

the pointer

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Photo by Emily Hoffmann

Museum Collection Crawl Displays Rare Exhibits

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The annual Museum of Natural History Collection Crawl occurred this past weekend allowing attendees to go behind the scenes and see collections usually reserved for research and teaching purposes.

This year was the fifth Collection Crawl hosted by the museum. The

museum can be found inside the Albertson Learning Research Center.

Once a year, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Museum of Natural History makes its collections available to the general public.

The Collection Crawl lets visitors interact with student and faculty curators and experience the research going on at UWSP.

Attendees got to access 25,000

square feet of labs, classrooms and collection storage areas. On display were many rarely exhibited specimens.

The attendance for the crawl has reached up to 1000 in past years. The Collection Crawl is a free event open to the Stevens Point Community.

On Saturday there were around 750 people who walked through 410 live herpetology and ichthyology labs

in the TNR. There were also over 1000 individuals who stopped in to see the live animal display.

Activities during the crawl included planting seeds, bird feeder making, reptile interactions, face painting, coloring pages and preserved specimens for viewing and or touching.

"This event is a great way to expose kids to science in a fun

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The Pointer

2 NEWS

UWSP Wellness Reflects Portage County Health Title

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Portage County was ranked as the third healthiest county in the state according to the Wisconsin County Health Rankings survey conducted earlier this year.

The report was part of collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

When considering what makes a county healthy, these groups look at leaders in health care, business, education, government, and media. They also look at population health in consideration of overall health factors and health outcomes.

Jen Sorenson, a physician assistant and interim administrative director at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, feels that this title is a reflection of various UWSP health initiatives.

"I think Stevens Point is small enough that the community and campus reflect each other. Wellness initiatives are well in place on this campus," Sorenson said.

Sorenson believes that when media provides wellness coverage, it motivates people to become better health advocates. She hopes that in the future Portage County can be ranked even higher on the list.

"I think that when you have an initiative that is highlighted by media, it can help move things forward," Sorenson said.

Sorenson listed intramural programs as a significant wellness promotion for students. UWSP currently offers 22 club sports to students and dozens of intramural programs. Some of the intramural programs include badminton, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, trench and softball.

Lance Kaster, a student of communication at UWSP, has been participating in intramural programs since the second semester of his freshman year.

"I have participated in volleyball, basketball and badminton. I got so into basketball that I sprained my ankle and was out for six weeks," Kaster said.

Kaster values intramural programs as believes they are a good way to remain active throughout the week.

"If I did not participate in intramural programs I would definitely be less active. I have two days a week where I get aerobic exercise that I would not be getting otherwise," Kaster said.

Matt Teachout, a student of sociology, feels the same way. Teachout has participated in trench, volleyball and indoor soccer throughout his involvement with intramural programs.

"I think intramural programs gave me more guaranteed days of being active. I had a chunk of time when I had to be somewhere to be active. It gave me the opportunity to be active for a certain time every week," Teachout said.

Sorenson also lists the health promotion and wellness major and the tobacco ban as positive health initiatives on campus.

"So much of what we do at Delzell Hall goes beyond operating in the clinic," Sorenson said.

Sorenson said she strives to provide care beyond one-on-one consultation. She understands individual health needs with students and helps respond to larger needs by translating them to a larger campus platform.

"It takes a village to raise a healthy person," Sorenson said.

Sorenson said she believes health and wellness can be achieved on campus as long as students are open to the opportunities. She hopes that students take advantage of UWSP wellness and carry it with them throughout their lives.

"To realize your potential as an individual, students need to be aware of all levels of wellness," Sorenson said.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Saturday, March 29

Representative from the SPPD called and notified PS that there were around 13 people fighting in the Pizza Hut parking lot. When PS arrived, suspects jumped the fence and ran toward campus.

Individual found sleeping in the area of the DUC near the ATM machine.

Sunday, March 30

Student reported harassing text messages.

Wednesday, April 2

PS officer reported a vehicle had been saran wrapped in the southwest quadrant of Lot Q.

A burgundy Sedan was found covered with shrink wrap and sticky notes. Officers reported that this was not completed when they found the same thing on another vehicle earlier in the night.

Female called regarding a stray dog found near the DUC. She has a hold of it now. Dog is large, black and white, possibly husky mix. PS called animal control and they will be sending someone out within next twenty minutes.

Smell of Marijuana on 3rd floor of Baldwin Hall.

Thursday, April 3

A woman called to report a car accident on the east end of Lot R. She stated that she was driving a green Ford Escape and that the other individual was driving a minivan. She said she had been backing out of a parking spot.

A staff member from DeBot called about a subject that was choking. At the time of the call he was breathing, but Dining Services called for a medical assessment. PS members reported to DeBot and an ambulance was called to the scene for further assessment.

Staff member on duty called to report an overflowing toilet in the men's bathroom on the second floor of Knutzen Hall.

Friday, April 4

Student called to report that lights in Lot Q were out. Facility Services was contacted and a message was left.

THE POINTER

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Letters to the editor can be mailed or delivered to The Pointer, 104 CAC, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or sent by e-mail to pointer@uwsp.edu. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit letters for inappropriate length or content. Names will be withheld from publication only if an appropriate reason is given.

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



Photos by Emily Hoffman

The health rankings were determined in part by health behaviors such as food choice.

Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Set to Induct Three New Members

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Bill Horvath, Clifford E. Germain, and Jay Reed are being inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame where they will be recognized for their separate careers on May 3, 2014 at 10 a.m.. The induction ceremony will happen at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point and is open to the public.

Bill Horvath, formerly the first Midwest Regional Director of the National Association of Conservation Districts, now retired, reflects upon his experience with conservation at many levels.

"I've just had a wonderful career. It is my absolute delight to have lived this life," Horvath said.

Horvath left home at age nine to work on a farm for a dollar a week. His perseverance was an early foreshadowing of the achievement of his Bachelor's degree in conservation and English with a minor in biology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Horvath was the first to graduate from UWSP with this unique degree.

"I had three advisors, one in each department. All three of them gave me the dickens for not taking enough courses in one major or another," Horvath said.

Horvath's life and career have been full. He has been involved with public policy legislation, leadership,

management and more. As a result of his involvement, Horvath made friends in high places. He was once good friends with the head of the Secret Service. He remains actively involved in his field as a volunteer now. He retired twice in his time, once in 2002 and again in 2005. Horvath always made an effort to keep his family involved in his career.

"My family got a wonderful civics lesson. I've been to every state at least once," Horvath said.

According to a news release from the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame website, Jay Reed contributed his talents as an outdoors journalist, writing for the Milwaukee Journal. Reed wrote hunting and fishing columns for 39 years, articulating the role of outdoorsmen to citizens in an aspiring way.

Earl Spangenberg, Executive Secretary at the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, reveres Reed for his influence.

"He affected a variety of people from a variety of backgrounds," Spangenberg said.

Reed died of cancer at age 73.

Clifford E. Germain had a variety of roles with the Wisconsin Conservation Department throughout his career. According to the news release from the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame website, Germain played a large part in creating a foundation for the natural community portion of the Wisconsin

National Heritage Inventory Database.

The release tells that Wisconsin is part of this nationwide system, which houses information about rare species of plants, animals, and natural communities. Germain's insight on this program have led to extensive growth within it. During his 37 years of service, the State Natural Areas program grew almost five times its original size.

Spangenberg values the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame's annual induction ceremony as a chance to recognize people like Horvath, Reed and Germain, so others may realize their impact.

"This event is another way of recognizing why conservation is important in Wisconsin," Spangenberg said.

Wisconsin is a leader in conservation policy and education.

The Hall of Fame Foundation is an organization that is composed of conservation organizations throughout the state of Wisconsin. There are 21 representatives from this organization that make up the board of directors who oversee administrative duties for the induction process.

The process of induction begins with an individual or group of individuals nominating someone. Usually this person or group of people has had a personal relationship with the nominee.

From there, biographies about the

nominees are written and are given to a board of governors. In order to qualify for this award, nominees must have dedicated a large part of their careers to Wisconsin natural resources.

"The activities for which they are nominated have to have had a significant impact on conservation management in Wisconsin," Spangenberg said.

A board of directors at the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame meets annually to choose new inductees from a list of just five people who are recommended to them. Three of these five are chosen to be inducted.

This event is not associated with UWSP, but Schmeckle Reserve is the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame's home. Here, visitors can see the gallery of inductees and a museum packed full of learning tools to educate visitors about Wisconsin conservation.

Wisconsin is a trailblazer at playing an important role in educating about conservation and management. The induction ceremony is but another important act of conservation by the state, in which these new inductees' personalized plaques will be hung on a wall next to others before them so their work can be enjoyed and recalled by Schmeckle visitors for as long as the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame should see fit.

Program Prioritization on Campus

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Many other higher education institutions face an uncertain financial future due to state support continuing to decline and student debt rising.

Future student enrollment is always unpredictable. In order to create an environment where the campus will continue to grow and meet the educational needs of students, the university must use its resources as efficiently as possible, developing long-term plans for students and the community rather than short-term solutions.

Program prioritization usually focuses on immediate fixes such as budget cuts, reducing staff, and eliminating programs. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point plans on facing these challenges proactively by focusing on realignment and innovation in order to better serve the students, families, and communities of the area.

"We are trying really hard to make program prioritization about growth and innovation, not about cutting," said Greg Summers, the provost and vice chancellor of UWSP. "On some campuses, program prioritization is a reaction to a budget problem and it becomes about cutting and trying to fill a crisis driven kind of a hole. That is not at all what we are looking at. We are trying to be proactive and we are trying to work ahead so that we do not get into that kind of budget situation."

Summers said that it is really about taking the overall enrollment of the university from around 9,600 students up to 10,000 students and figuring out how to do that with existing resources.

"You have to look at maximizing capacity of programs that you are going to resource," Summers said. "We are certainly encouraging departments, faculty, staff, students and community partners to think about streamlining programs where it makes sense where you might

want to put your resources towards a higher capacity program."

Summers says that it is not at all about cutting programs or about meeting a particular budget requirement.

"There is nothing specific that we are looking to cut," Summers said. "There could be programs that get cut, so I do not want to suggest that that is not a possibility, but that is not the mandate at all. It is likely that the UW system will take a stronger role in managing the program array within the state, but we do not know what that might look like, that is still just speculation on my part."

Summers mentioned that they have seen some hints that the regents and the UW system may want to begin to look harder at the program array and that they are certainly interested in each campus being distinct from other campuses so that there is not a duplication of effort.

"That has always been part of the mandate of the UW system," Summers said.

In order for the university's program prioritization to be successful, it must follow certain guidelines that include confronting reality and embracing change, focusing on realignment and innovation to increase enrollment and revenue, rewarding positive changes, informing decisions with data and analysis, and holding themselves accountable.

"We want to make it an ongoing thing," Summers said. "We certainly have a lot of programs and units on campus that have already been engaged in this kind of conversation. The purpose of calling the campus's attention to it is to sort of ratchet up the sense of urgency for those kinds of conversations across campus."

If it works well and it works as they are imagining it, it will hopefully become an ongoing process of continuing improvement, not just a short one time exercise.

"If this is going to work well it needs broad campus participation," Summers said.

UWSP Unveils New Parking Plan

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A new biology and chemistry building will replace Parking Lot X across from the science building, and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point must raze residences on Portage Street in order to accommodate student and faculty drivers.

The new building will remove over 100 parking metered spaces from campus. In order to begin a dialogue, UWSP officials consulted students, faculty, staff, neighbors, city officials and engineers.

Some of the options presented included creating a parking structure as well as reducing the number of student vehicles.

UWSP has, however, come to a new solution. Since the meetings began, the university has purchased one parcel of land, not previously available, that is on Portage Street adjacent to Division Street. The land the university acquired completes a full section of a block on Portage Street that can accommodate approximately 85 new parking spaces.

In addition to this purchase, the university has secured the option to purchase another parcel of land adjacent to Lot T on Fourth Avenue, providing additional access and 25 more spaces.

UWSP will replace the metered parking from Lot X to Lot Y and a portion of Lot T. Additional permitted parking may also be relocated to Lot Q.

This option is seen as more practical and cost effective.

"This is a new opportunity that allowed the campus to consider another option with a lower cost and less short-term disruption," said Carl Rasmussen, director of facility planning. "The potential of purchasing either of these parcels was thought to be unlikely during the investigation of the parking garage."

UWSP sought out the parcels of land to use for this project, but it has been stated that no homes are being lost.

"Three of the houses to be razed were already owned by the university for a number of years and were leased to students," Rasmussen said. "The students' leases expire at the end of the spring semester. The student tenants were both graduating and leaving the area or given the opportunity to lease other campus-managed houses or seek other rental housing on their own. The house that was just purchased was vacant at the time."

This change of plans came as a bit of a surprise because the parking structure passed both Student and Faculty Senate. Support was given to construct a garage on Lot T.

Rasmussen said that the

decision making process took into consideration costs and phasing of construction, how construction debt is paid off, how replacement of short-term meter parking lost in Lot X for commuters and visitors would be met, and the impact of losing additional parking in Lot T during the time a garage would be constructed.

Of all the factors considered, cost was taken into consideration most heavily. Although a parking structure will likely be necessary in the coming five to seven years, UWSP was able to postpone that decision with the purchase of this land.

"The cost differential is the driving factor," said Greg Diemer, vice chancellor for business affairs. "Students, faculty and staff did not like the significant increase that would have been necessary to construct a parking structure. The delay will give the campus the opportunity to more gradually increase rates and build a reserve which will reduce the debt service cost."

Had the construction of a parking structure began, parking permit rates would have risen dramatically.

"Students, faculty and staff will avoid the immediate impact of parking permit rates increasing by up to \$184 per year to pay off the debt of a parking garage," Rasmussen said.

By putting this plan into action, the increase in permit rates will be much more gradual.

In the near future, UWSP will be considering a proposal to raise parking rates to \$125 a year in order to cover both ongoing and immediate costs, while also setting aside funds to offset the large investment the future parking structure will require.

Convenience is also being considered with this project.

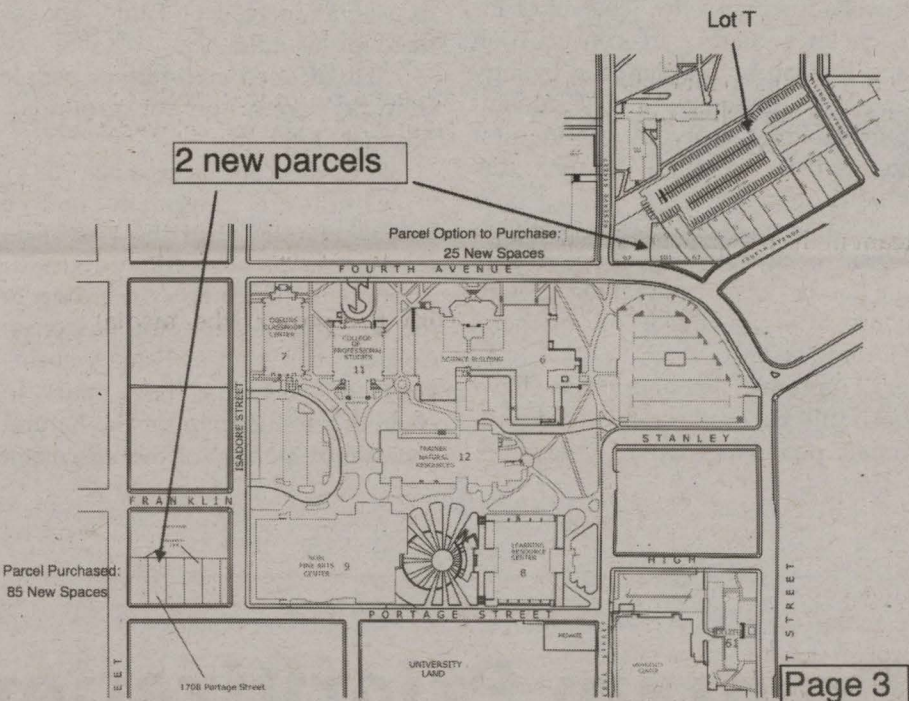
"If day-commuter permit parking is implemented as recommended in the southwest corner of Lot Q, those students will have a much shorter distance to travel to the academic center of campus than they do now," Rasmussen said.

The city of Stevens Point is completely on board with this new project.

"I think that this decision makes great use of the university's available resources," said Mayor Andrew Halverson. "This is a common sense approach that is comprehensive for both the campus and community."

This decision was made in close proximity to the approval of the new Health and Wellness Facilities project, but it is a misconception that the two projects are related.

"The parking option plan has been under discussion since fall semester," Diemer said. "It is just coincidence that it was announced after the referendum passed and has nothing to do with the new Student Recreation and Health Center."



Photos courtesy of Business Affairs Office
An aerial view of where the parking lots would be placed on campus.

Four in Storr but Tourney Broken at Core

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Commentary

When Khalid El-Amin uttered his famous "We shocked the world" to Jim Nantz and Billy Packer moments after UCONN won its first title in 1999, few could have glanced into the crystal ball and foreseen what the next 15 years would hold: four more Final Fours, three more National Titles and a program that is now tied with the Duke program it "shocked" back in 99 on the all-time championship list.

UCONN's legendary coach retired a year after being suspended for his "involvement" (or lack thereof) in the Nate Miles scandal and a program that Shabazz Napier so poignantly reminded us was just banned from the NCAA Tournament a season ago for poor academic performance.

It would be easy to celebrate Connecticut's mantle-taking 15-year run. Kevin Ollie put on a truly historic coaching show in guiding this team to victory with UCONN becoming the second-lowest seeded team in the 64-team era to take it all.

And yet, as much as Abba may be right, something about this feels wrong.

Monday night's championship game pitted one school just a year removed from its aforementioned "difficulties" against another whose much-maligned coach has already had two Final Fours at two different schools pulled from the record books for various violations. Not to mention his polarizing use of the broken one and done system.

And although we have been here before, I challenge anyone to find a title game with less appealing "characters" or even better, a title game more representative of everything that is wrong with its era.

Perhaps you knowledgeable experts will remind me of a time seemingly lost in history, an era when an entire CCNY squad and a certain Cleveland Browns Hall of Famer's brother were caught up in a "number crunching" game so egregious they were banned for life from playing in the NBA.

We have also had Jack Molinas and Eddie Biedenbach. Dana Kirk served jail time. Todd Bozeman

was out for a decade. I get it, the list goes on and on. So why pick on Connecticut and Kentucky, two pinnacles of the game?

Because clearly the best are not above reproach, in fact, it is quite the opposite.

Big Blue fans are all too used to this though, or at least they should be.

Kentucky's 1952-53 season was an undefeated gem, 0-0, thanks to what amounts as the first ever "death penalty" given to a school (you can thank Mr. Groza and Mr. Beard among others for that).

Kentucky fans need only fast-forward 35 years to understand why Eddie Sutton is not yet in the Hall of Fame (see Dwayne Casey and Chris Mills, allegedly, anyway). Oh, and no need to worry, Doug Gottlieb, if "Tark the Shark" got in having had wins pulled from two different schools (Long Beach St. and Fresno St.) and a championship game appearance pulled from a third (1991 UNLV), your beloved Coach Sutton will one day be enshrined as well.

In all of the above lies my point: not only is college basketball broken (and always has been), but the ones with the power (the media) and the ones without it (the public) not only blindly and ignorantly accept the nonsense, they instigate and perpetuate it.

Sports are not the Holy Grail. They are as representative of society (perhaps even more so) as any other facet of life, particularly when it comes to its "money conquers all" mindset.

Yes, Badger fans, I know. On the surface, your program does it the right way, at least as compared to those listed above. And Gator fans, you deserve a mention here too. Your team started four seniors without a hint of stench—recruiting, academics, or otherwise (although your coach in the past has had accusations tossed his way, but then again, what coach hasn't?).

Conceivably, a Wisconsin-Florida matchup in the final would have altered my mindset, but only temporarily.

I wish I could celebrate today, I really do. But in the face of this level of brokenness, who can? Not this guy.

Intramurals Effected by Weather

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Spring has arrived in Stevens Point and so has the weather that affects Block Four intramural outdoor sports every year.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point intramurals offer six outdoor sports every spring from Sunday-Thursday. The sports offered are flag football, soccer, ultimate frisbee, kickball, tennis and softball. Ed Richmond of campus activities and recreation describes this spring as a good spring for Block Four intramurals.

"A typical spring is usually like the spring we have this year compared to last year," Richmond said. "We usually have 1-2 weeks of delay for outdoor sports, and last spring we had about 3-4 weeks of delays."

When games are cancelled the goal of rescheduling is to make sure those cancelled games are played.

"It has been two weeks without games so we are going to double up nights, because people pay for their amount of games," Richmond said.

Cancelled games are made up as doubleheaders on the same nights based off the schedules of students.

"It is too hard to make up games on different nights because students plan their schedules around those nights, and that throws a wrench into things," Richmond said.

Sophomores Jack Simenson and Curtis Rauen say doubleheaders can be as beneficial as they are detrimental.

"It's disappointing to have cancellations but fun to have double the competition in one night," Simenson said. "Two games means there's going to be a later game and you're a little handcuffed if you have to study for a test the next day."

"Intramurals does a good job of rescheduling games," Rauen said. "Most students enjoy doubleheaders because they're playing more than one game a night."

Rescheduling games also means

rescheduling work hours for the intramurals staff. Richmond says nights can be very long if games are being made up.

"Staff can be working until midnight because they're working the scheduled games and make up games," Richmond said.

Richmond says the unpredictable weather in spring is what makes block one better for outdoor sports compared to Block Four.

"It's hard to get a gage when we think the weather is good because you can never count on Mother Nature," Richmond said.

Simenson says being outside is one of the excitements of playing Block Four.

"After a long winter, I think people are ready to go outside and be competitive," Simenson said. "It's a bonus to be outside since we haven't been since October."

Richmond credits the intramurals staff for the work they do when it comes to the weather and the long nights.

"We have a great student staff who work late for these make up games," Richmond said.

According to Richmond, the UWSP grounds department makes the decision whether games will play on their nights. Richmond says intramurals and the grounds crew work together to make sure the grounds are safe and in good shape for students to play on.

Keeping the conditions of the eight fields is also one of the goals for Block Four intramurals according to Richmond.

"We rotate the events around the field so the wear patterns are not in same spot to help keep the fields in good shape," Richmond said.

With the good weather so far Richmond says the plan is for the outdoor games to start this week with softball starting this Sunday.

"I just talked to the grounds department and they are currently painting the fields," Richmond said. "Outdoor sports start this Sunday if the weather holds up."

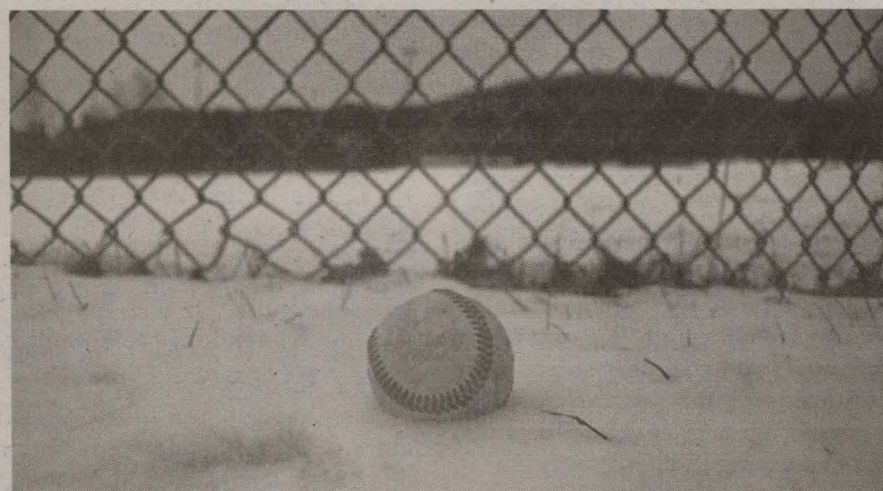


Photo courtesy of morehardball.blogspot.com



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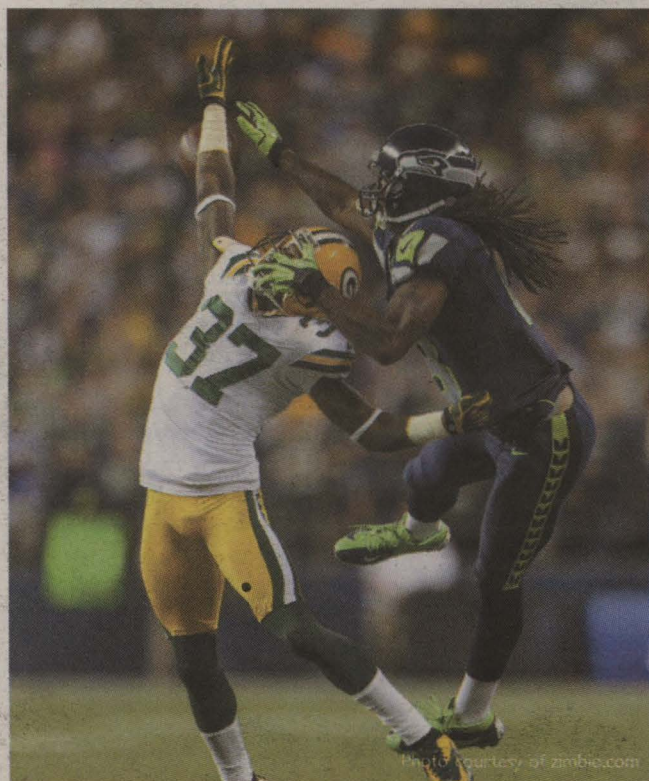
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Packers Offseason Update



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Commentary

With the NFL draft less than a month away, it is a good time to take stock of the additions and departures for the Packers and what positions still need some work.

Re-Signed

Sam Shields, CB: One of the first moves the Packers made this offseason was signing Shields to a four year \$39 million contract. The 26 year old cornerback has had his ups and downs in his four year career, but the Packers needed to secure a solid young corner to help them defend against the pass, especially when offenses depend more and more on throwing the ball. The Packers have shown that they are not afraid to give substantial contracts to young players that they have drafted and developed. Shields had four interceptions last season and 13 on his career. With teams giving cornerbacks some big contracts this offseason, this deal seems like a great signing for the Packers.

B.J. Raji, NT: With his worst season to date in 2013, it was hard to predict if Raji would come back in 2014 as a Packer, but he decided to ink a one year four million dollar contract with Green Bay. Raji initially tested the free agent market hoping for a team to sign him to a big deal, but that deal never came. Instead, Raji signed a prove-it contract so that he can test the market again next offseason. Look for Raji to have a break out year for the Pack. Really this is a win for both Raji and Green Bay. Raji can leave next season if he performs well this year, while Green Bay pays a low price for a player that has everything to prove.

John Kuhn, FB: Seeing Kuhn in a jersey beside the green and gold would just be wrong. He resigned with the Packers on a one-year deal. Besides being a fan favorite for most of his career, Kuhn provides a sure blocker in the backfield that can also catch the occasional pass or bulldoze his way into the end zone. There could not have been a big market for Kuhn in free agency because many teams do not even carry a fullback on their roster, but Kuhn has proven himself to be a key piece to the Packers offensive puzzle.

James Starks, RB: While this may not appear to be a signing worthy of note, Starks has proved to be a solid running back when he stays healthy. Starks was a great back up for rookie Eddie Lacy last season. He averaged 5.5 yards per carry, and provided a change of pace when Lacy was out. The Packers secured Starks on a two-year deal. He will continue to get at least five carries per game. He is an underappreciated runner, and has proven his worth for the Packers in the past. Starks is a good signing for depth reasons alone. If there is one thing to be sure of for the Packers, it is that there will be injuries during the season.

Additional Signings:

Mike Neal, DE/OLB
Andrew Quarless, TE
Jamari Lattimore, ILB

Key Departures

James Jones, WR: The 30 year old wide receiver finally jumped ship from the Packers, signing a contract with the Oakland Raiders. It is hard to say that the Packers passing attack will miss Jones, as the team already has too many weapons to count at wide receiver. Both Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb have proved to be elite pass catchers with Jarrett Boykin also coming into the passing game fold. The Packers could still look

to add some depth at the receiver position through the draft, but Jones's departure isn't a big blow to the team's playoff hopes this season.

Evan Dietrich-Smith, C: This has to be the biggest loss to the Packers that no one is talking about. Dietrich-Smith proved to be a stable performer on an offensive line that has had its problems for the most part of the Packers last few seasons. Dietrich-Smith was not a big name, but he got the job done, and that is why the Tampa Bay Buccaneers signed him up before the Packers could get him back. More importantly, Aaron Rodgers felt comfortable with Dietrich-Smith at Center. On their current depth chart the Packers currently list JC Tretter as their starting center. That has to be fixed before the season starts.

Other Departures:

M.D. Jennings, S
Marshall Newhouse, OT
C.J. Wilson, DE/DT
Free Agent Signings

Julius Peppers, DE: The Packers usually do not make a big splash in the free agent market, usually sticking to re-signing their own free agents and only making minor moves to shore up the rest of the roster. This year, Green Bay took a chance on one of the premier pass rushers in the league. With the Bears the last four-year, Peppers was a sack machine averaging almost ten sacks per season. Last year was a down year for Peppers, as he only registered seven sacks. The Packers obviously have a lot of trust in Peppers, as they signed him to a three year \$30 million contract. Either this is a great signing or Peppers is starting to regress as his career nears an end. The only way to find out is to wait and see.

Other Free Agent Signings:
Letroy Guion, DT

Positions of Need

Safety: The biggest area of need that the Packers have to address this offseason is the safety position. The defensive backfield was a mess last season, mainly due to the Packers safety position's poor execution. There are not a lot of impact free agent safeties remaining, but the draft should produce a couple of standout players in Alabama's Ha Ha Clinton-Dix and Louisville's Calvin Pryor. If either player is there in the first round at the Packers pick at 21, they could scoop up their safety of the future.

Center: The Packers have to make the offensive line a priority, especially the center position where no true answer is currently on the roster. The Packers have to protect their franchise player in Aaron Rodgers. The center position is one of the most important positions on the offense, as they call out all of the blocking adjustments for the offensive line. The Packers will have to sign a free agent or use a high draft pick in order to provide Rodgers with a center that he is comfortable playing with.

Tight End: With Jermichael Finley now a free agent that is not looking at returning to the Packers as an option, Green Bay must improve the tight end position and provide Rodgers with a solid pass catcher that can make the tough catch in the middle of the defense and also go over the top and beat out slow linebacker in man coverage. This year's draft provides a lot of options at tight end with at least five players that could step in right away and start for the Packers in their high-powered offense.

Other Team Needs:
Linebacker Depth
Backup Quarterback

Continued from page 1

and interactive way," said senior Kristina Schultz. "I got involved in the collection crawl three years ago through the herpetology society. The herpetology has live animals out that visitors can learn about and even touch! We had live animals, a walk through tour of 410, preserved specimens in room 400, face paint and coloring."

The UWSP Museum of Natural History was originally founded in 1968 as an exhibit for the biology, archaeology and geology collections held by the university.

The museum now hosts over 400,000 specimens and is constantly growing thanks to the efforts of the students and faculty research. Usually around 700 specimens are on display at any given time.

There are also several research and teaching collections not available to the public that include collections from the following areas: anthropology, archaeology, botany, entomology, geology, herpetology,

ichthyology, mammalogy, ornithology, paleontology and parasitology.

Students with interest in certain collection areas can get involved in the museum through paid work study positions, paid and unpaid academic internships, and volunteer positions.

There are also positions available in the museum store. Students can gain valuable retail experience, experience dealing with museum visitors, acting as docents within the museum, creating and presenting natural science programming to K-12 and adult museum audiences and assisting in the creation of exhibit related graphics and scientifically accurate informational signage for upcoming rotating and permanent displays.

The Museum of Natural History also is very active in the community. The outreach and service program serves over 100 school districts in the area and northern part of the state.



Photos by Emily Hoffmann

(Top) Stevens Point locals Emily Longo, Jojo Longo, and Micah Grey learn about painted turtles. (Bottom) Lexi Egle, 12; Talin Egle, 8; and their grandmother Mary Egle check out the geology portion of the Museum of Natural History.

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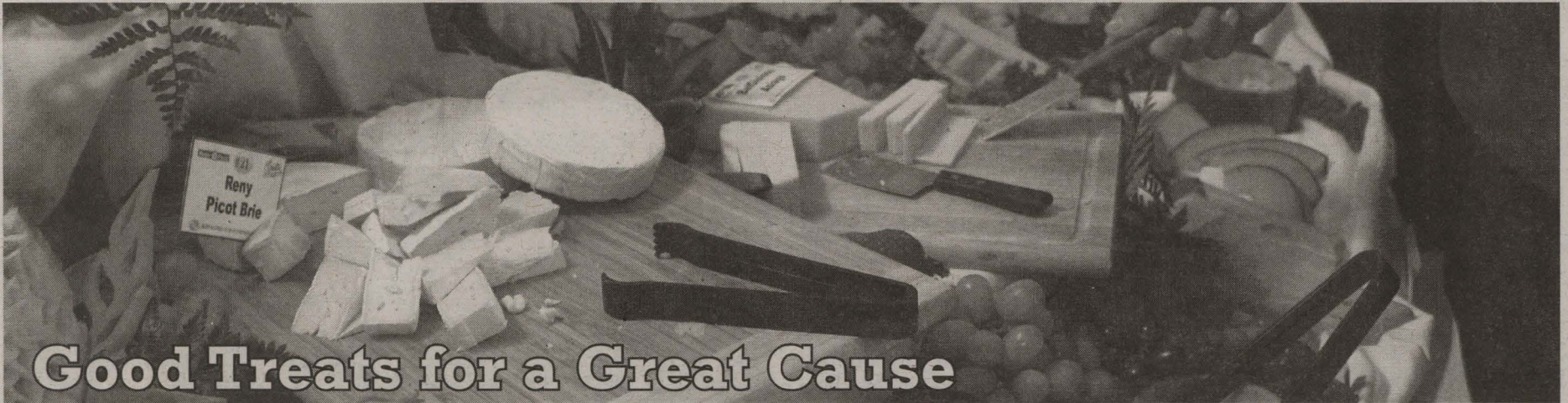
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Colleges



Good Treats for a Great Cause

AARON VOEKS

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The Noel Group Hanger of the Stevens Point Municipal Airport was buzzing with life for the Boys and Girls Club's annual Taste of Wine and Cheese event Friday, April 4.

Hundreds of people gathered in the hanger to sample the various treats described on their website as "featuring over 100 wines from around the world, more than a dozen specialty cheeses, hand crafted beers, delicious desserts, and a special bourbon to celebrate our tenth anniversary."

Lauren Nelsen, a student in the communication major at the University Wisconsin-Stevens Point is the public relations and marketing intern for the Boys and Girls Club in Portage County.

"This event is put on to fundraise money for the youth programs provided by the Boys and Girls Club of Portage County," Nelsen said.

Tickets to the event were \$60 and it also featured a raffle and silent auction, in addition to the many featured delicacies.

Because the Taste of Wine and

Cheese is such a large event, there were a number of people involved to bring it all together.

"An event like this is the kind where you need all hands on deck. It takes a team effort. All the staff and interns really helped bring it together," Nelsen said.

Many local businesses and organizations helped to sponsor the event. Major sponsors included Delta Dental of Wisconsin, Rockman's Catering, Spectra Print, The Noel Group, Travel Guard, Trig's, and more. There were also a vast array of other sponsors that helped to provide the goods that were available for tasting.

The event was attended by over 800 people, which Nelsen called "nothing short of spectacular."

"The things we have heard from the community is that this isn't just a fun event, but helps to raise money for a wonderful cause," Nelson said.

With so many great things to eat and drink and with all the money going to such a good cause, the Boys and Girls Club's Taste of Wine and Cheese event is certainly one to be remembered.



Photo by Morgan Schwantz

(Top) An array of fruits and cheese at the Portage County Taste of Wine and Cheese.
(Bottom) A guest tries some wine at the event.

Facebook Walls Covered by New 'Tagging' Socialization

JULIA FLAHERTY

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Facebook walls have been taken over in the last few months by what people are calling drinking tags and no-makeup tags.

Drinking tags involve making a short video of yourself drinking an alcoholic beverage and then tagging at least three friends in the video to do the same. Friends have 24 hours to complete the task.

The no-makeup tag follows a similar process where a person takes a self portrait, also called a selfie, then tags at least three friends to do the same. They also have 24 hours to complete the task.

Although these activities have different intentions, they seem to be attracting students equally.

Forrest Payne, a junior in the media studies emphasis of the communication major at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, feels that the drinking tag is just fun, but might not be for everyone.

"It is nothing serious, there is no penalty. I would not say it makes a lot

of parents proud. It is definitely just a college thing," Payne said.

While Payne sees little harm in the activity, Natasha Powell, a junior pursuing the interpersonal and organizational communication emphasis of the communication major feels differently.

"I feel that the people who tag others should not be tagging people who are underage. There is a right and wrong way to it. I think people just need to be aware of the consequences," Powell said.

Aside from the possible legal implications that could arise from the tags, Powell also commented about how playing with the drinking tags could reflect future job outlooks for students.

"There is a risk with future employers. I do not know if people realize there are implications," Powell said.

Whereas Powell believes the drinking tags could inhibit bad professional status for students, she says that the no-makeup tags are more proactive.

"I think the no-makeup tags

are a more positive outlook than the drinking tags. This shows off your more natural self. It shows real beauty," Powell said.

The no-makeup tags originated to give people a chance to support cancer research. There is speculation, however, that this activity has transgressed into an excuse, especially for women, to 'snap a selfie' for vanity.

According to dailymail.co.uk it was 18-year-old Fionna Cunningham who encouraged people to give money with their selfies using the hashtag '#nomakeupselfie' to spread awareness across the web. Cunningham received an astonishing 260,000 likes on Facebook from people across the world with her first picture. She is widely credited for starting the phenomenon.

Her inspiration drew from Hitchcock actress, Kim Novak, who posted a makeup-free selfie on social media following her appearance at the 2014 Oscars ceremony. Novak suffered from breast cancer in October 2010, but recovered after completing cancer treatments.

McKenzie Slack, an elementary

education junior at UWSP, realizes how the craze might have run astray from its original intention.

"The purpose of this is supposedly to spread awareness for cancer research, but I think mainly it is just for fun. I don't really see how a no-makeup picture can spread awareness for such a thing," Slack said.

According to Powell and Slack, the no-makeup tag has attracted a larger demographic, unlike the drinking tag that has taken focus on a collegiate demographic.

"I have seen other ages engage in this activity from high school age to late 40s," Slack said.

Powell exhibited similar feelings.

"I have seen lots of people doing it, older and younger," Powell said.

It seems that people have moved on from the children's backyard game of tag to a new more specific and purposeful form of tagging socialization. Whether that is for fun or awareness, it appears that students at UWSP will continue to play.

WWSP 90FM Gears Up for 'Trivia on 45'

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With this year's annual trivia contest starting on April 11 and running through the 13, WWSP 90 FM has been under a whirlwind of preparatory activities and looks forward to another successful year.

Just as the 45 rpm records did back in the day, this year's trivia contest is bound to shake things up with nostalgia.

"I started to think about Hits on 45, and it just hit me. Trivia on 45," said Jim Oliva, trivia coordinator. "45 records exploded the music industry. They were smaller, lightweight and cheaper to produce than 78 rpm records."

Every year since 1979, Oliva has come up with the theme for the world's largest trivia contest.

"The theme for every year develops from whatever is inspiring

me that particular moment in time," Oliva said. "I usually have dozens of ideas floating around in my head and have to narrow it down. My brain is constantly racing."

For Oliva, preparation is a year-round task.

"I am always taking notes and thinking about questions all year long. Just last night I was working on a question for next year," Oliva said.

Oliva develops questions from a wide variety of sources so they will be unique and original.

"John Eckendorf and I spend way too much money buying stuff," Oliva said. "I buy movie packages, old DVD's of programs, music, books and magazines."

Oliva, along with the 90FM executive staff and many other volunteers, put in long hours preparing for the event.

"We have a great executive staff this year made up of motivated

individuals working together, and that has streamlined the planning," said Daniel Waterman, 90 FM station manager.

The station has worked diligently with other student organizations to promote this year's contest.

"Centertainment and PRSSA have done a really awesome job promoting the event, and we hope to see a good turnout," Waterman said.

The station is hoping to see a surge in student participation this year.

"It is not about winning the contest, or how many questions you get right or beating anyone, it is about having fun," Oliva said. "I really encourage students to participate. Get together with a group of friends, play out of your dorm or house, and just have a good time."

Oliva said that trivia teams have a unique bond. While it is easy to lose contact with old high school friends,

he will never lose his trivia friends.

"This is my fourth year participating in the contest, and it is a great opportunity to get back together with old friends and just have fun," said junior biology major Brock McCain.

The annual Trivia Kick-off Parade begins Friday at 4 p.m. in Lot Q at Fourth Avenue and Illinois Avenue. It continues on Maria Drive, Isadore and Portage Streets to College Avenue, Reserve, High and Fremont Streets to Sims Avenue, ending at P.J. Jacobs Junior High School.

The contest will run for 54 hours straight, from 6 p.m. on Friday, April 11 to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 13.

"As I say every year, it is that time of year. We are coming out of a long and hard winter, and it's time to gather around the radio and play Trivia, Fast Eddy," Oliva said.

International Dinner Reminds Students to Live Again

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The International Club brought a variety of cultures together for an evening of food and entertainment during the 44th annual International Dinner on Saturday, April 5.

The International Club's purpose is to promote and encourage an exchange of culture throughout the nations by providing opportunities for friendship, understanding, and the social interests of its members.

"We had students from many different countries participate in the event, whether it was through performing during the entertainment portion or providing a recipe for a dish to be featured for dinner," said Sayaka Schatzke, a senior double majoring in communication and international studies.

Parth Dogra is in charge of public relations for the club and said this year's dinner theme was "vintage."

"Our slogan was 'to remember is to live again'," Dogra said. "To prepare the decorations, we basically selected our own 18 or 20 peace activists from different countries."

Each table at the dinner had a name. For example, there was Nelson Mandela from South Africa, Martin Luther King Jr. from the U.S., Gandhi from India, and Bob Marley from Jamaica.

"The purpose of the dinner is to bring together all the transfer students and give them an opportunity to perform. It also gives an opportunity to the community and students who come to interact with them and get

to know about their culture," Dogra said.

The event began with a social hour at 5 p.m. when people could get to know each other.

During the social hour, many different appetizers from various countries were featured, giving guests a chance to taste food they may have not eaten before.

The fashion show also occurred then, and traditional dresses were showcased.

"That's basically how they interact and get to know about different countries, so it's a great idea to have that social hour," Dogra said.

There was also a flag of nations where different country's flags were waved by students.

"Some students wave their own flag for their country," Dogra said. "For that we had some speeches from the vice chancellor and president."

Dinner followed the social at 6:30 p.m.

"Dinner basically consisted of dishes from various countries since it's an international club," Dogra said. "We tried to bring dishes and talk to students who could prepare traditional dishes from their own country."

By serving traditional dishes from various countries, guests learned which foods they have and get a taste of other cultures.

"We had a Japanese dish and an Indian dish and four or five different appetizers," Dogra said. "We have a guy from Ghana in the International Club who prepared an African appetizer and we had two beverages:



Photo by Emily Hoffmann

Anika Tahsin Sardar Sheela performs a Bengali dance.

one Saudi Arabian beverage and a ginger tea. So there were a lot of dishes and variety."

Following the dinner was an entertainment portion at 7:30 p.m.

"We had performances, which were all the dances from International students, but there was no criteria that you had to be international," Dogra said. "It just had to be a student who could perform, we just reach out to

transfer students first."

Tickets, which cost \$12 for students, were sold out two weeks prior to the event.

"We are so fortunate to have members of the community that support International Club so strongly each year and are so thankful to everyone who attends," Schatzke said.

CLASSIFIEDS AND OPINIONS

A Taste of New Zealand

SCOTT MORIN

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After the longest flight of my life, I could not help but grin from ear to ear as I viewed the area around me from a shuttle. I had no clue where I was or where I was headed, but I enjoyed the ride from someone who fortunately did.

Rolling hills golden with grass filled the landscape. Enlightened, intrigued, curious and nervous were all very apparent when I arrived, but mostly excitement and a sense of empowerment with the world at my fingertips. With no perception of the distance I had gone, I felt as though home was only a short drive away. The world seemed a little smaller, maybe even more manageable.

I soon began to feel welcome and comfortable enough to explore the area around me, while noticing the subtle differences. No bus ride would be complete without thanking the driver with a simple "Cheers".

Supermarkets were nearly identical for the most part, except shelves stocked with L&P Lemonade, an international brand, Marmite spread, and pineapple lumps. Pounamu carvings, pendants and jewelry of Maori influence fill shops like ornaments on a tree right next to the vibrantly colorful Paua shells.

Tiki gods of all colors, sizes and varying facial expressions appeared to be made of a combination of the two.

Nearly all city and street names are Maori. How does one pronounce them? Your guess is as good as mine. Paekakariki, Whatuwhiwhi, Whangamomona, Huiakama, Whangarei. Everything just runs together so fast, the word is there and gone before you know it. Good luck telling others the places you have visited.

It sounds as though Kiwis do not pronounce their Rs at all, but I seem to find them mysteriously somewhere at the end of words like "no" and "idea" in a mumbled manner. Cs tend to run thick in words like lecture. Bear, beer and bare are indistinguishable.

What do I miss most of all? The coffee. I hope you are not too keen on American coffee because you will

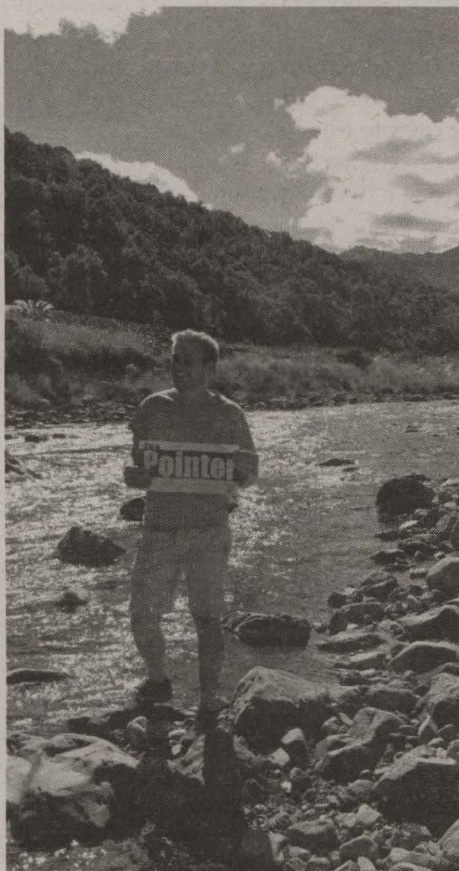


Photo courtesy of Scott Morin

only find espresso or instant coffee, never satisfying your dying thirst.

Aside from the little things, the landscape was incredible. I have not seen a lot, but what I have seen was great.

The Pancake rocks on the coast stand tall and proud, greeting all of their visitors from around the world as the immensely powerful waves only seem to make a minor splash at their feet.

The Franz Josef Glacier illuminated the clouds rolling through the mountains with a blue aura as the sounds of the crashing river and waterfalls it feeds fill the air. The rolling hills just outside the plains shimmer in golden grass and host hundreds of sheep.

The "Wild West" Coast was amazing. Untouched and unbothered, the west coast has huge, unrelenting waves that tumble onto shore.

Each and every rock or piece of marine debris is tumbled until perfectly smooth and round by the waves. Sea lions play in pools of water near the rocks, or in the surf on waves nearby for tourists to see.

Just to think, I still have much more to see on my upcoming travels.

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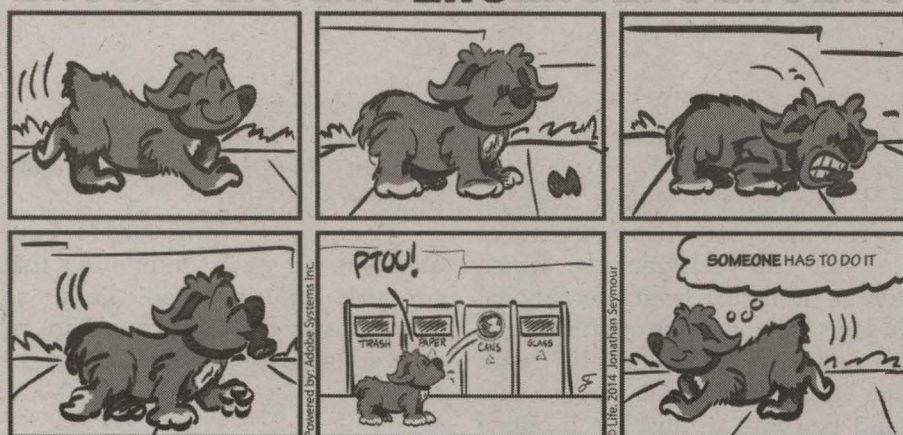
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LifeLifeLifeLifeLife By Jonathan Seymour



PUZZLES

"Aint Nobody Got Time For This" Crossword

by Parker Smith

Pointer

Operatic climax

Pay debt; ___ plasma

Not a dorm

About a pinch

To possess

Deadman's list

Audacity

Inspired by USA Today QuickCross

Double Take

by Kiah Hardy

1. OPEN

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8. SODA

Clues:

1. Chest related surgery
2. Nirvana's box
3. What Danny did for Sandy
4. Football drill
5. Duck-stuffed headrest
6. Sleep over activity
7. Palahniuk novel
8. Drink used for stains

"Aint Nobody Got Time For This" Crossword

by Parker Smith

Campus bunker

English noble

Northwoods brass

After finals plan

sighted

2009 musical

and the Man

Heartbreaker

Inspired by USA Today QuickCross

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16		
17					18				19			
		20				21				22		
	23	24				25		26		27		
28				29		30		31				
32			33		34			35		36	37	38
40					41				42			
43						44				45		
			46		47		48		49		50	
	51	52				53		54		55		
56				57			58		59			
60			61				62			63	64	65
66					67			68				
69						70			71			

Puzzle by Kiah Hardy

Across

1. Robert Redford's celebrity status
6. Hindu Mister
10. French Sudan, today
14. A flavor that sometimes describes old men
15. "C'est la vie"
16. Adjacent
17. Political entity that covered a large portion of Europe, centered on Germany, from 962 to 1806
20. Irish boy
21. Rajah's wife
22. A way to be lighted or witted
23. Name for small piano
26. Concaved or convexed
28. Taunting cry
29. Ivan the Terrible or Peter the Great, e.g.
31. ___-tac-toe
32. Galileo's birthplace
34. Merlin, e.g.
36. Nilotic ethnic group of Kenya
40. Unnecessary endeavors
43. Arrive, as darkness
44. 18-wheeler
45. Leave in a hurry, with "out"
46. Death on the Nile cause, perhaps
48. The second number in a team's record (singular)
50. Compete for, especially attention
51. They drive kleptos and pyros
54. Go back into business
56. Distress signal
57. ___ or False questions
59. ___ v. Wade
60. Collecting this item is called "deltiology"
66. Metal thought to repel ghosts in some folklore

67. Negative scent
68. Person who calls a cab from the sidewalk
69. Little known verb conjugation meaning "to obtain"
70. Makeup, e.g.
71. Foe

Down

1. Pokemon show's main trainer
2. Ancient Chinese philosopher, ___-tzu
3. Under the weather
4. Pointed instruments
5. Autocrat
6. Emeril's catchphrase
7. Apple spray
8. Lacking originality
9. Online newsgroup system
10. Dora the Explorer's redundant friend
11. What the Dude doesin "he Big Lebowski" (singular)

10. Dora the Explorer's redundant friend
11. What the Dude doesin "he Big Lebowski" (singular)
12. Sensational
13. Any thing
18. Ukraine's third largest city
19. British name for half-notes
23. English county
24. Assume as fact
25. Asian weight units
27. Diving duck
28. Chooses, with "in" or "out"
30. Unattracted atom
33. Birdlike
35. Gossip starter
37. It doesn't hold water
38. Saved on supper, perhaps
39. "Cast Away" setting
41. Undisturbed
42. Choirs may stand on them
47. Pirate's pal
49. Gently calm
51. Wavelike design
52. Scarf-like tie
53. Leather with a napped finish
55. Common ice cream or pie flavor
56. "Wheel of Fortune" choice
58. Ancient Greek for word, song, or epic
61. ACDC acronym song
62. Crumb
63. Pub order
64. "Losing My Religion" rock group
65. Arid

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Perception Project Raises Questions about Human Senses

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The Perception Project is a series of talks and performances centering around the concept of perception, offering audiences opportunities to challenge what they know about the senses.

Several professors have already spoken on their subjects, ranging from philosophy to creative media. The project was conceived by Professor Brendon Caldwell of the music department. He wanted to make the audience examine their habits of perception and how it influences performances.

"I think it was in first grade that I first questioned perception," Caldwell said. "I wanted to create a project that might change someone's life."

A few special guests visited the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point earlier this year including Dame Evelyn Glennie, a deaf percussionist, and Brenda Bufalino, a tap dancer.

Caldwell invited professors

to participate in the challenge to question perception. One was Dona Warren, a professor of philosophy.

Her presentation titled, "Doing Philosophy, Telling Stories, And..." was about analyzing perception with philosophical ideals. In her lecture, she took us through perceptions of reality and how they might be skewed.

"To be is to be perceived," was the text on the first slide, a translation of a famous quote from George Berkeley.

She posed a question to the audience - can we really trust our senses?

"We could be hallucinating all of this. Reality could be all in our heads," Warren said.

She challenged the audience, asking questions and receiving answers about why we may or may not be hallucinating our entire world.

"By perceiving something, we give it value," Warren said. "We do this through telling stories. We are our own Perception Project."

Another professor lecturing is Alex Ingersoll of the communication

department. His presentation is Thursday, April 10 and is titled, "Vague Space/Time and the Brothers Quay."

He will analyze the works of the identical twin Quay brothers, a pair of stop-motion animators. The brothers were born in Philadelphia but were raised in London where they started making films. Their films are known for being spooky, quirky and surreal.

Ingersoll will focus on three of the Quay animations, "The Cabinet of Jan Svankmajer," "Street of Crocodiles," and "Nocturna Artificialia." These stop-motion animations are made mostly with puppets.

"Media has a big effect on how we perceive time and space," Ingersoll said. "It effects how we connect and communicate."

He will analyze the way the Quay brothers structure time and space in their animations and how this skews our perception.

The audience does not need any prior knowledge of the Quay brothers

to participate in Ingersoll's lecture.

"We're going to explore them together," Ingersoll said. "The most important thing about them is that they raise more questions than answers."

The lecture will focus on connecting history and theory and applying them to the animations.

"Plus they're awesome," Ingersoll said. "There's a certain kind of magic in it."

The Perception Project is all about changing the way the world is viewed.

"Even if you go deaf, you can listen," Caldwell said. "Listening and hearing are not the same thing. Perceptions are always shifting, and the essence of education is about examining our habits of perception. Learning is having our perception jolted. It is a change in the way you see the world."

More events from The Perception Project are happening throughout the semester. A full list of performances and talks can be found on the COFAC webpage.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Photo by Morgan Schwantz

Art Profits Students and Professionals Alike

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Last Sunday, the Noel Fine Arts Center was filled to the brim with artists from all around Wisconsin and the surrounding states exhibiting their work for the Stevens Point Festival of the Arts.

The festival took place in the courtyard of the NFAC with 50 artists utilizing all of its available space on both the first and second floors. The art on display included paintings, pictures, leather works, handcrafted wood pieces, and more.

The Festival of the Arts is a chance for artists to not only display their

work, but also to sell it. For an artist to exhibit their work, they must apply and give samples of what they have done. From there, the best artists are selected and invited to the event.

Aryn Kern, a woodcrafter from Little Falls, Minn., was amongst those selected to attend.

"This is a high quality art show with exhibitors that have very fine hand crafted goods," Kern said. For Kern, attending shows such as this is a way of life.

"We have been doing this full time since 2006," Kern said.

Kern is not the only artist who finds shows such as the Festival of the Arts instrumental to her career. Tom Lazar, a nature photographer from

Brookfield, was also amongst those selling work.

"I've participated in this show for well over a decade," Lazar said. "It always gets a decent art savvy crowd."

However, The Festival of the Arts does not exist to only provide for artists, it also has a big impact on students. Mark Brueggeman, a professor in the Art and Design Department, talked about this impact.

"The artists generously donate works for a silent auction which provides scholarship awards for students in theater & dance, music, art & design, and communication," Brueggeman said.

This event draws a crowd

anywhere between 1200 and 2000 people and was very well attended this year.

"Community members are quite vocal in their anticipation of the event and their return to the festival annually speaks well for their response," Brueggeman said.

The Stevens Point Festival of the Arts is considered to be a quality event by artists, community members, and students alike. With the chance for both vendors and students to profit, The Festival of the Arts is a great event for both the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the community.

LGBTQ Characters Rise on Television

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The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation released their Network Responsibility Index rates for the 2012-2013 television season earlier this year, giving various television networks less than excellent ratings.

These scores provide insight, among a pool of information, as to how television networks might improve their lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer character representation to help increase audience understanding of the LGBTQ community.

Matt Kane, the Associate Director of Entertainment Media for GLAAD, said that networks are not under a certain obligation to push their characters to self identify as LGBTQ.

"I think that networks are under the obligation to represent characters as they are. We actually don't use the word preference. It's what words the characters choose to use to self identify by," Kane said.

Kane recognizes that self

identifying is only one part of the LGBTQ movement.

"There are a lot of shows that do a great job representing LGBTQ characters. I think the most important thing is that we are represented. We need to be depicted alongside other characters," Kane said.

GLAAD gave ABC, ABC Family, The CW, FOX, MTV, NBC, and Showtime good ratings in their Network Responsibility Index score, while CBS, FX, HBO, TLC, TNT, and USA were scored as adequate. History and TBS received failing scores. No networks received an excellent score.

While Kane emphasizes the importance of LGBTQ character presence, he urges for representation in a fuller format. He desires qualitative progression as well as quantitative.

"We want media to depict us in our full diversity," Kane said.

Kane wants audiences to see that LGBTQ characters come from a variety of backgrounds and ethnicities and have different economic standings and upbringings. He feels that with more truth, more awareness for the

LGBTQ community will come.

Alex Purdy, LGBTQ* student assistant at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, feels that many LGBTQ characters are sensationalized and stereotypical in current media.

"The media definitely plays on a lot of stereotypes," Purdy said.

Purdy emphasizes how awareness for the LGBTQ community is crucial.

"We're getting there and it's positive, but it's still important we take awareness to it," Purdy said.

Purdy explained that when networks imply homosexuality without using specific terminology, it is called queer-baiting or gay-baiting. He notes the BBC's 'Sherlock' does this between characters Sherlock Holmes and John Watson.

Purdy admires openly gay actor Neil Patrick Harris, but would like to feel the same toward a television character.

"I think we need to see more LGBTQ characters outside the comedic genre," Purdy said.

Alex Ingersoll, an assistant professor of media studies at UWSP,

said that there is more fluidity in television now than in past years with support of the LGBTQ community.

"Television is still one of the primary modes of representation in popular culture. In the last decade, there has been a normalization of ideas. I think you're seeing a supporting fluidity," Ingersoll said.

Ingersoll said that LGBTQ characters are becoming more fluid in gender and sexuality.

"These characters are more dynamic. By focusing on this type of fluidity, it shifts public thinking," Ingersoll said.

He said that gay marriage and human rights are considered more now than ever, especially among a younger generation whose ideas may impact new media.

Kane hopes more characteristics outside of gender and sexuality emerge in every genre for characters in the LGBTQ community.

"We are part of this world, and we deserve to be part of the stories that are told about it," said Kane.