Betsy DeVos was confirmed as the next Secretary of Education for the United States on Feb. 7.

This confirmation has been controversial, as the Senate vote was deadlocked at 50 votes for and 50 against, including two Republicans who voted against her.

Democrats held a 24-hour filibuster in an attempt to delay the vote and give time for constituents to pressure their Republican representatives in the Senate against voting for DeVos.

Additionally, Vice President Mike Pence had to cast the tie-breaking vote, which has never happened for a Cabinet secretary position before.

What does this controversial appointment mean for the future of public education?

DeVos has expressed that her political efforts "are focused on advancing educational choices," as her website states. Choices in schooling are beneficial since both teaching and learning techniques vary widely.

Where Democrats say they want to expand public schooling and increase the quality of education, DeVos' career has consisted of defunding public...

continued on page 3
SpaceX Plans Human Mission to Mars

Engineer, entrepreneur and visionary, Elon Musk, hopes he can take humanity to Mars. Musk has had success in his many business ventures, including Tesla Motors, SolarCity and now SpaceX, to name the more popular ones.

SpaceX, founded 14 years ago in California, is a company devoted to being number-one in the privatized space industry. It became the first organization to put a privately-funded rocket into orbit in 2008.

Since then, the company has developed new space technologies and received contracts from government organizations like NASA to deliver research equipment beyond the atmosphere.

SpaceX’s ultimate plan is to make space travel affordable. To do this, Musk is taking on the engineering feat of creating reusable spacecraft. This would be a first for any space-faring organization, including NASA, which has never been able to reuse rockets or spaceships after they have returned to Earth.

“The cost of fuel now is about 0.3 percent, with most of the cost being from the building of a rocket. If they were re-usable, space travel would be affordable,” Musk said.

The entrepreneurial opportunities associated with being the first organization to create reusable spacecraft are overwhelming, but Musk seems to be more motivated by dreams than money.

This is perhaps why, and how, he hopes to create and use technology that will bring humans to Mars.

The time frame for getting to Mars is an intentionally vague 40 to 100 years. This is because of difficulties that lie between Musk and Mars.

Challenges with a manned mission to Mars are numerous. They include finances, launching and landing a spacecraft safely, surviving a lengthy flight and surviving a barren terrain by creating a sustainable artificial habitat after arrival.

The opinions on campus seem to reflect concern for the realities of the project.

Kendra Kudla, sophomore interior architecture major, wondered about the practicality of the concept.

“Can he actually do it?” Kudla said.

Nick Figueroa, sophomore studying neuroscience, believes a manned mission to Mars is at least plausible.

“There’s a lot of stuff that has happened in the last 40 years,” Figueroa said.

Justin Seis, senior sociology and philosophy major, had concerns that went beyond questioning the probability of success.

Seis said, “I think that it’s a nice idea, but at the same time there’s a lot of problems here that we should be prioritizing.”

Musk seems to recognize the questionability of his dream.

He said one day he plans to name SpaceX’s first ship to reach Mars “The Hearth of Gold” in honor of the book Hitchiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, in which a ship is run on “infinite improbability.”

Musk does not seem to worry about the far-out notions of his dreams. In fact, he seems motivated by them.
schools and advocating for charter schools.

DeVos’s stances on other issues are not clear. She has historically been pro-Common Core in K-12 schooling, but has recently said she opposes it.

Primary education is meant to enlighten the children that will lead the future of this country, and provide everyone with an equal chance to advance themselves and contribute to society. Throughout history, the U.S. has struggled with providing equal opportunity to all children. In 1851, it became a requirement for all children to attend school, but it was not until 1905, 53 years later, that children of Chinese immigrants were allowed to attend school.

It was not until 1954 with the Brown v. Board of Education ruling that segregated schools were deemed illegal and must be abolished.

DeVos’s stance of privatizing education through the defunding of public schools, including universities, will potentially re-cultivate a segregation that the U.S. only eliminated roughly 60 years ago.

The segregation will be between social classes if the wealthy will be able to send their children to whichever private school they wish, while the lower and middle class families will not have those same choices. Left with either public schooling that will become far sub-par with no federal funding, or private school that will drive families into debt, the consistency of education quality may suffer.

Tony Evers Faces Competition in State Superintendent Election

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Last week Betsy DeVos was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the new Secretary of Education but the equivalent position for the state of Wisconsin is up for election this spring.

On Feb. 21, candidates will fight for the top two spots to be in the general election in April.

There are three main candidates running for office: the incumbent, Tony Evers, John Humphries and Lowell Holtz.

Tony Evers has been the Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction since 2009. Four years ago Evers won his reelection by approximately 23 points. Now, four years later, he faces tough opposition.

Humphries, a UW-Madison alumnus, has worked in a variety of schools and wants a fresh voice that will bring change and accountability.

Throughout his campaign, Humphries has been a strong critic of Tony Evers’ time in charge.

“It’s time for Tony Evers to be held accountable for statewide outcomes,” Humphries wrote Jan. 12 in a Facebook post.

“We’ve dropped from a top 10 state in elementary reading to 30th in the nation under his watch while other states have made substantial gains.”

Despite what Humphries claims, this is actually objectively false. WI has dropped in reading since 1998, but not under Evers’ watch. Unless you consider “under Evers” to begin in 2001.

Lowell Holtz has been an elementary school teacher, principal and district administrator.

Holtz has been a strong advocate for DeVos as the national version of the job he is running for, as shown in the chart below.

The biggest change Holtz wants to bring to school children and their parents is school choice.

School choice has been a controversial issue throughout the country, it would allow parents to send their kids to whatever school they choose no matter their location.

Tony Evers has the biggest contrast to Humphries and Holtz, who mostly share the same values.

Evers has been caught in multiple flip-flop moments with his stances on Common Core, private school vouchers and school choice.

Common Core has been opposed on all sides of the political spectrum but Evers is still campaigning on it’s continued implication for public schools.

Out of all the candidates running for State Superintendent, Evers is the only one who has spoken out against DeVos for Education Secretary.

The primary election is held next Tuesday Feb. 21. Polling locations can be found by going to the website myvote.wi.gov.

Below is a chart depicting various stances of each candidate as they run for the position. The final election will be held on Apr. 4.
Passing the Baton on Bombs and Torture

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In 21st century presidential administrations, the “peaceful transition of power” now includes a peaceful transition of executive murder.

From drone strikes to torture, Barack Obama has made a historic stamp on American foreign policy.

Despite President Trump’s anti-interventionist stances on several foreign policy issues, he has been a strong critic of Obama’s Iran deal in 2015.

Trump put Iran “officially on notice” last weekend after they tested a ballistic missile.

For foreign policy, Trump nominated former general James Mattis for Secretary of Defense, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley for U.N. Ambassador and ExxonMobil CEO, Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State.

General James Mattis, better known as Mad Dog Mattis, has years of military experience as a general.

To his troops, Mattis has said, “There are some people who think you have to hate them in order to shoot them. I don’t think you do. It's just business.”

Between Mattis’ desire for war with Iran and Tillerson’s ties with Vladimir Putin, people have had significant trepidation to this administration’s foreign policy.

Even though Obama was a liberal president, most of his defense secretaries were republicans.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed multiple lawsuits against Obama during his presidency. One of which was about his nontransparent drone strikes.

The U.S. targeted killing program operates without meaningful oversight outside the executive branch, and essential details about the program still remain secret, including what criteria the government uses to put people on CIA and military kill lists as well as how much evidence is required before it does so,” said the ACLU.

Obama and Trump may have many stark differences in rhetoric, but one policy of Obama’s that Trump will continue is the drone strike raids in seven middle eastern countries.

One of the strikes Obama was sued over resulted in the death of an American citizen. The victim was a 16-year-old boy from Colorado who was visiting family in Yemen in 2011.

Other victims of the strike included the boy’s cousin and other Yemeni citizens.

President Trump’s first round of drone strikes on Jan. 29 killed the boy’s sister.

During a campaign rally in Columbus, Ohio November 2015, Donald Trump addressed his view on waterboarding.

“Would I approve waterboarding? You bet your ass I would. In a heartbeat,” said Trump.

One of Obama’s campaign promises included closing Gitmo. Even though he had two years of a democratic congress, Obama was gentleman enough to hand off Gitmo to Trump, force-feeding and all.

Because Obama only put an executive order to dampen the Bush administration’s torture techniques instead of legislation through Congress, Trump, or any future president, can overturn it with an executive order of their own.

With refugees migrating around the world, people have protested the care given to refugees fearing terror in their home country.

There were not marches in the streets, shut down airports, or large social media campaigns against Barack Obama’s drone strikes program which contributed to the massive global refugee crisis.

While we can expect several changes with the new administration, the imperialistic foreign policy is likely here to stay.

Take Control of Your Media

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No news source is completely unbiased, nor will they ever be. It is up to the reader to think critically about what they see.

The media has been criticized harshly by the Trump administration, being called dishonest on a regular basis.

It is important to differentiate between websites that propel information on the Internet for the sake of site visits and clicks, and legitimate news sources that do their best to produce reliable news.

The Pew Research Center released a study this month that shows 50 percent of young adults (ages 18-29) years old often get their news online, as opposed to only 5 percent often getting it from print sources.

In the era of social media, people are flooded with news whether it is reliable or not. In order for real news services to stick out from the mass of other information, it is easy to see why catering to certain audiences has become commonplace.

Mollie Hemingway, senior editor at The Federalist, an online magazine that typically caters to conservative readers, said of media in general on Jan. 25 that “much of our reporting is designed to whip half the country into a frenzy, and the other half to tune out.”

Hemingway has come forward in a brave way and claimed some responsibility. It is not solely the responsibility of the media to reduce the flood of untrue or highly biased news.

There are sources like Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat and Late Night comedy that need to be identified as entertainment rather than news services.

Ashley Watzig, junior history, international studies and German major, knows to check her sources.

She gets her news online, but mostly from the BBC and National Public Radio apps she has on her phone.

Watzig said she does see the headlines that come up on social media sites that she knows are catered to her via advertising, but she said she always double-checks what she sees from several sources before she believes it.

Headlines on social media are often used as click-bait. They only try to get people to click on the article and promote the website they came from, not inform people with vetted facts.

When the public takes what they see on entertainment services at face-value and do not further investigate, it leads to a population of partially-informed people.

Lee Willis, chair of the history and international studies department, said when “people only spend 10 to 20 seconds on a story they see on social media, they react quickly” and therefore do not get the full message, which can be dangerous.

If the Trump administration can claim that CNN and Fox News are manipulating things to present them in a certain light, then it is possible the White House is doing exactly the same thing.

Regardless of which side of the aisle you find yourself, the only way to bridge the gap is to take both sides into account and understand where the other is coming from.

That means reading and listening to news from proven sources on both sides, not Twitter.
Rising Temperatures Match Citizen Uprisings

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2016 is officially the hottest year since record keeping began in the 1800s. Even with a La Niña event cooling the globe down during the last few months of 2016, the year still broke the record for average global temperatures.

Data collected by the NOAA declared that the average global temperature was 1.69 degrees Fahrenheit above the average of 52.2 degrees.

This new record surpasses the previous record, which was set in 2015, by 0.13 degrees Fahrenheit.

This is the third year in a row a new hot record has been set, as the year 2015 broke the previous record set by 2014.

The NOAA collects global surface temperature at different monitoring locations, the data is then analyzed by climate scientists.

With the new presidential administration unlikely to take action and create legislation to aid in stopping excessive greenhouse gases from being sent into the atmosphere, people are taking things into their own hands.

On Apr. 29 of 2017, 350.org is organizing a second People’s Climate March to echo the message of the original Climate March which took place in 2014.

According to 350.org’s website, the mission for the march is to “reject Trump’s attack on our communities and climate, and push forward with our vision of a clean energy economy that works for all.”

Steven’s Point’s chapter of 350.org is arranging to send members to D.C. for the march and promoting the action in the community.

Kevin Meyers, junior water resources major and president of the club, said, “350 Stevens Point is currently planning on sending people to the People’s Climate March in D.C. as well as marches that are happening the week prior in many large cities across the United States.”

Meyers expressed his belief that the People’s Climate March is incredibly relevant and important to many of the issues being discussed in the White House currently.

Combining a presidential administration which denies anthropogenic climate change and new studies which show trends towards rising temperatures results in backlash from environmental groups.

Angela Adrar, executive director of Climate Justice Alliance, said, “Now is the time to fight for climate justice as it is key to our liberation and justice for all. Defending our water, land, air, food, our bodies and homes will unite across struggles to grow the resistance.”

People are pushing back, and raising awareness to the issue with actions like the Climate March.

With average global temperatures rising every year, many climate action groups around the country are planning on working together in order to bring high attendance to the People’s Climate March in D.C. this April.

Japanese Whaling Spearheads International Controversy

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Controversy arose last month after photos circulated of a harpooned whale allegedly aboard a Japanese ship in Australia’s Antarctic territorial waters.

The incident sparked tension between Australia and Japan, in addition to global attention since there has been a worldwide ban on commercial whaling since 1985. Japan has continued whaling since the ban because they claim that it is for scientific, not commercial purposes.

However, the actual motives of their whaling program haven’t been widely debated, and in 2014 the United Nations International Court of Justice determined that their whaling activities were not scientific and must end.

The resolution only achieved a halt in whaling for one season before Japan’s program resumed in 2015.

Over the years, Japan has defended their whaling activities with a variety of claims, one such argument has been that whales reduce the supply of fish available to humans. However, science does not seem to support this assertion.

A study published in The Fish and Fisheries Journal on whales in the Caribbean found that fewer whales do not significantly increase the biomass of commercially harvested fish and in some cases, their presence improved fisheries.

This is due in large part because whales tend to prey on fish species other than those targeted by commercial fisheries.

Furthermore, a 2014 report published in Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment suggests that restoring whale populations to their pre-whaling levels could increase ocean productivity and ecosystem health.

The report frames whales as critical species because they redistribute nutrients in the ocean by feeding and leaving waste at different depths, and because their carcasses provide habitat and nutrients for organisms.

Vanessa Komada, sophomore wildlife ecology major, finds the issue frustrating. She thinks that Japan is acting irresponsibly because the whales they are harvesting are not just important to one area or country but the ocean as a whole since many whales migrate great distances.

Komada pointed out the danger of upsetting the ecosystem equilibrium through unsustainable harvest.

Komada said, “Although Japan is an important country in terms of financial benefits from whaling, if you destroy this ecosystem it will cause detrimental environmental effects which are way more costly.”

If whales truly are such a critical species, the issue of whaling becomes relevant not just for Japan and Australia but worldwide, since the oceans are the primary resource for all life crucial to the health of our planet.

What’s Next for the Dakota Access Pipeline?

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On Tuesday, Jan. 24, President Donald Trump signed executive orders to revive the Dakota Access and Keystone XL oil pipelines.

Construction on the 1,170 mile Dakota Access Pipeline has been on standstill since last year when former President Barack Obama instructed the Army corps to explore other possible routes.

The Standing Rock Sioux tribe and other Native American groups have been protesting the line which would both endanger their water supplies and disturb burial and archaeological sites.

An article by Tom Goldsmith, executive director of the Indigenous Environmental Network said, “Expect mass protest and occupation of the pipeline if Trump has seen so far.”

Kevin Benes, a former State Department lawyer who helped oversee pipeline permitting decisions under the Obama administration, said in an interview that opponents of the pipeline could make a strong argument because the Army’s only justification for terminating its environmental review was the President’s Jan. 24 decision.

Many American Indians and members of the tribe believe that the land where the current pipeline is set to be installed belongs to them under treaties signed with the federal government in the 1800s.

Opposition to the pipeline has come not only from members of the Sioux tribe but environmentalists who argue that limiting pipeline routes that would restrict the extent to which fossil fuels can be burned.

Jesse Montoure, senior wildlife ecology major, said, “I think the biggest problem I have with this is that it sets a precedent at least for the next four years that being environmentally conscious isn’t important.”

Chris Yahnoke, professor of biology, argues that building a pipeline through a delicate ecosystem is a big risk. The stronger argument against pipelines comes from the tribe that lives there because it is their land and their burial grounds that will be affected if the line were to spill.

Those in favor of the pipeline argue that the pipeline is the most effective means of transporting crude oil on the Great Plains, while also strengthening the economy and creating jobs.

Whether opposed or in favor of the pipeline, the action taken sends a strong message to the public about the Trump administration.
MEN'S BASKETBALL FALLS ONE POINT SHORT VERSUS WHITEWATER, DEFEATS STOUT

The men's basketball team is no stranger to close games against ranked opponents. They pushed UW-Whitewater to the brink on the road earlier this year but lost by one point on a last-second shot.

Despite a gallant effort against UW-Whitewater at home on Wednesday, Point suffered another one-basketheartbreaker, 56-55. UWSP held a five-point lead in the first half after a Zach Goedeke run in which he scored six of UWSP's 11 points. UWU took a two-point lead into intermission.

The Pointers went on an 11-2 run to start the final half of the play, as they led by seven on the evening. The Warhawks outscored the Pointers 21-14 to deadlock the game at 49 with 6:25 remaining.

Scoring then became scarce for each team, but Mark Nelson rose to the occasion for UWSP, hitting a three to give the home team a one-point edge with 2:56 to play.

Drew Fredrickson attempts a no-look pass to Aaron Retzlaff. Photo courtesy of Dalen Dahl.

Drew Fredrickson attempts a no-look pass to Aaron Retzlaff. Photo courtesy of Dalen Dahl.

Nelson struck again, tying the game at 55 apiece. However, Whitewater converted on a free throw with seven seconds left, and Drew Fredrickson's desperation heave at the buzzer came up empty, as Whitewater escaped with a one-point win.

The Pointers returned to action Saturday, as they blew past UW-Stout on the road, 76-64. UWSP used a three-point barrage to secure the victory, hitting 14 triples in the victory.

Drew Fredrickson attempts a no-look pass to Aaron Retzlaff. Photo courtesy of Dalen Dahl.

Nelson scored a team-leading 16 points for UWSP, followed by Fredrickson's 15 points on 5-9 shooting from downtown. Ethan Bublik and Bryce Williams added 12 and 10 points, respectively, for a Pointer squad that improved to 500 on the season in conference play.

The Pointers never trailed in the game and now sit at 12-10 on the season. They will close out their season with a pair of home games starting on Wednesday versus UW-Platteville and Saturday versus UW-La Crosse on Senior Night.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SURGES, ANKLAM REACHES 1000-POINT MARK

The women's basketball team now owns a three-game winning streak as the regular season winds down.

The Pointers went 2-0 this past week, defeating UW-Whitewater 75-57 on the road before routing UW-Stout 81-54 on Senior Day.

The Pointers went back and forth with the Warhawks Wednesday evening, but a 25-2 run helped punctuate a 27-10 fourth-quarter for UWSP.

The Pointers had five double-digit scorers on the evening, led by Autumn Henjes' 16 points. Taylor Barrett added 14 points and five blocks for Point, who entered halftime down 30-26.

The Pointers found their range in the second half as they hit each of their five three-pointers in a span of action, including Henjes' triple to give Point a 46-44 lead with 2:11 to go in the third.

After a quick 8-2 run by Whitewater which put Point down by five, the Pointers' closing 5-2 run began.

Barrett scored on a jumper to start the comeback, and her layup with 5:19 to play gave UWSP the lead for good.

After a pair of Whitewater free throws cut the lead to 60-57 with 2:57 left, UWSP scored the game's final 15 points.

Early Cerrato sparked the Pointers' late surge, scoring nine straight points in the span of 1:21. Lauren Ankland and Lexi Roland closed the game by each converting a pair of free throws to give Point a much-needed statement win on the road.

Saturday's game versus UW-Stout didn't even feature a lead change, as the Pointers led wire-to-wire in the Senior Day victory.

The Pointers shot a scintillating 54 percent from the field on the afternoon. Ankland led the team with 16 points in their final regular-season game at Berg Gym.

With her three-Pointer from the corner in the final minute of the third quarter, Ankland surpassed the 1000-point mark for her career, becoming the 21st player in UWSP women's basketball history to achieve the feat.

The Pointer continued to coast in on the action as well. Henjes tallied eight points and seven rebounds, while Taylor Douglas added seven points, four boards, and four assists. Sarah Camillo scored seven points and added four rebounds for the Pointers, who improved their record to 16-7 overall, with an 8-4 mark in conference play.

UWSP sits just one game behind second-place UW-Whitewater, over whom the Pointers own a head-to-head sweep. The Pointers close out their regular season on the road for their final two games against Platteville and La Crosse.

MEN'S HOCKEY CLINCHES WIAC REGULAR SEASON CROWN

Over the weekend, the men's hockey team clinched their second Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season title in the past three seasons.

The reigning national champs posted back-to-back wins at UW-Stout and UW-Eau Claire.

Friday's affair at Stout saw the Pointers overwhelm the Blue Devils, using a 3-1 second period to hold a commanding 5-1 lead with only one period left to play.

Senior Lawrence Cornellier opened up the scoring with a goal just 36 seconds into the game. Kelly O'Brien then scored 11:54 in the opening period to double the UWSP lead entering the second.

After a quick Stout goal that cut the lead to one, the Pointers reeled off three straight goals, as Willem Nong-Lam, Ethan Strong and Logan Fredericks each lit the lamp.

Point made during the third period all but iced the game for UWSP.

On the women's side, Abigail Clement won the 60-meter dash for UWSP with a time of 7.80. Isabella Weiss won the 60-meter hurdles, as well as cleared the 1.70-meter mark in the high jump.

Briana Simons also competed in the high jump, clearing the 1.70-meter mark in a third-place finish. Bailey Wolf finished third in the 60-meter dash. Staci Angelook placed fourth in the pole vault for UWSP, who will be in action on Saturday at the Multi-Athletic Center for the Big Dawg Invite.

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Look Into Sports Continued

WRESTLING NOTCHES THIRD PLACE FINISH AT WIAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The UWSP wrestling team tied with UW-Platteville for third place in the WIAC Championships on Friday.

The Pointers were led by senior and reigning national champion Logan Hermens, 165 lb. weight class, as well as sophomore Donny Ralston, 285 lb. weight class, as each won their respective class.

Junior Dylan Diebdtz finished fourth for UWSP in the 197 weight class, followed by freshman Ross Agg’s fifth-place finish in the same weight group.

Pointers Joey Seitz and Jordan Wenzel both placed fifth in their respective weight classes, while Michael Harnack, Jaden Bolvin, Moziab Clark, Alex Heiden, and Cody Nielsen each placed sixth in their respective weight classes.

Up next for UWSP is a non-conference date with Augsburg on Friday at Berg Gym. The match is slated for 7 p.m.

WOMEN’S HOCKEY FALLS TO SUPERIOR

The women’s hockey team lost its second-to-last home game of the season to UW-Superior, 2-1, on Friday.

Meredith Ingbretson gave Point a 1-0 lead midway through the second period, but a Molly Shelton power play goal for Superior tied the game 1-1. With 13:27 left to play in regulation, Leah Elledge scored an unassisted goal providing the game-winner for Superior.

The Pointers are now 12-9-2 on the year, with a 4-5 conference mark as the regular season enters its final week.

Point has a Wednesday date with St. Thomas at home before facing Concordia on the road Saturday.

UWSP’s Jerry Williams Emerges as Two-Sport Star

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Athletics require individuals to step up when their number is called.

For University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point junior Jerry Williams, that number is being called, with increasing frequency, across two sports. He is responding by embracing prominent roles on both the track and football team.

Being a two-sport athlete comes with its own set of rigors, one of which is an extremely regimented schedule.

How does Williams make juggling classes, a pair of sports, and a personal life work?

“I have all of my classes in the morning just to get those done with, then after class, I try to fit in eating,” Williams, the Milwaukee native, said. “Then, probably a nap, and after that, I have to practice for two or three hours.”

But wait, there’s more. Williams’s said “I have to work out for a given sport, and after all that, it’s probably seven at night. Then I’ll have to do homework. I use my Sundays to do nothing but sleep in.”

Sleeping isn’t advisable for those on the opposing side of Williams on the gridiron or on the track.

This past weekend, Williams excelled in the Pointer Invite, winning the long and triple jump events, respectively.

Additionally, Williams’s football career at UWSP began by studying notable Pointer wide receivers in recent years, such as Matt Sosinsky, Jared Pankow and Logan Taylor.

“I learned a lot from them, especially because I’ve been watching them for three years now,” Williams said. “Just learned things from them and tried to be like them.”

The patience and preparation have paid off for Williams, as the junior wideout received his most extensive playing time during the 2016 season.

Williams recorded 20 catches for 376 yards, with four touchdowns. He also proved deadly in the return game over the past two years, recording a touchdown on kick returns in both the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

Williams has averaged 26.4 yards on kick returns in his UWSP career thus far.

Humble as ever, Williams shared a very important message for students and student-athletes alike:

“Make sure you’re ready. If you don’t use your time right, you’re going to be in a hole,” Williams said.

While succeeding in both sports, Williams still has his sights set on more.

“I’d like to become a national champ in the long jump or triple jump before I’m done,” Williams said. “I’d like to make it to the playoffs in football, and get a big trophy in track at nationals this year.”

If any of these goals are to happen, Williams’ number will continue to be called upon. Odds are that he’ll continue to respond as he has been thus far: hurdling expectations, and putting points on the board for UWSP.
The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men’s swimming and diving team is heading to the conference championship with an undefeated record of 4-0.

On Feb. 3-4 the team competed in the University of Minnesota Challenge. It was an invitational meet where teams throughout the Midwest attended.

The challenge is not scored and for some swimmers on the team, it was their last competition this season.

Al Boelk, head coach, described that challenge as the last meet to prepare the players for the championships.

Out of about 30 men on the team, 17 swimmers and three divers will be competing in the championships.

Boelk said that the team only had a few minor setbacks this season.

"It’s been a pretty smooth year we have stayed healthier than we have in the average year. I think that is one of the reasons that the year is going pretty good. We really haven’t struggled this year that much, they have trained well and most of them got the job done in the off-season," Boelk said.

Brandon Donaldson, junior, swims the breast stroke. At the challenge this past weekend Donaldson swam the 200 individual medley as well as the 100 and 200-yard breaststroke.

According to Donaldson, the 100-yard breaststroke is his best event because he is a strong sprinter.

He claims that one of the biggest successes this season has been the team’s ability to form strong bonds.

"I don’t really look at them and see their skill level, I just see them as people that love the sport like me and have a passion for it. If you have a group of people that love the sport together and want to work hard that’s going to produce excellence and speed," Donaldson said.

Zach Gaschignard, freshman, swims freestyle and finished up his season at the challenge.

Though the team remains undefeated, Gaschignard admitted that competing against St. Cloud State University this season almost cost the team a loss.

Competing at the collegiate level has been a big change for Gaschignard because he went from swimming for a team that had won one meet in three years to swimming for an undefeated team.

"I think the work ethic on this team is a lot higher and people are more determined on this team because they want to keep the conference championship streak going," Gaschignard said.

Starting on Feb. 16, the team will compete in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship.

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**Sports Events**

**Track and Field**
- Feb. 18, Big Dawg Invite 10:30 am MAC

**Women's Hockey**
- Feb. 15, vs. St. Thomas 7 p.m.
- Feb. 18, at Concordia 12 p.m.

**Men's Basketball**
- Feb. 15, vs. UW-Platteville 7 p.m.
- Feb. 18, vs. UW-La Crosse 7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**
- Feb. 15, at UW-Platteville 7 p.m.
- Feb. 18, at UW-La Crosse 3 p.m.

**Wrestling**
- Feb. 17, vs. Augsburg 7 p.m.
Music Review: Punch by Autoheart

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Autoheart, a lively band, is one that you should take a look into. As an indie-pop band based out of London, they will pump you up and relax you with their debut album "Punch."

This album mixes it up with energetic, bright songs and slower, melodic piano pieces. Their sound is similar to Coldplay and a more relaxed version of Panic! At the Disco, but they compete in their own way.

The opening song on the album, "Anniversary," kicks off the fast-paced songs. The track begins with a pulsing beat that is carried throughout the song and the vocalist's voice floats above the thriving beat. Piano doubles the driving beat, giving more volume to it.

Lyric wise, the song talks about the protagonist professing their love to someone. The lyrics claim "Giving you up? Why would I ever do a thing like that?" This song has a happy vibe and it shows that no matter what the protagonist faces, they would never give up on their significant other.

The fourth song on the album, "Agoraphobia," switches from high-paced beats to the softer, melodic songs. The track has a simple structure, with only piano, a quiet bass drum beat and vocals. At times, the lead vocalist layers his voice, creating a beautiful, yet haunting echo that goes well with the theme of this song.

The vocalist hints at being afraid of getting out of their comfort zone. Throughout the song, the protagonist tries to leave the house, but is continuously scared to leave, which ties well into the title.

What is creative about this track is when the vocalist gets to the lyric, "I really don't wanna go anywhere." With the layering, it sounds like the voices inside his head haunting him, constantly telling him he doesn't want to go anywhere.

Towards the end of the album, "Santa Fe" keeps the driving beat that is throughout the album but also has a slower tempo. The music is built up with piano chords and drums. This time, a tambourine is even layered in. The song has a mysterious feel to it, making you want to listen to where the song will be going.

Lyric wise, it has a similar theme to "Anniversary." This track talks about giving yourself, heart and soul, to another at Santa Fe.

Overall, this album will give listeners a wild roller coaster of fast-paced, pumped-up songs. It will also slow you down, make you think and enjoy the lyrics in the melodic pieces.

With a beat that keeps you tapping your foot, there really isn't a reason not to check Autoheart out.
BINGO Reaches New Audience On UWSP Campus

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Over 30 students gathered on Feb. 10 to test their luck at the classic game of bingo.

Tess Tranel, junior music education major and travel leisure coordinator at Centertainment, developed students on a budget. She first came across the idea of "glorified bingo" game of bingo.

One of the twelve winners was Abigail Young, sophomore arts management major.

When asked what she will do now that she won grocery bingo, Young said, "I'm going to eat my food.

She won the junk food themed bag which included chips, soda and sweets among other things. Bingo has reached an entirely new demographic on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus.

"I'm really surprised I won," Young said, "I never win anything.

Grocery bingo gave all students who attended an equal chance to win, encouraged students to get out on a cold night and helped students who might not have a lot of money for groceries after the holidays.

Tranel is now planning Centertainment's first trip. The mystery bus will leave at 7:45 am on March 4th to a mystery location. Students can sign up at the info and ticket desk in the DUC.

Gear Up for Love with Grant Edmonds, Love Guru

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Love is in the air! To some, the Valentine's Day season is full of romance and passion, for others, it is everything but.

Love Guru Grant Edmonds crafted an umbrella of advice for every person in the "love" mindset.

Edmonds is a certified relationship coach out of Indiana who has appeared on shows such as 7th Heaven and Drew Carey.

Single, engaged, dating, married, or divorced; Edmonds "Love Gears" lecture, based off of his book, compared the dating scene to a well-running car.

Paulette Salazar, club variety coordinator for Centertainment Productions and communications and public relations major, organized this

Centertainment event.

"It was Valentine's Day inspired," Salazar said. "People love love.

The energy from the crowd filled the room with buzzing voices until the lights dimmed to introduce Edmonds.

Edmonds asked the crowd who is excited for Valentine's Day and their response was abysmal.

"There is something for everyone here," Edmonds said, "Even for singles!

The crowd soon loosened up to the animated Edmonds and before long laughter was rolling out of the Encore.

When talking about relationships Edmonds said to focus on you first.

"You cannot have a successful relationship when your needs aren't being met," Edmonds said.

The advice was simple to follow with the continual analogy of cars and relationships. Edmonds used a car to explain that preventative measures are important in vehicles and relationships.

As an interactive lecturer, Edmonds posed questions such as, why do car owners change tires? It is the same reason any person who wishes to have a successful relationship needs to renew their wants and needs.

This event was far more than a lecture. It was truly an interactive and inspirational seminar on love.

Participants had the ability to shout out answers to Edmonds' own questions on stage, along with games like the newlywed game. In the game one male is blindfolded, in this case the blindfold was Edmonds' old sweatpants, and then he blindly asks a panel of ladies different questions to find his perfect match.

Participants were asked to stand up based on their relationship status. The audience was also encouraged to share their fears and hopes for current or upcoming relationships.

Students from all backgrounds came out for the event, some made it a date and others came as lone wolves.

Kim Schlep, sophomore arts management major said, "honestly I'm single and ready to mingle. I'm hoping to at least get a few laughs from the show.

Undeniably, everyone in the Encore was looking for some advice to make love a little easier.

'It's something fun and different," said Keaton Galezio, senior music education major.

As Valentine's Day passes, the advice from Edmonds will remain true as students at UWSP continue to venture forward either looking for a hand or holding one.

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Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris

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Modern theatre-goers have fallen into a rut. They sit down in their red velvet seats and expect a two-act performance that tells them a story. Kathryn Wisniewski and Dance intends to break those expectations through its performance of Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris, a 49-year-old musical revue.

The show, which opened Feb. 10 and will run until Feb. 18, features a cast of five men and five women. Each cast member sings solos as well as participates in group numbers.

The structure of the performance is through individual songs, written by the show's namesake Jacques Brel. These songs, each three to four minutes in duration, tell their own stories and fit together to form the 90-minute performance.

Laura Paruzynski, a freshman musical theatre major, said, "Since there is no dialogue, it's difficult to do without spoken context. While the freeform style of Jacques Brel brings challenges, it also brings its own attributes. "The coolest thing about this show is that it has no set place, time or characters," Paruzynski said. "Our director, Mark Hanson, came into the process with the intention of creating something with the cast."

Traditionally, musical revues have strong themes of satire. Mark Hanson, assistant professor of theatre and dance and director of Jacobs Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris, said this show doesn't satirize but focuses on "the ridiculous and funny side of dark subjects" like love, war, sex, loneliness and childhood.

"Brel is sincere on the face of his songs," Hanson said. "But his wit and charm can skew any subject matter."

The messages of the revue come through the lyrics of each song. "Every song Brel wrote has not only an intriguing melody but also thought-provoking lyrics," Paruzynski said. "He wrote about the times in a way no one had before."

Christof Krumenacker, sophomore musical theatre major performing in Jacques Brel, also spoke on the show's music. "With every new song comes an entirely new sound," Krumenacker said. "There is so much variety in this show that if you don't like one song, just wait for the next one because it will have an entirely new feel."

"Jacques Brel is a show that most colleges wouldn't have the opportunity to take on because of its small cast, lack of script and its lack of popularity," Paruzynski said. "But that is what I find so appealing about it."

The show was chosen based on its unique dynamic and structure, as well as its fit for the current season and group of students involved. "This show is unlike anything that has been done at UWSP," Miles Yokom, freshman musical theatre major, said.

"Since there is no dialogue, we have to convey all of the ideas and characters through our songs, which is difficult to do without spoken context," Hanson said. "We have our audiences leaving with more questions than answers, but it's important to realize that there are no right or wrong answers."

"Anyone who comes to see it should walk in with an open mind," Krumenacker said. "We hope this show will have people talking about it days after and wanting to come and see it again. This show also requires the audience to create their own opinions as to what they think is happening in each song and in the overall performance."

I hope audiences leave the theatre having felt empathy or recognition with something in the show," Hanson said. "We all go to the theatre to feel something and Jacques Brel is a master of putting emotion to the front of his songs."

Tickets for this weekend's performances are available for purchase at the Information and Ticket Office in the Dreyfus University Center.
The Dairy State Cheese Company is located in Rudolph, Wisconsin 15 miles away from campus. This local business offers a wide variety of dairy products made on-site from its own cows.

The average American eats over 30 pounds of cheese a year. Not only is cheese often cited as a source of calcium and protein, it is also made in a myriad of types and flavors.

"Looking for unique flavor?" The Wisconsin Dairy State Cheese Company website said, "Choose from over 200 different types and styles of Wisconsin cheese. We invite you to enjoy the taste of Wisconsin."

Standard types of cheese are sold at the company, such as colby, cheddar and monterey jack.

The Dairy State Cheese Company also offers specialty cheeses, including blueberry monterey jack, muenster and sriracha.

Dairy fudge is a surprising treat that can be purchased with or without nuts.

Of course, the factory also sells their signature cheese curds, which shoppers can see being made through the glass windows in the back of the shop.

The Dairy State Cheese Company offers a unique experience that combines buying locally with seeing the food being made on the premises.

Maria Vann, sophomore health promotion and wellness major, has visited the factory in Rudolph several times.

While one of her favorite aspects of the shop is the attached ice cream parlor, she also enjoys being able to see the cheese-making process.

"I really enjoy the ice cream part," Vann said. "They have really good ice cream there. The other part that I really like is just the cheese area where you can look at all the different kinds, but you can also see it being made in the back window."

Not only is the Dairy State Cheese company dedicated to providing quality, local dairy products, they also foster a fun, family-friendly and educational environment.

"View our master cheesemakers artistry from two observation areas," their website says. "We will be glad to explain the cheese-making process to you, just ask one of our knowledgeable team members. We look forward to making your visit a memorable one."

Vann believes that visiting a local business creates a unique community environment.

"I think there's more quality to getting it straight from Rudolph rather than just walking into Copps and going by their little cheese section," Vann said. "Both native Wisconsinites and out-of-state students have something to gain from visiting the Dairy State Cheese Company."

"I think especially for diversity students," Vann said. "I think it'd be a really good idea for students to get out there if you're from a different state, you can see our main staple which is cheese and ice cream."

The shop is open seven days a week. Their hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to noon.

Make sure to bring cash or check as they do not accept card payments.