

INSIDE

NEWS

FEATURED NEWS

pg. 2

SPORTS

FEATURED SPORTS

pg. 5

A & E

FEATURED A&E

pg. 8

Men's Hockey Team Has Unbeaten Regular Season

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The UW-Stevens Point Men's Hockey team has dominated their competition and finished off their regular season undefeated. The 2018-2019 men's hockey team is the first team in Pointer history to go unbeaten in a regular season. They also won their third-straight regular season title after their win over UW-Stout.

Head coach Tyler Krueger is in his second season as the head coach of the Pointers, after being the interim head coach for the 2017-2018 season.

When asked how he felt about the season Krueger said, "It's been good, you know we have a very mature group, we didn't lose a lot from last year, we returned quite a few players that got a lot of valuable experience out of our frozen four-run last year. Coming back, I kind of knew what it took, and I knew what type of team we had and the special team we had. They know the situation we are in, without having an automatic bid in the tournament that we can't afford to lose games here and there. We've kind

continued on page 5

Future Budget Plans Present New Student Health and Wellness Center, While Albertson Hall Remains on the Back-burner

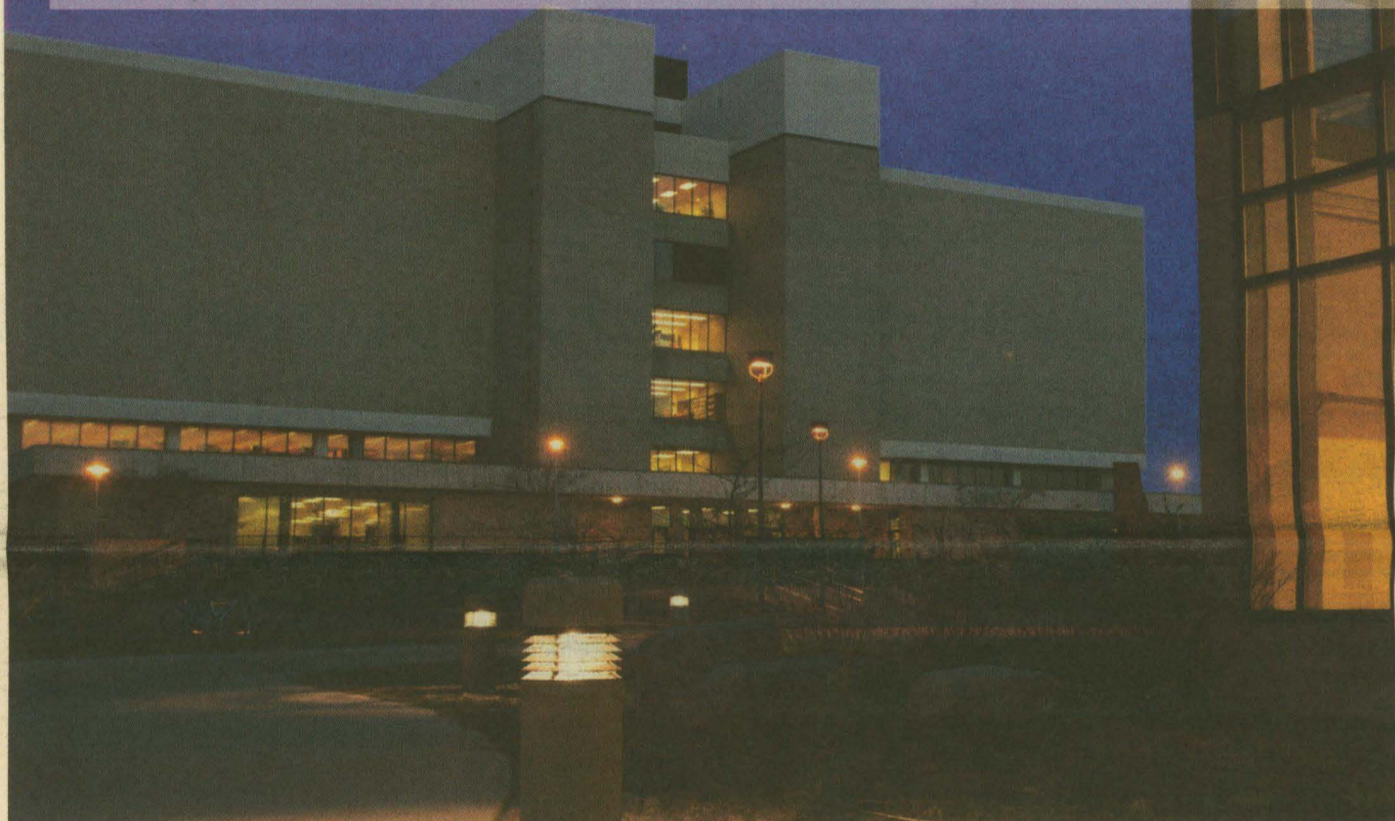


Photo Courtesy of the UWSP Blog

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STEVENS POINT - Albertson Hall is deteriorating, and is not receiving the proper funding for renovations.

As it currently stands, Albertson Hall is experiencing a faulty fire suppression system, a junction box that is over capacity, leaking chilled water pipes, failed and blown-out duct walls, risk of the basement flooding (where IT and all of the university's servers and radio communication for public safety are located), and inoperative valves across the hall.

Unfortunately, funding for Albertson Hall's renovations will not be considered until the 2021-2023 biennium. In the meantime, the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

(UWSP) has another project planned.

Within the UW-Stevens Point Profile and Projects capital planning and budget for the 2019-2021 biennium, there is a proposed new student health and wellness center, priced at \$32,500,000; roughly half of what it would cost to renovate Albertson Hall. This is ranked 13th on the UW-System's priority list.

The UW-System has chosen to prioritize a new student health and wellness center rather than fixing a library that is doomed to fail in the coming years. It is without question that the UW-System's priorities are skewed.

UWSP has two fully operation gyms for students to workout in. We have a field house, two different basketball gymnasiums, a natatorium, and a student health center. For the time being, we have everything

students need to reach the best possible versions of themselves. For that reason, a new facility may be unwarranted.

Albertson Hall is in desperate need of repairs, totaling at an estimated \$60,000,000. Ranked 23rd on the 2021-2023 biennium priority list, it is highly unlikely that Albertson Hall will receive the necessary repairs it deserves any time soon.

"Why did the university build a new science building, instead of fixing old problems?" Junior communications major, Brandon Bolin, told The Pointer.

The UW-System believed that a new chemistry and biology building would suit the ever growing needs of UWSP students.

UWSP Chancellor,

continued on page 2



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Future Budget Plans...

continued from page 1

Patterson, believes that the new science building is a welcomed addition to our campus.

In 2018, Patterson stated, "This building stands tall primarily for the opportunities it offers our students. More than 1,300 who major or minor in biology, chemistry, biochemistry and natural sciences will spend much of their time in this building in the years ahead, learning, collaborating and conducting research."

While Patterson is correct in that the new building will facilitate greater learning, it is difficult to grasp what exactly was wrong with the old science building.

The original science building, which still stands today, is home to thousands of students researching chemistry, biology, astronomy, geography, and so on. Albert-

son Hall could have been renovated first, before the new structure was created.

This all speaks to a greater issue, though.

UWSP has been receiving less and less money due to lower enrollment rates. UWSP is currently experiencing a \$5,200,000 shortfall because of a steady decrease in the number of students coming to Stevens Point. Since 2013, UWSP has lost \$13,000,000 worth of students.

According to the University officials, this number is due to four-year graduation rates improving, coupled with a stronger economy.

Greg Summers, the Provost of UWSP, stated in an October of 2018 open forum conference that his goal is to raise enrollment back up to 8,000 students, in turn curbing our spending-to-earning ratio. More stu-

dents means more money, and more money means more opportunities for campus renovations and development.

All hope is not lost, though. Albertson Hall is at least on the docket for the 2021-2023 biennium. Furthermore, if enrollment rates do improve, UWSP could find themselves as more of a priority for the UW-System. At the end of the day, only time will tell.

For the time being, Albertson Hall is safe to be in. It has passed fire code inspections, and has been deemed safe. Albertson Hall's issues are all located away from students; underground and behind it's walls. However, if repairs are not made in the near future, we could lose the hall altogether.

New Student-Focused Apartment Complex to Fill Vacant Kmart Lot

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STEVENS POINT - If you've been on Maria Avenue lately, you've likely seen some changes to the old Kmart lot.

In late January, barricades were put in place to officially mark the closing of the lot. Now, the only remnants of Kmart lie behind a large steel gate.

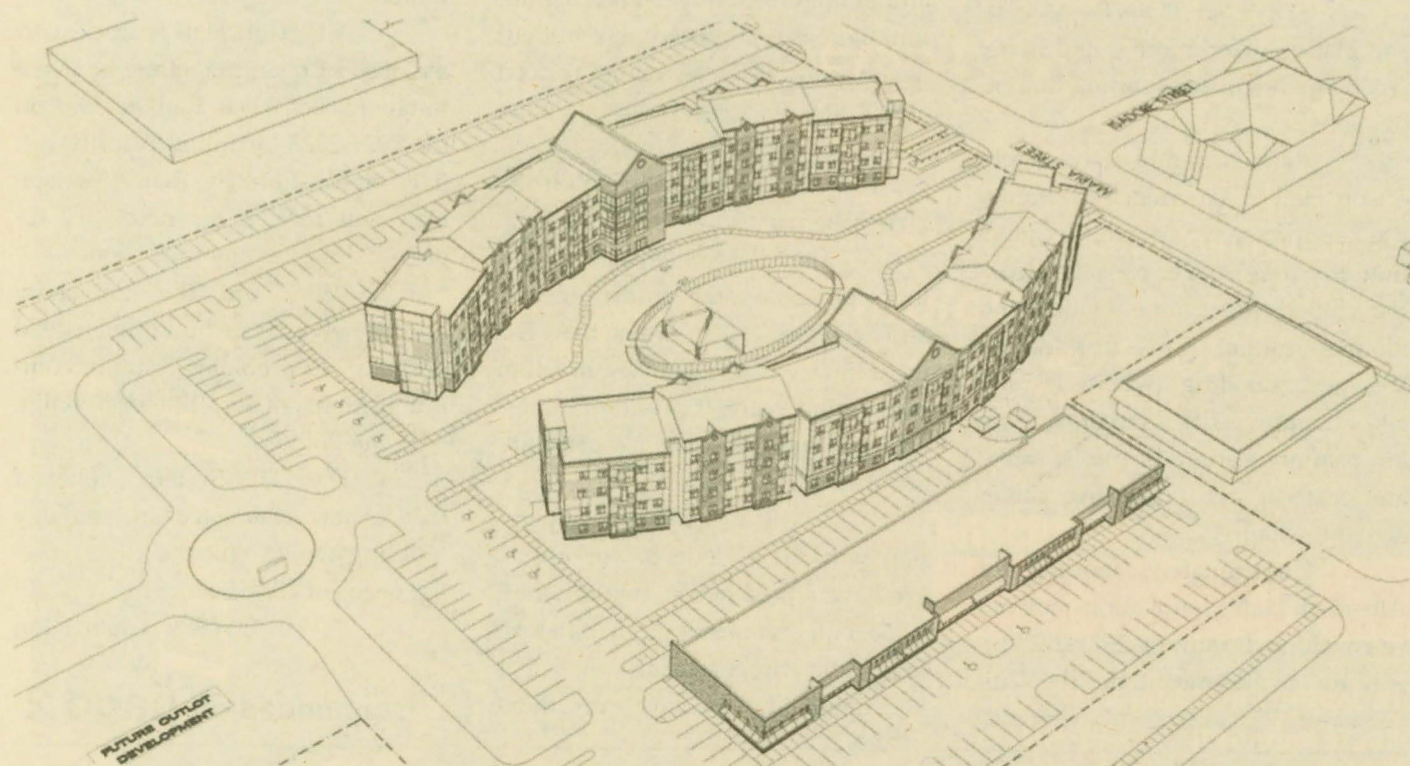
With another open lot to exploit, Stevens Point will erect a new building in its place.

In April of 2018, city council approved of a development project for new student housing on the old Kmart lot.

The new student-focused apartment complex will be built by K/M Stevens Point LLC. Although it is a student-focused complex, it is open to all tenants.

Although enrollment rates at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point dwell beneath 8,000, new housing projects aim to attract prospective students.

There is no tentative date for the opening of the apartment complex, but demolition of the old Kmart facility will begin in the coming months.



CR
K/M STEVENS POINT, LLC
OWNER

STUDENT HOUSING
111 DIVISION STREET
STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN
DATE: MAR. 19, 2018

Proposed apartment and mixed-use retail space at the site of the former Stevens Point Kmart. Image courtesy of WAOW TV

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

Dining Combats Staff Shortages

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UWSP's Dining and Summer Conferences has struggled with staffing this year, and has already had to close multiple locations this spring semester.

Sometimes, employees are simply not available, but Dining's struggle also lies in the recruitment and retention of student employees.

Suzette Conley, Director of DSC, says that closure due to understaffing "is a very common occurrence." The division has faced these closures often during previous semesters, but will now face the additional challenge of reopening the DeBot Dining Center in Fall 2019.

DSC continues to do everything that it can in order to maintain a well-operated service, but DSC's struggle in holding student employees lies in circumstances out of its control.

"Finding people that want to work is incredibly difficult," says Conley.

DSC places employment advertisements through as many avenues as it can, such as advertisements on the campus's newspaper and radio station, but the program is still often short of labor.

Dining has also raised its base student-employee wage from \$8.00/hour to \$8.50/hour recently in an effort to compete with local part-time food-service businesses. However, Dining cannot afford to maintain the wages that other businesses offer – local food chains such as Noodles and Co. are typically willing to give students a starting wage of \$9-\$10.

Dining, as a financially

self-sufficient program, receives no tax funds and must pay student employees directly from its own generated income. Raising wages would necessarily subtract from the same budgeting that ensures food service quality, management quality, or recruitment efforts. These subtractions would likely only damage Dining's profits more.

The 2010 Affordable Care Act also limits DSC's ability to recruit and retain employees. The act's 30 hour/week threshold requires applicable employers to offer affordable "minimal essential coverage" for medical expenses. The UW-System cannot afford to allow all students to

work full-time.

Hence, many student employees have been contractually held to work no more than 25 hours a week, although exceptions may permit student employees to work up to 29 hours a week, during academic semesters.

To illustrate this issue: single, independent students working for DSC would have to work over 28 hours a week to remain above the poverty threshold, whereas students working for local corporate chains would only have to work 24 hours a week to remain above the poverty threshold.

As illustrated, Dining cannot

raise its maximum working-hours to meet a more comfortable salary for its economically-independent students, nor can it raise its entry-level wage.

As Dining now faces the challenge of opening the renovated DeBot Dining Center for Fall 2019, Conley says "It's going to be challenging."



MyFiles to be Removed after this Semester, Says IT

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Information Technology has announced the discontinuance of UWSP's myFiles (H: Drive) network file service at the end of this semester.

UWSP's IT department stated that the university's local file network, known as myFiles or as the H: Drive, will no longer be available after the Spring 2019 semester. Students have received this news from multiple campus announcements over the last few months.

"On April 30, 2019 all access to myFiles (H: Drive) will be changed to 'read-only,'" one of IT's pages now says. "On May 31, 2019 the UWSP myFiles (H: Drive) network storage service will no longer be available."

IT's campus announcement states that the discontinuance is "due to budget constraints and aging hardware, coupled with the availability of more versatile storage solutions."

MyFiles has been UWSP's file storage system for over 20 years. After this semester, students' only available file network will be the OneDrive for Business, Microsoft Office 365's cloud storage option.

Although many students still use myFiles, the discontinuance may be in the university's best interest: outsourcing data storage requires less labor than insourcing, and cloud storage is much more accessible than local storage.

"One of the advantages of OneDrive that most people may not know is that it's accessible from any-

where," says Brian Kelly, IT's enterprise device management team manager, "So, once you get it up there in the cloud, you can use your phone; you can go home; you can be at Starbucks. It's there, as long as you've got an internet connection."

Students' only option to access myFiles remotely had been to use one of UWSP's finite number of remote desktops. With OneDrive, students can access their files much more easily.

The ease of outsourcing cloud storage has motivated other campuses to adopt this new method of file storage as well.

"All of the UW systems are moving to cloud," says Kelly, "Most of them, in fact, have already done it."

IT's removal of myFiles more represents a change in technology and storage solutions than a downsizing of UWSP's technology services.

"What we're doing here is, I suppose, not out of the ordinary, and actually it's kind of like we need to pull the campus into the 21st century here," says Kelly.

Faculty Directly Denounces Administration

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An all-faculty meeting on Friday, Feb. 8 approved a collective statement of disapproval toward UWSP's administration.

"The faculty hereby expresses its collective dissatisfaction with UWSP's administrative leadership during the administration's response to budgetary issues," the statement's opening paragraph says.

In the first half of this document, the statement presents several criticisms of the Point Forward proposal and, in large, administration's behavior surrounding these proposals. The second half of the document makes several requests that it recommends administration take notice of.

Helping facilitate the meeting were Mick Veum, Chair of Astrology and Physics; Andy Felt, president of the Stevens Point Academic Representation Council; and Kym Buchanan, Chair of the School of Education. Notable attendees also included Jennifer Collins, Chair of the

Faculty Committee, and Mary Bowman, Chair of the Common Council.

The all-faculty meeting was held in TNR 170 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. last week Friday. Faculty that could not attend in person, such as those from UWSP's branch campuses, had the opportunity to attend via Skype conference call. In total, 86 faculty attended in person and 33 faculty attended on Skype.

"My only regret is that it wasn't easy to find a time where every single faculty member could participate," says Veum.

The meeting reviewed the faculty's collective statement and made several amendments to it. Most amendments required long discussions followed by voice votes and, due to frequent near-ties, a subsequent show of hands.

"Nobody around here can remember the last time we had an all-faculty meeting," says Felt, "It's been at least decades."

Topics of long deliberation included the decision to ultimately

not request consideration of a hiring freeze, and the decision to request that administration report the hiring of certain positions to Common Council.

After almost two hours, a voice vote was called to approve of the finalized statement. Not a single "nay" could be heard. The room filled with applause. Felt then reported that only two of the Skype attendees had typed "nay."

"Watching my colleagues demonstrate simultaneous passion, civility, democracy, and a collective desire to move UWSP to a better place was so wonderful," says Veum, "I can't remember that [sic] last time I felt this positive after a governance meeting. It has been a while. I am so grateful to everyone who participated."

Faculty also decided to request that administration send its reply to Faculty Council by March 13, 2019 – two days before Point Forward reaches the UW-System in its approval process.

If Chancellor Patterson and

Provost Summers choose not to dignify the letter with a formal public response, as they had done with SPARC's open letter, then faculty's response would likely be to cast a vote of "no confidence" toward the university's administration.

The influence of such a vote may not be sufficient for significant change. In December 2017, a majority of UW-Superior Faculty Senate had also voted "no confidence" toward the university's administration amidst controversial academic changes. To this day, the chancellor has not changed.

However, only about 51 of UW-Superior's 96 Senate members voted "no confidence," whereas UWSP faculty's statement of disapproval was nearly unanimous.

"The faculty are saying with one voice, we don't like how the administration is handling these things," says Felt, "I'm incredibly proud of the faculty of UWSP for standing up and saying, together, that we don't like the direction our leadership is taking us."

Snowfall in Wisconsin is a Record Breaker

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP) — This week's snow storm in Wisconsin is a record breaker for some communities.

The snow total reached 15.7 inches in Wausau Tuesday, shattering the 1-day snowfall record for the city previously set at 13 inches in 1924 and 1908.

Some impressive snow totals were seen around the state Tuesday, including 14.2 at Plover and 13.9 at Rhinelander. The National Weather Service says 8.3 inches of snow fell at the Dane County Regional Airport, smashing the old mark for the day of 4.9 inches set on Feb. 12, 1923.

In Milwaukee, the weather service recorded 7.9 inches, breaking a record for the day set at 7.5 inches in 2008.

Story courtesy of AP Newsroom.

Wiscnosing Senate to Send Middle Class Tax Cut Bill to Evers

Scott Bauer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The Republican-controlled Wisconsin Senate was expected to send a middle class tax cut bill to Democratic Gov. Tony Evers on Wednesday, setting up what is likely to be the new governor's first veto.

The measure would be the first bill passed by the Legislature this session. Republicans moved quickly to pass the \$340 million-a-year tax cut to get ahead of Evers, who campaigned on a promise to cut middle class taxes by 10 percent and planned to include it in the state budget he introduces in two weeks.

While Republicans and Evers both want to cut income taxes for middle income earners, they can't agree on how to pay for it. Both sides have said they would be willing to compromise, but neither has shown signs of budging in an early test of how they will govern.

Republicans would tap budget reserves, a move Evers opposes because it takes that money off the table for other spending priorities and is not sustainable in future years. Instead, Evers wants to all but eliminate a tax credit program that effectively removes the state income tax for manufacturers. That would pay for about half of his \$415 million

tax cut. He hasn't identified how he would fund the remainder.

Republicans oppose Evers' plan, calling it a \$220 million tax shift onto manufacturers that would stifle economic growth. Democrats cast the tax credit as a giveaway to millionaires and say there's no evidence that it's been as beneficial to the economy as Republicans argue.

The Assembly passed the GOP income tax cut plan with no Democratic support on Tuesday, sending it to the Senate which plans to take it up Wednesday. Evers hasn't said he will veto the measure, but he's repeatedly voiced opposition to the GOP funding source while voicing hopes for a compromise.

Republicans don't have large enough majorities in the Senate and Assembly to override an Evers veto without Democratic support. If Evers were to veto the bill, lawmakers could still reach a compromise with him and include a tax cut in the budget that likely won't be voted on until late spring or summer.

Under the Republican bill, the maximum deduction would increase by 20.6 percent for single people making less than \$127,000 and joint filers making less than \$155,000. The average cut for all filers would be \$170, according to the nonpartisan

Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

The Evers plan would create a 10 percent refundable tax credit for single filers earning below \$80,000 a year and married-joint filers making less than \$125,000. It would also expand the earned income tax credit for lower income filers. The average tax cut under his plan would be \$225, Evers' office said.

Story courtesy of AP Newsroom.

Men's Hockey Team Has Undeclared Regular Season

continued from page 1

of had that mindset all season long of 'we are in playoff mode, every game is of magnitude and importance.' We've done a good job of taking care of the little things and not looking over any opponents. They go about it in the right way, we have to earn everything, get everybody's best shot. You know, being number one everybody wants to knock us off, so we rise to that challenge every single game that we play, and it's been a fun ride so far."

Going into the season Krueger said that one of their biggest question marks was the goalie after losing last year's goalie Max Milosek. Krueger said that there is no question or debate about it anymore, with three goalies vying for the opportunity to play, sophomore Connor Ryckman has been a strong force in the net. "We returned Connor Ryckman who was a freshman last year and played four or five games and you know he played well. Coming in we knew Connor had the ability to do what he is doing now, and we brought in two other goaltenders who were freshmen to push him and compete with him. There were questions, but I think we knew they were going to figure themselves out quickly. Between the three of them one of them was going to rise to the occasion and they compete with each other every day and Connor has been our backbone during this whole run. He is very detailed in his preparation

and he is just a calm presence back in the net, he never gets rattled, never gets flustered. When the team is going through a spout of getting outshot or outplayed here and there Connor kind of just calms everybody down, makes the saves look easy and just gives [the team] the confidence moving forward to play in front of him."

Coach Krueger said that the team made sure to take each other seriously throughout the season. "Our Pointer culture here drives everything and that's been a work in progress for the last ten years. When I was a player here how every many years ago it was that was just starting. We mandate that we have high expectations, high standards for ourselves as individuals and as a group. It's up to us as coaches and the leaders of the team and everybody else to hold each other and themselves to those standards and expectations. It's doing the little things right, day in and day out over time and that creates that confidence and that culture that we talk about."

The team didn't just make themselves accountable in practice but also when playing their competition. "When you play WIAC teams the record kind of gets thrown out because we play each other so much over the years that it's a similar game to when the Packers play the Vikings. No matter the record it's a rivalry game, you throw the records out of the book when you play them. There

are no secrets between the teams, and we know that we are going to get the best shot. We know that we can't overlook any opponents and you take things one game at a time and know that we are going to get the best shot no matter who we are playing. I think that mentality that we've had all year long is just getting carried over, over the course of the season."

As an alumni member of the Pointer men's hockey team Krueger has enjoyed watching both the team and the program evolve. "It has been fun to just you know see the growth of the program and the growth of the guys individually. Our success didn't come out of nowhere, it's been a long time, years coming. You know these guys are reaping the benefits that a lot of people put in the work three, four, five years ago."

Krueger explained that being on the team several years ago and being a younger coach helps him communicate with the team now. "Millennials, or whatever you want to call them, they need to be coached a different way and I think that's a strength we have as a younger coaching staff is that we can relate to them. We know what they like, what they need, they want communication, they don't want to be screamed at, yelled at, they want to know why they did things wrong, why they did things right. They want to be held accountable at the end of the day but you have to do it in a certain way.

The days of screaming at guys and telling them to do things are a little bit over. You have to explain why you are doing things the right way and why you should do things this way. Just having that one on one communication with each of them is kind of what propels everything else."

Krueger also explained that telling his story and sharing his experiences with the guys helps them overcome struggles both on and off the ice. "They go through those struggles and telling them your story, letting them know I went through it myself, helps them understand that they are going to come out of it stronger and once they go through it once or twice, they start to believe that. It's a matter of us telling our stories and the upperclassmen who have been through it before."

The Pointers will be back on the ice on Friday, Feb 22 at K.B. Willet Arena for the semifinals of the WIAC Conference Tournament. Their opponent will be the winner of the UW-Stout and UW-River Falls match up.



Photo by Kylie Bridenbagen

Pointer Profile: Sydney Conley

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Major:
Health Promotion and
Wellness
Year:
Senior

When did you start playing hockey?
"I think I started playing
when I was around six."

Why did you start playing hockey?

"I'm originally from North Carolina so my parents didn't know what hockey was. I saw a sign I guess, or somebody said something about hockey and there was a free goalie clinic, all of the equipment was free so then my dad just took me to it and I started playing goalie."

Did you play any other sports?

"Yeah, in high school I played tennis and then I played softball, but I wasn't really good at softball, so I don't know if I'd really count it as playing softball. They tried making me a catcher and you would think that being a goalie it would be easy but one time I got hit with a bat and I was just like 'I'm done, nope not doing it.'"

What would you consider a successful season for you?

"I would say having a successful season is just having a fun environment since our season isn't going the way we planned it to be. So just everyone having fun when we're there and just playing games and everyone giving it all they can while playing basically is a good season for me. Just having fun."

You recently hit 2,000 saves, the second Pointer to do so, how does that make you feel?

"I had no idea actually and then after the game, my dad was like 'Congrats!' and I was like, 'what?'. It was cool, the first thing I thought of when he said it was 'Wow that's a lot of saves'. I mean, even in high school I never hit that many shots and for them to be actual saves is cool."

Do you have any goals for yourself with the season?

"As of right now, I think the goal is to finish the season out strong and hopefully get two more wins and make it to the WIAC Championships and hopefully win. That's my goal especially since we've never actually

won since I've been here. That's all you can ask for."

What is your favorite part of the sport?

"I love stopping pucks, most people look at goalies and think 'oh you're crazy, why would you want to have something flying at you?' But stopping pucks is just really fun and I don't know, it's just kind of the excitement of it because you are the only one back and you are the one person back to let them score or you're going to stop it and just as soon as you get that feeling of you did a really good job and even if they score you have to pick it up and the next pucks yours. I don't know, it's just the excitement of it."

Where do you see yourself in five years?

"Honestly, I want to try to continue playing hockey, but I don't know if I'll actually do that yet. My future career plan is I want to be a cardiac therapist so hopefully something with that, but you never know, careers can change."

If you could travel anywhere where would you go?

"I would go to Germany, my reasoning behind this is because in fifth grade I went to Germany. They had this thing called spaghetti ice cream and the ice cream comes out at Spaghetti, it was the coolest thing."

What is your favorite color?

"Light blue."

What is your favorite animal?

"Either a tiger or a Siberian husky."



SYDNEY CONLEY - Photo by Kylie Bridenhagen

Never About the Wins for Coach Egner

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On January 26th, coach Shirley Egner had completed a milestone by winning her 300th conference game while coaching at UW-Stevens Point. Coming into the game, coach Egner had no idea she was one win away from her 300th win. She was focused on the game at hand and getting the win over the Eau-Claire Blugolds.

"I had no idea that it is my 300th win," Egner said. "Only my assistant knew because someone had told her. I didn't know and neither did my players. I don't keep track of my coaching records".

She went on talking about how sound her team played against UW Eau-Claire and earned the hard-fought victory beating them 88-75. 30 years of coaching at UW-Stevens Point has taught her that there are way more important things in life than her coaching record and her own self.

"My greatest moments or

feelings come from when my formers players come back with their children or husbands showing them where they played," Egner said. "That's where I get the satisfaction from coaching".

At the end of her career, Egner wants to know and be able to tell herself that she gave everything she had to the university and to the program. She isn't focused on chasing wins and championships but creating and fostering an environment where everyone is treated with respect, honored, and working together.

"It's about teaching life lessons, learning how to treat people and respect each other's differences". Egner said.

Building off of What We Know

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On February 9th, the UW-Stevens Point men's wrestling team was in Eau Claire for the WIAC championships. The team had wrestled well according to head coach Johnny Johnson. In an interview, he spoke about the tournament and how it went.

"I wasn't disappointed with anyone and how they wrestled, I thought as a team we wrestled tough," Johnson said. "I think the way we wrestled we could have ended up second for sure."

A bright part of the tournament was senior Ben Vosters. He won his 133-pound weight class and was named WIAC scholar-athlete of the year.

Coach Johnson talked about his preparations for the rest of the year and how he was going to prepare the team for the rest of the year.

"We talk about the team concept from day one and in fact when we recruit these guys to the team, we talk about how important the team concept is", Johnson said. "A lot of people look at wrestling as an individual sport, when you are on the mat you are an individual, but

to train to get to that level, to compete at your best, you need a team around you to be able to get there".

Another large part of the interview was the addition of a women's wrestling team to the program at UW-Stevens Point. Having someone like Jake Wozniak, who was recently promoted to the head assistant coach position, to work with programs will be a very big helping factor.

"This allows Jake to focus all his time onto wrestling," Johnson said. "everything he did for wrestling was pretty much voluntary, so now he'll be able to focus on wrestling which includes recruiting and everything we need to do to prepare both teams and especially on the women's side. To the point where we can have a full team coming into next year".

Looking forward to the next season he wants them to continue to get better and thinks that the team is peaking at the right time. With the addition of the women's wrestling and having head assistant coach Wozniak working full time with the team, it's looking to be a promising season for the men's and women's wrestling teams in the 2019-2020 season.

Pointer Profile: Olivia Pawlak

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Major:

Sociology and Social Work

Year:

Senior

Hometown:

Lindenhurst, Ill.

When did you start playing Basketball?

"Fifth grade I think is when I was allowed in school."

Why did you decide to start playing basketball?

"All of my friends played it so it was like 'yeah let's all do it together'. My dad played basketball too, and I have an older brother and he played basketball so it was like 'alright I'll try it.'"

What other sports have you played?

"There was a good chunk of sixth, seventh, eighth, and then freshman year I did dance, to be on the high school POMS team. So I did that for a while and then my senior year, along with basketball, I did track for a season."

Why did you choose basketball?

"With dance, you are a team but it's just like a different type of team and also there's the competitive aspect. And it's a little more physical so compared to dance that's why I liked it. And then compared to track it's more of an individual sport. Like it's a team sport but it's more individual based at the same time, and I like the team aspect."

Do you have any goals for yourself this season?

"Obviously, you want to be better than you were before so that's a big goal. Every year you get new girls that come in and play and so I look forward to meeting them and getting to work with them and just stuff like that. My freshman year we got into the NCAA Tournament, which was a lot of fun, so I think these past couple of years has been like 'let's get back there, that was a lot of fun.'"

Where do you see yourself in five years?

"So I'm from Illinois so I think it would be really cool to just go back to Illinois and live in Chicago and do some kind of social work. My sister, my cousin and I always talk about living together so I think it would be fun to just be living with them and working in the city."

What is your favorite part of the sport?

"I know, I've talked a lot about the team aspect but I think it's really cool when you set up a play or when you set up a certain movement or something like that and everyone just executes it really well. Like you either score or like if you're doing defense, if you are trying to steal the ball or something like that, and you get that steal and a score on the other end or something like that, I really like that. I really like the team aspect, we are like a family. Like I said, I'm from Illinois so to have family here as opposed to just three hours away is really nice."

If you could travel anywhere in the world where would you want to go?

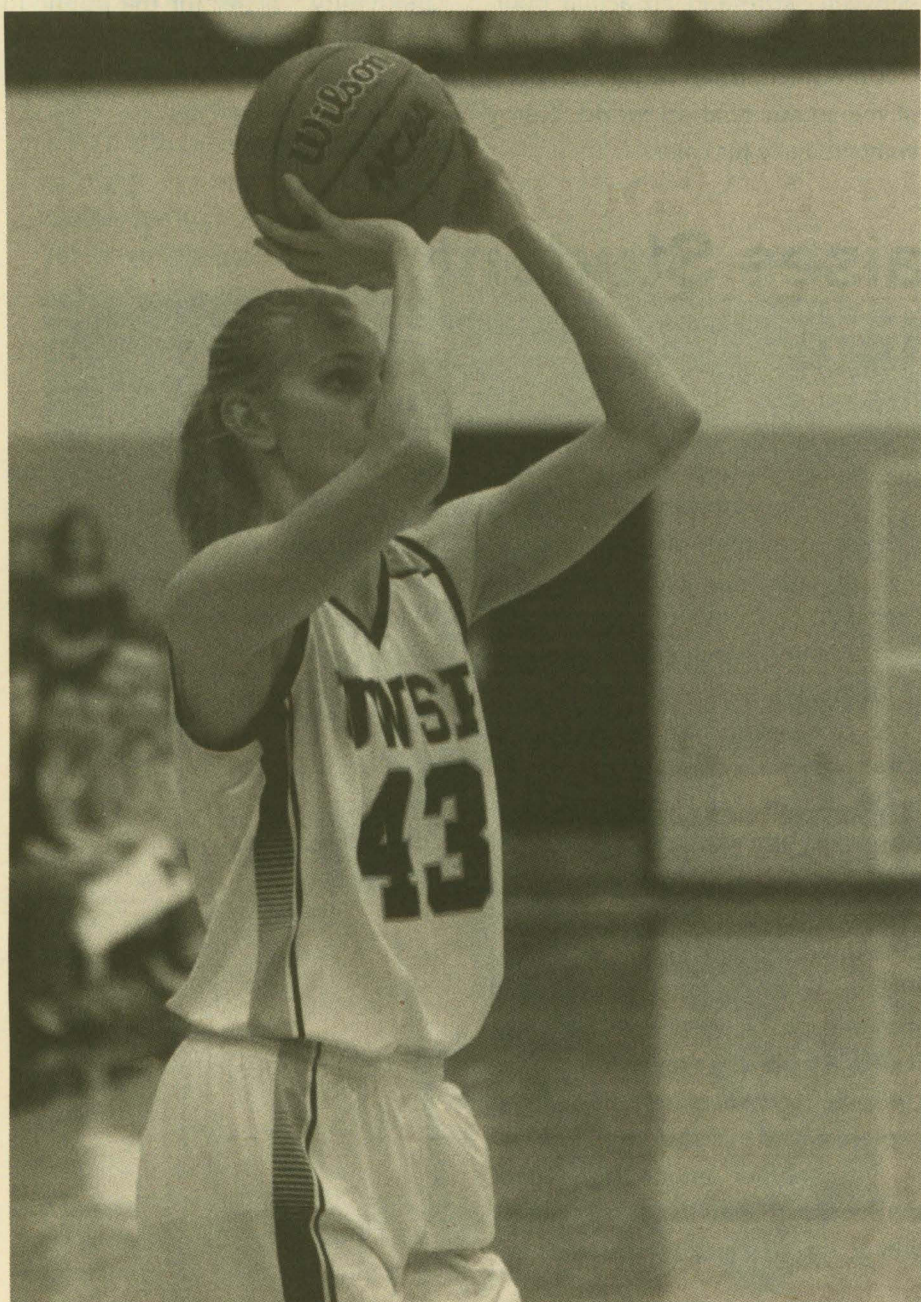
"I really want to go to Spain. I'm a Spanish minor so I think it would be really cool to use actual Spanish in Spain."

What is your favorite food?

"I really like breakfast foods, but I guess I'll have to go with ice cream."

What is your favorite animal?

"Sea turtles"



OLIVIA PAWLAK - Photo by Kylie Bridenhagen

Taste of Wisconsin coming to UWSP

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STEVENS POINT - On Friday, March 1st, Taste of Wisconsin will make its way to the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point's Laird Room at 7:00p.m.

Those attending the event can expect to enjoy and sample a variety of beers, wines, cheeses, and more.

General public tickets are \$27, while students with a UWSP ID can secure a ticket for \$22. Ticket prices will increase on the day of the event.

This is a limited ticket event. Participants must be 21 and older to enjoy Taste of Wisconsin's offerings.

Review: 'Velvet Buzzsaw' is Too Clever for its Own Good

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"Critique is so limiting and emotionally draining," cheekily quips a bespectacled Jake Gyllenhaal studying an unseen piece of art. The film "Velvet Buzzsaw" was released on Netflix and select theaters on Feb. 1. It's almost as if director Dan Gilroy is baiting audiences to unjustly criticize his uncannily on-the-nose satire of the art world. Although Gilroy's film is indeed intelligent, it is entirely too clever for its own good, ultimately becoming the very thing it's critiquing.

Warning: The rest of the review includes spoilers! If you aren't interested in hearing plot points spoiled, watch the movie and come back!

The film follows art critic Morf Vandewalt, played by a committed Jake Gyllenhaal. Morf starts a relationship with Josephina (played by Zawe Ashton), who works as an agent at a Los Angeles art gallery. The gallery is owned by Rhodora Haze (played by the talented Rene Russo), who was previously a part of a rock band in which the film is titled: Velvet Buzzsaw.

Josephina stumbles upon a dead man in her apartment complex, a man named Vetril Dease, and discovers Dease to be the creator of a variety of bizarre yet inimitable

paintings. But before Dease's wishes are carried out and his paintings are destroyed, Josephina recovers the collection and brings it to Morf and Rhodora. They are bewitched by his work and attempt to sell his paintings to the public, triggering a series of supernatural occurrences surrounding Dease's mysterious oeuvre.

"Velvet Buzzsaw" tackles the danger of the commercialization of art, presenting a campy satire in which money-hungry art-heads get their comeuppance in bloody fashion. This premise featuring a talented cast with the likes of Toni Collette, Tom Sturridge, Daveed Diggs, Billy Magnussen, and John Malkovich seemed too good to be true. A bisexual Jake Gyllenhaal role, Toni Collette in a fierce wig, and Billy Magnussen looking as gruff and handsome as possible? Sign me up. But as much as the film succeeds in providing witty dialogue and kitschy performances, the meta satire becomes cumbersome as the film unfolds.

The film is intentionally presented and edited as a "bad film." It mimics the soulless exchange of the commercial art world. But in presenting us a purposefully soulless film to prove a conceptual point, the line between satire and an actual poorly-paced movie is blurred. The result is a muddled, often funny, lampoon of the commercial art world. Gilroy wants to have his cake

and savor each delicious bite, but it's lost in translation.

While the movie has its issues, there are quite a few bright moments. Gyllenhaal provides a hilarious performance as Morf. I particularly enjoyed his physical and vocal commitment to the character. Gyllenhaal provides of the best line readings I've heard in ages. His delivery drips with pretentiousness in the best way possible.

Collette plays Gretchen, Morf's art curator friend. Her death is deliciously campy, but it's also disappointing that she had the only satisfying death in the film. Gyllenhaal's own exit isn't so grand - and he's top billing.

While Gilroy has proven himself a capable director, drawing another fantastic performance from Gyllenhaal (the two previously worked together on Gilroy's 2014 directorial debut "Nightcrawler"), in the end, "Velvet Buzzsaw" becomes too obvious and ultimately underwhelms. The film has so much going for it, but the concept is squandered by cheap commentary. But Gilroy will survive the criticism; in fact, Morf states that "a bad review is better than sinking into the great glut of anonymity." Better for the public to confusingly engage with your piece than to have no one at all.

Dancing the Night Away Raises Student Scholarships with Swing Fling

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Take a night to dance away the stress of classes with the International Music Fraternity, Delta Omicron, with hosting their annual Swing Fling Saturday, February 16th at 7:30 in the Laird room of the Dreyfus University Center.

The Swing Fling is a fundraiser event where you can learn swing dance, participate in the photo booth, hear classic and new jazz jams but also get exposed to new tunes.

Coordinator of the event and member, Emma Knick explains that even though a music organization is hosting it, it's for everyone. Students, faculty, staff, anyone!

"Not just a student event, a community event."

Everyone is welcome to

come. Some are arriving dressed up in retro-style dresses and shoes, so come with whatever you're comfortable to dance in. Knick also said there will be some other organizations participating as well.

"It's a dance and jam session with the UWSP jazz ensemble," and The National Dance Education Organization or NDEO, will be in attendance to teach guests swing dancing but other types as well.

The fraternity made up of thirty members does many other things in addition to their annual event. They help out the music department for any duties needed for concerts as ushers, receptions for music events, volunteer and many other social events on campus.

General member and Warden of Delta Omicron fraternity, Sara Klapps, said why she joined the

organization as a freshman and what makes it so valuable to be a part of.

"The upperclassmen showed me this great community of support and guidance....a really appealing organization to join and being a music fraternity, it helps with development too."

Focused more on music and dance, guests can hang out at the tables if they don't want to dance. There are other activities to have a good time.

No dance experience required. Knick and Klapps both emphasize what makes it so unique is the atmosphere and people that make it so much fun. It's a night to let loose, eat some food, meet new friends and explore new dances and tunes.

Another unique thing about the event is that all the money raised will go towards jazz scholarships in

the music department.

Come swing your way to the DUC Laird room starting at 7:30 and until 10:30pm. Tickets are \$5 for students with their university I.D. and \$8 for the community.



Photos courtesy of (left to right): Marvel Studios, A24, Marvel Entertainment, and Blumhouse Productions

Welcome to Hollywood's Black Renaissance

CAM CIESZKI

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It's Oscar season! As the new year rolls in, so does the anticipation for Hollywood's most prestigious award ceremony. The road to the 2019 Academy Awards is rife with controversial outcry; a few of the season's top contenders has marred the image of the ceremony and called into question the validity of their nominations.

Director Bryan Singer's most recent sexual assault allegations loom over "Bohemian Rhapsody" and its Best Picture nomination, while the apparent White savior narrative embedded in "Green Book" has brought up numerous critiques. One film, however, is standing surefooted in its Academy recognition.

Marvel's billion dollar blockbuster, "Black Panther," is nominated for seven Academy Awards. It holds the honor of becoming the first superhero film nominated for Best Picture. The film is an Afrofuturistic spectacle, envisioning a technologically advanced African society free of the horrors of colonialism. The announcement came as a pleasant surprise, hopefully signaling a change within the Academy voters; the Academy is notorious for its disregard for the superhero genre as well as other genres deemed "low-brow."

Although "Black Panther" is commendable in its destigmatization of the superhero genre among Academy voters, the film also shines as an example of Hollywood's current Black film renaissance.

The first cultural golden-age of African-Americans was the Harlem Renaissance. Lasting from the 1910s through the mid-1930s, the Harlem Renaissance was triggered by Black Americans seeking a better quality of life. Natural disasters in the South left many Black sharecroppers out of work. They moved north, with many settling in the Manhattan neighborhood of Harlem. Here, the neighborhood became a zeitgeist for Black artistic culture, fostering the minds of African-American icons like novelist Langston Hughes, author Zora Neale Hurston, and blues artist Bessie Smith.

The cultural explosion of Black artistry today isn't taking root in Harlem, but rather the entertainment juggernaut of Hollywood. Black projects are beginning to overcome the "niche" demographic White studio head's once labeled them. That isn't to say that there is a lack of commendable Black films released in the past, but rather the sheer number of Hollywood projects centering or featuring Black people today are growing substantially. Black filmmakers in 2017 and 2018 have subverted the possibility of what Black films can be.

Black films of the recent past are oversaturated with sellable narratives – period pieces set during slavery or the Civil Rights Movement. They rely on stories of Black protagonists that overcome their own circumstances and exhibit the progress we've made as a country. These movies – while direly important for sharing Black history we might not

have otherwise known – inadvertently dominate portrayals of African-Americans in film.

The word 'representation' refers to how media presents race, gender, age, ethnicity, and other socially relevant issues to an audience. According to Sara Boboltz and Kimberly Yam in their Huffington Post article "Why On-Screen Representation Matters," media portrayals "serve as a proxy for experiences audience members haven't actually lived, shaping their views on people of color and women – and shaping the way those people view themselves."

When African-Americans are constantly being casted in projects centering on Black oppression during slavery and the Civil Rights Movement, we are limiting our depictions of Blackness in media. Of course these stories absolutely matter, but these depictions of brutality against Black bodies do not encompass all our experiences. We do not need to see violent acts of oppression toward Black people to exhibit acting ability or directorial prowess.

The Black films released in 2017 and 2018 succeed in displaying the multiplicity of the Black experience, touching upon themes of race and oppression in new and interesting ways. "Sorry to Bother You" is a surreal dark comedy that follows a Black telemarketer who rises in the ranks of his job by using his "white voice." "Get Out" is a horror-thriller directed by Jordan Peele, exploring the terror of non-overt forms of racism that sit at complacency. The

Academy Award-winning "Moonlight" brilliantly illustrates the coming-of-age story of a Black gay man.

Even animated films like "Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse" are breaking new ground. This newest incarnation of the titular web-slinger is an Afro-Latino high schooler from Brooklyn. The art direction is the lovechild between a graffiti mural and a comic book panel, delivering the experience of reading a comic strip through the eyes of a Black hero.

These high concept, critically acclaimed films are expanding our portrayals of Black people in film. Black characters don't need to be tokenized or displayed as victims of White onslaught; they can be three-dimensional people. But we still have progress to make.

With an abundance of Black male actors and directors dominating this renaissance, it's due time for Black woman to be uplifted to the heights of their male counterparts. Ava DuVernay made history by becoming the first Black American woman to helm a film with a budget over \$100 million. She shouldn't be the only Black woman elevated during this incredible time for Black art. But considering the excellence being produced, I anticipate this renaissance, and the uplift of Black women's art, is only beginning.

Ariana Grande and the Era of Positive Pop

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We are living in tumultuous times; with a government administration that is targeting marginalized groups, drug epidemics affecting communities, and the growing prevalence of mental illness, it is no wonder why widespread negativity can trigger degradation in mental health. This truth can be observed in the sheer amount of sad songs that have dominated the music charts.

Most of the top pop and hip-hop songs of 2017 and 2018 are focused on subjects of depression, drug abuse, and just general dissatisfaction with life. Lil Uzi Vert's 2017 hit "XO Tour Llif3" peaked at #7 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and remained on the charts for 34 weeks. The song is recognizable for its lyrics: "She said, 'Baby, I am not afraid to die' / Push me to the edge / All my friends are dead." The song centers around using drugs to combat heartache.

"Better Off" by Post Malone, which was #5 on the Billboard Hot 100 in August, is about a lost relationship, mentioning turning to drinking to cope with the pain. Malone's chart-topper "rockstar" spent 16 weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The song thrives off a dark and pounding production, with lyrics mirroring the cliché rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

The creative forces of the music industry are reacting to this smog of negativity, not to mention dealing with their own mental health, drug abuse, and other serious issues in their music.

But this isn't a dig towards these artists; of course, there's validity for artists to express themselves however necessary, which includes these darker songs. But it can feel a little disheartening tuning into the radio to hear a chorus like "Push me to the edge / All my friends are dead."

Enter: Ariana Grande. When Grande's single "no tears left to cry" released in late April, the world was a little puzzled. Almost a year prior, the tragic Manchester Arena bombing that occurred after an Ariana Grande concert took the lives of twenty-three people and injured more than 130 concert goers. There was a quiet acknowledgement that this event would surely dictate the direction of her forthcoming music.

Although many were waiting for a somber tribute to the attack, Grande instead arrived with a glittery dance-pop hit that sheathed it self in courageous optimism. "I'm lovin', I'm livin', I'm pickin' it up," Grande triumphantly

sings on the track.

She was in a new head-space; after some time to heal through self-care, reflection, and therapy, Ariana's music transformed into the most joyous side of herself. The culmination of this effervescent positivity became "Sweetener," the pop star's fourth album.

"Sweetener" is spectacular. It features some of her most experimental songs to date, and in my opinion, it's her best body of work released so far. The album revels in Grande's infectious optimism.

In the song "the light is coming," stuttering beats accompany Grande as she sings about light and positivity overpowering the darkness. The title track asks us to bring in some sweetener into our life "to bring the bitter taste to a halt." The pop banger "breathin'" was written in response to the overwhelming anxiety attacks Grande experienced in the recording studio. The singer simply asks us to "Just keep breathin'."

"get well soon," the closing track on the album, details Grande feeling detached and anxious after the bombing. The chorus asks herself and listeners to take care of themselves. "Ain't no time to deny it, that is why we talkin' about it," she says in reference to this crippling anxiety. The song ends in 40 seconds of silence, dedicated to those lost in the Manchester attack.

All these songs deal with complicated and dispiriting subjects, but the songs never feel sad. They're introspective, honest, and emotional—but never depressing. This is the heart of Grande's work, composing an album that could have been filled with heavy ballads instead with empowering pop music that asks the listeners to persevere in times of turmoil.

But just as things were looking bright, a whirlwind of events aimed to steal her joy. On Sept. 7, 2018, rapper Mac Miller, Ariana's ex-boyfriend, died of an accidental overdose at the age of 26. A month later, Grande suddenly called off her engagement to "Saturday Night Live"'s Pete Davidson. Grande had been hit with an overwhelming amount of pain, a frustrating ordeal for someone who had just solidified their mental health. The death of a loved one and calling off an engagement would be enough to emotionally drain anyone, but the proximity of these events is a different ballgame.

After an "SNL" promo video featuring Davidson went viral for referencing the engagement, Ariana decided to release her next single, "thank u, next" just 30 min-

utes for the premiere of the Nov. 3 episode of "SNL."

After an "SNL" promo video featuring Davidson went viral for referencing the engagement, Ariana decided to release her next single, "thank u, next" just 30 minutes for the premiere of the Nov. 3 episode of "SNL."

The song name-drops several of Ariana's past relationships that played out in the public eye. She confesses that these relationships taught her valuable lessons about herself and thanks these men for allowing her to grow from these experiences. "One taught me love / One taught me patience / And one taught me pain / Now I'm so amazing," sings Grande, who expresses her gratitude in explicit fashion.

"thank u, next" is the perfect title for such a song. At first glance, it's a winking acknowledgement of her desire to move on from a relationship, but on a second glance, it's a kiss-off song that's mature and nuanced. Instead of dragging her exes or solely focusing on the pitfalls of her relationships, she frames these the negatives as positives. It's an empowering viewpoint to hold, especially for Grande, whose trials and tribulations have been on full display.

Opinion: Let's Talk About It

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End the Stigma

Mental health in the United States is a prevalent issue. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, "approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S.—43.8 million, or 18.5%—experiences mental illness in a given year, approximately 1 in 25 adults in the U.S. experiences a serious mental illness in a given year that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities, and 6.9% of adults in the U.S.—16 million—had at least one major depressive episode in the past year."

If you look around your work place, your class room, or a busy street you are probably looking right at someone who is struggling but you likely have no clue. I live with anxiety and depression and have since at least middle school. Most people I grew up with never even noticed. If you apply the statistics above to a classroom or work place setting at least one person probably struggled to show up, or maybe didn't show up because they felt debilitated by their illness; if you noticed and thought to

in the media.

"Over 44 million American adults have a mental health condition...there has only been a slight decrease in the number of adults who have a mental health condition," said Mental Health America, a community-based non-profit focusing on addressing the needs of those with mental illness.

The MHA also reports that since their first State of Mental Health in America report four years ago, major depressive episodes in youth increased from 8.66% to 12.63%.

Mental health has steadily gained attention in the wider conversations of our society—slowly but surely. More and more celebrities have opened up about their struggles with mental health in hopes of destigmatizing such a prevalent reality for many. Grande sits among these ranks, creating pop confectionery with timely messages of self-care and growth. With such daunting statistics on the state of mental health in mind, Grande remains undeterred. Although she doesn't claim to solve mental illness and cynicism through music alone, the power of her art no doubt aids a step in the right direction.

ask most people would respond with a simple I wasn't feeling well.

Often times common mental illnesses such as anxiety or depression can present themselves differently from person to person. Of course, it's also hard to notice when, more often than not, we're seeing a perfect picture portrayed through social media. We all want the world to see the nicest sides of ourselves, our best angles, and our greatest moments. Society set these standards high and therefore started the creation of the stigma around mental health. We need end this stigma.

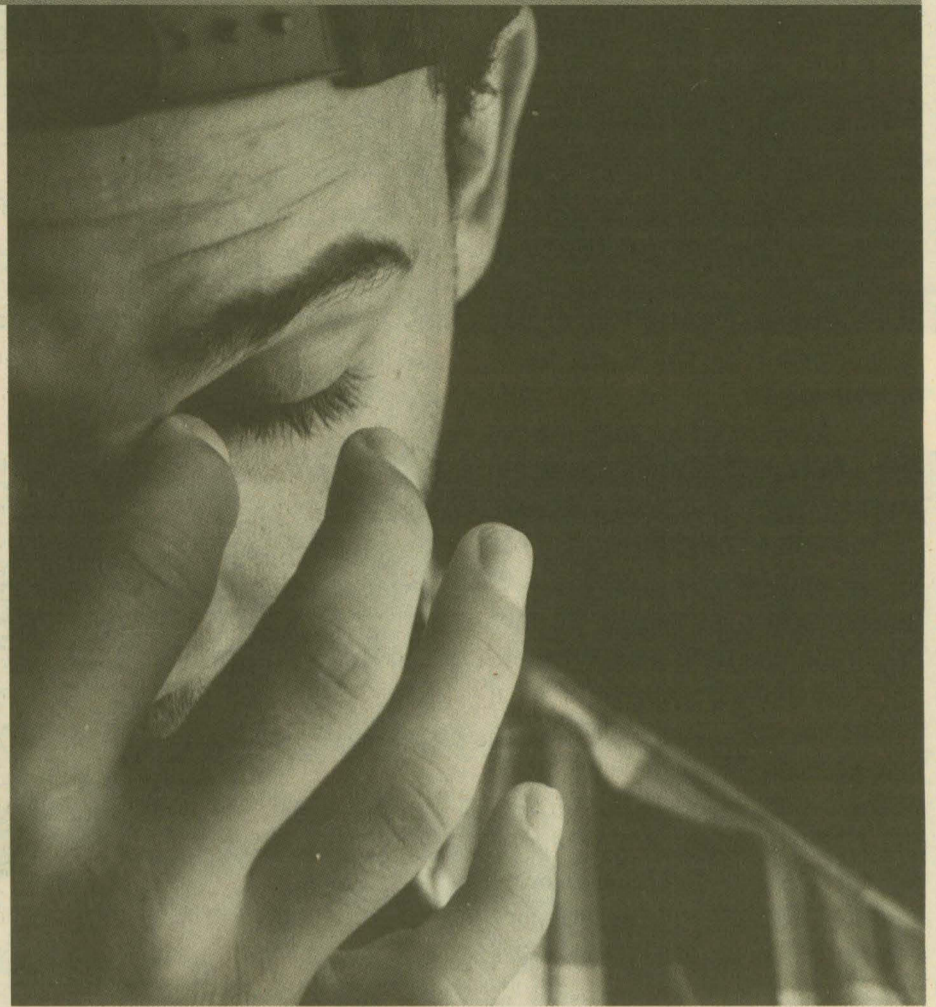
We need to start being more open about mental health issues. When someone says they feel anxious or depressed we need ask how we can help rather than telling them not to say those things. We need to take these claims seriously. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. the 3rd leading cause of death for people aged 10–14 and the 2nd leading cause of death for people aged 15–24. From the ages of 10–24 most people are still pursuing an education. Here at University of Wisconsin Stevens Point we are able to meet with mental health profession-

als, but only 20 times and you need to plan weeks ahead of time to be seen. In a crisis, these services are difficult to utilize due to these constraints.

"Bell Let's Talk" is a Canadian organization dedicated to ending the stigma surrounding mental health. Their biggest event took place on January 30th this year, across different social media platforms. The organization simply asks users to use the hashtag "Bell Let's Talk" in order to start conversations about mental health and the resources that are available to fight mental illnesses. Last year there were 138,383,995 interactions. 138, 383, 995 times that stories were shared, or support was given and for every interaction money was donated to a Canadian mental health organization. Though this initiative wasn't taken by an American organization the conversation was held via social media around the world. People let their guard down and stood together in their struggles. Yes, social media can be a part

of the issue at times but when we aren't hiding behind it, showing only the greatest hits of our lives, it can be a useful tool to engage people in the conversation about mental health. From personal experience I know it can be difficult to open up but sometimes seeing others doing so can be the push that is necessary for someone else to talk about their own mental health.

If we start to make it okay to talk about mental health everyday rather than one day a year we could save lives. I urge you to open up this conversation in your work place, your school, or your community. Stop shutting people down when they open up about their struggles with mental health. Start asking, with sincerity, how someone is doing if something seems off. Stop ignoring the ugly details of your own and other peoples lives. We as a society need to start embracing the not so beautiful sides of our lives in order to change them.



Opinion: "Toxic Masculinity: The Elephant in the Room"

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I am a man. I drink beer, talk to women, and love sports. I like to go fishing with my "bros," and can tell you the difference between a semi-automatic and a revolver. I am, what many consider to be, a man.

However, I am very in touch with my feelings. To some, that makes me more feminine.

Perhaps it is because I cry. Perhaps it is that I have heart to hearts with my closest friends, and confide in them during times of duress. Or, it could be how I react when I get my feelings hurt.

There is nothing wrong with being emotional. In my opinion, a man is able to express his inner-most thoughts and feelings.

I've had moments of self doubt where I've questioned my own existence, and have had days where I've felt I shouldn't be here at all. I have severe body dysmorphia, hate looking in the mirror, and routinely binge eat when I'm feeling down. Today, I can comfortably admit all of those things without fearing backlash from my peers.

It wasn't until I joined cheerleading that I truly embraced my emotional, "more womanly" side. Being around so many women pushed me to express myself more than I'd cared to share. My red-blooded male compatriots had plenty to say about my decision to join a predominantly female sport.

I was called "gay", "faggot",

"flamboyant", and worst of all, "not a man".

The idea of not being a man for cheerleading was mind blowing. As someone who has participated in both sports, I can comfortably say cheerleading is more difficult than the pinnacle of masculinity: American Football. Throwing girls above your head and catching them with one arm is a display of sheer strength, while tumbling is the definition of mental toughness.

Cheerleading can be manly, too.

Before cheerleading, I had fallen victim to toxic masculinity. I was told how to act, and behaved accordingly. Hell, my senior yearbook quote was a line famously spoken by former WWF Champion, Ric Flair.

"If you're a man, you don't cry about it. You take life, the ups and downs. If you're a real man, you never go down. You just stay up."

At the time, the quote seemed as if it was directed at me. After my parents divorce, I was forced to grow up quickly. I got a job as a dishwasher at a young age, and decided that I wasn't going to let a bad situation affect the rest of my life. I had no time to cry.

That being said, times have changed and so have I. 2019 is supposedly the most progressive year of our lives. Gay marriage is becoming more common, marijuana is becoming legal across the country, and planned parenthood isn't going anywhere.

Unfortunately, Gillette's "We Believe: The Best That Men Can Be" woke a sleeping giant in America: Toxic masculinity.

Toxic masculinity is the idea that all men should carry and maintain themselves in a certain manner. It is an age-old phenomena where human beings connect dominant traits with men, and softer, more emotional tendencies to women.

Allow me to provide some examples:

A "man" is crafty with his hands, and doesn't mind getting dirty beneath the hood of a car.

A "man" does repairs around the house.

A "man" puts food on the table for his family.

A "man" never shows weakness.

A "man" is powerful and dominant.

These are the stereotypes we have placed upon men in our society, and for many of us, we simply do not fit the mold of the prototypical male. And that is okay.

Gillette's commercial takes aim at how perceive all men to act. The commercial facilitates discussion on toxic masculinity, sexual harassment, and the pitfalls of "boys will be boys".

This commercial was attacked by a litany of men, claiming

that it fired direct shots at the fundamental attributes each male should possess. To some, all men should have a foundational level of knowledge when it comes to applying "manly" concepts to the real world, such as hunting, fishing, playing sports, basic home and auto repairs, and being the oh-so powerful breadwinner in their respective households.

By applying common sense, one can infer that no two men are alike. One man may be a charismatic star athlete, while another may be a shy bookworm who thrives in the classroom. It is wrong to assume all men are the same. The intricacies between human beings is severely under looked when pondering the validity of what it takes to be a man.

While I am against placing standards on men, I do feel as if there are some traits that all men could benefit from embracing.

Being a true man is being comfortable in your own skin.

Being a real man is standing up for others.

Real men aren't afraid to express themselves.

A real man doesn't let a commercial rile them up to the point where they decide to start throwing out their razors.

Toxic masculinity has manifested itself from gender roles and norms

that we have self imposed upon men across the country, and to some extents, across the globe. We have painted a certain image of how men should act, and hold them to such standards.

We have to accept that not all men can wrench on a car. Conversely, not all men are liable to cry during their favorite rom-com. Again, not all men are alike.

When you hear toxic masculinity, don't think of it as a cuss word. Do not immediately attach a negative connotation to the phrase. If those two words upset you, take a look in the mirror and ponder whether or not you are a part of the problem.

Expecting all men to have similar interests, characteristics, and intangible masculine qualities is just wrong.

No two men are alike, nor should they be. Instead of tearing men down for their differences, we should be embracing the qualities that make them unique and individualistic.



Photo courtesy of Gillette

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