

# ARCHIVES



## Winter Weather Edition

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**Archivist’s Note:** Did you miss the snow? With an almost brown November through February, UWS and Twin Ports regions recieved well below average in snowfall this past winter season. We take a look back at some previous winter stories.

### Snow Day



Photo / Darin Gossett

Four students from UWS pose next to a snowbank for a picture. Last week’s snowstorm caused some classes to be cancelled and forced many commuting students to stay home for the day. Strong winds created waist-high snowdrifts, like the one in the picture, in some parts of the campus.

Feb. 14, 2001 Promethean | Before virtual learning, students had an easier time enjoying snow days.

## Student starts petition in wake of winter weather

by Frank Haataja  
Editor-in-Chief

The days of late January and early February brought a downpour of snow and some of the lowest temperatures we’ve seen all year. There were mornings when the DTA couldn’t operate. Every elementary school, every middle school, every high school and every college was closed—every college, that is, except UWS.

UWS stayed open every day of the wintry stretch, and the reaction from students wasn’t exactly that of pleasure. In fact, the opposition prompted Student Senate to propose guidelines for possible school cancellations at their last meeting. Among the guidelines on which school would be closed would be given accumulations of snow and a wind chill below -50 Fahrenheit with no predictions of the weather going up.

Also, Marlene Hart of the student group abilities gathered signatures for a petition during last week’s Student Organization Fair. The reasoning behind starting the petition was obvious.

“My primary concern, when myself and a couple of other Social Work students decided to start this petition, was that of safety,” says

Hart. “It’s not worth someone’s life to keep school open if the conditions are bad enough that all the schools are closed except UWS. This includes faculty and staff.”

Hart says the idea of this petition has been around for a couple of years, but the issue never came to the apex it did this year.

“I am aware that some faculty have told their students not to come in if the conditions are bad,” notes Hart, who points out the presence of faculty members who penalize students who can’t make it. She adds: “One student told me she could not make it to class and her professor told her the weather was no excuse and that she needed to be there regardless.”

Hart wasn’t surprised by the feedback she received, describing the responses she received as “very exuberant.”

“People made comments like: ‘It’s about time!’, ‘Yes, I will sign that!’ ‘Does this mean that when the weather is bad, they’ll actually close campus?’” says Hart. “I had people tell me their stories of trying to get to school and not being able to get out of their driveways, because of two feet of snow. Also, people were telling me about the conditions getting to school, like seeing accidents take place in front

of them.”

Hart gave examples of some students’ woes encountered during the stretch, such as trying to attend school when their children had school cancelled and can’t find a babysitter, and braving the weather only to find their professor has cancelled class.

Not all students were complainant about the weather. Hart did bring up two responses in which they said school is very important to them no matter what, even if they have to drive in really

bad weather. They said the weather that we had that week wasn’t that bad compared to the way it used to be.

Overall, Hart’s petition was relatively successful, gathering over 200 signatures in the course of the day. Hart plans to submit the petition to Senate.

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Photo/Frank Haataja

Ron Hazzard sweeps snow off of a sidewalk outside of RSC.

Feb. 11, 2004 Promethean | Students in 2004 were able to garner over 200 signatures in petition for UWS to create guidelines regarding closing classes for the day, after the university stayed open during a day with a wind chill of -50 Farheinheight.



Photo/ Paul Ryar

A lone bike remains in the bike rack by the Rothwell Student Center on the day of the storm. Students were unable to bike, drive or move around much at all due to high winds and blowing snow. Winds remained at speeds of 40 mph for much of the storm.

Dec. 5, 2001 Promethean | UWS closed for it’s first time in a decade after the Nov. 27, 2001 winter storm. The blizzard dropped 30.7 inches in two days, that is according to the National Weather Service.

Feb. 14, 2001 Promethean | Still to this day you can go camping year-round at more than 20 Wisconsin state parks.

### Winter Camping Freezes Boredom

by Kim Ferdon  
Outdoors Editor



For many students at UW-Superior, and colleges throughout the northern latitudes, winter is a season merely to be endured. In an effort to perpetuate summer they go tanning, crank up the heat, and lock themselves in their dormitories, intent on waiting out the cold weather. This self-imposed hibernation is not only unnatural; it’s unhealthy. The lethargic lifestyle often leads to restlessness, discontent, and irritability- cabin fever.

One way some find to beat this cycle is to take winter head-on, to get outside and make the cold their ally, instead of regarding it as their enemy.

Winter camping has become an increasingly popular pastime in the United States, and with the invention of better gear, it is growing more accessible to everyone. Michael Olker, an employee at the Duluth Pack Store and a long-time winter camping enthusiast, believes that winter offers benefits that are lacking in warmer seasons. “At a selfish/personal level, you’re in an extreme environment, and you’re really kind of testing yourself,” he explains, adding, “In the winter-time, when there’s nobody else out there, it’s really the solitude,” that he enjoys.

No bugs and no crowds are only part of winter camping. The snow can turn the world into the camper’s playground; snowshoes and skis increase mobility, and wildlife can be more easily tracked and sighted. Along with the advantages, however, come a few drawbacks which require the camper to be knowledgeable and prepared when setting out.

“You really need to pay attention to your fat intake,” says Olker. “Throw away everything you know about diets.” In the winter, people burn calories just staying warm, and it’s vital to replenish those calories when staying outside for an extended period of time. According to Olker, 6,000-8,000 calories should be consumed per day. “When we’re out in the woods, we bring lots of butter,” he says. “It’s just a quick way of getting a lot of fat...We put butter in our oatmeal, we put butter in our cocoa, we even put butter on our noodles before we

put the sauce on.” An ideal diet when winter camping is to consume 20% proteins, 40% carbohydrates, and 40% fat. Foods such as cereal, dried fruit, jerky, pasta, cheese, nuts, and candy bars are all highly recommended. “As long as you’re working, that stuff is not going to stick with you at all,” says Olker. “You need carbohydrates; carbohydrates are what make you go.”

Staying hydrated is also highly important in the winter. “Dehydration is something that is really looked-over in the winter, just because you don’t feel thirsty,” says Olker. Feeling sluggish is an indicator of the onset of dehydration. To protect against it, campers should drink water throughout the day. Electrolyte drinks are also beneficial, restoring nutrients which are lost through sweat.

Choosing gear for winter camping can also be tricky. Campers can elect to go “cold-camping” with a summer-use tent, or can invest in a winter tent which can accommodate a titanium or steel stove. Very few companies specialize in the making of winter tents and other gear. Empire Canvas Works, which Olker sites as one of the premier winter tent-builders in the country, is located in Solon Springs, and can be accessed online at [www.empirecanvasworks.com](http://www.empirecanvasworks.com).

Campgrounds that are packed in the summer can be completely vacant for most of the winter, offering campers a unique, intimate experience with nature.

More than thirty Wisconsin state parks, forests, and recreational areas offer winter camping, according to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). All of the parks that remain open during the winter have water available and open toilet facilities. Most operate on a first-come first-served basis, although some require reservations. A list can be found on the Wisconsin DNR’s website at [www.dnr.state](http://www.dnr.state)

wi.us.

In the winter, “everything is cool and clear and clean,” describes Olker. The snow muffles noise, and a sense of peace and solitude pervades. “The air is crisp, and everything is real quiet,” he adds. “It’s just perfect.” And all that fresh air and open space is the perfect cure for cabin-fever.

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### Lasting



This photo, taken by Sajika G year’s Wisconsin Newspaper



Enough is more than enough! This scene was oft repeated through the Twin Ports as nearly a week of late winter blizzards dumped over a foot of snow on the area. High winds packed it into drifts around homes and cars. Above, Marshall Asta, son of Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Asta, Duluth, searches for a logical point to begin clearing away snow that nearly buried his parents automobile. (Photo by Charles Curtis. Courtesy of the Duluth Herald & News Tribune)

Mar. 31, 1975 Promethean | UWS saw 15 inches of snow mixed in sleet and freezing rain over a three-day period, with winds gusting up to 60 mph, according to National Weather Service.



Alpha Xi Delta  
“Snow Remover 2001”

Feb. 28, 1969 Peptomist | Students attending fraternities embraced the winter weather with many Sno-Week activities. One activity which brought impressed students were the annual Sno-Week snow sculpting competitions in mid-February.