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SGA Presidential Campaigns Start

AARON KRISH

Candidates for the presidential election for the Student Government Association were announced, and campaigning started following last week's senate meeting.

Running for office of president and vice president are freshmen Daniel Rawley and Michael Howard. Their opponents are current SGA executive board member and Student Life Issues Director Ryan Specht and running partner Interim Legislative Issues Director David Boardman.

Each team will promote and reach the student body before the general election on Friday, March 15. While each duo has different views concerning the student body, all four candidates intend to serve the student body of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

As relatively new students to UWSP, we have a fresh, unbiased approach to the current issues facing this campus,” Rawley said. “We have gathered many opinions from fellow students on what they would like to see change. We must provide them with an explanation of what a Howard-Rawley presidency would look like.”

Each generation of campus leaders needs the preceding one to help develop its fuller potential, and in the office of the presidency I can work to not only better this campus today, but to also grow leaders to continue a strong tradition of student leadership for years to come,” Specht said.

Howard/Rawley Platform

Howard and Rawley’s plan is to focus on many off-campus services such as snow removal and parking issues. They seek to raise awareness of the SGA bike rental program, inspect dining services programs and support a green fund for the campus.

Concerning the construction of bike overhangs in certain areas around campus, Howard and Rawley explained that it would both save students money and encourage year-round sustainable transportation. The support for a green fund could further sustainability and help the campus seek greener pathways for implementation.

The pair would also focus on the removal of snow and ice during the winter months to further ensure the safety and cleanliness of the campus.

Parking at UWSP is one of the most affordable services offered by the university but continues to be inconvenient to Howard and Rawley. They would establish a task force that would include members of Parking Services, faculty and students to discuss and implement changes to fix the ongoing problem.

Finally, the duo will look at and review current policies of Dining Services to ensure that students are provided “with a more efficient and economical way to purchase food on campus,” according to their platform.

Specht/Boardman Platform

Specht and Boardman wish to continue working on current SGA legislation in their current positions and expand on many others if voted into office. Issues include the general education program, services offered by the university, campus safety and inclusivity and diversity.

The team is for the establishment of a green fund for which students have the maximum control and input on to “solidify the university’s commitment to environmental and sustainability issues.”

Similarly, they also plan to dedicate time increase the promotion of existing health and wellness programs on campus, while also looking at new initiatives like the Healthy Communities initiative for a healthier campus.

They also wish to ensure a smooth transition into the revised general education program by offering support to advising resources, as well as the continuation of current academic programs like the Tutoring-Learning Center and Health Services. They wish to ensure students are getting the academic and personal help they need.

Both SGA members wish to welcome a diverse population onto the UWSP campus to maintain a liberal arts education, as well as ensure the improvement of campus safety to maintain a welcoming and stable campus environment.

Finally, Specht and Boardman intend to work with local, state and federal leaders to keep tuition from rising. They look to find alternative solutions to maintain the quality of that the university offers to its students.

SGA Presidential Candidates Ryan Specht and David Boardman

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Feb. 23rd

1:10 p.m. - Allen Center staff called Protective Services to report the smell of smoke coming from the basement of the building. They were unable to open all of the doors to investigate the cause. No alarms were triggered and no smoke was visible, just the smell was present.

3:27 a.m. - Male individual called stating that he wanted to check up on his friend who had been in quite some time. He said he had been out drinking but wouldn’t say how much they drank.

Feb. 22nd

2:21 p.m. - Campus staff member called to request an officer to investigate a possible drug usage. Officer on duty said he had things of higher priority and could not go, staff member was called back an inquired there would be no investigation. He said “OK.”

Feb. 21st

11:26 p.m. - While conducting a follow-up in the DUC an officer overheard the ATM alarm going off with a credit card stuck in the machine. He returned back to the PS office.

9:30 p.m. - Protective Services got a call from the university’s security company saying the burglary alarm went off at the Schmeekele Reserve Center.

9:00 a.m. - A student got stuck in the LRC elevator. Electrician was called to fix it.

Feb. 20th

8:57 a.m. - A student called saying that she nearly passed out earlier in the day and asked if Protective Services could give her a ride to health services. PS told informed her of their transportation policies but suggested she try to get a ride from a friend.

12:03 a.m. - Hansen Hall staff called to report their office door was vandalized.

Feb. 19th

10:45 a.m. - Parking attendant reported someone grabbed his ticket machine out of his hands and ran away.

Feb. 17th

2:52 a.m. - City dispatched an ambulance to a Suites room for a male who was believed to have alcohol poisoning. He was reported to be conscious and breathing.

THE POINTER

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Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.
Will Green Get the Vote?

SARAH MCQUEEN
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Various member of the Student Government Association have collaborated to begin a program that will provide funding for an environmental and sustainability movement on campus while simultaneously providing a way for people to share their ideas on this topic.

"When we were looking at sustainability on campus and how it’s done, we identified two areas that could be improved," said senator for the Student Government Association, David Boardman. "One, there is interest parties on sustainability and a lot of ideas and experts out there on this campus. But there is really no central structure or place for them to come together and collaborate on those ideas and projects."

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point currently dedicates about $15,000 annually to sustainability projects. That money is overseen by SGA and goes to educational programs, funding speakers and other projects. "When you look at a lot of capital projects, it’s really not a lot of money to implement effective projects," Boardman said. "That is only under SGA’s control, and it doesn’t really account for all the other parties on campus that have sustainability in mind."

With the new green fund, the amount of money available would increase by about $100,000. The funding would all come directly from segregated fees, which would work out to about $12 per student every year.

"We looked at the amount of funding that other UW system comprehensive had for green funds, and it turned out that two other colleges that had really strong green funds, UW-Eau Claire and UW-Lacrosse,” said Boardman. "Both had funds that were right around 1.2 to 1.5 percent from their student segregated fees that went towards a dedicated sustainability fund," said Mackenzie Walters, who is regional field organizer at UWSP.

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Mandatory Attendance:
A Necessary Evil?

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As winter's icy grasp tightens around Stevens Point, students may find themselves feeling less inclined to leave the comfort of a warm bed and attend class. Unfortunately for many however, this is not an option as attendance is often mandatory.

Though the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Registration and Records homepage advises students to "attend all your classes regularly," class-specific attendance policies are left entirely up to instructors. Taking this into account, it is not surprising that many have enacted mandatory attendance policies.

Jef Snowbarger, a lecturer of English at UWSP, is an advocate of mandatory attendance policies and believes they are necessary to ensure that learning takes place within the classroom.

"Attendance policies can be helpful in laying a foundation of expectations for student participation given the various classes," Snowbarger said. "Some classes will differ depending on the amount of participation they require to accomplish the goals of the class, but for the most part, attendance is a big part of the education process."

Professor of political science John Blakeman also believes that mandatory attendance is useful but acknowledges the fact that, ideally, it shouldn't be necessary.

"Students need to be mature and come to class as much as possible," Blakeman said. "I recognize that life sometimes gets in the way—students get sick, or non-traditional students have sick kids at home, what have you—but the reality is that I think students should treat college like a job. In the work force, you only get so many sick days per year."

UWSP students also seem to have mixed feelings in regards to mandatory attendance policies.

"When attendance is mandatory, I definitely feel more obligated to attend. It's part of your grade, and I get the reasoning behind that," said Kelsey McNamee, a junior psychology major.

Josh Weigand, a senior communication major, agrees with McNamee.

"I get the reasoning behind mandatory attendance. After all, you're paying to be here, and it is your grade," Weigand said. "I definitely feel more obligated to attend. It's part of your grade, and I get the reasoning behind that," said Kelsey McNamee, a junior psychology major.

Josh Weigand, a senior communication major, agrees with McNamee.

"I get the reasoning behind mandatory attendance. After all, you're paying to be here, and it is your grade," Weigand said.

John Blakeman also believes that mandatory attendance policies can be an advocate of mandatory attendance, but acknowledges the fact that, ideally, it shouldn't be necessary.

"I feel like if I'm paying for my tuition, I should be able to decide whether I go to class or not. It makes sense in high school, but not in college," Nehls said.

Contrarily, Snowbarger is unyielding.

"I hold pretty firmly to a pretty strict attendance policy because I believe it matters. For the most part, my attendance policy is given to provide expectations for [students] to achieve the goals I have for them as students in the class," said Snowbarger.

John Blakeman also believes that mandatory attendance policies can be an advocate of mandatory attendance, but acknowledges the fact that, ideally, it shouldn't be necessary.

"I hold pretty firmly to a pretty strict attendance policy because I believe it matters. For the most part, my attendance policy is given to provide expectations for [students] to achieve the goals I have for them as students in the class," said Snowbarger.

In fact, many have enacted mandatory attendance policies. However, this is not an option as attendance is often mandatory.

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The Theatre property, which was owned by the Sanders family, was transferred to the Arts Alliance before we can admit the public. We are also considering what the space could be used for," McKenna said.

Elizabeth Aguillera, the Executive Director of Administration and Development, says that the Arts Alliance was happy to work with the Sanders family.

"A separate group and new LLC was created to manage the Fox project. The Arts Alliance facilitated the transfer to this group," Aguillera said.

The purpose of the group, called the Fox Theatre LLC, is developing concepts and ideas for the use of the space and finding the resources necessary to bring the building back to reasonable shape.

Gerald McKenna, the former dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the head of the board of the Fox Theatre, says that the new board will manage the space and develop programming based on community needs.

"We are trying to determine what the space can be used for, and that is a large task because you have that financial support to continue every year, but first, you need to find the resources to repair and bring the building back into shape," McKenna said.

The theatre has been in the Sanders family since its start in the late 1980s, first as an opera house and then as a movie theatre. It was used as a movie theatre until 1985, when the stage was taken off the back to make way for the Stevens Point mall.

"At this stage, we are doing a full review of the condition of the property before we can admit the public. We are also considering what the space could be used for," McKenna said.

Leslie DeBauche, a professor in the division of Communication, hopes for the Fox Theatre to become a self-sustaining arts space for our area.

"I teach film, and I love silent movies made before 1927. My dream is that the Fox would occasionally be able to show vintage films with live music. It would be wonderful to show the great old films in this wonderful and acoustically rich space," DeBauche said.

The Arts Alliance would also like to see the building used as a public space where art and cultural events take place.

"We thank the family for donating the property, and we will do all we can to make the space useful and usable in the years ahead. We have a lot of work to do in examining the property and in seeing that it can be used in the best possible way," McKenna said.
Lack of Space Sparks Unrest Among Club Athletes

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While the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point continues to validate its reputation as a Division III powerhouse, the increased focus on our universities National Collegiate Athletic Association-certified athletics has some students crying foul. More often than not they say, NCAA sports are given precedence over intramurals and club sports in practice times and the use of on-campus facilities.

Ed Richmond, Head of Campus Activities and Recreation, explained that this method of distribution has been standard for some time. "This is a priority of use that was adopted a number of years ago that listed academics as priority of use in the buildings, then athletics, then intramurals and club sports, so that's sort of the pecking order," said Richmond.

To some however, this reasoning is insufficient. Brian Schmidt, a senior and head of the UWSP Men's Soccer Club, is unhappy with the way space is utilized among the university's club sports, NCAA-certified sports and intramurals.

"My main grievance is our lack of gym time and space," Schmidt said. "We are often pushed in to the early morning hours, sometimes as early as 1 or 2 A.M., and this practice schedule can make it very difficult to stay on top of things academically."

Similarly, Schmidt believes that the Men's Soccer Club, as well as many other club sports, would greatly benefit if NCAA-certified athletics were not given precedence over facilities.

"If more gym times were available during the week, instead of athletics always getting it Monday through Friday, we would be able to hold practices at more reasonable times and in turn be more effective as a club and probably have more new members joining," said Schmidt.

Richmond recognizes these flaws, attributing them to a lack of space.

"Over the years, we've worked in that priority-of-use order, and we've had to follow that, so what we've tried to do is maximize the space as much as possible," said Richmond.

"The big thing is our programs have been growing, so now we're at the point where our facilities are no longer efficient enough," - Ed Richmond

The Pointers are set to play the Eagles on home court in their first round matchup. To put that in perspective, the Pointers, a team that shoots plenty of threes, have attempted 158 fewer threes this season, for an average of almost six fewer per game.

The Pointers also have their fair share of talent to match up against the Eagles. This week it was announced that five Pointers garnered All-WIAC honors, and head coach Bob Semling won the WIAC Coach of the Year.

Trevor Hass and transfer student Clayton Heuer, both seniors, earned All-WIAC Team honors. Joe Ritchay and Austin Ryf, both sophomores, were WIAC Honorable Mentions. Giordana received the All-Sportsmanship honor.

The talent is there, and coach Dernbach knows it. "We have to get to that level," Dernbach said.

They also have to move forward, we may have to possibly build another area up for that lost space," said Richmond.

"Our NCAA-certified sports are what benefit club sports but also very relevant to the university.

"I feel that NCAA athletics should take precedence over club sports when it comes to practice scheduling and event planning because they are varsity sports," Klapper said. "Other than that, club sports are a great thing and very competitive at the division III level."

"I think club sports should be treated just as well as NCAA-certified sports because it is still a commitment, and they are still affiliated with the school, but the fact of the matter is that at times one may have to take precedence over the other," Jobke.

"Our NCAA-certified sports are what bring money into the school and why a lot of students come to Point. Plus, there are stricter conditions and regulations around these sports. I think it goes both ways, and the school should try to figure out a way to make each as fair as possible within reason."

Richmond agrees. "In these types of situations, students are always the first priority. If you want to have an athletic program you have to have the space to support that program," said Richmond.

Wisconsin-Stevens Point will not be able to come back this season and will take a medical redshirt, allowing him to be eligible to play next season.

"It's been extremely difficult," Tillema said. "There were many instances where I really felt like I could help the team if I was healthy, but this has allowed me to view the game from a different perspective sitting on the bench."

Everyone is asking around Stevens Point, "How far can this team go?" Both the players and coaches believe in their team.

"I am very confident in this team," Giordana said. "We have had a lot of different guys step up this year to carry the team on different nights, and I know the coaches will do a great job with the scouting report and getting us ready."

Go out and support the Pointers Saturday night in the Quandt Fieldhouse. Tickets are $4 for students. "We really hope to get that great Pointers basketball atmosphere," Dernbach said.
Clapp Capping Off Incredible Ride with Pointers

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's swimming and diving team won their 14th straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships this past month. Senior Joey Clapp is a big reason for their success.

Clapp, the team captain, was part of three relay teams that took first. He also won three individual events. The six wins add to an outstanding career at UWSP.

Clapp has been honored as an All American 11 times and named first team nine times. He has won 20 WIAC titles and was named MVP of the swimming and diving team the past two seasons.

"It has been an exhilarating experience," Clapp said. "I achieved goals that I did not think were possible, and I couldn't have achieved them without the support from my coaches and teammates."

Clapp has also performed in the classroom. This year he won the WIAC Max Sparger Men's Swimming & Diving Scholar-Athlete Award and has been on the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll three times.

Al Boelk, head coach of the swimming and diving team, is going to miss Clapp swimming for his team. "It has been a lot of fun working with Joey over the years," Boelk said.

Clapp is from Faribault, Minnesota. He came to UWSP following his brother, Willie, who had just finished up his career at UWSP. "I wanted to swim competitively, and my brother was a strong influence on why I came here," Clapp said. "The swim team here felt like a family that I wanted to be a part of. I got the opportunity to meet a lot of my future teammates while watching my brother compete at meets."

Clapp's success was not without hard work. When he came to UWSP, he had never participated in a real weight-lifting program.

"I came in very thin. I didn't know much about lifting or how to train in swimming at a high level," Clapp said. "Lifting weights has been a huge part of my success in swimming."

Four years of swimming has also proved to test Clapp's ability to stay healthy.

"I have had my ups and downs, and my biggest problem was staying healthy," Clapp said.

However, his ability to overcome his injuries in the sport is a big reason for his accomplishments.

"Joey has had some pretty serious shoulder issues over the years, and it staggered me how he minimized his problems and just dealt with them on a daily basis," Boelk said.

Boelk said that he is impressed with the continued hunger Clapp possess for swimming. "It makes me happy to see him still passionate about the sport after all these years," Boelk said.

"A career in swimming can burn out the strongest of minds. It can be a grueling sport psychologically, simply due to the intense training volumes and season lengths."

So what's next for Clapp? After competing at the NCAA Division III championships in late March, Clapp plans on joining the coaching staff.

His career isn't over yet. He still has one more meet to cherish in his career at UWSP. "I will miss competition the most. I will also miss the camaraderie and being a part of the relays," Clapp said.
The children question about being a parent and a student is

SEE DOGS HELPING:

For Palmer, although scheduling is an issue, it isn’t the biggest challenge. “My kids have been my life. That’s not the change for me. It’s going back to school after 18 years.”

Going back to school and having a family can be a lot to handle at once. “I’ve seen first-hand: how many students with children struggle financially to pay for child care when they are trying to be focused on their education and not able to work as much as they would to make ends meet,” said Becky Helf, the director of UWSP’s Helen R. Godfrey University Child Learning Center.

About 55% of the children that go to the learning center, located in Delzell Hall, are children of students that go to the university. The program is supported by UWSP Student Government Organization through segregated fees, which allows for student’s rates to be lower.

The program at the center is the only nationally accredited program in an old residence hall building. “They [the children] question why they can’t go outside to play, because they are unable to see out any window to know if it’s raining,” Helf said. “Two toilets are shared by approximately 35 children. Strictly speaking about the facility, it is beyond unacceptable!”

Although there are hardships involved with being a student and a parent at the same time, the benefits override the stress. “My children know first-hand how I feel about the importance of education because they see it by my example of going to school,” Lavongsa said. “What’s not to love about that?”

For Houting, having a child is motivation for him. “It’s an added responsibility other than homework. You have a real and present reason to do well in school.”

For all of the parents, it’s a collaborative effort. “They [my children] help me as much as I help them,” Palmer said.

One of Lavongsa’s favorite things about being a parent and a student is that her children’s education can be an interactive experience. “My oldest son [who attends Princeton college] just told me that you can actually take acetaminophen for hurt feelings, and it will help alleviate the pain just as you would for a headache!” Lavongsa said. “Doesn’t that sound crazy? He is passing along what he is learning at college just like I do to him and his siblings.”

Stacy Lavongsa, a senior English education major and mother of four.

SARAH MCQUEEN
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A college student has to learn to cope with many changes and challenges while transitioning into adult life, such as aclimating to a new environment and leaving behind family, friends and even pets. Stacey Gerken, director of the campus counseling center, understands that some students who come in for help with these issues might need something different than the conventional hour spent talking through their stressors. This is where Sam, Gerken’s large Munster lander dog, steps into the picture.

Sam is a certified therapy dog and has been coming into the counseling center with Gerken for the last two and half years. Sam comes in only occasionally, mostly when Gerken receives requests for him, and spends time students who come to the center. Students can pet him, play with him and just generally enjoy spending time with a dog.

“There is a lot of research out there about the positive impact of a therapy dog,” Gerken said. “It kind of reminds people of their own dogs. Often, people will start talking about their own dog or a dog that they used to have. It just seems like a much more effective way of helping students without it being a traditional way. This helps students relax and

Zach Krogman
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PointLife

Studying With Kids
KAITLYN LUCKOW
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Every day, senior elementary and special education major Kerry Palmer wakes up early to make the 1.5-hour commute to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point from Wisconsin Dells. She goes to class, education practicum and work. After the school day, she heads home to hang out and take care of her four children.

Being a student and a parent has its benefits and challenges, which UWSP addresses.

For example, attending school and being a parent at the same time adds a new level of stress to everyday life.

“All I can say is that it can be challenging. I think the biggest struggle is to maintain balance,” said Stacy Lavongsa, a senior English education major and mother of four.

Palmer agreed that balance was a struggle. “I think the biggest challenge is to maintain balance,” said Becky Helf, the director of UWSP’s Helen R. Godfrey University Child Learning Center.

About 55% of the children that go to the learning center, located in Delzell Hall, are children of students that go to the university. The program is supported by UWSP Student Government Organization through segregated fees, which allows for student’s rates to be lower.

The program at the center is the only nationally accredited program in an old residence hall building. One of Lavongsa’s favorite things about the positive impact of a therapy dog, Gerken said. “It kind of reminds people of their own dogs. Often, people will start talking about their own dog or a dog that they used to have. It just seems like a much more effective way of helping students without it being a traditional way. This helps students relax and

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Dogs Helping out at Delzell

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A college student has to learn to cope with many changes and challenges while transitioning into adult life, such as aclimating to a new environment and leaving behind family, friends and even pets. Stacey Gerken, director of the campus counseling center, understands that some students who come in for help with these issues might need something different than the conventional hour spent talking through their stressors. This is where Sam, Gerken’s large Munster lander dog, steps into the picture.

Sam is a certified therapy dog and has been coming into the counseling center with Gerken for the last two and half years. Sam comes in only occasionally, mostly when Gerken receives requests for him, and spends time students who come to the center. Students can pet him, play with him and just generally enjoy spending time with a dog.

“There is a lot of research out there about the positive impact of a therapy dog,” Gerken said. “It kind of reminds people of their own dogs. Often, people will start talking about their own dog or a dog that they used to have. It just seems like a much more effective way of helping students without it being a traditional way. This helps students relax and

SEE DOGS HELPING: PAGE 8
CRU: Actively Promoting Faith on Campus

RACHEL PUKALL
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CRU, formally known as Campus Crusade for Christ, serves around 300 regular attenders each week at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

CRU is a Christian organization that is alive on campuses all over the world and is not based off of any Christian denomination. It is simply Christ with teachings based off the Bible. Their mission statement is to bring every person on campus to know at least one dedicated Christian.

Emily Glinski, a sophomore majoring in business administration and communication, is a dedicated and active member of CRU.

"I personally co-lead the women's May Roach Hall Bible study, which is a lot of fun, and you can find me at CRU every Thursday," Glinski said. "I help out wherever CRU may need me. I have been to all the big events such as TCX, the Fall Getaway, the Volleyball Blast in September, the outdoor Packer game and the corn roast."

CRU's Women's Month is the whole month of March. Women's weekly Bible studies meet together in Lower Debot. Men's month then follows in April.

CRU is also currently planning a big event and trip to Panama City Beach over Spring Break. "Students will attend a conference, do outreach and hang out with their friends all week," Glinski said.

Trevor Haug, a fourth-year student majoring in accounting, business administration and political science, thinks that CRU offers the opportunity to share faith with other students on campus and get people involved in many opportunities to get to know other students.

"Our partner organization, International Justice Mission, is holding a 27-hour event in March where we will volunteer students who will physically stand for 27 hours to raise awareness for the 27 million victims of human trafficking around the world," Haug said.

Besides all these upcoming events, CRU also holds Bible studies each week in every hall including major-related Bible studies, sport Bible studies, a "Men's Morning" at Debot every Saturday, CRU sports at 5:30 p.m. every Friday in the Health Enhancement Center and events with the Epic Asian CRU Ministry.

CRU also has an ongoing mentorship program called Discipleship, an individualized Bible study each week between two students.

CRU meets every Thursday in the Dreyfus University Center at 9 p.m. Anyone, regardless of their faith, can meet, hang out with friends, hear speakers and worship with a student-led band. CRU has full-time staff, interns and students who all work to make everything happen.

"Our meetings are about an hour and a half long and start off with a game. After that, we will usually sing contemporary Christian songs along with a student-led band. We will then hear a student's testimony, which is essentially their faith story about what God has been doing in their life and teaching them," Glinski said.

"These testimonies talk about what a student's life was like without God and how it has changed with God in it. After that, we hear the main talk, usually given by a CRU staff member, followed by a bit more of singing worship songs."

Bethany Bauer, a senior majoring in communicative disorders, thinks that CRU is a great place to get connected with people who are exploring or have found what they were looking for.

"College is the time when many students explore and solidify what they believe in," Bauer said. "I love the community and the genuine relationships I've formed as a part of being in CRU. It's a welcoming atmosphere where people really support each other and are invested in helping them grow closer to God."

CRU is a place where students can go to grow in their faith in a safe and fun environment.

"My favorite part about being involved with CRU is being able to build lifetime relationships and be able to work with my closest friends to be able to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the rest of my campus," Haug said.

Glinski agrees.

"CRU has helped me in so many areas of my life, and I am so thankful that I started going to CRU as a freshman because I have made dozens of close friends," Glinski said. "The people at CRU are genuine people who deeply care about everyone. They are friends who I know I will have for a lifetime and are people that I can trust and confide in."
Coffee Fair Promotes Fair Trade Practices

February 28, 2013

Stevens Point's Department of Theatre and Dance is rehearsing and planning the fair for various reasons. "I wanted to teach people about how coffee is grown and where to buy it sustainably with the fair trade, as well as why you should not be buying regular coffee because it is bad for the people who are on the other end of it and aren't making a fair price for the coffee they are producing," Vande Voort said. Wadleigh said Stevens Point offers great options for coffee lovers. "There's fair trade, local, sustainable organic options right here, practically at your front door," Wadleigh said. Guy Janssen, owner of Emy's, finds it important to buy local. "We've always tried to promote fair trade organic and buying local. That's huge to us," Janssen said. Fair trade was the central topic of the fair, including the presentation given by the founders of Community Coffee John Sheffy and Holly Petrillo. Community Coffee is a small group that volunteers to help remote farmers in Africa and Mexico harvest and sell their coffee crops for a fair price. Sheffy said that these farmers depend on coffee as their main cash crop in order to pay for schooling of their children. However, the sale of coffee offers little revenue for farmers. "The farmer makes the least amount of money. They were making ten cents a pound for their coffee," Sheffy said. Community Coffee volunteers buy coffee at a fair price that allows the farmer to cover all of their mandatory expenses. Along with their presentation, Petrillo and Sheffy showed a complimentary slideshow of their travel pictures. The pictures showcased the host families they stayed with and the harvest process. "Coffee comes from a cherry-like fruit that is handpicked, processed to separate the pulp and the seeds, washed, left to dry and then roasted," Sheffy said. Besides Community Coffee, Petrillo and Sheffy coordinate a short-term, study-abroad program through the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Petrillo, an associate professor in Forestry, leads the group. Sheffy acts as an Agroforestry Consultant. The group is going to Kenya from May 27 to June 19 for a trip dedicated to the sustainable resources and community.

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Last weekend, the Students for Sustainable Communities sponsored the Black Gold coffee fair in the Encore of the Dreyfus University Center. The fair took its name from the documentary "Black Gold," which promotes responsible coffee trade and exposes the problems with the sale and production of coffee. Three screenings of the documentary occurred between Feb. 22 and Feb. 23.

The documentary was the idea base for the entire fair," said Becky Wadleigh, the Treasurer and Fundraiser Coordinator for the Students for Sustainable Communities. The fair featured coffee from various businesses like Emy's, Main Grain Bakery and Zest, as well as many student organizations that focus on environmental sustainability.

"Ideas change by the hour. I face a scenario or problem given to me, I reveal an idea without hiding behind fear or how they think they should look. I'm interested in the dancers being personal. "Ideas change by the hour. I face a scenario or problem given to me, I reveal an idea without hiding behind fear or how they think they should look. I'm interested in the dancers being personal," Estanich said. The rehearsal process is held three days a week, and dancers often face a scenario or problem given to them by the choreographer to solve. The idea is to take original work and change aspects of it with their own ideas. "I want to see how much of themselves they reveal through the piece," Karlen said. "How clearly can they convey an idea without hiding behind fear or how they think they should look. I'm interested in the dancers being personal."

Community members who attend every year have expressed that they appreciate watching our dancers develop over four years," Estanich said. "They see how the dancers develop technically and artistically."

At the end of the day, however, the performance is all about the audience and how they personally react to a performance. Estanich explained that dance is a universal language taken to a heightened form and concept. Communication is through the body, and audience members are given the view in order to pay for the education of their children. "It's an opportunity to learn about yourself in an honest and unguarded way," Karlen said. "People don't come to see a performance. They come to see themselves.

Danstage will be presented in the Noel Fine Arts Center on April 12-14 and April 17-20, 2013.
**Erasing The Prejudice Against the Mentally Ill**

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COMMENTARY

People hate and judge what they don’t understand. Most people don’t try to understand those with mental illnesses, automatically placing them in a category of “crazy” and “retarded.” In reality, they are people too; people with feelings, hopes and dreams. They just have an extra barrier that separates them from what we all take for granted: a potential road to success.

Starting in education, those with a mental illness are sometimes told from the beginning that their lives will never amount to something that a “normal” individual might have. And that’s a tragedy.

In reality, those with mental illness deserve every resource and help from others in order to achieve their dreams. Their dreams are just as important as everyone’s and they need to be realized.

The biggest obstacle in life isn’t their illness; it’s other people’s prejudices. It’s not only that people bring them down. It’s that people don’t raise them up.

In order to this, we need a complete makeover on our mindset. For example, the word “retarded” is used daily as an insult to others. It should never be used as an insult, because it’s not a bad thing to be retarded. It just means that someone’s brain is unique. Someone’s uniqueness should never be squandered, only celebrated.

It is our mission to erase “retarded” from people’s common insults. It is our mission to erase the prejudice against the mentally ill.

Maybe this is a scary thought. This prejudice exists because people are afraid of those who are different. They don’t know how to act around the mentally ill. In reality, it’s not different than talking to any other person around you, except that most of the time, their hearts are bigger.

For those with mental illness, having friends is a rarity. Imagine going through life with only your parents and siblings as your best friends. Even just a smile or kind words can make their day. A friendship goes further.

Everyone in the world deserves to be treated with respect and understanding. Unfortunately, those with mental illnesses aren’t. We need to change that. At the end of the day, each person still wants the same thing: to love and be loved.

**Spring Break and STD Dangers**

MICHELLE THOMPSON
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COMMENTARY

Unfortunately, many students engage in unsafe activities and “let loose” while drinking. One website is helping people practice “safe sex” this Spring Break. www.Qpid.me will send anyone an online report of their STD status, as long as you authorize it. Qpid.me, an online technology for anyone who wants to obtain, securely store and privately share their STD results is FREE for anyone. “The reality is that college students and even high school seniors take a trip during spring break, we are just trying to help them make safer choices and realize it’s essential to protect yourself if you choose to engage in sexual activity with someone you don’t know well,” said Ramin Bastani, creator of Qpid.me. Michelle Thompson
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Let us know if you would like to speak to Ramin Bastani, creator of this useful technology. Below are some sobering STD/Spring Break statistics:

- 26% of males and nearly 36% of females failed to use a condom during sex with someone they met on spring break.
- Nearly 50% of the males and 41% of the females reported having consumed alcohol just prior to sex.
- When asked about their alcohol use in connection with their sexual activities, 49% of men and 38% of women reported having sex as a direct result of drinking.
- 75% of all students reported never or rarely using a condom on spring break.
- Students reported their decision were negatively influenced by alcohol or drug use just prior to sexual activity.
- 74% of males and nearly 88% of females reported never or rarely worrying about STDs/HIV, even though they were at risk.
- About 48% of men and women who had sex under the influence regretted the experience.

**PHOTO OF THE WEEK**
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COMICS

Life By Jonathan Seymour

So a pointer plate can be a swipe trade...yet a swipe trade can not be a pointer plate...

Hot Sauce Puff'N Stuff

Never undress in public. Don't make noise. Hug the children if they say...?

What is that? Directions on how to be a pedophile?

No... "How to be a mascot."
ALBUM REVIEWS
BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

J. Cole – Truly Yours

Sponsored by 90FM’s 40oz of Hip Hop

I am a big fan of The War on Drugs, which means I am also a big fan of their bassist Dave Hartley. Hartley has a project that goes by Nightlands, aptly named due to his central recording station being his bedroom. This one-man, multi-instrumentalist’s latest release, Oak Island, has made its way into 90FM’s heavy rotation courtesy of the ever-consistent record label Secretly Canadian.

Nowadays it isn’t hard to come across an album on an independent label that feels like a trip through outer space. Oak Island continues to prove my anecdote to be true with its flowing synth and eccentric vocals. On first listen, I immediately thought of Gayngs’ and their album Slave Ambient, and I wonder if those similarities were borrowed from Hartley or something that is his own original.

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90FM ALBUM REVIEW

12 ALBUM REVIEWS

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“Truly Yours” opens up with a poignant, nostalgic jazz number entitled “Can I Holla At Ya”. Over the course of just over four minutes, Cole addresses his feelings for an ex-love, his no-show father, and a friend he’s fallen out grace with. During the emotionally-charged highlight of the song, Cole’s normally boastful self gives way to tangible vulnerability. “And time revealed, the feels that she settled too soon/While she see me go for mines and she admire that/We speak about time as if we could just buy it back/It only it was that simple/damn I miss you”.

On “Can I Holla At You’s” jazzy counterpart, “Stay”, J. Cole bounces between pondering running from the law, the ethics on infidelity, and fleeing his hometown to pursue his rap career, consequently leaving his mother all alone. It’s a rather unfocused track, but it highlights Cole’s ability to draw his listeners into his music; even if they’ve never had to contemplate fleeing the country to evade law enforcement.

“Tears for ODB”, an apparent ode to fallen Wu-Tang Clan member Old Dirty Bastard is the highlight of the EP. While only directly mentioning ODB in the first line, Cole evokes ODB’s name not to celebrate his life, but as a warning to those who may look up to and glorify the “hood life” ODB lived. “Drug-induced poetry/What’s the use” Cole argues. Motivated by the perception he’ll never “know how sittin’ comfy on that Oprah seat feels”, Cole raps “I’m just tryna make it” on the chorus, continuing, “Straight up – aye, any chance I’ma take it”.

J. Cole’s return to making music should appeal to even the most fickle of Hip-Hop fans. Hip-Hop is better when J. Cole is releasing music and “Truly Yours” acts only as an affirmation of this. Even when Cole finds himself rapping about hustling, as he does in the first verse of “Crunch Time”, he does it with an elegance and intelligence matched only by the likes of a Jay-Z or Nas. More impressive yet, Cole’s ability to story tell allows him to shift back and forth, bringing his listener’s from the point of view of a desperate hustler to the struggles of a single mother without lifting a finger or making his records feel forced. While most rappers would fear releasing an EP this strong months before the release of their actual album, Cole’s done just that, and if that isn’t an indicator of the great things to come from J. Cole and “Born Sinner”, I don’t know what is.

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