

the pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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December 4, 2014

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Volume 59 | Issue 13

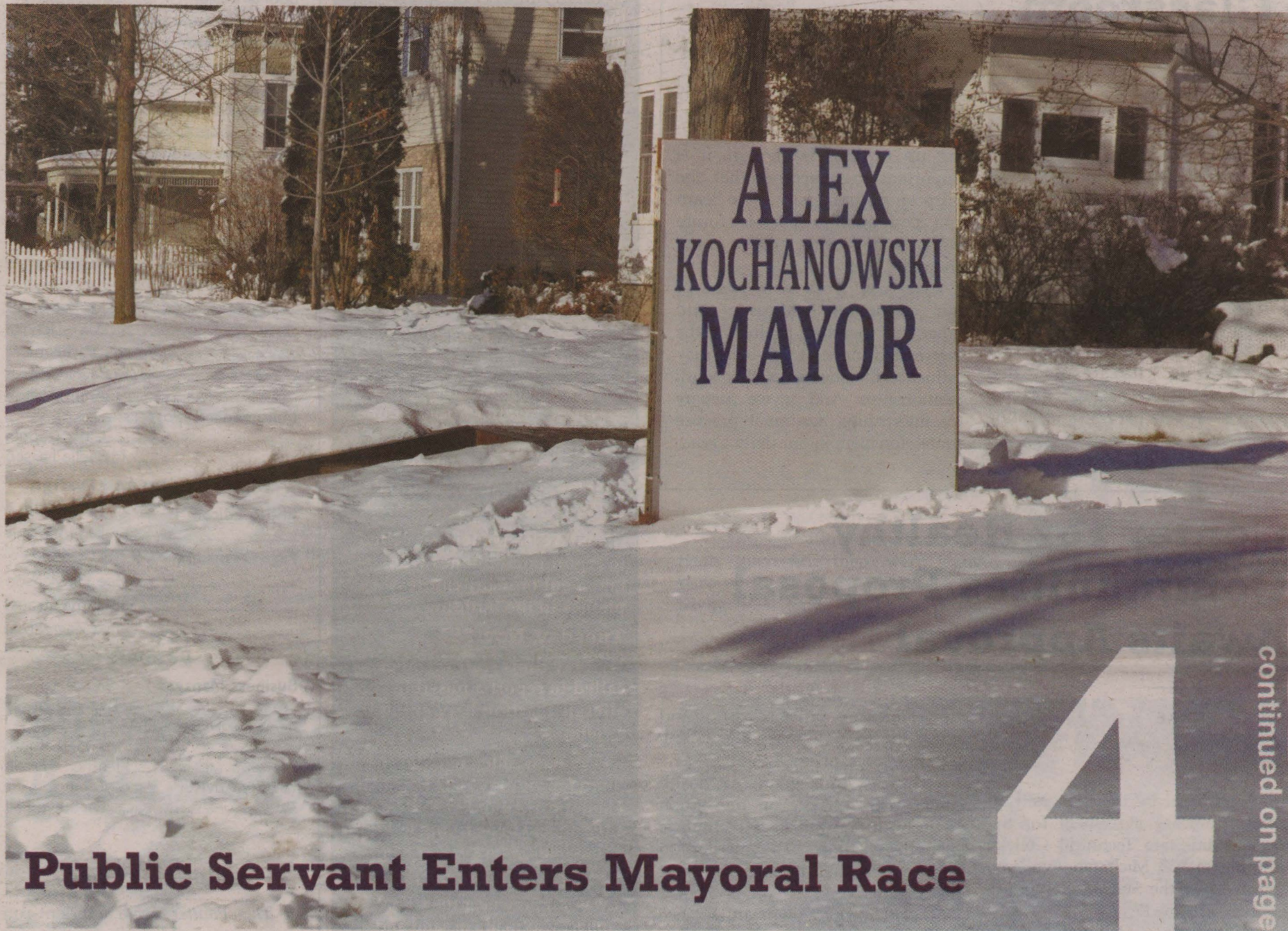


Photo by Emily Hoffmann

Public Servant Enters Mayoral Race

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Stevens Point School Board member Alex Kochanowski has confirmed plans to run for mayor of Stevens Point and intends to be on the ballot in the April 7 election.

Kochanowski will be running against businesswoman Barb Jacob

and City Council members Mike Wiza, Tony Patton and Jerry Moore.

"If we don't take steps into the future, the past will swallow us up," Kochanowski said.

Kochanowski believes there is a solution for every problem and thinks the city should take small steps toward solving problems for the future.

Currently, the 35-year-old father

of four works as a driver for the city transit service.

Kochanowski grew up in Stevens Point. After graduating high school, he spent time in the Navy, worked as yardmaster for a railroad company, was building and grounds manager at a Plover church and pursued careers in nursing and law enforcement including the Stevens Point Police Auxiliary. He

even spent time hobby farming in Almond.

"I am a public servant," Kochanowski said. "I find that to be an area I enjoy."

Kochanowski was elected with majority vote to be a school board member last spring. He enjoys duties that come with the position, but feels his potential for "doing positive, good work" is limited.

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EDITORIAL

Students Should Maintain Professionalism in Classroom

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Student professional life starts in the classroom. It's where students make connections for the future and learn necessary skills taught in the textbook and out.

Students should be comfortable in class. It seems lately, though, that many have become too comfortable.

Wearing sweatpants that closely resemble pajamas, playing games on cell phones and eating huge bags of fast food in class has become the norm. It's now okay for

students to treat the classroom like home.

While some believe that showing up to class is enough, it is important to remember that the purpose of university is to learn and acquire skills needed for future work. Simply being present is not enough.

We may work with some of our colleagues, professors and other staff members again, and the impression made at this level may influence the success of that work relationships. And as we prepare for internships, we must practice professionalism in our daily lives.

Center For Healthy Communities Proposal Awaits Approval

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A proposal by the university to develop a lease agreement for the former Mid-State Technical College building at 933 Michigan Ave. was approved by the Stevens Point City Council on Nov. 17.

A need to find space for the growing health care program prompted the proposal which, if approved by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents and the State Building Commission, will allow the city-owned building to be leased for 10 years at \$100,000 annually. At the end of the lease, the university will have the option to buy the property for \$1.39 million after July 1, 2017.

The building will be named Center for Healthy Communities and would serve as a classroom facility and community center where health science students would be allowed experience-based learning by working with people from the community.

"There is a need for health care workers in almost all areas," said Marty Loy, the Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Professional Studies.

"Our faculty is spread and we are at capacity," Loy said. "Students have really just demanded those programs."

Currently, health science classes are held in the science and CPS buildings. A new space will open

up room for other classes, and according to Loy, make the UWSP nursing program a possibility.

The idea for a community health center with a focus on prevention came from the university's strategic planning sessions. The mission to help communities thrive and support the region could be accomplished partially by improving health science programs.

Administrators realized to make a community center, they would need to maximize its accessibility to the public.

"They're afraid to come on campus," Loy said.

Loy said the proposed building's location would provide easy access to public while remaining close to campus.

"If anything, it extends the campus," Loy said. "It builds opportunities."

According to Loy, the services at Delzell Hall will remain unchanged and existing collaborations with health care students may expand.

The building will need upgrades and remodeling before tentatively opening in 2016. New classrooms will require sophisticated lab and medical equipment that could be installed during the renovation process as early as spring 2015, according to a university press release.

Loy said the building is a good fit because it was built for an educational setting and major renovations throughout are not necessary.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Sunday, Nov. 23

Staff member from the suites called to report a room that was very loud and sounded as if there was a party going on. Three members had left the room looking heavily intoxicated.

Male called to report he had been hit by an airsoft rifle from a vehicle passing on Reserve Street near Smith. Caller stated the vehicle looked to be a green truck with suspended tires.

Burroughs Staff member called to report a marijuana incident with two individuals.

Monday, Nov. 24

Caller requested PS be on the lookout for a suicidal male.

CCC staff member called to report a wallet found in one of the lecture halls.

New graffiti was spotted near the south staircase of the NFAC. It says, "I used to love."

NFAC staff member called to report microphones were taken out of many courtesy phones in the building.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Pray Sims staff member called to report a possible allergic reaction happening in a room.

Student called to request a jump for his gray 2009 Hyundai Elantra parked in Lot P. He and a friend had been trying to jump it, but had no luck.

Staff member called to report it was slippery near the CPS. Contact was made to sand and salt near academic buildings.

Wednesday, Nov. 26

PS assisted student with a jump pack.

PS assisted Smith staff member retrieve property.

Thursday, Nov. 27

There was a call from a Code Blue phone in Lot Q. The call was lost.

Student requested to be let in 90FM. They were not on the admit list and were advised to call their supervisor and have them call back.

Friday, Nov. 28

Officer patrolled southern part of campus.

Student called to be let into the NFAC. He was on the admit list and officers were sent to meet him.

Saturday, Nov. 29

Officer patrolled Schmeeckle parking lot.

THE POINTER

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The Pointer is printed Thursdays during the academic year with a circulation of 3,000 copies. The paper is free to all tuition-paying students. Non-student subscription price is \$10 per academic year.

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*.

Employee Wellness Affects University

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The Employee Wellness Initiative is working to enrich and support healthy lives of faculty and staff to implement the university's well-known seven aspects of wellness from the inside out.

"It's like telling someone else to clean their house while yours is still dirty," said Sallie Scovill, a health promotion professor.

Students on campus are encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle through programs by Student Health Services, a student fitness facility and the desire to provide sustainable food options. It is possible employees are being overlooked when it comes to wellness support.

"We've never had a full-time wellness program coordinator," Scovill said. "It's always been a challenge to find dedicated individuals willing to step up."

Since the plan has not yet been implemented, ideas regarding how the coordinator would go about promoting healthy exercise and eating habits are circulating.

"They could set up an exercise competition in which there would be incentives in place that could motivate each department as a team," said English Professor Lynn

Ludwig.

Ludwig said when employees demonstrate healthy exercise and eating habits, they are acting as great examples for students and the community.

According to a 2005 study performed by health professor Jim McKenna, exercise causes an overall work performance boost of almost 15 percent.

"Employees who exercise will possess higher retention of information, less stress and increased job satisfaction," Scovill said. "There would also be a decrease in presenteeism, which is when people are physically at work but not there mentally."

Scovill said Faculty Senate, classified staff, and Student Government Association have passed separate resolutions supporting the Employee Wellness Initiative. The major hurdle is finding the funds to support it.

"I see this initiative as a huge recruitment tool," Scovill said. "I think by promoting our university as a wellness campus, we could bring in more publicity and therefore more students."

The next step is taking this implementation plan to the leadership team and strategic planning team and coming up with creative ways to fund a new program.



Photo by Emily Hoffmann

Physical activity is one of the aspects of wellness included in the Employee Wellness Initiative.

Nation's Classrooms Reflect on Ferguson Decision

CHRISTINE ARMARIO

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When his high school English students came to class, Tom Rademacher knew there would be one thing on their mind: a grand jury's decision not to indict the white police officer who shot and killed Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

So the Minneapolis teacher put aside his lesson plans for the day and asked them a simple question: How did they feel?

Some teens said they were sad, others angry. One said he logged off Twitter and Facebook to avoid dealing with upset friends.

"That's the definition of white privilege," student Nia Golston replied. "You get to look away while I, being African-American, have to live like this."

In the aftermath of the Ferguson announcement, classrooms across the nation are taking up

uncomfortable topics — race, police use of force and poverty, among others — to give students a voice and help them make sense of events.

Some teachers are using the discussion to weave in history lessons. One school in the Bronx read Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

Others are reviewing primary source documents, like officer Darren Wilson's grand jury testimony, to study the case in detail. Some are just inquiring about the emotions evoked by the killing of a person not much older than most high school students.

In a story so focused on young black people and their communities, "we aren't hearing enough from black teenagers about what they're feeling and what they're thinking about and what their experiences are," Rademacher said.

Sites such as TeachableMoment.org and groups including Facing History and Ourselves, a nonprofit

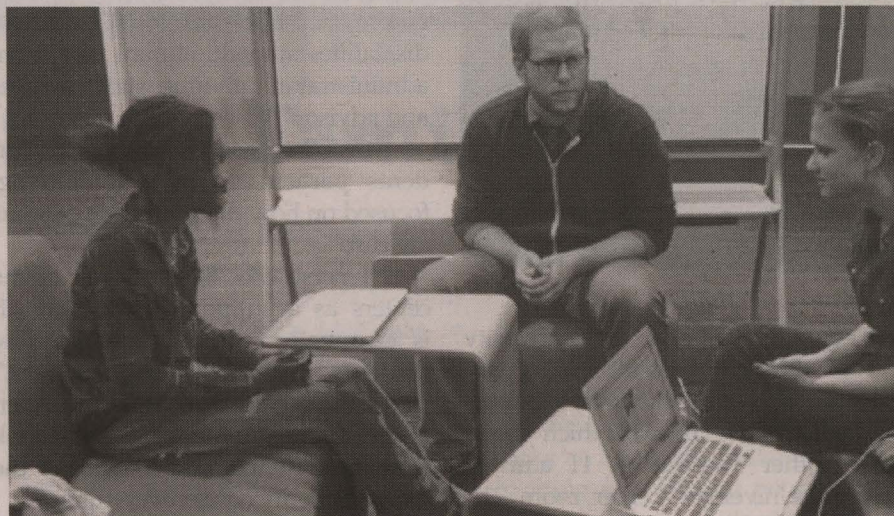


Photo courtesy of Jim Mone, Associated Press

English teacher Tom Rademacher talks with his high school juniors Kierra Murray, left, and Ana Silverman, right, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014, at Fair School in Minneapolis.

in Brookline, Massachusetts, are providing teachers with guidance on incorporating Ferguson into their lessons. Teachers are sharing their ideas and classroom experiences online with hashtags such as #FergusonSyllabus and

#FergusonInClass.

"All the things you hear in the larger community are happening in the microcosm called the classroom," said Steve Becton, social program director of urban education at Facing History and



SGA COMMITTEES

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE



Katie Cronmiller

Student Government Association Senate meetings are held Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. in the Dreyfus University Center Legacy room with Vice President Katie Cronmiller serving as chair.

Senate meetings are the largest and include all committee chairs, president, vice president, speaker of the senate, chief of staff, senators, and a rotation

of campus administrators and students who give reports on different campus happenings.

"Currently senate has been doing a lot of approvals of new student organizations, such as the Trumpet Club and Trap-Shooting Club," Cronmiller said. "We have also had a lot of student approvals to allow students to be involved, voting members of our standing committees."

Senate is the final destination of all items that have been brought to other standing committees.

"Overall, senate's role is to be the final body that considers the segregated fee budget, policies, new legislation or programs approved by SGA," Cronmiller said. "Most of this work is started in one of the standing committees and then comes to senate for final consideration."

Meetings are open to all students and there is seating for those who wish to attend.

UNIVERSITY CENTERS ADVISORY POLICY BOARD AND THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



Alan Bustamante

Alan Bustamante, the University Centers Student Director, chairs two committees: the University Centers Advisory Policy Board, which meets every other Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Dreyfus University Center room 211, and the Policy Advisory Committee for Student Organizations, which meets Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in DUC 211/223.

"As chair, I facilitate both committees. In UCAPB I am the sole chair so I work with Laura Ketchum-Ciftc. She and I start working on agendas or things we want to see be discussed," Bustamante said. "I personally create the agendas and minutes. I usually use Laura Ketchum-Ciftc as my advisor."

The advisory board is made up of 14 members from different areas of the university. There are three Student

Government Association senators, a residence hall representative, diversity representative, university centers student and employment coordinator, operations representative, Allen Center employee, non-traditional student, disabilities student, alumni or alumni administrator, full-time staff member and advisor.

It is concerned with involving students particularly in programming, focused on how the centers on campus are run.

"I personally like to think of the centers as a support for students. It is essentially completely funded by students through segregated fees," Bustamante said. "We host the Allen Center, Centertainment, SIEO, the book store, Text Rental, and so a lot of the money broadly covers everything."

The policy advisory committee is specifically for student organizations on campus. Students voice opinions from within their organization on topics like what they want to focus on, how they want to allocate office space and how to utilize storage facilities.

This committee is divided by the Student Involvement and Employment Office and consists of an RHA, Greek council, University Recreational Sports, academics and art organization, and special interests group member.

All meetings are open to students.

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"I am one person of nine," Kochanowski said. "The dynamics are different. My potential is never going to be reached."

Kochanowski said the opportunity of mayor would put all his talents to work, letting him do the level of good he hopes to do.

Kochanowski said some concerns he hopes to address include creating new revenue, encouraging business growth and paying off debt without shifting the burden to the taxpayer or making cuts in city departments.

In addition to supporting small businesses, Kochanowski would like to provide full-time jobs for residents, but admits there are challenges.

"Unfortunately, the status quo is becoming holding two or more part-time jobs with no benefits to make ends meet," Kochanowski said.

"The answers are somewhat obvious, but at what cost?" Kochanowski said. "Not at the expense of polluting our clean air to the wrong kind of industry."

Other topics Kochanowski focuses on are city infrastructure, services and renewable energy.

"We are beginning to focus on

renewable energy," Kochanowski said. "Why not create a community that can sustain itself?"

Kochanowski would like to see the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point grow along with the city. He believes improved infrastructure of buildings would improve the university, but students should not bear the costs.

"Those kinds of things would attract students to our campus," Kochanowski said. "I don't think students should have to pay higher tuition for those projects."

Financial stability is a great concern for Kochanowski, and he believes the city's current budget issues are solvable.

"At the beginning of the Special Finance Committee Meeting on Oct. 27, Mayor Halverson told the aldermen that the city's budget concerns are systemic," Kochanowski said. "We have an unsustainable budget and we always will," Kochanowski said.

Kochanowski takes a different philosophy toward the issue.

"There is always a solution if you are willing to put in the effort and do the work," Kochanowski said.

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Ourselves. "For the teachers not allowing it to happen, I think it's a missed opportunity."

Becton advises teachers to ask nuanced questions: What is the role of law in society? And if a law seems insufficient, how can it be challenged? What is the relationship between African-American males and law enforcement?

"How do we help students understand that history?" Becton asked. "Ultimately education is not about facts and dates and figures but about participating in democracy and participating in a civil discourse."

School districts in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., have provided teachers with instructions for leading Ferguson discussions.

"The goal is to assist students in being able to exercise their First Amendment rights, to speak out on things they feel passionate about," said Holly Priebe-Diaz, intervention coordinator for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Teacher Gregory Michie, who instructs middle-school students in a predominantly Mexican neighborhood in Chicago, spent five weeks earlier this year discussing the context of the Ferguson case, First Amendment issues and media coverage.

"I teach in a neighborhood where a lot of kids have seen violence," he said. "There is a certain level of mistrust, skepticism."

Elsewhere, the topic is less

welcome or completely off-limits. Teachers in one Illinois classroom, for example, were advised earlier this year not to talk about the case in class.

The hesitation sometimes comes from parents or students.

The director of Not in Our School, a network that encourages tolerance, said she received a call from teachers in one Tennessee district who said some students were wary of discussing the case. Teachers told the students they were in a safe space and should feel free to share their feelings, Becki Cohn-Vargas said.

Rademacher has encouraged students to stay focused on having a discussion, not winning an argument. That approach produced a robust exchange of ideas.

"It's just amazing to hear stories from black students because this is something me, as a white person, I don't ever experience," student Liz Fesenmaier said. "I don't get the talk from my mother, 'Be careful of the police.' We get, 'If you're ever in trouble, tell a trusted adult, like a police officer.'"

Rademacher's students also learned to accept the fact that no amount of talking would resolve the issues swirling around Ferguson.

That was "one of the hardest things in having this discussion," Fesenmaier said. "We can't change the world in 40 minutes' worth of class."

Snow Removal Questions Answered

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Waking up to see most sidewalks and entryways on campus clear from the many inches of wintry bliss is a blessing often unnoticed. "I understand some people get frustrated when they come outside and see some sidewalks aren't cleared yet," said Chris Brindley, the Building and Grounds Superintendent. "However, it's hard when it snows during the day and then the snow is mashed down to hard crust. Once it gets to that point, we'll have to use a lot of salt."

Brindley said the safety of staff and students is grounds services' main priority. They also try to use the least amount of salt possible due to environmental and financial reasons.

"I think the amount of salt they use is necessary due to a possible lack of shoveling," said senior Kelsey Nasset.

Brindley said last year the university used 135 tons of salt to

maintain a safe campus. "We just want to let everyone know what we do and what our limitations are," Brindley said. "I also want to emphasize that it's a team effort, and we draw people from all over campus to help."

Brindley said shoveling and plowing 12 miles of sidewalk and 28 acres of parking lots can be daunting with only four permanent staff members. The staff has student workers who contribute in a large way. There are currently 55 "curb cuts" across campus maintained solely by students.

"We work with the Disability Services and students who need special assistance so that when they wake up, they have a clear walking path to class," Brindley said. "We will cater to the needs of those in wheelchairs or crutches. They just need to let us know, and we'll try to work around their schedules."

Four people come in at 1 or 2 a.m. and then work until they have to leave for their day jobs. This means it is difficult to maintain clear sidewalks and parking lots



Photo by Emily Hoffmann

Keeping campus sidewalks clear of snow is difficult due to Wisconsin's heavy snowfalls.

if it does not start snowing until midday. "The sidewalks can get pretty icy walking to class," said junior Nicole Maslakow. "Maybe finding environmentally-friendly alternatives to salt would help."

Brindley encourages students and faculty to alert grounds services immediately if an area appears hazardous. "Let us know if snow has drifted into a specific area or if you notice a curb cut has been plowed back in," Brindley said. "Keep the communication chains intact and if you see an issue, then request attention."

Students Buckle Down for Finals

JENNIFER RUKAVINA

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Finals week is stereotyped as one of the most stressful times in a college student's academic career, but if well prepared for, it can go smoothly.

To decrease anxiety caused by upcoming exams and projects, there are ways for students to cope with stress.

Hansen Hall Academic Resource Coordinators Mary Knight and Victoria Philippon mentioned their personal methods to stay organized and focused.

Try not waiting until the last minute to look over material. Getting a study group together with friends or classmates and creating flashcards are beneficial study tips.

"Start early and avoid cramming because that can stress you out even more," Knight said. "Asking the professor each concept that is expected to complete the exam, using a study guide and re-looking at the syllabus can also help."

Knight stressed the importance of reviewing the material multiple times before the exam and getting a good night's rest with a healthy meal. She also suggested having numerous cups of coffee can be very helpful to this process.

Philippon explained that having a review packet can make going over the material easier as well as having an outline put together to create less of a hassle when it comes to studying. If studying for an English exam, she suggested practicing writing out the essay questions beforehand.

"If I have the vocabulary down, I can understand the concepts better," Philippon said. "Don't study all the way up to the test. Make sure to take breaks in between to avoid going overboard."

Sophomore Milica Mitrovic has strategies to stay focused. "When I'm studying for finals, I always make sure to take breaks," Mitrovic said. "The most effective way for me to take a break is by going to the gym. The gym lets me clear my mind and lets me focus on other things besides what grade I'm going to receive on the exam."

Sophomore Kristina Obradovich shared her techniques for finals week. "I don't overuse my brain," Obradovich said. "I take breaks when I need them. I still try and have some fun and not exclusively study the whole time. Try not to cram. Don't over-study. Don't study from the second you wake up to the second you go back to sleep."

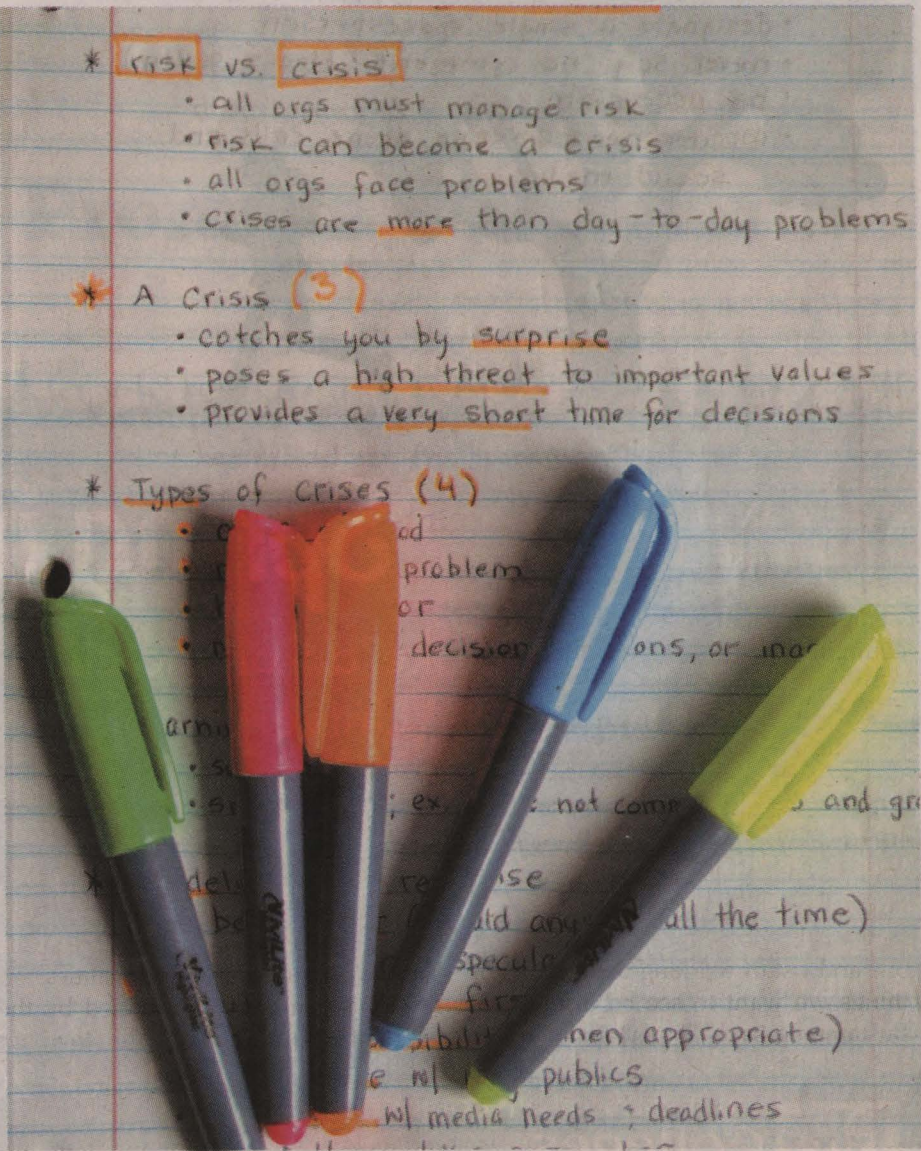


Photo by Emily Hoffmann

Some students choose to color code their notes to help them study for finals.

NEWS

Walker Signs Potawatomi Casino Amendment

M.L. JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Gov. Scott Walker and the Forest County Potawatomi have signed a compact amendment that would formally require the state to ensure the tribe receives payments for any losses its Milwaukee casino might suffer if the Menominee Nation opens a competing facility in Kenosha.

A trio of arbitrators handed the amendment to the state and Potawatomi last month, according to the Wisconsin Department of Administration and the tribe. The governor stressed in a Nov. 25 letter alerting the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs about the agreement that the deal doesn't indicate whether he supports or opposes the Kenosha project.

The bureau has 45 days to accept the amendment, reject it or take no action, which would in effect

amount to approval.

Walker has said the Kenosha casino could cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars over multiple years. R. Lance Boldrey, an attorney Walker's administration hired to handle the dispute, said in a letter to Assistant Secretary of Interior for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn that the deal may violate Wisconsin's constitution. He said the governor doesn't have the power to create annual spending obligations.

The Menominee has been pushing to open an off-reservation casino for more than 20 years, saying it would help pull the tribe out of poverty. Last year, the Bureau of Indian Affairs granted the tribe permission to build a casino in Kenosha, but Walker has the final say as governor.

Walker, who has until Feb. 19 to make a decision, has said he won't approve the project unless the state's 11 other tribes sign off. The Potawatomi has been fiercely

opposed to the idea.

That tribe's 2005 gambling compact with the state requires Wisconsin to reimburse it for losses linked to Kenosha. The tribe has refused to make its \$25 million annual payment to the state out of concerns Wisconsin will end up owing the tribe if Walker approves the Kenosha casino. The Potawatomi has argued the compact also requires the state to refund as much as \$100 million to the tribe if the governor gives the Kenosha project the green light.

The deal requires both sides to enter arbitration to determine both the state and tribe's rights and obligations. The compact amendment the arbitrators approved on Nov. 21 requires the state to fully reimburse the Potawatomi for its losses and lays out a mechanism for the two sides to calculate annual losses.

The Menominee has offered to make the reimbursements to

the Potawatomi, but the amendment says the state would still be responsible for making sure the Potawatomi get paid.

The Ho-Chunk Nation also opposes the Kenosha casino. Under that tribe's current gambling compact, its payments to the state would decrease by how much it loses due to the new facility.

Potawatomi Attorney General Jeff Crawford issued a statement Tuesday evening saying the tribe continues to oppose the Kenosha project and "believes Gov. Walker will ultimately find that this project is not in the best interest of Wisconsin."

The Menominee issued a statement saying the tribe was pleased with the arbitration and that completing the process removes a major hurdle the governor faced before giving final approval.



Spring into Action

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March 2015 for Summer.

SPORTS

Wisconsin Bounces Back to Big Ten Title Game

GENARO C. ARMAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Bouncing back from adversity has been a trademark all year for No. 11 Wisconsin.

The season might have gone a little smoother if the Badgers hadn't had to dig themselves out of tough spots in the first place.

Even so, coach Gary Andersen's squad is right where they had hoped to be when training camp began four months ago — on the verge of a Big Ten title. The Badgers play No. 6 Ohio State in Indianapolis on Saturday for the championship.

"We just have a bunch of guys who love fighting and love working hard, even if it doesn't seem like it's going our way," linebacker Marcus Trotter said Monday.

Few Wisconsin fans thought their hometown team would be in this spot following the 20-14 loss on Oct. 4 at Northwestern. The quarterback position was in limbo, the defense had trouble stopping the run and the Badgers dropped to 3-2 after losing their conference opener.

"I guess all the fans were real mad, irritated," Trotter said.

But in many of the Badgers' eyes, the loss turned out to be the season's turning point. They've won seven straight, all in conference play, to claim the West Division crown.

Slowly but surely, Wisconsin (10-2) has gotten production from the quarterback position with Joel Stave reclaiming the starting job and Tanner McEvoy coming in as a mobile, change-of-pace reliever.

The defense has regrouped against the run, aided by the returns of defensive lineman Warren Herring and Trotter from injuries. Herring went down in the season-opening loss against LSU, the last time Wisconsin had its starting front seven intact.

The one constant has been junior running back Melvin Gordon, who has blossomed into a full-fledged Heisman Trophy candidate.

Gordon went from a 38-yard outing in Week 2 against lower division school Western Illinois, to setting a Big Ten single-season rushing record of 2,318 yards — and counting. Gordon also seems to get stronger as the game wears on, and his burly offensive line wears down opponents.

"I think everything worked out exactly how we planned it. At the end of the day, we wanted to be here," Gordon said.

The last two home games have been microcosms of the season.

Wisconsin fell behind by 14 points to Nebraska and Minnesota, both ranked teams. Each time, they stormed back for the win, though it took a little while longer in the second half to feel secure against the Gophers.

Players said Andersen and the coaching staff urged the team to pick up the intensity after trailing 17-3 against Minnesota early in the second quarter. Turnovers and short fields contributed to the early deficit, much like against the Cornhuskers.

Slow starts were a problem earlier in the season in the running game.

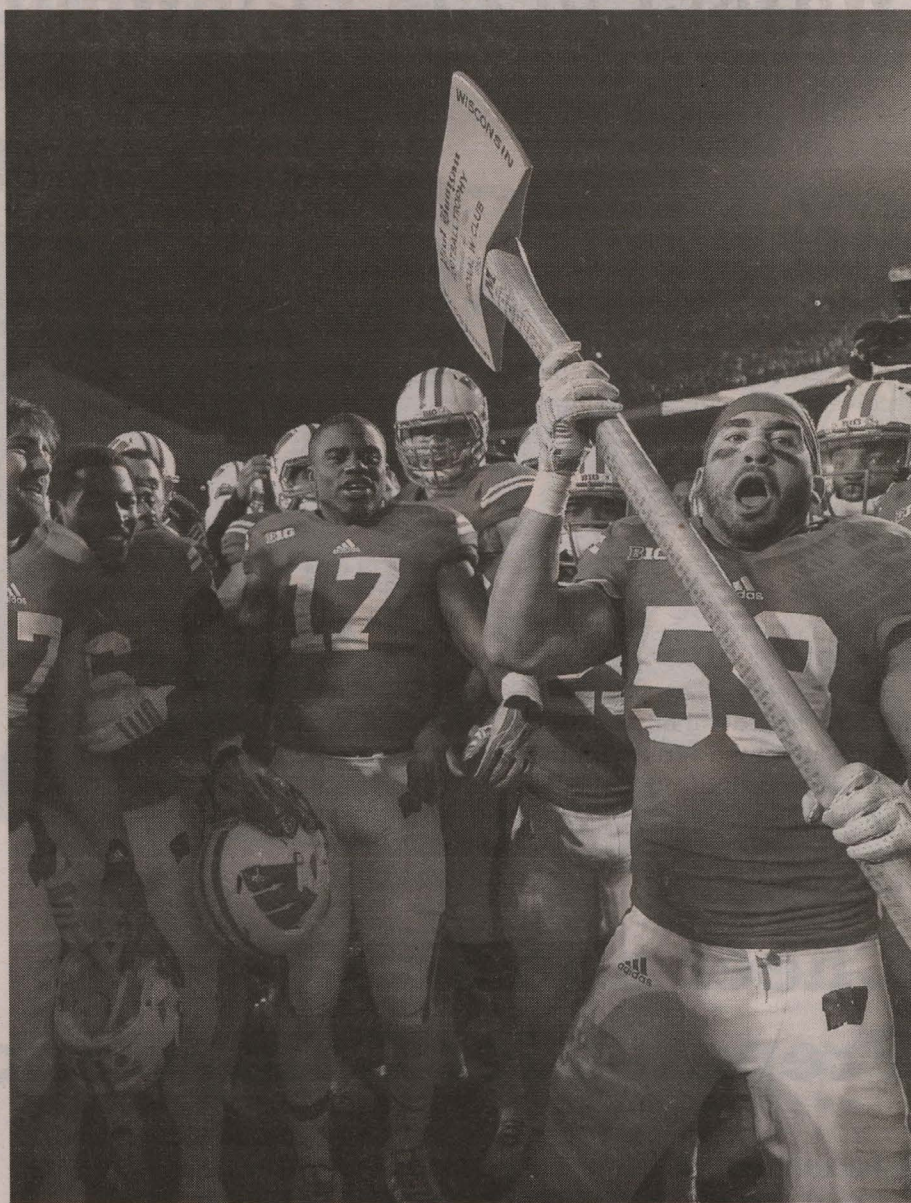
Andersen doesn't necessarily think that there is one common, underlying issue.

"It's definitely not part of the plan to get behind by 14 points or seven points or three points or one point," Andersen said. "Slow starts — we've created our own enemies in some situations."

So corrections were made. It could have been a scheme adjustment. Maybe it's a focus on tackling or staying in gaps on defense, or stressing ball security with the offense.

"There were some uncharacteristic things that we did, that we were able to take away and not have happen to us in the second half," he said.

Whether it's due to a team-wide slow start, miscues or simply bad luck, the Badgers don't want to make having to rally from 14-point deficits a habit. Especially not against the Buckeyes.



Big Ten Sets Conference Mark for Total Attendance

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP) — The Big Ten says it set a conference record for total attendance and that nine schools saw increases in their average this season.

The 14 conference members drew a combined 6,359,218 for home games this season, eclipsing the previous mark of 6,061,514 set last season when there were only 12 teams. It was also the third time in league history — and the third time in four seasons — that the Big Ten surpassed the six million mark.

The conference says the average attendance actually decreased with the addition of Maryland and Rutgers and their 50,000-seat stadiums. But those schools combined to fill their stadiums to 95 percent capacity for Big Ten home games and combined to

sell out five league games.

Maryland also saw a league-leading 13.8 percent jump in average attendance for all games compared with the 2013 season. Rutgers (8.8 percent) was second. Iowa, Michigan State, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio State, Penn State and Wisconsin each saw average attendance increase by as much as 5.2 percent.

The Big Ten is also one of two conferences with more than two teams ranked among the top 22 in the nation in average attendance, with Ohio State leading the country at 106,296. Michigan (104,909) is third, followed by No. 5 Penn State (101,623), No. 10 Nebraska (91,249), No. 18 Wisconsin (79,520), No. 20 Michigan State (74,681) and No. 22 Iowa (67,512). Michigan's attendance is down from 111,592 per game last season.

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SPORTS



Photo by Marlene Dins

Cheer and Stunt Prepares for Competition

REBECCA VOSTERS

REPORTER

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The Cheer and Stunt team makes it's competition routine it's number one priority with the start of the season.

"Dec. 13 is our first competition, and we are far from ready," said head coach Sue Poeschl. "We still have one third of our routine left to learn. It will be slow going, but if they get this down it will be our best one yet."

The team took fifth place at nationals last year after starting competition season on a similar note.

"We started off kind of iffy last year, but each competition got better and better," said junior Brittany Erickson.

Each year the team starts slowly and focuses primarily on football and basketball sideline routines leaving competition performances on the back burner. As the year unfolds more difficult choreography is added.

"At those games we do sideline chants and a few stunts to engage the crowd," said assistant coach Susan Becker.

UW- Oshkosh and UW-Eau Claire are the toughest teams the Pointers face.

"If we can have a clean, solid routine, go to nationals and beat all the other Wisconsin schools, that would be awesome," Erickson said.

Poeschl sees that goal as a definite possibility with the talent the team has this year.

"Our goal is to put out a better routine every competition and every practice and be the best that we can be," Poeschl said.

Becker is eager for the season.

"We want to get the choreography

perfect, and I'm excited to see that happen," Becker said.

There is more tumbling this year, but the team could still use more. Poeschl said it is also important for the team to remember basic skills. She sees strong leaders standing out to help make that happen.

"Making it all the way through a routine without anyone getting dropped is always our main goal," said freshman Emily Schueler.

The team continues to grow each year.

"It's fun watching everyone grow as a whole and seeing everyone get better," said sophomore Tiffany Tushkowski.

Junior Reann Devorscek likes the adrenaline surrounding the competitions.

"Most sports have a ball or something, but this a balancing act. Literally," Devorscek said. "When you're performing you have two minutes where everything has to go right."

Erickson loves stunts because they build trust and allow the team to show off its athletic ability.

"A lot of people don't realize the variety of skills that we need and the body control involved," Devorscek said.

The Cheer and Stunt team is not considered an athletic team or a club sport, but is stuck between the two.

"You have to have a good head on shoulders," Erickson said. "We're not expected to have good grades since we're not a university team, but we still do. We follow all the rules even though we don't have to."

Opinion is a large part of cheer and stunt competitions. Teams are judged on a 500 point scale and

sometimes as few as five points can separate first place from fifth place.

"It's not a definite thing like a touchdown," Becker said. "One judge could love it, and one could hate it."

The team has strong chemistry.

"Cheer is the only friends I have. I'm a transfer, and I live off campus so this was a great way for me to meet people," Tushkowski said.

Schueler loves all the friends she has made since joining the team. Poeschl said she can be shy but has come out of her shell.

"I love getting to work with the wide range of talented athletes," Poeschl said. "I coached high school for 35 years before this and just love getting to know them as people and athletes."

Becker agrees the relationships she forms are her favorite part.

"People need to realize how dedicated these kids need to be, it takes athleticism, rhythm, strength and confidence," Poeschl said. "It's not something you just put on a skirt and do."



Photo by Paula Lauer

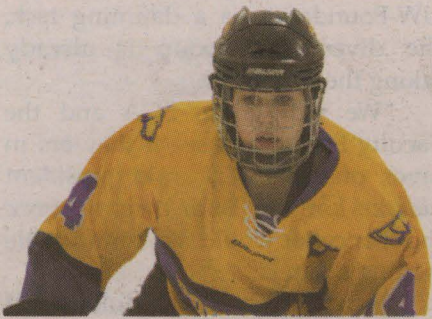


Photo by Paula Lauer

The cheer and stunt team performs during a football game.

UWSP Sports Have an Up and Down Week

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WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The Pointers women's hockey team was the lone UWSP team to not lose during the week. On Nov. 25 the Pointers defeated Marian University 3-0. UWSP led offensively with 48 shots on net and goals from forwards Rachel Reynard, Hannah Smith and Emily Lester. On the defensive side, UWSP went three for three on penalty kills, and goaltender Janna Beilke-Skoug had 18 saves. UWSP plays home games with WIAC foe UW-Eau Claire on Dec. 5 and 6.

MEN'S HOCKEY

On the ice, the UWSP men's hockey team got revenge over third ranked Adrian College on Nov. 29 with a 6-3 win. Both teams ranked in the top 10, split two games this season as Adrian won on Nov. 22, 6-4. At Adrian, UWSP was led by senior defenseman Kevin Gibson who scored a goal and added an assist. Forwards Garrett Ladd, Alex Brooks, Joe Kalisz, Kyle Sharkey and Evan Dixon each scored a goal, while goaltender Brandon Jaeger made 24 saves. The following day, UWSP played an exhibition game against the U.S. National Under-18 Team and lost 5-2. UWSP had an early 1-0 lead from a goal by Scott Henegar, but USA scored three unanswered goals. Jaeger recorded 33 saves on 38 shots. The Pointers rose in the rankings to number five and will host UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stout on Dec. 5 and 6.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team started the week with a 67-52 win at Lakeland College on Nov. 25. Senior forward Kaitlyn Jacobs led the way scoring career-highs with 17 points and seven assists. UWSP had a 4-3 lead in the first two minutes and never lost it as UWSP thwarted every Lakeland comeback attempt. Freshman guard Mickey Roland added 11 points off the bench, as well as guard Lexi Roland who tallied eight. On Nov. 30, UWSP traveled to St. Thomas, ranked number 11, where the Pointers lost to the Tommies 60-52. UWSP nearly erased a 15 point deficit getting the score to 53-52 with three minutes left, but were held scoreless the rest of the game. UWSP was led off the bench by junior forward Allie Miceli who scored 13 points and added seven rebounds. With a 3-3 record, UWSP traveled to Eau Claire on Dec. 3 to open WIAC play.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball team had two tough games against Edgewood and North Central College. On Nov. 25, UWSP defeated the Eagles 69-60 in overtime. It was a roller coaster game for the Pointers who blew two double-digit leads, and the Eagles hit a three-point shot as time expired to send the game into overtime. In overtime, The Pointers outscored the Eagles 11-2. Senior forwards Alex Richard and Jordan Lutz led the way as Richard scored a game-high 25 points, while Lutz had 13. On Nov. 29, UWSP hosted North Central where the Pointers fell 63-56. UWSP was down 32-15 at halftime but fought back to within five points North Central. Senior

forward Joe Ritchay led scoring with 21 points, along with Lutz adding nine points.

UWSP is currently 3-2 heading into their Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opener against UW-Eau Claire on Dec. 3.



The Peters: Brothers, Roommates, Teammates

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Brothers Quinton Peters and Sam Peters have the opportunity to wrestle together at the collegiate level.

"It's always been a family thing. We spent time with our dad grabbing lunch and going to a tournament somewhere," said Sam Peters.

The Peters grew up watching Pointer athletics and are excited to be a part of it.

"It's awesome to have the opportunity to wrestle for your hometown," Quinton Peters said.

Wrestling in two different weight classes, the Peters have never competed against either other.

"They push and challenge each other when they wrestle," said head coach Johnny Johnson. "They're really close."

Wrestling a family member proves to be a challenge because they know each other so well.

"We've been wrestling since I can remember," Sam Peters said. "We know each other's techniques. I have to change it up."

There are also advantages of wrestling next to a sibling.

"He knows how I wrestle so when I make a pin he can tell me what I did well and if I can improve," Quinton Peters said.

Johnson coached his fair share of brothers and seen quite a few tempers flare.

"Siblings are less likely to hold tempers back and are more likely to really get into it," Johnson said. "They're two guys who grew up together."

"We're not the same weight class, but we're at practice every day and I'm not going to hold back when I get angry," Sam Peters said.

While tempers may be more likely to blow up, they do not see this to be much different than wrestling another partner.

"Brothers do a good job of leaving the sibling thing behind when they enter the room," Johnson said.

When the team goes from drills to live wrestling, it does not matter who their partners are.

"When the whistle blows, it's still one man against another," Quinton Peters said.

Quinton said his anger occasionally shows through, but he considers Sam his brother and his

best friend.

"We're always pushing each other," Quinton Peters said. "We have been since second grade. Whoever has more energy pushes the other."

The Peters are also roommates. They live with a few other wrestlers but they still do not want to be outdone by each other.

"It lights a fire. You don't want your brother to beat you," Quinton Peters said. "Even if you're only doing one sprint you don't want to lose. You take it more personal. You can't let it happen."

When it comes to losing weight and staying true to workouts, they hold each other accountable.

"At certain points you don't want to lift or go out for a run at six and when you're trying to lose weight. You have someone to eat that can of tuna with you," Sam Peters said. "When I hurt my arm, he could tell and he kept telling me I was almost done with the workout, just a little bit more."

Sam Peters tore a bicep tendon recently but is excited to get onto the mat again. He also wants to make a varsity appearance this year.

"I want to get better and I will do

that by listening to the coaches," Sam Peters said. "As a team I want to see us capture the conference and send some people to nationals."

Quinton Peters agrees and wants the Pointers to claim conference title and national appearance. He also has personal goals.

"I'm a freshman, so I just want to work hard every day and never take a day off," Quinton Peters said.

It is always good to know their teammates have their back.

"My senior year I hurt my collarbone and he took my spot," Sam Peters said. "He stepped in and it was nice to know someone I can trust was taking my spot."

Quinton remembers wrestling at the Oshkosh on Water tournament in high school, a larger tournament that occurred over Christmas break.

"I think that was my most successful tournament in high school," Quinton Peters said. "He was right there every time I came off the mat, giving me input on what I did good and bad and he had a bag of ice for my knee. I won my final match and I think I ended up taking fifth. His voice is the only thing I heard."

ENVIRONMENT

Divestment Campaign Gains Traction

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The Stevens Point divestment campaign had its first meeting with Chancellor Bernie Patterson to discuss the university's transition to clean energy on Dec. 1.

When institutions have stocks in companies that contribute to oppression or destruction, they indirectly support the problem. Divestment is a technique first used in South Africa during apartheid, where Nelson Mandela urged people to hold these institutions accountable by removing the funds in the negative companies.

Students at California universities demanded their schools take endowments and investments and

remove them from stocks that had a role in apartheid of any kind.

This sparked a nationwide campaign of removing money from those stocks, and today a new kind of divestment is taking place from fossil fuels.

Given UWSP's environmental track record, it is unsurprising to see passionate and devoted students pursuing this new form of divestment. With their newfound opportunity to meet with the chancellor, the campus divestment team took no shortcuts.

"They spent literally hundreds of hours on this presentation," said treasurer Sean Piette. "Compiling statistics, exploring all the options, they thought of everything."

Piette and others waited outside the chancellor's office to show support for peers in the meeting,

which lasted a little over half an hour.

Following the meeting, the entire group met in the basement of the Dreyfus University Center to debrief.

While optimistic about the prospects of divestment, the chancellor recognized the situations limitations. Because the UW System funds are centralized, one school cannot simply "divest."

"For divestment, two funds need to be in place in the UW-Foundation," said Joel Gebhard, a group administrator and presenter. "Once these are in place, your school can decide which fund to put their money in."

Another challenge to divestment is viability. Before a school will commit, it must be confident the new investments will pay off.

"The endowment pays for

scholarships, and that's why they need the second fund," Gebhard said. "No administrator wants to be the reason a student does not get financial aid."

While creating a duality in the UW-Foundation is a daunting task, the divestment group is already taking the first steps.

"We will go to SGA and the Faculty Senate and see if they are in favor of the fund," said president Natalie Lirette. "With their support, the chancellor would feel comfortable writing a letter."

With 22 million dollars of endowment, there is an opportunity to make a difference. If a second fund is created within the UW System and green portfolios prove to be economically feasible, divestment becomes much simpler.

Knutzen's Greenest Resident Leading by Example

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Knutzen Hall is known as the Eco Hall, so it is fitting Knutzen is also home to the Greenest Resident on campus.

"I've always had an environmental background, so this was a good fit," said junior land use planning major Bailey Matthys. Matthys is in her second semester as Greenest Resident, with one to go.

Matthys was inspired by the former Greenest Resident while living in Knutzen her freshman year.

When the position opened up, she successfully applied.

The Greenest Resident is just like any other Residential Living employee; Matthys has desk hours, occasionally does rounds and attends hall meetings.

Her additional duties include giving tours of the room, putting on environmentally focused programs, and advising the EARTH club. The EARTH club encourages students to make minor lifestyle changes that culminate in a healthy lifestyle, and is best known for Knutstock, the yearly music festival.

While environmental advocacy is

often tied to large-scale problems and solutions, Matthys' personal focus was on everyday lifestyle changes.

"People think it will be hard. It's not, you just have to take baby steps," said Matthys.

Hanging clothes to dry, unplugging electronics, thrifting, and setting up an aquaponics system are all things Matthys does to reduce her impact.

Nearby residents have taught Matthys as well, and the position has been a learning experience. Zach Kehoc, Matthys' neighbor, has helped her with the aquaponics.

Kehoc had previously built a 400

gallon aquaponics system during high school and used his expertise to help.

Toxic chemicals are prevalent in many personal care products, so Matthys has been experimenting with making some of her own. She makes her own deodorant and occasionally shampoo, but buys the trickier items at the Co-Op.

"Another reason why people have been switching to environmentally friendly lifestyles is for their own health," said Matthys "On my last tour, two moms came in to learn about it. It was great to see there was a community interest."

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Discover Alternative Pain Relief Methods

EMILY SHOWERS

POINTLIFE EDITOR

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Before reaching for a second dose of ibuprofen, consider aligning the mind and body to aid many types of pain, physical or emotional.

The owner of Kindred Spirits Books L'Aura Di Salvo is a Reiki master and said it is a type of meditation that is used to balance the mind, body and spirit through energy.

"What happens during a Reiki session is up to the person," Di Salvo said. "I act as a vessel for healing energy."

Casey Weber, a massage therapist for Shakti Massage, said Reiki is therapy involving energy. The practitioner will cleanse someone's seven chakras by putting his or her hands directly on or above an area of the client's body.

"By cleansing the chakras, an individual will feel more at peace and balance that has the potential to expand spiritually, physically and emotionally," Weber said.

Di Salvo said each session is different and many enter a deep state of relaxation.

"Meditation is so nourishing to the mind, body and soul," Di Salvo said. "During Reiki, you can't help but get into it. It really transforms you."

Since Di Salvo acts as a vessel for this energy, interesting sensations occur during a session.

"If images, visions, words, sounds or smells come to me, I will let clients know what I experienced," Di Salvo said. "It usually correlates with something going on in their life."

Another method of healing Weber offers is Thai herbal compression or heated bundle of aromatic herbs.

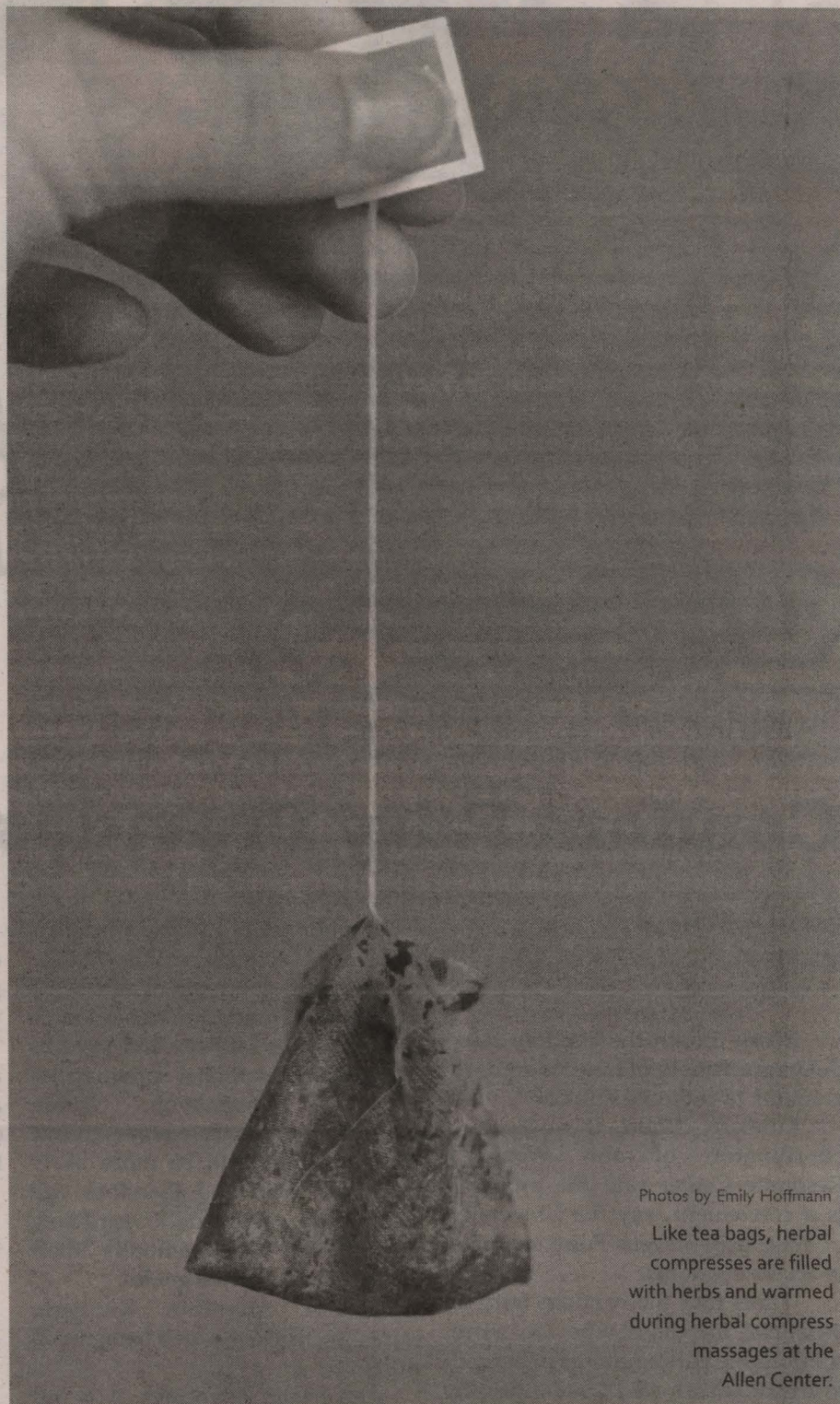
"Some of the herbal properties are absorbed by the skin," Weber said. "The heat penetrates deep into the body to increase circulation prior to any of the actual massage."

Weber said she presses the bundle of herbs into particular muscles, joints, tendons or ligaments. Some common herbs are lemon grass, ginger, galangal, tumeric, tamarind, lime, mint, menthol and sea salt.

"As an added bonus, the aromas of the herbs lift the spirit," Weber said.

After this treatment was added, clients discovered their muscle or joint pain was subdued for an extended period.

"I have had several clients who experienced the compress say their addition has made the best treatment for them," Weber said. "It has been difficult for these clients to explain exactly why this is, but the benefits of the massage stays with them longer because the compresses were added to the treatment."



Photos by Emily Hoffmann

Like tea bags, herbal compresses are filled with herbs and warmed during herbal compress massages at the Allen Center.

Supposed 'Sandy Hoax' Prompts Opinions

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As with other major American tragedies there is a rising conspiracy theory behind the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting that happened on Dec. 14, 2012, killing 20 students and six staff members.

"I can't see how something like that could be faked, but who knows," said Plover resident Mark Scotch.

Senior psychology major Martin Groth has done his own research on the hoax. Although he is not certain whether he believes it, he looks to Think Outside the TV's YouTube documentary for the main points.

"It is said that there were crisis actors, people paid to look like victims, yet they've shown up for multiple attacks," Groth said.

Many critics point to Robbie Parker's interview for TV news where he is laughing while walking up to the camera one minute, and nearly hyperventilating the next when

speaking about losing his 6-year-old daughter Emilie.

"From what I have seen on social media, it looks like the parents were actors for the Colorado theater shooting as well," an anonymous source said.

The documentary also points out there is no aerial footage of over 600 students evacuating the school. The footage available depicts police, emergency crews and reporters gathering around, but not entering the school.

"The overhead helicopter cam made the scene look like a movie set," Groth said. "There was even a big sign that said, 'check in here.'"

Parker plugged Facebook donation pages numerous times throughout his interviews, prompting some to believe families were in on the hoax to earn a profit.

It is said these pages, along with other websites to support victims, were created days and even weeks before the massacre. The explanation given for this insists Google sometimes

displays inconsistent dates for web postings.

The shooter, 20-year-old Adam Lanza, is said to be another plot hole. The three years of his life prior to the shooting remain a mystery. He fell off the grid while neighbors said his mother would not allow visitors into their home.

People knew Adam Lanza existed, but not much more than that. He had no social media accounts. The argument is made that if Lanza was such a gamer and computer-savvy with enough knowledge to destroy a computer to the point where the Federal Bureau of Investigation could not recover the information, he would have a large online presence.

It is also said an autistic young man weighing only 112 pounds could not have managed such powerful weaponry with the accuracy demonstrated.

"Adam Lanza did not just injure, but killed all these children," Groth said. "This is highly unlikely because he had no gun experience

and authorities still cannot figure out what type of gun was used."

It has also been speculated Adam Lanza changed his name to Ryan in years prior and his former name was used for this event.

The children are another supposed plot hole. Photos of 6-year-old Allison Wyatt, who died in the shooting, showed up on various websites such as Daily Mail Online and CBS. An issue arose when mother Cathy Gaubert came across the photo and identified the girl as her own daughter, Lily. The photo has been taken down and replaced with a different one.

Some claim the entire event was a drill the media falsely reported and the government embellished. Most theorists believe the motive behind staging an event like this would be to push the gun control agenda. Many of the Sandy Hook parents and students suggest legislation to ensure an event like this never occurs again.



Condom Fairy Provides Protection for Students

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Every month the condom fairy delivers a variety of free condoms to students to promote safe sex.

Kimberly Lizan, the executive coordinator of the Women's Resource Center said the program is a convenient way for University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students to access condoms.

"I feel that the condom fairy is beneficial for those who are more comfortable getting things delivered to them," Lizan said. "Some people just may not want to have their faces seen getting condoms."

Students can sign up for the condom fairy by messaging the UWSP Reproductive Health Peer Educator's Facebook page.

Analese Grimm is a health advocate at UWSP and emphasized

the importance of leading a healthy life.

"Having condoms available on campus is a wonderful, free resource that promotes safe sex and reduces the risk of potential pregnancies and STD transmission," Grimm said. "If students have access to free condoms, they will be more likely to utilize them and therefore will lessen the chance of jeopardizing their health or potentially their education and career goals."

Health Advocate Kimberly wants to ensure the well being of all students.

"As health advocates, it is our job to promote health and wellness across campus," Arcand said. "We do this by approaching the student population with activities and promotional campaigns."

Arcand believes providing condoms will help students take responsibility for their actions.

"I would suggest students take advantage of the condom fairy program because it's here for you to do just that," Arcand said. "Why risk catching something and suffering the consequences of a big decision like that when the condom fairy is willing to deliver free condoms to you regularly?"

Photos by Emily Hoffmann
Students can sign up to have health services drop off condoms in their mailboxes in the residence halls.



Inside Scoop from a Non-Traditional Student

EMILY SHOWERS

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When Amy Glenzer, the office manager for the Alliance of Non-Traditional Students, was 17, her parents convinced her to go to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, but she was not sure what direction to take in life.

She said even though being a non-traditional student comes with its fair share of challenges, she has learned more about herself over the years.

"One advantage of being a non-traditional student is you know more about yourself and what goals you

want to accomplish," Glenzer said.

Glenzer worked at Sentry Insurance for eight years and was also a homemaker.

"A college education is always helpful," Glenzer said. "You're going to hit the glass ceiling at some point in time in the working world."

Glenzer had gone back to UWSP when she was 24 and said she felt the age difference between her and traditional students. However, coming back in her late 30s, she does not notice it as much.

"I was more self-conscious about the age difference when I returned a second time," Glenzer said. "People have asked me, 'Do you feel weirded-out being older?' and, surprisingly, I

said no."

While worrying about classes, Glenzer has a family of three children to tend to. When Glenzer talks with other non-traditional students, she puts aspects like being a homeowner or raising children into terms of credits.

"Dealing with bills or taking care of children could equate to three credits," Glenzer said. "That would be added to 15 to 17 credits and I try to show people all the time those things take."

Non-traditional students face their own set of challenges and Glenzer's biggest challenge was the feeling of being alone in her educational voyage.

"I belong to two different communities," Glenzer said. "One is where I teach Sunday school, go to music concerts and attend PTA meetings. The other is my college peer group where we are worried about the paper that is coming up."

Glenzer said she isolates the two lifestyles. Also, Glenzer said she is glad to belong to the Alliance of Non-traditional Students because it provides them with a place to gather and socialize.

"Oftentimes, many of us have families outside of school and it is good that we can get to know each other and have a support system," Glenzer said.

Short Hair, Really Don't Care

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A few weeks ago I hacked my unruly mane distraught with split ends, flyaways, dryness, dullness, thinness and a list of other unpleasing qualities in favor of a risk: an ultra-short pixie cut.

The fleeting thought was always in the back of my mind, whether or not to make the chop. It was like a glorious and unattained fantasy. I never thought I would have the lady balls to do it.

Like any large decision in my life, it was made in five minutes with the question, "Could it really get any uglier?" Let me say now, I just adore it. I feel as if I was handcrafted for this haircut and the general sassiness I feel as a result.

When one is at the salon, the expected comments are "Are you sure you've never had short hair before?" and "You really pull it off, you have the right face," but they kept coming after I left. That was a good sign.

A complete stranger told me I looked like an enchanted fairy. Surprisingly enough, no one has questioned my sexuality as of yet.

Not that there is anything wrong with any sexuality, just to clarify.

It is simple to do this hair. I understand how easy the majority of men have it. Even if I do not have the desire to do my hair, it still appears I did with the help of a little spray wax.

Hair products will last longer. I can buy salon brands now since they actually last more than a month. I can justify that in my twisted little mind.

In addition, I will be able to grow out my natural dark blonde after about three straight years of torture involving every hue imaginable. It was fun for me but not so much for my hair. Right now it is a mix of black, a bit of bleach blonde from stripping, a bit of chocolate brown dye over the stripping and a peak of an ashy blonde. I call it ombre a la raccoon.

Bonus: my hair is in a somewhat healthy condition now. Soon the world will never know the great atrocities I inflicted upon it in the dark days they call senior year of high school.

Aside from physical benefits, I believe this hair makes me bolder. I do not care what people think of me. Well, except for future employers.

I care what they think about some things. As for the rest of the human population, I could really give a darn. How could I? I have no blanket of hairspray and jet black hair dye to hide behind.

Girls, take it from a chick who used to pride herself on having big, teased hair ratted to the great heavens above, go pixie at least once in your life. You will not regret it.



Photo courtesy of flickr

Photo courtesy of movieviral.com



Review: 'Mockingjay' Sings Familiar Tune

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It is difficult to review films from series like "Hunger Games," "Twilight" or "Harry Potter," because the entries tend to be of similar content and quality. The primary audiences care more about accurate adaptations of the books than about good movies.

"Mockingjay - Part 1" gives people who liked the first two "Hunger Games" films the accurate and safe adaptations they have come to expect, so can you blame it for not

giving more than that?

I read and enjoyed the books, but wanted to see interpretations of the books more than duplications. This holds true for "Mockingjay," the book with the sloppiest story structure in the trilogy. Would it be so wrong to fix problems in the novel rather than to blindly duplicate them? This is dually bad because "Mockingjay" has been split into two films, making the narrative arc more frustrating than the book.

This is not to say "Mockingjay" is a bad movie. The fact that so much is great is why the structure and pacing are so upsetting. Jennifer

Lawrence gives her best performance of the series adding a pleasant level of vulnerability she did not have in previous outings. The highlight is when she sings, using her own voice, and reminds audiences there is a warm heart to her character beyond clever quips and shooting planes with explosive arrows.

The second best character comes from a more unexpected place. A cat outshines screen veterans like Woody Harrelson, Julianne Moore, and the late Philip Seymour Hoffman. This is not an insult to any of those actors. It is a sincere compliment to an impressively utilized feline.

Cute animals are usually props to elicit cheap laughs, but the cat in "Mockingjay" adds a surprising level of charm to the story and likeability of the film's primary characters.

There is solid action as found in the first two movies, but the story lacks an adequate dramatic device as exciting as watching people trapped in a deadly, televised game. The events feel more random without that structure even if they are still interesting overall.

"Mockingjay - Part 1" is mostly just a long trailer for "Mockingjay - Part 2," and gets 7 less charismatic Hemsworth brothers out of 10.

OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Immigration is Easier than You Think

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If you have not heard about the recent controversy surrounding immigration, then you probably are living under a rock.

While the coverage of this developing story has been intensive, it has been far too engrossed in the typical left versus right argument. The liberal argument says those people deserve help. Which is correct. To say we should provide it is also true.

But conservatives have a point that throwing money at a problem never does much to fix it. Herein lays the problem: both parties entertain ways of addressing the problem, liberals through aid and conservatives through deportation, but neither pays any attention to the cause.

Instead, they try to discredit one another. Liberals are equated with communist fanatics and conservatives are called devils. Neither is true, and bickering amongst ourselves while thousands of immigrants make a dangerous trek to our country is both

counterproductive and downright cruel.

Addressing the problem is a good starting point. These people need our help and that is where the teach-a-man-to-fish adage comes into play.

Yes, we should provide aid to them, but to do so continuously without getting to the source of the problem will end in more aid. Despite talks of providing aid, even democrats are wary of the economic struggle that could come as a result of allowing an increased number of immigrants into the country. In this sense, there is finally some bipartisanship-in-theory.

My problem with this view is that current economic conditions are failing everyone. It is as if people are trying to climb aboard your sinking ship and instead of looking at the hole beneath your feet, you spend all your energy fighting off the "freeloaders."

An economic system rooted in infinite growth, perpetual debt and rewards the top 1 to 2 percent while the world is ravaged is not worth saving. Economic and ideological digressions aside, here is something that might perk a conservative's ear:

this immigration fiasco is actually a chance at coveted economic growth.

The War on Drugs is a forty-year old living failure. Not only do we have the highest prison population in the world, many of whom are non-violent criminals, but we have incarcerated those "criminals" in an alarmingly racist manner. The legalization of drugs is its own movement, but merits some attention in the context of immigration.

A major factor contributing to the dangerous, crime-infested and child labor-intensive conditions of those countries is the illegal sale of drugs.

Our stance as a nation on those drugs has given rise to gangs that feed off those inhumane conditions.

As long as people walk the earth, there will be a market for drugs. Why do we continue to put the lives of immigrants and the lives of drug consumers in our own country, at risk? Instead of producing our own drugs to sell and treating the more serious ones as a public health issue rather than a criminal offense, we stick to the law rather than change it; enabling chemically dangerous,

impure varieties of drugs to surface as well as the exploitation of children for their trafficking.

This needless attachment to a botched and rhetorically flawed "war" on drugs has fueled more violence and destruction than any Cheech-and-Chong fan ever has.

Everybody wants the same things: food, water and a happy existence. America has had the privilege of living in a bubble, but our actions are finally starting to catch up to us.

Our international diplomacy has not been diplomatic. Failed social policies continue to cause problems in surrounding nations. Patching up problems with Band-Aid politics is dancing around the problem.

Throw money at the problem and you will just have to throw more. Deport innocent people and let your conscience suffer. Both options are terrible.

All the superficial patriotism and tweeting #murica in the world is not going to change horrible policies. Stop with the act, grow up and realize that it is your responsibility to make the world a better place.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Students Celebrate Success of Published Book



Jane Kretzmann is the author of the children's book "Eddie and Harry," which the Cornerstone Press will launch today.

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Students enrolled in English 349 Editing and Publishing have been preparing all semester for the Dec. 4 book launch of Jane Kretzmann's "Eddie and Harry."

Together the class worked to edit, design, publish and market Kretzmann's manuscript.

"Before the semester starts, there are about 20 manuscripts that Dr. Gail has screened for us," said marketing manager Kendra Lenius. "From that we take about two to three weeks to review each manuscript and choose which pieces are going to be our top contenders."

After narrowing down their pool, "Eddie and Harry" had taken the majority vote and became the classes' project.

"'Eddie and Harry' is a delightful little story about self-acceptance and overcoming prejudices and judgments as characterized by Eddie the Egret and Harry the Heron," Lenius said. "There is also a theme of overcoming physical disability, as Eddie is disabled with a shorter neck than most egrets until he learns the 'heron way' of fishing and blows away the entire egret community."

After selecting the manuscript, the class divided into several different teams to effectively produce the book. Each student focused on a specific job in order to streamline the publication process.

"On the marketing team, we worked on developing the hook and pitch for the book, strategizing the best way to publish the book, coordinating events, making sure that the marketing strategy is what the author wants and what Cornerstone Press wants," Lenius said.

Sylvia Kies was the managing director of the project.

"I oversee all of the teams to make sure nothing is missed," Kies said. "I am also in charge of the publishing agreement between the university, author and illustrator."

Since most of the students have never published a book, a large part of the class was spent learning about how to be successful in the publication

industry.

"After the selection of the manuscript, it gets handed over to the editorial team," Lenius said. "The staff goes over fact checking. For example, there are illustrations that they needed to make sure there were no copyright infringements."

"Marketing sends in a design team to establish what artworks we want to be featured from the plethora of pieces we have," Lenius said. "They work their magic to develop a beautiful cover. From there, we work with the university printing press to print marketing materials, such as posters."

The marketing team has advertised three events that the author will be attending. There will be two book readings, one at the Children's Museum in downtown Stevens Point and the other at the Portage County Public Library.

The official book launch will be held in the Laird Room on Dec. 4 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

"It's been wonderful to learn the process and get the experience of managing a group like this," Kies said.

The team will meet Kretzmann for the first time on Dec. 3. Kies and Lenius are excited to see her reaction to their hard work and get their hands on a copy of their published work.

'Not that Kind of Girl' Cover Captures Dunham's Humor

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"Not that Kind of Girl" by Lena Dunham of HBO's "Girls" has become a New York Times bestseller.

It seems her words were not the only key to achieving this high honor. According to Teddy Blanks, the co-founder of CHIPS, the cover design was a bold choice.

"The idea was to design something that evoked the all-type covers of essay collections from the '70s like Joan Didion's 'The White Album' and also advice books from the '80s and '90s like Helen Gurley Brown's 'Having It All,' while also having it stand on it's own," Blanks said.

Blanks said he and Dunham felt these references would help signal the tone of the book.

Blanks worked with Dunham at his graphic design studio in Brooklyn to create the cover.

"Lena is a great collaborator," Blanks said. "She's one of my favorite people to work with. It was a bold choice to not include her photo on the cover."

Jacob Szeligowski, a 2D design

program major, is a fan of Dunham's work on "Girls." He said "Not that Kind of Girl" was designed fittingly to Dunham's comedy.

"It is very representative of Dunham's humor, which is dry, straightforward, clean-cut and awkward," Szeligowski said. "Things the average person may not find humor in, Dunham can make interesting or hilarious. She is pulling on the cult style of '60s romance novels, where I can see her humor is tied to."

Szeligowski noted "Not that Kind of Girl" has reproduced cover design typeface styles from the '60s.

"Novels like 'The Valley of the Paper Dolls,' which has become an American cult masterpiece is designed in a very similar way to the cover of Dunham's book," Szeligowski said. "I would argue that she has capitalized cult culture to the mainstream. She is pulling on these features of a cult '60s era novel in the stylization of her own work."

Simplicity was also a winning design element for Szeligowski.

"A basic aesthetic to good design is simplicity," Szeligowski said. "This particular book really taps into that graphic ideal."

Szeligowski read "Not that Kind of Girl" in just a few days.

"It was hard to put down because it was really insightful, and I felt like it related to me and my concerns in my life," Szeligowski said. "I have a strong love/hate relationship with Lena Dunham. Part of me is really attracted to the work she does and the other part thinks she needs to grow up, figure out her issues and get it together."

Szeligowski said Dunham has been successful in accommodating her weird lifestyle, but finds it impossible to not mention the controversy her memoir has brought on.

Dunham has been accused by several online critics of molesting her younger sister because of a passage in her book describing an event in which Dunham looked at her sister's vagina to discover pebbles her sister had placed there.

Dunham turned to Twitter to express how disgusted she felt about these accusations. Dunham cancelled several book tour stops because of the backlash she has received.

"Although a lot of the book was really interesting there were many parts which were kind of disturbing," Szeligowski said. "Dunham posed

certain issues as very normal when in reality they were the opposite."

Still, Szeligowski finds Dunham relatable.

"'Girls' functions as a modern reiteration of 'Sex and the City,'" Szeligowski said. "I enjoy her character Hannah, though she often annoys me. I feel like we would be really good friends."

**NOT
THAT
KIND
OF
GIRL**
A young woman
tells you what
she's "learned"
Lena Dunham

Photo courtesy of lenadunham.com

The cover of "Not That Kind of Girl" by Lena Dunham.

90FM to Host Annual Radiothon

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WWSP90FM will host their annual on-air auction Radiothon throughout the first week of December.

Radiothon will run from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 and 7 to entertain listeners and raise money for the station.

Dylan Shanahan is the station manager and has been involved with 90FM since his freshman year. During this time he has seen Radiothon improve.

"The way we use social media and our website is pretty professional," Shanahan said. "For the most part we're approaching the Radiothon in the most professional manner that I've ever seen. The items donated every year continuously have been getting better and better."

Shanahan played a huge role in getting businesses to donate packages auctioned off during Radiothon.

"The whole day is insane," Shanahan said. "In previous years the station managers would coordinate a lot. This year we brought in a lot more students to help with packages."

Public relations director Jana Schleis is in charge of managing a

promotions team of volunteers.

Schleis said 90FM depends on events like Radiothon to aid in upkeep of the station.

"Those who donate like to tune in and see how much their items go for," Schleis said. "I've heard more than one listener say they do their Christmas shopping through Radiothon."

Schleis said the station gets donations from the Wisconsin Rapids, Plover, Wausau and Stevens Point areas.

Kat Taylor, a promotions team member, advertised Radiothon on campus and in the community.

"We went to the holiday parade and handed out flyers, candy canes and stickers for Radiothon," Taylor said. "The community was really excited about it because a lot of people know about 90FM. It's an event that the community loves."

Taylor, Shanahan and Schleis said they enjoy working with other students at 90FM to help the station succeed.

"The thing about a student-run radio station is we do a lot of work and learn a lot from it," Schleis said. "There are always challenges at the station but we work together really well."



Photo courtesy of 90FM

A t-shirt, a hat and a gift card from Red Eye Brewing Company are some of the many prizes that participants can win through the Radiothon.

Life By Jonathan Seymour



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Teamwork and Passion Drive Afterimages



Photo by Alyx Johnson

Alyssa Casey and Catie Smiley, senior dance majors, rehearse "The Imperishable Afterlife of Cardington Manor" for Afterimages.

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This year's Afterimages spotlights classic modern dance exploring motif and design, athletic contemporary jazz dance, minimalist post-modern dance and inventive dance theatre through nine original student works.

Afterimages is a semester-long process directed entirely by dance students, which Michael Estanich, the faculty adviser and mentor to Afterimages, has been a part of since he arrived at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2006.

"Each year the student directing team refines the process and initiates new ideas," Estanich said. "The

choreographers find beautiful and unique ways to explore ideas. This group of students is innovative, thinking, creative and compassionate."

Students involved with the project will perform Dec. 5 to 7 in Jenkins Theatre.

Students collaborated to organize the audition and casting process, manage their rehearsals, promote the event, design the program and work with other students to design lights and costumes, while creating and dancing in a variety of projects.

"It gives students the opportunity to experience what it is like to produce an entire performance," Estanich said. "I admire the commitment and drive the students have to present their best

selves to the public."

Elaine Mary Stone is a choreographer, performer and musician in this year's performance. Stone said Afterimages has given her the chance to combine her passions of music and dance.

"I get to use all the skills and knowledge I have acquired in my previous training at the University of Limerick, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, and combine my two prime passions of music and dance to create a piece that is meaningful and unique to me," Stone said.

Stone said collaborating with fellow student choreographers was important to her.

"I have been given the spectacular opportunity to share my work with a team and together combine our talents and experiences to create a wonderful work," Stone said.

Estanich agreed Afterimages gives student-choreographers a special opportunity.

"They have the chance to share their work, practice their skills and show their passionate investment in dance," Estanich said.

Alyssa Berube, the marketing and public relations intern for Afterimages, said the audience will be pleased with the high quality of the production.

"All the dancers and choreographers are passionate about their work and that translates into

an enjoyable viewing experience for the audience," Berube said. "If the audience leaves the theatre with a new feeling, thought or curiosity than before they walked in, then we did something right."

Ashlyn Cianciolo, an Afterimages directing team member, choreographer and dancer, said she is honored to participate in Afterimages as her last production as a senior student.

"I graduate in December, so this is my last production at UWSP," Cianciolo said. "I'm excited to do it one last time. The honor of being able to share my work, both danced and choreographed, with an audience is so humbling, yet so exhilarating."

All three students felt having Estanich and Joan Karlen, a dance program coordinator, to support their semester-long efforts was invaluable.

"Without their support, leadership and mentorship throughout the process, I would have been very lost in translation," Stone said. "I think it's really important to have them there for us and to help along the way."

Estanich is excited for students to share their hard work with the public.

"It's a special time in the dance program," Estanich said. "The students who train in dance bring a high level of focus, discipline, creativity and expression to their work and it is exciting to see all of their hard work fully realized."

Students Collaborate to 'Fix the Fox'

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Design students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point have been working with the board of directors for The Fox on Main to help revamp the venue, formerly called Fox Theater.

The Fox on Main was a movie theater and had been open for almost a century before closing in 1985. After rumors about a potential reopening, action is now being taken to renovate the venue. Fix the Fox is the series of events to support renovations.

"Our goal is to design and open a multi-use performance and event space that contributes to the efforts to make downtown Stevens Point a thriving city center," said Greg Wright, the president of The Fox on Main.

Specific details have yet to be

released about the type of events and performances to feature at The Fox on Main. The board of directors is currently working to bring in an interior architecture student and student musicians to move efforts forward.

"We are not trying to be elusive with our business plan," Wright said. "We are just taking the time to research industry trends and the local market to ensure that we create a responsible and sustainable plan. We have been sharing what we have learned as we learn it, both through news articles and outreach to local business and service groups. We are eager to have the website to add another layer to that communication."

Given its large undertaking, the board of directors for The Fox on Main decided to enlist Associate Professor Jillian Noble's Graphic Design Processes class for help.

"The class has taken on the project of helping The Fox on Main create

marketing and promotional materials including a new logo, website, posters, mailers, t-shirts, calendars, social media and various other print and digital pieces for the committee to use to promote and campaign to raise funds to reopen The Fox on Main," Noble said. "My unofficial role has been project manager, as there are 13 students and six committee members working together to make all this happen."

Lanea Zagrzebski was nominated by her classmates to act as the lead on the project.

"We worked in a group to establish the needs of The Fox on Main, such as a logo, brand standards and a working website," Zagrzebski said. "They also needed simple graphics for Facebook, as well as Instagram and Twitter accounts."

Zagrzebski is enthusiastic about the project and said she has never had an opportunity like this before.

"Not only did we get to work in a

professional environment, but we got to establish our places and roles in the design world," Zagrzebski said.

"The UWSP graphic design class has been an incredible asset for us," Wright said. "They have created a brand identity for us that includes a variety of components from the website and other social media to a logo with business cards and letterhead. These students are well-prepared and exceptionally professional, and we are positioned well to communicate both our efforts to reopen the Fox and our programming once we are open because of the work they have done."

The Fox on Main has begun to host concert events to help raise donations for the project. The next event of "Fix the Fox" will be hosted at Renee's Red Rooster on Dec. 7 from 3 to 7 p.m. The event is free, but donations to The Fox on Main are encouraged.



Photo by John R. Hartman

Fix the Fox event held on Nov. 16 in the NFAC Courtyard.

