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² NEWS

Student Ambassadors Promote Diversity

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As a means to promote diversity throughout the residence halls and the entire campus, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Residential Living has developed a program that recruits students to plan and implement diversity-related events and programs.

"It's a leadership program, and these students receive training and the opportunity to grow in these positions," said Mary Duckworth, Program and Assessment Coordinator for Residential Living.

Diversity Ambassadors, or DAs, are selected based on their high school experiences, leadership and interest in UWSP. General eligibility classifications are pulled from a state program called the Lawton Grant. First-year students receive a free room in the residence halls and have the opportunity to earn a \$4000 grant towards their studies.

Today, the program has evolved into a two-year program. There are two DAs assigned to each hall where second year students mentor the first years. DAs are also actively involved within their hall governments and through organizations around campus.

"You really get to know a lot of different people. I make a conscious effort to teach or be the voice and talk to people about getting to know others that are different than them," said Diversity Ambassador, Yomary Velez. "It's the experience of having the opportunity to talk and teach about issues that concern other people."

Programming requirements are different with every hall and each individual. Both Velez and the Burroughs Hall DA, Cornealius Cook, are deeply involved with their respective halls and with organizations on campus. Cook explains a program he put on with residents in Burroughs.

"I did a program called 'True Colors'. Basically, you break yourself into four colors and get rid of your insecurities. People are scared of their insecurities. The colors bring out the positives in a person," Cook said.

Cook explained that he feels many people on the UWSP campus are from smaller towns and want to stay away from inclusivity and diversity issues because they do not want to be seen as racist or as someone who offends anyone. Velez explained her role in this situation.

"We expose people to new things and teach aspects of multiculturalism, racism, sexism and homophobia," Velez said. "When people think diversity, they think black, white, Asian, etc., but it's so much more than race."

Both DAs have similar experiences with being involved on campus. Cook is active in the Black Student Union, SGA and multiple other organizations. He is currently working with Ron Strege, Director for Diversity and College Access to create campus wide programs to promote diversity.

"I'm forced to step out and get involved. I give students a chance to talk about these topics in an open setting," Cook said. "It's a great experience to think about yourself, but also about others."

Velez is currently working on Cultural Blends, a program featured in the Brewhaus, which deals with expression through language. She explained that something has more significance if it comes from your language or how you like to express yourself.

"Take advantage of the diversity that surrounds you. Get to know more people. Understand why people think the way they do," Velez said. "I like to get people to think beyond themselves and those like them by having a basic conversation."

The program has been around for a number of years, but new changes are being made each year to benefit the campus and the students involved. With the major push for diversity and inclusivity on campus, DAs will continue to be advocates on the issues students face.

"I believe very strongly in this program. I see students find their voice on campus, and I'm excited to see this evolve into something bigger," Duckworth said.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

April 20

12:58 p.m. – A student reported to Protective Services that his door handle had been removed from his vehicle.

12:17 a.m. – Individual called to complain of a group of drunk and obnoxious students walking down 4th Ave. Officers sent to investigate.

April 19

11:04 p.m. – An individual called to report that the license plate had been stolen off of his son's car in parking lot Q.

10:16 p.m. – A female called and said there were people being very loud above the performance center and smelled of alcohol.

April 18

11:09 p.m. – Theft of cymbals from the basement of Watson Hall. 8:35 p.m. – A new custodial

worker accidently set off an alarm in the SSC while he was cleaning and he didn't know how to turn it off. Officer sent to help.

1:28 p.m. – A male subject was found sleeping in Schmeekle Reserve. He asked the officers about the policies on sleeping around campus.

April 17

10:36 p.m. – An individual working in the LRC computer lab called to express safety concerns regarding an individual who has been seen in the area. The individual had prior incident with the LRC staff.

6:44 a.m. – A HEC custodial staff member called Protective Services on behalf of a student who said she was afraid to walk to her car and was in need of an escort.

April 16

9:47 p.m. – A female called saying there was an older gentleman on campus that had a similar description to the previous abduction suspect. She described him as a white male with a grey beard around 200 pounds in weight.

April 15

A Thompson Hall front desk worker reported that there was a woman in the lobby who was making claims that a 19yr old female stole another woman's baby, and both suspect and baby were now missing.

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other material submitted to *The Pointer* becomes the property of *The Pointer*.

Stevens Point Brewery Ranked No. 35 Best Craft Brewery in the U.S.

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In recent weeks, The Brewers Association released its annual list of the Top 50 Craft and Overall Brewing Companies in the United States. The Stevens Point Brewery ranked No. 35 among craft breweries and No. 46 overall.

"It's great. We're just thrilled," said Julie Birrenkott, director of marketing for the Stevens Point Brewery. "We're in a segment of the market that fortunately is growing, so it's great that they recognized us. It just kind of proves how much we've been putting into our beers."

According to Birrenkott, increased interest from wholesalers across the United States has played an integral role in the justification of this ranking.

"We're a drinkable craft beer, and the interest is there from wholesalers across the United States. We have a number of new wholesalers that we have picked up in neighboring states and states far away, so we've increased our shipments. Thus, we're producing more and more of the Point Beer brand," Birrenkott said.

In the past decade, the Stevens Point Brewery has more than quadrupled the amount of brands which it regularly produces and can now be found in over 30 states nationwide. "It's amazing to see our growth, Birrenkott said. "There's definitely an interest in our product."

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students agree. Matt Bjorlin, a senior forestry major, explained that the Stevens Point Brewery was one of the many reasons he chose to attend UWSP.

"Before touring UWSP, one of the only things I knew about Stevens Point was that there was a brewery

here," Bjorlin said. "I thought it was pretty awesome then, and I still do now. I'm a big fan of a lot of Point beers, and how many other college kids have something like that right down the street?" Bjorlin said.

Noah Salmeri, also a senior, is a strong proponent of the Stevens Point Brewery.

"There are so many flavors for every occasion. Plus, the brewery tour is a blast to do with friends, and you get to try out all the beers," Salmeri said.

Not surprisingly, Birrenkott is confident that the Stevens Point Brewery will only continue to grow in the future. "We're going to rank higher and higher every year," Birrenkott said. "We have a two-million dollar expansion going on right now where we're adding 16 more tanks, a second brew kettle, and putting a new grainhandling system into place. We're definitely growing as far as what we can put out and ship to our wholesalers."

Due to these advancements, Birrenkott urged the entire Stevens Point community to stop in and sample one of the breweries 25 signature brands.

NEWS

"Overall advancements in the technology we've had has really contributed to our overall growth. Our beers have never tasted better, we've never had better quality beers than we do right now, and now with this expansion we can produce more of them," Birrenkott said.



Photo by Samantha Feld

The Brewers Association ranked the Stevens Point Brewery No. 35 in the nation amongst craft breweries.

Donating or Selling? Students Give Plasma for Money

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Twice every week, hundreds of students from The University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point make a pilgrimage to Bus Park Dr. where Biolife Plasma Services gives them cash for donating plasma.

The process isn't too long or arduous and pays well, which helps contribute to the large amount of patrons the business gets from the university. While many scared of needles may cringe at the thought, more and more students are giving their plasma in exchange for money.

John Schoneman is an arts management major who gives plasma twice every week, carpooling with his friends.

"I give plasma because I don't have a job so it's really nice to have the extra money. Even when I do get a job, I'm probably going to continue to do it because it is a good way to supplement your income, it's incredibly easy, and it's helpful for the people who need it. There is definitely a demand for it."

Plasma money can be used on basically anything that can be payed for with a credit card. "I use my plasma money for living. I buy food and groceries with it. I use it to pay my bills every month, like my electricity bill. Sometimes I go out to eat with it," Schoneman said.

Alec Grefe, a Communications major, helped explain the process of giving plasma.

"You go into the building, and then you fill out a questionnaire on the touch screen. You pretty much answer 'no' for everything except the last questions. You go, and they prick your finger and take some blood, see if your iron levels and temperature are good. Once they pass you on, you're good to go, and they give you a section, like gold or red. You sit down and wait for a phlebotomist to come and hook you up. You can read a book or go on your phone for however long it takes to donate. Usually, for me it takes 35 to 40 minutes to donate."

Grefe uses his money sparingly. "For the most part, I save it. Then I spend it on groceries," Grefe said. If I'm not saving or buying food, I might splurge and get a video game – 'Bioshock,' which just came out."

While giving plasma helps people in need, both Grefe and Schoneman think students give plasma just for the money. "I think most students go to plasma to get the fifty bucks a week so they can eat because school is so expensive and they need money." Grefe said.

Schoneman explained, "I think

everyone gives plasma for the money, to be honest. I don't think the motive is really a bad thing because the people who need the plasma are obviously getting the plasma they need. The fact that most people donate just for the money is more of an afterthought."

While they agree most students give for plasma money, they are unsure what to call the process. Schoneman seemed pessimistic and said, "You're getting paid to do it so it's not a donation. I think they frame it that way because it sounds nicer."

Grefe was more optimistic. "I don't necessarily consider it selling because something good happens to you and something good happens to the other person. Selling has negative connotations to it, I feel."

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Graduate School Stress

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The life of an academic student is full of stress, pressures and the hassle of time management. Add graduate school to the equation, and some students become completely overwhelmed. Having only an undergraduate degree is becoming not enough to land the well-paying jobs of the future.

"There was always the expectation that I would go to college because I want to make sure I have a good and stable life. Once I was here, I started off as a different major, and now where I'm ending up I'm finding that as I get farther in my career, a master's is required," said Emily Zahasky, a student majoring in communication with an emphasis in interpersonal/ organizational communication and a minor in psychology.

Zahasky has applied at a few places but would like to get into Northwest Missouri State for grad school.

Nick Boehm, a senior majoring in communication with an emphasis in public relations, is going to Colorado State for grad school.

"I'm absolutely thrilled and very

excited," Boehm said. "I think my biggest worry is my assistantship just because I've never done extensive teaching. I've done a little bit here and there, but I don't have a ton of background in teaching, so that's a little nerve-wracking, but I'm sure I'll get used to it."

Boehm decided on going to grad school about a year ago but didn't get really serious about it until about six months ago.

"I decided to go to grad school because I'm interested in health communication. For health communication, it's usually a good idea to have a graduate degree," Boehm said. "I'm interested in it primarily because I feel like it's a good way to help people and there's a lot going on in that industry right now.'

Boehm is almost finished with the whole application process, which he found to be the most nervewracking part.

"I think the most stressful thing is the waiting game that you have to play. You have to ask teachers for recommendations, you have to take the GRE and wait for your score, and you have all this stuff you have to type up and send in, and then you have to wait for the admissions decision," Boehm said.

The GRE is short for the Graduate Record Examination, which students have to take in order to get accepted as a graduate student at a college or university.

Zahasky agrees that the waiting is the most stressful part.

"You work really hard, you study a lot for your GRE, and you try to make sure that you're yourself in the interviews, but the best face of yourself for them. You just hope that they like you and that you're qualified to be in there. It's just the stress of waiting because I did everything I can. There's not much I can do right now," Zahasky said.

Zahasky's biggest worry is that she won't get in. She's also slightly worried about being prepared for the extra work load of grad school and going to a different university.

"You have to make all new friends, learn all the professors, the advisors, who to go to when you need something-and it's just different in general," Zahasky said.

With the end of the semester fast approaching and grad school right around the corner, both Boehm and Zahasky seem excited to start this new chapter in their academic careers.



The Student Government Association has been busy preparing for the end of the school year. Currently we are forums for Pointer Compact. The intent of these forums is the gather student feedback, and to give students a brief overview of Differential Tuition at a glance. The Pointer Compact is a student differential tuition, charged tuition rate set by the Board of Regents to address important academic services shortfalls that are currently inhibiting goes above and beyond the base experience. Once approved, the Pointer Compact seeks to:

-Provide Student Academic **Support Services** -Eliminate Bottlenecks -Support the Tutoring and Learning Center -Create a Comprehensive First Year Experience -Provide Service Learning **Opportunities** -Expand Undergraduate Research -Provide Financial Aid Support

-Continue to Support the Value of Your Degree Post-Graduation

The last of these forums will be held Friday, April 26th and Monday, April 29th in the CPS Café at 7PM.

SGA is interested to hear your thoughts! Come to the CPS Café, enjoy some refreshments and engage in solution-oriented discussions about many of the problems that face students on this campus.

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact us at SGA@uwsp. edu or like the UW-Stevens **Point Student Government** Association page on Facebook.

From Boston to Point

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At about 2:50 p.m. on Monday, April 15 two explosions were detonated by Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (19) and his brother Tamerlan (24), killing three people and injuring over 140 during the 117th Boston Marathon.

Runners from across the globe congregated for the marathon, including members of the University Wisconsin-Stevens of Point community.

Tom Wetter, associate professor in the school of health promotion and human development, ran the Boston Marathon for the14th time, completing the race in just three hours and two minutes.

"I used to live in Boston and that's how I got connected with the marathon. My wife, Annie, was at Tufts getting her post-doc and that's where we got a network of friends to go visit and run the marathon with," Wetter said.

Wetter finished the race about an hour and a half prior to when the explosions went off and left the event shortly after.

After finishing the race, Wetter waited for his friends to complete

the race at the meeting areas before heading to the subway station, which was a mere block away from the meeting area.

"It's typically loud in train stations so we didn't hear anything happening. We found out about what happened from a text," Wetter said

Wetter said there was no immediate or chaotic reaction to the explosions for those in the train station. They found out just like everyone else who was following it on TV.

Trevor Darrow, a senior at UWSP, had a brother and sister-inlaw running the marathon. When he heard about the explosions, he was shocked and worried about his relatives.

"I wanted to make sure my brother and sister-in-law were okay," Trevor said. "The phone lines were down going into Boston, so we had to wait for him to get a hold of us. Cell phone reception could go out but it couldn't go in, and he had to contact us through Facebook messaging."

Trevor's brother Justin said he finished the marathon at around 1 p.m., and his wife was waiting for him at the finish line.

"We were in a group with four other people, all of us running as teammates," Justin said. "When we finished, we got texts saying back to the hotel, I started getting texts asking if we were all right. I got messages from people I haven't

left the finish line area about 20 minutes before the first explosion. He said they heard nothing about the attacks until they got to their hotel room.

"My initial reaction was why would someone do this at a marathon? Who was it?" Justin said.

Justin said Southwest Airlines was kind enough to move his and his teammates' flight to Tuesday, instead of later in the week.

As more details about the bomber, surviving Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, and the theories behind his motives come to light, Wetter contemplates the prevention of such terrors happening again.

"He is a freshman in college. As a teacher I want to know why he felt so unconnected to everyone else," Wetter said.

Wetter plans on returning to Boston next year with his family to run the race again.

"A lot of people I've talked to since are not deterred from running next year," Justin said. "I think people have been encouraged to run the marathon next year."

congrats for finishing. When we got

talked to since high school." Justin said he and his wife Carly

2013 NFL Mock Draft

WILL ROSSMILLER wross460@uwsp.edu @willrossmiller COMMENTARY

The first round of the 2013 NFL Draft will be held Thursday night. Since the draft becomes more popular every year, here is a mock draft of the first round.

1. Kansas City Chiefs: Luke Joeckel, OT, Texas A&M: Not a flashy pick, but a safe one. The Chiefs take debatably the best player in the draft, and it fits a need for them as well.

2. Jacksonville Jaguars: Dion Jordan, DE, Oregon: The Jaguars only had 20 sacks as a team last season. J.J. Watt had 20.5 sacks. The team needs to get to the quarterback more, and Jordan is arguably the best pass rusher in the class.

3. Oakland Raiders: Sharrif Floyd, DT, Florida: The Raiders have holes all over the field and need to take a player that they think has the most talent. Floyd has great potential to be a pro-bowler someday, and the Raiders need an inside presence for their defense.

4. Philadelphia Eagles: Eric Fisher, OT, Central Michigan: New head coach Chip Kelly needs his quarterbacks healthy to run his system. Fisher is the most athletic offensive lineman in the draft and will start from day one.

5. Detroit Lions: Ezekiel Ansah, DE, BYU: Ansah is an athletic freak and is too good for the Lions to pass up here. Pairing him with Ndamukong Suh and Nick Fairley is almost unfair for NFC North teams.

6. Cleveland Browns: Star Lotulelei, DT, Utah: The Browns really want to trade out of this spot, but if they stay, it's hard to see them passing up possibly the best defensive player in the draft class. Lotulelei has speed and size that should spell success in the NFL.

7. Arizona Cardinals: Lane

Johnson, OT, Oklahoma: The Cardinals get their protector for new quarterback Carson Palmer. Johnson will play one of the bookends on the offensive line.

8. Buffalo Bills: Ryan Nassib, QB, Syracuse: The Bills need a quarterback, and Nassib will probably be the one, just maybe not in this spot. New head coach Doug Marrone coached Nassib at Syracuse. The Bills may trade back and still get their guy.

9. New York Jets: Dee Milliner, CB, Alabama: After trading away Darrell Revis, the Jets could use another cornerback, and Milliner is the best in this class. Milliner isn't as flashy as some former cornerback prospects, but he gets the job done.

10. Tennessee Titans: D.J. Fluker, OL, Alabama: The Titans get protection for Jake Locker and a battering ram offensive lineman for Chris Johnson. Fluker is the pick for overall offensive lineman because he can play right tackle and both guard positions.

11. San Diego Chargers: Jonathan Cooper, OG, North Carolina: The Chargers get Cooper here, who will help keep Phillip Rivers on his feet more often in the 2013 season.

12. Miami Dolphins: Xavier Rhodes, CB, Florida St: After trading away Vontae Davis during training camp, the Dolphins have a hole to fill at their cornerback position. Rhodes is a big physical corner that fits well with the Dolphins defense.

13. New York Jets: Barkevious Mingo, OLB, LSU: He has a funny name, but Mingo is no joke. He will be a pass-rushing beast off the edge for the team that takes him.

14. Carolina Panthers: Sheldon Richardson, DT, Missouri: The Panthers have a need at defensive tackle, and Richardson is one of the best players available.

15. New Orleans Saints: Kenny Vaccaro, S, Texas: The Saints need to help a defense that just didn't play up

to expectations last year. Vaccaro is the best safety in the class and should help the Saints immediately.

16. St. Louis Rams: Tavon Austin, WR, West Virginia: The Rams get one of the best play-makers in the draft class in Austin. This speedy receiver and return man is a born play-maker.

17. Pittsburgh Steelers: Jarvis Jones, OLB, Georgia: Jones replaces the departed James Harrison. Jones is great at getting to the quarterback, and that's exactly what he will be asked to do.

18. Dallas Cowboys: Sylvester Williams, DT, North Carolina: One of the more underrated prospects in my mind, Williams is fast off the snap and is great at getting to the quarterback. Eli Manning better watch out next vear.

19. New York Giants: Chance Warmack, OG, Alabama: Warmack is considered a top ten prospect, and if he falls this far, you better believe that the Giants will scoop him up.

20. Chicago Bears: Alec Ogletree, LB, Georgia: The Bears find their replacement for Brian Urlacher with Ogletree, a fast and athletic linebacker that can cover sideline to sideline.

21. Cincinnati Bengals: Jonathan Cyprien, S, Florida International: Cyprien has flown up the draft boards of late and would fill a need for the Bengals. He possesses a great skill set of size, speed and overall athleticism.

22. St. Louis Rams: DeAndre Hopkins, WR, Clemson: The Rams add another weapon to Sam Bradford's arsenal. Hopkins was a play-maker last year at Clemson.

23. Minnesota Vikings: Cordarrelle Patterson, WR, Tennessee: Patterson only played one year at Tennessee, but it was a memorable one. Patterson could fill Percy Harvin's role as the do-it-all player for the Vikings.

24. Indianapolis Colts: Dante Jones, DE, UCLA: Jones has also been a late riser on many boards and fits well with the Colts' defensive scheme. He has the ability to come in and start right away.

SPORTS

25 Minnesota Vikings: Manti Te'o, LB, Notre Dame: Te'o will finally find his landing spot in Minnessota. The Vikings need a middle linebacker and have been known to take their fair share of Notre Dame players.

26: Green Bay Packers: Menelik Watson, OT, Florida State: The Packers must protect Aaron Rodgers at all costs. If that means drafting another offensive lineman, then so be it.

27. Houston Texans: Robert Woods, WR, USC: The Texans finally find a receiver to pair with Andre Johnson. Woods isn't a flashy player, but he has good hands and runs good routes.

28. Denver Broncos: Bjoern Werner, DE, Florida St: Werner comes in and replaces the departed Elvis Dumervil. Werner was once predicted in the top ten but has really fallen as of late.

29. New England Patriots: Keenan Allen, WR, California: Besides recently signed Danny Amendola, the Patriots have nobody at wide receiver. Allen can come in and make plays right away.

30. Atlanta Falcons: Desmond Trufant, CB, Washington: After two of their players departed for free agency, the Falcons desperately need a playmaker in their secondary.

31. San Francisco 49ers: Matt Elam, S, Florida: The 49ers add another play-maker to their defense. The team really doesn't have any needs, so Elam is a luxury pick here.

32. Baltimore Ravens: Arthur Brown, LB, Kansas St: The Ravens draft an underrated, undersized, middle linebacker at the end of the first round. Sound familiar? While Brown may not be the second coming of Ray Lewis, he can still come in and make a difference on day one for the Ravens.

A New Discussion In American Sports

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No American male athlete on a professional sports team-football, basketball, baseball, or hockey-has ever come out as being gay while still playing. Multiple players have revealed themselves after retiring. Several professional female athletes have come out while still playing for their teams.

But the possibility of having a gay American male athlete is now on the public agenda and leagues as well as individuals are striving to be more inclusive.

The National Hockey League is taking steps to be the first among

professional leagues to show support for Gender Sexuality Alliance group at or straight people who support the themselves as being gay or lesbian. Point, commented on the topic. They have joined forces with the You Can Play Project, an advocacy group fighting against homophobia in sports culture.

In addition to the NHL, many individual athletes are also coming forward to say that they support gay rights even if they are straight themselves. Chris Kluwe, punter for the Minnesota Vikings, went live on CNN to talk about the need to end homophobia.

This is not just an issue for the major leagues but also something that can affect college and even high school teams. Tristan King, secretary

for team members who want to reveal the University of Wisconsin-Stevens

"I think that the tides are definitely changing for sports," King said. "I think that athletes and sports organizations are also taking homophobia more seriously. If a sports player makes a comment using the F-word or calling someone gay as a slur, they take offense and make it a bigger deal than it used to be. So I think it's definitely going to a better degree than it used to be."

King mentioned that he would like to see all UWSP athletes Safe Zone-trained. Safe Zone is a special program that the GSA puts on to train people on how to be allies, LGBTQ community. For example, the workshops teach the correct terminology to avoid being offensive.

"Words like gay and f-bomb get thrown around a lot in the locker room," King said. "It is part of the culture, but I think that learning to change that and not putting up with that type of behavior is one of the best steps that could be put towards changing it."

"If you want to talk to someone privately, or if you'd just like to get some help or have questions, we'll be free to answer," King said. "No one is going to ask if you are gay or straight or anything like that. It is a very welcoming environment."

SPORTS

Woodland Sports Team Competes With the Best



Photo by Mike Bowers

Joe Huber and Spencer Johnson compete in the Timbersports event.

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Very few Division III athletes have their competitions aired on national television, but Ben Hansen will get that pleasure twice.

Hansen, a senior, is a part of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Woodland Sports team. Woodland sports involves chopping and sawing wood.

ESPN has aired Hansen's events more than once on their family of networks. His next event will air over the summer according to the team's faculty advisor, Paul Doruska.

"Watching the events on television is just something fun to

see," Hansen said. "It doesn't add any more pressure, just more stress when microphones and cameras get stuck in your face."

The team's success isn't limited to Hansen's abilities. The team has won the Midwestern Forester's Conclave event three times in a row, including this season.

"Ever since I have been a Pointer, our Timbersports team has been undefeated," said senior Anthony Lopez, who transferred to UWSP after his freshman year.

"Our team, especially this year, performed amazing. Even with our lack of practice this spring, due to the crazy snow, our team was still solid," Lopez said.

Hansen's event, the STIHL Timbersports Series Collegiate Challenge, is an event where each team sends their best member to compete against each other. Whoever wins gets to represent the Midwest at the National Championship.

Hansen won his event and is proud to represent UWSP on a national stage.

"The best part of representing UWSP is the huge support network I have," Hansen said. "I have my team members, faculty, alumni and associated businesses all there to support me and our team. The university offers resources that I would otherwise not have available."

So how did students get involved with this sport in the first place? Most of them have different stories as to how they got on the team.

"I wanted to get involved in a forestry club. That's how I came about the Society of American Foresters," Lopez said. "It was through the Society of American Foresters that I found Timbersports, and ever since the first practice I attended, I fell in love with it."

"My little sister was a member when I started here. She told me to try it out, and I loved it," said sophomore Spencer Johnson.

"When I visited campus prior to enrolling, I saw the team's poster in the hallway of the CNR," said senior Larissa Swanson. "There were girls and guys in the pictures chopping wood, rolling logs and throwing axes, and I thought to myself, I have to be part of this."

So where does the team practice? Usually the Schmeekle Reserve, but with the weather affecting their practice time, the team had to find other options.

According to Swanson, the team has had to practice in some SAF member's garages. "We are still waiting for the university to find us a real indoor practice site," Spencer Johnson said.

If you are interested in joining the team, students are asked to attend a SAF meeting and speak with the Woodland Sports coordinators.

"We are always looking for new members to join," said senior Rainey Johnson.





This is UW-Stevens Point third year in a row placing first in the competition.



How to be Classy and Sexy at the Same Time

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Yes, there is a correct way to be classy and sexy at the same time – sexy in a sense of how much is revealed on top and bottom. It's a balance.

Since its debut into the fashion scene, the little black dress has been a perfect example of how to reveal a lot but not too much at the same time.

The traditional little black dress, credited to designer Coco Channel, stops at mid- thigh and is long-sleeved with little-to-no cleavage. With this type of dress you can show off the legs more than you might on a regular day, but it is more acceptable because you are completely covered up top.

Ladies, showing a little leg or cleavage is not always a problem. However, you should only pick one at a time. If you are going to show a little cleavage, let your legs be a secret and vice versa.

Night out with the girls?

Showing some cleavage might be a bit more fitting, but too much leg action will make it distasteful. Upscale event? A long dress

with a high split and little-to-no cleavage would be perfect.

This balance of style is like adding seasoning while cooking. If you add a pinch of the right seasoning, you will get a flavorful dish. If you add too much seasoning, the flavor will overpower the other ingredients and will leave the dish less enjoyable.

When in doubt, choose classy over sexy. Too much class with a hint of sexy tends to be more accepted than a bunch of sexy and a pinch of class.

However, since beautiful comes in many different shapes and sizes, all of this is subjective and there are exceptions to this rule.

The next time you are making wardrobe decisions, I challenge you to keep this in mind. It's not just fashion advice, it's a guide on how to be classy and sexy at the same time.



POINTLIFE 7

A Safe Place for Victims

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When dealing with sexual assault, many students are left unsure of what to do and where to go.

Safe Point was in response to the identified need for increased awareness of resources for victims of sexual assault on campus. Safe Point currently has 12 committee members who have had non-emergency response training for sexual assault victims.

"Our hope is that if someone has been sexually assaulted, and they don't really know where to turn, where the resources are or where to get help, they would seek out one of the members of Safe Point, and we would give them their options of different resources that they could use," said Julie Zsido, a Safe Point faculty member.

"Students are afraid, they're hurt, they're upset, they're mad. There's so many different emotions that go along with being a victim that we can help them with just by listening to them," Zsido said.

Safe Point is affiliated with the university, and the members have been trained with the resources available on campus, making it a reliable resource for students.

"There is a Sexual Assault Victim Service which is designed to help community members who have been assaulted, but if there was someone who wasn't a student that came and talked to me, I would still talk to them about what their options are," Zsido said.

Safe Point is a resource group, but it is also interested in sexual assault prevention and education. The Student Health Promotion Office facilitates sexual assault education and prevention programs in the residence halls.

"I supervise the Student Health Promotion Office, which is staffed by our peer educators called Health Advocates," said Stacey Duellman, another faculty member of Safe Point. "Health Advocates facilitate programs, work with the residence halls on different events and staff the office by giving stress-relief sessions."

Health Advocates are trained in six areas of expertise: fitness; nutrition; stress management; tobacco; alcohol; and sexual assault education and prevention.

Duellman and Zsido both believe that the desire to help students has driven this group together.

"I work with students on a daily basis and want them to have a safe place to talk about sexual assault. I became involved because I genuinely care about students safety and academic success. Victims need a safe place to talk about sexual assault and someone who can be a good resource for them," Duellman said.

Liz Gillmore, a member of Safe Point, has had students come to her and report sexual assaults.

"Safe Point trained me on the campus and community resources to where I can refer a victim. I now have the knowledge to confidently refer a student to a resource that meets the victim's needs," Gillmore said.

Zsido and the other staff and faculty members of Safe Point feel that the hardest part is getting the word out there that the program exists. This is difficult because both students and faculty members turn over each year. The Safe Point members have been going to departmental meetings to help faculty and staff understand who they are and what they do.

"There is a panel next week of all different kinds of resources throughout the community and on campus, and I'm sitting in on that panel to kind of help educate people that we exist and talk about our program," Zsido said.



POINTLIFE

A Safe Alternative to Drunk Driving

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The Late-Night Transit service, nicknamed "the drunk bus" due to the typical state of its riders, is a pivotal part of the Stevens Point nightlife.

"There are always good people on the bus, and it's usually a lot of fun," said Josh Sawlsville, a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "You meet new people all the time, and it definitely beats walking."

Excluding Wausau, Stevens Point is currently the only city in Central Wisconsin to have its own public transportation system. The Late-Night Service operates Thursday through Saturday from 10:15 p.m. to 3:15 a.m.

Although this service is financed through UWSP student fees, anyone is allowed to use the route at any time, free of charge.

Alex Stauber, a junior at UWSP, also enjoys riding the drunk bus. Aside from an enjoyable ride, Stauber views the late-night service as a welcome alternative to drunk driving.

"It gives you a free ride to get downtown, and you can go have a good time. We don't really have to worry about getting home then because the bus drops us off right at our place," Stauber said.

As fun as the drunk bus may be for its riders, it can be a strain on the drivers.

"The hours are harder, and they need to have some special customer service skills, to be sure. Patience is very important," said Late Night Transit supervisor Bryan Sebree. "Because of the nighttime conditions, there are a lot of bicycles that tend to shoot out in front and skateboarders. They really have to pay a lot of attention while keeping order on the bus."

A newly hired driver goes through approximately two weeks of training where they learn all the city bus routes, including campus routes.

According to Jeremy Kowalski, a Stevens Point Transit employee who was recently appointed to operate the late shift, captaining the drunk bus is bearable.

"It's something different, and it helps out the people so you don't have to drive drunk," Kowalski said.

Yet, like any other service which caters mainly to individuals who have been consuming alcohol, the drunk bus can become disorderly.

"Me and my friends almost beat

up a bunch of Chicago Bears fans one time," Sawlsville said. "They got kicked off the bus and a bunch of cops came, so that was fun."

Jason Halambeck, who is also a senior at UWSP, shared a similar experience.

"I remember there was a fight on here one time that got so intense that blood splattered on my pants, so that

Photo by Kaitlyn Luckow

wasn't good," Halambeck said. Since altercations such as these are minimal, Halambeck continues to ride the drunk bus.

"It's safer than driving, and it's a lot of fun," Halambeck said.

For more information on the Late Night Transit service, visit http:// www.stevenspoint.com/transit.

Art Student Earns Internship at Smithsonian

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Art and design student Tim Vermeulen recently accepted a summer internship hosted at the Smithsonian Institution to work in the art history program researching artists' books.

"I actually came across the internship by typing 'artists' books internship' into an Internet search engine," Vermeulen said. "The Smithsonian Institution's internship program was one of the first on the list. I was curious to see what was available to someone with my level of experience and decided to give it a shot and apply."

Vermeulen's definition of "artists' books" are books that are conceived and created by an artist who intends the work to be viewed and experienced as a work of art, much like a painting or sculpture. This might mean that the artist writes the text, designs the structure, makes the paper, prints it or binds it.

"Essentially the artist makes many creative decisions regarding the presentation of the book. The internship will involve touring the libraries of the Institutions many museums looking at the artist' books in their collections," Vermeulen said.

• By speaking with the librarians throughout the Smithsonian, asking for their impressions of the work and conducting research to better understand the history and methods of development of the books, the internship is meant to generate an awareness of what artists' books are. "I won't be restricted to undertaking my research to any one museum, but rather in as many museums that hold artists' books in their collections," Vermeulen said. "I may also be traveling to visit a rare book dealer and a local art center where artists' books are being created in the Washington D.C. area."

Vermeulen will be reporting to the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Library on the National Mall, as well as working in the National Museum of African Art, the American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery. Each institution will play a role in his research throughout the summer.

A strong interest in artists' books drove Vermeulen to search for this internship online. Vermeulen explained that Stevens Point has a little-known nexus of three respected book artists: Brian Borchard, Caren Heft and Jeff Morin.

"I've had the chance to practice my hand at creating my own artist book here on campus. Taking a couple of classes with Caren and acting as her studio assistant over the summer is how I really got involved in creating work like this," Vermeulen said.

Without the professors and courses he has taken through the Art and Design Department, Vermeulen explained that he would not have been ready for the internship.

"It's been really hard to keep myself from creating more work like this," Vermeulen said. "I feel as though the education I have received here at Point from all the instructors I have studied with has had some influence on my preparation for this internship, and for that I am grateful." Students interested in receiving

more information about artists' books can attend a show at the Scarabocchio Art Museum in downtown Stevens Point. Vermeulen and alumnus Shannon Pueschner will be co-curating a show of student-made books from July 11 to October 3.



International Programs Office, 108 CCC, 346-2717

<u>www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad</u>



Students take the bus downtown, nicknamed the 'drunk bus'. This late-night service

operates Thursday through Saturday from 10:15 p.m. until 3:15 a.m.

POINTLIFE

Brewhaus Employees Doodle Away

ERIK KERSTING ekers766@uwsp.edu

If you frequent the Brewhaus, you may have noticed the drawings on the menu displaying the Drink of the Month or Beer of the Week. While these drawings are only temporary, they offer insight into the baristas who create them.

Most of the doodles are drawn by employees of the Brewhaus. Liz Westberg, a wildlife ecology and art major, loves to apply her major to her job as a barista.

"I have also done some in the past from a couple of years ago, but back then there was less space on the board to do them, and they've not been nearly as intricate as they have this year," Westberg said.

Beyond making the standard wage for extra time spent on these drawings, there is also a certain amount of pride in drawing them.

"Customers comment on the drawings and ask who did them. It's always nice to hear that they're appreciated. We typically get a lot of compliments," Westberg said.

Sarah Mark, a art major with a 2D focus and barista at the Brewhaus, also contributes her drawing skills to the chalkboards.

The baristas often use art as a way to pass the time and entertain each other. They have even started a game behind the counter where they each contribute their sketches and doodles.

"Since the game started, doodles have been showing up all over our workspace simply to bring a laugh or encourage our hard work," Mark said. Maddy Mothes, an elementary

education major and Brewhaus barista, has also contributed her artistic talents to the coffeehouse.

"I've only done one official Drink of the Month drawing—the albino squirrel—and occasionally draw the sign for the beer of the week. The other drawings have been done by other baristas or managers," Mothes said.

There is a lot of hidden talent in the Brewhaus staff, revealed when they draw comics and other doodles behind the scenes.

The Brewhaus artists often find



Brewhaus baristas create doodles that personify the monthly drink.

their inspiration for their drawings within the name of the associated drinks.

"The incentive is just to add some fun and personality. They catch the eye. Sometimes they're funny or witty to go along with whatever the drink is—just something to jazz it up a bit," Mothes said. "Our inspiration comes from the flavors we choose for the drink or a play on something in pop culture. We just try to have fun with it."

While they may be relatively new, the Brewhaus doodles are sure to be a method through which baristas can express themselves and enjoy the company of their coworkers for years to come.

Are you Graduating ?

If you have any questions about commencement on May 18, 2013, visit the commencement website at www.uwsp.edu/commencement.

- RSVP online to walk at the
- Purchase caps, gowns and fassels of the University Store May 6-10, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. -7 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
 If you are out of the Stevens Point area, call 715-346-3431 to mail order
 - your cap and gown package to be shipped May 6-10. Reserve and/or claim your six genera
- admission tickets for the ceremony. Tickets will be available May 6-10 at the UWSP Information and Tickets Office in the Dreyfus University Center. Additional tickets, if extras remain, will be available May 17.
 - Each graduate will be allotted one additional ticket until extras are gone. Hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Friday
 - A student ID is required.

IMPORTANT!

If you are unable to pick up your tickets between May 6-10, please call the UWSP Information and Tickets Office at 715-346-4100 or 800-838-3378 to RESERVE them. If you do not, tickets may not be available for your guests.



"Am I still?"

STEVEN WOODWARD swood172@uwsp.edu

Preface to this I guess is just the idea that even during times of evil we shouldn't lose sight of our humanity, including the humanity of the people who commit evil acts. I think this is one of the best things I've written.

I am your son. I am your best friend. I am your cousin, your nephew, your uncle, and your brother-in-law. I am your boyfriend. I am your first crush. I am your first heartbreak. I am your teammate. I am your secret. I am the one that got away; I am the one that never was. I am someone. When all is said and done, our stories together will outnumber the number of years in our lives so profoundly that entire books could be filled with them.

When I was born you were there

in the delivery room and you gave me my first present, a blue-silk baby blanket with my name embroidered in to the fabric. Yellow is still my favorite color. When I turned 4 you baked me a birthday cake. I don't exactly remember now, but I think you gave me a black and yellow racing car that would later get half-eaten by our dog. You were there for me the first time I got stung by a bee, and you walked me to class on my first day of kindergarten. As I got a little older you brought me to work with you, taught me the rules of your favorite sport, and signed me up to play so that I, too, could teach my son or daughter someday.

Now I'm all over to the TV. Your blanket is gone, and the woman on the television talks in a hurried tone as squad cars, news trucks, and intimidating men with guns serve as her backdrop. They're looking for me. Confusion sets in and you struggle to understand the words coming from the television set even though the pronunciation is clear and the language is your own. Millions of questions rattle around the inside of your head. The television is hushed, but the noise is deafening. Am I still your son?

In Grade School we had the time our life. Your 9th birthday party is still the best party I ever went to. We ate chocolate cake till we got sick, kissed our first girl playing spin the bottle, and stayed up all night, even though your parents told us not to. We played kickball at recess and spent as much time as we could pick on Ashley Gray because we didn't know how else to talk to her. We still fight over her to this day. We got our first detention together for leaving school early to go skip rocks at our secret hideout spot on the river. It was that day you told me about your parents' divorce; it was the only time I ever saw you cry. We've grown apart since then, but I'll never forget the way Ashley's smile made us feel or the intoxicating sense of freedom we experienced that day on the river.

Thousands of miles away from me, you return to your campus apartment, only to be stopped short by a mob of flashing lights and giant trucks with satellites sitting on top of them. The minute this mob catches sight of you they descend upon you much the way sharks do on their bloody prey. Using the power of the credentials the mob wears around their necks, after a few quick phone calls and Internet searches these outsiders will think they have

10 OPINIONS

Letter to the Editor

This month we celebrate National Crime Victims' Rights Week — a week when we turn our awareness toward crime victims and the rights they deserve. This year's theme is "New Challenges, New Solutions." In the wake of the tragedy that befell the City of Boston, this theme is particularly significant.

I, like many others, watched in horror as the events surrounding the Boston Marathon unfolded. After the bombs exploded, the first responders performed heroically, getting help to victims almost instantaneously. There is little doubt that this rapid response saved many, many lives.

As the criminal investigation in Boston continues, and the prosecution commences, it is time for the "second" and "third responders" — those who work in the criminal justice system — to do their part. The criminal justice professionals will assist the victims in countless ways. They first must identify all of those affected. Then, they will provide notice of court hearings, assist with compensation claims, explain the complicated criminal justice process, and ensure that the victims' voices are heard.

We know that first responders, as part of their formal training, learn how to help victims. We find comfort in the fact that when they complete their education, they will know how to apply a tourniquet, perform CPR, and triage in the face of a mass tragedy. Unfortunately, the same does not hold true for the "second" and "third responders." The truth is that many criminal justice professionals graduate from school without ever learning about victims and their rights.

For the past few years, a former colleague and I have taught a course at the University of Wisconsin Law School called "Victims in the Criminal Justice System." We developed this course because we wanted to give law students the chance to develop a firm understanding of the issues surrounding crime victims, which are often complex and nuanced, and are best addressed initially in the classroom rather than in a real-world setting.

This class is one of a handful of courses in the country that focuses on victims. We trace the journey of victims from the point they are victimized through the entire legal process from investigation and

charging to post-sentencing. We have speakers from all different disciplines, including prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, survivors, victim advocates, victim/witness specialists, law enforcement, and the media. The feedback we receive from the students is overwhelmingly positive with many students commenting that ours was the best class they took while in law school.

Unfortunately, the University of Wisconsin Law School has chosen to drop this class for the 2013-14 academic year. We have been told that it will only be offered every other year due to budgetary constraints even though we would teach it for free. The decision to cut this class for next year will have a detrimental impact on the course because it will stymie the momentum in enrollment we have gained from past years. In addition, the class is mostly comprised of third-year law students, those in their final year. Offering it every other year will mean, realistically, that half the student body will lose the opportunity to take the course.

More than 30 individuals, including the Dane County Sheriff, Dane County District Attorney, circuit and appellate court judges, defense attorneys,

survivors of crime, and victim advocates have contacted the Law School dean asking that this course be reinstated on an annual basis. Former students have done the same.

The new challenges sparked by the realities of the world in which we live today, demand new solutions, such as teaching about crime victims during the formal education process. After all, a law school that instructs students about criminal law without teaching them about crime victims is like a medical school teaching about diseases and their causes without focusing on patient care.

The University of Wisconsin Law School is a public institution funded with taxpayer dollars. The public's voice should matter. I invite you to contact University of Wisconsin Law School Dean Margaret Raymond at mraymond2@wisc.edu and ask her to reconsider her decision.

> Jill J. Karofsky Executive Director Office of Crime Victim Services Wisconsin Department of Justice

"Am I still?"

CONTINUED FROM: PAGE 9

learned all the need to know about our childhood. Nothing is sacred anymore, dot even that day on the river. The mob wants answers you can't give them. You don't know me anymore. You haven't thought of me in sometime, and the evoking of my name elicits a strange and uncomfortable emotional response of horror and shock. Am I still your best friend?

You were born when I was in 7th grade. You were the best thing that happened to me for a while. All the girls in my grade thought you were the cutest baby girl so it got me a whole lot of attention from the girls in my class. Ashley even asked me your name. You came to all my sporting events wrapped up in the blanket I made in sewing class for you when you were born. One time you made a sound so high-pitched play stopped in my basketball game because everyone thought it was the referee's whistle. Everyone laughed. I always wanted to grow up and have a baby of my own, so that you could love and adore him or her the same way that I love and adore you. You see I never had an aunt or uncle, and having you in my fe made me realize I never wanted my niece to grow not knowing me.

Now you're in Grade School, but instead of flirting with boys or skipping stones with your best friend your locked inside your house and not allowed to watch television. You're a smart girl, and you know something is wrong. Your mom and dad won't tell you anything. The phone keeps ringing at the house and because of it you're not allowed to use it to call your friends. You're only option at this point is to read, but as you do you hear my name. You run out in the living room, thinking I've come to visit only to find your mom at the door surrounded by funny looking people snapping photos and videos with fancy cameras. Your dad picks you up and brings you back to your room, you scream at him as he leaves and tells you not to come out until you're told. You've never felt so isolated, but someday you'll grow up and learn all about this day. You'll comprehend your mother's decision to keep the television set turned off; my absence in your life will become clear. Am I still your uncle?

In High School we fell in love for the first time. Sophomore year homecoming you finally agreed to go out with me. It was the happiest I've ever been. For our first date I took you to dinner and we saw a movie. I couldn't tell you what I had for dinner, or what the movie was about. I spent the whole night pondering how such a beautiful girl would want to spend her entire night alone with me. I never told you this, but I loved that no matter how sweaty our hands got, you never let go that night. Our junior year we decided to lose our virginity together in your parent's basement. My favorite things melted in to the mundane in moments. As our time in high school dwindled, we talked what we thought was seriously about marriage, family, and even retirement. We named our kids, picked our careers, and moved in to fake homes in our imaginations. Naive? Maybe. But sometimes the sweetest of dreams are better than any reality.

It's been a year or so since we left high school, now, and you're seeing someone else. You'd never tell him, or me, but he has a certain way about him that reminds you of me. Maybe it's his sense of humor, or maybe you're just beginning to feel an intensity of feelings for him you once reserved only for me. Your study session is interrupted by a phone call from this very man. He tells you something terrible has happened in your hometown and that he believes someone you went to high school with is responsible. You run to the nearest computer and with a series of clicks see me in a light you would have seconds ago thought unimaginable. You used to call me baby, CNN has "WANTED" written across my face in bold, red lettering. You scroll through your phone and look at old pictures of us and see smiles, laughter, and fun .You scroll through the images on your screen and you see blood on the sidewalks, tears, fear, and limbless people. Above all you see is my face, the same face you first loved, the same face you've tried so hard to bottle and put in its appropriate place in your memory, the past. This face is associated with love, caring, fun, nurturing, support, success, and failure. This face now, too, is associated with death, evil, blood, carnage, suffering, terrorism, manhunts, and horror. The realization sets in that you may never see me again and a sense of anger, pain, and betrayal permeates to your consciousness. Am I still your first love?

Somewhere along the way we met. Maybe I was on your son's hockey team, or played grade school soccer with your daughter. Maybe I held to the door for you when you had groceries in your hand, or maybe I checked your items out at a grocery store. Maybe I attended your conference, read your article, or enlisted in your course. Maybe our team made it to state in football; maybe I was the kid you always wanted to apologize to for bullying in middle school but you never got around to it. Maybe you taught me how to drive a car. Maybe you read me my first book. You could have given me my first piano lesson, or stolen my bike. We could have seen each other in passing, wishing the other would say something, or maybe we met at a party and went home together. We could have had lunch together once; we could have had lunch together millions of times. Regardless of the circumstances, or the role I played in your life, to you I am someone.

Now the most powerful men in the world seek to deny me my rights. The most anti-violent of people want nothing less than my head on a stake and so-called professionals have turned my family and friends in to a side show. If I'm not killed before I'm located, I surely will be put to death with a lethal concoction of chemicals that will eliminate from this world all that I ever was, am, and would have been. As my family is shamed and words like evil, terrorist, murderer, Satan, and inhuman are used to sum up my existence on this planet, replacing decades of emotionally-charged words such as son, boyfriend, uncle, kind, talented, and driven, I have but one question for you. Am I still someone?

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COMICS





ALBUM REVIEWS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Hidden Towers - Olympus Mons



KYLE FLORENCE Kyle.A.Florencec@uwsp.edu 90FM ALBUM REVIEW

The Vancouver-based four-piece Hidden Towers exploded onto the Canadian rock-scene in 2009, where early on they were met with a fair amount of success and criticalpraise. Unfortunately, after being a band for not even a full year, side-projects and various individual pursuits prompted a three year hiatus. With the addition of a new drummer, Hidden Towers has since returned with 'Olympus Mons', a seven-song gem named after the mammoth volcano on Mars. And, much like like the 14 mile-high mountain of magma, this latest effort by the group is something to be marveled at.

The album as a whole maintains a particularly dreary, distinctly-grunge infused sound, which arches beautifully across a vast spectrum of genres and never lets up. In turn, the album is

laden with a variety of categorydefying soundscapes, one moment comparable to Brand New' "The Devil and God Are Raging Inside Me", only to follow the example of Circle Takes the Square mere measures later.

The album opener "Smoke Cloud" is a lofty six-plus minute which builds slowly before erupting into an unpredictable cascade of jittery, pounding riffs, reminiscent of Animals as Leaders and similar progressive acts. Likewise, fans of the grungemovement will likely find solace with "Gleaming the Cube", where Lead Vocalist Chris Cantrell's raspy ebb-and-flow could easily be mistaken for a more cultured Kurt Cobain, accented by wiry guitar work. "Son of the Dragon" and "Comoving Distance" are two more notable tracks which are both infectiously catchy and savagely unpredictable. Additionally, The last song on 'Olympus Mons', "Drowning in the Baptismal Font" , which jumps between spacey interludes and explosive, high-flying riffs, is undoubtedly the pinnacle of the entire album.

Since this albums release, Cantrell has since been quoted as saying "I personally find myself being more influenced by things that are complete mysteries to me." This all encompassing influence is made apparent with "Olympus Mons", resulting in a work of art that is creative, unpredictable, and unforgiving.



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Cayucas – Bigfoot



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April, and why you chose to live in a state so, so far from the equator. Perhaps that fat, confused robin plucking around on the barren tree by your window has got you down. If this is the case, then a remedy I may suggest is giving Cayucas' debut album Bigfoot a listen to spruce up that cold and desolate life of yours.

Bigfoot is one of those spring releases that kicks off the warm weather (should it exist). Each song is built off of its own hook that reels you in and makes you wiggle like a fish out of water. The name Cayucas

You may be sitting in your comes from a small beach town in sounds somewhat like Beck, and I The track is almost what you'd expect it to sound like, a bouncy tune that is meant to be listened to while dancing or playing volleyball on the beach in that town by the sea. Another track I found particularly pleasant was Deep Sea; the keys and whistling hook create an aesthetic of, well, scuba diving. You're going to find a lot happy-go-lucky and superficial lyrics in Bigfoot, but I had a good laugh when I heard a man exclaiming "Did I touch your butt?" amongst a crowd in a sound bite at the end of the track High School Lover. The lead singer

bedroom wondering why you have California, called Cayucos, which the get the vibe of the single Girl from your heat cranked in the middle of first track of Bigfoot is named after. Beck's 2005 release Guero. The band also sounds a lot like a dreamier Vampire Weekend with some surf rock influence.

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Bigfoot is a fine debut album, but probably not an album that you would look to for depth and innovation. The first listen had me reminiscing about some bands right away. Between Major Lazer's new album and Bigfoot, it can be said that the record label Secretly Canadian is diving a bit into the pop realm.