

the pointer

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Faculty Salary Struggles

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University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point faculty members are paid, on average, less than their peers at other universities across the nation.

According to the salary initiatives Web page—located on the university website—out of 338 UWSP faculty members, about 90 percent are paid less than the national average salary for their position. In addition, half of those professors are paid around \$10,000 below the national average; in some cases that amount is doubled.

Amidst the problem of salary gaps lies the issue of merit-based salary raises.

Summers said that pay increases for faculty come from a couple of different sources. There are percentage increases that are given when a professor is promoted from assistant professor to associate professor, and then again when they are promoted to a full-time position.

“Those moments come exactly twice in a faculty member’s career. Apart from that, the only other time we tend to offer pay increases is when the state provides us with a pay plan,” Summers said.

At the state level money is given to the University of Wisconsin System as part of a pay plan. The UW System will then give UWSP permission to raise faculty salaries by a small percentage across the board. After that percentage is dispersed, it is required that the remaining amount must be dispersed through merit.

“That’s what’s been lacking here. Last year there was no pay plan, and we’re going through the process this year in the hope that there will be one,” Summers said.

Summers said the criteria for merit pay are described as a three-legged stool of retention and tenure. The criteria for merit are teaching, scholarship, and service.

“Each department has its own criteria for what quality teaching, scholarship, and service look like,” Summers said.

Committees within the university departments are responsible for evaluating the work of faculty within that department. Assistant Professor of Philosophy Dona Warren briefly explained some aspects of the evaluation process within the College of Letters and Sciences.

“We look at the teaching evaluation numbers at the end of each semester when the evaluations are given. If they seem low, the faculty member has the opportunity to submit some other work for consideration,” Warren said.

There is a certain amount of mixed emotions regarding merit pay according to Warren. She said that the system of assigning points could potentially lead to unhealthy competition, but that it might also spark creativity.

“It’s never a fun time of year for faculty when we go through this merit process,” Warren said. “You hope you get lucky and have a good year when there is a pay increase from the state.”

Summers and Warren both said that the process of merit-based pay is useful when trying to find those faculty members who might not be meeting the necessary criteria.

“It is important to hold each other accountable for academic quality at UWSP,” Warren said. “It is absolutely appropriate to have a system that allows us to flag the individuals who are not participating at a level we might like them to.”

“It works intuitively in that regard. If a faculty member is not doing their job effectively, there’s a way of making sure they don’t get extra pay,” Summers said.

Due to the legal obligations of UWSP, there is no way to work on leveling salary rates for all faculty members. Summers said the current system has existed since well before his employment at the university.

Under the “Investing in our future” headline on the salary initiatives Web page, it is stated that UWSP would need almost \$3 million to close the salary gap.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

February 9th

11:17 p.m. – A Protective Services officer noticed a blunted samurai sword in the back of a vehicle while they were assisting two students. The officer told them that it was not allowed inside the dorms but the students said they lived off campus.

10:20 p.m. – An Oconomowoc Police officer called regarding an 18yr old female, not a UWSP student, who had taken her parent’s car and driven off. The parents called the police department and were pinging her cell phone but lost the trail in Stevens Point.

3:04 a.m. – Staff member from Baldwin hall called reporting that the entire 4th floor of the building reeked of marijuana.

1:27 a.m. – Staff member from Thompson hall reported that she thought a group of individuals walking between Thompson and Watson hall were smoking marijuana.

1:07 a.m. A group of individuals was reported being engaged in an argument in the area of Clark and Freemont Street. Officers noted that one male with blonde hair and wearing a tan jacket was being particularly loud.

February 7th

7:35 p.m. – An employee who works in the Aquatics Center called saying she had a little boy wearing a black jersey with her. The boy said his parents were coming to pick him up in five minutes but by the time of the call 10 minutes had passed.

February 5th

8:21 p.m. – Staff from Knutzen hall called about marijuana smells.

February 4th

6:03 p.m. – Schmeekle staff member called to report a group of three males carrying items, possibly alcohol, into the reserve.

5:02 p.m. – Staff of the Schmeekle called to report that he would be leaving his vehicle in the lot overnight. Officers made note.

THE POINTER Editorial

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



Photo courtesy of opensecrets.org

Parking Services, Here and There

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Students and faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are likely all too familiar with the orange envelopes placed underneath the windshield wipers of their car.

The orange envelopes contain citations for violations, such as parking at an expired meter or parking without a permit in a designated permit area.

Parking citations vary in cost according to the type of offense. Parking at an expired meter on campus is \$6, while a citation for an incorrect or missing permit is \$20.

The revenue garnered from citations and coin meters goes to maintaining and improving the lots on campus. This includes funding projects, such as the new parking structure planned for development in Lot X.

The revenue also goes to paying the wages of parking services employees, which has three full-time employees, some part-time employees and between 10 and 15 student employees.

Parking services, whose mission statement includes providing permit and convenience parking to students, faculty, staff and guests, requires some of the lowest permit fees in the University of Wisconsin system and charges some of the lowest citation prices.

For example, an expired meter citation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison costs \$30, five times the rate of UWSP. The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh's citation price is \$11.

The difference in price for parking permits is even greater. It is \$790-

for the majority of UW-Madison lot permits. UW-Oshkosh charges \$70 per semester for a parking lot off campus. UWSP charges just over \$93 for a yearly permit.

"Sometimes you pay more than that in a month [at other schools]," said Bill Rowe, director of Protective and Parking Services, who has been with UWSP since 2003.

Jade Likely, a senior journalism major attending UW-Madison, said that the parking situation on the campus is less than ideal.

"I've had a car for three years here. My first year, I was six blocks

away from my apartment. The lot was never plowed, and it was still \$85 a month," Likely said. "Garage parking is expensive, and meter parking and street parking is even more expensive. Long story short, I hate parking in Madison."

At least one student feels the current parking situation on the UWSP campus could also be improved.

Kaitlin Schuman, a web and digital media design senior, said she struggles to find parking spots on campus that she does not have to pay for because she has to stay extended periods of time on campus. She also

said that at certain times of the day, even metered spots are a struggle to find.

"Paying four dollars a day or even more for metered parking breaks the bank," Schuman said. "At the end of the day, I may complain a lot about it, but I do realize it could be worse. It's frustrating and all, but I guess I could be paying a heck of a lot more out of pocket than I am currently. A lot of my frustration comes from the fact that I work on campus, and there's no compensation for parking offered for student employees."

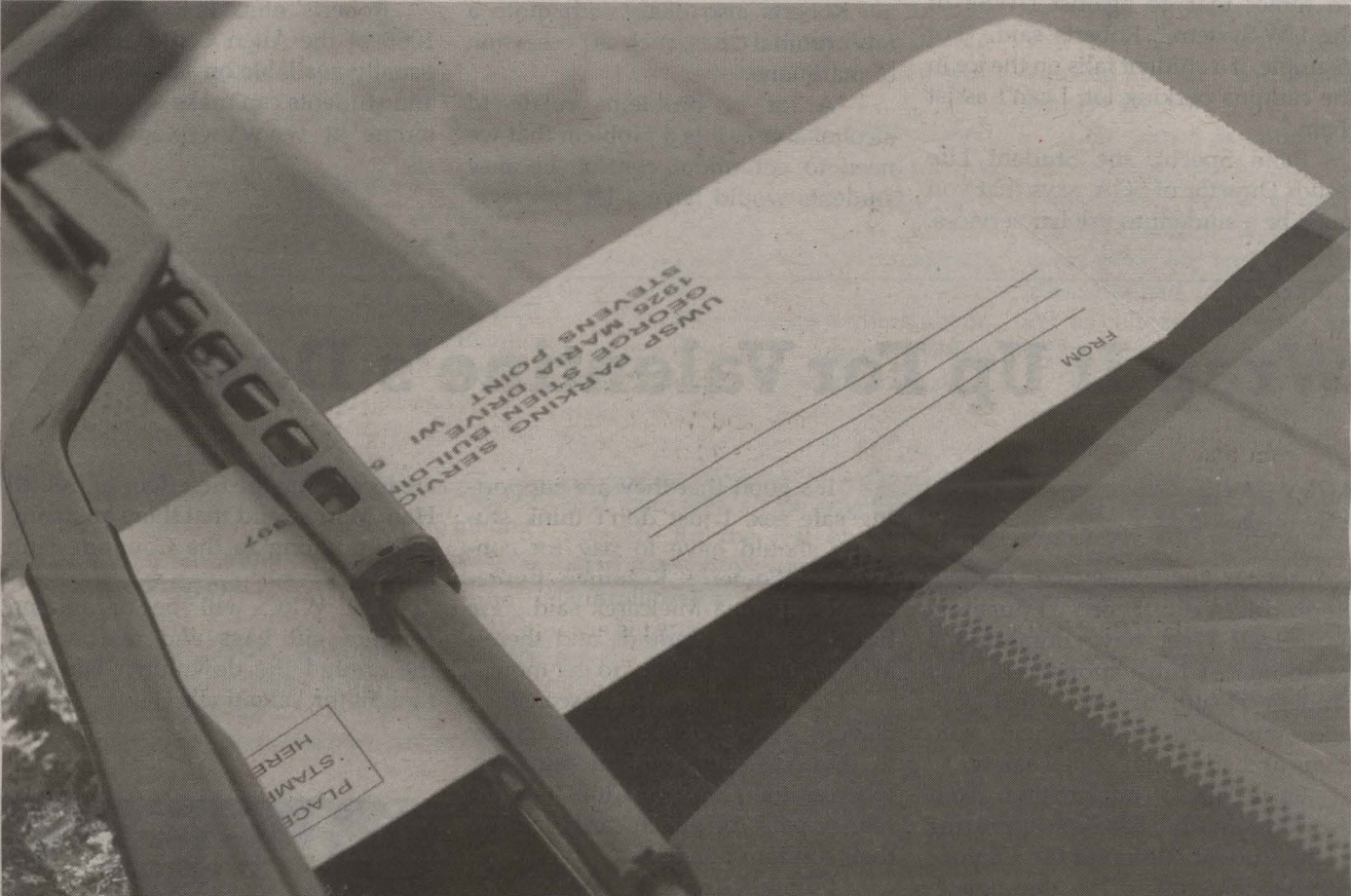


Photo by Samantha Feld

UWSP Alum Hired as Warden

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Every semester, hundreds of students sign up for classes in the Natural Resources department, many of them working towards a career in environmental law enforcement, and once in awhile one of them lands a dream job close to home, like Wisconsin's newest DNR (Department of Natural Resources) conservation warden, Rick Rosen.

Rosen graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1994, with a major in wildlife and minor in law enforcement. Rosen was named regional warden West Central Region, head quartered in Eau Claire and covering 19 counties.

"I would consider the job of a conservation warden the greatest job in the world," Rosen said. "I just love being able to work outdoors, share

my knowledge and experience with the public, and not having to be in an office all the time."

Rosen noted changes in the program at UWSP since his graduation, saying that it is a huge advantage for students to be able to be out of school already certified as law enforcement officer. Students who do wish to work as a warden must first complete training at the police academy. Many chose to take the semester long course at Mid State Technical College here in Stevens Point.

In the fall of 2012 there were 77 students registered for the environmental law enforcement minor, it is not offered as major so students must choose another major to pair with the minor.

"In my 36 years with Career Services, I've only seen federal agencies recruit law enforcement

folks directly from college on one occasion," said Mike Pagel, a career specialist at UWSP. "They usually recruit from the military or from existing ranks of law enforcement professionals. Aspiring Wardens typically pursue work related to their majors (vs. the Environmental Law Enforcement minor) or they take conventional law enforcement work and wait for states to post vacancies."

Rosen worked as started his career as a park ranger at Devils Lake State Park in 1994. He also worked as a patrol officer for the Baraboo police department and most recently as a warden supervisor of five counties new Spooner Wis.

"I enjoy the challenges of working with the public, and getting the opportunity to educate them on natural resource topics," Rosen said. "Also as a law enforcement officer you can make a huge difference in

actually catching the folks that are violating the law and bringing them to justice."

Rosen stated that he enjoyed his time at UWSP and came out feeling confident that he had gained a great education with great instructors. He offered some advice for students in school now who are aspiring to be a warden one day.

"I would say number one thing is to get to know the department of natural resources by doing either internships or ride-alongs. Really thoroughly explore your options on what is available for jobs within the department. Stay engaged in the outside of class work, make the extra efforts to take internships on, go to your safety courses and become certified in ATV, snowmobile boating, hunter safety."

Student Legal Services

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The Student Government Association is sponsoring legal services for students who attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Jan Roberts, the attorney on campus, is happy to offer advice on things such as landlord and tenant concerns, off campus tickets, and family issues.

"I like helping people get through a legal problem, however I cannot provide any legal advice on topics that go against UWSP or the UW-System," Roberts said. "For example, if a student falls on the ice in the campus parking lot, I can't assist them."

Ryan Specht, the Student Life Issues Director of SGA, says that you must be a student to use her services.

"There was a female student once that brought her boyfriend in to talk to the lawyer, but he wasn't a UWSP student, so she couldn't help him," Specht said.

Most of the issues that Roberts deals with include landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities, automobile accidents, speeding tickets, and family issues, such as divorce, child support, and custody.

"One student came to me because the roof above her bedroom had caved in. I was able to help her get reimbursed for the damages," Roberts said.

Roberts also deals with quite a few criminal cases, such as possession of marijuana.

"A lot of problems relate to alcohol abuse. It is a problem that we need to get under control, because students would have a lot less legal

issues," Roberts said. "Binge drinking is big in Wisconsin, and especially in Portage County. I try to steer students in the right direction and get them the treatment they need. I want them to learn from their experiences."

Appointments are thirty minutes long and cost \$5 at the Information and Tickets desk.

"I am also willing to meet during breaks and in the summer time. I love meeting all the people I come in contact with and helping them with their legal issues, and if a student needs a follow up session, that is free of charge," Roberts said.

Roberts' office is located in room 106B of the Allen Center. Roberts is usually available on Thursday nights and students can make appointments online at www.uwsp.edu/centers/sls.

SGA UPDATES

With new ideas, energy, growth and a community that is willing to collaborate we can start addressing issues throughout campus. Feb 20th at 6:00pm in the DUC Encore, SGA will be hosting their first open forum "Fresh" focusing on campus sustainability. This is your chance to bring issues to a casual roundtable discussion. With hopes of this being an ongoing program, we are also looking for suggestions on future "Fresh" campaigns.

SGA is also recruiting for United Council LobbyCon 2013 Conference February 23-25th at UW-Madison. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain the necessary skills to effectively lobby legislators to support higher education in Wisconsin.

Visit <http://unitedcouncil.net> or e-mail SGA@uwsp.edu for more details!

Last week at our senate meeting we received a presentation from Ryan Specht and David Boardman on the Wellness and Recreation Study. The study is assessing the possibility of combining the campuses wellness and recreational needs into one facility.

As always we would love to see you at our weekly senate meetings 6:15PM in the Legacy Room.

Wrap It Up For Valentine's Day

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Anistie Held and Julie Marten, Reproductive Peer Educators in Delzell Hall, have organized a Condom Club—sponsored by Student Health Services—that supplies interested students with condoms and advice on sexual safety.

Since Feb. 5, information about the Condom Club has been appearing in the student edition of the Campus Announcements. The announcements advertise a punch card that students can buy for \$5. The cards are worth five punches, and each punch is worth five condoms, meaning that for \$5 a student will receive 25 condoms.

Held and Marten were inspired to start this organization after visiting the American College of Health Association Convention in Chicago last year. Students, doctors, and lab technicians attended the conference and offered insights and suggestions for reproductive resources and their presence on college campuses.

"I saw other schools were doing this. I think we need to promote condom awareness here, too," Held said. "It's definitely about caring about yourself and the people you're having interactions with."

The Women's Resource Center has offered condoms to students for free for years, which leaves a lot of members and students wondering why students would pay for a punch card.

"As a student, I know I can get condoms for free, so why would I pay," Stephanie Roland, a student that visited the Women's Resource Center table in the Dreyfus University Center, said, gesturing to the jars of condoms on the table.

"It's good that they are supporting safe sex, I just don't think students should have to pay for condoms," Women's Resource Center member Jeanna Mielcarek said. "We have boxes of condoms and there's always the opportunity to get more."

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point allocates grant money to the WRC for condom purchase, whereas the Condom Club uses the money paid for punch cards to fund their condom purchase.

"I think we're both good resources," Marten said. "But the condom club is more medically based."

Despite the opposing views about paying for condoms, the WRC and the Condom Club are working together to promote STD/STI Week, which will take place from April 1 to 5.

The focus of that week will be to point out the difference between STDs (which are chronic) and STIs (which are curable). STD and STI screenings will be held at Delzell, and will be free for students.

"It's completely discreet. They can just come in to the clinic, pee in a cup, leave and wait for their results," Held said. "We're also trying to organize different hall programs, too. We hope to collaborate eventually with the Women's Resource Center more in the future."

Marten said that she is hopeful students will turn out to join the club on Valentine's Day.

"I think students like the sound of a club, and I'm hoping our slogan 'No Glove, No Love' will catch on and promote awareness about sexual protection," Marten said.

According to Marten, the Condom Club has had 30 students join within this first week. The Condom Club and Reproductive Peer Educators offices

are located on the first floor of Delzell Hall. Marten said that there are many signs pointing to the Condom Club office.

The WRC will be organizing condom gift bags and distributing the around the downtown bar area tonight for Valentine's Day.



Photo by Samantha Feld

As a part of the new Condom Club, students can buy a \$5 dollar punch card and get five condoms per punch.

Wrestling Team Ready for Conference Championships

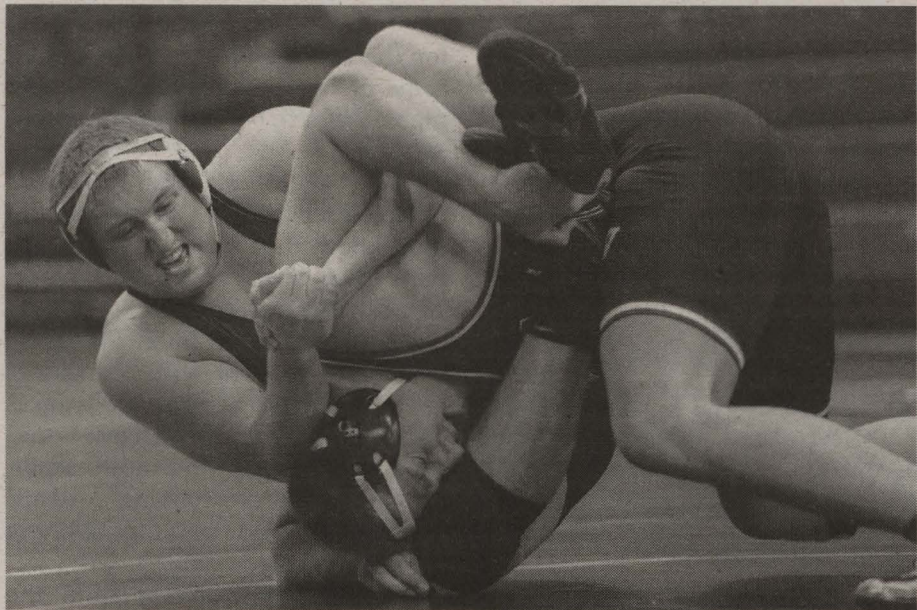


Photo courtesy of Jack McLaughlin

Senior Matt Cuadra goes for a pin.

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point wrestling team has experienced some success this season and is currently ranked 10th in the country.

"We had high expectations going into this season," said Johnny Johnson, head coach. "This team has lived up to those expectations."

The team wrapped up their regular season last Friday, as

they lost to the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse 27-7. The team now looks ahead to the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships this next Sunday.

The Pointers started the season off strong, winning the 2012 Lakeland College Muskie Invite in Sheboygan. They most recently won the Budd Whitehill Duals at Lycoming College in Pennsylvania this past January.

However, lately the Pointers have lost five of their last seven meets. Coach Johnson cites team

injuries as a major issue.

"We have had some injuries of late, but people are starting to get healthy, and we should have almost everybody ready for the conference championships."

A big part of the team's success this season has been its strong class of upperclassmen. Of the 11 wrestlers that are juniors or seniors, seven have won at least 20 matches this season.

"This group of juniors and seniors were one of the best recruiting classes that I have ever been able to pull in," Johnson said. "It's a really tight group, and they have stepped up."

The team's leader on the mat is senior Jordan Kust. Kust has a team high of 30 match wins this season and is closing in on 100 match wins for his career.

"My season is going pretty good. I got a good record so far this year, but I need to keep working hard so I can accomplish my goals for the season," Kust said.

Another senior that has had a strong season is Ben Strobel. Strobel has 23 wins on the season, despite wrestling for part of the season above his normal weight class. "I feel really confident now that I made the drop down to 149 lbs," Strobel said.

The upperclassmen aren't the only wrestlers that have stepped it up this season. Jordan Koranda, a sophomore, is third on the team

with 25 wins and has a 90 percent conference winning percentage.

"My main individual goal at the beginning of the year was to be an asset to the team," Koranda said.

The success for Koranda initially came as a surprise, as this is his first year wrestling at a collegiate level.

The team has gone a long way this season. According to the wrestlers, that has a lot to do with the coaching staff.

"I think it's really important for everyone to know that this team would not be as good as it is without our coaches," Koranda said. "Our coaches put in so much time with everyone individually to make us all better."

The team is focused on the conference championships, but even if they are successful, it still won't mean an NCAA championship berth.

The individual wrestlers will have to perform well at NCAA regional to advance to the championships. The team believes that they can have success to finish this season.

"This team has no limit, and when we are at our best we are one of the toughest in the nation," Kust said. "We have the opportunity to do something great, and we are going to make the most of this opportunity."

Driver Says Goodbye

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After 14 seasons in the green and gold, Packers great Donald Driver has hung up his cleats for good.

In a televised ceremony held in the Lambeau Field Atrium last Wednesday, Driver officially announced his retirement from the National Football League in front of friends, members of the Packer organization, and hundreds of fans.

"Twelve years ago I signed my first big contract for the Green Bay Packers, and I promised you all that I would never wear another uniform. So today we make that official," Driver said to fans during the ceremony.

Driver was drafted by Green Bay in the seventh round of the 1999 draft out of Alcorn State in Mississippi. In his 14 seasons with the Packers he has amassed 10,137 yards receiving on 743 receptions, both franchise records. Driver is also third in career touchdown catches with 61, trailing only Hall of Famer Don Hutson, 99, and Sterling Sharpe, 65.

This past season was certainly a change for the veteran. As the senior

member of one of the most dynamic receiving corps in the NFL, Driver played a limited role on offense, making way for younger players like Randall Cobb.

Driver even had a stint on special teams and was inactive for the Packers final home game. He ended the season with 77 yards and two touchdowns, off of just eight catches.

Despite his limited role, Driver continued to receive the loudest cheers of any player during team introductions. During his press conference, Driver said that that's what he would miss the most. The fans didn't care if he caught a single pass, he was still their guy.

"Success has not changed me," Driver said at the ceremony. "I'm the same skinny little kid who walked in 1999. I'll be the same skinny kid who walked out in 2013."

That success could have just as easily evaded him. In Driver's humble beginnings in Texas, he and his brother would steal cars to make money. Stealing cars soon turned into selling drugs. He and his siblings would sometimes sleep in the back of a U-Haul truck. Until Driver decided he was going to make the most of his athletic ability.

"He came from a rough background and turned his life around to become one of the best receivers for the Packers," said junior education major Shea Sumnicht about Driver, her favorite player.

It's more than his story and success on the field that have made Driver a hero among the Green Bay faithful. He has been far and away the most active member of the team when it comes to volunteering in the community.

Once Brett Favre left the Packers, Driver took over Favre's annual charity softball game. He also hosts an annual golf tournament and makes appearances and contributions to countless other community events.

Through The Donald Driver Foundation, scholarships are given each year to students in his home state of Texas, Mississippi, where Driver played his college ball, and Wisconsin.

Driver reached a new audience when he competed on the 14th season of Dancing with the Stars. Along with his partner, Peta Murgatroyd, Driver took advantage of his athletic ability, charisma, and bright smile and won first place, adding another accolade to his name.

"I think the thing I'll remember about him is how he always had a smile on his face," said junior health promotion and wellness major Ryan Finnel.

Indeed the thing you first notice about Driver is his smile. No matter how hard he got hit after catching a pass over the middle he would always pop up grinning. Driver said he learned that from his time playing with Favre.

During the ceremony, Driver said Favre taught him to never let them see you hurt, something Favre became known for during his career and something Driver always carried with him.

Now this chapter of Driver's life is through. Much speculation has been made over his next step. He recently made an appearance on a wedding edition of Katie Couric's show, something Driver said during his press conference that he has a passion for.

Whether Driver gets into event planning, broadcasting, or someday coaching, one thing is certain; he'll do it with every bit of passion and heart that he showed on the field.

Men's Hockey Hosting Playoff Games

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Even after finishing the season with a 4-4 record in their last eight, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's hockey team has clinched

two home playoff games.

The Pointers, a three-seed, will play sixth-seed University of Wisconsin-River Falls in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association quarter-final on Friday and Saturday at 7:00 PM at K.B. Willett Arena.

"Home ice for us is huge," said

head coach Chris Brooks. "We have had great crowds at Willett all year, and home is an advantage that we wanted to be sure of."

Stevens Point finished the season at 14-10-1, with a conference record of 8-9-1.

"The team has been up and down

for the last month. We have played some of our best hockey, and other nights we have been average," Brooks said.

The Pointers did have a rollercoaster finish to the season, but they know they can't dwell on the past. They also know they have to step up their game now.

"I would have liked for us to be more consistent with our games lately, but now the regular season is over, and we can't look back," said team captain Jerry Freismuth, senior forward. "We are looking forward to playoffs and playing a more consistent game."

A common response from the players to the playoff games was excitement. They want to prove they can play at a high level.

"Playoffs is a different level of hockey, and I think our team is really excited and ready to get this week of practice going and be ready to go on Friday night," said sophomore forward Andrew Kolb.

"I expect it to be a battle," said sophomore forward Joshua Daley. "Playoffs are a whole different game. There is no room for error from either team."

This season the Pointers have experienced success because of a collection of players that can get the puck in the net, an element that last year's team did not possess.

Kyle Heck, last year's leading scorer, leads the team with 12 goals this season, but other players have stepped up to join Heck in scoring.

Stevens Point has eight players that have scored at least six goals and nine players with at least eight assists.

"In order to be successful, selfish behavior cannot be accepted," Brooks said. "Our guys have done a good job buying into the team first concept."

Therefore, the Pointers look forward to University of Wisconsin-River Falls, a team that Stevens Point defeated and tied with in mid-November of this season.

The Falcons finished the season 12-9-2, with a 4-5-3 conference record. Rivers Falls has also hit a rough patch lately, winning only two of their last eight games.

The Pointers' expectations have them going past River Falls. Coach Brooks and his players believe this team has the potential to make a deep run.

"I think we can make it to the NCAA final four," Kolb said. "We can be a real hard team to play against when we have everything rolling and everyone is on the same page."

"The sky's the limit for us," Daley said. "If we play our game and execute Coach's systems well, there is no reason we shouldn't win it all."

"I have high expectations for our team, and winning the National Championship is a goal we believe we can achieve," Freismuth said.



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

Sophomore forward Scott Henegar celebrates after a Pointer goal.

A Bedtime Snack: Habit or Hunger?

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Nighttime often means snack time, but before you devour an entire box of Frosted Flakes, you should determine whether habit or hunger is driving this desire.

"Hunger is a physical state. If what you are feeling is an emotional state, it's not hunger," said Annie Wetter, Chair of the School of Health Promotion and Human Development.

Food satisfies all sorts of emotions at the end of the day, whether for entertainment, distraction or relaxation. It is also often associated with sedentary behavior, like watching television or using the computer which we tend to engage in during the evening.

To avoid snacking out of boredom, keep the evening interesting. Hit up the gym or get ahead on homework. Keeping yourself busy will make it easier to refrain from mindless snacking.

However, if you're lying in bed and your stomach is grumbling so loud that you need to invest in a pair of earplugs, calm those hunger pangs and go eat something.

"It is entirely possible for students to experience true hunger, depending

on how late they are staying up, the size of their last meal and the time at which they last ate," Wetter said. "Many students are forced to eat early because of the Debot schedule."

Even if your stomach isn't growling, it's okay to snack with a notion of calorie balance.

"Even if it is emotional, it shouldn't be dismissed," Wetter said.

If cravings are taking over your mind and preventing you from concentrating on anything else, go ahead and attend to those cravings—mindfully.

"Attend to them in a thoughtful and mindful way, so cravings don't turn into eating an entire pizza, but rather mindfully spending 15 minutes eating a 50-calorie cookie. Attending to cravings can help prevent bouts of overeating from feeling deprived and restricted," Wetter said.

For busy students trying to balance jobs, internships and homework, it is especially important to get a good night's sleep while managing all of the other commitments in order to maintain a regular metabolism.

"Irregular sleep patterns have an impact on our physiology. Those who stay up late are more likely to become hormonally and metabolically disrupted," Wetter said.



Photo by Samantha Feld

Late night cravings afflict many college students. The importance is to know the difference between habit and hunger eating.

Nighttime isn't the enemy. Eating at night isn't necessarily bad. If you are going to eat a cupcake today, it won't make a difference whether it's consumed at 10 a.m. or 11 p.m.

Time of day doesn't change the number of calories entering your body. What matters is the type of food being consumed. Whether you snack during the morning or in the

evening before bed, be conscious of the nutrition value.

So next time you're experiencing a late-night trip to the kitchen, it's okay. Instead of spending the entire night trying to avoid these cravings, attend to them – as long as you are doing it mindfully.

Online Culture Shock

AARON KRISH

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Our culture is fueled by information. An ungodly and almost unlimited wealth of information is available at the touch of the enter key on the keyboard. Such immediacy changed the way content is created and has even changed the way we as people interact on a daily basis.

This online culture brings the people together into communities that match their interests and into a world where they control the content.

Public relations professor Andrew Stoner cites journalist Jay Rosen's article, "The People Formerly Known as the Audience."

"To its credit, it makes connections between how we selectively put ourselves in various audiences or groups based on what sort of feedback or participation we can have, as opposed to simply waiting for a broadcast to us that someone else has decided," Stoner said.

By selecting how we put ourselves in different groups or audiences and creating the content it is much easier to connect and interact with others through an online medium. Immediacy and the ability to connect automatically with someone across country or the world appear to be the new normal.

"I visited my nephew's dorm a few years ago. I was totally struck by

how students were all in their rooms—most of them with the doors shut. It seemed so different from when I lived there in the 1980s," Stoner said. "I can honestly say I knew just about every guy on my floor. It was a social experience."

In contrast to Stoner's experience, his nephew did not even know the names of his neighbors in the room next to his. Certainly, times have changed. The nature of the younger generation's interactions are less personal and more digital, but the fundamental idea remains the same: to connect and interact with a wider group of people.

"I have witnessed what I would call 'mediated friendships' develop," Stoner said. "I see people I knew from high school interacting with people I knew from college. The two don't know each other except through me. It is fun to watch and is possible via a social networking exchange like that."

Anna Verhagen, communication major, and Kate Reck, Information and Outreach Coordinator for Residential Living, both use social media to connect with people online,

SEE ONLINE CULTURE:

PAGE 8

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## Online Culture

CONTINUED FROM:  
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personally and professionally.

For Reck, it is a means to connect with a large audience with a broad range of interests and a way to promote information.

"It's another way of getting people together with the same interests or ideas, and different departments use these communities differently," Reck said. "The topic can lead to so many venues, and people seek out interactions. It's another information medium that is becoming so much more inclusive. We are in a community and want to share the knowledge."

Reck is an active member of a Facebook group called #SocialPointers. The group is made up of faculty and interns that run the social media sites for various departments on campus. Sharing new trends and techniques in the social media world is a common topic.

On a more personal level, Verhagen wants to use social media platforms to interact with individuals she normally would not be able to meet. Concerning sites like Chat Roulette and other instant messaging websites, Verhagen explains that she is interested in meeting unique individuals.

"I get to experience different things that I'll probably never get to be a part of," Verhagen said. "I meet these people and learn about a lifestyle that I don't know much about and have not lived and that is really interesting to me."

Verhagen continues to speak with a few of the individuals she has met online. She has built a friendship with them and has even met one of them in person.

Some experts, though, argue that there are implications that go along with interacting in such a way online.

"The Catfish video demonstrates a fairly new phenomenon where people are constructing whole identities using the pictures, relationships, experiences, information and connections of people they don't even know," Stoner said. "If we think about it, how many times have we okayed a friendship with someone we don't know just on the basis that they know someone we know?"

Online communities and culture can be a great source of information, but some experts would argue that users should proceed with caution, based on events that where people are hurt by others pretending to be something they are not. However, at the end of the day, people are still connecting and interacting.

"To me, it begs a big question. We call it 'social media' but has it, in fact, made us at all any more social?" Stoner said. "If it has, can we even trust the people we've connected with? Are they who they present themselves to be if we never personally interact with them in person?"

## Go Green, Win Big

KYLE FLORENCE

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This year marks the third annual Residence Hall Energy Competition, an event in which the residence halls compete against one another for the greatest energy reduction per resident average throughout the month of February.

"Energy data is gathered from the November 2012 kwh Electric Usage and Outside Electrical kwh readings for each hall and compared to their hall's February 2013 numbers," said Residential Living Facility Designer, Cindy VonGnechten. "The hall that shows the greatest energy reduction per resident average during the month of February compared to their hall's November 2012 base line wins."

The winning hall will have \$200.00 added to its budget, and five residents from that hall will also receive a tote filled with over \$100-worth of eco-friendly gifts. VonGnechten also added that there will be many other opportunities for students to walk away with prizes throughout the month of February, including a weekly eco-trivia contest.

"Our main goal is to have students learn how to easily conserve energy in their daily lives and the value within it," VonGnechten said.

Eric Chier, a resource management major and resident of Smith Hall, strongly supports the residence hall Energy Competition and all other green initiatives. Like VonGnechten, he also believes that tiny measures such as these can have powerful, long-lasting effects.

"It helps form the habit of recycling, so that when younger students do get houses of their own, they will know how to and hopefully want to recycle or at least use resources a little more sparingly," Chier said. "These initiatives also have a great impact on how the school looks to the community and also set examples for other schools."

Assistant Professor Robert Michitsch, who teaches courses in soil science and waste management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, agrees that the residence hall Energy Competition and other green initiatives do an excellent job of educating students.

"These green initiatives are great for us all to take back in our

own lives," said Michitsch. "If I want to be warm and fuzzy and talk about the world and sustainability, then these are all steps towards that. I think that living this greener lifestyle is definitely the way we need to move forward."

Lauren Wirsbinski, a resident of Hansen Hall, also spoke positively of the green initiatives currently underway across campus.

"I like that the residence halls offer green initiatives because it makes me feel like I'm doing my part and helping without having to change much in my sometimes hectic life," Wirsbinski said.

VonGnechten urged students to participate because of "the positive monetary and global environmental impact that energy conservation has on all of us."

"It is easy for the students to get involved -simply use less energy than they normally do," said VonGnechten.

For more information on the residence halls Energy Competition or any other green initiatives taking place on campus, contact your hall's CA or Green Advocate.



Photos by Samantha Martinez

LEFT: Samantha Martinez, resident of the greenest room which is in Knutzen hall, ties the curtains back and let the sun shine in.

RIGHT: Martinez uses the window to air-dry some of her clothes.

## Tips for Energy Conservation!

Here are Sam's best tips for energy conservation in the dorms:

-Use the sunlight as much as possible, then use community spaces if you need light at nighttime.

-Only use one source of light at a time in a room.

-Unplug all unused appliances when you don't need them (microwave, phone charger, laptop, lamp, etc.)

-If there's barely anything in the fridge, unplug it and store small things in the windowsill.

-Air-dry clothing using your windowsill, chairs, lofts, closets, dresser drawers, etc.

-Put on a sweater instead of cranking up the heat.

-Rely less on technology for amusement (t.v., ipod, video games, computer.)



# Quarter-Life Crisis

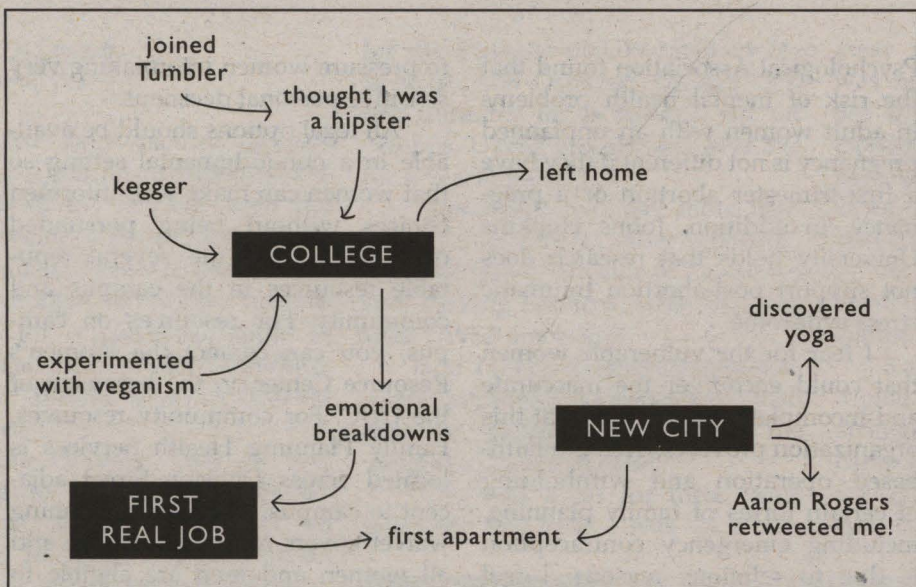


Diagram by Emma St.Aubin

The typical quarter-life crisis as experienced by college students.

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"What are you doing after you graduate?"

What a seemingly deadly question.

Is it just me, or do very few of us know exactly where we want to be five years from now? For the confused and the frightened, the future is a gnarly place.

Who am I? What am I doing with my life? Should I switch my major to something totally different? Is everyone else actually happier than

me, or are they just better at pretending? What would make me happy? Chances are these reoccurring questions never find an answer.

As the average college student nears the end of his or her academic career, he or she appears to have it all together, with a major and a nice group of friends. Truth is, you have no idea whatsoever what you want to do with your life. You have to apply for jobs soon, and you have no inkling what you actually want to do. You're freaking out.

But it's okay. That's normal. You're going through something almost everyone in their twenties is going through.

This phenomenon, more com-

monly known as a "quarter-life crisis," is a period in which a person begins to doubt his or her life, brought on by the stress of becoming an adult and entering the "real world." Overwhelming choices regarding careers, finances, homes, new responsibilities and new options all lead to the stress, anxiety and feelings of helplessness of many twentysomethings.

How does one find a blissful career, a reasonably priced home, good friends and become a happy, well-adjusted, functioning member of society? Euphoria, emotional breakdowns, procrastination and overthinking at 3 a.m. are all part of the journey. Although it may be hell, it is also pure bliss. As my mother once told me, you'll never forget your twenties because that's when you become who you are.

Even if there is a small list stashed away somewhere in your bedroom filled with all of your hopes and dreams, getting to those dreams seems impossible without a step-by-step manual.

It's a little strange to think about, but life will soon be completely different. You will be living in a new place with new people. The friends that you have now may be scattered around the world. These are the last moments that you will all be together, quite possibly for the rest of your lives. And that's (made-up word alert) bittersweetly scary.

As graduation nears, the doors to the real world are slowly opening while we near them with overwhelming anxiety. However, over

time, those doors will close. Possibly because of things you did, or maybe because of things you didn't do. That may be the driving factor behind each unique, anxiety-filled quarter-life crisis.

As twentysomethings, we spend our days buried within textbooks, traveling abroad "while we still can" and working forty-hour weeks at minimum wage. We are moved by dreams of adult happiness but take those dreams with a grain of salt, since we view those dreams as impossible.

Whether your idea of adulthood formed from college experiences, during a summer job or from an unforgettable and inspiring trip, wherever you start out won't determine where you end up, but it will determine how you get there.

Our future is entirely uncertain and entirely up to us. There's no more hiding behind grades and others' expectations. Up until now, we knew what we had to do all of our lives. We had to get good grades to get to college, and once we were in college we had to graduate.

But now what? There are no expectations for us anymore. We have to create our own expectations. That's a lot of pressure.

It's time to set our expectations high. This is the moment of our lives that we actually get to follow our dreams and do what we love. This isn't a crisis but an opportunity for excitement. So do it. Go forward and do what you've been waiting to do your whole life.

## Valentine's Day

RACHEL PUKALL  
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Valentine's Day is the second most celebrated holiday worldwide after New Year's. It is a day to celebrate love. Many people give out cards, flowers and chocolate to their loved ones, but some get even more creative.

Erich Maas, a sophomore majoring in interior architecture, thinks Valentine's Day is a fabulous reason to show someone special what they mean to you.

"The best gift I ever received was a hand-drawn picture of my girlfriend and I, drawn by no other hand than my artistically challenged girlfriend. It actually looked really good," Maas said.

Brianna Schmidt, a junior majoring in psychology, loves Valentine's Day as well, but thinks it is a bit over-commercialized.

"I normally always wear red or pink as a tradition on Valentine's Day, and I always send my grandparents and my best friend from back home a really mushy lovey dove card," Schmidt said. "My favorite Valentine's Day memory was when I was really young. My dad got my

mom a huge bouquet of red roses, and he let my sister and I each pick out a few of the roses we wanted, and we each got our own little vase to keep our picked roses in. He also bought my sister, mother and I each a box of chocolates."

Last year was an eventful Valentine's Day when Schmidt got pulled over for speeding.

"The guy let me off after going 35 in a 25. I like to think it was in the spirit of Valentine's Day. I was all dressed up heading over to my boyfriend's house, and I think he didn't want to spoil my night. I got off with a warning," Schmidt said.

Maas enjoys trying to do something new each year, however small the gesture.

"I'm still trying to think of something to do this year. Since it's on a Thursday, it's hard to go somewhere far, so I'm probably going to draw her a bouquet of flowers and spray the paper with a touch of my cologne," Maas said.

Schmidt was also creative this year and made a bouquet out of socks.

"I bought my boyfriend a t-shirt and made him a bouquet of roses out of socks. It's super cute! And

Saturday we are going out to dinner to celebrate," Schmidt said.

Maas's favorite thing about Valentine's Day is getting a surprise, like the scavenger hunt he got for a present a few years ago.

"My girlfriend talked to one of my best friends and had him invite me over for a while. Then we went back to my house, and there was a balloon in my room just sitting on my bed. It said 'pop me,'" Maas said.

When Maas popped it, a bunch of confetti flew out with a note rolled up and tied with a bow. The note said to go look in a certain place of the house for another clue, and so on, until he got to the last one under his bed.

"Under my bed there was a giant, heart-shaped cookie that my girlfriend had decorated, and it said, 'Happy Valentine's Day, Erich,'" Maas said.

Jessica Kurtzweil, a senior majoring in elementary education, says that her favorite thing about Valentine's Day is spending time with the people you love, whether it is a significant other or family and friends.

"My boyfriend goes to school in Madison, so we will not be spending actual Valentine's Day together. I

plan on going out to dinner with my roommate and then seeing the movie 'Safe Haven' by Nicolas Sparks with my boyfriend's mother on Thursday," Kurtzweil said.

Since Kurtzweil's boyfriend lives in Madison, she spends Valentine's Day with friends and family since the holiday usually falls on a weekday.

Although Valentine's Day targets couples, single people can enjoy the day, too.

"I always said that single girls or guys could always get together and buy each other small gifts, like a box of chocolates or flowers and do, like, a white elephant kind of game night, as well as watch funny movies. My friends and I did that when we were all single, and it was fun," Schmidt said.

Kurtzweil would agree.

"The best memories I have would be the ones where I go out to eat with my friends that don't have a significant other, making them feel and see that Valentine's Day is not solely about being "in love" and receiving the most flowers," Kurtzweil said.



# 10 OPINIONS

## Letter to the Editor:

I would like to dispute false claims that were made in the article written on the Pointers for Life last week. The Isthmus, a Madison, WI based newspaper, recently wrote an article entitled "Pregnant? Scared? Abortion risks are exaggerated at Wisconsin's Crisis Pregnancy Centers." This article was based on an appalling investigative study done by NARAL Pro-Choice America. Last week Pointers for Life stated that they partner with First Choice, a crisis pregnancy center in Stevens Point.

Upon visiting the web site for First Choice, I encountered numerous spelling errors, a lack of references, and fear-mongering "testimonials" on emergency contraception that appear fabricated. First Choice claims that emergency contraception, which is available over the coun-

ter in Wisconsin, can cause abortion. According to Princeton University and the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, none of the FDA-approved emergency contraceptives can work after an egg is fertilized.

In addition, First Choice states that abortion increases breast cancer risk. This is a long-standing fallacy; there is no association between abortion and breast cancer according to the National Cancer Institute. Yet if that is not enough, there is a long list of horrendously exaggerated, medically inaccurate side effects presented on their web site. Again, there are no references listed to support their claims.

Also, the article written by Pointers for Life insinuates that abortions can cause PTSD. The American

Psychological Association found that the risk of mental health problems in adult women with an unplanned pregnancy is not different if they have a first-trimester abortion or a pregnancy. In addition, Johns Hopkins University holds that research does not support post-abortion traumatic stress syndrome.

I fear for the vulnerable women that could encounter the inaccurate and incomplete information that this organization provides. This is a faith-based operation and withholding of certain forms of family planning, including emergency contraception is due to religious reasons. I feel that it is deceitful to not present all options in a clear, unbiased, scientifically sound manner. Services are limited at crisis pregnancy centers and fear, guilt and intimidation is used

to pressure women into making very sensitive personal decisions.

All legal options should be available in a non-judgmental setting so that women can make well-informed choices without being persuaded or misled. There are several reputable resources in the campus and community. For resources on campus, you can contact the Women's Resource Center, in the basement of the DUC. For community resources, Family Planning Health Services is located across Division Street adjacent to campus. The family planning waiver covers reproductive care and all women and men are eligible to apply for this program through the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Jeanna Mielcarek

## Valentine's Day - Only as Awful as You Make It

KYLE FLORENCE  
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COMMENTARY

This past week, I was having a conversation with a good friend of mine about this upcoming Valentine's Day. Having recently trudged through a very precarious break-up, his outlook was bleak, to say the least.

He claimed that the actual meaning of the holiday had been lost in a blizzard of heart-shaped candies and cheesy Hallmark catchphrases. Instead of celebrating the one you love most, this day had become an obligation—a day that card companies across the country could hang their hats on. But most notably, this day now served as a cruel reminder to all those flying solo that they will

inevitably die cold and alone (that was satire, before you all go throwing yourself from cliffs).

I won't lie. In many ways, I agreed with him. True enough, it does seem silly that we dedicate a single day out of the year to our "special someone"—if they're really that special, shouldn't we be showering them with affection 365 days a year? And yes, I, too, will be spending Valentine's Day alone this year. I will admit, it's a bummer knowing that my romantic evening will likely be spent with the cast of "How I Met Your Mother" and pounds of string cheese.

Still, as disheartening as these realizations were, this conversation with my buddy really stuck with me, as it brought with it a sense of

enlightenment.

I have a secret for you, my friend—a secret that will change your life for the better as soon as you are willing to accept it as fact. What is it? Life's a bitch, and then you die. It sounds harsh, but as we all will eventually realize, it is undeniably true. Life comes with no guarantees, no time-outs and no second chances.

Taking this into account, one realizes that Valentine's Day, like any other day, is going to be an irrefutable piece of crap unless you consciously choose to make it otherwise. That is to say, you are responsible for your own happiness. Not your mom, not your ex, not that Ryan Gosling look-alike that sits in the back of your English class—only you. Honestly, how do you expect to feel when you're ears-

deep in a cocktail of melted ice cream and your own tears (again, satire)?

My point is, who cares if you're alone on Valentine's Day? After all, you were alone yesterday, and likely the day before that, and look, you're still here! Ultimately, happiness is all about perspective, and no one ever bettered their situation by focusing on the negatives.

So this Valentine's Day, whether you are spending it with the love of your life, a group of friends, or all by your lonesome, find some solace that you are on your feet, breathing and able to experience this holiday to some capacity. I know too many good people who no longer have that option.

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

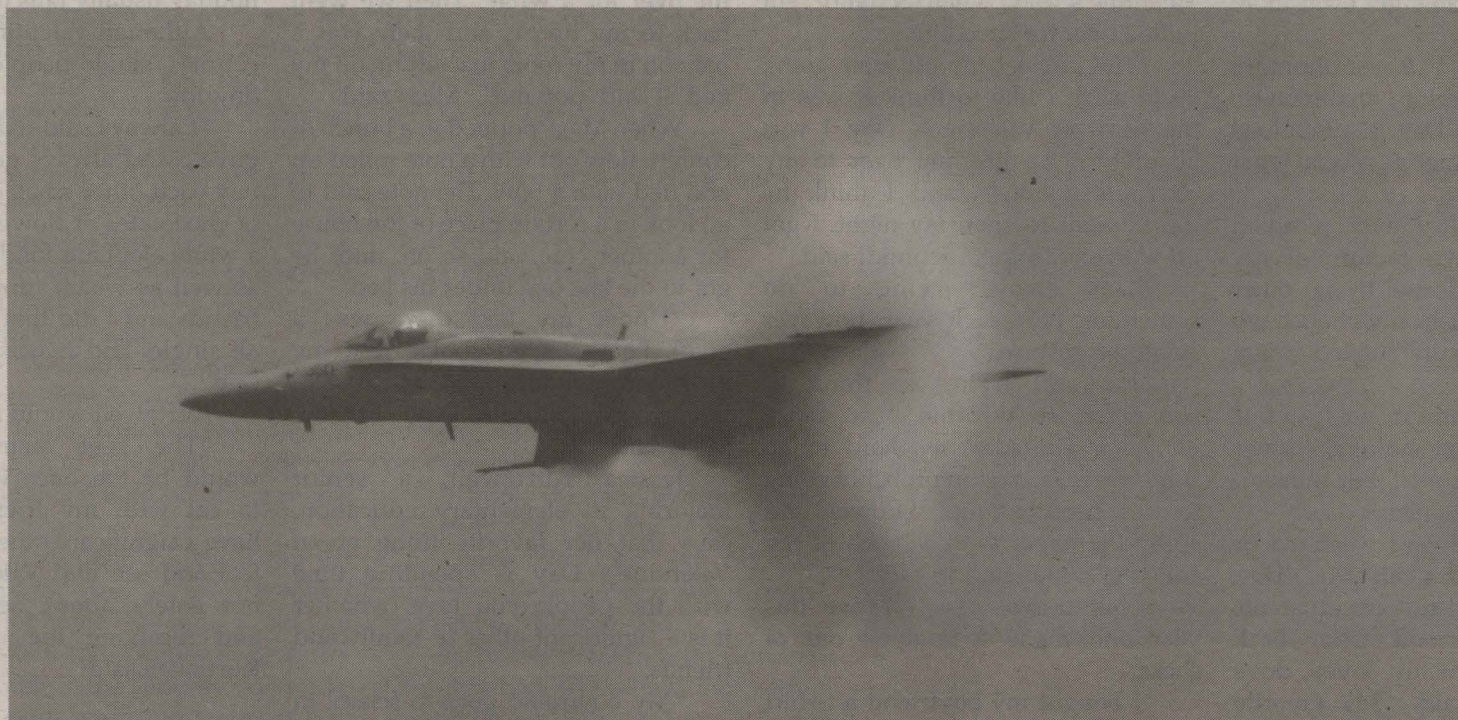


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F/A-18F Super Hornet breaking the sound barrier.



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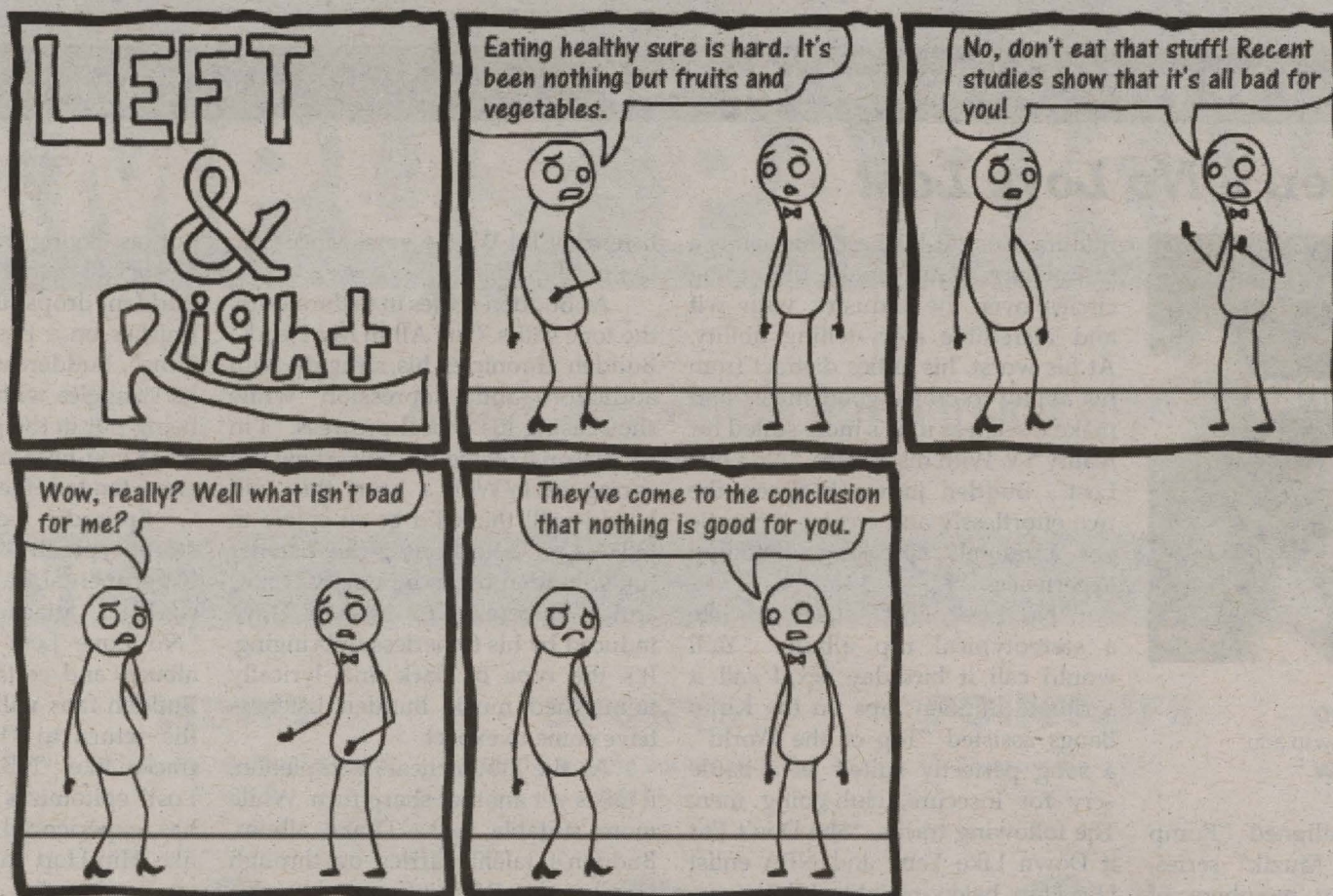
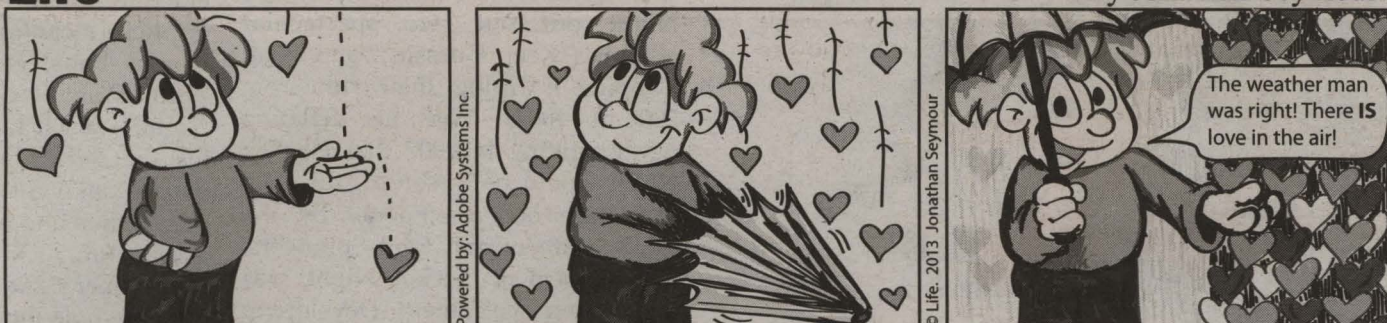
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# COMICS

## Life

By Jonathan Seymour

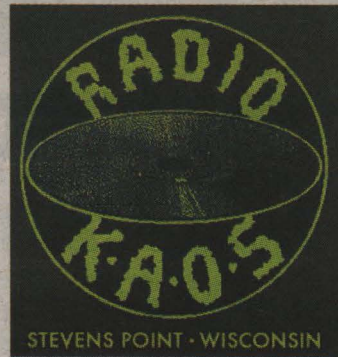


by  
J.L. Westover

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## Free Energy – Love Sign



TAYLOR CHRISTIAN  
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90FM ALBUM REVIEW

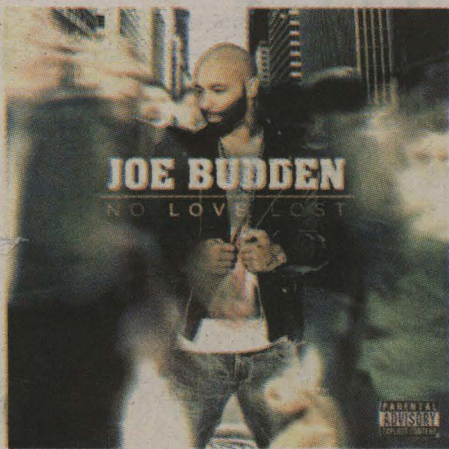
As a recovering Minnesotan, I was a big fan of Red Wing-based superhook indie rock band Hockey Night. With their melodic throwback to the days of Pavement and other works from Steven Malkmus, Hockey Night put out two spectacular albums ("Keep Guessin'" and "Rad Zapping") during their run from 2002 to 2007. With the deflating news arriving in 2007 that Hockey Night would be dissolved, the 2009 formation of Free Energy by the Wells brothers and Paul Sprangers, all members of Hockey Night, was more than welcome. Developing Hockey Night's overwhelmingly catchy sound into soaring power

pop, Free Energy released their debut album "Stuck on Nothing" to overwhelmingly positive review from a multitude of sources including the hipster capital, Pitchfork.

Being such a fan of previous works from the band's members, and even the band's previous works, seeing Free Energy's sophomore album "Love Sign" settling so comfortably into such familiar territory was a disappointment to me. The songs, no doubt, preserve the outward bliss we have come to expect from the group, but seem to embrace a "clean" sound that falls dangerously close to simplicity. From the first track, the album's namesake, it's very clear the goal of the songs is to worm their way into your brain and never leave, a goal the band is largely successful in. However, if this catchiness does bring you in for a closer look at the album, a disturbing lack of depth emerges from every song. Very little implicit meaning lies behind the albums bubblegum track titles like "Girls Want Rock" and "Dance All Night," which turn out to be about just that, girls liking rock music, and dancing all night. Some have viewed this as the band only trying to create a clean, fun, rock 'n' roll album, but if I remember right, rock 'n' roll doesn't have a whole lot of room for "clean" in there with all the sex and drugs.

## Sponsored by 90FM's 40oz of Hip Hop

## Joe Budden – No Love Lost



STEVEN WOODWARD  
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90FM ALBUM REVIEW

From the oft-maligned "Pump it Up", the "Mood Muzik" series, getting assaulted by members of Wu-Tang's posse, a rap beef with Jay-Z, and recently the formation of rap super-group Slaughterhouse, Joe Budden's career as a rap artist has been

multifarious. At his best, Budden is a lyrical juggernaut, capable of rapping circles over the industry with wit and incredible story-telling ability. At his worst, his antics distract from his ability to create good music and make it seem as if he's more suited for reality TV. With his release, "No Love Lost", Budden jumps between the two effortlessly and creates a chaotic yet strangely pleasing listening experience.

"No Love Lost" starts off like a stereotypical rap album. "Ya'll would call it birthday sex/I call it a ritual" Budden raps on the Kirko Bangs assisted "Top of the World", a song perfectly suited as a battle-cry for insecure, club-going men. The following tracks, "She Don't Put it Down Like You" and NBA enlist Hip-Hop heavy-weights Lil Wayne, French Montana, and Wiz Khalifa. Both offer catchy and ultimately successful hooks, and "She Don't Put it Down Like You" includes the most

listenable Lil Wayne verse since "No Ceilings".

As Budden settles in to the album, the tone shifts. On "All In My Head", Budden chronicles his struggle with addiction and depression while showcasing his lyrical prowess. "I'm so seasonal/some of you knew I'd spring back/With a heart this cold how'd ya'll think I'd be receptive to fall?" On "Skeletoons", the listener finds Budden on an inner city "blues cruise" listening to Marvin Gaye induced by his fatherless upbringing. It's the type of dark and lyrically unmatched music Budden listeners have come to expect.

As the album nears completion, it takes yet another sharp turn. While more suitable for a Drake album, Budden's talent carries us through two heavily R&B influenced tracks. "Switch Positions" features former B2K member Omarion. Neither are certain skips, but songs with overtly sexual titles and themes are as played

out as trying to get rich through a social media website. Luckily, Budden drops the experiment and finishes on a positive note. On "My Time", Budden assures us that issues he struggles with on "Skeletoons" are being put in the past. "It's more than what you hear in a song/The wings are extended/the fear is gone/".

Sporadic, emotional, macho, stereotypical, profound, and experimental, are all words that could be attached to Joe Budden's "No Love Lost". It isn't a perfect album, and certainly some die-hard Budden fans will be discouraged by the return to "Pump It Up"-esque tracks like "NBA", but "No Love Lost" epitomizes the career its creator has experienced, and in a culture like Hip-Hop that puts a premium on "realness", Budden may have produced one of his most enjoyable and personable listens.