-thought and asking the empty chair, "What do you mean shut up?" His speech was ended with a famous line from one of his movies, started by Eastwood and finished by the audience. "Go ahead," he said, raising his hands. The audience shouted back "Make my day!"

Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney formally accepted his nomination by the Republican Party. Speaking mostly about personal subjects, Mitt tried to relate to the American people. During his speech, he told a story about his parents. "Mom and Dad were married 64 years. And if you wondered what their secret was, you could have asked the local florist - because every day Dad gave Mom a rose, which he put on her bedside table," he said. Then, suddenly, "That's how she found out what happened on the day my father died - she went looking for him because that morning, there was no rose." Mitt promised a vision of an America that shows more backbone and returns to its former state of prosperity.

THE POINTER

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Democratic National Convention

Democratic National Convention: The Democratic National Convention (DNC) began Tuesday in Charlotte, N.C., and ended yesterday night. Democratic representatives all spoke on behalf of President Obama and their party's hope for his reelection.

Monday Sept. 3:

President Barack Obama delivered a Labor Day speech to members of the United Auto Workers and United Steelworkers in Toledo, Ohio. He pointed out that it was his decision that kept GM and Chrysler from collapsing, something Ryan and Romney opposed. "If America had thrown in the towel like that, GM and Chrysler wouldn't exist today," he said. When Obama would point out flaws in his opponents' actions the audience would boo and hiss. Each time this happened Obama would raise his hands and say calmly "Now don't boo, vote."

He spent much of his speech talking about the respect members of the middle class deserve and how they have earned it, "These jobs are worth more than just a paycheck. They're a source of pride. They're a ticket to middle-class life. These companies are worth more than just the cars that they build, they're a symbol of American innovation." This particular comment elicited loud cheers from the crowd of workers.

Later in the day, President Obama took a trip down to Louisiana to see what he could do for those affected by hurricane Isaac. He spent his time there about 30 miles away from New Orleans walking from house to house, shaking hands with residents and asking them about their experiences. He also pointed out that disaster declarations were made well in advance of the hurricane's landfall. He said he wanted to make sure officials "weren't behind the eight ball."



Photo Courtesy of Rollingout.com

Tuesday Sept. 4:

Mayor of San Antonio, Texas Julian Castro was introduced by his twin brother Joaquin and delivered a keynote speech about immigration and education. He told an anecdote about his grandmother's experiences as an orphan leaving her home in Mexico to live with relatives in San Antonio. He explained that she had taught herself to read and write, stressing the importance of education in America. Castro said that schools and universities built by past generations "open the doors to a decent job, a secure retirement, the chance for your children to do better than you did." In his speech he pointed out that in order for America to be competitive in the global economy, investments need to be made in education. Castro also criticized Romney's comments about borrowing money from one's parents in order to start a small business or to get an education. "Gee, why didn't I think of that?" Castro scoffed.

First Lady Michelle Obama spoke about her husband and his humble beginnings. "When Barack was a senator and a presidential candidate, to me, he was still the guy who picked me up for dates in a car that was so rusted out I could actually see the pavement going by in a hole in the passenger side door," she said. "He was the guy whose proudest possession was a coffee table he'd found in a dumpster, and whose only pair of decent shoes was a half size too small."

As with Ann's speech, Michelle aimed to humanize President Obama and familiarize the Democratic Party with a side of him that would otherwise not be exposed. She also appealed to women voters, talking particularly about mothers and her own daughters. She began wrapping up her speech with the idea that

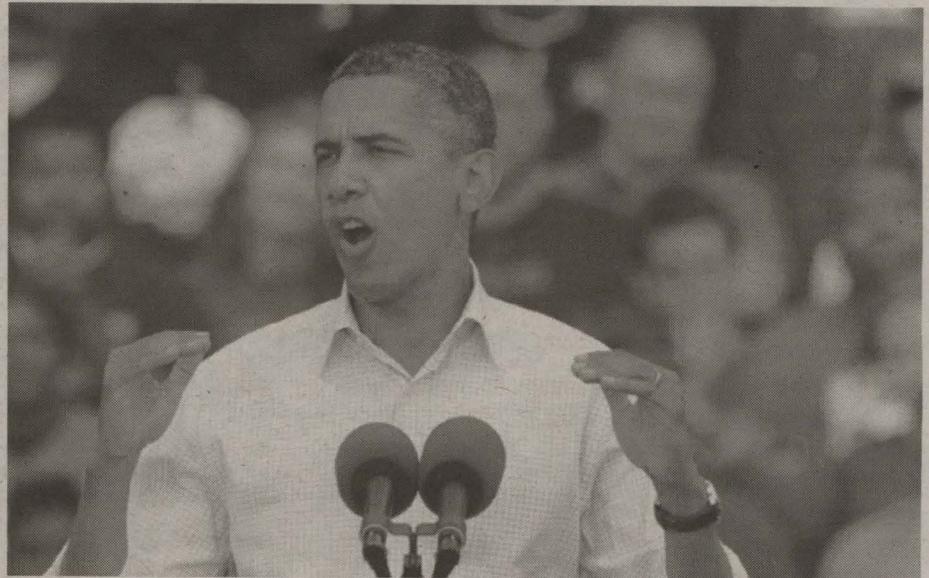


Photo Courtesy of Politico.com

parents who are unable to fulfill their own dreams can make the dreams of their children possible. "If our grandparents could toil and struggle for us, if they could raise the beams of steel to the sky, send a man to the moon, and connect the world with the touch of a button, then surely we can keep on sacrificing and building for our own kids and grandkids," she said.

Upcoming Events:

On Wednesday Sept. 5 Bill Clinton will give a speech outlining the reasons America should reelect President Obama, as well as characterize the Democratic Party's agenda. Clinton and President Obama have spoken together on many previous occasions. On Thursday Sept. 6 President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden will be accepting their nominations.

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news

Summer Renovations Give Campus an Environmental Face-Lift

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Over the summer, Residential Living worked on a variety of construction projects including redoing the South Debot circle, Stormwater Management, and the renovation of Burroughs Hall, projects that made residential buildings more environmentally friendly.

The renovation of Burroughs Hall was just one step in a project of renovating all the Residential Halls in the north and south Debot quads.

"The renovated halls are important to students because it shows them that we want them to enjoy their college experience," said Burroughs Hall director, Ben Wilkes. "We are trying to stay current with as many trends as we can and giving the students the best renovation keeps

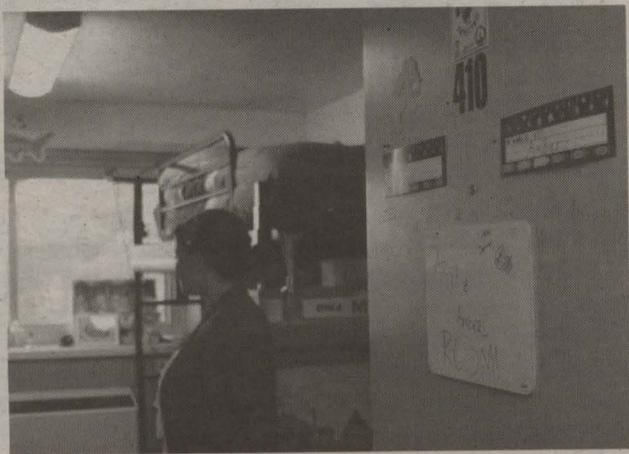


Photo by Samantha Feld

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point sophomores offer a look inside a recently renovated room in Burroughs Hall, one Residential Hall that focuses on Wellness.

us on the leading edge of student services."

Burroughs Hall not only has a new entrance, but also received new fire sprinklers, elevator, lighting, and carpet. Residential Living put solar panels on Burroughs Hall to preheat domestic hot water as well.

"The biggest thing that we did [with renovations] was that we will be LEED silver certified," said Assistant

Director for Building Services at Residential Living, Michael Zsido.

LEED or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is a rating scale of how environmentally friendly a building is.

Burroughs Hall, as well as other renovated halls has recycled content in their carpeting, low volatile organic compounds in the paint, and windows are low E grade glass. Neale Hall and the Suites@201 are the only other residential halls that are currently LEED silver certified.

"Students at UWSP have asked us to be as sustainable as possible... we have a number of green initiatives in residential living," Zsido said.

The other two construction projects that took place over the summer also have environmental ties. Redoing the south Debot circle was one such project.

"We kept tearing the circle up," Zsido said due to the fact that they needed to do a lot of underground piping work for each renovation. "It has been completely redone. It ended up really nice."

During the summer, a number of sidewalks and landscaping was torn

up for a Stormwater Management project. Residential Living had to get land at the right elevation and drainage for stormwater management. Parking lot P also received a facelift to handle storm water more efficiently.

Another new addition to the residential halls is that an emergency generator was installed in Thompson Hall so in the case of a power outage, the residential halls will have emergency power and lighting in the corridors, stairwells, and the fire alarms will still be functional.

"UWSP housing continues to offer the best accommodations for UWSP students and by continually renovating and making the spaces we have better, the students want to stay in the halls for their junior and senior years," Wilkes said.

Knutzen Hall is the next residential hall scheduled for renovated next summer, with Thompson and Watson to follow.

"From the students I've talked to, they're really excited," Zsido said.

Jim Haney Steps Down; Rhonda Sprague Steps Up

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Division of Communication appointed Dr. Rhonda Sprague as the new chairwoman of the department after Dr. Jim Haney decided to not seek a third term; Dr. Sprague started in the position on August 1, 2012.

Haney explained that the procedures for the Division of Communication indicate that the head of the department should not serve two consecutive terms. Haney served two three-year terms as division head, including 13 months as the interim Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

"I told my colleagues in early March that I wanted to return to full-time teaching in the fall and did not plan to seek another term as division head," Haney said. "This change will give me a chance to teach more classes, something I truly enjoy, and more time to engage in research. I believe the occasional administrative change is healthy for both organizations and administrators."

Haney is returning as a full-time professor of communication and will teach a variety of public relations classes, as well as serve as the division's internship director, which oversees students in both the arts management and communication majors.

When the current division head does not seek an additional term in his/her position, the selection process requires that the faculty interview candidates during a candidate forum. Once every candidate is interviewed, the faculty nominates someone to the dean of the college, who then reviews the nominations and appoints the new division head. Dr. Rhonda Sprague was appointed the position.

"Dr. Sprague will do a wonderful job as the new leader of the division. She knows our curriculum well and truly cares about student success. I am confident she will be an outstanding advocate for our program," Haney said.

"It's an honor to have been elected to this position by my colleagues. Being the head of such a diverse and dynamic department is going to be both challenging and rewarding," Sprague said.

As division head, Dr. Sprague will be teaching two fewer courses than what a full-time professor would normally teach. However, she will continue to serve as the faculty advisor and as part of her teaching responsibilities, she will continue to serve as the undergraduate advisor, while teaching Communication 100, introducing the program to new majors.

"I would like us to keep the momentum we've been building for the past several years. We've seen an increase in majors in

both Communication and Arts Management. We've also made some significant academic changes to both programs," Sprague said.

While the change in curriculum is the largest change within the last few years, the department itself will not see any dramatic changes for the upcoming school year. The division is excited about its new 3500-square foot television studio, as well as welcoming three new faculty members.

"When we have a vacancy to fill, we don't automatically just fill it with someone with the same characteristics. Instead, members of the faculty discuss what our curriculum might be missing and determine what type of colleague we need based upon that assessment," Sprague said.

Sylvia Mikucki-Enyart, Ph.D. from the University of Illinois - Urbana/Champaign, Chris Shofner, MFA from the University of Cincinnati, and Andrew Stoner, M.A. from Ball State University, and ABD at Colorado State University will be joining the Division of Communication faculty

teaching a variety of classes in the Interpersonal Organizational, Media Studies, and Public Relations emphases.

"We will continue to provide excellent academic opportunities for our students and are excited to continue working with our student organizations to strengthen our co-curricular activities in the upcoming year," Sprague said.



Photo by Samantha Feld
Rhonda Sprague

Sports

New Coaching Staff, New Attitude

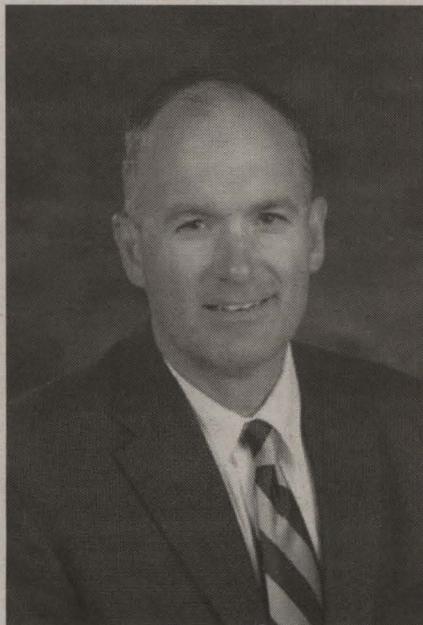


Photo Courtesy of athletics.uwsp.edu

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The new approach and work ethic put in during the off season for this year's Pointer football squad can be brought down to one statement by senior wide receiver, Marc Young. "There is no offseason", said Young.

This attitude and hard working philosophy can be attributed to a new Stevens Point coaching staff, led by former defensive coordinator, Tom Journell.

Journell has been defensive coordinator for four seasons, and has coached a total of 25 seasons. During his tenure, the Pointers have had one of the strongest defenses in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

"The coaching change in my eyes has been good for the program and the athletes," said Young. "I couldn't have asked for a much more talented coaching staff for my senior season."

The coaching staff has improved, but a coach and staff can only go as far as their players can take them. That, Young explained, is a big reason why he thinks this team will be successful this year.

"Our attitude and outlook at every situation is very different. As a team we have all 100 men buying into the program and what it stands for," said Young. "There is a sense of unity among our entire team, instead of just offensive and defensive units."

Although some of the previous coaching staff is gone, the Pointers return some of their key players in all three aspects of the game, offense, defense and special teams.

Junior, Mitch Beau, comes into the season as the starting quarterback, hoping to stabilize what was an uncertain position last season. Beau started the majority of last year's games, but had his ups and downs, throwing 9 touchdown passes, while also giving up 12 interceptions.

Beau will have plenty of playmakers around him. Young will bring a veteran presence to the wide receiving corps, with his game experience from last year when he tied for the team lead in touchdown receptions, with three.

In the backfield, the Pointers will be led by a rushing attack by committee, with senior Ethan Lockhart, and sophomore Brian Kampstra, sharing the load.

Linebacker Cody Seibel will look

to repeat the success he had last season, when he made 79 tackles, 9.5 for loss, and tied for the team lead with 3 sacks.

Both the secondary and the return game's success will fall on one player this season, senior Colton Zimmerman. Last year Zimmerman led UWSP with more than 700 all-purpose yards, mostly coming from returns.

Zimmerman also played an important role on defense, adding 29 solo tackles, an interception, and 7 passes defensed.

Even with many improvements on and off the field, the Pointers are picked to finish second to last in the WIAC, but that doesn't affect the team explains Young.

"We must focus on what we can control and everything else will fall into place. We take things one day at a time, while working hard, playing smart and fast," said Young.

The Pointers started their season with a tough 31-39 loss last Saturday to number 9 ranked St. Francis. UWSP takes the field again September 15 at the University of Dubuque. The Pointers home opener doesn't come until September 29 against UW-Lacrosse.

2012 Summer in Sports

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Unless you lived under a rock this summer, you witnessed a great three months of sports. If you didn't see it, here is a brief review of what you missed.

Lebron James finally got his ring as he and the rest of the Miami Heat were crowned 2012 champions of the NBA. James dominated the Oklahoma City Thunder, averaging 28.6 points, and 10 rebounds and was named Finals MVP.

Two perfect games, one no hitter, and one combined no hitter took place over summer. That makes three perfect games just this season, a new record for a single major league season. In other baseball history, Texas Rangers third basemen, Adrian Beltre, achieved a feat only accomplished by Joe DiMaggio, by hitting three home runs, and hitting for the cycle in a span of 7 days.

The Brewers have had a tough summer, going 39-40 from June through August. The Brewers also dealt ace pitcher Zach Greinke away at the trade deadline for prospects, primarily shortstop Jean Segura.

Despite the team's struggles, leftfielder Ryan Braun is still having an MVP type season, totaling a .311 batting average, 36 home runs, and 96 RBIs.

The NFL wrapped up training camps and preseason games last week. The Philadelphia Eagles and Seattle Seahawks both went a perfect 4-0 in the preseason, while the Buffalo Bills, Miami Dolphins and the New York Jets lost all four of their games. The Jets looked especially poor, only scoring 31 points in their 4 games.

The Packers managed a 2-2 record in the preseason, and finished with good momentum to take them into the season opener versus the 49ers. Newly acquired running back Cedric Benson has looked good in his limited time in a Packer uniform.

The main event of this summer had to be the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, hosted in London. From the magnificent opening ceremony to the last match played, it was a site to see.

In what was reportedly his final Olympic games, Michael Phelps became the most decorated Olympian of all time, winning four

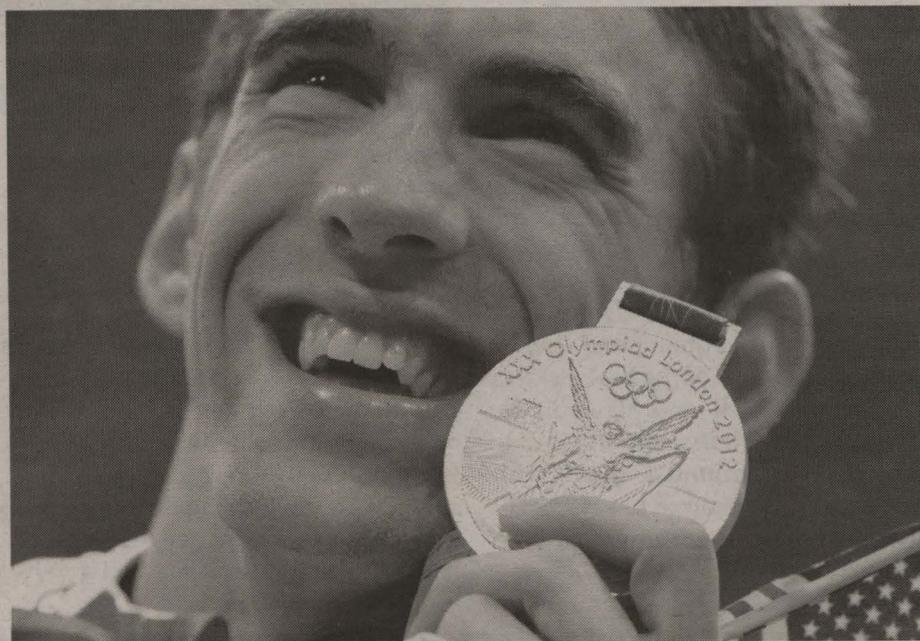


Photo Courtesy of washingtonpost.com

more golds and two more silvers, combining for a total 18 career golds, 22 medals overall. If it is the end of his career, at least he went out on top.

The Fierce Five were big hits at this year's games. Gabby Douglas, Jordan Wieber, Aly Raisman, McKayla Maroney and Kyla Ross combined for the gymnastics all around gold medal, and won the

hearts of fans across the globe.

Usain Bolt was back to his old antics at these Olympic Games. Coming in as an underdog, Bolt was motivated by the doubters, and showed them all what he is still capable of. Bolt won the 100 meter, 200 meter, and the 4x100 relay in London, showing the world that he is still the greatest.

sports

The Two Most Important Positions for the Packers

GUS MERWIN

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Aaron Rodgers is the reigning NFL MVP. Clay Matthews is a perennial Pro Bowler and as good of a playmaker on defense as there is. The Packers receiving core is the deepest in the league. In his limited appearances, Cedric Benson appears to be a solid compliment to the passing game that Green Bay has been looking for. Charles Woodson's move to safety will allow him to utilize his best skill, and attack the ball as well as open a spot for young cornerback talent to step up.

However, none of the aforementioned roster spots is the most pivotal to the Packer's success this season.

Rodger's will be great, that is as close to a guarantee as there is in the NFL right now. He's just that good.

With rookie linebacker Nick Perry lined up on the opposite side, Matthew's production and impact can only go up. Matthews won't have to fight through a double team every snap now, and will be able to get into the backfield and blow plays up like he always has.

Depending on how Jennings comes back from the concussion he suffered in the preseason; he, along with Jordy Nelson should have great seasons, in addition to James Jones, a budding Randall Cobb and a still effective Donald Driver. The lone question mark in the receiving core seems to be Jermichael Finley and how productive he will be. When healthy and mentally prepared, Finley has the ability to be the best tight end in the league.

Benson is still getting used to the Packers offense and got limited carries during the preseason. However, the fact that he was picked up by a contender after he was out of work and few wanted to take a chance on him should motivate him to do as much as he can with this opportunity. When Benson did get the ball, he gouged the defense between the tackles and ran with great vision.

As the years go by Woodson just keeps producing. He is always near the top in interceptions and forced fumbles. He is one of the best tacklers on the team which for a player in the secondary is wildly important. He can still cover ground and run with receivers, but the move to safety will allow him the opportunity to help over the top more.

But the two most important positions for Green Bay this season are the kicker and the backup quarterback.

I know many of you may think this seems dumb, but just think for a minute.

Last season the Packers had six games decided by a touchdown or less, including their lone regular

similar looking roster as the year before when they won the Super Bowl. One glaring difference was the loss of Cullen Jenkins.

At the time I thought little of his absence. Like Aaron Kampman's departure, I figured that the Packers were losing a good player that could definitely help, but someone would fill the role. Especially since BJ Raji

however, and we saw that in the NFC Championship against the Giants.

As improved as I think the defense will be this season, I don't have total faith in their ability to keep teams out of the end zone. I foresee some games going just like last season, when they unnecessarily came down to the wire simply because the defense had lapses at terrible times. That is why I think Mason Crosby will be so important this season.

Since his rookie year, he has established that he's one of the best kickers in the league. His accuracy and leg strength aren't a problem, but I do question his concentration at times because he seems to randomly miss a field goal here and there when you'd think it would be nearly automatic.

How many games a season do we see decided by a field goal? Quite a few. And if the Packers defense is as spotty as it was a season ago, we'll need Crosby more than ever in order to stay in the Super Bowl picture.

Which brings me to Graham Harrell. We all saw him this preseason and cringed as he did his best Matt Flynn impersonation. Towards the end he looked leaps and bounds better, but the question remains if he can be a quality backup in this offense. Head Coach Mike McCarthy's quarterback school seems as though it could turn Napoleon Dynamite's Uncle Rico into a productive quarterback, that's why I find it hard to believe that Harrell just isn't good. It just appears as though he hasn't progressed the same way other backups have in the system.

In the past two seasons we saw Matt Flynn twice in big games. He nearly led the Packers to a comeback victory over the Patriots in 2010, and last season he set the Green Bay record for most touchdown passes in a game in the season finale against the Lions. He performed when given the chance, however rare it was.

Thus far, Rodgers hasn't had any major injuries aside from his concussion. And with the increased protection that quarterbacks get from referees the likelihood seems ever slimmer. However, football is still a game of violence, and as long as that remains true there is always the chance that he could tear, break, or severely injure something.

If that happens and Harrell is unprepared, the Packers immediately go from a Super Bowl contender to an outside chance. People had confidence in Matt Flynn. Not everyone has confidence in Graham Harrell. If he gets a chance again he needs to show he's someone that can be relied on.

I know these picks are against the grain, but I firmly believe that these two positions are vital for the success of this year's Green Bay Packers.

But I've been wrong before.

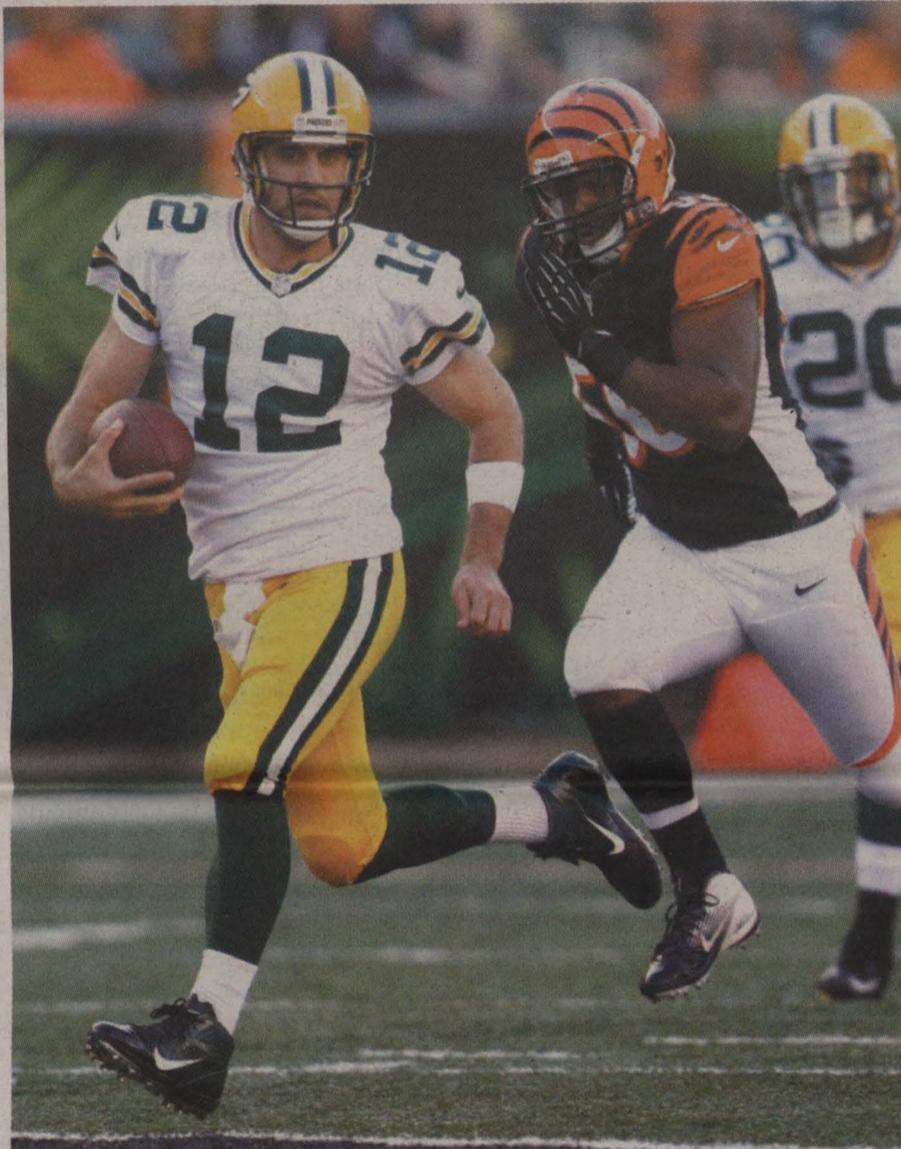


Photo Courtesy of baynews9.com

season. loss against the Kansas City Chiefs. Seven if you count the season opener against the New Orleans Saints which could have gone to overtime with a touchdown and two point conversion.

The reason those games were close was because last season Green Bay either blew out the other team, or decided for some reason that they wanted to make the game interesting so they weren't going to play very good defense. On paper the Packers had a great defense. They had a very

and Ryan Pickett would still be there to get an interior rush. That did not happen. The Green Bay pass rush from 2010 was almost nonexistent in 2011, which allowed opposing quarterbacks a day and a half to wait until coverage broke down then hit an open receiver.

But their offense was so high powered that oftentimes they were able to just outscore their opponent, regardless of how their defense was playing. That "bend don't break" attitude only works for so long,



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Pointlife

Guide for Incoming Freshman

JUSTIN SULLIVAN
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It's that time of year. The leaves are changing, the nights are cooling, and "Back to School" sales are out in full force. For many at the UW - Stevens Point, this will be their first year of college. Fathers will carry mini-fridges up three flights of stairs and mothers will wipe tears from their eyes.

The Freshmen of UW - Stevens Point will stare out of their dorm-room windows at their new homes. This will be their life for the next four years and along with the excitement of a new beginning the feelings of anxiety can hamper a student's first year of college.

Schoolwork can be the most daunting challenge for new college students. The high school days of turning half-page papers in late with the excuse of, "Oh, I forgot" have passed. The reality of 8 A.M. classes coupled with essay exams and speeches while trying to figure out how to upload a paper to D2L for the first time can be truly stressful but not hopeless.

The best advice for these students is to stay organized. A daily planner is the easiest and most efficient way to keep every assignment and obligation in order. The class syllabus given the first day of classes will be an immense help to these students, giving a day-by-day breakdown of what is expected of the student, all of which is easily copied to a planner. Once all the syllabi are transcribed into one place and tasks are side by side it creates a better picture of which weeks will need special consideration long in advance.

Along with staying organized, utilizing UWSP's student resources



Photo by Samantha Feld

Isadore street was lined with luggage packed cars as new students carry their belongings to their dorm rooms.

can be invaluable for students of any year. The UWSP Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) offers free one-on-one help to student's struggling with things such as challenging reading material and has group tutoring sessions available for subjects such as math and chemistry. There is no shame in asking for help, and once a student makes that first trip into the TLC they'll see that themselves and wish they had sooner.

Schoolwork is tough to master, but learning to interact in a positive manner with one's professors is a necessary step a student needs to

make to reach their full academic potential. Completing assignments on time, asking valuable and relevant questions, and following all classroom guidelines are the easiest and most important ways to get along with professors. Pronouncing their names correctly along with addressing them with the correct and preferred title will also help in making a positive impression.

Sending e-mails to professors is another easily avoidable pitfall for the inexperienced student. If an email is the only option, help the professor by leaving the correct last title in

the subject. Otherwise use their office hours, the best way to create a personal relationship with your professor is in person, give them a face to go with your name.

Socializing in the college world can also be a hurdle a first-year student to overcome. Many Freshmen are paired with a stranger their first year in the dorms, and two strangers living in small quarters with nothing in common can be a recipe for disaster.

The key to having a positive and memorable dorm experience is to not worry about other people's opinions, especially opinions about oneself. Students from all over the world with diverse cultural and social backgrounds aren't always going to agree on everything, but learning to focus on the positive aspects of one's surroundings and community will create a more worthy and valuable experience. Making friends with complete strangers is no doubt hard, but with patience and tolerance goes a long way in building lasting friendships.

The first year of college is hard but staying organized, making it to class, completing assignments, and treating educators and fellow students with respect and courtesy, are just some of the things that will ease the growing pains. Learning from the inevitable mistakes made and concentrating on the end goal of a degree, all while making friends and building relationships, is what will make the time spent at UWSP time well spent.

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Not Your Typical Summer Vacation



Photos courtesy of Erica Klintworth

EMMA ST. AUBIN
estau255@uwsp.edu

This summer was a scorcher that may have left some of us fleeing to some colder weather. While most of us were cranking up the air conditioning or hose-filling a kiddie pool, two University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point students spent those days stranded in the wilderness of New Zealand for nine days due to a snowstorm.

Alec Brown and Erica Klintworth traveled to New Zealand through the study abroad program at UWSP, and once the end of the semester rolled around, the couple made plans to leisurely backpack for four days through Arthur's Pass, a national park that includes the highest peak in the Southern Alps. There, the two would relax and begin to prepare for their finals, which were just over a week away.

Klintworth, an art major, chose to study abroad in New Zealand to enjoy the nature and landscape of the country while backpacking and outdoor adventuring.

Brown, an aspiring land manager for recreation and education purposes, chose to study abroad in New Zealand for the adventure. Turns out, they got exactly what they had hoped for.

"I wanted to take one last trip to the mountains before I came back to America and it seemed like a great time to do so," Klintworth said.

After traveling through the mountains for three days, a massive snowstorm erupted, delaying their return to town.

"Initially, we didn't realize the storm hit because we were camping in a heavily forested area and the snow did not make it through the tree cover," Klintworth said.

With uncertainty of the blizzard's possible duration, worries of escaping the mountains had crossed their minds when they first encountered the storm. However, the couple rationed their food and kept warm in the hot springs as they waited for the storm to pass.

"Trying to walk out would have been fatal, so we enjoyed the worst snowstorm that part of the country had in 50 years inside warm and comfortable hot springs," Brown said.

After five days of fasting and waiting, the weather cleared up enough for the two to pack up, eat some food, and promptly hike their way out of the mountains.

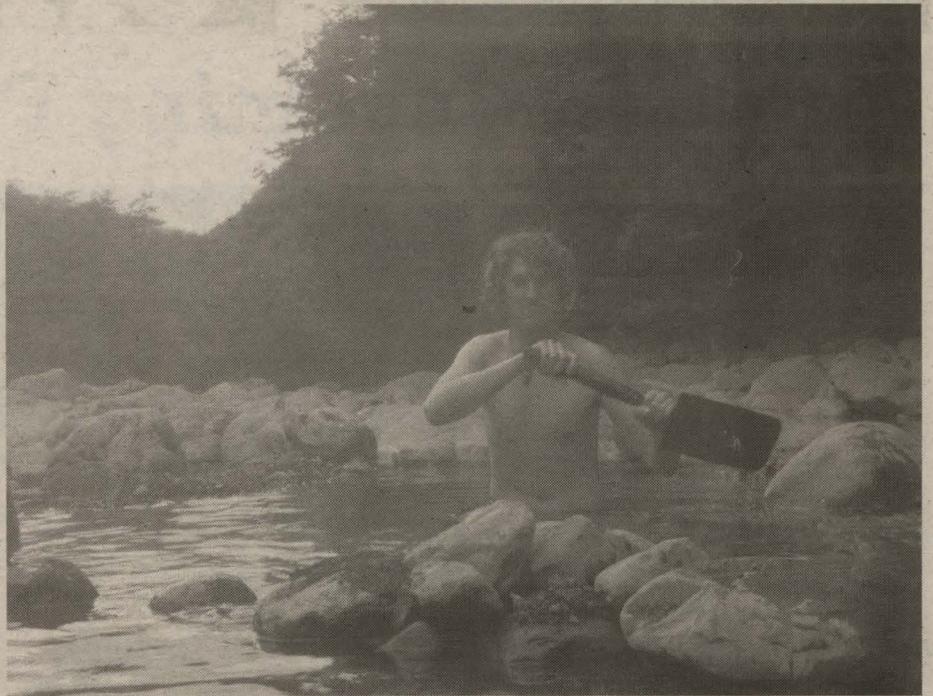
"It was about an hour into our hike that we heard a helicopter. We thought they might be looking for us, but we were under dense tree cover and there was no way we could get their attention," Klintworth said.

The helicopter continued to search the mountains as the two continued to hike the final eight miles to the end of the trail.

"When we got to the road, we met up with the search and rescue team and were taken in for questioning at the police station. We did not realize how much of a big deal everything was until we talked to them at the road," Klintworth said.

While the two admit to wishing they were more prepared, Klintworth and Brown left New Zealand with pride and confidence having survived the blizzard on their own.

"Overall, it was an amazing experience to meet people with a different world view. It opened my eyes to so much more than anyone who has been in Wisconsin or even America their whole lives could understand," Brown said.



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The Introduction: Fall Fashion 2012

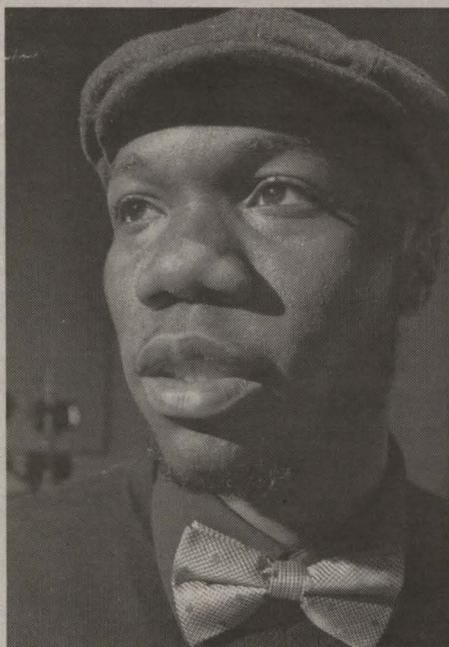


Photo by Samantha Feld

EMMITT WILLIAMS
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My passion for fashion all began back in 2010 when I was in Los Angeles for a poetry competition. My friends and I decided to do a little shopping with the spending money our parents had given us for the trip. Los Angeles was much bigger than Milwaukee and had more options for us to explore. This was the first time I had ever been to H&M. It was also when I purchased my first pair of slims. (For those who don't what "slims" are, they are like skinny jeans but a little more loose.) They were light gray, size 32, slim but still comfortable. This bled into my senior year as I started to care more about how I looked. Ties,

blazers and fancy sweaters became daily attire for me.

Though my love for fashion had been fairly new, I have always had a passion for writing. Poetry, in addition to how I dressed, became my medium of expression.

I began to compete on a local and national level, going on to compete at Brave New Voices, Russell Simmons' largest international youth poetry slam, in Los Angeles in 2010 and again in San Francisco in 2011.

While I had this love for fashion boiling inside of me, I did not know how to incorporate it with my lifestyle. I wanted something more than just developing my own style. I wanted to be an influence to others just as I had done with my spoken word poetry. Eventually this love of

fashion led to me helping my little sister with some of her outfits in high school. However, this still was not enough for me.

Before I knew it, I graduated from high school and found myself all the way in Stevens Point, a small town I had never heard about. Coming from Milwaukee, I didn't think the fashion scene here would be too exciting. Everywhere I looked I would see camouflage. I'd see camouflage hats, purses, coats and anything else you could think of. I'd turn my head and see neon colored jackets and tights were the most popular trend of them all. I even remember my roommate buying a green, yellow, and black Green Bay Packers jacket and wearing it with everything; even if it didn't technically match.

After a long first semester, I realized that Stevens Point did have its own sense of fashion. It's nothing like Milwaukee or Los Angeles, but its style cannot be ignored. I began to notice that each group of students had their own style; from the hipsters who wear skinny jeans and ride long boards to the natural resources majors who love camouflage. Over time it became apparent these people were much more than categories and my hunger for fashion had once again been revived.

Months had gone by and my friend Kiah Hardy, a junior majoring in English, suggested that I start a fashion column within The Pointer newspaper, and this fall I am introducing The Pointer's first monthly fashion column. My goal is not to turn The Pointer into a fashion magazine, but to capture the many trends in Stevens Point from the fall scarf collections and the girls who wear Ugg boots in the winter time, to Toms, camouflage, and much more.

This column will not only shine a light on these trends, but will give a little peek into the lives around us in the Stevens Point community. This column will feature articles about fashion and how we incorporate fashion into the lives that we live; how fashion connects to our life, major, and how we represent ourselves because whether you know it or not, we all are inhabitants of this world of fashion, no matter what city you live in.

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NEW THIS YEAR

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

America's Got Talent's "Fly By Night" & James David, Magician, continue to amaze us with their Magic & Mayhem Stage Shows at 3 & 7 pm. More comedy stunts, juggling & magic you won't want to miss! Midway Madness entertainment all day & great DJ music provided.
www.flybynightentertainment.com

SUNDAY 11am - 6pm

LIVE MUSIC - POLKA POW WOW

11am-1pm Paper City Sounds
1-3:30 pm Norm Dombrowski & The Happy Notes
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Letters from our Leaders

Chancellor's Welcome Letter



Photo by Nathanael Enwald

Welcome to the 2012-13 academic year!

I am so pleased you have chosen to be part of the wonderful University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point community.

To give you a snapshot of the student body this year, our enrollment management team pulled some preliminary figures I think you may find interesting.

As of the last day of August, 9595 students had enrolled at UW-Stevens Point for the fall semester. Approximately 1600 are first-year students and 765 transferred from other institutions. While 90 percent of our students hail from Wisconsin, our student body also has representatives from 35 of the 50 states in the United States of America. Ten percent of our students are domestic or international persons of color.

Considering we are located in Central Wisconsin, you may be surprised by the international feel of our university. This year, 165 students from 31 countries around the globe are attending UW-Stevens Point. The top five countries represented are China, South Korea,

Japan, Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

Undergraduates are by far the largest group, representing 95 percent of enrolled students. The additional five percent are graduate students (two percent) and continuing education students (three percent). More than 90 percent are attending school full time.

There are some physical changes to campus since last semester. For the first time in 15 years, Reserve Street, the major north/south corridor of campus, is open for two-way traffic. Please be sure to look both ways when entering from side streets!

At their August meeting, the Board of Regents backed a major investment in our campus—our new \$75 million Science Building. While the funding request still awaits building commission and legislative approval, I am very optimistic we will see the completion of the state-of-the-art learning space in 2016.

Be sure to check out the new Athletics logo. The purple and gold pointer provides a singular, dynamic, modern look for our athletics equipment apparel and products. One of the most dramatic depictions of the new logo is on

the floor of the Quandt Fieldhouse, home of Pointer's men's basketball. Our much beloved mascot, Stevie Pointer, will continue to entertain fans at games and represent the university at community events.

The iconic structure on campus is the cupola, the architectural pinnacle of the university's first building, Old Main, and the symbol of the institution. The cupola represents UW-Stevens Point's history and future as a guiding light to students, alumni, friends and our community. This summer we installed energy efficient lighting for the cupola, which may now be bathed in purple and gold light for very special occasions. I had a little fun flipping the switch during this summer's Founder's Day event. Look for the video of my adventure on the university's YouTube channel -www.youtube.com/user/UWStevensPoint.

Each and every day, the faculty and staff of your university strive to provide you with the best possible education for a fair and reasonable price. We care deeply about student success. However, how much value you get from your education

depends a great deal on the choices you make.

In addition to attending classes and completing assignments, I hope you will engage with the Student Government Association or another of the nearly 200 student organizations at UW-Stevens Point. You may choose to participate in Pointer Athletics or intramurals, attend arts events, visit the planetarium, volunteer in the community, walk or ride a bicycle through Schmeckle Reserve, travel abroad or participate in any of the multitude of opportunities at your fingertips.

You will often see me at university events and walking across campus. Please say hello. I want to know you, to hear about your challenges and triumphs, to listen to your hopes and dreams. My office is on the second floor of Old Main and I maintain an open door policy.

Enjoy the beginning of the New Year!

Bernie L. Patterson
Chancellor

Welcome Back from the President of SGA

Welcome back to another year at UW-Stevens Point, I hope you all had a relaxing and fulfilling summer and are ready for another great year at UW-Stevens Point. As I was getting ready for classes this semester, I couldn't help but think about how lucky I am to be a Pointer. In such contentious times politically and socially, we are lucky to be where we are at.

Public higher education internationally is in crisis, and we are not exempt from the problem, but I like to think that, at least for the time being, we have it a little better here. It is dangerous to become too content with what is in reality a national trend of degradation of quality higher education. This will lead to complacency, and while we do receive a great education, we must all commit to acting in a way that ensures this the standard of quality is the level of standard that is offered long after we receive our diplomas and enter the workforce (with an average burden of \$25,000 in student loan debt).

In Quebec, provincial leadership last spring announced tuition would increase 75%. In Chile over the past year and a half, police officers and the military are ordered to attack students who are asking their government officials to reconsider classifying education, both secondary and higher, as a consumer good. At the University of Virginia, which was founded by Thomas Jefferson, the Board of Visitors (similar to the UW's Board of Regents) made an attempt behind closed doors to unilaterally fire the university president who resisted attempts to privatize the university. Public higher education,

internationally, is in crisis.

We as students recognize the importance of an accessible, affordable, and quality public higher education, but as state and federal funds for higher education are continuously and systematically deprioritized and dismantled, we must remember to advocate for ourselves. In Chile a few days ago, 150,000 students marched on their nation's capital for what is guaranteed to us as students in Wisconsin in our state's laws. At UWSP we are not exempt from these problems facing our education and our future, but we are in a position of power to do something about that.

You as a student are guaranteed by state law and equal seat in matters pertaining to institutional governance. You as a student are guaranteed the primary formulation of policy development for all things concerning student life services and interests. You as a student are guaranteed the right and responsibility to dispose student fees to pay for those things, which at a campus of 9,200 totals around \$12 million. You as a student are guaranteed the right to organize as you determine. Such organization is manifested in our Student Government Association, and the nearly 200 student organizations that you form and you pay for. You have power; that is codified in state law, but with great power comes great responsibility.

Living in 2012, we are familiar with societal contention, and as we get closer to a Presidential election, we are seeing more and more student issues in the spotlight. Student loan debt in the last year surpassed two significant milestones. First, total stu-

dent loan debt surpassed that of total credit card debt. Second, it surpassed the one trillion dollar mark. It is unacceptable that each student in the United States graduates with an estimated \$25,000 in student loan debt, burdening prospective job hunters in an already dismal economy. We are forced to take out more and more loans to pay for our rising cost of tuition.

Going a University of Wisconsin institution, we are lead to believe that this is a public institution of higher learning, but after decades of de-prioritization in the state budget, only 17% of our university's total budget comes from the state. The rest, for the most part, comes from tuition dollars. I am the 83%. In order to continue to have access to the same quality of education that is the tradition of UW-Stevens Point, there is no way we can continue without support from the state. Failure to restore funds from the state will result in the death of public higher education. As state and federal support shrinks, so opens the door for the privatization of public higher education.

Furthermore, we must realize that this is not simply a Democrat-Republican issue. Former Governor Jim Doyle, a Democrat, cut the UW System \$250 million in his last biennial state budget. Current Governor Scott Walker, a Republican, cut the UW System \$250 million in his last biennial state budget. Education ought not to be a political issue, and as we the students, who comprise many generations who are all trying to better ourselves, become more disenfranchised by the deadlock and disagreement, must remember this.

I do not need to remind you how much is at stake in the upcoming Presidential election this November. What I do need to remind you of is the importance of the student vote, of one vote, of your vote. We pride ourselves on being a free and just nation, but as 'Voter ID' laws continue to be introduced across the nation, including Wisconsin, we are witnessing the legislation of voter suppression. Such laws have been introduced to restrict access to the polls and to targeted underrepresented communities and make it harder for them to vote. Students are among those targeted. Fight back. Vote.

With so much at stake we must take the time to recognize and be thankful for the power we do have to sway the discourse this nation is engaged in. Step up and exercise that power, but remember that with great power comes great responsibility. Work with the many professors, staff, and administration here, they are facing many of the same issues and then some. We must act together, and when necessary we must fight together. It is our responsibility to keep the tradition of the Wisconsin Idea alive, and to affirm that UW-Stevens Point is a public institution of higher learning, not a business. I'm a student, not a customer.

Forward,

Seth T. Hoffmeister
President,
Student Government Association
UW-Stevens Point
SGA.President@uwsp.edu

Opinion

Advice for Intramurals

@GUSMERWIN

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This week signifies, not only the start to a new year of classes, but also a new year of intramural athletics. My first two years of collegiate intramurals have been marred with minor strains, minimal success, moderate heartbreak, and much questioning of the legitimacy of my dwindling skills.

But I have learned many things in my first two years of intramurals, about myself as well as the sporting life. Now I would like to impart some of that wisdom onto this year's freshman.

This isn't high school anymore; you don't have the luxury of joining a team and being physically active every day. In college you have to make time to get exercise, and intramurals are a good place to start so take advantage of the opportunity. Even if it is once a week, you get the chance to work off some of the Toppers and beer you consumed over the weekend, or Tuesday night.

Speaking of beer, the only intramural game you should show up to intoxicated is bags. There's limited movement, little chance for injury, and because the game was basically born and raised outside of stadiums during tailgates it almost goes hand in hand.

Never show up drunk for a basketball game. Believe me, the idea has been researched by plenty of people before you, and will most likely continue to be experimented with. But save yourself the headache and possible puke session, and don't do it. However, coming into a game buzzed is a different story.

Stretch.

Stretch more.

Seriously, keep stretching. Don't jack up your hamstring or throw out your arm for an hour of exertion that won't count for much in the long run. How are you supposed to run from a cop, not saying you should, if you blew out your Achilles playing tennis? You don't need to do P90 X for 10 minutes, just get your legs

warm, your body will thank you.

Don't be a douche. Pimping every single you get in softball, holding your hand up after you clang your twentieth three pointer off the backboard, and getting in a quarterback's grill after you yank his flag a yard behind the line doesn't make you tough. It makes people hate you and wish awful things upon you. Talking some trash and being a little cocky are fine, even part of the game. But if you make an ass of yourself, just take your ball and go home.

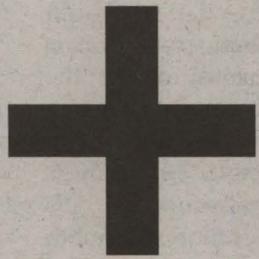
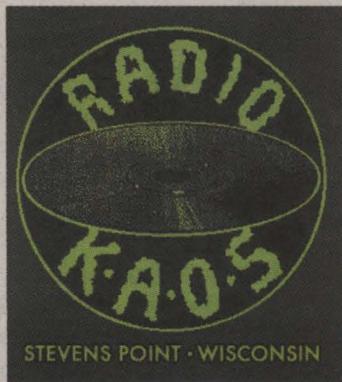
Don't run up the score. Not everyone who plays intramurals is an all star. Some of them maybe haven't even played the game they're playing. Not everyone was voted second team all-conference, and most improved your senior year like you were. This is a lesson that you should have learned in middle school; if you're bulldozing a team back off a little bit at the end. This ties in with the above guideline.

Encourage your teammates. Because everyone on your team

might not be what people would call "good" at stuff, they may need an extra pick me up. Instead of screaming at your compadre after he misses a fast break layup, give him a firm, yet comforting pat on the fanny and tell him to "Go get em' next time." You're not playing for the state championship. You're not really playing for anything except for the fun of it. Speaking of that...

Have fun. Yes, I just went old school tee ball coach on you. If you're not having fun then you're just wasting valuable...study time. So do yourself a favor and play something you like or give up the spot to someone else.

Intramural athletics is a unique blend of athletic ability and an "A for effort" mentality, but they're very easy to enjoy. If you follow the guidelines that I have laid before you this season should be as competitive and successful as any other. You can even sign up without putting your beer down, so why not right?



presents...

ALBUM REVIEWS

Positive Force

DELICATE STEVE

When people start to try to describe Delicate Steve, people generally start speaking in roundabout terms that, more often than not, create a stronger visual than capture a sound. A good example comes from Chuck Klosterman, music journalist and author of several books including *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs*. In a publicity email for Delicate Steve's first album *Wonderversions*, he goes on to say "Like a hydro-electric Mothra rising from the ashes of an African village burned to the ground by post-rock minotaurs." What's even stranger than the descriptions Delicate Steve tends to yield is the truth in them. Delicate Steve is a New York based psychedelic instrumental pop band lead by guitarist Steve Marion, the band's namesake, and what they lack in vocals, they more than make up for in infectious hooks and soaring melodies. The guitar is the strong center piece, and often sticks out so strongly it does indeed invoke thoughts of some great beast looming over the rest of the

track. With the band's sophomore effort *Positive Force*, the catchy hooks take a bit of a back seat to stronger imagery and a more traditional psychedelia tone. The result is an album that stands as a whole better than in parts, while *Wonderversions* dabbled in interludes between tracks, they played off like short standalone tracks. In *Positive Force* the interludes play a much stronger role in transitioning from song to song, creating a seamless sound from track 1 to track 11. As a great fan of the band's first effort, it's hard not to notice the stark changes in sound from their first effort, so when the unavoidable question arises of whether it's better than the first, I find myself struggling with a definitive answer. Instead take this, Delicate Steve earned its national success through creating music that's difficult, and for some, impossible to describe in words, and in *Positive Force* succeed in the same goal, without treading the same ground *Wonderversions* walked. Combined with the strength of the longer tracks, that's more than enough to be a great record, regardless of which is better.

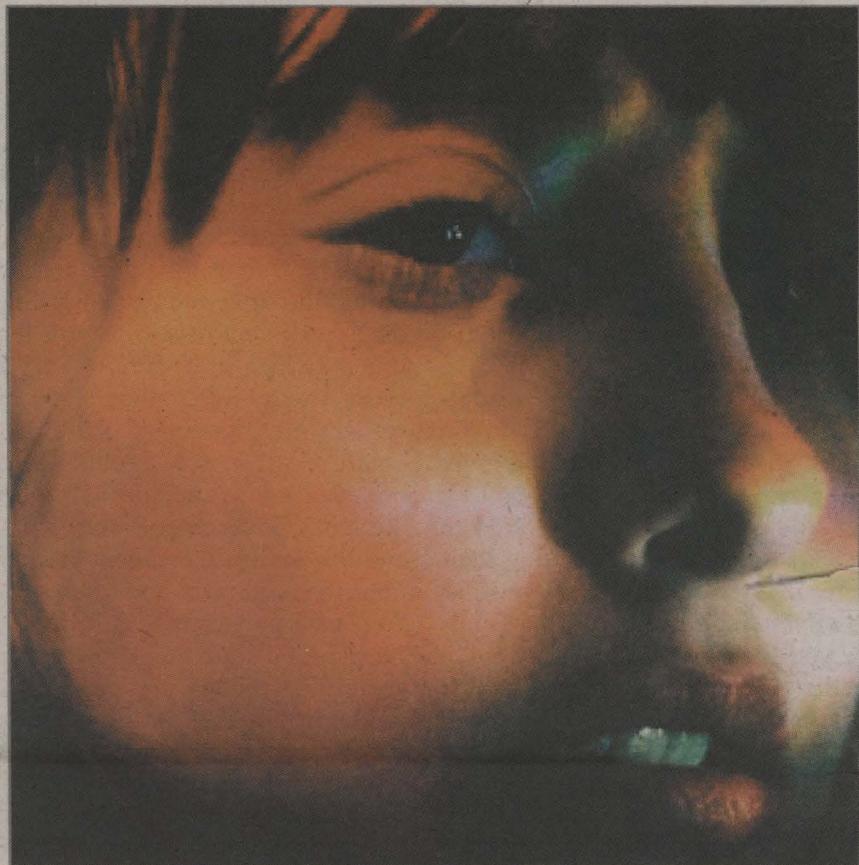


Photo courtesy of www.pitchfork.com

Catching Up on Summer's Music



Photo courtesy of discosalt.com
"Reign of Terror"



Photo courtesy of consequenceofsound.net
"Here"



Photo courtesy of subpop.com
"Fear Fun"

MITCHEL DE SANTIS
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COMMENTARY

There is something to be said about autumn, she starts out hot and ends bitter and cold. The college semester begins the same way, all of the students are hot with excitement and by the end of the semester we are bitter, cold, and sick of having our noses in textbooks. Fashion follows suit (see what I did there?) and music isn't too far behind. This past summer 90FM was virtually mythical with music, with so many emerging and esteemed alternative musicians producing albums worth noting and absolutely no literary outlet to express our appreciation for them, I feel it is now time for me to catch you up on what you may have missed this past summer, before you as a reader become bitter and cold.

We embark with "Reign of Terror" the sophomore album from the M.I.A. benefactress band, Sleight Bells. The album glorifies the art of shred guitar, it is loud, it is choppy, and it is in your face. I personally recommend the tracks "Comeback Kid," "Road To Hell," and even though we can't play this one on 90FM due to

its excessive use of the mother of all curse words, "True Shred Guitar." One listen to this album and you will understand why I describe it with one simple word, "Bitchin."

In addition, I feel it is my duty to highlight the album "Here," the second album from everyone's favorite hippie-hipster band, Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros. Though I enjoyed their debut album, "Up From Below," I had absolutely no hope that they could possibly reproduce an album of that quality, to me the band is too gimmicky, almost cult like. Needless to say, I was wrong, I was incredibly wrong. "Here," is a perfect follow up. Though the band won't probably ever have another legendary single like they did with "Home," with tracks like "Man On Fire," "That's What's Up," and "Mayla," their new album in my opinion is preferable over the debut.

I've saved the best for last and it's a rather new artist to the college radio scene. The album is called "Fear Fun" from the musician dubbed Father John Misty. Legally named Joshua Tillman who found his noble beginnings as the drummer for the Seattle based folk rock band, Fleet Foxes, he ultimately detached himself

creating the mysterious Father John Misty. In my 22 years of life I have never heard an album so good and so original. The album has energy of groovy folk rock and this is easily expressed in tracks like "I'm Writing A Novel," "Nancy From Now On," and "Hollywood Forever Cemetery Sings." I can easily say it is my favorite album of 2012, hell I can easily say it's my favorite album produced in the last 10 years.

Though summer is cooling down and coming to an end, this summer's releases are still hot in my eardrums. In short, I welcome new freshman to college with hopes of opening their ears to the world of alternative music, let us embrace the summer and look forward to the hot tracks over the cold horizon.