

## Administrators Consider Eliminating, Redistributing COFAC

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In the latest preparation considerations for proposed budget cuts, administrators are discussing eliminating the College of Fine Arts and Communication and dividing the programs among other colleges.

The Division of Communication would be absorbed by the College of Professional Studies, but remain its own entity. The Departments of Art & Design, Music and Theatre & Dance would be redistributed to the College of Letters and Science. It is unclear where the Aber Suzuki Center would be placed.

Administrators estimate savings would amount to about \$290,000 in base budget dollars, mainly due to the elimination of the dean and his staff.

"It's important to remember that this is an initial idea," said Jeff Morin, COFAC dean. "I do think this will become an issue for recruiting students and how they would view the programs if they were separated."

The college, ranked in the top 7 percent nationally, attracts students from all over the country as well as generous donors due to its regional and national recognition.

"If 10 students decided not to choose UWSP because of this, that would be \$520,000 lost in tuition," Morin said. "This would cost more than it would save."

Chancellor Bernie Patterson said administrative reductions could be an alternative to faculty and staff cuts, as well.

"There are other models that are prevalent where it is not uncommon for the arts to be housed in the letters and sciences, which is the way it is in Madison," Patterson said.

UW-Madison is, for the first time in several decades, considering adding a new college, the College of the Arts, to provide greater focused support for the arts.

Patterson said the differences in a college, school and department and how they are organized is likely less clear to a prospective

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College of Fine Arts and Communication



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## EDITORIAL

# Advising Shouldn't Be Mandatory

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I went to my advising session last week with my Degree Progress Report in hand and the rest of my time at UWSP planned. I knew which classes I need to graduate and when I plan to take them. I spent less than five minutes in my adviser's office.

Since freshman year, my advising sessions have gone similarly. I learned early on to read my DPR, and I mapped out my classes after declaring an English major. It was pretty simple and only took a bit of thought and time.

As UWSP administrators consider cutting the Student Academic Advising Center, which primarily helps undeclared majors, we need to also consider how the students who need these services will get help. It seems the responsibility to help these students will fall on professors.

According to a 2013-2014 report, the center helped 744 unde-

clared students during that academic year.

We frequently talk about how packed professor's schedules are, so it's easy to imagine how adding another responsibility, especially of this magnitude, would impact their time.

Cuts are inevitable, and the center perhaps isn't necessary at UWSP. However, if we cut a service so large, we need to consider changing advising to relieve professors taking on extra duties.

We need to make advising sessions optional campus-wide and encourage students to plan their own futures. Let's also make DPRs easier to read so that everyone can see exactly what classes they've completed and which they have to enroll in.

Some students will still need help, and at that point, they can ask their advisers. Many students, like me, would be grateful for the extra time they didn't have to spend going through the motions with their adviser about an already-planned schedule.

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student.

"Students who study the arts come because of the program and particularly because of the faculty," Patterson said. "None of that would change. The goal is to preserve all the arts programs as they currently are."

Communication Professor Chris Sadler said this is not the first time a move like this has been considered.

"It's been on the table before, but there is question as to how much money it would actually save," Sadler said.

Senior Jeanna Diedrich is glad to see the university keeping programs and artistic classes, but worries about future generations of students.

"When there is a specific college, the programs have more meaning," she said.

Freshman art major Jamie Weinfurter said it would be disappointing for the programs to be absorbed.

"The arts have their own community on campus," Weinfurter

said. "I would like to stay here but might have to reconsider if this went through."

Despite impending cuts and fewer instructors, fall enrollment is up from last year, making up some lost funds.

"At this point, freshman deposits are up about 25 percent from last year," said Jim Barrett, associate vice chancellor for enrollment management.

He said this is likely due to an improved recruitment process involving one-on-one contact with students and additional recruiters. It may also be due to the fact that this year, all public high school seniors must take the ACT.

"If you look across the UW System, overall applications have increased as well," he said.

On the other side, incoming transfer students are down by 6 percent from last year. Barrett attributes that to competition from other UW schools.

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

### Sunday, March 29

A picnic table was found broken in half between Pray-Sims and Smith.

Male was caught kicking a parking meter outside the George Stein building.

Officers encountered two people on Isadore stealing several signs.

An officer discovered that someone had stolen part of a traffic barrier out of Lot Q.

### Monday March 30

Male called stating he received a call from an individual who was threatening to kill his family.

Hyer staff member called to report a marijuana odor.

### Tuesday, March 31

Male called stating his friend was sending him suicidal messages over social media.

### Wednesday, April 1

Debot staff member called about a plumbing emergency.

### Thursday, April 2

SSPD called after receiving a call from a male about his friend who was driving while intoxicated and possibly depressed.

Four suspects were acting suspiciously on Michigan Avenue near Schmeeckle.

### Friday, April 3

Watson staff member called to speak with an officer regarding a theft in one of her resident's rooms.

Portage County Comm. Center radioed to state that male subjects were hanging out of the Thomson second story window.

### Saturday, April 4

Student called to request an officer to check the welfare of a male and female subject in Watson. The caller overheard an argument and the female saying "let go of my arm" and was concerned.

Thomson staff member was called by the hall director and asked to inform PS that a shower curtain and sign in the girls' bathroom had been burned.

## THE POINTER

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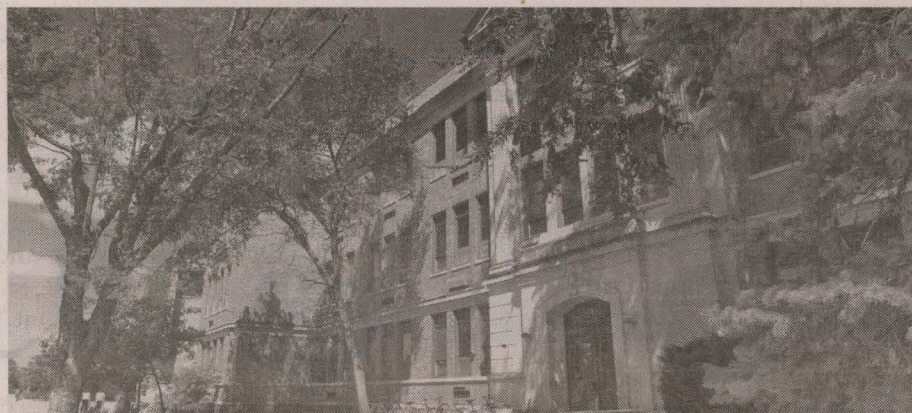
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Photo courtesy of [campusreservations.uwsp.edu](http://campusreservations.uwsp.edu)



# Career Services Hosts Nonprofit Networking Night

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Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and seek advice from nonprofit groups around the Stevens Point area at a round-table networking night from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, in the Encore room of the Dreyfus University Center, hosted by Career Services.

Those who attended participated in discussions where they were given seven minutes with each organization and one-on-one time with groups that interested them.

The American Red Cross, Boys & Girls Club of Portage County, Central River Farmshed and United Way of Portage County were among six organizations at the event.

"I reached out to the local and regional nonprofits to find a diverse group so students could find opportunities and ask questions," said senior Laura Brigman, peer mentor.

Brigman organized the event with some help from supervisors.

One of the most prominent bits of advice given was to acquire and utilize internships within one's desired organization.

"Nonprofit organizations don't have a lot of time for applications and interviews, so if they know someone is good at something, then they will hire you," said Taylor Christianson, senior Central Rivers Farmshed volunteer coordinator. "The chances of you getting hired are exponentially higher if you already work for them."

Jordan Derber, Boys & Girls Club director of teen services, agreed and said a number of her co-workers were interns prior to acquiring their positions.

"If they like you enough and want to keep you around, they will make a position and fit you in somehow," Derber said.

In addition, it was recommended to attend community events and become a familiar face. When doing so, sources encouraged talking to



Photo courtesy of Laura Brigman and Taylor Koch

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## Summers Backs out of MCLA Position

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Dr. Greg Summers, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, withdrew his acceptance on Tuesday, March 31, as 12th president of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts due to health issues in extended family.

"I know Greg did not make this decision lightly, and I respect his commitment to his family above his career," said Chancellor Bernie Patterson in a faculty announcement on April 1. "I am pleased to have him continue as the provost at UW-Stevens Point and trust you will join me in appreciating the stability in leadership this difficult decision for Greg has brought our institution during a challenging time in our history."

The MCLA board of trustees will continue to evaluate its options and execute a new search for a candidate.

The board was excited for Summers to take the position, but is confident the institution will be able to function until a replacement is found.

"I feel both fortunate and very happy to be continuing on in the provost's role at UW-Stevens Point," Summers said.

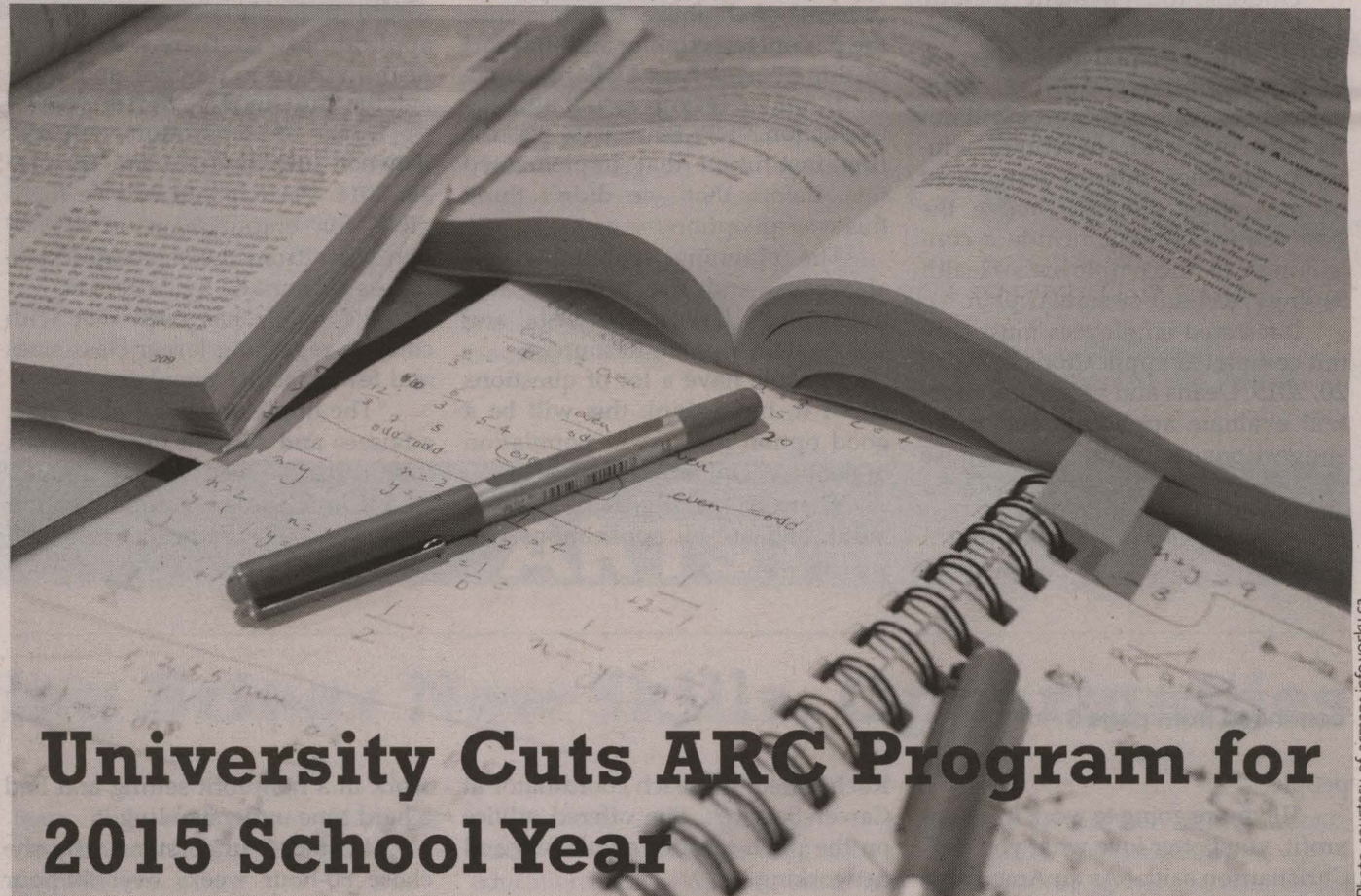


Photo courtesy of acmaps.info.yorku.ca

## University Cuts ARC Program for 2015 School Year

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The residence hall Academic Resource Coordinator program will be cut entirely for the 2015-16 school year.

The program involves students who use their personal experience to mentor incoming freshmen on social and academic changes they will experience during their first year in college. Due to the potential budget cuts, the university

was forced to cut the ARC program until further notice.

"We're looking at the state budget cuts, and we need to come up with close to one million dollars worth of cuts for our department," said Brian Faust, director of Residential Living.

The ARC to Success program was established in 1992 and is one of the first programs to be eliminated due to budget cuts.

"Over the past 20 years, we have had anywhere from 250 to 400 students within the program and this year we took a decline to

below 200 participants," said Kris Hoffenberger, assistant director of Residential Living.

The orientation program for incoming students was shortened last year from one and a half days to one full day. This resulted in less representation of campus-wide organizations.

"With that change of format, I was not given the opportunity to get up and talk with the parents and students, which was the venue in which we would typically recruit," Hoffenberger said. "That led to a

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# Separation Incentive Offers Opportunity, Setbacks

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The new Voluntary Separation Incentive Policy, introduced April 2, will offer a select 280 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point employees an opportunity to retire with a severance and will be used to reduce costs and minimize layoffs and terminations.

Employees were selected by Chancellor Bernie Patterson, and he must approve each applicant.

Eligible candidates are those appointed as a faculty member or academic staff member with an "indefinite rolling horizon or fixed-term renewable contract," or are an "unclassified limited appointee or classified permanent staff member."

Applicants must be at least 55, have at least five years of service with UWSP and be vested with the Wisconsin Retirement System prior to July 1, 2015.

Employees who previously gave written notice of intent to retire or resign prior to the start date are ineligible.

Options for payment include a one-time separation payment, which will be equal to 50 percent of the employee's April 2, 2015, base salary. This percentage will not include overload, overtime, winterim, summer, interim assignment or any other payment above the base. Other options include a contribution to the employee's Health Savings Account or similar plan.

Interested employees must submit completed applications by April 20, 2015. Deans and vice chancellors will evaluate applicants and make suggestions to Patterson, whose final decisions will be announced no later than May 15, 2015.



Photo by Allison Birr

Professors who were not considering retirement now are giving it some thought.

"We are one of several campuses offering this for their employees, and each one is a little bit different in terms of eligibility requirements, the parameters, timing and that sort of thing," said Pam Dollard, director of human resources and affirmative action. "UW-Eau Claire was the first institution that implemented this. Before that, we didn't think this was an option for us."

The planning spanned several weeks, and the program was reviewed by UW System Legal and UW System Human Resources.

"People have a lot of questions about it, but I think this will be a good option for a good population of people," Dollard said.

There is not a goal number in mind, and not all applications will

be accepted.

"If a department has 12 people and they can handle it with 10, we would probably be accepting two applications, so there's a mechanism in place to monitor and manage the situation," Patterson said.

Dates of separation will fall between July 3, 2015, and January 31, 2016. Participants will be ineligible for employment at UWSP two years from the separation date unless authorized by Patterson.

The policy has been met with concern regarding larger class sizes and fewer faculty members.

"The implications for class size, advisees and student organizations hasn't really been talked about," said Chris Sadler, communication professor. "The same courses will

be taught with fewer instructors. It's also important to recognize the importance of career and advising services because that's not what most faculty has been trained to do."

He said the program's suddenness could cause emotions to run high at a time when morale is low.

"We're the fifth campus to do this, but for some reason we haven't publicly announced it," Sadler said.

Communication Professor Karlene Ferrante said she was not planning to retire so soon and enjoys teaching, but will give the incentive serious consideration.

"It would be interesting to see what campus would look like in two or three years with fewer faculty and fewer services," Sadler said.

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people.

"If you're going to work in a nonprofit, you better love what you do," Christianson said. "As an Americorp member, I average \$3 an hour, but I love it. I love being surrounded by people who are equally, if not more, passionate, about it than you are."

While internships are always helpful to acquire, other forms of experience depend upon what type of nonprofit work one is planning on going into.

"Go and work with kids," said Peter Gebhardt, Boys & Girls Club director of club site operations. "It's great to have experience with kids, but if you want to work in marketing, it's good to have experience in business or graphic design."

One of the tables included in discussion was headed by Taylor

Koch, career outreach coordinator at Career Services. She offered advice on the pitch to offer employers and networking.

Koch said to offer potential employers a name, desired opportunities and one's current level (research, entry-level or career).

She also said to share relevant experiences like volunteering, leadership positions and jobs. It is also a good idea to tell a self-exemplifying story.

"It is important to think about what you want to say ahead of time so you have it ready," Koch said. "You may even want to practice it on a friend, but it's important that it doesn't sound rehearsed."

Amy Wiza, executive director of Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of America Inc., watched her mother

work in a nonprofit setting and had a hard time understanding it.

"I couldn't understand why she chose 80-hour weeks over 40-hour weeks," Wiza said. "But eventually I got it and joined her. Never say never, I guess."

AmeriCorps member Wendy Fletcher also had a worthwhile experience working with CAP Services Inc. She often works at the 24-hour crisis desk.

"I've gotten a year's worth of experience and it's offered a wealth of education for me," Fletcher said.

The event had a good turnout. Sophomore Abby Tentinger was one of the students in attendance.

Tentinger currently works for Promoting Awareness and Victim Empowerment (PAVE), an organization on campus she said is similar

to nonprofit, and she is interested in finding a similar job.

"I wanted to learn more about the nonprofits in the area," Tentinger said. "I'm really glad I came. I learned a lot and am really interested in the Boys & Girls Club."

Brigman said the event turned out far better than she expected and hopes to do similar events in the future. She would like to offer different vendors as well as different types of organizations.

She would also like to encourage students to take advantage of these and similar events on and off campus.

"Any time there's an opportunity like this available, nonprofit or profit, stop by and network," Brigman said. "It opens a lot of doors you may not even know are there."



# New Bachelor of Applied Science Degree Created for Non-traditional Students

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Last fall, the Board of Regents approved the university's request to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in the organizational leadership major.

"The Bachelor of Applied Science is specifically aimed at adults who have already earned an applied associate degree from a technical college and who want to return to school and earn a bachelor's degree," said Ken Menningen, chairman of the academic affairs committee.

The degree will allow students to transfer 60 to 72 credits and work toward the 120-credit requirement of a four-year bachelor's degree.

"Once the new degree type is approved by shared governance, it must also win approval by the Higher Learning Commission, which is the agency that accredits the university," Menningen said. "Once all approvals are obtained, a small pool of interested students will be identified and advised to begin their journey to earn a B.A.S. in organizational leadership."

Menningen said the committee is hopeful the obstacles these students face will help the university better

shape the curriculum prior to admitting a larger number of students into the program.

"Targeted students will not be those on campus currently, but likely non-traditional students at locations like Rhinelander, where place-bound students are located," said Todd Huspeni, interim associate vice chancellor for teaching, learning and academic programs. "The idea is for us to offer the courses at these locations, not on campus here at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point."

UWSP currently offers a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music and an associate's degree.

"To maintain enrollment and health of our university, we must broaden our appeal and attract both out-of-state and non-traditional students," Menningen said. "While these students will need to complete the majority of the General Education Program, the goal of the degree is to count as much of their technical college coursework as possible toward the organizational leadership major, which is the only major at UWSP that currently admits a B.A.S. degree type."

Menningen said similar programs are offered by UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay and UW-Oshkosh.



Photo courtesy of uwplatt.edu

Non-traditional students will benefit from this new major.

However, most of these courses are taught primarily online. UWSP hopes to provide a face-to-face instructional program for these students.

It is still undecided which department will house the organizational leadership major. Menningen said for now the program will receive oversight from Continuing Education, but expects roadblocks in terms of advising and support.

"I agree fully with the intent to help returning adults earn a bachelor's degree at UWSP, and I think that faculty, staff and administration must work proactively and creatively to change the current UWSP culture," Menningen said. "Our ability to maintain current enrollment levels will in part depend on our success at attracting and retaining non-traditional students."

# Students Gather, March to Protest Proposed Cuts

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About 200 students gathered in the sundial and marched downtown to the Portage County Public Library on Thursday, April 2, to peacefully oppose Gov. Scott Walker's proposed cuts to the University of Wisconsin System.

"The most important thing was that everyone was high-energy and ready to speak their voice," said organizer Brewster Johnson. "Many people came prepared with signs, ideas and chants. I think the power of wanting change almost helped the event self-organize."

The event was not hosted by the Student Government Association, but its members offered letter-writing and discussion opportunities throughout the day as well as an open forum in the evening.

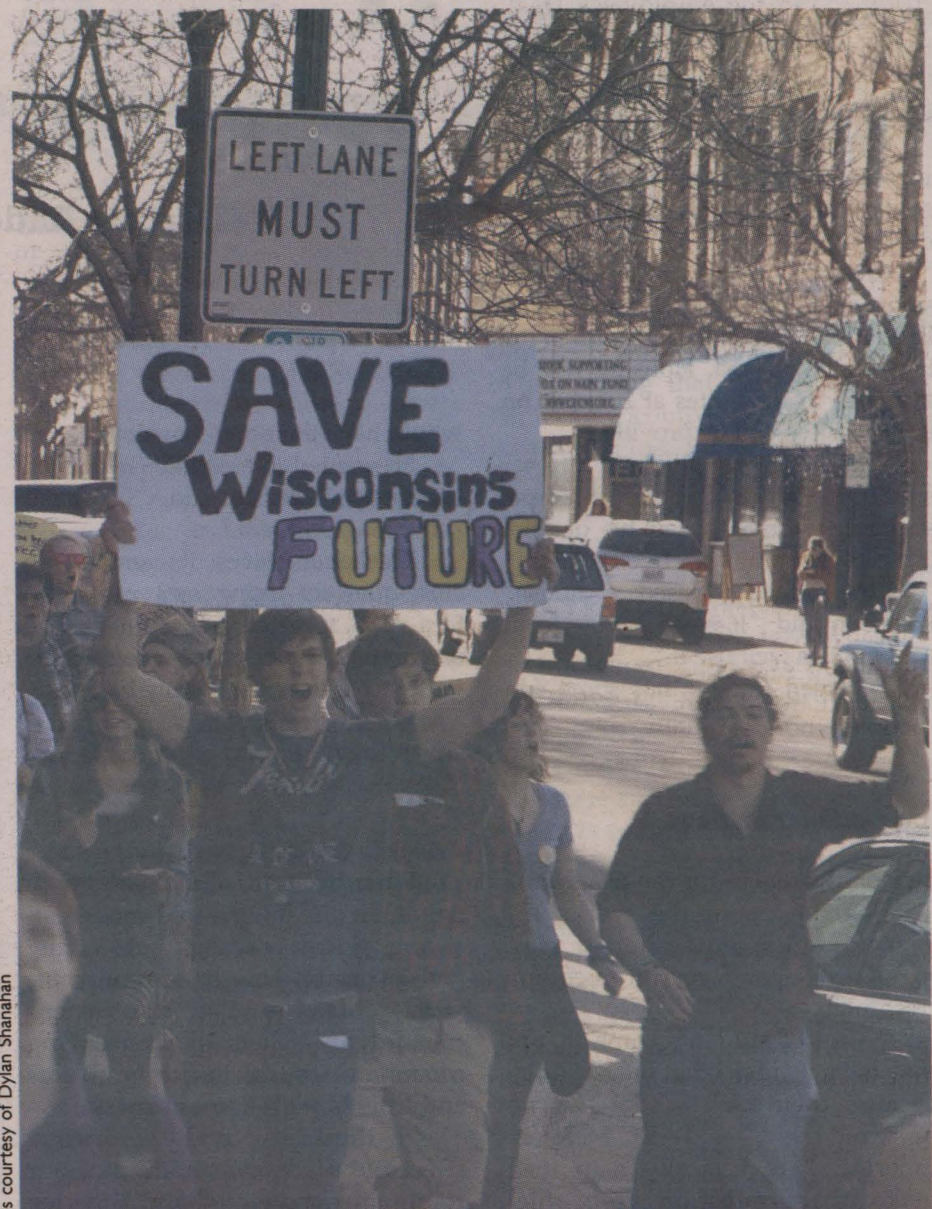
"A lot of us have been feeling very emotional about budget cuts,

but no one's really doing anything, and I think it really bothered me that we were all talk and no action," said organizer Cailie Kafura. "A lot of other campuses were taking action. Standing by idly is not going to do anything for these budget cuts."

Hydrology major Katherine Miller said 19 campuses voted to participate in the day of action, and participants hoped to make their stance heard.

"We're getting affected the most," said Sean Piette, land use planning major. "I hope our legislators will listen to what we have to say. It's very heartening to me that we all care about something. These cuts are just going too far and now our system is suffering greatly."

Johnson said the event was a great foundation for future community rallies and marches, but the group wants to educate people through small group sessions, as well as university and community events.



Photos courtesy of Dylan Shanahan

Students protest budget cuts.





# CNR Summer Field Experience Offered on Campus

**AVERY JEHNKE**

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Students in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will have the option to complete required, summer field techniques in natural resources on campus during summer 2015.

The six-week field camp is an integral part of the college and is one reason it ranks among the best in the country. The coursework is designed to equip students with necessary field skills and covers topics in forestry, plant identification, wildlife, soil and water resources. The experience is worth seven credits.

In the past, students completed the courses at Treehaven Field Station in Tomahawk or an alternative European Environmental Studies Seminar. Overflow students have been accommodated at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station in Amherst Junction.

Space is limited at Treehaven, and the requirement is difficult to complete. This summer, Treehaven facilities will be at capacity with a maximum of 108 students in each of two sessions; the third session will be on campus and will accommodate at least 60. Roughly 300 students intend to fulfill the requirement in 2015.

Dr. Paul Doruska, associate dean for academic affairs of the CNR, said administrators will offer the summer field experience on campus in 2015 to decrease the pressure on the program and reduce the need for facilities at the station. There are no plans to offer the field experience on campus during 2016.

"That's a direct result of our increased enrollments," Doruska said. "The courses themselves aren't changing."

Students in the on-campus session will utilize Schmeeckle Reserve and will be bussed to field sites in the Stevens Point area. Housing will be available in the Suites at 201, but no food services will be provided.

Jake Pedersen, wildland fire science major, will attend the on-campus session. Pederson based his decision on the opportunity for free lodging.

"We already leased a house," Pedersen said. "If we're paying for it, we might as well use it."

Pedersen said he has some con-

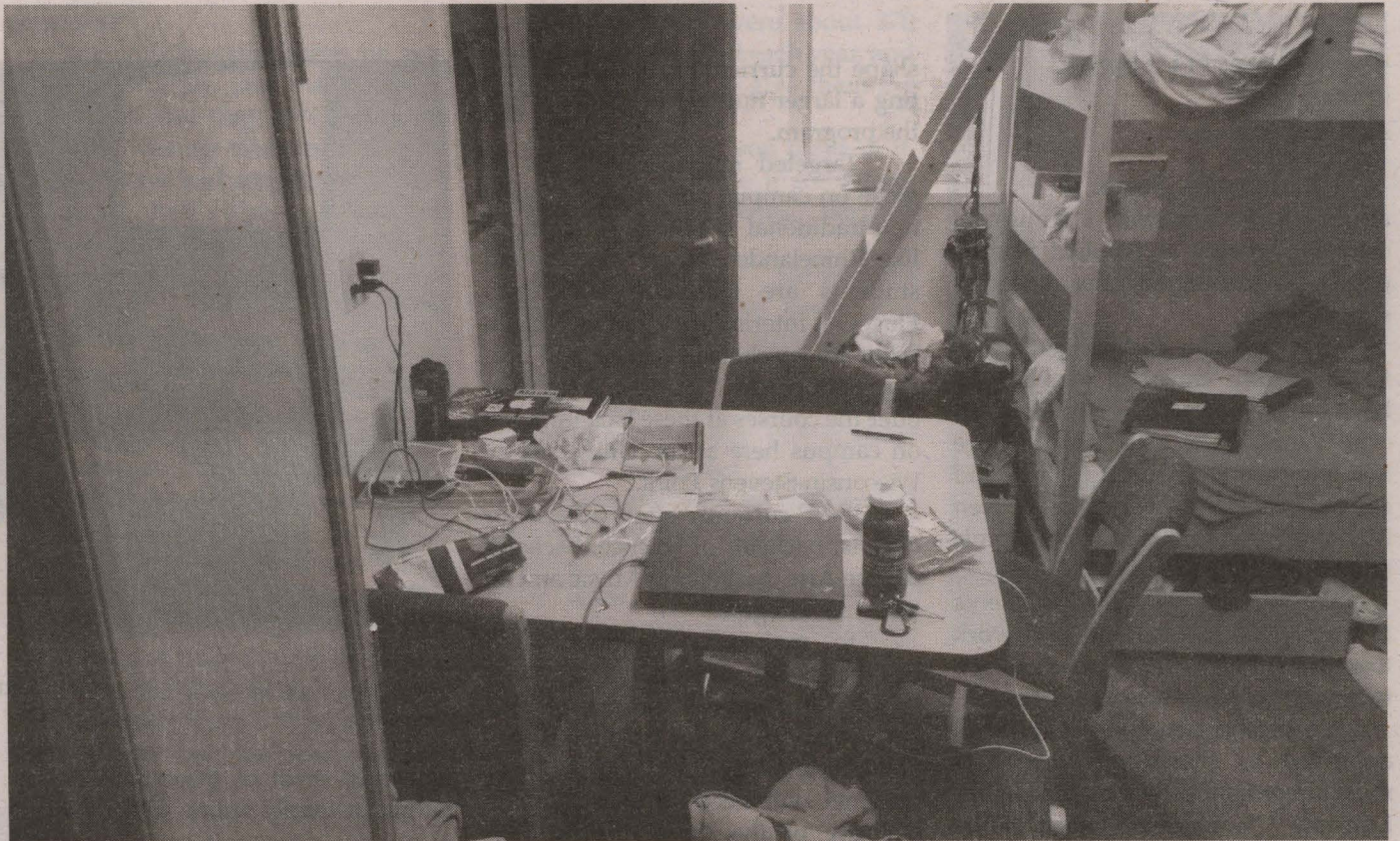


Photo by Avery Jehnke

Treehaven requires students to live on site and in close quarters with classmates.

cerns about having different experiences than his peers, but is excited for the learning opportunities.

Dylan Belisle, natural resource law enforcement major, will attend Treehaven. Belisle said his decision was based on Treehaven's location and the fact that most on-campus students

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**There is something excellent about living in the woods.**

**- Dr. Eric Anderson, wildlife professor**

would have their own housing.

"I wanted the whole Treehaven experience," Belisle said. "I wanted something different."

Treehaven owes its success to close-quarters living and proximity to a rural, forested environment. The on-campus session may not afford the same experiences on a daily basis.

"There is something excellent about living in the woods," said Dr. Eric Anderson, wildlife professor. "It's just not the same here."

Anderson is chairman of the summer field experience committee and has taught summer field courses. The on-campus session, Anderson said,

but students may make other living arrangements that could further reduce costs.

To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the program, university representatives and natural resource professionals will gather at a summit held at Treehaven on April 25 to reevaluate curriculum and logistics for the first time.

Anderson said one main objectives will be to identify key points every student should learn and how to package them into coursework, particularly human dimensions skills.

"What we've brought to the table for the first time are people from the human dimensions side," Anderson said. "We're taking the right steps. We're building the classes around the critical skills and not the other way around."

Doruska said more information about the future of the program and details about sessions for 2016 will be known in the fall. He said the university is dedicated to continuing and improving the summer field experience.

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lack of awareness for the program."

Plans were in the works this year to figure out different ways to advertise and recruit incoming freshmen.

"A lot of students come in, and they have no idea what they're doing because their high school had not prepared them," said ARC McKenna Emerine. "We basically help them make that transition from high school to college."

Emerine said she meets with freshmen one on one to discuss test-taking skills, reading, note-taking and tactics on how to communicate with professors. She also listens to students when they're having roommate issues, health problems and trouble with homesickness.

"I think it's really going to affect the academic standing of our community and university," Emerine said. "The hall staff really help with

keeping students comfortable, and cutting down the staff by three per hall is really going to affect retention rates."

Emerine said the cut is also affecting fellow ARC's who were relying on next year's position for financial purposes. All ARC's are granted free housing within the halls, so many students are left with few living and job options for next year.

"I think students gained knowledge from being able to work with ARC's, but there are definitely things that residential living and other areas of the university have to offer that will makeup for the ARC program," said Lauren Seward, Residence Hall Association president. "This single program was not the number one program that was helping students, so we have to choose our battles."



## NEWS

# CNR Summer Field Experience Offered on Campus

EVERY JEHNKE

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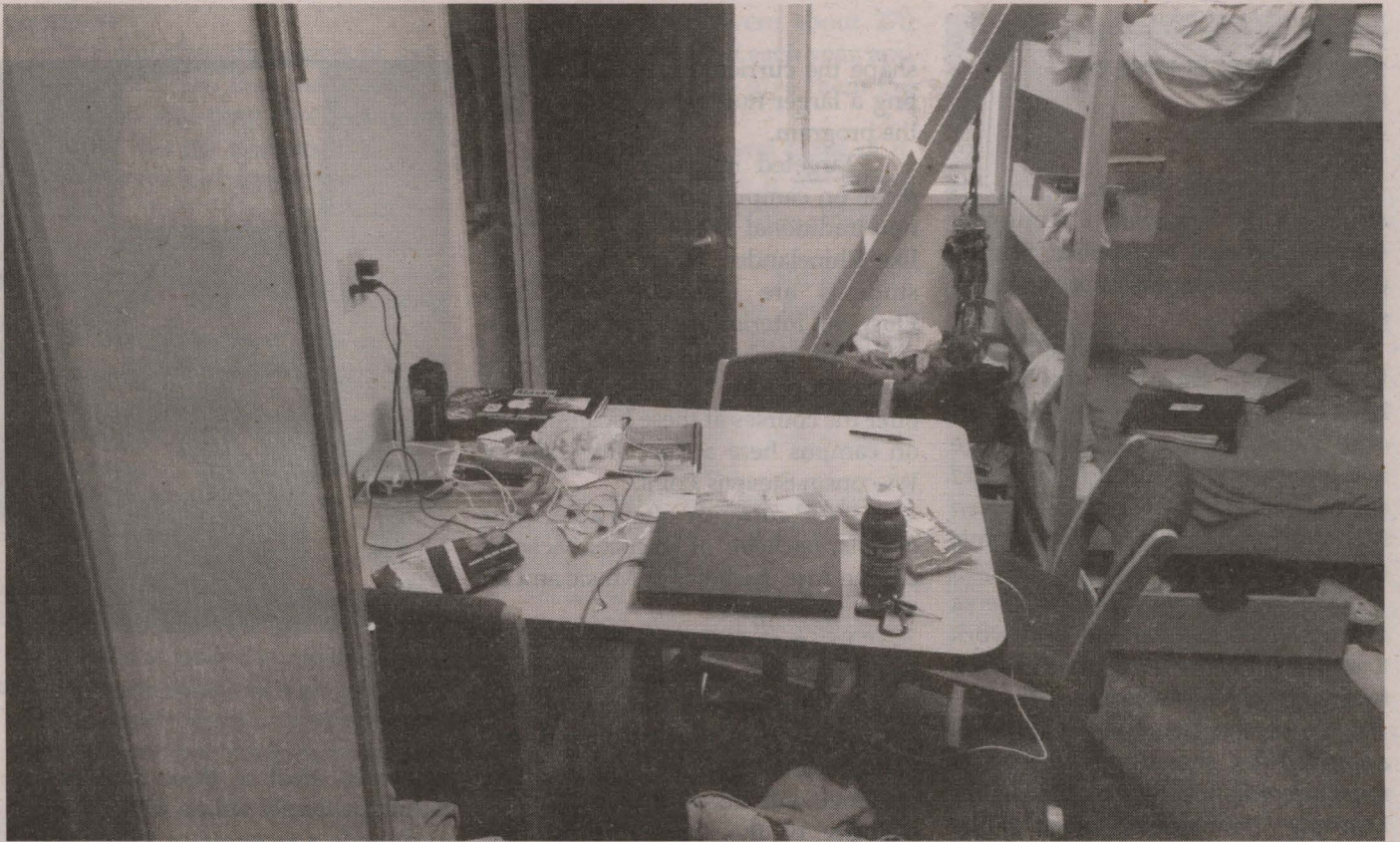


Photo by Avery Jehnke

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To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the program, university representatives and natural resource professionals will gather at a summit held at Treehaven on April 25 to reevaluate curriculum and logistics for the first time.

Anderson said one main objectives will be to identify key points every student should learn and how to package them into coursework, particularly human dimensions skills.

"What we've brought to the table for the first time are people from the human dimensions side," Anderson said. "We're taking the right steps. We're building the classes around the critical skills and not the other way around."

Doruska said more information about the future of the program and details about sessions for 2016 will be known in the fall. He said the university is dedicated to continuing and improving the summer field experience.

“

**There is something excellent about living in the woods.**

**- Dr. Eric Anderson, wildlife professor**

would have their own housing.

"I wanted the whole Treehaven experience," Belisle said. "I wanted something different."

Treehaven owes its success to close-quarters living and proximity to a rural, forested environment. The on-campus session may not afford the same experiences on a daily basis.

will be different because most field sites are not within walking distance and students will not be living in close quarters. At Treehaven, students are required to live on-site.

The on-campus session is offered at a slightly lower tuition rate because food is not included. Lodging and course fees are higher on campus,

continued from page 3

lack of awareness for the program."

Plans were in the works this year to figure out different ways to advertise and recruit incoming freshmen.

"A lot of students come in, and they have no idea what they're doing because their high school had not prepared them," said ARC McKenna Emerine. "We basically help them make that transition from high school to college."

Emerine said she meets with freshmen one on one to discuss test-taking skills, reading, note-taking and tactics on how to communicate with professors. She also listens to students when they're having roommate issues, health problems and trouble with homesickness.

"I think it's really going to affect the academic standing of our community and university," Emerine said. "The hall staff really help with

keeping students comfortable, and cutting down the staff by three per hall is really going to affect retention rates."

Emerine said the cut is also affecting fellow ARC's who were relying on next year's position for financial purposes. All ARC's are granted free housing within the halls, so many students are left with few living and job options for next year.

"I think students gained knowledge from being able to work with ARC's, but there are definitely things that residential living and other areas of the university have to offer that will makeup for the ARC program," said Lauren Seward, Residence Hall Association president. "This single program was not the number one program that was helping students, so we have to choose our battles."



## ENVIRONMENT

# University Takes on Energy Competition

**AVERY JEHNKE**

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Student leaders have brought the world's largest energy and water reduction competition for colleges to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Campus Conservation Nationals began on April 6, and students are encouraged to participate by reducing their energy usage for three weeks.

This spring is the second time UWSP has competed in the national competition, although there has been a long tradition of energy competitions on campus. The competition is a result of Residential Living, the Office of Sustainability and the Student Government Association efforts.

Electricity data from this year's competition will determine which residence hall and academic buildings most effectively reduced energy usage. Data will also be used to rank the university against UW-Whitewater, UW-Milwaukee and UW-Green Bay.

"The idea is to have everyone do these small actions and record the changes on a campus-wide level," said Alex Thomas, SGA's environmental and sustainability affairs committee chairman.

Thomas and his associates are hoping to reach students and make people think more critically about the way their choices can make an impact.

"This is a really good example of how small actions can make a big

change," Thomas said.

Simone LaMarche is a student data support specialist for the Office of Sustainability and will submit data to the competition website. She said that building services has installed energy-monitoring equipment within 39 buildings on campus which collected baseline data and will continue monitoring throughout the competition.

Cate Lucas, Residential Living green associate, said the majority of campus buildings saw a decrease in energy consumption during last year's competition, and green advocates will encourage competition in the dorms this year.

"I think individuals together can have a massive impact," Lucas said. "It's a step toward adhering to our

university's mission statement."

Steven Macherey, undeclared transfer student, said he makes an effort to decrease his energy consumption, though he doesn't live in the dorms. Simple things like power strips and reusable coffee cups, Macherey said, help reduce his overall consumption.

"I keep all the non-essentials on one power strip," Macherey said. "I also didn't turn on the heat as much as I could've this winter."

Macherey said he thinks sustainability and energy awareness are apparent at UWSP, and he is glad to see the competition taking place.

"I'm happy to see things like this," Macherey said. "It's such a conscious campus, but we could always do more."

## What is Conflict Palm Oil?

**NICOLETTE RATZ**

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From March 27 to 31, Cailie Kafura and Sydney Swan attended the Conflict Palm Oil Leadership Summit in San Francisco, sponsored by the Rainforest Action Network, in effort to spread awareness about the conflict of Indonesian palm oil harvests.

The first two days involved 12 hours of leadership activism training where attendees were taught to recognize different systems of oppression, carry out action and delegate roles, said Kafura, 350 Stevens Point president.

"Non-violent direct action is key in making people become more aware," said Swan, 350 Stevens Point member. "This is especially important for issues like palm oil where many are unknowingly contributing to the problem and are blind to the consequences."

Kafura and Swan created banners in the Oakland Greenpeace warehouse and flash-mobbed a nearby grocery store. Throughout the day, activists informed customers about issues encompassing palm oil and products containing it.

Many use the term "conflict palm oil" due to corrupt industry practices that make the use of palm oil a conflict, Kafura said.

"The action network does not wish to boycott the use of palm oil entirely, as many may assume," Kafura said. "The idea is to promote a more sustainable and ethical harvest that doesn't infringe on human rights or cause extinction."

Much of the native Indonesian forests are removed for cultivation of exotic African palm oil. This high level of deforestation has put

endemic Sumatran orangutans, elephants, rhinos and tigers in critical endangerment, Swan said.

The most common technique of forest removal in Indonesia, slash-and-burn, tragically kills many endangered animals outright, Kafura said.

In addition to loss of biodiversity, destruction of carbon-rich rainforests and peat lands have become a major contributor to climate change, Swan said.

"I knew palm oil was an issue for orangutans in Indonesia, but I was unaware there was unethical use of child labor as well," said Hannah Novicki, student who heard about conflict palm oil from Kafura. "I now check labels and avoid purchasing products containing palm oil as best I can."

Unfortunately for the consumer, palm oil has many label synonyms such as cetyl palmitate, sodium kernelate and palmitic acid. Reading labels and staying up to date on the issue is important, Swan said.

An inspiring moment for them both was the opportunity to speak with a local Indonesian activist against conflict palm oil.

"He spends his life working to investigate palm oil cultivation from harvest to shipping," Swan said. "It was really interesting to be able to talk with him and hear his experiences on the front-line of the issue."

"It's an empowering feeling that one person can make such a large impact," Kafura said. "Bringing this back to our towns will have a cascading effect."

Swan and Kafura plan to organize similar actions in Stevens Point by the end of April. 350 Stevens Point meetings are held at 8 p.m. on Mondays in the College of

Professional Studies, room 116. For more information on the Rainforest Action Network, go to [www.ran.org](http://www.ran.org).

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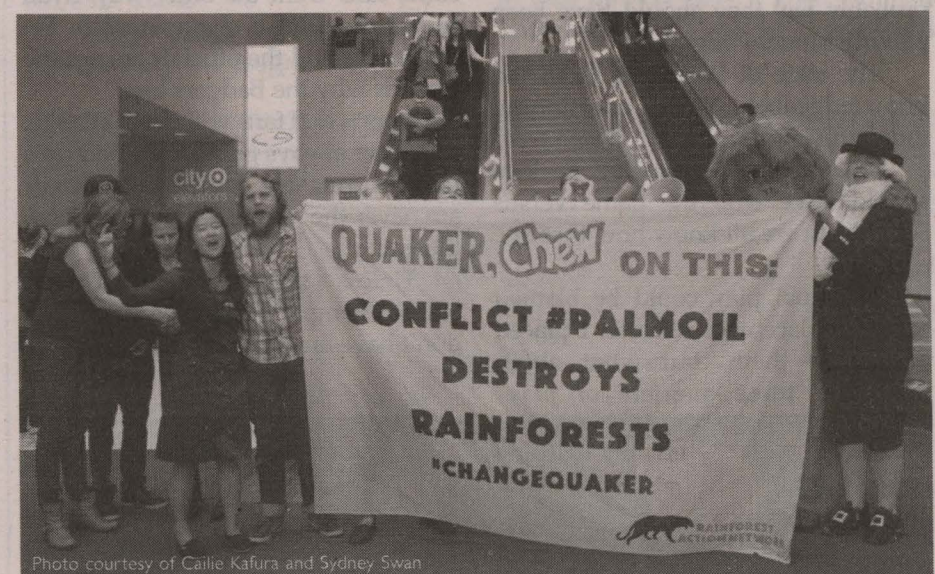
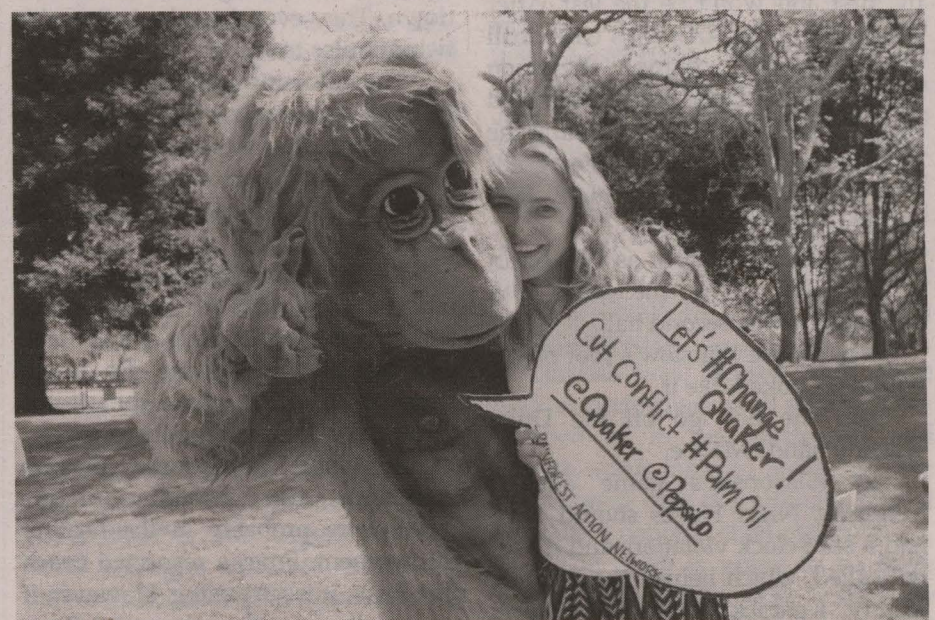


Photo courtesy of Cailie Kafura and Sydney Swan

Cailie Kafura and Sydney Swan attended the Leadership Summit in San Francisco.



# OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

## Why Go 'Furious?'

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Do I really need to summarize the plot of "Furious 7" before I review it? You know how this one will go even before seeing it, right? Vroom, vroom. Boom, boom, "Aw... bye Paul."

The untimely death of Paul Walker is the big elephant in the room going into this movie, so I will get it out of the way early and say that his role is handled very well. Not only is his send off tastefully done, but it's actually really touching. What could have been an awkward, uncomfortable mess ends up being a perfect dedication to

Walker's time with the series.

"Furious 7" does a lot of other things right, too. It is one of the few franchises out there that seems to know its fan base perfectly and gives them exactly what they want. What those fans apparently want are scripts written by 13-year-old boys, but hey, the formula works, and I honestly had fun.

"Furious 7" is literally what would happen if your little brother sat with his friends in a basement, smoked a lot of weed, and said, "Hey, you know what would be a cool movie?"

Vin Diesel drives a muscle car from one skyscraper to another, and Jason Statham has an epic brawl with



Photo courtesy of ew.com

The Rock. Those are the only two things I bet they wrote in the script. The rest was just scribbles and crayon drawings of explosions.

As I said, though, "Furious 7" is fun. Whatever it lacks in writing and acting, it makes up for by being the exact high-octane thrill ride that it advertises itself as. This is the frat

party of movies. It is loud, obnoxious, and often ridiculous, but if you are drunk with the right group of people, you will have a blast, even if you are just there to make fun of all the nonsense.

"Furious 7" gets a serious 7 out of 10.

## The 'Blaming the Officials' Game

MARTY KAUFFMAN  
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Blaming game officials is the top excuse for a loss in sports. Many who have played or watched sports have participated in blaming the officials at one point in their life.

I'm guilty of using the excuse on more than one occasion, but I am not the first and won't be the last. After watching the NCAA men's basketball championship game between Wisconsin and Duke, my Twitter feed blew up with complaints blaming the officials, and I got tired of seeing it. It was amazing to see how many fans were blaming the officials.

In most cases, such as Wisconsin on Monday night, the team was outplayed in the second half.

Was Justise Winslow's foot out of bounds? Looked like it.

Did the ball go off the Duke player's hand? Maybe.

In Wisconsin's game against Kentucky, Nigel Hayes should have had a shot-clock violation, and it was not called, which helped the Badgers victory. Kentucky fans and players probably feel they should have been playing Monday night.

The state of Wisconsin is all too knowledgeable with questioning those officiating.

In 2012 the Green Bay Packers should have won the game versus Seattle, but we all know how that one ended.

The final play could be blamed on the replacement referees. I placed blame on them, but what about the other three quarters of play?

More things could have been done differently so the Packers would not have been in that spot at game end.

In the NFC wild card game between Detroit and Dallas this past season, the officials reversed a pass interference call. Was that decision the reason why Detroit lost? No.

Detroit had a 14-0 lead at one point, and they had chances to stop Dallas late in the game on a fourth down. They even had the ball under two minutes to win it.

The following week in Green Bay, Dallas's wide receiver Dez Bryant may have caught the football depending on who you ask. Was that incomplete call by the referees the reason Dallas lost? No.

When there is blame put on the officials, the 'what if' game follows suit. Or the would have, could have and should have game. So much happens during a game that teams could have done differently to win.

Bo Ryan and some players comments after Monday night's game were probably in the heat of the moment. From a respected coach like Ryan, it is surprising. However, if some calls went the other way, Ryan may have won a championship. Yet those calls and the officials are not the reasons why the Badgers lost.

Sports and fans will never change. There are always going to be bad calls made during big games, but officials are never the reason why a team loses the game.

Unless you are the 1972 United States Olympic basketball team, you don't have an argument.

Photo courtesy of google.com

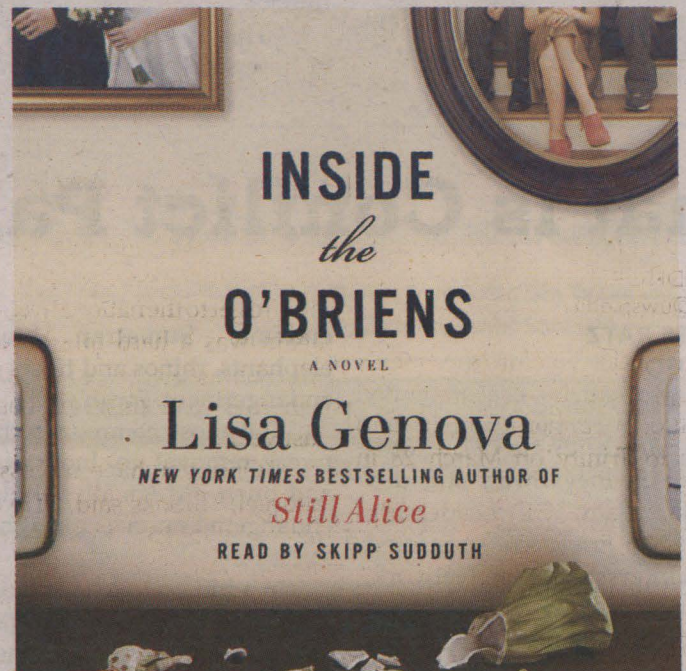
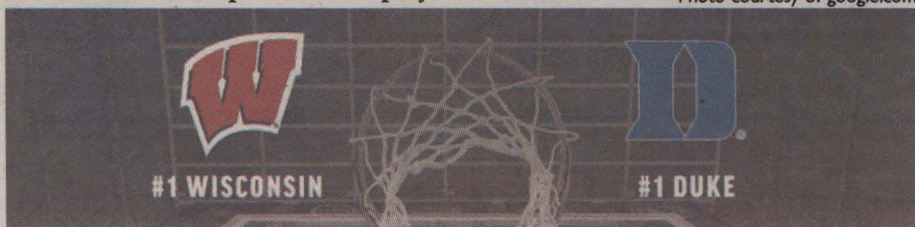


Photo courtesy of cloudfront.net

## Book Review: 'Inside the O'Briens'

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New York Times bestselling author Lisa Genova is at it again with a new novel that explores Huntington's disease, "Inside the O'Briens," coming out April 7.

Joe O'Brien, a 44-year-old police officer and caring father of four, begins to experience episodes of temper and involuntary movements. Such actions worry his wife, so he goes to the doctor for testing and finds out he has Huntington's disease.

To make matters worse, there is no treatment for this disease, and each of his children have a 50 percent chance of inheriting it. Meanwhile, Katie, one of his daughters, decides whether she wishes to take a blood test to learn if she has inherited it.

I could find a little bit of myself in everyone, from Joe the cop, to Meg the ballerina, to Katie the yogi. Being able to relate to every character within the novel makes the impact even heavier because the reader realizes the disease could hit any character.

No one but the mom was safe from this disease and even she suffered the consequences of it.

Lisa Genova obviously did a lot of research. I read the acknowledgments and there were so many people involved. For this, I applaud her. It makes me feel as though it's not just a piece of fiction, but a piece of each of these people that has been immortalized within this book. In my eyes, characters also helped make the book gain credibility.

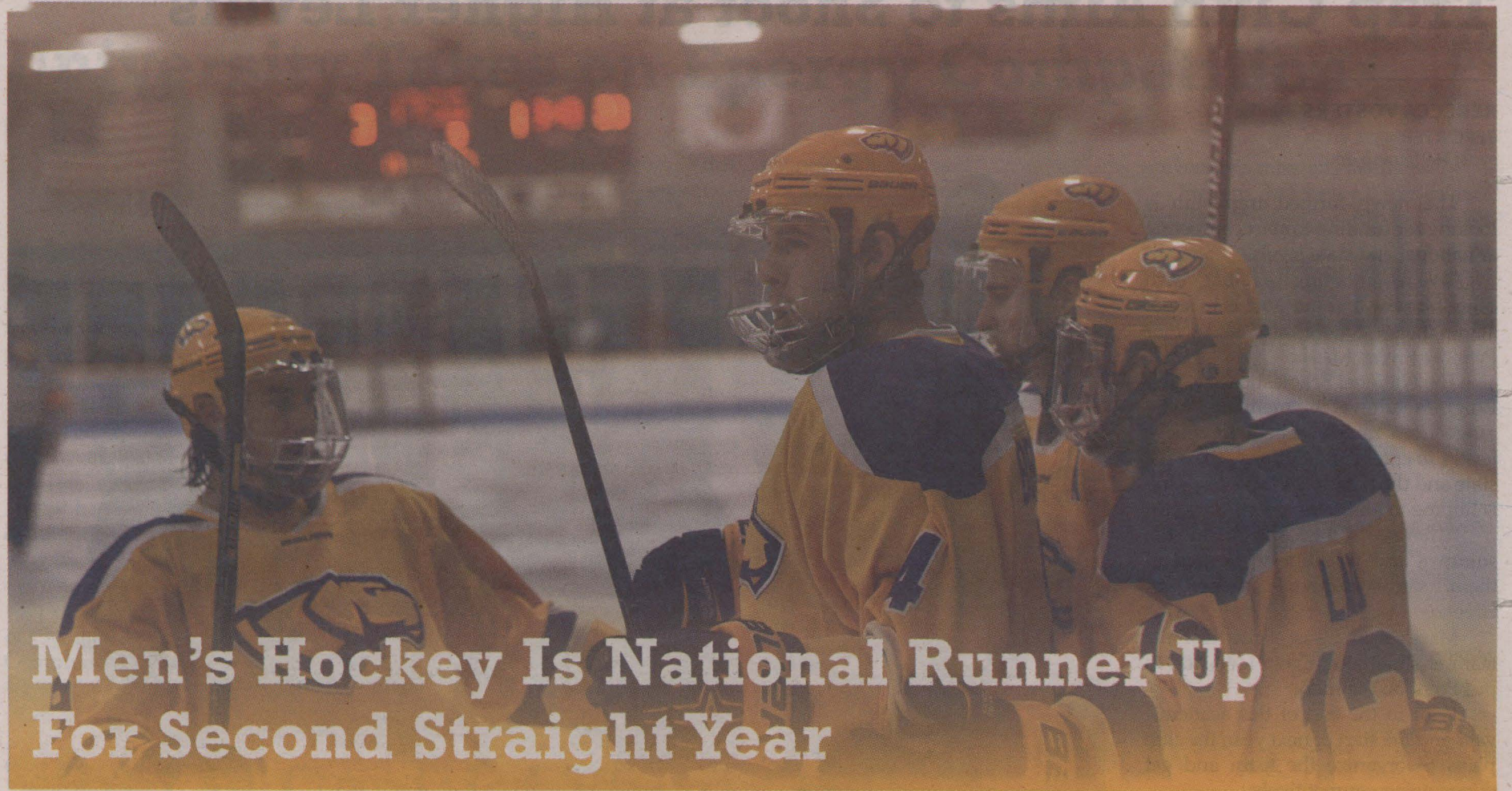
This book kept me up multiple nights in a row, thinking about what would I do if this happened to me. For the most part, Genova demonstrated such raw emotions, the reader cannot help but get emotionally involved in the characters. This was not always consistent and some points could have been more emotional with a little more tweaking.

With just this one flaw, a very high four out of five stars is what I rate "Inside the O'Briens."

Thanks to Gallery Books and NetGallery for sending an advanced copy for review.



## SPORTS



## Men's Hockey Is National Runner-Up For Second Straight Year

**MARTY KAUFFMAN**

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It was déjà vu for the men's hockey team as the season ended with a national runner-up finish and a 5-2 loss to Trinity on March 28 in Minneapolis.

Despite finishing as runner-up for the second year in a row and for the fourth time in University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point history, head coach Chris Brooks says the result is not a negative.

"It was extremely positive to put ourselves in the final game of the year," said Brooks. "Yet it was disappointing to give up a goal in the last three minutes."

In the national championship, UWSP trailed 2-1 when junior forward Nick D'Avolio scored his third goal of the Frozen Four and tied the game. With 3:52 left in regulation, Trinity scored to take the lead and added two empty net goals to seal the win.

Brooks described the disappointment in the locker room after the game but said there was nothing to dwell on.

"The feeling stings," Brooks said. "When you get knocked down you focus on that, but I woke up Sunday morning ready to go back to work,

focus on what's next and not focus on the negatives."

To get to the national championship again was a hard fought journey for the Pointers, and Brooks said it was a harder road this year compared to last year.

"Once you have success you have a target," Brooks said. "This year was more challenging as we faced injuries and sickness we didn't have last year. Also playing tough teams that you can't look over like St. Norbert, Hamline and River Falls."

UWSP was upset at home in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship game against UW-River Falls before the NCAA tournament began.

"River Falls was the first time this year where I thought we got beat," Brooks said. "I don't look at that loss as a negative, but it was the push we needed at that time."

After the loss to UW-River Falls, UWSP defeated Hamline 4-2, advancing to the Frozen Four. In the national semifinals against Amherst, down 2-0 in the second period, UWSP scored six unanswered goals, including five in the third period, winning 6-2.

Despite falling short of a national championship, it was another historic season for UWSP. The Pointers won the

WIAC regular-season championship for the tenth time in program history and the first time since 1999-2000. With a record of 23-7-1, UWSP had back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time since the 1991-1992 and 1992-1993 seasons. UWSP also had seven players on the WIAC All-First Team.

This resurgence to national prominence started with the hiring of Brooks four years ago, along with his first group of freshmen, who graduate this season as seniors. The senior class finished with a 74-35-8 career record with multiple awards.

Defenseman Kevin Gibson and forward Garrett Ladd each won WIAC Player of the Year award over the last two seasons. Ladd, Gibson and Kyle Brodie were named CCM All-Americans within the past two seasons.

Goaltender Brandon Jaeger made his mark in net setting multiple school records: career wins with 62, saves with 2,037 and games played. Jaeger also won the Elite 89 Award the past two seasons. Along with Gibson, Ladd, Brodie and Jaeger, forwards Scott Henegar, Andrew Kolb and defenseman Justin Hale graduate and left their mark.

"They've done a good job with the resurgence of the program and should

be proud of all they've accomplished," Brooks said. "They are winners and the common thing between them was that they competed to win."

After the national championship, the quartet of Gibson, Ladd, Brodie and Jaeger signed professional contracts with the East Coast Hockey League. It is something that happens for many successful players from successful programs, Brooks said.

Despite losing a core group of seniors, UWSP still has many key players returning. All-American Joe Kalisz returns for his senior season after leading the team in points with 32, scoring 18 goals and 14 assists. Along with Kalisz, All-WIAC First Team forward Kyle Sharkey who had 32 points, defenseman Alex Brooks, forwards Lawrence Cornellier and Nick D'Avolio all return with more prominent roles.

Brooks was pleased with these players performances all season. They stepped up in the postseason, and Brooks wants them to build off it for next season with the ultimate goal of winning a national championship.

"The drive is going to be there every year," Brooks said. "We have to heal up and have a good summer knowing the hill will be steeper next year."





## SPORTS

# Trap Club Aims to Shoot at Higher Levels

REBECCA VOSTERS

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The newly-formed trap club is looking for funding to start competing at national and state levels.

"We're shooting against each other for now, but our goal is to shoot across the state if we can," said senior President Ryan Masek.

The National Scholastic Clay Trap Program allows its members, who range from middle school to college levels, to enter competitions across the state and the nation. UWSP's trap club is hoping to join soon.

"There are big shoots in the summer, and we hope to be part of them," said sophomore Treasurer Jon Greeno.

Masek said he is excited for the team to shoot at a higher level and to put Point on the map.

Prior to the end of this academic year and the start of next year, the club plans to organize the team and get things going competitively.

Trap shooting requires shooters to stand 16 yards behind what is known as the house and shoot at an orange clay disc when it flies out of the house. If the disc is chipped or broken in any way from a shot fired, it counts as a hit. Every five shots shooters rotates to the next of five stations. Scores are determined by the amount of shots hit out of 25. Each individual's score is then added together to make the team score.

One of the biggest challenges the club faces is a lack of funding. The cost of a round with 25 targets and ammunition is only ten dollars, but the gun needed to participate generally costs somewhere around \$1800.

The team wants sponsors who would help pay for some travel costs, as well as ammunition and any other expenses the group encounters.

"If we get a sponsor we could get guns for the club to use so you wouldn't have to have your own," said Vice President Brandon Stedman.

Shooters need more than just equipment to practice and compete.

"You have to have hunter's safety

completed, and ear and eye protection are required when you shoot," Masek said.

The completion of gun safety through military training can also be utilized instead of hunter's safety.

The club is primarily male, but is interested in adding more females to its numbers especially when shooting in teams.

"If we get more girls we could have a girls' squad, a guys' squad, and a co-ed squad competing at different divisions and improve the amount of people who can shoot," Stedman said.

Stedman said shooting trap is more fun than people think, and he often finds it relaxing.

"You're not shooting a massive gun, and it's really safe so there's no need to be afraid," Stedman said.

The club currently shoots twice a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m. at Ashley Shooting Club near Mosinee.



Photos by Glen Grabski

Back row from left to right: Vinny Kambitsis, Jon Greeno, James McCroy, Cody Flavion, Trent Curler, Jake Tanner, and Ryan Masek.  
Front row from left to right: Gabe Markworth, Brandon Stedman, Abbey Zortman, Hunter Staniforth, and Ryan Mannes.



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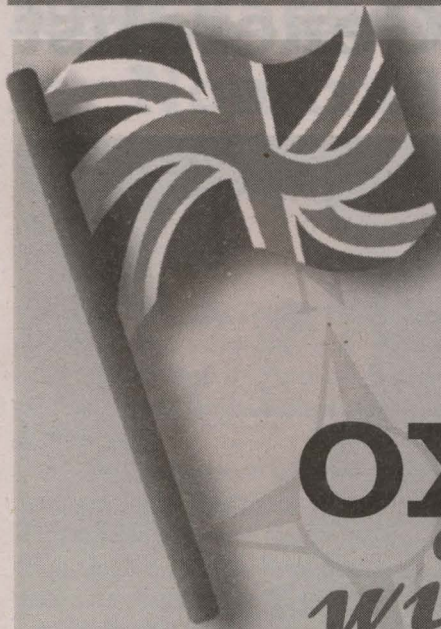
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## FROM OXFORD *with love*

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My week-long spring break ended Tuesday, and I was lucky enough to spend Easter weekend with my mother in the city I was born in.

My mother joined the Air Force in 1992. After basic training and technical school, she was stationed at the Royal Air Force base in Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire. That was where she met my father, who was also stationed there. I do not think I have to tell you where this story goes.

In 1993, I was born in Oxford, and it has always been my truest home in my heart. However, I only visited this beautiful city on two occasions and this was my second time visiting it.

Many people ask me how I can feel attached to a city and country I have not spent much time in, nor remember living in. My answer is simple: it feels like home. After living here for a few months, this sentiment has not changed.

When I first returned to England five years ago, there was an instant spark that was both new and familiar to me. I was at peace and felt like I

belonged because the country felt like an old friend.

While growing up, my mother told me stories about our life in Middle Barton, Oxfordshire. We lived behind a sheep farm and had a river flowing through our back garden.

Farmers called the river "The Morgan" and that is where my middle name comes from. She told me about her trips to London, the time my grandmother came to visit us and what we did around the village.

Oxford was just as marvelous as when I left it five years ago. One of the things that makes it so beautiful are the colleges scattered around the city. The University of Oxford contains 38 different colleges, and it is a dream to get my Master of Studies degree at one of these colleges.

It is madness to think that the last time I was here was a month after high school graduation, and now it is a month until I graduate college. I hope someday I will come full circle to live in this country again.

We all have journeys to make. Find what starts a fire in your heart and go after it.

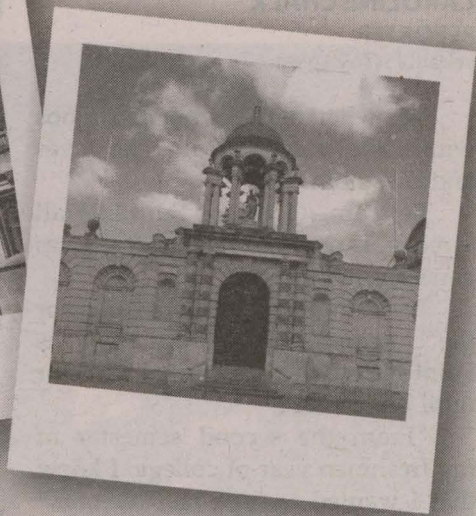
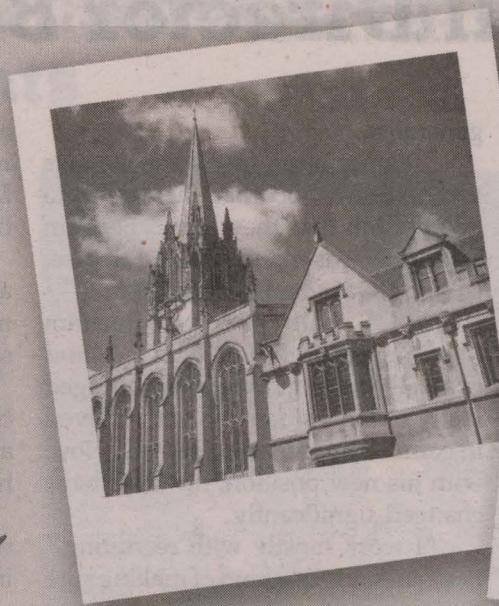


Photo courtesy of Travis Loepfe's Facebook  
"RHA is a larger family that I can be a part of."

## Freshman Becomes Member of RHA Executive Board

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Freshman Travis Loepfe is the youngest member on the Residential Hall Association's executive board this semester.

Loepfe started off as one of Thomson Hall's RHA delegates in fall of 2014. Each residence hall at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has two delegates who report on students' campus concerns.

Loepfe took advantage of the opportunity to become RHA's Vice President Public Relations chair person when the position opened up. He held this position since January.

"It doesn't feel like I am a part of a group that's just getting stuff done," Loepfe said. "RHA is a larger family that I can be a part of."

Loepfe enjoys seeing RHA produce programs such as Casino Night and Siblings Weekend.

"Programs that RHA puts on get people to do stuff that they normally wouldn't do if they were just sitting in their rooms," Loepfe said.

Britney Doll, junior history major, is a community adviser in Thomson Hall. Loepfe is one of Doll's residents

and worked with her in Thomson Hall government.

"It's wonderful seeing that my residents are succeeding on this campus," Doll said. "I'm so proud of everything that Travis has done. He brings compassion, dedication, humor and fresh ideas to RHA."

Loepfe proved even as a freshman, he can take on a lot of responsibilities.

"I couldn't be more proud of the fact that he came from my floor," Doll said. "I know that he will continue to make me proud in the future."

Julie Zsido, assistant director of Residential Living, is responsible for advising RHA.

"On the executive board right now there are five graduating seniors, so Travis coming into that group has re-energized everyone," Zsido said.

Zsido felt Loepfe stood out due to his humility. She is impressed by his willingness to complete tasks, even ones that are not in his job description.

Doll adds how he has the ability to enhance RHA.

"Travis is so passionate and kind-hearted, as well as driven and self-motivated," Doll said. "He has what it takes to succeed, and I think that he is going to do wonderful things for the organization."





# Beloved Hall Director Becomes HR Generalist

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Tom Bertram found two jobs within the university that he loves and calls home.

Bertram, former Smith Hall director, is now the human resources generalist on campus.

Bertram has been working for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point since 2008 and was hall director until March 2014.

"From the second semester of my freshman year of college, I knew that I wanted to be a hall director," Bertram said.

Bertram graduated from UW-Oshkosh with a bachelor's degree in human resources. He went on to get his master's degree before becoming a hall director and eventually a human resources

generalist.

"It's not often that someone gets to go from a job that they love, to another job that they love," Bertram said. "HR was my undergrad degree, so I've always had an interest in it."

As a hall director, Bertram interviewed, selected, trained and evaluated his staff. He also encouraged many of his residents to get involved in community service activities. Now, with his new position, his tasks have changed significantly.

"I work mostly with recruiting," Bertram said. "It's kind of making sure that things function appropriately to serve our employees."

Bertram enjoys his new position, however, he misses some aspects of being a hall director, like interacting with staff and residents. He still keeps in touch with some old staff members.

As a hall director, Bertram tried  
get to know his residences as best

as he could. There were about 270 residents in Smith Hall each year, and Bertram's goal was to give them the best year of their life.

"College is what you make of it, and I wanted to make it something magical for these students," Bertram said.

Adam Nicks, sophomore business administration major, was a Smith Hall resident. Nicks enjoyed his experience there.

"He cared about the resident's well-being more so than getting them in trouble," Nicks said.

Nicks remembers Bertram as laid back, and someone who advised and mentored his residents.

"I think Tom is the only hall director that was able to remember most, if not all, of his resident's names," Nicks said.

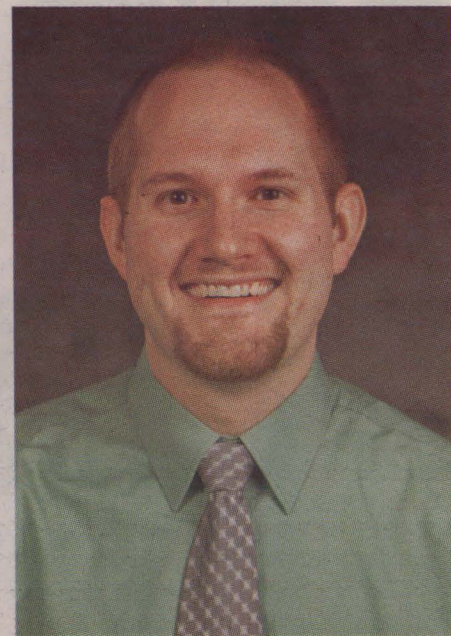
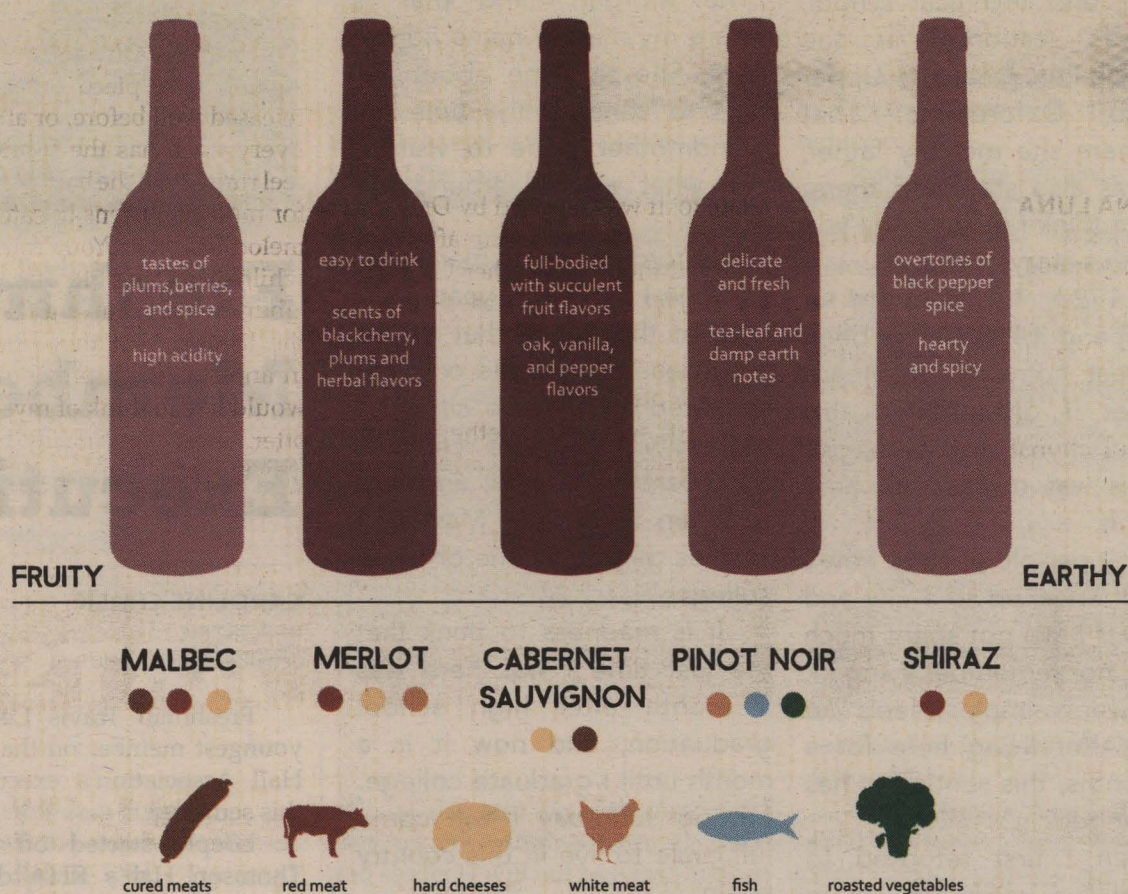


Photo courtesy of Tom Bertram

Tom keeps in contact with old staff members while enjoying his new position as HR Generalist.

## FLAVOR GUIDE TO RED WINE



## THE QUICK AND DIRTY: *Tea Time*



The Psychology Club and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance co-hosted Tea Time on April 1 where Dr. Owens and Dr. Motl talked about sexual disorders and dysfunctions.

In case you missed it, we caught some fun facts to highlight. Sexual disorders and dysfunctions are only considered a problem if they are distressing for the individual.

1.) The most common illegal disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders is voyeuristic disorder. Voyeurism is experiencing sexual arousal by watching an unsuspecting person who is naked, undressing or in a sex act.

2.) The top reason people stop taking anti-depression medication is because it lowers sex drive.

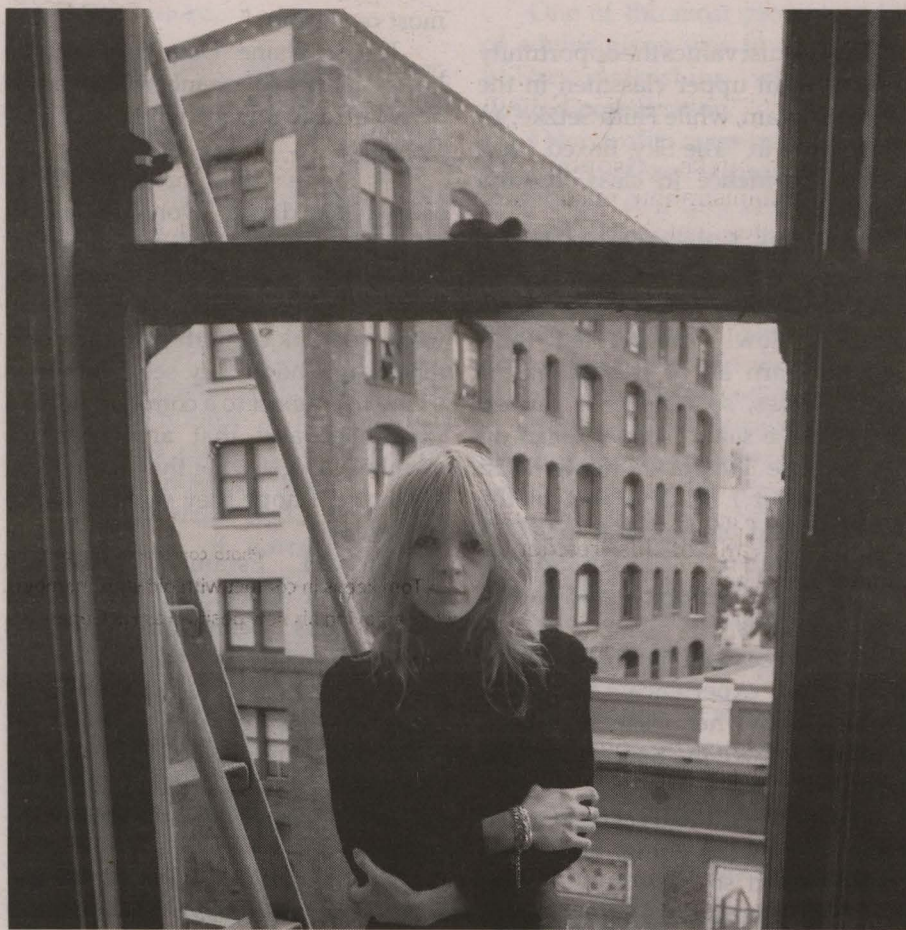
3.) The cause of foot fetishes could possibly be explained by miscommunications in the wiring of the brain. The somatosensory cortex in the brain has a map that corresponds to body parts. The genitals and feet are closely mapped together which may be why foot fetishes are more common than other types of fetishes.

4.) Partialism is arousal from a specific non-genital part of the body. Partialism is somewhat culturally constructed. For example, some cultures recognize body alterations such as neck rings and piercing as a sign of beauty, and ultimately, part of sexual arousal.



# Album Review

## 'On Your Own Love Again'



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Jessica Pratt's sophomore album "On Your Own Love Again" lures you in like the sound of a siren. Her follow-up to the self-titled release is a folk confessional that we can all

relate to. It was released by Drag City Records earlier this year after Pratt recorded the album in her California home. Her contemporaries are that of Sharon Van Etten or Angel Olsen, but influences from Joni Mitchell and Nico are prevalent.

Pratt weaves together simple guitar riffs and breathless echoes to

hit the listener in their empathetic core. The lyrics "you're on the outside, you're looking in" from the song "Moon Duo" depicts someone looking for something that's never really there. Instead they must look in themselves for the answers they seek.

The track "Jacquelyn in the Background" is about friendship and what it is like to share your thoughts with another person. The lyrics "leave your bad news for a while" are exactly what we'd all like to do when talking to someone close to us. The music mirrors the lyrics as she pairs acoustic guitar with soft electric chords that flutter seamlessly in the background.

In "Strange Melody," Pratt pays homage to Duran Duran's "Hungry like the Wolf" with the doo-doo-doo refrain in the most mesmerizing way. Her ability to transform a simple chorus and make it her own is remarkable.

Pratt's "On Your Own Love Again" is a piece of art that was released well before, or after, its time. Every track has the sound of a tape reel running in the background. It calls for multiple listens to catch her short melodic stories. Your mind wanders while listening to this nostalgic album which causes a feeling within the listener that they probably had in another life, a previous life that I would like to think of myself as a sea-otter, more specifically, a sea-otter listening to 90FM.



90FM's

## TOP 10 Songs

March 31 to April 7

- 1 **Sufjan Stevens**  
Carrie and Lowell
- 2 **Courtney Barnett**  
Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit
- 3 **Will Butler**  
Policy
- 4 **Father John Misty**  
I Love You Honeybear
- 5 **Modest Mouse**  
Strangers to Ourselves
- 6 **Death Cab for Cutie**  
Kintsugi
- 7 **Umfrey's McGee**  
London Session
- 8 **Doldrums**  
The Air Conditioned Nightmare
- 9 **Vetiver**  
Complete Strangers
- 10 **Ghastly Menace**  
Songs of Ghastly Menace

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Online Gaming Brings New Skills, Opportunities



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Student members of True League, a team of UWSP's League of Legends student organization, are taking a break after practicing nearly 12 hours a week during their tournament season.

True League recently competed around the nation, in places like Huntsville, Alabama where the

team took third place, in North American Collegiate Championship competitions.

Dustan Erickson, junior history education major and team member, said the group needed to take a break after competing at the national level.

"We worked hard to get our studying done to play," Erickson said. "We went over strategies to go into the competitions, and looked ahead to see what other teams were doing."

League of Legends is an online, multi-player video game that focuses on character battles.

Chris Williams, organization adviser and English professor, said gaming is beneficial to students because it requires critical thinking and is highly strategic.

"I think video games are, in a really essential way, a very useful educational ally," Williams said. "It's where strategic tactics and reflexes meet."

While League of Legends is considered an electronic sport, Erickson, Williams and Ian Polzin, freshman team member, each hesitated to call the game a traditional sport. However, each agreed there are similarities between the two.

Williams said sports are games with performance, and performance is what viewers wish to see. He said people can see these qualities in the game.

"They recognize the significance of physical performance in these kinds of games, reflex, awareness,

that are valued then as performance, like sports," Williams said.

Erickson agreed the competition helps justify video games as sports.

"It's a thinking man's sport," Polzin said. "To play you need to think. It's not mindlessly pressing buttons."

Williams said that while many gamers may find themselves isolated in dorm rooms playing, the organization allows members to connect with others. Polzin agreed connections with team members are one of the best parts of the organization.

"It's fun to play, and it's fun to laugh," Polzin said. "We're all kind of jokesters, so it's bound to be funny."



# Dancers Combining Spirits Aim to Create a Universal Experience

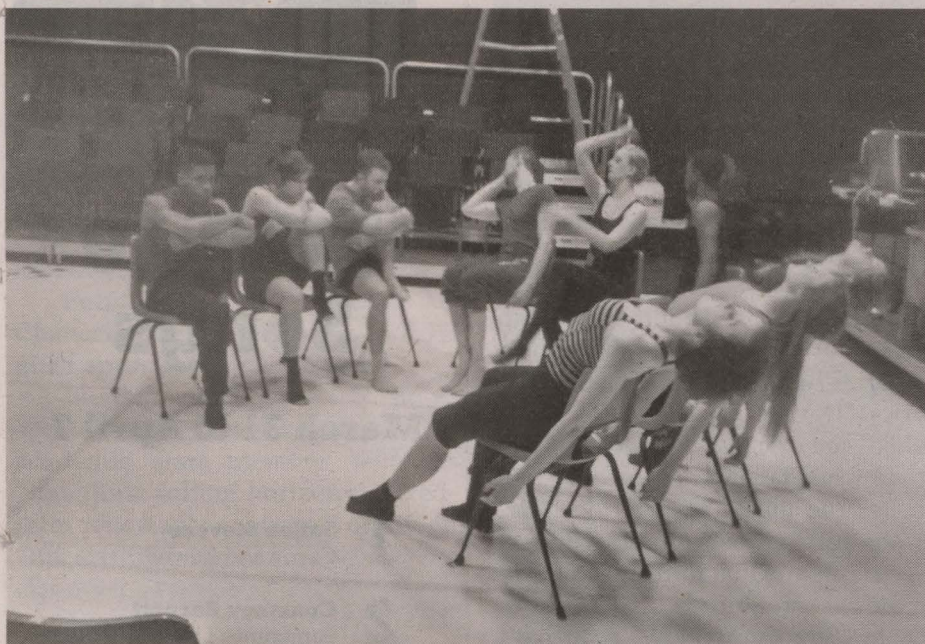


Photo by Julia Flaherty

Students dancing in Danstage 2015.

**JULIA FLAHERTY**

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Students dancing in Danstage 2015 practice stamina, control and focus to create a community of artistic spirits for a two-weekend dance experience.

Dancers in "The Sky, Boxed," a piece choreographed by University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point professor of dance Joan Karlen, hope the audience takes notice of their whole-hearted progress during the event's opening on April 10.

"Being able to share our experiences with people and showing what we have built together as a community is what is the most rewarding," said senior Kellen Skidmore.

Senior Thomas Jacobson said the

bonds made in rehearsal enhance the students' collaboration.

"The rehearsal environment is so different," Jacobson said. "That's where you really get to know a person and how they work, think and move with others to collaborate. I've made some of my best friends in the rehearsal process."

Danstage gives students of various experience levels the opportunity to creatively express themselves and create connections with their peers and professors during the rehearsal process.

"It's super neat because growing closer with everybody allows you to make the dance yours," said sophomore Sarah Rosenquist. "You're able to dance with everybody together instead of it just being one person dancing and going out there as a single person with all these other

beings."

Rosenquist values the opportunity to learn from upper classmen in the dance program, while Faith Setzke, an understudy in "The Sky, Boxed," has gained confidence in class through rehearsals.

"At first I was like 'Oh my goodness, I have to remember all the choreography for all these female roles.' I slowly progressed, and I got to learn all of it and take it to my classes, so it's like 'I can do this,'" Setzke said. "I know I can do this because I've been doing it in rehearsal, but I think it was in the first or second practice that Joan and Mads (Madelyn Mickelsen, senior) said 'We're a community,' and I really took that to heart."

Setzke became emotional talking about her experience. She was comforted by her cast members, seeming to prove the dancers are also a group of friends.

"All of the students care so much about what we're doing, and that's what makes it so beautiful," Karlen said. "I'm so proud of all the dancers in our program who are working with a great deal of heart, emotion and dedication. It makes me want to run into work everyday, not run from work."

Junior Robert Miles Sodstrom said the group's accomplishments would not have been feasible without Karlen's supportive method.

"The professors don't just work on us as dancers, but they work on us as a whole person," Sodstrom said. "The development, not just dance wise, but personal connections with others that you don't really talk to as much, even growing in a sense that shapes you as a person has been the

most rewarding."

Junior Shane Donohue said he hopes audience members feel their own intrinsic reward when watching Danstage.

"I hope the audience feels accessible to dance," Donohue said. "I think a lot of times audience members third-party view something, and then they get disconnected from it. From what we work on in the program and rehearsal, I hope they see how we're trying to connect to a common human experience and that any audience member can get what they want from the dance. I hope they see that dance is universal."

Michael Estanich, associate professor of dance, said his greatest reward has been watching his students' work in the classroom translate onto the rehearsal process. Estanich has choreographed "A Place at the End of the World to Call Our Own." Like Donohue, Estanich hopes the experience is relatable for audiences.

"If you let the material, let the experience settle inside of you, I bet you're going to have some sort of emotional or sensorial experience," Estanich said.

Danstage performances will be April 10-12 and April 15-18 in the Noel Fine Arts Center Studio Theatre. UWSP faculty Jeannie Hill and Scott Wirtz-Olsen, as well as renowned Chicago choreographer Autumn Eckman, have also come together to showcase their artistic works for the event.

Based on her students' passion and progress, Karlen anticipates the audience will react warmly.

"We're ready for their support," Karlen said.

## Granny Hair Trend Teeters as Fad

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What is known as the granny hair trend has become popular and inspired young women to dye their hair shades of grey for a "silver fox" appearance.

Hair dye is just one way women creatively express themselves, and whether it be for attention or as a creative outlet, the trend has forced a double-take. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students have varied opinions about the new beauty look.

"I think it's ironic that the older generation, or the older people, are actually spending so much time and money trying to dye their gray hair,

and now there is this new trend granny hair which is supposedly attractive," said Michelle Wilde, psychology major.

Juan Pablo Garcia, business major, was humorous about the trend, admitting he didn't quite understand it.

"It is innovative, and I have not seen girls in this hair color before," Garcia said. "My grandma has this color."

Hairstylists at Blonde and Beyond in downtown Stevens Point said the trend has prepared them to be ready for clients that may request the look. Stylists are also prepared to showcase the look on hair mannequins at the salon, should they see a flourishing need.

"I think it is cool, but it's weird that we are trying to make ourselves look older. I like the color, and you can do a lot with it," said Chelsey Yenter, Blonde and Beyond stylist. "It breaks away from normal brown and blonde, and people are becoming more trendy."

Rebecca Henderickson, a fellow stylist, had a different reaction to the look.

"I think it's gorgeous, and there are lot of different things you can do with it, whether it be gray ombre, all gray, or peekaboo gray," Henderickson said. "It is a high maintenance color, which requires you to come back every three weeks."

Whether the fad fades or sustains client interest is yet to be seen.



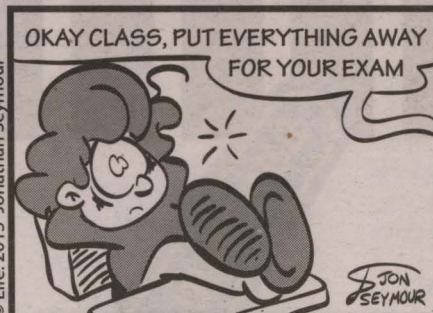
Photo courtesy of boredpanda.com

Younger women are starting to dye their hair as part of a new trend.



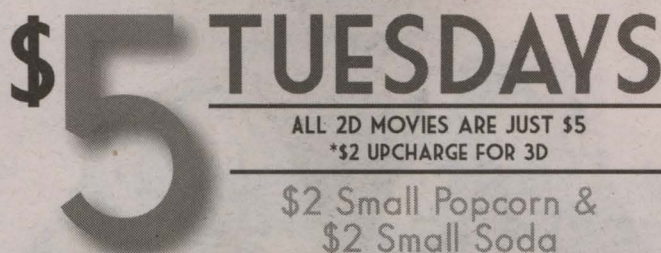
# Life

By Jonathan Seymour



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