

### SUBTEXT

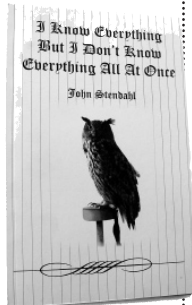
#### EC POET KNOWS EVERYTHING

Eau Claire poet John Stendahl released his third book earlier this winter. *I Know Everything But I Don't Know Everything All at Once* contains poetry

on war, drink, death, love, and Wisconsin, with a sprinkling of prose, quotations, photos, and what-have-you. The self-published volume includes titles such as "A Wisconsin Yankee in Mark Twain's Court" and "The History of Eau Claire According to Me."

Stendahl is an Eau Claire native who lives "out in the sticks, trying to keep a low profile."

Look for the book at local bookstores and the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library. — KK



#### POETRY SLAM TO CHANGE HANDS

Starting in February, a new face with new ideas will be heading up the Running Water Poetry Slam. Long time local slammer and two-time Fabulous Grand Slam Champion Aryn Widule will be stepping out of his normal role of "fierce competitor" and into the dual role of organizer/MC of city's six-year-old poetry slam. RWPS co-founder and MC Mike Paulus (who, if you haven't noticed, is also the person writing this) has breathlessly endorsed Widule's takeover, saying, "Aryn is the perfect choice to take over the slam. He honestly believes in what it can do for the community and he's bringing along a truckload of new ideas and new energy." Starting this month, Widule will be reestablishing the slam's monthly schedule and hopes to add new elements like live music between rounds. **The next slam is on Feb. 22,** and will be co-hosted by both Paulus (again, that's me) and Widule. —MP

#### MENOMONIE BOOK RELEASED

A new book of photos from Menomonie's past was released in late January. Part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series, *Menomonie* depicts the city's early culture, buildings, and geography. Author Ann Christy Dybvik, a Menomonie teacher and author, gathered the photos from the UW-Stout archives, Wilson Place Museum, and local citizens' private collections. Dybvik will hold a book signing from 11am to 1pm Saturday, Feb. 17 at Bookends, 214 Main St. E, Menomonie. For more information, call 233-6252. — KK



## READING MAUREEN MACK

local author delves into the  
core of female struggles

BY ROB REID

I first contacted my UW-Eau Claire colleague Maureen Mack for a Volume One interview because I was interested in her 2006 book *Women of Madeline Island*. One of the books I teach in my children's literature course is *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich, a fictional account of an Ojibwa family on Madeline Island in the 1800s. Maureen's book includes the real-life story of Ozhahguscodaywayquay, Woman of the Green Glade, who married a white man and became known as Susan Johnston. She and her daughter Jane Johnston Schoolcraft contributed much of the information that Henry Longfellow later used for his popular poem "The Song of Hiawatha," although the two women were not initially credited for their role.

As interested as I was in discussing Maureen Mack's *Madeline Island* book, she was bursting with excitement to talk about her latest work — *Finding Center: Building Identity and Confidence in Girls' and Women's Lives*, published this month by New Horizons Press.

Maureen's experience as a researcher has shown that many girls and young women speak about "their four main struggles: the silencing of girls and women, schooling, sexual harassment and violence, and believing in themselves." Maureen is concerned that if parents aren't comfortable talking to their daughters about these and related issues, that young females will instead get the message from Britney Spears and other cultural factors. American culture generally sees women "as sexual objects and secondary players."

Maureen's task was to take complex

These role models shouldn't be afraid to share their stories because it seems to show vulnerability. It's sometimes safer to hide behind that problem.

— Author Maureen Mack

issues and go beyond the checklist-type articles found in many popular magazines. She succeeds in presenting these issues in a readable form and, in doing so, shares a lot of her personal story. Maureen lost her mother when she was just six years old. She was raised by an aunt and uncle and was completely on her own at the age of eighteen. In fact, it was her skill at weaving her own story within these issues that prompted her editor to encourage Maureen to write



MATT MEYER

CUTTING OFF BRITNEY SPEARS AT THE PASS. Maureen Mack's latest book aims to empower women.

a memoir, a project Maureen is considering. "Kids need to hear from their teachers and their role models that they, too, went through struggles," she says. "These role models shouldn't be afraid to share their stories because it seems to show vulnerability. It's sometimes safer to hide behind that problem."

that her target audience includes men, as well as mothers and the young girls themselves.

Maureen addresses all of these issues, as evidenced in the chapter titles: Mother and Daughter Attachments, Alcohol in the Family, Dangers of Early Dating and Mating, Models and Mentors, Sensuality and Sexuality, Women as Assets, New Age Schooling, Teens Off Track, A Beautiful Girl — A Beautiful Woman, and more.

And, of yes, Maureen's other book, *Women of Madeline Island*, not only features the stories of the two women already mentioned, but also two more strong, confident role models in Emma Mansel Russell Johnson, "a pioneer female hero," and Agnes Windt Cadotte, a notable school teacher who arrived on Madeline Island in 1922 and taught until 1965, "Madeline Island's longest tenured teacher, a record that is yet unbroken."

**Maureen Mack book signing and discussion. 7pm Tuesday, Feb. 20 at Borders. FREE. 832-2852.**