

THE POINTER



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - STEVENS POINT



The current semester may be the last one students will have "The New York Times" available to them. Photo by Mae Wernicke

Students taking advantage of international programs

Adam Wise
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According to a recent report released by the Institute for International Education (IIE), participation in the study abroad program at UW-SP yet again stands among the highest in the country.

During the 2003-04 academic year, UW-SP ranked 18th in the country for sending 357 students to pursue educational opportunities outside of the country.

International Programs Director Dave Staszak is happy to receive the national recognition.

"We are so pleased to again be nationally recognized for the number of students we have been able to expose to the life-changing experiences that study abroad affords," he said. "It's a credit to our students that they have the interest and initiative to study abroad, as well as the willingness to make the financial sacrifices necessary to take advantage of our wonderful educational opportunities overseas."

According to the 2005 Open Doors Report, which ranked Elon University (NC) first with having sent 836 students abroad among Master's institutions in the country, U.S. students choosing to study abroad have significantly increased recently.

While 61 percent of all students that chose to take part in their local international program traveled to Europe, China has

see **National**, pg. 2

Times program threatened by lack of funds

"...Students shall have the primary responsibility for the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services, and interests."

WI State Statute 36.09 (5)

Brandi Pettit
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Nearly a thousand students may soon be out of luck when the university pulls "The New York Times" from campus shelves. There's seemingly little that can be done to change the Readership Program's impending demise.

The university's academic office entered into an agreement with "The New York Times" three semesters ago for a two-year subscription. The school struck gold with the bargain price of nearly \$20,000 per semester for 600 papers five days a week. But

after the spring semester, the money runs out.

"So far, we've been unsuccessful in finding (new) funding for it," said Steve Bondeson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Teaching, Learning and Academic Programs.

Normally, "The Times" would be paid for by the Academic Office's general operating fund, which is a combination of state tax dollars and students' tuition. Due to various Federal cuts and Governor Doyle's callus budget cuts in education, that well is beginning to run dry.

The Academic Office

brought the problem to the Finance Committee of the Student Government Association (SGA), whose primary job is to allocate segregated fees for various student organizations and services. This past October, it was up to the Finance Committee to decide whether or not to bring this issue before the students and government body.

"But they decided that was an option they did not wish to pursue," Bondeson said. One option to keep "The Times" on campus, according to Bondeson, is to take an extra two dollars from each student's tuition to be placed

into the seg fees account.

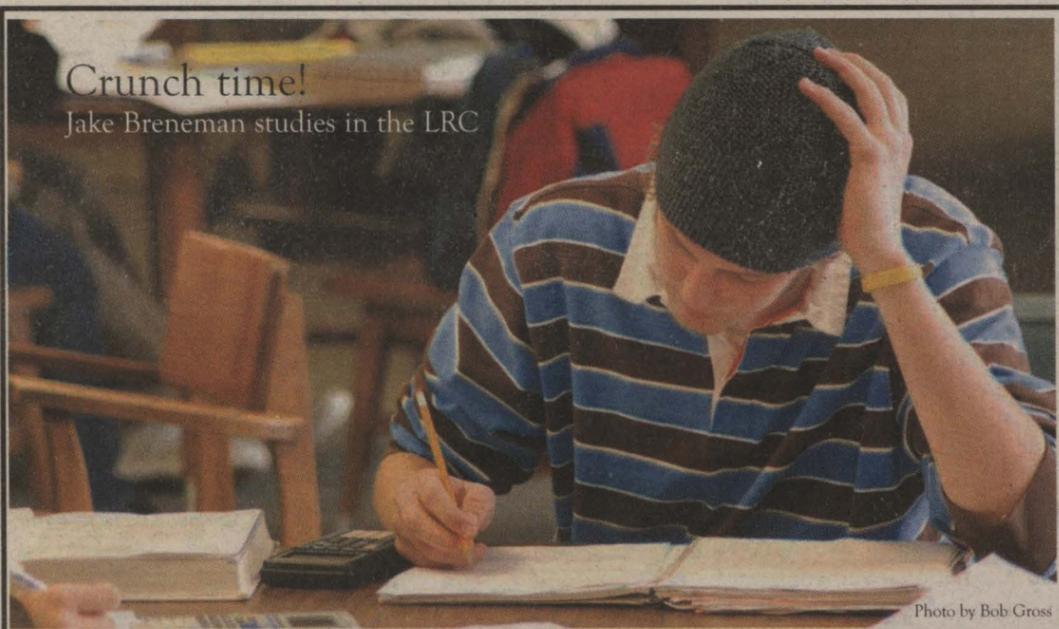
The Finance Committee is a subcommittee of the Senate, and its job is to act as a guardian of all segregated fees as deemed by WI State Statute 36.09(5). The Finance Committee's policy states that it "will remain responsible to this student body at all times."

The power is held largely by the voting members, which include senators and students-at-large from each college, the Budget Assistant, and the SGA Vice President.

The Finance Committee is responsible for handling over \$1 million a year, most of which goes towards the various on-campus student organizations. All of these organizations are required by SGA to have at least one fundraiser per year, but none are required to generate a set amount of capital to help alleviate their off-campus travel costs, the largest incurred expense. Because of this, the Finance Committee allots thousands of dollars each semester to several organizations for travel, league membership fees and equipment.

While no member of the Finance Committee could be reached for comment on the

see **Times**, pg. 2



Crunch time!
Jake Breneman studies in the LRC

Photo by Bob Gross

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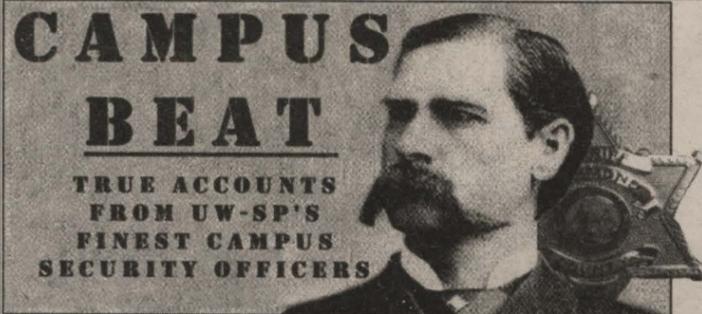
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Tech Tidbit this week- find out how you can get a gourmet pencil...page 13



CAMPUS BEAT
 TRUE ACCOUNTS FROM UW-SP'S FINEST CAMPUS SECURITY OFFICERS

Watson Hall
 Nov. 28, 2005 1:21 p.m.
 Type: **THEFT**
 Report of a stolen bike near Watson Hall.

Parking Lot P
 Dec. 2, 2005 1:43 a.m.
 Type: **THEFT**
 Report of two individuals in Lot P that were allegedly observed to have taken a gas cap from a vehicle. Individuals may have been underage and consuming alcohol.

May Roach Hall
 Dec. 2, 2005 2:45 p.m.
 Type: **THEFT**
 Theft of a Christmas tree.

Parking Lot Q
 Dec. 3, 2005 3:40 p.m.
 Type: **VANDALISM**
 Individual reports the tire to their car as being slashed. Vehicle was parked in Lot Q.

Parking Lot P
 Dec. 3, 2005 7:25 p.m.
 Type: **VANDALISM**
 Individual from the Watson Hall front desk reported someone having their windshield smashed in Lot P.

Parking Lot Q
 Dec. 5, 2005 10:10 a.m.
 Type: **VANDALISM**
 Report of a vehicle having had its tires slashed in parking lot Q.

Parking Lot Q
 Dec. 6, 2005 11:01 a.m.
 Type: **VANDALISM**
 Parking Services reports a Dodge Dakota that has the driver's side window punched in near the center section of the lot.

from Times, pg. 1

difficulty of reporting for all of this money, there's little doubt that all seg fee funds are accounted for. But according to the Fiscal Year '06 reports, funding for student services such as the Readership Program wouldn't be so difficult if the finance committee would better plan and tighten leashes on various sports organizations.

"We only have one auditor," said Christine Cherney from the Internal Audit Department.

Audits are preformed on organizations considered to be higher risk, which includes organizations that regularly take in money, such as the Brewhaus and the Bookstore.

"Since I've been here in 2001, the Finance Committee hasn't been audited," Cherney said.

Regardless, come next May, over a dozen history, communication, sociology, political science, and other classes may have to stop incorporating "The New York Times" into their curricula.

But the university says it is doing what it can to prevent that from happening.

"(We're) working on ways by which we might continue to have 'The New York Times' on campus," said Chancellor Linda Bunnell.

from National, pg. 1

seen an increase of 90 percent as a place for destination among American students.

"China has become so popular because it is in the news nearly every day," Staszak said. "It is one of our biggest trading partners and is quickly becoming a major world economic, agricultural, and military power."

"Students who choose to study there now will witness history in the making and influence the Chinese view of America."

Staszak also complimented the citizens of China.

"I found the Chinese people to be some of the most warm, outgoing and hospitable people I've met in my travels throughout the world," he said. "They are very interested in Americans, and in my experience, have a very positive view of our country and the possibilities to build new friendships and partnerships."

Other UW-system schools in the Open Doors report were UW-Eau Claire, ranked 10th with 452 students, and UW-Madison, which ranked eighth in the nation among doctoral institutions with 1,609 study abroad students.

Alumna to address UW-SP December graduates

Press Release
 UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

An alumna of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point who is interim dean of students at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs will address graduates and their families at UW-SP's mid-year commencement ceremonies on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Tamara (Butts) Moore, a 1992 alumna of UW-SP, will address 571 midyear graduates in the Quandt Fieldhouse in two ceremonies. Associate and baccalaureate degrees in the College of Letters and Science will be awarded at a 10 a.m. ceremony and master's and baccalaureate degrees in the College of Professional Studies, College of Fine Arts and Communication and the College of Natural Resources will be presented in a 1 p.m. ceremony.

The program will open with the national anthem sung by Kathryn Miller of Viola, a music major who also will lead the singing of the alma mater. UW-SP's ROTC color guard will present the flags and Chancellor Linda Bunnell will introduce the speakers and give the charge to the graduates. Deans for their respective colleges will assist

the chancellor in the presentation of diplomas.

Cindy Polzin, a 2001 UW-SP graduate, will give the charge to alumni. Music will be provided by the UW-SP Commencement Band, conducted by Music Professor Scott Teeple. Professors Dan Dieterich, Bob Bell, Patricia Holland and Nerissa Nelson will introduce each candidate for graduation.

A native of Jefferson, Moore majored in business administration while at UW-SP and earned several honors, including the prestigious Albertson Medallion and Chancellor's Leadership Award upon her graduation. She served as president of the Student Government Association, was the two-time recipient of the University Leadership Award and was named the Distinguished Continuing Student in Business Administration, Lee Sherman Dreyfus Outstanding Junior and Student Government Senator of the Year. She also won scholarships from the Division of Communication and the Alumni Association.

Moore has worked at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs since 1998, where she recently completed a master's degree in public administration.

THE POINTER

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No article is available for inspection prior to publication. No article is available for further publication without expressed written permission of The Pointer staff.

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



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Letters & Opinion

Your College Survival Guide

By: Pat "muliebritous" Rothfuss
 WITH HELP FROM: THE MISSION COFFEE HOUSE.
 PROTH@WSUNIX.WSU.EDU.

So while I was in the UC shamelessly pimping the College Survival Guide book, (for sale now at the UC bookstore) I saw a student group was having a date auction as a fundraiser. You bid on people, and the winner gets a date. It's like slavery, but sexier.

My first thought was that I'd never seen a date auction before, and it'd be fun to check it out. Pure curiosity.

Then I thought: since I'll be there anyway I might as well bid on a cute girl, if I happen to see one that catches my eye. Y'know, just to help the Whatever Club raise some much-needed funds. I'm all about helping out campus groups.

Then I thought about my girlfriend and the industrial strength can of whoop-ass she keeps around for situations like this.

Then I thought: I'll just buy her a date too. That way she can't be jealous.

But then I started to worry,

ing for trouble. I need to get her a date that won't threaten my position as the Alpha Male.

So then I thought: why not get her a date with a girl...

Now you have to understand that my mind works incredibly fast. It's so fast that if you were in a spaceship moving at the speed of light, and you took a bolt of lightning and shot it out of a huge frickin' cannon, I'd be right there next to the cannon, thinking thoughts much faster than you can even imagine. Huge thoughts. Thoughts that include words like "exegesis" and "anatiforous." Thoughts about the Nernst equation, and Plank-time, and ... um... rocket boots. Super-awesome rocket boots.

The point is that I thought all this in just a few seconds in the UC. I'm really on a roll, idea-wise.

It occurs to me that if I get myself a date with a girl, and I get my girlfriend a date with a girl, we could go on a double date together.

But then I realize the problem. My girlfriend won't go for it. It's not her scene. It would be better if I just left her out of this. I should just go out with the two girls by myself.

I know full well that this will earn me a Super-Mario style ass kicking from my girlfriend, but some things are worth getting in trouble for.

So I put my hand in my pocket and only then do I remember that I have, like,

400 bucks on me. In college student terms that's roughly equivalent to half a million

dollars. Nobody else at the auction will have this sort of money available to them. I could show up and win EVERY AUCTION.

The possibilities were endless. I'd go on really weird dates just to see what the people would do. I'd show up dressed as a mime. We'd go to a funeral home to try out coffins to see which ones we thought were comfy. I could set two of my dates up on a date with each other, then follow them through the evening and offer advice on how they could get into each other's pants.

No. I'd go out with all of them at once. A huge mega-date. I'd have them all over to my house for a party.

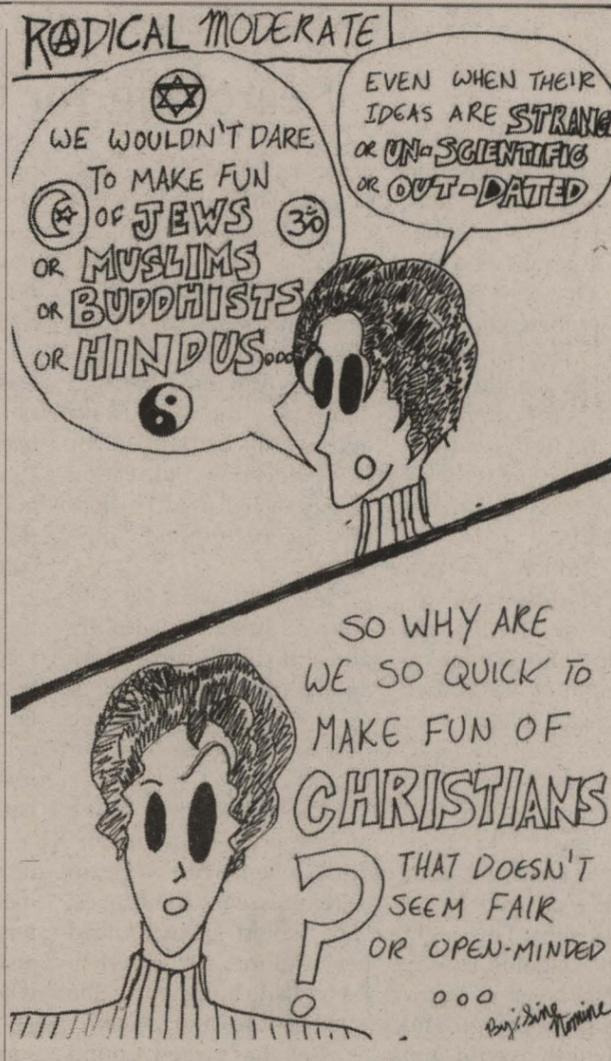
But alas. I found out I couldn't participate in the auction. The reasons were complex, but they centered around the fact that the people in charge considered me hella creepy and didn't want me anywhere near their event.

I was enraged, of course. Because I really wanted to write a column about my mega date and then expense the whole thing off on my taxes. But, as if to make up for it, the advice column gods smiled on me. When I got home and checked my e-mail I found this:

Dear Pat,

My mother loaned me her video camera recently and I've been filming everything. In fact, I am having so much fun, I've been thinking of fun things to video tape.

Here's my dilemma, I think it would be amazing to video tape myself masturbating, but I'm concerned that I am being



because I don't want her going out with some hunky stud from the swim team. That's just ask-

"dirty" or maybe lonely, or maybe just plain self-involved. I am also concerned that someone may find the videotape or I may not record over it entirely and when my parents watch it (it's their tape) they may get a small clip of me getting down with myself.

So, do I enjoy my opportunity to create an educational film, or pass on the idea and keep it private?

Orgasmically Confused

Witness my most awesome letter in years. Not since "snake with a stapler" or "How do I get a sugar daddy?" have I received a letter so full of potential. I can think of a dozen ways to answer this, a hundred, all of them funny....

So I'll answer this letter next week, after some careful

consideration. I get a letter like this only once in a blue moon, and I don't want to waste it.

If any of you want to offer OC some advice, send it in to proth@wsuniv.wsu.edu. We'll all help answer this question together, like a family. A big, weird, pervy TMI family.

On Tuesday, Dec 13th Pat Rothfuss will be at the Mission Coffee House, reading from his newly published anthology: "Your Illustrated, Annotated, College Survival Guide." He will also be selling and signing copies of the book.

Saturday at the Mission 8 p.m. - Green Tea. Celtic music, hippie chicks, coffee... everything you need to make your weekend complete. I'll be there, and so will you if you have half a brain in your head...

It's Advent.

Time to prepare the way of the Lord.
 We can help.

CATHOLIC MASS SCHEDULE

5 PM Saturday; 10:15 AM, 6 PM Sunday

St. Joseph Convent Chapel (1300 Maria Drive, just west of County Market)

Advent Prayer: 7 PM Monday, Newman Center Chapel

Late-Night Mass: 9 PM Wednesday, Newman Center Chapel

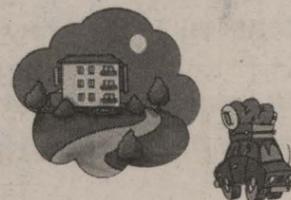
Holy Day Mass: 9 PM Dec. 7, 6 PM Dec. 8, Newman Center Chapel

Reconciliation: 6:30 PM Dec. 14, Convent Chapel

www.NEWMANuwsp.org

Newman is the Roman Catholic Parish at UW-Stevens Point

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Letter to the Editor

Searching for Old Toby

Old Toby is missing! Old Toby is Missing! Help! Help! Old Toby is missing!

Do you know who Old Toby is? Or better yet, do you know where Old Toby is?

Old Toby is a kitty. But not any old kitty, a special kitty, its Old Toby and she is desperately missed by her owner Ross and many many friends.

Ross Cohen, a hard working kind-hearted student here at UW-SP, got home late from school on the last night of November. His day was finally over and it was time to relax, but the unexpected had happened and his life had been changed; Old Toby had slipped through a door accidentally cracked by an unaware visitor. This night started the ongoing search, for a fresh layer of snow was falling to the ground and Old Toby could not smell her way home.

Ross had adopted Old Toby a year and a half ago from the local humane society. A noble gesture with

a great reward, by a twist of fate, he had adopted a cat that would share an amazing bond of friendship stronger than he could ever imagine. Old Toby was just a kitten then, but Ross aptly named her Old Toby after the famous literary character known for his pioneering cultivation of pipe-weed used by hobbits for performing "pipe tricks."

As time went by Old Toby's head eventually grew into her big green eyes and a personality developed to match. A unique personality defined by her actions...

"She liked to be at the highest point of the room," said Cohen, with a gleam of reminiscence in his eyes. "She would always knead her head into my leg when I'd try to do homework. She was beautiful and sweet."

Ross has posted around 50 posters throughout the town alerting neighbors and community members of her disappearance. A response has yet to be made

but Ross remains hopeful and optimistic. He's followed a couple of sets of tracks but, unfortunately, both have led him to the homes of other cat owners.

Ross isn't the only one missing Old Toby. His newer cat, Rafiki has not been acting himself lately. According to Ross he's been meowing non-stop (longingly for her sleeping companion).

Many students also miss their friend Old Toby. Even I sigh, as I fondly remember her joyous birthday party last April 20th; when we celebrated the life of this remarkable kitty with party hats and Spotted Cow.

"I feel like a bad father," said Cohen after I mentioned the frightening possibilities of the worst. "I just hope that she's happy wherever she is."

I write in hopes that someone will read this tale of Old Toby and return her to her loving owner. She is a slender gray kitty with bright green eyes. She is an extremely clean animal,

who constantly bathes herself and sometimes her owner with her rough sand-papery tongue. She is an aggressive pouncer with a passion for catnip ("she's probably pouncing on something right now," said Ross). She purrs when she is happy, is sometimes skittish around dogs, and will answer by the name Old Toby when she wants to. The search has been going on for over a week now and will not cease until she is found. Until then we can only hope and pray that she knows that "she is missed and loved." If you have any information on the whereabouts of Old Toby please call Ross at 715-342-8831.

Robin Lee
UW-SP Student

Professor offers thanks and praise

Dear Editor,

In my opinion, you and your staff are doing a good job this year with "The Pointer." As I remember from high school journalism class in 1960-61, the tenets of a good newspaper are coverage of general news of interest, special stories, global news, sports news, music and art news, an opinion page, and local news. An example of local news would be the coverage of natural resources topics, which you do very well.

I also congratulate you on your music coverage.

Second, my sincere thanks go out to the University Library for having my publications available for students, faculty, staff and the public as well as university staff to peruse. This is a particular point of pride for me personally and professionally.

Guary H. Larrick, DMA
Assistant Professor of Music, Retired

Correction:

In last week's paper a photo taken for the article entitled, "Carmina Burana" takes Michelson Hall by storm, was falsely attributed to Dan Schmidt. The photo was taken by Nicholas Kees.



A Potential New Program

Semester Abroad

in CHINA



Beginning in the fall of 2006 the International Programs Office intends to offer a NEW Semester Abroad Program in China.

There are many reasons to study in China with UWSP. China is on the move, and those with experience in the world's most populous country will be in on the ground floor. Enhance your resume as you prepare for the future business and academic communities which will DEMAND Americans with first-hand experience in this amazing country, China. Classes will be taken at a university in Chengdu or Shanghai and an entry tour will be arranged in Beijing.

COST: approx. \$7500-8000 (tentative and based on 15 participants) This includes airfare tuition, entry and exit tours, lodging, most meals, receptions, mandated UW-System health insurance and more!

COURSES: A wide variety of classes that should feature Chinese Literature, Law, Philosophy, Art, History and Language will be offered. Students will take 15 UWSP credits.
All courses will be taught in English and...

Your Financial Aid applies!

FURTHER INFORMATION:
International Programs,
2100 Main Street, Room 108 CCC
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point,
Stevens Point, WI 54481
tel# (715) 346-2717 fax# (715) 346-3591
Email: intlprog@uwsp.edu
www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad



Pointer Poll

by Mae Wernicke

what's the best thing about winter?



Melissa Baumgartner, Sr. Art
"Christmas."



Ashley Ward, Fr. Business Admin.
"Not the snow...peach and apple cobbler."



Jeff Bakken, Jr. Music Performance
"Making snow angels."



Mary Bartkowiak, Jr. Biology
"Snow."



Nicholas Kees, Sr. Music Ed.
"The eggnog."



Colin Proft, Fr. Vocal Performance & English

"Snowball fights. There's no bugs; all mosquitoes have perished. I like sitting next to a big fire, drinking something warm on a cold night. Snowfalls are really pretty; snow is good on Christmas."

summertime!

Pointlife

The mind behind "Your College Survival Guide"

Who is Pat Rothfuss?

Steven Heller
POINTLIFE REPORTER

"It is the first thing I read when I pick up 'The Pointer,'" wrote Jenny Adkins in regards to Pat Rothfuss' weekly column in "The Pointer," "Your College Survival Guide."

The column, which is full of satirical humor, is humorous to many at UW-SP, but the man behind the column is even more so. Rothfuss can be described as many things; but, a man of few words is definitely not one of them.

Rothfuss may seem like the average college student, and maybe that's just because he's never really grown out of it. When he first came to UW-SP he was a paper science major, but after realizing he really knew nothing about paper science, he quickly dropped that major and started taking classes that just interested him. After nine years as an undergrad, and then getting a masters and returning to UW-SP as a lecturer, he is as much a part of the campus as Stevie Pointer himself.

As part of his involvement with UW-SP, he started writing a fake horoscope for "The Pointer." After being an instant success, he continued to write for a year and a half

but then left and started his own paper, "The Didactic."

"Your College Survival Guide" first appeared as a skit in a radio comedy show on the UW-SP campus radio station, WWSP, called "Duck Juice." Then in 1999 he was asked to do an April Fools column for "The Pointer," and started to write the column as it is presently known.

For seven years the man behind the column has answered students' questions on all types of topics, many of them bizarre.

"I occasionally make up a letter, but the funniest letters in my column are the real ones. I could never come up with half of the stuff they send me," Rothfuss said.

The reason for his popularity seems to be mysterious, even to Rothfuss. "I think people find it funny because I take my writing seriously, but I don't take myself seriously," he said. "The biggest joke in the column is me."

Even for being a college survival guide, Rothfuss seems to reach just as many non-college students as those enrolled.

"I wish I knew why the column appeals to such a wide variety of people. I write it

for students, but faculty and parents enjoy it just as much if not more. If I understood how I did it, I'd be a brilliant psychologist or sociologist," Rothfuss said.

"Everybody has a sacred cow, and when it gets tipped, they get mad. But as a satirist, that's my job."

Much like Rothfuss, the column has changed over the years. "I was a total punk back then. I was shameless. Now I have at least a little shame," he said. He also feels as though his writing has improved and he can now not only write more, but more succinctly.

The column has not only entertained for the past seven years, but has also stirred up its share of controversy. Rothfuss seems indifferent to the controversy and deems it somewhat of a necessity in this type of writing.

"Everybody has a sacred cow, and when it gets tipped over, they get mad. But as a satirist, that's my job. I'm a sacred cow tipper," Rothfuss said.

The most controversy came after the 2004 presidential election when Rothfuss' article angered the College Republican student group. Rothfuss took many blows for that article referencing the Republican Party, and says it's the only story he's ever been bitter about.

However, he believes controversy is inevitable when dealing with satire. His column is based almost entirely on his satirical nature, and therefore is destined to bring trouble.

"Everybody gets upset sooner or later. I make fun of football players, and you laugh. I make fun of Philosophy majors, and you laugh. Then I make fun of Buddhists but you're a Buddhist, so you get pissed off," he said.

Aside from the controversy, his column is also filled with caffeine and/or alcohol allusions and references to the column's current sponsor: The Mission Coffee House. The Mission comes up in the column almost as much as Rothfuss' satire. He feels as though The Mission is the type of place that can help students get through college.

"Coffee and a place to hang out - that's college sur-

vival," he said. "I could get a lot more money advertising bars, but that's not a good way to survive."

After writing the column for seven years, he has realized that even the fifth year seniors haven't had a chance to read all of his articles, so this Christmas his collection of columns, in a book form, is going on sale. Included in the book is a behind-the-scenes look at how each of his first four years of the "College Survival Guide" came together.

He's also in the process of having his first novel published, a fantasy trilogy which he describes as "a mix between 'The Princess Bride' and 'The Crow.'" It has been in the works for 10 years. He describes it as his baby. The first novel in the trilogy can be expected in March 2007.

As for his advice on college survival, that may continue on just as long, if not longer, than the time Pat actually spent in college; and for his avid fans, that's a good thing.

Rothfuss's book is priced at \$16.95 and will be for sale at the UC Bookstore.

There will also be a reading, signing and selling of the book at the Mission Coffee House on Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m.



Are you Graduating in December?



If you have any questions about the December 18, 2005 Commencement program, visit the Commencement web page!

<http://www.uwsp.edu/special/commencement>



✓ Return your RSVP cards (electronically or by mail)

✓ Purchase caps, gowns, and tassels or rent hoods at the University Store
December 12-16, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
or until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.
Order by mail Dec. 5 - 13 at 346-3431.

Questions? Contact University Relations and Communications at 346-3548



Overheard...

by Hilary Bulger

Things you will never overhear in the Men's locker room:

"Does anyone have a matching headband?"

"Your ass looks huge in those breezers."

"Does anyone have a tampon?"

"I think the ref is pretty cute."

On the white board: "Lost earring."

Whose hubris? The many uses of a saint

Aaron Hull
THE POINTER
AHULL192@UWSP.EDU

Tuesday I was sitting in biology lab, paging through "The New York Times," when I stumbled across Nicholas D. Kristof's latest op-ed piece, "The Hubris of the Humanities." In it he attributes the current debate over evolution and intelligent design to the American public's "profound illiteracy about science and math."

Most of us are well-aware of how deficient much of America is in its scientific understanding. Or are we?

Here's a summary of the astonishing statistics Kristof cites: Only about half of Americans know that humans and dinosaurs didn't cohabitate. Only 40 percent believe in evolution, compared to 80 percent in other industrialized nations (of 34 countries, only Turkey has less support). One-fifth still believe the sun revolves around the Earth, while 20 percent believe the Earth goes around the sun each day.

And only 13 percent know what a molecule is.

Maybe these statistics should be more shocking than they are, but as

Kristof notes, "it's true that antagonism to science seems peculiarly American." But why should this be, given our tradition as an educational leader and technological powerhouse? Others routinely decry the inadequacy of our math and science programs, but for Kristof it's not the usual suspects who are to blame.

It's your English professor. And your philosophy professor, art history teacher, and scores of other academic hacks. Oh, and *you*. That is, if you're a liberal arts major. Because, you see, liberal arts-types, as opposed to chemists, astronomers, and the lovely folks in the CNR building, have a real ego problem. They're snooty, arrogant cultural dilettantes who dismiss the natural sciences as irrelevant to their education.

There's a modicum of truth to this. Each May legions of Whitman-wielding English majors collect their diplomas, relieved to have coasted through four years of higher education without the inconvenience of having to study organic chemistry or the second law of thermodynamics. And each December there's a forestry major wondering why he's made to feel like a boor by his lit-crit roommate, despite

his superior understanding of the principles of "Leaves of Grass."

Yet the hubris that Kristof condemns in humanists is just as evident in scientists. For every smug philosophy major, there's an equally self-satisfied physics student who brushes off the Queen of Sciences as the elitist plaything of a sophomore Subway manager-to-be. It's the sense of superiority that comes with half an education, the kind that was obvious when I shared Kristof's insights with the folks at my lab table.

All three are biology majors, and all three thought Kristof was right. Is he?

To lay the sins of scientific ignorance on the back of the liberal arts is akin to castigating the sciences for the ethical fumbblings in contemporary biology and medicine. Instead of blaming whole sectors of academia for the state we're in, we ought to be focusing on the *real* cause for concern: the poor quality of science education in the public schools.

Only 40 percent of Americans believe in evolution. Who's to blame?

Freshman year of college is a bit late in the game to first be exposed to such fundamental scientific theories as mac-

roeolution and

heliocentrism. And it's *really* late to first be learning that 24 hours do not equal a year. Far from this being the fault of elitist humanists (postmodernists aside), this goes to the root of inadequate math and science preparation at the primary and secondary levels.

Keep in mind, too, that it's not just in math and science that Americans don't measure up. We also suck at history, geography, current events, Chinese... You name it, and we're clueless. College also seems pretty late to first study French, to read Dante or to take a course in ethics, but this is typical. Maybe there wouldn't be so many drooling Derrida devotees if every high school senior was required to take a course in basic logic.

Barring significant improvements at the high school level, the next best thing we can hope for is a solid *liberal* education at the university level, which, I think, is what those irksome GDRs are for. And unless the universities start requiring more math and science to boost our sophistication (meaning more credits to graduate, in a fiscal climate already stretched to the limit), those GDRs will have to do. Unless, of course, the scientists demand we sacrifice Plato and

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If you want to know how Saint Nick became Santa Claus, thank Washington Irving and Coca-Cola.

On the morning of Dec. 6, children all over the world awoke to dive into their stockings and see if St. Nicholas visited their home the night before. Good little girls and boys would traditionally find fruit, nuts, candy and toys; naughty boys and girls got nothing but a lump of coal. But who is this elusive original Santa Claus?

Nicholas was born in third-century Asia Minor. His wealthy parents raised him as a devout Christian, and when they died in an epidemic, Nicholas followed the words of Jesus, selling all of his family's property and giving all of his inheritance to the needy. Some stories even attribute him to saving a poor neighborhood family, who had no money to give for their three daughters' dowries. To prevent the girls from being turned to the streets as prostitutes, Nicholas snuck into their home in the middle of the night and left large sums of gold coins by the hearth.

He was named the Bishop of Myra while still quite young, and had a wide reputation for his love of children, willingness to do anything for those in need, and concern for sailors and ships. He would later be named the patron saint of sailors.

The Roman emperor Diocletian was very cruel towards Christians of the day, imprisoning many priests, bishops and laypersons, Nicholas being among them for a short time. The prisons were so overcrowded that little room was left for the real criminals of the day, who ran free on the streets. The already poverty stricken society plummeted even further into despair from crime, and by the time Nicholas was released from prison, the streets were filled with plenty of poor children for Nicholas to help before he died on Dec. 6, 343 A.D.

While the celebration of St. Nicholas Day is traditionally a religious day, many of European descent celebrate it as a cultural holiday.

Vikings and Spaniards who came to the New World by ship named their first ports after Nicholas. Yet, during the Reformation, the Protestants

tried to stamp out traditions of the holiday, since they did not look favorably upon Catholic saints, and the Colonists who came to America following the reformation did not bring the story of Nicholas with them. While the Dutch have long since been accredited with bringing Nicholas to America, it is now thought that the Germans brought the customs here.

Early American author Washington Irving wrote of St. Nick in his "Knickerbocker's History of New York" in 1809. He makes numerous references to a jolly St. Nicholas, and instead of a religious figure, he paints the picture of a Dutch elf with a pipe. This image was broadened greatly in the 1823 poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," whose author is disputed. A series of Saint Nick images appeared in "Harper's Weekly" throughout the late 1800s, perfecting his image. In the 1930s a 35-year campaign of advertisements featuring the man who would come to be known as Santa Claus holding a bottle of Coca-Cola appeared on billboards and in magazines.

Saint Nicholas Day is see Saint pg. 15

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I NEED YOU! TO SUBMIT YOUR COMICS!

Venus di **PSYCHO** By: Jen Miller

She can figure it out without our help. It'll be more rewarding that way.

So when are you going to let me know that you're over here?

Don't mind how you see Shade, so the two of you can get me a bigger pot!

Yes, that could take a while. You don't know how the I do.

No, it's pronounced Yuh-or, with two L's like in Henna.

Oh, okay. I've got it now. So what am I going to be helping you do today?

Well, Venus gave recently got his latest plan for a machine which will help him take over the world. You can help me build it. When we're done, I'll have Sad show you where you'll be living. After that you can take your time to settle in.

BEN & TOB

GEEZ!!

WHO SLAMMED THE DOOR?

TWO EATING DISORDER GIRLS THAT ARE GOING TO FEED ZOMBIE.

OH...

WHAT!!

NO!!

ZOMBIES

EAT BRAINS!!

By: Deacon Bishop

By E.H. Ferguson

MUSE R. TIDBALL

EVERYTHING WAS GOING PERFECT, THE MUSIC WAS PLAYING SOFTLY, THE ARTIST WERE IN THEIR ZONES, AND THE MODEL WAS RELAXED... WELL, MAYBE A BIT TOO RELAXED...

FFFRRRT!

...THE CLASS WAS NEVER THE SAME.

RT05

Here We Are

IN COLLEGE, PEOPLE DRESS HOWEVER THEY LIKE. THEY WEAR ALL KINDS OF HATS ...

T-SHIRTS WITH ALCOHOL / COMBAT BOOTS WITH PAJAMAS

UNFORTUNATELY, FOR SOME PROFESSORS, THERE SHOULD BE.

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH

OH MY GOD, I'M BLIND!!!

UNLIKE HIGH SCHOOL, THERE IS NO DRESS CODE

THE CENSORED STOP HERE

BEE IS GOOD FOOD

Winter backpacking in Sylvania wilderness

Adam Eader

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Last Saturday, at 8 a.m. in the frosty morning I stepped from my heated house into a delightful December morning. I walked towards the Allen Center to meet my backpacking classmates for our week-end trip up to the Sylvania Wilderness Area. On the way, many drivers stared at my fluorescent colored snow bibs and 30 pound backpack in wonderment.

When their stares confusedly asked me, "What the hell are you doing?" my anticipating smile answered back, "I'm going backpacking."

I used the early hike to test out the layering of my clothes. By the time I got to the Allen Center I was sweating hard and therefore learned my first rule of the trip: I was wearing too much.

We finalized our plans and began the three hour drive from Stevens Point to the Sylvania Wilderness. Along the way, the visual mystique of northern Wisconsin forests, homes and bars, increasingly grew.

Because the snow was about six inches deep we

didn't bring snowshoes with us. As we headed from the ranger's cabin toward Clark Lake, hiking by boot was easy. Our camping home for the night was Pine campsite, making our first day-hike two miles.

The weather was incredibly beautiful with no wind and temperatures around 15 degrees. I was wearing a long underwear long sleeve synthetic shirt for my first layer. Synthetic garments pull perspiration off the body, allowing the body to stay dry and warm. My second layer was a synthetic fleece jacket. This layer created insulation between my first and second layer, leaving me a barrier of warmth. Outer layers should be waterproof, breathable and windproof, but since there was no wind or precipitation I left my shell jacket in my backpack and instead wore a thick synthetic vest as my outer layer. My layering choices kept me warm and dry as I hiked. Layering perfectly is necessary, and if done right, resembles the joy of eating a perfectly cooked frozen pizza.

We hiked along the eastern border of Clark Lake through rolling hills of cedar

and old growth hemlocks. The hemlocks were gigantic, many so big that any tree hugger would be unable to touch his or her hands around the tree. The trees restricted more snow fall to the forest floor, creating easier movement. On a windier day, the trees significantly block wind gusts. Trekking past these enormous trees shed ease upon my mind and body. They seemed impenetrable and so powerful that I felt it an honor to be among them.

Since our trail was covered with snow it was easy to go astray. Blue slash marks were painted on various trees along the trail, helping us stay on our path. The only other markings visible were footprints of coyotes, deer and rodents that inhabited Sylvania. From this interpretation I concluded that the only beings crazy enough to travel and live in Sylvania during December were animals that called this area their home and 17 outdoor-enthusiastic animals from UW-Stevens Point.

We moved along the trail in high spirits, passing both ash and balsam campgrounds. At a small iced-over creek crossing, one of our hiker's feet plunged through the ice and into the freezing water. Because the inside of his boots were soaked, trip leader and class



Photo by Adam Eader

professor Jim Joque quickly made a very wise decision to turn around. Turning around meant two things: we would go back to Balsam campsite, which was very close to us, and nobody else would have to attempt to cross over the ice. Getting wet, especially on a winter backpacking trip can cause hypothermia and/or frostbite. Both can be deadly, so our class acted fast. Once we arrived at Balsam campsite we quickly set up a tent for the wet-footed hiker to change into dry socks and pants. Two classmates swiftly got a fire going, and we placed the wet boots next to the fire to dry.

Once the wet hiker was taken care of, everyone else attended to their own camp chores. Tents were set up in three separate camping areas. When setting up a tent, it is important to set it up on a compacted area. In deep snow an area must be dug that is big enough for the tent and its stakes. We were advised to leave a thin layer of compacted snow for our sleeping comfort.

After tents were set up and sleeping gear was situated many of us went dry-wood hunting. Having a fire when it's snowy all around is an excellent way to stay warm as well as socialize with other campers. To get the fire going we used a fire starter, but it wasn't necessary. We could have replaced the purchased starter with a number of natural fire starters, such as birch bark, grass, pocket lint and paper. The only way to keep the fire going is by first using pencil-sized dry branches and then increasing the wood's diameter. We found the dry wood on fallen trees with branches sticking up off the ground. After a fire is built nice and hot, pieces of downed wood can be used, even if they are snowy and icy on their sides.

Around dusk it began snowing on us. It lasted until the next morning. We col-

lected wood into the late-night hours happily roaming the deep-quiet areas of darkness surrounding us. The fire fueled storytelling, games and good spirits until every camper was snug in their tent.

We increased the warmth of our tents by sleeping the maximum number of people in each tent. Also, by piling up snow against the entire perimeter of the tent except on our door, we cut off cold drafts. Snow is a great insulator, so we used it to our advantage. My sleeping space was also layered to maximize warmth. The first layer was a sleeping pad. After that I laid down clothes I wasn't wearing to bed, followed by my sleeping bag. The ground is the harshest culprit in stealing body heat from a winter camper. My thick double layer of ground protection kept my body undisturbed from ground coldness and hardness through the night. My sleeping bag is rated at zero degrees, so all I slept in was a wool pair of booties, long underwear and a winter hat. By filling the gap between my neck and the sleeping bag, a space that warm air constantly sneaks out of, I kept the heat my body created inside my sleeping bag all night.

In the morning we woke, ate breakfast and took down camp. Sleeping in crisp winter air refreshes a person, especially when that person can also stay warm. There are many techniques for camping in winter weather that I didn't talk about but are essential. Learning and practicing these techniques can only make your winter trip better. If you are interested in winter camping, I advise to first try it in your backyard or with an experienced winter camper. This way you have a warm place to retreat to if you become cold. I know I was grateful as I ran freezing from my back yard into my heated house on my first winter camping failure.



Learn how to brave a night in the snow.

Photo by Adam Eader

OUTDOOR EDVENTURES' TIP OF THE WEEK

Josh Spice

MANAGER/TRIP LEADER AND OUTDOOR EDVENTURES AND RENTALS

Still throwing away that mass of lint collected in your dryer? Why not put it to use? Dryer lint makes a great fire starter! Jam pack as much dryer lint into a film canister as you can and put it into a survival kit to bring along on your next wilderness adventure. Combine with Vaseline-smearred cotton balls in an additional film canister to make a sure fire system (no pun intended). The dryer lint serves as an igniter for the cotton balls, which will get kindling burning. Stop in Outdoor EdVentures to learn more about this trick, along with many other tips and techniques to improve your outdoor experiences.

Pathways to Point: a wilderness program

Mary Neal
OUTDOOR REPORTER

Ahhh freshman year; so many new people, places and experiences. Although exciting, it can be all so overwhelming. If only there was some sort of program that could ease the transition from high school to college...

Luckily there is such a program. It is called Pathways to Point, a wilderness orientation program for incoming fresh-

men. The program bestows the opportunity for incoming freshmen to build friendships with other freshmen and learn important outdoor skills while exploring the wilderness. There are a variety of trips to choose from including canoeing and portaging in Sylvania Wilderness area, backpacking on the Lakeshore trail along the bluffs of Pictured Rocks, fishing in Sylvania, backpacking on the Superior Hiking

trail and canoeing down the Namakagon River.

I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Superior hiking and backpacking trip the summer before my freshman year, and I have absolutely no regrets. Going on this trip opened my eyes to the rewarding recreation of backpacking, something which I had never done before, and prepared me for my new life in Stevens Point. The program enabled me to start school with a few new good friends who had similar interests.

Currently the Pathways to Point program extends beyond summer into the school year. Students are able to earn one credit by attending the summer trip as well as attending classes for the first eight weeks of school. The classes involve fun activities such as biking the Green Circle, learning about different organizations and clubs on campus, a digital scavenger hunt, service projects and many other activities. It's a great way to learn



Photo by Mary Neal

about academics, the activities UW-SP has to offer as well as an opportunity to meet the other students that attended the different trips and share similar experiences.

You may be thinking, why does a junior know so much about this freshman program? I was fortunate enough to be able to co-lead the trips this summer. I believe it was one of the best jobs I will ever have.

Not only did it open up traveling opportunities to some of the many beautiful areas in and surrounding Wisconsin, but I also got to meet some of the cool new freshmen that would soon be flooding the Stevens Point campus. If you would like to know more about the Pathways to Point program you can visit www.uwsp.edu/centers/outed-ven/pathwaystopoint/.



Form friends before even beginning classes. Photo by Mary Neal

Deer season in a different light: told by UW-SP student meat processor

Stephanie Davy
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Gun-deer season may have ended Nov. 25, but venison season still thrives at the People's Meat Market, located off of Hwy 10 East, on Hwy J. Katie Knutson, a recent addition to the approximately 15-member processing team, comments on her first two weeks of work, which happened to take place during

one of the busiest times of the year.

"This year about 500 deer were brought in to be processed," Knutson said. From what she overheard from other employees, this was about average for a given gun-deer season. "This season's outcome may have been a bit lower, but for the most part it was the same as last year."

Knutson packaged liverwurst sausages while she

began to describe the process from a deer in the woods to the package.

"The deer come in whole and are sent to the skinners. After being skinned the deer are moved to the cooler, where the girth of the process is done - the cutting of the meat," Knutson explained. "Then it's off to packaging and into the freezer."

The process takes no more than an hour for a single deer, but when things get busy there may be a wait of three to seven days for the finished product.

Most hunters leave the market happy with their venison steaks, boneless chops or the favorites, hot sticks and venison sausage. Yet Knutson experienced many hunters who believed they weren't receiving all of their deer.

"Everyone thought they shot a 300 pound deer this year," Knutson joked. "It was each hunter's biggest deer yet!"

Besides venison processing, the People's Meat Market offers beef, pork, lamb and chicken.

As a devoted carnivore, Knutson enjoys working around beef. Seeing a slab of porterhouse steak is mouth-watering. However, deer season is not the highlight of Knutson's job. So far her biggest highlight has been witnessing a pig slaughter.

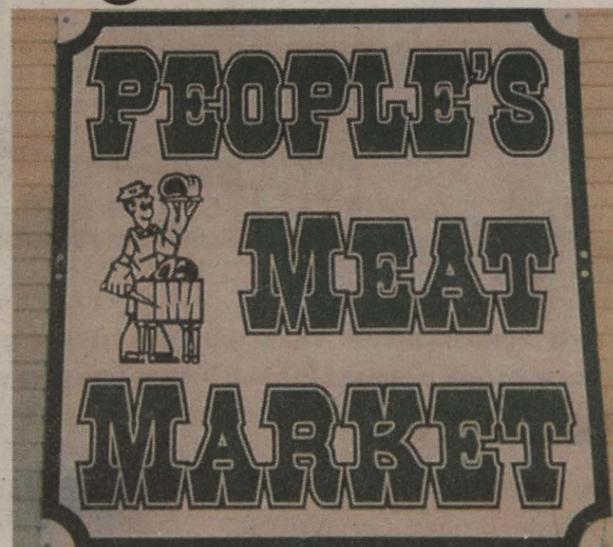


Photo by Stephanie Davy

Campus Calendar of Outdoor Events

12/13 - GEM Critical Issues International Seminar Series

Ethnoecological Knowledge and Sustainable Mountain Resource Management by Indigenous Cultures in Yuannan, China

(UC: Laird Rm)

7 p.m.

Speaker: Professor Haubin Hu

If you would like to include an event of your own, please e-mail Outdoor Editor, Stephanie Davy, no later than Tuesday night of the issued week, at: sdavy999@uwsp.edu.



Katie Knutson shows off the market's meat options! Photo by Stephanie Davy

Senior on the Spot

Cassandra Schultz – Women's Basketball

Major - Sociology

Hometown - Hartford, Wis.

Do you have any nicknames? - San, Sunny, Shelf

What are your plans after graduation? - When the time finally comes, travel the world and try to get by without a real person's job as long as possible.

What has helped you become such an accomplished basketball player?

- Positive influences from my family, past and present coaches and my teammates.

What is your favorite Pointer sports memory? - Going to the Final Four a couple years ago.

What's your most embarrassing moment? - I don't know if it's my most embarrassing moment, but having a conversation with my teammates about spray tanning.

What CD is in your stereo right now? - The one and only Bob Dylan

What DVD is currently in your DVD player? - "Dazed and Confused"

What will you remember most about UW-SP? - All the great times and friends I have met along the way, being able to compete day after day, and especially my coaches and teammates I have been around the past few years. Oh yeah, and Berry's shelf.

What are the three biggest influences in your life? - My family, my friends (teammates) and snowboarding.



Pointers notch first conference win, fall twice in the last week

Melissa Dyszelski
SPORTS REPORTER

The Pointer women's basketball team seems to have developed a pattern.

After last Wednesday's conference opening loss to UW-Oshkosh, the team rebounded with a win at home against UW-River Falls this past Saturday, but then lost while away to Carroll College in Waukesha.

After a back-and-forth second half with seven ties, Oshkosh pleased the home crowd by winning with a score of 69-62. The Pointers had two scoring leaders, freshman Laura Neuenfeldt leading the way with 20, and Cassandra Schultz four points behind with 16.

On the other end, the Titans had four big scoring leaders, all whom had points in the double digits.

Schultz had 15 points and nine assists in the 71-60 win versus UW-RF. Freshman

Haley Houghton also had a big game just one shy of Schultz's total to finish the afternoon with 14 points.

This marked the first conference win for the Pointers.

However, the victory high ended as the women allowed their 13-point second half lead drift away as they lost at the buzzer on a last second shot drained by undefeated Carroll's Crystal Hoewisch.

UW-SP did have six top scorers to contribute to the team's 90 points against the Pioneers.

Chelsea Kranz sank 15 points, while Schultz and Houghton scored 13. Becky Pepper and Jesirae Heuer tied with 11, and Neuenfeldt reached double digits with 10.

The scoring leader for the Pioneers was Hoewisch with an astonishing 34 points.

After the loss to Carroll College, the Pointers fell to 5-3 for the season.

Beamish helps Pointers over UW-River Falls

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In only his fifth game as a member of the UW-Stevens Point men's basketball team, freshman Brian Beamish poured in 18 points and grabbed five rebounds as the Pointers prevailed over the UW-River Falls Falcons last Saturday at the Quandt Fieldhouse, 74-53.

After scoring only nine points in the first four contests of the season, Beamish held his coming-out party, connecting on six of seven field goal opportunities and going three-for-four from behind the arc.

The Pointer defense also starred in the contest, as they forced 15 Falcon turnovers. At one point, UW-SP forced six turnovers while holding UW-RF to only one field goal in a stretch of 10:31 early in the

first half.

The offense was not to be outdone, however, as the Pointers shot 58.8 percent in the second half - an 18.8 percent improvement over the team's first half performance.

Jon Krull led all scorers with 20 points, 14 of which came from the free throw line. Krull currently leads the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in free throw attempts after shooting 16 times from the line in last Saturday's game.

Brian Bauer was the only other Pointer who ended with a double figure scoring total, notching 12.



Photo by Mae Wernicke
Gbenga Awe (52) drives against UW-RF.

UW-SP jumped out to a 10-8 lead early in the game, and then proceeded to go on a 15-3 run through the majority of the first half. The Pointers continued to extend their lead up to halftime, holding on to a 34-20 advantage at the break.

The Falcons were able to close the deficit to 11 several times in the second half, first closing the gap to 40-29 with

16:43 left. Beamish answered the small UW-RF run with a three-point basket, followed by five consecutive points by Bauer. The Pointers utilized the offensive surge from Beamish and Bauer to take a 48-29 lead seven minutes into the second half.

UW-RF again closed the lead to 11 with just over six minutes to play, but hit a rut in the following time remaining, failing to score until 38 seconds were on the clock.

With the win over the Falcons, UW-SP moved to 4-1 overall and 2-0 in the WIAC.

The Pointers looked next to a contest on the road with UW-Whitewater. The Warhawks, coming off a week-long hiatus, defeated UW-SP 70-64 at the Kachel Gym in Whitewater.

The Pointers stand at 4-2 (2-1).

Weekend split prepares Pointers for rivalry contest

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The Pointer women's hockey team had a long several days this past weekend, with a pair of games at UW-River Falls followed by a third game on Tuesday. Traveling to River Falls for Friday and Saturday games, Point went 1-1.

On Friday night, two players had their first career goals to guide the Pointers past River Falls. Jamie Lewandowski put the first goal of the game in unassisted on the power play late in the first. Late in the second, freshman Madison Darud put the Pointers up by two, assisted by Nicole Grossman.

Point scored again early in third, making the late period goal from Falls too little too late. Falls apparently held the momentum into Saturday night's game, taking the first lead of the game. Point countered right away with a goal from Jenna Daggit, and from Tracy Truckey, but Falls regained the lead in the second.

The Pointers made a valiant effort in the third, outshooting Falls 10-2, but Falls

Individual Pointer performances stand out at Wheaton Invite

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The Pointer swimmers competed in the Wheaton Invite Dec. 2-3. The women finished second in the nine-team meet and the men finished four of nine.

However if you ask head coach Al Boelk, he will tell you those numbers don't matter but the individual performances that do. "The lineup for this meet has nothing to do with trying to beat other teams. We don't even check the team scores at the end." he

said. "Our focus is on personal best times all around, as well as getting as many NCAA cuts as possible."

And the meet for the Pointers was highlighted by numerous national qualifying cuts. Boelk pointed out the team's six NCAA relay cuts by

both the men and women. The men captured "B" cuts in four of the relays. "B" cuts mean that the performance is good enough but one is stacked up against the rest of the nation to see if it's a qualifying time.

see **Swimming**, pg. 15

see **Split**, pg. 15

Science, Health & Tech.

Dealing with the stress of the holiday season

Jeff Peters
SCIENCE REPORTER

With white snow falling, colored lights going up and the radio slowly becoming infected with the usual staple of Christmas tunes, it's clear the holiday season is in full swing. But for many Americans the pressures and obligations that lie amidst the festive lights and holiday cheer often leave them singing a different tune.

For college students it can be even worse, with the pressure of exams, gift-buying and returning home all coming together at once, causing what Marty Loy, Associate Dean of the School of Health Promotion and Human Development, called a triple whammy.

It's having these multiple obligations that can make Christmas such a stressful time, said Loy. Many students have to visit several families

over the holidays, dealing with the financial pressures of buying everyone the right gift and the social pressures of dealing with people they don't often see, all while keeping up with the busiest time of the school year.

Interpersonal conflicts are the No. 1 cause of stress, accounting for half of all the stressors in women and 20-30 percent in men, said Loy. Over the holidays, as families come together, those numbers go up.

"Stress is a reaction that's caused by your perception," said Loy. "You can change how you think about things. Perception is the key. Christmas isn't stressful for everyone."

One person might love Christmas while another may hate it because of the overload they associate with it. The thought of the holidays can bring about two completely different reactions, all

because of the perceptions and feelings attached to it.

Changing your perception can be very difficult, said Loy, but putting your heart into whatever you're doing can go a long way. "Make sure you're doing things that are important to you."

In a 2004 survey by the American Psychological Association,

81 percent of people under the age of 35 were worried about lack of money and 54 percent about gift-giving. One in five worried that stress might affect their physical health.

Long-term stress can have many different health consequences, said Loy. "Stress is a contributing factor in 70-90 percent of all illness. It does



Relieve stress by sculpting some snow

affect the immune system."

The National Mental Health Association (NMHA) recommends making a list and prioritizing what's important to you. Instead of trying to cram everything into one extravagant day, activities can be spread out over the entire season to increase enjoyment and lessen the stress.

Free activities like building snowmen, window shopping, and taking in the holiday decorations can also provide enjoyment without the financial burden.

Often times people feel they need to live up to the cheery expectations associated with the holidays, but there's

see **Holiday**, pg. 13

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TECH TIDBIT

Smell my pencil

Joe Pisciotto
THE POINTER
JPISC779@UWSP.EDU

So you're sitting in class on a frigid Dec. 19 morning taking your first lovely final of this fall semester when suddenly, out of the fuzzy ether of your exam-filled existence you swear your nose has picked up the scent of a candy store. Perplexed, you take your mind off of your test as you let your thoughts drift to the days of yore, when candy was the most exciting thing in your life, and exams were non-existent. As you reminisce about the good ol' days your eyes shift to the side and your dreams are shattered as you see it: your neighbor is writing with some kind of weird looking pencil that says "cherry" on it.

Yes folks, I'm talking about scented pencils, better known as Smencils. Go ahead, say it out loud - I know you want to.

These aren't just any old scented pencils, however. According to the Smencil Web

site these "gourmet" pencils are made from 100 percent recycled newspaper. You can see the layers of newspaper as you sharpen it.

What they do is roll old newspaper tightly around a graphite core until typical pencil thickness is reached. Then they soak the pencil with one of 10 scents and attach an eraser and a label.

The result is a regular functioning pencil that is an environmentally friendly alternative to your normal number twos, not to mention it smells a whole lot better. Smencils even come with a guarantee that they will maintain their scent for up to two years of brutal test taking.

According to the company that makes Smencils, all materials and processes used in making the pencil are environmentally friendly, including the use of recycled newspaper, biodegradable erasers and safe fragrances. Even the packaging for the Smencil is made from recycled plastic.

Mmmm... pencil.

from **Holiday**, pg. 12

room for other emotions also.

"Remember, the holiday season does not banish reasons for feeling sad or lonely," according to NMHA's Web site.

If you do feel yourself getting stressed out, Loy recommended doing three things.

First, breathe. Deep breathing triggers the relaxation response and can be a simple reminder to slow things down and enjoy the moment rather than rushing to the next thing on your list.

Second, change your perception. It can be as easy as thinking positive, but changing the stressful behavior is important as well. Reduce the costs of gifts if you don't have the money, or don't go to see multiple families if one of them causes you stress. If you're doing what you want to be doing over the holidays, thinking positive will come naturally.

Finally, exercise: "Exercise is like the magic pill for stress," said Loy. "Stress is something that happens within you." Exercise can rid the body of chemicals associated with stress and give a physical outlet for emotions while at the same time increasing self-esteem.

A little less stress may make it easier to find the holiday cheer. The white snow and festive lights might become more comforting with a relaxed mind, and maybe you'll even find yourself singing along with this year's carolers.

Sustainability Committee ponders future plans

A number of options on the table for a green UW-SP

Brandi Pettit
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Finally, after years of promoting its College of Natural Resources, UW-SP is putting itself on the map of universities taking steps to become totally environmentally friendly.

Monday night members of the University Sustainability Committee (USC) joined with students and faculty to discuss possibilities for the university's future independence from petroleum-based fuels. The members present, SGA Speaker of the Senate Kyle Craemer and Student Co-Chair Ben Bishop, presented policies currently in place by the university's administration and those coming in the near future.

The Chancellor appoints members of the USC, and its purpose is to determine the best way for the university to sustain itself, and then promote those ideas to the UW-community.

"We need to focus on our university - we're not yet a total package," said Craemer.

Guidelines in place for sustainability include cleaner indoor air by eliminating indoor smoking, campus-wide recycling and solar-diesel power hot water in the dorms, which is planned to be extended to other on-campus facilities. Increased bus usage, carpooling and bike riding are

also being encouraged.

Dr. Eric Olson from the College of Natural Resources was hopeful for a bike program. "We really need to pay attention to bike paths, and the bike racks aren't really placed in the greatest spots," he said.

Current and future implementations include adding solar panels and greenhouses to various buildings on campus. When the University Center renovations begin in spring of 2006, its plans include large windows throughout the building, adding natural light and reducing the need for electricity.

"The technology (for sustainability) is there, we just need to create the consciousness for it," said Craemer.

Several energy efficient ideas were offered to the USC. Turning off campus computers at night and monitoring the amount of food taken - and subsequently thrown away - at Debot were the most popular.

The USC is calling for a campus-wide 10 percent reduction in energy consumption. With ideas like converting city buses to biodiesel and the feasibility of using leftover fry oil from Debot for fuel, it may be possible.

"Then, someday soon, UW-SP would be recognized as a 'green university,'" said Bishop.

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Arts & Review

Dark film showcases young actors' rising skills

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"

Blair Nelson
ARTS AND REVIEW REPORTER

The latest entry in the ever-growing Harry Potter franchise, "Goblet of Fire," is swifter, less disjointed than its predecessor, and by far the most emotionally engaging and overall best film in the series.

This time around, after a resplendent, if somewhat truncated, display of the Quidditch World Cup, the infamous Harry finds himself in the midst of controversy when he is inadvertently drawn into the celebrated Triwizard Tournament, held at Hogwarts. Normally, three candidates are selected to represent their respected schools, but mysteriously Harry is elected (even though he's too young) to compete by the roaring blue cup itself. This means two representatives compete for Hogwarts: Harry and Cedric Diggory. Harry has no choice but to comply, as per the rules of the famed goblet of fire. The great mystery surrounding the film is who is responsible for nominating him.

Before this, the student body at Hogwarts are treated to small demonstrations of the skills of soon-to-be competitors for the Triwizard Tournament,

featuring a troupe headed by new character Viktor Krum and an unusual squad of young women. Though the display could have been longer, it does have some of the finest music in the series, drawing us in to foreshadow what is to come.

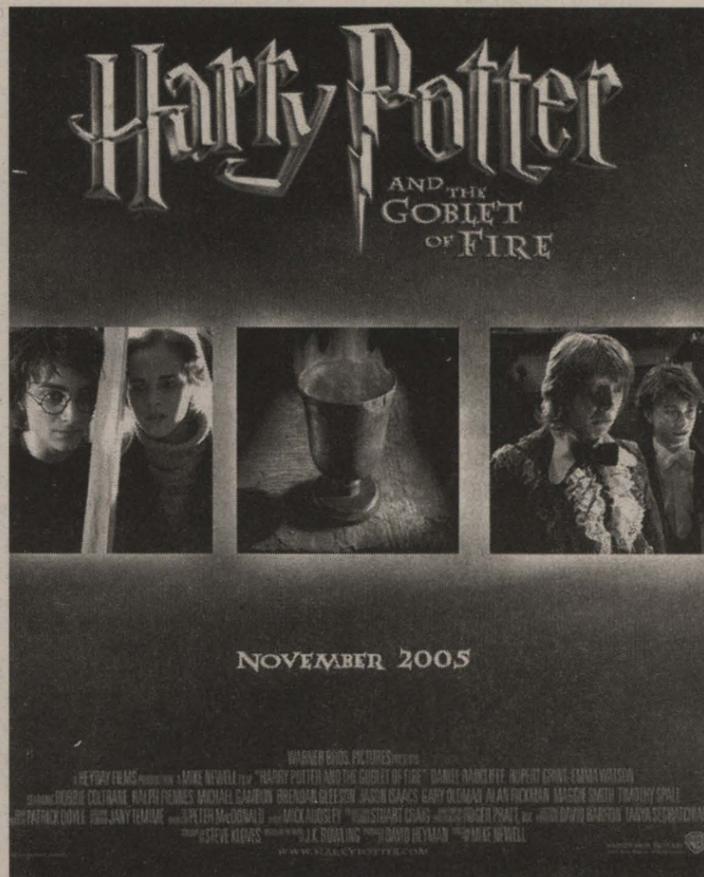
Each of the four competitors are given three dangerous tasks that test what they're capable of physically and mentally, giving the film its most crisp and well-handled special effects yet. Each task also brings a new clue to the next challenge.

A snake slithering through a human skull is fairly dark for these type of films, and because of this, and other graphic events such as dark witches and Death Eaters who conjure the Dark Mark swirling in the movie, "Goblet of Fire" has been given a PG-13 rating—the first for the series. But the snake scene could be an intentional homage to an almost identical shot in "Raiders of the Lost Ark." Director Mike Newell ("Four Weddings and a Funeral," "Donnie Brasco") worked on the "Young Indiana Jones Chronicles," as well. "Goblet of Fire," in turn, has moments that are 'Indiana Jones-esque.'

In the middle of this dark adventure is Harry, who is

finally growing up, along with his friends. Though only hinted at in "Azkaban," Harry Potter is fiercely tested in the trials of adolescence (not to mention a pesky biased journalist named Rita Skeeter) in "Goblet of Fire" in several ways: a rift that engulfs him, struggling with finding love, physical endurance and a painful lesson of loss—all of which allow Daniel Radcliffe (who plays Potter) to show the acting muscles we never knew he had. As Potter has grown up, so to has Radcliffe. It seems he has molded the character and made it his own. The emotional anguish of being a teenager shows extremely well on his face.

Even better is Ron Weasley, who excels with the tenderly surprising talent "guns" of Rupert Grint, who has also aged his character well. Ron is going through nearly the exact same difficulties as Harry, and it's reminiscent of watching the mirror-image of two brothers trying to fit in. Only Ron is going through more internally than anybody really knows. You can clearly ascertain these two are caring friends and would be crushed without one another. This is tied into Dumbledore's passionate speech on friendship, symbolizing those key



moments. Furthermore, Ron's moment to shine, or fail, is set up for the next film.

Just as good is Miss Hermione Granger, when she deals with events all of us have dealt with at one time or another at our first school dance. However, perhaps our dances haven't been as magical as the ball on a fantastical ship, in this movie.

When that ship submerges, an excellent film remains

on the surface that features exceptional all-around performances, great but not overpowering special effects, and an emotional element that has been greatly heightened from the previous films.

Voldemort is still out there lurking in the shadows, but in the meantime we have the enjoyment of watching a maturing young man named Harry Potter and the world he inhabits.

Great camera work, but an inconsistent story

"Alien Vs. Predator"

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You're kidding, right?

Much in the footsteps of "Frankenstein Meets the Wolfman," "Alien Vs. Predator" brings two of pop culture's coolest, most popular and feared icons together in battle. And much like

"Freddy vs. Jason," it falls flat on its face.

Billionaire Charles Bishop Weyland (Lance Henriksen) leads a scientific expedition to Antarctica where he's discovered a pyramid deep below the surface that predates most early known human civilizations. Things go horribly awry for the team when they discover some futuristic-looking machine guns in one of the chambers.

Upon removing the guns, they trigger a chain reaction that turns the pyramid into a giant puzzle box: walls and ceilings move, trap-doors open. Most of the team is separated from each other, and soon begin to find large, gooey eggs all

over the place.

The Predators—the coolest looking villains to roam Hollywood—have been watching the humans the entire time on their cool thermal-vision watches. Once their weapons have been moved, the Predators dash into evasion positions and become invisible.

Anyone who's seen either of the Predator movies knows what bad-asses these guys are, and one wonders what on earth they could possibly need more firepower for.

The Predators are holding the Queen Alien, made popular by "Aliens," chained down in a dark chamber, where she does nothing all day but lay eggs. Why Hollywood has brought her back in time some 400 years makes one wonder if the screenwriter didn't miss his weekly meeting at the methadone clinic.

In between the sliding walls, the team's survivalist expert Alexa Woods (Sanaa Lathan) is caught with an archaeologist, who interprets the hieroglyphics on the wall.

Predators brought the Aliens to earth thousands of years ago. Their purpose was to allow human implantation for the purpose of having a capable sparring partner. The Predators won by using their fancy machine guns, and humans worshipped them for this. In the event the Predators did not win, they had these really neat mega-bombs that detached from their watches that wiped out everything for miles.

By the end of the movie, Alexa is the only survivor, and she combines forces with one

of the Predators. If this fact weren't unbelievable enough, the Predator actually warms to her and helps her make weapons to fight off the alien: the enemy of my enemy is my friend.

This movie is filled with great acting, great camera work, and superb special effects: "Alien" and "Predator" fans will be well-pleased with the flowing dreadlocks and exacting Alien visuals and bitchiness.

While it's a cute story, it's just not consistent enough to fly.



Photo from www.moviecitynews.com

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from **Swimming**, pg. 11

Willie Clapp, Alex Anderson, Garth Newport and Chase Gross teamed for a second place 200-yard medley. Anderson, Gross, Tyler Eloranta and Matt Grunwald placed second in the 400-yard freestyle. Anderson, Gross and Eloranta again, teamed along side Kyle Hartl to place third in the 200-yard freestyle relay. And with fourth place, Clapp, Anderson, Newport and Eloranta partook in the 400-yard medley.

The women's team had a "B" cut in two relays. A Pointer record setting 200-yard freestyle was swum by Jerica Crook, Kelsey Crunstedt, Beth Bard and Caitlin Hake, which placed second. Bard, Crunstedt, Liz Herder and Jennie Roskopf placed third in the 800-yard freestyle as well.

The team lived up to their goal of looking to make an impact in relays according to Boelk. "We pulled a lot of our fastest kids from events in order to go for relay cuts, and it paid off."

The Pointers also had many individual national qualifying cuts. Leading this was Alex Anderson who was the sole Pointer to get an "A" cut -- a time that would guarantee a nationals appearance. He accomplished this feat in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 56.49.

Caitlin Hake set a Stevens Point record for a "B" cut time of 52.68. This was done in the prelims of the 100-yard freestyle. Hake also received a 'B' cut in the 50-yard freestyle.

Other "B" cut swimmers included Gross, Anderson, Newport, Grunwald and Roskopf.

"We had dozens of phenomenal swims in the meet," Boelk said. He stated that Wheaton is a very special meet because they can swim everyone there. "We rest and shave for it- so every time someone is up for a race there is the potential for a personal best," he said.

from **Saint** pg 6

celebrated in both religious and secular forms in several European countries, including Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. Though this is mainly a European holiday, many with European ancestry often celebrate, including a large following in Milwaukee. A number of Milwaukee stores advertise for St. Nick's Day, reminding parents to stock up on goodies for those stockings. With a number of Milwaukee and Chicago-area residents moving to the area over the past few years, Stevens Point a new nesting ground for those waiting with empty stockings on the night of Dec. 5.

from **Split**, pg. 11

managed to hang onto the lead for a split on the weekend.

Tuesday night the Pointers faced off against conference opponent Lake Forest College. After a scoreless first period, Truckey scored her sixth of the year to put Point up a goal. Less than three minutes later, Lake Forest tied it up, but less than three minutes after that, Jackie Drews put the Pointers back in the lead with an assist from Kim Lunneborg.

At 19:59 of the third period, Forester Courtney DeHoey scored her second of the game to pull Lake Forest back in the game. The game was declared a tie after a scoreless overtime.

The Pointers come out of the long weekend 5-2-2 overall and 2-1-2 in the NCHA. Up next is rival Gustavus Adolphus, who handed the Pointers their first loss of the season last month. The Pointers travel to St. Peter, Minn. for the game next Tuesday evening.

from **Holiday**, pg. 10

as Dorothy Boyd, Maguire's love interest after his personal epiphany. Comedy and romance, combined with a side of sports not many fans get to see, makes Cameron Crowe's "Jerry Maguire" a film for a wide variety of viewers.

6. "Any Given Sunday" - 1999 - Rated R

In exact contrast to the light-hearted film, "The Replacements" and to the agent perspective of "Jerry Maguire", Oliver Stone's "Any Given Sunday" explores the shady and harsh behind-the-scenes world of professional football from all angles.

An all-star cast ranging from award-winning actors Al Pacino and Jamie Foxx to football greats Jim Brown and Lawrence Taylor highlights the movie.

The focus of the film revolves around the operation of the Miami Sharks, a fictional pro team down on luck. Cameron Diaz plays the team's head coach and Foxx stars as Willie Beamen, an up-and-coming quarterback who seems to be the answers to the team's prayers.

High intensity action rules in the portrayal of football in "Any Given Sunday," a stark contrast to other films that usually take a more realistic approach. At any rate, this film is engaging and the cast's quality makes "Any Given Sunday" a worth entry into the list.

The Pointer is currently hiring for photographers, as well as ad reps and layout technicians. Contact us at pointer@uwsp.edu for more details.

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