

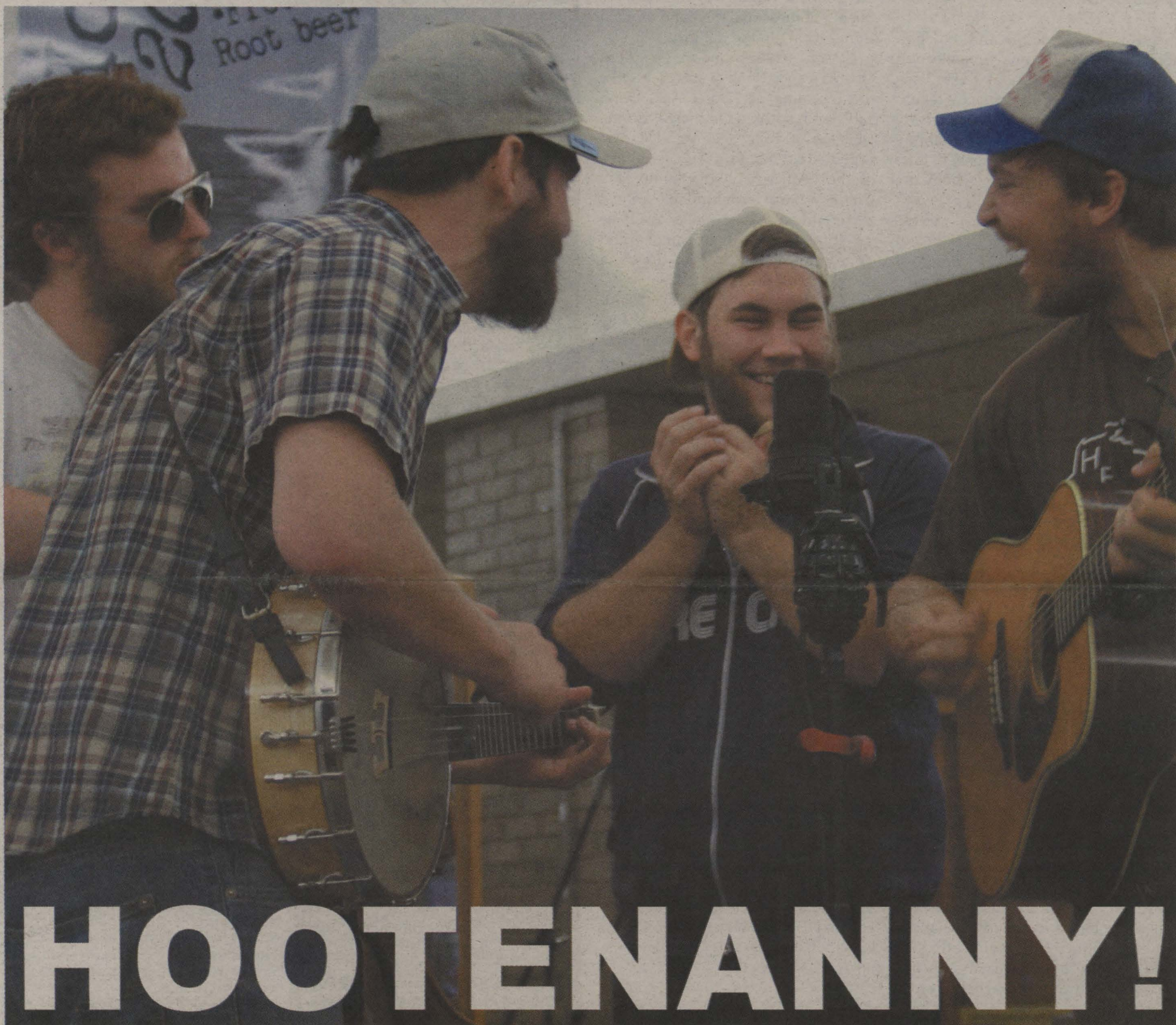
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Penn Visits UWSP, Focuses Speech on Student Issues

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Kal Penn, actor and co-chair of President Obama's re-election campaign, spoke Sunday to students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Also speaking at the event were Wisconsin Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and state Sen. Julie Lassa (D-Wis.), both of whom are campaigning for re-election.

Student issues such as access to affordable education and health insurance were the key topics of the speeches, as well as Democratic successes in Wisconsin and Washington D.C. The speakers also addressed challenges still facing the country.

Baldwin wrote a provision for President Obama's Affordable Care Act, a bill that allows students to stay on their parents' health insurance until they are 26. Baldwin talked about the American dream: "If you work hard, play by the rules, you can get ahead." She feels this dream is being endangered by Wall Street and big banks.

Baldwin also criticized partisan politics in Congress and her Republican opponent, former Wisconsin governor Tommy Thompson, for working with and protecting special interests.

"If this election is about who writes the rules and for whose benefit, then you have one of the clearest choices you have ever had," Baldwin said.

Penn, who first volunteered in 2007 for then-Sen. Obama's presidential election campaign, said that he felt drawn to Obama because he was the only candidate who would stand up for his friends' problems. These problems included not having enough money for both textbooks and health insurance and being discharged from the armed forces

because of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," an American military policy that bars openly homosexual men and women from serving in the military.

Penn championed President Obama's social policy successes, like the repealing of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and speaking out against the Defense of Marriage Act. He also urged students to take advantage of the American Opportunity Tax Credit, a partially refundable annual tax credit of \$2,500 made available for students and their parents, and praised President Obama's doubling of available Pell Grant funds.

Lassa spoke against Governor Walker's repealing of the Equal Pay Protection Act, a law which allowed pay-discrimination suits to be heard in state courts, as opposed to much more expensive federal courts. Lassa also criticized Republican lawmakers for interfering with women's healthcare while they advocated for less government control.

All three speakers urged the audience to register to vote and volunteer for campaigns while pointing to Republican supported legislation that could potentially disenfranchise young voters, such as voter identification laws and cuts of 1.6 billion to K-12 education in Wisconsin.

"We need people like you, people who care, to be involved," Lassa said.

Penn said that talking about the issues with other people, knowing one's rights as a voter, and focusing on successes while supporting candidates who do the same are just a few of the actions students could undertake to become involved.

"You have the power to re-elect our President. You have the power to send me to the United States Senate. You have the power to reelect Julia Lassa," Baldwin said. "You have the power. Use it wisely."

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

15 September 2012

10:58 a.m. - EMS Called to request pick-up of student outside ER of St. Michaels hospital and to transport her back to her dorm, the name of the student was not available to caller.

8:17 a.m. - Staff of Hansen Hall called to report that a student had broken ankle. Protective Services recommended calling 911 and notified 555 to meet the EMS at Hansen.

4:46 a.m. - Front doors to George Stein building were found unlocked. An individual entered the building and remained at the front entrance claiming that he needed to warm up before he left. He was asked to leave.

1:31 a.m. - Individual with open intoxicant ran from Lot E and attempted to hide northbound on Isadore St. The short Caucasian individual was wearing a black tee-shirt with short brown hair. Officers patrolled the street throughout the night to find him.

14 September 2012

11:38 p.m. - A neighbor to the NFAC called in stating that she saw four individuals on the roof of the NFAC. She tolled police she didn't know what they were doing but assumed graffiti. Officers made contact with the four suspects who were smoking Marijuana.

11:16 p.m. - Student called in reporting strange noises coming from the roof of the NFAC. Officers and cadet went up to investigate and found nothing.

6:59 p.m. - Individual reported urinating in the fountain, throwing things, and being intoxicated.

6:33 p.m. - LRC called stating that the Hootanany was over but there was one very intoxicated individual who they felt needed Protective Services' supervision.

5:24 p.m. - TacoBell staff called reporting that students were pulling apart the gate between P/V parking lot and TacoBell parking lot.

3:19 p.m. - Protective Services received six phone calls from a HEC emergency phone, only to be hung up on. Individual was hunted by police.

1:57 a.m. - Two suspects were reported having a physical confrontation in parking lot S. One pushed another into the HEC wall. No injuries reported.

1:37 a.m. - Car was reported repeatedly driving up and down Reserve St. "wreaking havoc."

13 September 2012

11:41 p.m. - A silver car was spotted driving down Isadore St. in excess of 40 mph, drifting around corners. The Stevens Point Police Department was dispatched.

12:57 a.m. - Staff member from Watson Hall called in saying she could smell marijuana.

THE POINTER

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Photo by Samantha Feld

Ragweed Wages War

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Allergy season has set in with a vengeance this fall, mostly because ragweed is thriving under the current weather conditions.

Pollen levels are high, especially pollen from ragweed. Ragweed starts blooming in mid-August and usually lasts for about six weeks or until the first frost kills off the plants. Ragweed is a wind-pollinated flowering plant and the main cause of high pollen counts in Wisconsin at this time of year. Grass and tree pollen counts have been low to nonexistent this fall, but ragweed has caused enough trouble all on its own.

"Our noses do not react well to having ragweed pollen in them, and our bodies react as if these were dangerous foreign invaders, ramping up our immune systems against them. In this case, our immune system's reaction is more dangerous to us than the pollen is, per se," said Assistant Professor of Plant Ecology Tracy Feldman.

Wisconsin is among the top ten worst states for allergies, according to livestrong.com, although several states have had higher pollen counts this season. Texas and Oklahoma seem to have been hit the hardest with allergy-causing pollen.

"Why is the pollen count higher this year than other years? Not sure. Perhaps they thrive during drought conditions, or some plant species put more effort into reproduction during hard times, including drought. Or this is just a great year for ragweed for other reasons. Or the dry, windy



Photo by Samantha Feld

conditions are right for carrying pollen into the air more than usual," said Feldman.

"Allergies seem to be setting in earlier this year in general and have been severe enough that many over-the-counter (OTC) allergy medications seem unable to cope. Most years I am free of allergy symptoms by this time, but not this year," said medical assistant, Aaron Boodle.

Allergies caused by pollen have cold or virus-like symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, and feeling run-

down. People who are suffering from allergies will experience itching in addition to the other cold-like symptoms. When allergies are particularly bad, OTC medication can sometimes fail. In that case, many people have to see their doctors so they can be prescribed something stronger. In the worst cases, an allergy shot called immunotherapy may be administered. Immunotherapy, which works by reducing sensitivity to allergens, is used only when other medications are ineffective or intolerable.

Daily pollen counts can be tracked on various websites such as accuweather.com. They break down the pollen counts for ragweed, grass, mold, and trees. Pollen counts have been at moderate levels for the last few days and, due to the oncoming frost, will hopefully continue to decrease.

Nursing Program Expansion Underway

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With more and more jobs opening up in the healthcare field, nursing has become a very popular major.

For many years, the UW-Stevens Point has had a successful pre-nursing program. Through this program, students interested in nursing are able to take the preliminary classes they need to qualify for nursing school.

"We advise specifically to UW-Eau Claire," said Carole Paulson, the Assistant Professor of the School of Health Care Professionals (SHCP) at UWSP.

She added that students graduating from UWSP's pre-nursing program are qualified to apply to any Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program they choose. Otherwise, students could continue at a techni-

cal college and receive an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN).

So far UWSP does not have an ADN or BSN program, only the pre-nursing program. But for the past several years Paulson and her associates have been working on an RN-BSN Degree Completion Program that would allow licensed registered nurses holding associate degrees in nursing to return to school and earn their BSN.

A BSN can be very useful in terms of career options, and the extra semesters in school can provide "a broader education in the areas of leadership, ethics, geriatrics, culture, and informatics," Paulson said.

In 2011 the Institute of Medicine released a report called "The Future of Nursing." The report discussed how changes in the health care sys-

tem have created new challenges and responsibilities for nurses in the 21st century. Advances in technology and the medicine have allowed people to live longer lives. This means more people will need care as they age.

According to the report, the number of Americans 65 and older will make up about 20 percent of the population by the year 2030.

"Now instead of having a sixty-year-old with one problem, you have a ninety-year-old with five problems," said Sarah Ploeg, an RN at St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield.

To address these challenges, the Institute of Medicine committee (IOM) has set a goal to increase the number of nurses with a BSN to 80 percent of all RNs by 2020.

In the words of the IOM committee, "A more educated nursing

workforce would be better equipped to meet the demands of an evolving health care system, and this need could be met by increasing the percentage of nurses with a BSN."

Plans to expand the nursing program here at UWSP began long before this report came out. However, the RN-BSN Degree Completion Program would not be a full-fledged nursing program.

"We are taking RNs that are already out there and raising them to the level of BSN," said Paulson.

If all goes according to plan, the program will open in the Fall of 2013.

Embodied Learning Engages Lecture Students

ANDY DAVIS

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"Professors should plan to cut one third to one half of the content they plan to teach in class," said Assistant Professor of Asian History Valerie Barske, quoting a speaker she had seen at a college faculty program.

What constitutes a university lecture? Typically, professors are stationed at the front of the classroom, armed with their notes and possibly a slideshow. Students are planted firmly in their seats, scribbling away as they listen to their professor.

Barske reaffirmed that just because a professor does not touch on a single aspect of their lesson plan, their lesson is not compromised. Students will still be able to grasp the overarching concepts of the class. She also noted that time restrictions can also impede the progress of planned lessons. In light of the new General Degree Requirements (GDR), professors of different departments around the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are reevaluating how this infor-

mation is taught.

Barske said that the new GDRs are being structured with intended learning goals, laying out the skills and knowledge they want students to leave with. These skills include things like working in a group, effective note taking and critical thinking.

In order to mix up the standard lecture style, Barske utilizes a method of instruction called "embodied learning." Embodied learning is a way for students to "do" the subject matter they will be studying, instead of simply remembering and regurgitating facts, names, dates and other such material.

"We need to redefine how we see knowledge," Barske said. "We also need to reclaim the idea that we are dynamic complete human beings and that learning does not just take place in the mind."

Embodied learning can also allow access to tough topics to teach, such as slavery and oppression in world history. Some students would appreciate this change of pace and

increased involvement.

"I'd like professors to get students more involved, either with activities or projects," said junior Jordan Gust.

Being honest, Gust said that lectures are fairly boring, especially if the professor is monotone. He said he is more of a hands-on and visual learner, and that typical lectures do not cater to his learning style.

"There are some lectures I do like, but it has to be something I enjoy," Gust said.

Barske made it clear that she was not criticizing the teaching methods of her colleagues.

"I'm not pointing fingers at other people's pedagogies, but I am trying to spark a small revolution," she clarified.

Michael Wesch has created a short Youtube video, "A Vision of Students Today," in which 200 students from Kansas State University commented online and surveyed themselves about what it is like being a student. Many students in this short documentary briefly explain what their

own personal experiences are as students. At the end of the video, words appear on the screen saying: "Some have suggested that technology can save us...some have suggested that technology alone can save us." Barske shows this video to her class during the first few days of class to help explain her teaching methods.

Often the first impulse when talking about revolutionizing education is to turn to technology. In Barske's opinion, this is not an effective solution.

"We have to know how to interact with each other," she said. "Technology is useful, but I'm worried about people not communicating with one another."

In her History 102 class, Barske tries to promote a sense of community, often assigning small group tasks and readings. As the final project for that class, she will have students come up with their own opinions and political positions on the events of Okinawa, and then act them out.

Lower Debot Redesigned by Students

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Interior architecture students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point have worked to redesign Lower Debot.

These students: Brian Luscher, Emily Ballweg, Emily Switz, Sarah Vogel, Amy Fredrickson, Matthew Rosenquist and Lindsey Penning, have surveyed students and worked with Dining Services to make sure all their changes are acceptable. They were split up into three teams of collaborators, and presented their ideas in room 073 on Wednesday night.

Students could then vote on which design they liked best. The most popular of the three will be constructed.

Director of Dining Services Mark Hayes said that he and others from his department are putting pressure on their bosses, saying "we'd like to start construction as early as winter break or early January."

A majority of the students surveyed by these designers said that they would like a "coffee shop" theme throughout Lower. These opinions reflected the designs produced by these teams.

The three designs will be on display in Upper Debot until next Wednesday, and students can vote till that date.

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The Tryout: Pointer Baseball Part 1

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Every fall, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point holds an open tryout for its baseball team. Players of all styles and backgrounds come to prove they deserve a shot at being a Pointer.

A mix of students, from juniors to freshman, show up with high hopes of making one of the best Division III baseball programs in the Midwest.

This fall a total of 58 players decided to give cracking the Pointer baseball roster a try. In the end, only 12 will make the team.

Included in this 58 are 8 recruited incoming freshmen, a plethora of walk-ons, and some players who were formerly recruited but didn't make the team on their first try. On average, only one or two walk-ons make the team per season, so they have an uphill battle in front of them.

The tryout takes place early in the school year, lasts four days and puts players through tests and game time to see if they deserve a spot on the team.

The first day of tryouts consists of base tests, such as timed sprints, clocking how fast you can throw the ball and a timed mile run.

The next three days are what really set good players apart because they are separated into two teams and

play three scrimmage games against each other.

The coaches aren't just running the tryouts. Players from last year's team come out to help guide and instruct the incoming talent.

One of these current Pointer baseball players is new team captain Jacob Herbst, who still remembers when he tried out for the team his freshman year.

"I was really nervous when I first tried out," said Herbst. "I came from a small town school where if you wanted to play you just showed up."

Herbst was recruited to play at UWSP but said that he was still nervous about getting cut after the tryouts.

While some might have confidence that being recruited guarantees a player a spot, this is not the case.

Take Sam Arnott, a graduate from Tomahawk High School, who was recruited to play his freshman year for UWSP but is now trying out for the third time. Arnott, a second baseman, was the victim of bad luck his first two seasons. He was the last player cut to bring the team down to its standard 30 players.

Even under these circumstances,

Arnott manages to stay positive.

"At first it hurt. In my mind I've had what it takes both times, but the chips just didn't fall my way. It definitely was a huge motivator however," said Arnott.

"It went from just playing ball to wanting to prove that I could play a high level of college baseball here in Point, proving to myself, all

"I want to go out there and give it 100 percent, and if I do that but don't make the team, I can't hang my head because I know that I gave it my all." - David Newman

my friends and family and to the coaching staff that I deserve to be here," said Arnott.

This year Arnott hopes it will be different.

"In past tryouts I took some time off during the off-season which put me behind some other guys. This year has been constant work that hopefully will pay off," said Arnott.

Recruited players aren't the only ones that come back for more tryouts; many walk-ons give their all more than once, like David Newman.

Newman is a sophomore from Wasilla, Alaska, and went to the same high school as Sarah Palin. Newman, primarily a pitcher and outfielder, didn't come to Stevens Point for baseball but for its excellent academic program.

"I came here because my grandparents live in Wisconsin Rapids, and I also heard that there was a good pre-med program," said Newman. "Then I knew there was a good baseball program here, so I decided I should try out."

Newman explained his goals haven't changed for this second tryout.

"I want to go out there and give it 100 percent, and if I do that but don't make the team, I can't hang my head because I know that I gave it my all," said Newman.

Of course, among all of these incoming walk-ons and returning candidates is the new crop of recruited freshman, including Bryton Guckenberg.

Guckenberg is a long way from his home of Eureka, Montana, but like Newman he came for more than the baseball program.

"I have relatives that live in the area," said Guckenberg. "Another reason for choosing UWSP was

because of its amazing Natural Resource program."

Guckenberg also cited the success of the baseball program, the facilities and campus as major reasons he chose UWSP.

The recruiting process for Guckenberg was incredibly challenging because his high school didn't have a baseball team.

"The only baseball we have is American Legion, which is a summer league," said Guckenberg.

A limited number of scouts seeing his games also

stood as an issue for Guckenberg to pursue his future in baseball.

"I ended up having to fill out a lot of baseball questionnaires for different schools and send coaches videos and stats to get my name out," said Guckenberg. "I spoke to a lot of different coaches and visited several colleges before I decided on Point."

Guckenberg will try out in the outfield for UWSP after playing multiple positions for his American Legion team this summer.

"My expectations for the tryouts are to work hard and show off my skills," said Guckenberg. "I also think it will be fun because there will be a lot of talent there and good competition."

Through all of the tryouts, many players may forget how lucky they are to walk on and have an equal opportunity to play for a top program.

Division III is one of the only places where there are open tryouts, and head baseball coach Pat Bloom likes it that way.

"I think that open tryouts really accentuate the best aspects of Division III athletics - that young men and women are playing for the love of the game and that our landscape provides a fair chance to be evaluated amongst their peers," said Bloom.

"I have a ton of respect for those young men and women, so we try to provide them with a platform that can advance their personal growth and character, regardless of the outcome," Bloom said.

Cuts were made last week Thursday. Check back in a couple of weeks to see how Arnott, Newman, and Guckenberg fared and to see what's next this off-season for Pointer baseball.

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Strong Start for Women's Soccer Team

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Photo by Jack McLaughlin
Jessica Ruch races against a Carthage player.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's soccer team has had a great start to their season, playing 5-1-0.

Many didn't know what to expect this season after long-time coach Sheila Miech announced her retirement from the program after coaching for 25 years at UWSP.

However, new head coach Megan Schmidt has come in and kept the team on their successful path.

Schmidt, the second coach in team history, was a four-time letter winner for the Pointers, as well as a team captain. She was also recognized as an all-conference player and helped

get the team to the NCAA tournament twice.

Schmidt had been an assistant for three years before the promotion and wants to keep the same values that coach Miech established. Schmidt said that they want to instill core values for the team: respectability; hard work on and off the field; not making excuses in the classroom or on the pitch.

"The leader might change, but the mission of the program is still the same," said Schmidt. "That's to be a very successful program on and off the field, producing athletes that are stellar athletes and great people."

Schmidt said that she knows that she has big shoes to fill, but so far the transition has been very exciting.

"It's a big honor, because I am well aware of the woman that I am following," said Schmidt. "I played for her, I coached with her, and so I have a great deal of respect for her and how she ran the program."

Schmidt has certainly kept the program running at full force up to this point in the season, with a solid start.

The Pointers have outscored their opponents 14-5 so far this year, including a win over conference foe University of Wisconsin - Platteville, 7-1.

Up to this point Schmidt has been very pleased with how her team has played.

"I'm proud of them playing together as a team," said Schmidt.

Schmidt explained that she doesn't lack confidence in her squad.

"In the beginning of the season I picked our girls to win the conference, and that's something I believe they are very capable of," said Schmidt.

The Pointers may have great team chemistry, but three players have truly led the team so far this season.

A pair of senior forwards has led the attack. Both Angela Gallow and Jessica Ruch played key parts in the Pointers' scoring offense.

Gallow leads the team with three goals but has also contributed three assists to her teammates. Ruch leads the team with four assists and has scored two goals of her own.

One of the major pieces to any successful soccer team is a goalie, and freshman Kristen Churkey has really stepped up. Churkey has 19 saves this year and has recorded two shutouts.



Photo by Jack McLaughlin
Jessica Ruch races against a Carthage player.

[Out of Bounds]

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The world is obnoxiously serious. But it doesn't have to be. This column is testament to that. In a life full of nuisance, 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.

As far back as I can remember myself consciously understanding sports; I have always had a closet interest in rugby. It appeals to the little kid in me that still gets recess after lunch, and the second there's no supervision in sight a game of two-hand touch instantly turns into tackle.

But what kind of person does it take to play a sport so lacking in protection and long shorts? I take you into the mind of senior Kyle Florence.

How long have you been playing rugby?

"For about two years now."

In that time have you ever

hidden a turkey sandwich in your shorts during a match?

"No, I prefer roast beef."

What position do you play?

"I am a winger."

What's the worst injury you have received from rugby?

"My sophomore year I broke my fibula clean in half—that was not very fun, and effectively ended my season early."

What's the worst injury you have seen during rugby?

"One time I witnessed someone perform a sloppy tackle and get kneed right in the neck—he went down and started seizing—that was pretty scary."

Follow up question: Did you hold that person's hand while they were rushed to the hospital?

"Thankfully no—helped a good number of people off the field though."

What dating advice would you give to Taylor Swift?

"My name is Kyle Florence, I live in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and I love you."

What is currently under your bed?

"Blankets, skis, and an assortment of other junk I couldn't find a place for in my room."

What size shoe did you have when you went on your first date?

"If I had to guess, probably about a size nine—I can assure you they were really ugly, as well."

What would you wear on a man-date with Brad Pitt?

"I'd probably dress down—I wouldn't want Brad to get the wrong impression."

If you had 24 hours to live, would you stop to pee?

"No, but if I had 24 hours to pee, I would stop to live."

In an ideal world, how much wood do you think a woodchuck could chuck?

"37 pounds, at least."

When did you start shaving?

"Freshman year of High School—in retrospect, I probably could've waited until Junior year."

What kind of shampoo do you use?

"Axe two-in-one shampoo and conditioner."

Would you rather have a lifetime supply of Pop Tarts or Forrest Gump

on Blue-ray?

"I already own Forrest Gump on Blu-Ray, so probably the pop tarts—but, they'd have to be the cinnamon sugar kind."

Have you ever worn performance-enhancing socks during a rugby match?

"No, I can't say that I have."

Have you ever pantsed an opposing player on purpose?

"Not intentionally, but I've had my own shorts pulled down during a game—I'm still not really sure if it was intentional or not—I'm hoping the latter."

In your opinion, is rugby better than football? Why?

"Personally, I think so, though I'm sort of biased. It's a much better test of athletic ability, and overall faster and more fun to watch."

What language is this question in?

"No comprende, senior."

The rugby team travels to Michigan to take on Michigan Tech Saturday. May your feet be swift, and your balls inflated.

Hootenanny Hoedown

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point University Library hosted its fourth annual Hootenanny, featuring bluegrass music, services offered by the library and university and promotions from local businesses on Friday, September 14, 2012.

The lobby was filled with the scent of pizza, carnival-like games, and the sounds of a live bluegrass band playing to a crowd of students and community members alike. The traditional quiet-study area was no place to open a book with so many things offering a distraction to those who walked through the front doors.

The motive behind holding the Hootenanny in the library is to show students that the library welcomes them to use it and to show them that it can be an exciting place to learn. Andy Pech, the Circulation and Outreach Librarian, believes that the Hootenanny will encourage students to come back and use the library's resources.

"In the last few years, libraries tended to have a decline in traditional uses because the use of technology has changed so much. A survey taken by students showed that they were scared or intimidated to come to the library on a regular basis," Pech

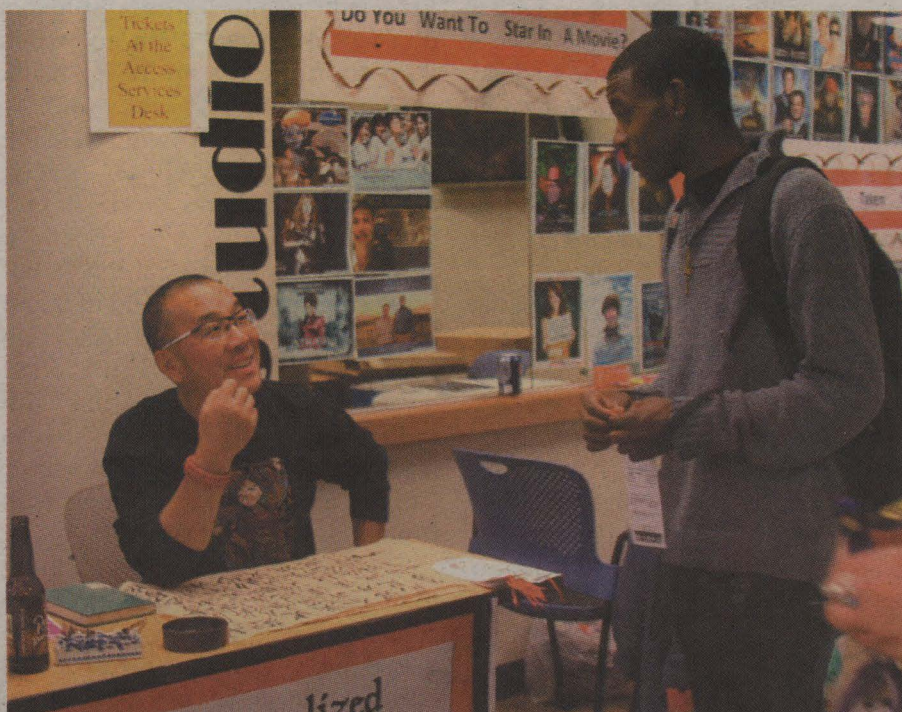


Photo by Samantha Feld

said.

Pech believes that the Hootenanny will ease the tension that some students feel towards using the library. Booths offering games and food from groups on campus lined the walls of the main lobby. The goal of the booths was to allow UWSP students to have a good time rather than throw more information at them.

"The Hootenanny allows us to present the library in a new way that

isn't restricted to a traditional tour or workshop," Pech said.

Highlights included free Point Root Beer and Polito's pizza, a photo booth, fortunetelling, a putting green, Chinese bookmarks, and many other promotions from around the campus and community. The Academic Advising Office even set up a dartboard where students attempted to pop a balloon that contained a slip of paper that told them what their

true major should be.

"This event is a good opportunity for us to get out of the office for a few hours and actually connect with the students and show them what we are all about," said Kami Weis of the Academic Advising Office.

And what hootenanny would be complete without bluegrass or folk music? Art Stevenson & High Water as well as Horseshoes & Hand Grenades were invited to play throughout the afternoon in the middle of the main lobby.

During the performances, some students were even seen dancing to the bluegrass music. Krista Kamke, a Community Advisor in Smith Hall and a frequent user of the library, was one of them.

"This is my third year attending a Hootenanny here, and each year it has gotten bigger. It's nice to see that they showcase the different resources they offer," Kamke said.

"The turnout is usually 600-1000 people throughout the day. We really just want them to come to the library, come in early in the year, and hope that they continue to come back the rest of the year," Pech said.

The event was free to both UWSP and the community thanks to the support from campus administration and sponsorships from various local businesses.

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We Are the Social Media Generation

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Most students can't remember life without the Internet, having grown up with access to even the most primitive forms of AOL.

Since the years of AOL Instant Messenger and greetings of "You've Got Mail," Internet technology has evolved, and with it has come social media.

Today, websites like Facebook and Twitter have become a basic part of our lives. Even though we can remember a life without social media, that life is quickly moving behind us. Social media is changing our personal lives, our social lives and, most importantly here at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, our academic lives.

When it comes down to it, there's no doubt that taking a break to check your notifications is a distraction from school work. Molly Farley, a junior English major, fully admits that social media is a daily interruption.

"It's something to do other than homework, and when you want to get distracted, it's the most accessible thing since we're on the computer most of the time anyway. Just pull

up a new tab and it's there," Farley said.

Students have made social media a frequent part of their daily routines, oftentimes referencing it as a source of news to keep in touch with the world. The problem? It has an addicting effect, making it feel almost impossible to delete.

"There are a lot of reasons for why I would like to delete my Facebook," Farley said. "Mostly because I don't like how we get involved in everyone's lives without getting to know them in real life, but I like to stay connected with family and social life. I can't delete it because I'm so nosy and I like to know what's going on, especially with my family so far away."

Another problem that students are discovering is that the more that social media develops, the more they feel compelled to keep quiet in class. Websites such as Twitter limit us to expressing our thoughts in 140 characters or less, leaving students feeling like they can't speak until their thoughts have been edited and compressed in their minds to fit that "140 character" mentality.

"We feel like we need to say everything in short, concise phrases, like how we do on social media.

Especially in big lectures, students don't speak up very often, and when they do, full ideas are never really explained anymore," Farley said.

Andrew Dax, a senior Health Promotion and Wellness major, doesn't have either a Facebook or a Twitter.

"I used to have a Facebook, but I was constantly getting rid of it and bringing it back. I finally decided to get rid of it for good when I found myself no longer interacting with my friends on it. I only used it to read a bunch of updates from people I didn't care to stay in touch with from high school," Dax said.

"It became a means of killing time instead of a way to stay connected, so I deleted it. Now, no matter how I use that extra time, I find myself doing anything more productive than Facebook," Dax said.

Dax does notice a difference in the classroom and finds himself lost when people refer to Facebook and Twitter, but he doesn't find that reason enough to make himself an account.

"I don't always get jokes in class, and I can't creep on people, but I can live without both of those. I wouldn't get a Facebook again

unless it would provide me with a professional means of networking in my field instead of a means to waste time," Dax said.

96 percent of all college students use Facebook, making the social media tool a common and often assumed thing to have. Being part of the 4 percent who don't use Facebook, Dax is often questioned why.

"It doesn't bother me. I simply explain how I use my time more efficiently, and the argument is over. Aside from the occasional Facebook or Twitter reference to an awesome picture of how drunk someone was last weekend, there isn't any difference between me and other students," Dax said.

So is social media good or bad for students? When used to network professionally, connect with other students and discover news, it can be beneficial, but if study time is being replaced with scrolling through your newsfeed, it may hurt you in the long run. While there is no straightforward "it's good" or "it's bad," sometimes we just need to turn off the computer and take a walk around campus.

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Girls in Pearls: Embracing Both Sisterhood and Fashion Just Minutes Away From Campus



Photos by Samantha Feld

Top: Margaret O'Connor Govett- owner of the new Girls in Pearls Boutique located in downtown Stevens Point.

Below: Unique jewelry pieces are some of the items available at Girls in Pearls. The store also carries clothing and accessories such as scarves and purses.

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From chemistry lab manager to owner of her own boutique, Margaret O'Connor Govett has always wanted to do what she does today. She packed up her lab equipment and opened up for business downtown in early September.

With a husband who works at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point and as a former chemistry lab manager at the university, O'Connor Govett is thrilled about her new store, Girls in Pearls, benefiting Stevens Point's downtown area.

She has been pleased and slightly overwhelmed with the reception she has gotten from other women and businesses downtown. The store's popularity even garnered a visit from the mayor.

"I didn't think it would be this busy, which is a good challenge," O'Connor Govett said.

Girls in Pearls may be just what women in the Stevens Point area have been waiting for. It's a spot to call their own, allowing them to embrace both sisterhood and fashion just minutes away from campus.

Although O'Connor Govett has yet to find a way to attract more students downtown, she hopes to and has had a decent amount of students come visit. She believes the amount will improve through word of mouth.

"I have had a lot of my past students in the chemistry department come in to see what exactly it is I'm doing," O'Connor Govett said.

Products from Girls in Pearls are meant to be timeless, to attract women of all kinds. She hopes this becomes a reality for her student audience as well.

"I also have a subset of clothing that is very appealing to young women," O'Connor Govett said.

After speaking with Megan Cahill, a fifth-year senior double-majoring in psychology and sociology, it is evident that women of the younger generation also need a place just for them - a place that represents them as women along with their

sense of style.

"The clothes don't fit my individuality. However, the jewelry is very eye-catching and does a good job with capturing the individual," Cahill said.

Cahill believes that the clothing at Girls in Pearls is fit for an older audience or appropriate for an interview but not as targeted to a college audience as she would like. However, she appreciates that Girls in Pearls offers a place where the spirit of women can abound and finds that it is much needed in a community like Stevens Point.

"I feel like we're in this patriarchal society, especially being in a small town, so it's nice to see a change to develop style for women," Cahill said.

Girls in Pearls is just a stepping stone for women in Stevens Point who, some secretly and some outwardly, have felt voiceless. O'Connor Govett has spoken up through her pursuits of fashion, leading her to open Girls in Pearls. Although it may not represent all women, this is just the beginning.

Girls in Pearls is located downtown Stevens Point and carries both local products and those from all over the world. If you're looking for scarves, purses, clothing, or jewelry, it may be worthwhile to stop by. You may find something you like!

Girls in Pearls is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 10 am to 6 pm, Wednesday 10 am to 8 pm, and Saturday 9 am to 4 pm.

Experience is the Best Teacher

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Professor Dan Dieterich is coming out of retirement to teach English 349, otherwise known as the business Cornerstone Press.

English 349 is a publishing and editing class where students select a manuscript and edit, publish and market it.

Dieterich taught the class from 1978 until his partial retirement two years ago when Per Henningsgaard took over. When Dieterich originally started teaching the course, it had a very different format. Each student made her own booklet, as opposed to the entire class working on one book. He modeled the course after a publishing course at the University of Notre Dame.

Using the foundation that Dieterich had laid, Henningsgaard added his own twist to the class. He used his experience in the publishing world to make sure that students would be working in a publishing

environment that was as authentic as possible.

Henningsgaard turned in his resignation earlier this summer when he took a job at Portland State University as director of their master's program in publishing. Dieterich was asked to come out of his partial retirement and take over the class until a permanent replacement can be found.

"If I didn't teach it, students were going to have problems. I hope that they will be approved to replace Per and this will be a one-semester thing. If they do not approve the replacement, I will be here for as long as they need me," Dieterich said.

"Professor Dieterich is great. He is very experienced," said Randy Ploekelman, a student in English 349. "The class is interesting but very demanding. I'm excited about it though."

Now that Dieterich is once again teaching the class, he is adopting some of Henningsgaard's ideas.

"Per did a lot of things differently,

and I am stealing some of his ideas, with his permission, and some of them I am not. I have my own ways," said Dieterich. "Per was very useful over the summer. He was here up until the beginning of the semester, and I interacted with him a great deal. We went back and forth, and I got information from him."

"I can't imagine a better replacement than Professor Dieterich," said Henningsgaard. "After all, he taught the course for more than 20 years and founded Cornerstone Press. What I found most impressive about Professor Dieterich is that he was eager to hear what changes I had made and incorporated many of these into his course design, so he wasn't being at all complacent about it and returning things to the way they used to be, which would have been the easy option for him. I think he's eager to see the Editing and Publishing class and Cornerstone Press continue to grow and flourish, as am I."

Henningsgaard focused much

of the class's time on learning the program InDesign, a software for designing things like posters, fliers, or books. Each class member was required to design a book cover and 10 pages of the inside of a book. Dieterich has done away with these assignments, replacing them with writing projects that will be publishable. The students will be making brochures and booklets for different organizations like the Alumni office or writing for the SCENE newspaper.

"I like students to do actual, real-life writing. For example, the students will be working with the legal society here on campus, making brochures of various kinds for them," said Dieterich. "I really am committed to the idea that you learn by doing. It has to be practical."

Dieterich is enjoying being back, and things are going smoothly so far. The class is moving right on schedule and plans to select their book this week.

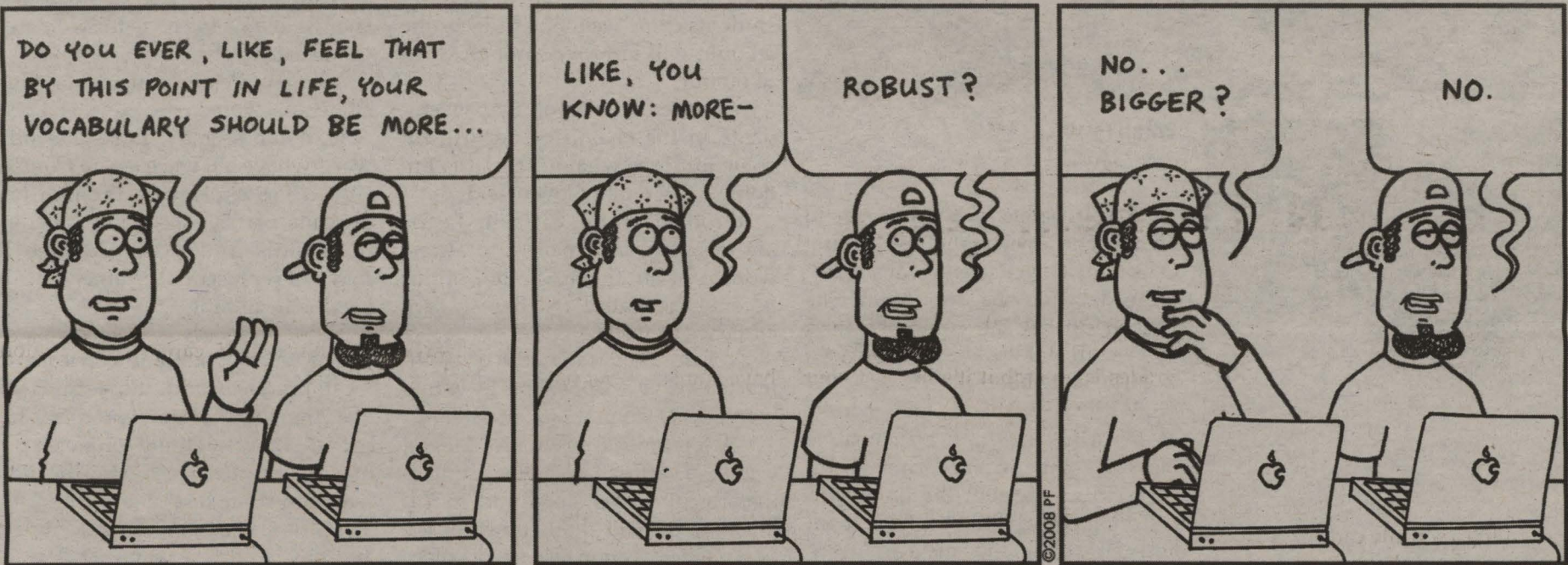
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CLASSIFIDES

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

WANTED

Tricia Cayemberg, a 3rd year graduate student in the UWSP AUD program, is looking for individuals 65 – 75 years of age in good health with no dizziness or balance problems to participate in a short assessment of balance function. Normative data is being collected for a test called Active Head Rotation in which the participant wears special goggles and rotates his/her head back and forth while staring at a light. Testing takes about 20 minutes, participants will be scheduled beginning the first week in September, and a repeat evaluation is required approximately one month after the first test.

If you would like to participate, know of someone who would, or if you would like more information, please email Tricia Cayemberg at tcaye052@uwsp.edu or call 715-346-3667.

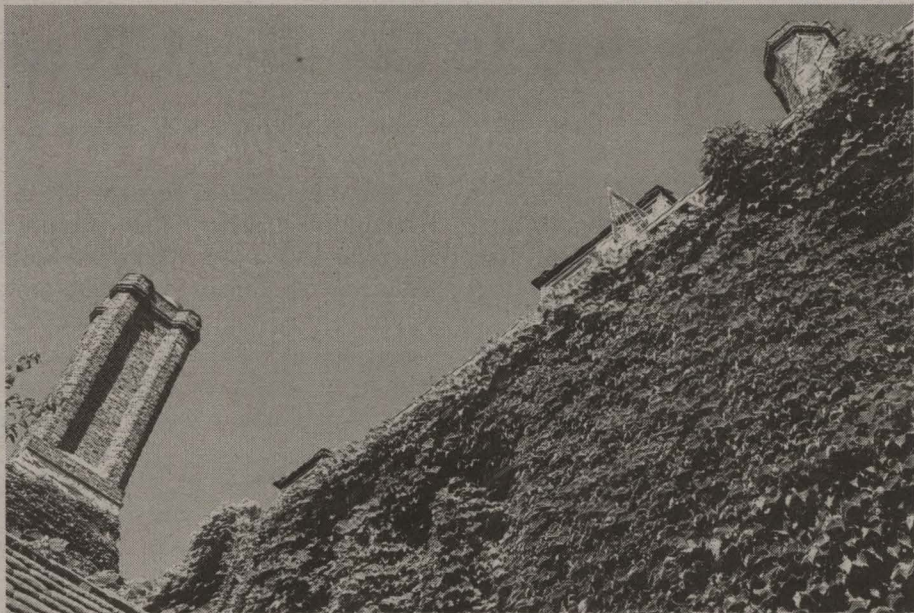


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Letter from the Vice Chancellor

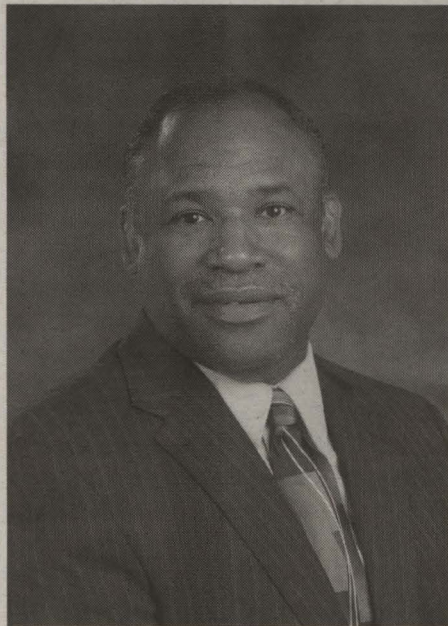


Photo courtesy of UWSP.edu

Dear UWSP Students:

I hope your semester is off to a safe and successful start! One of my roles as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs is to provide you with vital information about your health and safety. I encourage you to learn more and use caution, especially late at night.

Some basic safety tips are:

--Always walk with a group of friends, especially at night.

--If you intend to drink, do so in moderation so as not to put yourself in a position of increased risk.

--Use your "radar" or common sense as your first defense.

Always carry your cell phone. If you find yourself in an unsafe situation or are witness to a crime, call 911 in emergencies or (715) 346-3456 for UWSP's Security and Police Department's non-emergency line.

In the wake of the shootings in Oak Creek, Wis. and Aurora, Colo., I want you to know that UW-Stevens Point, like universities around the country, convenes a group designed to conduct threat assessment on behalf of the entire campus community. It is our belief that the best way to learn of and curb a potential threat is through extensive communication between administrators and members of the campus community. If you are aware of an individual of concern or need any kind of assistance, please reply to this message or call 715-346-2481 to speak with me. Your care and concern is important in keeping our community safe.

Lastly, our campus boasts a vibrant social scene, full of many different ways to have fun with your friends. Many students find that college is the first time that they encounter use and misuse of alcohol by their

peers. Too frequently I personally encounter students whose choices involving alcohol create problems for themselves and others. These choices result in harm done to themselves or others. I don't want this to happen to any member of our community. Be safe this weekend and please take a moment to learn more about UWSP campus policies regarding alcohol at <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/AlcoholSR.pdf>.

Safety is a shared responsibility between students, administrators, police, and community.

Again, welcome and have a safe and successful semester!

Al

Al S. Thompson, Jr., Ed.D.
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

To be or Not to be...Greek

RACHEL PUKALL
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COMMENTARY

Are you interested in getting involved and making lifelong friendships along the way? Then joining a sorority at UWSP might be for you!

Joining a sorority can be beneficial in many ways, helping you grow personally and academically through friendship and commitment. Sharing the deep bonds of sisterhood teach you the values of loyalty and true friendship by being involved in something bigger than yourself.

You might ask yourself, "Do I really need to 'pay' to make friends?" Or "Will this get in the way of my school work or my job?"

Monica Lenius, a Junior majoring in Communication with an emphasis in Media Studies, has never regretted her decision to join a sorority.

"Some of my best memories in college are from the sorority and even though some people around Stevens Point don't take us seriously, we do make a difference," said Lenius.

Megan Cahill, a Super Senior majoring in Psychology and Sociology with a minor in Religious Studies, seconds that thought. "I love every bit of the sorority. It keeps me sane and teaches me a lot about my limits as a leader and has helped me grow as a woman in current society," said Cahill.

Sororities offer philanthropic, leadership, and personal development experience that can help you in the real world.

"The list is never-ending why I joined. I loved that one of Delta Phi Epsilon's philanthropies is anorexia nervosa and associated disorders which is the prevention of eating

disorders and treatment. We are the opposite of stereotypes," said Lenius.

Going to college and getting good grades is great, but it's not just your major or your GPA that's going to get you an interview. It's the extra things on your resume. Many people can get straight A's, but can they do it while holding a leadership position?

"Being in a sorority has taught me how to be a leader. My biggest challenge throughout college has been learning how to take care of the things I need to take care of while monitoring that other things get done and that's what the sorority has helped me to do," said Lenius.

Greek life gives women the chance to improve and develop their leadership skills through support and trust. Sisters receive academic support from each other and create social networking skills that can open doors and give them countless opportunities.

"In a sorority you learn to trust and rely on people. It's so different from other organizations I've been involved in because you are held accountable for your position and job," Lenius said.

Getting involved by participating in community service and raising money can make you feel good about yourself, not to mention, it's FUN! Sororities put together many events including sleepovers, parties, mixers and more! You get to meet an assortment of new people and create lifelong friendships, as well as develop social consciousness and a commitment to think and act for the greater good.

"My favorite part is meeting people I probably would have never met in my career on campus.

It's beneficial because it gives you

a large social network you can count on whenever anything goes wrong and it is a large group so you always have someone that has your back no matter what," said Lenius.

Many of the sororities on campus

are now recruiting new members, and they want to see you there! Check out the university's campus life section for information on recruitment as well as different sororities that the campus has to offer.

LONDON INTERNSHIPS

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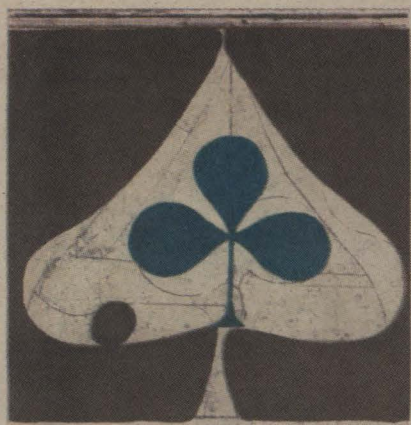
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Grizzly Bear Album Review



Cover courtesy of prettymuchamazing.com

"Grizzly Bear"

MITCHEL DE SANTIS
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COMMENTARY

I'm going to kick this review off boldly, Shields has potential to launch Grizzly Bear to the next level. What level is that you ask? Why it's the same level the Arcade Fire and Bon Iver achieved, this album has potential Grammy nod written all over it. I apologize to hipsters everywhere that read that last sentence and cringed with fury. Sorry little skinny jean wearing, boat shoes supporting, Woody Allen impersonating kids. Get over it! It's just how life works.

I'm not entirely sure if this term for a music genre has been coined yet so here it goes, "Stoner Pop." Do I even need to go into any more detail?

What's that? I do? Well if you insist... If the Smiths and Phish had a love child, it would be Grizzly Bear and their album Shields, it's structured yet mind expanding.

"Sleeping Ute," the first single from the album, launches the album with guitars blazing. A unique intro not typical for the band quickly slips into something a little more familiar, that being a poppy psychedelic swirl storm of beautiful melody. The track is divine and won't dismay the ears.

Another highlight to Shields is the 90FM favorite, "Yet Again," which has the ability to make the listener loosen up, zone out, and dance. The instrumentals are fabulous but what hooked me in was the sway of the vocals, they really cranked this tune. The high point of the record in my opinion is the song entitled "A Simple Answer." Vocally soulful and lyrically insightful it complements the piano and drum driven instrumentals extremely well.

Upon completion of this album it becomes known that the once brilliant yet hibernating Grizzly Bear has now emerged from it's slumber with an album that is utterly fantastic and genius, I'm sure it will become a staple in the 90FM stacks. was exactly what we as fans of the Talking Heads and St. Vincent would want to be, authentic, fascinating, and entertaining. I couldn't be more excited to have it added in 90FM's Heavy Rotation.

Animal Collective – Centipede Hz (Centipede Hertz)



Cover courtesy of prettymuchamazing.com

"Centipede Hz"

TAYLOR CHRISTIAN
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COMMENTARY

Animal Collective has been a mainstay in the indie music for a long time now. Composed of David Portner (Avey Tare), Noah Lennox (Panda Bear), Brian Weitz (Geologist), and Josh Dibb (Deakin), the group put out their first album under the collective moniker in 2003. Since then the band has put out a total of six albums, and grown in popularity between each album. Merriweather Post Pavilion (2009) saw them at their peak, with radio play across the nation, something new to a band as experimental as themselves.

Three years later the band has

followed up their iconic album in true Animal Collective style, by totally changing the recipe. The first major shift in the album is in the inception of it, in that the band decided to come together to write and record the songs in the same location, something that had been replaced by the trading of song ideas through the internet due to the displacement of many of the band members. The other shift was away from Panda Bears vocals, putting the emphasis on Avey Tares brash, shouting vocals. The resulting album is one that is altogether raw. From the harsher vocals to Panda Bear's shift to a full drum kit, the dreamy floatation of Merriweather Post Pavilion has been turned on

its head. The albums lead single Applesauce serves as a great indicator of the change. With it's catchier, light chorus slowly giving way to increasingly loud cymbal crashes, the similarities stand in stark contrast to the new sound.

The album still features much use of noise and some pretty interesting instrumental choices, and earns the 'freak folk' tag many have ascribed to the band. Fans of the artists' solo work or the bands work pre-Merriweather Post Pavilion are sure to enjoy, but the new vocals and noisy nature of the album could be a deterrent to fans of the bands last album. Personally, the more I listen to it, the better it gets.