Faculty and student senates take sides on University Foundation

By Andrew Bloeser
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

The private organization which seeks contributions to fund scholarships at UW-Stevens Point finds itself in serious financial straits, needing a monetary infusion to stay afloat.

Following financial losses of $2.5 million, the University Foundation has now looked to the university to provide that infusion.

"The foundation is the fundraising arm of the university that secures funds for student scholarships and support to academic departments that gives the university a margin of excellence above what is provided by state support and student tuition," said Assistant Chancellor Greg Diener, of the Business and Budget Affairs Committee. "Right now, the foundation needs resources to pay for its administrative operations if it is to continue to provide that margin of excellence."

The question now remains whether the university will opt to provide the requested assistance, in effect, allocating funds to the foundation's operating budget.

The Faculty Senate and Student Government Association (SGA) emerged divided in proposing an answer to that question, passing opposing resolutions at their respective meetings last week.

The matter at hand centered upon the allocation of $62,000 in general purpose revenue (GPR) requested by the foundation to fund its operating expenses. Typically, GPR funding serves to supplement academic units on campus by providing financial resources for such uses as faculty research and classroom equipment.

However, as its name implies, the university can allocate general purpose revenue for wide variety uses, including support towards the foundation's operating budget.

Faculty and student representatives provided arguments for and against allocations on the proposal to allocate GPR funding to the foundation, evidenced by the unanimous vote from the faculty senate to deny allocation and the 16-1-1 vote favoring the allocation that emerged from the SGA senate.

The request for GPR funding by the University Foundation came on the heels of a two-year period in which the organization experienced severe financial losses that undermined its mission as the fundraising arm of the university. Due to a number of factors that prompted the request, the proposal was put to vote by the University Foundation. As the holiday season creeps near, take a moment and enjoy your surroundings. Houses around Stevens Point continue the tradition of hanging lights that make the holiday season glow.

Parents turn up pressure on police in missing students' cases

By Scott Cattelino
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Relatives of the four college-age adults that have been missing since late October recently got together in the Twin Cities to urge police to step up their investigation and search efforts.

All four students disappeared within 170 miles of each other and still remain missing. "Seems like this stuff's all got to be connected somehow," said Brian Guimond, the father of 20-year-old St. John's student Josh Guimond. Josh Guimond has been missing since Nov. 9.

Family members are concerned that authorities would have been quicker to respond to the cases if those missing were a few years younger. Unlike cases involving missing children, most police departments wait a few days before initiating an investigation because many missing adults return home on their own.

Mancel Mitchell Jr., acting commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, said that officials were doing the best they could but it would never be enough for the families. "The avalanche of casework that comes into those agencies necessitates some type of prioritization," Mitchell said.

The family of missing students: Erika Marie Dalquist, top left; Josh Guimond, top right; Christopher Jenkins, bottom left; Micheal Noll, bottom right.

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Area business owners to address graduates at UWSP

Mid-year graduates have the opportunity to listen to a success story that will inspire students to strive for their dreams.

The founders of Renaissance Learning, Inc., of Wisconsin Rapids will address the 550 mid-year graduates and their families at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, at UWSP.

Terry and Judi Paul, founders and owners of the international educational software company, will speak at both ceremonies in Quandy Field House.

Associate degrees and baccalaureate degrees in the College of Letters and Science will be awarded at the 10 a.m. event, and master's degrees and baccalaureate degrees in the Colleges of Professional Studies, Fine Arts and Communication and Natural Resources will be given at the 1 p.m. ceremony.

The programs will open with the national anthem sung by senor music education major Kate Doran, 1240 Locker Road, Mosinee, who will also lead the singing of the alma mater.

UWSP's ROTC color guard will present the flags and Provost Virginia Helm will welcome the participants and recognize honor students and award winners. Chancellor Tom George will introduce the speakers and give the charge to graduates. Deans from their respective colleges will present diplomas.

Brant Bergeron, director of Alumni and University Relations, will give the charge to alumni. Music will be provided by the UWSP Commencement Band under the direction of Scott Teple. Professors Dan Dieterich and Bob Bell will introduce each candidate for graduation.

Terry and Judi Paul are featured speakers at this year's graduation ceremony. They invented a system on nationwide at its headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, where they received numerous awards including Learning Magazine's Teacher Choice Award, EdPress Distinguished Achievement Award and Technology and Learning's Award of Excellence.

Judi has a degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois where she received this year's College of Education Distinguished Alumni Award. Terry received bachelor's and law degrees, also from the University of Illinois. He has authored one book, has another in the works and has published numerous educational research studies.

The Pauls have been business partners for 16 years and have been married for 37 years. They are the parents of four children and grandparents of seven.

The University Foundation has already undergone crucial self-examination and has made a number of proposals aimed at regaining its self-sufficiency. One early proposal from the foundation, that has since been dismissed, recommended substantial cuts or complete eliminations in the distribution of scholarships and program support, with only modest cuts to operating expenses. Upon revision, the foundation acknowledged that such a proposal would abandon the fundamental mission of its existence and instead recommended a sizable reduction in operating expenses that included the elimination of one staff position.

The Foundation Finance Committee approved the latter proposal, citing that its contents remained consistent with organization's purpose. In addition to changing its asset manager when hiring Thompson Plumb, the foundation has also sided with the committee's initiative towards spending changes that exist independently of market fluctuations.

According to a document compiled by Janet McKnight representing the UWSP Faculty and the Division of Business and Economics, "The Foundation Finance Committee revised its policy regarding this practice to be more conservative. The new policy precludes this practice in future operating periods, including years in which market values of the investments appreciate."

This new, more conservative policy puts a premium on efforts combining the generation of increased unrestricted donations and a reduction in operating expenses. Statistics taken from a report submitted by University Foundation President Bruce Froot indicated that the foundation has attempted to move in this direction by reducing the foundation's budget for the current year was reduced by $152,000.

"We've cut the foundation's budget to the bone, arguably into the bone," wrote Froothie in the document.

The question posed now is whether the University Foundation has cut far enough into the bone, as strict downsizing looms inevitable. Pending the decision by the Chancellor to allocate GPR, and perhaps regardless of that decision, the issue of downsizing is one that the foundation will likely face in the immediate future.

One thing remains certain: the University Foundation has cut far enough into the bone, as strict downsizing looms inevitable. Pending the decision by the Chancellor to allocate GPR, and perhaps regardless of that decision, the issue of downsizing is one that the foundation will likely face in the immediate future.

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December graduation arrives

Winter commencement will take place this weekend, Saturday Dec. 14, in the Quandt Fieldhouse. Ceremonies will consist of two sections. All students receiving Associate Degrees and Bachelor's Degrees from the College of Letters and Science will be part of section 1 at 10:00 a.m. Section 2, which starts at 1:00 p.m., will include those obtaining Master's Degree and Bachelor's Degrees from the College of Professional Studies, College of Fine Arts and Communications, and College of Natural Resources.

Those graduates who have not yet picked up their cap and gown are reminded that they can do so at the double doors in the back of the university center. They will be distributed over the next couple of days, Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Graduates are also encouraged to pick up tickets for family and friends to attend. Each student is allotted 10 tickets.

Advent at Newman

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The Third Sunday of Advent
5 PM Saturday
10:15 AM Sunday
6 PM Sunday
St. Joseph Convent Chapel
1309 Maria Drive, just west of k-mart

Late-Night Mass
9 PM Wednesday
Newman Center
Tent & Prayer Circle

Advent Prayer
7 PM Monday, Newman Center

Pray the Rosary
12:15 PM Tuesday, Newman Ctr.

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SGA needs a kick in the ass

Everybody knows this week is the preamble to finals at UWSP, and if any students are like me, procrastination has been the theme of my collegiate career. Recently, during an attempt to actually get something done, I was quite startled by the University's computer hours for off-campus students. Just so everyone knows, ALL computer labs on campus close at exactly 11 p.m. (Monday through Friday), there is, however, one exception to this policy and that is the first floor computer lab in the LBH.

With approximately 60 computers in this lab, there is not a chance in heaven that UWSP students have an equal opportunity to utilize the facilities since not many of them have access for a 20-minute wait for each open computer. Why is this a problem at UWSP?

The answer is simple and should be rather obvious for any student: Student Government Association. Yes folks, that's right, our formidable friends at the SGA are to blame for this under-funded异地. Being a former member of SGA, which was a significantly humorous and constipating experience, I have a decent understanding of what they actually do. Every Thursday they sit through four to five hours of litigation as to how much they should fund the Intramural Program this week, or how much money we, as students, should contribute to some SGA under-the-table back door cause.

First and foremost, SGA needs a kick in the ass, including their faculty advisor for supporting this nonsense. They feel that it’s proper and just to fund Parking Services employees to issue tickets to students, who in turn pay them and the unknown amount of gas used every year by these student dictators.

Secondly, how much money would it really cost to keep all public labs on campus open for a few extra hours during the end of each semester? I know the SGA senate does have some definite financial issues; look at The Pointer comic staff who recently got denied compensation for their work. As most you are looking at a few hundred dollars a year. That may seem like a decent amount of money, but when you look at what SGA actually funds, 32% of their allocations go directly to the athletic program with an additional 5% going to Intramurals, compared to the 13% that actually goes to the wide world of Academia. It seems to me that some money from the SGA should go to meet the demands of specified groups, supporting the jocks and screwing the dorks.

John P Baeten esq.
Dork Outreach Program

THE POINTER

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The Pointer

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Think about it: The Bible is pro-evil

Chrisians who feel that the good book is pro-life should try reading it sometime. The only reason the "word of God" commands the respect it does is because no one ever reads it. Before I hear "out of context" shouted at me I challenge the Christian community to find a "context" that makes the following anything less than pure evil, senseless death, or cruel injustice.

Num. 15:32 - A man is caught gathering sticks on the Sabbath and he is put to death. If a city is close you should kill everything that breathes. Could you take a baby and throw it away because of the God's army should plunder various nations? If a city is close you should kill everything that breathes. Could you take a baby and throw it away because of the God's army should plunder various nations?

Deut. 20:10-18 - These are instructions for how God's army should plunder various nations. If a city is close you should kill everything that breathes. Could you take a baby and throw it away because of the God's army should plunder various nations?

Deut. 22 - This chapter disgusts me. There is a test for virginity (v. 17) that few women can pass. (In Mosaic law if a woman is not a virgin on her wedding day she can be stoned at her father's door.) Verses 28-29 have rules for how you can rape and buy a woman from her father. We also learn in verse 23 and 24 that women who are raped in town should be stoned with their rapists because they didn't scream loud enough.

Joshua 7:24 - An entire family is burned to death for the actions of the father.

Judges 11:30-40 Jephthah sacrifices his only daughter to the Lord because he made the stupidest promise in Bible history. Hey Jep, you might want to give the family the heads-up when you come home from your bloody war! Who did he think was going to greet him?

The group poses for a shot in front of the Opera House in Sydney.

The Pointer would like to wish everyone good luck on final exams and a safe and relaxing winter break!

We'll see you next semester when we're back on the rocks on January 30!
Chanukah history: the Festival of Lights celebration explored

By David Cohen

This holiday season, many people will not be celebrating Christmas, but will still have a holiday very close to their hearts. The Jewish holiday of Chanukah (variable English spellings; pronounced Ha-new-kah) is celebrated every year in the winter for eight days corresponding either before, during or after Christmas. This varies from year to year as the Hebrew calendar correlates differently to the standard calendar. This year Jews began celebrating the first night of Chanukah one night before Thanksgiving. The holiday always begins at sundown and ends eight days later at the same time because that is when days in the Hebrew calendar end and begin anew.

Though Chanukah is the most well-known of all the holidays in the Jewish calendar, many people are unaware of what the holiday represents. Chanukah “Festival of Lights” is a holiday celebrating Jewish liberty and freedom and commemorates a victory believed to have occurred approximately 2,500 years ago. The Jews were living under the tyranny of Antiochus III of the Greco-Roman Empire in ancient Israel. Antiochus had created laws to forbid Jews to worship their god and to eradicate Jewish (or Hebrew) culture. Attempts were made to force all Jews to bow down to the Roman gods.

When this was met with rebellion, the Romans attacked and killed 10,000 Jews. War emerged between the Romans and the Jews who were led by a family who became known as the Maccabees (Hebrew for “hammers”). The Jewish army, led by Judah Maccabee, was greatly outnumbered by the Romans, but the Jews succeeded in pushing back the empire and recreating the nation of Judea for a time.

After the victory, the Jews wished to honor God in thanks and returned to the Temple which had been ransacked by the Romans. The Jews wished to rekindle the eternal flame which honors God only to find that all of their oil had been destroyed. A search for oil took place and one day’s worth of oil was found. Somehow the oil burned for a full eight days, which allowed for more oil to be found before the flame went out. It is for this reason that candles are lit on Chanukah for eight days.

The days of Chanukah celebrate also religious and cultural freedom. Contrary to popular belief, Chanukah is not the most important holiday in the Jewish religion. Rosh Hoshonah (Head of the Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) are deeply religious holidays that take place in early fall and are known as the High Holidays. Chanukah does not have the significance of the High Holidays, but rather is a joyous holiday loved by children. Its importance in Jewish culture is increased throughout the 20th century so that Jewish children did not feel left out at Christmas time.

Traditional Chanukah festivities include the giving of presents on each of the eight nights, eating latkes (a kind of potato pancake), lighting the candles, and playing dreidel (a top game played for chocolate money).

Spotlight Trivia

By Aaron Druckenbrod

1. How many James Bond films did Sean Connery star in?
   a. 7
   b. 4
   c. 5
   d. 6

2. Where did Harrison Ford once attend college?
   a. Ripon
   b. LaCrosse
   c. MATC (Mil.)
   d. Superior

3. Who narrated Dr. Seuss's Christmas special The Grinch?
   a. Jack Lemmon
   b. Elvis Presley
   c. Orson Welles
   d. Walter Matthau

4. In The National Lampoons Christmas Vacation, Clark W. Griswold plans to purchase what with his Christmas bonus?
   a. A family truckster
   b. A swimming pool
   c. A Vegas vacation
   d. A new RV for Eddie

5. What is Bill Murray's occupation in Scrooged?
   a. television executive
   b. disk jockey
   c. filmmaker
   d. mascot

   a. reindeer
   b. puppy-dog
   c. snowman
   d. bunny

7. In A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965), Lucy suggests Charlie should do what?
   a. dress like Santa Claus
   b. direct a Christmas pageant
   c. leave out milk & cookies
   d. give Linus a blowjob

8. In On the Waterfront, what does Marlon Brando keep on the rooftop of his apartment?
   a. money
   b. pigeons
   c. booze
   d. wife's jewelry
Afterimages enthralled university audiences

By Dan Mirman
SPORTS EDITOR

People may see my bi-line as sports editor reviewing a dance performance rather than entertainment. But after watching the show on Thursday night, I guarantee that it won't be my last.

Afterimages is a show performed by the students of UW-Stevens Point and enthralled the audience. The show kept the audience engaged for the next two hours as viewers witnessed an amazing variety of performances. Many of the dances told stories and the music ranged greatly going from rap to classical seamlessly.

"I love telling a story to the audience through movement," said Talbot. "Half of me loves that the audience is there, but the other half gets so lost in the performance that I forget they're there." Fittingly, the show ended in a fun celebratory danced with musical accompaniment from the pseudo-jamband OAR. Judging by the ovation after the final dance, the crowd shared my amazement for skills and feeling shown over the evening.

Talbot already has her eye on next year's show, "Definitely, I am already thinking about it hardcore, and I hope to get a show that I choreograph in to next year's program."

Rockers Know Boundaries to make UWSP debut

By Amy Zepnick
FEATURES EDITOR

Take a break from your diligent studying for a local explosion of sound. Know Boundaries, a Baraboo based band, will perform at the Encore Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. as part of the "Point Brewed Talent" series sponsored by Centertainment.

The show will mark the last installment of the "Point Brewed Talent" series for the semester and will be free for all students with a proof of student identification.

A regular on the music scene in Madison, Know Boundaries has performed at such venues as the Annex, developing a devoted local following that has begun to span across the state. Staking its reputation on socially conscious lyrics, Know Boundaries amplifies political and social issues over a combination of rock, hip-hop, R&B and soul, stressing that the message behind their music remains as essential to their self-concept as their eclectic sound.

Centertainment concert coordinator Kirsty Steiner best describes their stylings as "a cross between Rage Against the Machine and Black Eyed Peas." She added, "It's an interesting combination, but it works."

The band's current lineup is composed of six members: Aaron Blacker, Hermel Randolph, J Granberg, Gary Jorewicz, Brennan Comons and Dave Osmolov.

Quickly becoming one of the state's best, Know Boundaries finished in the top five of a battle of the bands contest sponsored by WMAD (92.1) in Madison. Their sound exceeded the state's best, Know Boundaries finished third place.

This is Know Boundaries first performance at UW-Stevens Point and hopefully not their last.

"It's going to be one of our biggest shows of the semester," Steiner said. "I think after one song, people will be jamming with them."

Centertainment revives poetry promotion

By Andy Bloeser
FEATURES EDITOR

In an effort to promote creative interaction among students and provide an outlet for artistic expression, Centertainment Productions will orchestrate a campus-wide poetry reading exhibition to close out the semester.

Themed the "Inspirational Invitational Poetry Reading," the event will take place in the Encore this Friday at 8 p.m.

The end of semester poetry reading intends to serve as a throw back to last year's "Slam Poetry" exhibitions, also promoted by Centertainment, with aims of providing a means of showcasing student poetry.

While the Inspirational Invitational Poetry Reading remains open to all students, participants must register in advance. Students participating in the event will not be limited in the number of selections they can perform, but will only receive up to five minutes in which to read or perform their poetry due to time constraints. No restrictions will be made upon the content of poetry submissions, emphasizing the event's intent to provide an open atmosphere.

"This event provides an opportunity for students to come together by sharing things that are important to them," said Snyder, who hopes the event will generate a supportive and creative atmosphere.

She continued, "I think it will be a positive event allowing the students to explore their creativity."

Pending the success of Friday's venture, Centertainment's Centerstage branch plans to consider more attempts toward promoting student poetry in addition to its current lineup of coffee house artists and student performers.

"If this goes well, I definitely want to do it again," said Snyder.

Poetry submissions should be sent via email to Centertainment Coordinator Rachel Snyder at rsn336@uwsp.edu. The Centertainment Staff has set Thursday evening as the tentative deadline for all poetry submissions.

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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Changing Lives
B: Pat "Hashishem" Rothfuss
MOON-FACED ASSASSIN OF JOY.

Dear All-Knowing:

I hate reality TV shows. I just don't understand what the big deal is. All the reality TV is not reality.

Take "The Real World" for instance; I watch it and I can't figure out why. Where in the world do Seven "beautiful" people live together and do nothing but party and have sex with each other? The next example is the worst show ever, "The Bachelor." This is a bunch of crap. One guy, about 25 women, and in six or so weeks he can choose who he wants to marry.

But, I have a problem. My significant other loves reality TV and all the dating shows. Why does she love these shows so much and I hate them so much? Am I just jealous that I am not in the channel somewhere?

Philip Kauth

OK, let's deal with these questions in reverse order. First, I think I can say with some surety that you've got some pent-up something going on. Right now it seems like you're channeling it into letters to my column, which works fine for me, and is reasonably healthy compared to, say a compulsion to ingest caffeine. Most are quite sleepy, but none touched their beds, while visions of essays danced in their heads. Out in the taverns, a few were still drinking. "Some pizza might help," my roommate was speechless.

He earned his fame. 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. But, I have a problem. My significant other points out that even if you took lessons, sold your soul to the devil, and smoked a full ounce of industrial-strength rock cocaine, you still couldn't get your druggy, flaccid, rhythmless body to move that way. Astaire has talent, so your jealousy is tempered with admiration, and eventually you get over it.

Later, you watch Jonny Knoxville roll around on a huge pile of elephant-poo while being covered with flaming bees and shot with a tazer, and you're jealous (sort-of) because he's got his own show. You say, "I could do that if I really wanted to." Then your friend asks, "Would you really want to?" And you realize that no, you really don't. In this case your jealousy is tempered by fear and revulsion, so eventually you get over it.

Then you watch some piece of God-awful reality TV. You watch a bunch of wankers displaying their vast social and mental incompetence, and you're jealous. You say, "I could do that." Your friend replies, "Goddamn. So could I." Then you both continue to watch, hatred twisting you up inside. You grow increasingly bitter, slowly filling with bile and loathing. Then, eventually, you die.

Your last question, namely, why does your girlfriend like these shows and you don't, has a simple answer: There is something seriously wrong with your girlfriend.

I'm guessing something is badly broken, deep, deep in her psyche. Perhaps when she was a baby someone poked that soft spot on top of her fragile baby melon, and she never recovered. Maybe she isn't human at all, merely a soulless, fleshy automaton sent to earth to tempt God's chosen into sinful corporeal pleasures, such as snuggling and the wicked co-mutual pressing of lips. But hey, everyone has problems. Personally, I think you two are perfect for each other.

Fun Fact!

When spending leftover food points at the UC Store, most students purchase foolish, things such as clothes, watches, or sweet, sweet methadone. Little do they know that a copy of Writers of the Future Vol. 18 offers the best value for their entertainment dollar. Not only does it contain Pat Rothfuss' award-winning story, but there's a half-naked woman on the cover. This makes it a perfect gift for that pimply geek cousin of yours who likes to read sci-fi and fantasy.

Well folks, it's been fun. If the powers that be are kind, I should be back next semester. Keeps sending in your letters and questions to prothusa@uwsp.edu.

Your College Survival Guide

Reality Television

Unfortunately, the days of Fred Astaire are gone. Welcome to the world of Jonny Knoxville. However, it would be wrong of me to imply that Knoxville is a talentless hack. Freakish deviance and the willingness to stick yourself on national television is, in fact, a sort of talent. That means that even Knoxville has earned his fame to a certain degree.

Even lower down on the fame food chain are the people on reality TV. They're not talented. They didn't earn anything. They suck.

"PERHAPS WHEN YOUR GIRL-FRIEND WAS A BABY SOMEONE POKE THAT SOFT SPOT ON TOP OF HER FRAGILE BABY MELON AND SHE NEVER RECOVERED."

So here's how it breaks down. You watch Fred Astaire, and you're jealous. Maybe you even say something like, "I could do that if I really wanted to." But sooner or later one of your less drunk friends points out that even if you took lessons, sold your soul to the devil, and smoked a full ounce of industrial-strength rock cocaine, you still couldn't get your druggy, flaccid, rhythmless body to move that way.

Astaire has talent, so your jealousy is tempered with admiration, and eventually you get over it.

"Weep in Point"

UWSP Women's Basketball vs. Carroll, HEC Berg Gym, 5:00 PM

UWSP Men's Hockey vs. University of St. Thomas, Willett Arena, 7:30 PM

Saturday, December 14, 2002

Winters planetarium show, SCI College Letters and Science Planetarium/Observatory, 2:00 PM & 3:00 PM

Tuesday, December 17, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 18, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 19, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Friday, December 20, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 21, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 22, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Monday, December 23, 2002

Cardio Center Presents: Pilates (Holiday Class) w/Patrick Strong, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

For more information about these events contact Campus Activities & Recreation 725-3435 or visit the event calendar on the UWSP home page.

'Stwas the Night Before Finals...

Passed around the world-wide web, I see this as fitting for the week ahead:

Twas the night before finals, and all through the college, The students were praying For insomniac knowledge. Most were quite sleepy, But none touched their beds, While visions of essays danced in their heads. Out in the taverns, A few were still drinking. And hoping that liquor Would loosen up their thinking. In my own apartment, I had been pacing, And dreading exams I soon would be facing. My roommate was speechless, His nose in his books, And my comments to him Drew unfriendly looks. I drained all the coffee, And brewed a new pot. No longer caring That nerves were shot, I stared at my notes. But my thoughts were muddy, My eyes went ablit, I just couldn't study. "Some pizza might help," I said with a shiver, But each place I called Refused to deliver. I'd nearly concluded That life was too cruel, With futures depending On Last Year's Exams! But we heard her laughing Out in the taverns, No longer caring For New Year's Eve! What they tossed at us?" Her manner was mellow, While visions of essays danced in their heads. Out in the taverns, A few were still drinking. Her message delivered, With futures depending On Last Year's Exams! Happy Finals to All.

Finals ...

Thursday, December 12, 2002

Diane Bywaters: The Great Divide, FRC Carroll Center, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Runs through Dec. 20

Cardio Center Presents: Yoga Series II w/Jenni Powlinski, Allen Center, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

UGSP Wrestling vs. UW-Platteville, HEC Berg Gymnasium, 7:00 PM

CPI Concerts Presents: Know Boundaries, UC The Encore, 8:00 PM

Campus Holiday Party, UC Alumni Room, 3:00 - 7:00 PM

CPI Centers Cinema Presents: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, Deubel 203, 7:00 PM & 9:30 PM

UGSP Men's Basketball vs. Coe, HEC Berg Gymnasium, 7:00 PM

UGSP Saxophone Studio, FRC Michelson Hall, 7:30 PM

UGSP Men's Hockey vs. UW-Eau Claire, Willett Arena, 7:30 PM

Inspirational Invitational: Poetry and Prose Reading with English Dday, and Sigma Tau Delta, UC The Encore, 8:00 PM

Winter Commencement, HEC Quandt Fieldhouse, 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM
Pointers fall in OT, twice

Women’s hoops drop two games by a combined five points

By Jason Nihles
SPORTS REPORTER

Last night the UWSP women’s basketball headed to Menominee, a place they haven’t won since 1989 to play UW-Stout. Coming off a heartbreaking loss to Wheaton last Saturday, which broke a 12 game winning streak, it’s needless to say they had plenty of motivation.

Going into overtime for the second straight game the Pointers found themselves down 88-85 with less than 40 seconds to play. They were forced to foul but Stout left the door open by missing four straight free throws. Point’s last gasp came in the last second of overtime as freshman Cassandra Schultz’s potential tying 3-pointer missed the mark.

The women battled hard the whole game taking a 32-31 lead into the break. The second half was much of the same with both teams trading baskets throughout. In the last 10 seconds Stout had the ball, and a chance to win, but were unable to get a shot off sending the game into overtime tied 76-76.

“I thought we did an excellent job with our effort,” said Coach Shirley Egner. Stout’s high-pressure full court defense forced Stevens Point into committing 26 turnovers.

“We did an ok job with it (Stout’s defensive pressure),” said Egner. “We are going to have turnovers, we are a young team.”

Sophomore Amanda Nechuta played an outstanding game for the Pointers, scoring a career high 25 points, while also collecting nine rebounds and four steals.

women’s basketball
Wheaton 47
Pointers 45
UW-Stout 88
Pointers 85

“Nechuta comes to play every single game. She is clearly leading the charge and becoming the go-to player,” said Egner.

Sophomore Amy Scott finished the game with a double-double 14 points and 10 rebounds, and junior Cassandra Hoerl tallied 16 points.

This past Saturday, UWSP’s 12 game winning streak came to an end in Wheaton, Illinois on a last second shot in overtime on a night when the women had one of their worst shooting games in a long time. They could not buy a bucket. For the game they shot 33% from the field and 11 of 30 from 3-point range.

“Megan just played an outstanding game,” said Egner. “If you choose? We were the one kid that came to the game with passion, drive and determination.

She came off the bench to score 25 points, she was the physical and emotional leader of the team. She was the point guard (Harris), rebounded and scored for us.”

This Saturday the women return home to host Carroll College at 5:00 p.m. Then the Pointers will have some time off until after Christmas. On Saturday Dec. 28 UWSP travels to Franklin, Ind. to compete in Franklin University’s holiday tournament.

Congratulations Scottie, from the Cattelino Clan—Mom, Dad, Debi, Beth, Tony, Ben, Jake, Olivia and Big Tall!
Women's unbeaten streak pushed to 25 games

A pair of victories over Lake Forest keep Point hot

By Emily Teachout
SPORTS REPORTER

It took two solid kicks in the rear end to jump start the UWSP Women's Hockey team this past weekend. Despite the luckadeci­cal start, the Lady Pointers prolonged their unbeaten streak to 25 games, dating back to Dec. 15 of last year, with two wins over NCHA conference opposition Lake Forest.

The Pointers came into the game 7-0-1, while the Foresters from Lake Forest had an impres­sive 5-1-1, which already surpassed their total of six wins last season. The outcomes of the two games would determine an early lead in the conference.

After a promising early non-conference season, expectations were high to continue that dominant play. "It's been giving us problems all year. It is something that definitely needs to be corrected before it costs us dearly," said Idalski.

"Championship teams don't take days off. We can't afford to lose a game due to lack of focus," said Johnson.

With the two wins over Lake Forest, the Pointers conclude an eight-game home stand, and will embark on their first of eight straight games on the road when they venture to conference rival, UW-Superior, on Friday. The Pointers will look to avenge their lone loss of last year, which came at the hands of Superior.

Idalski and his troops are more than pumped to be on the road and heading north. "It was nice getting to play in front of our own fans and sleeping in our own beds for the past month, but there is a lot of excitement on the part of the returning players to go back on the road to play the one team that got the best of them last year. They still haven't forgotten about it."
Pointers remain perfect in conference play

Basketball 2-0 in WIAC for the first time since 1993

By Dan Mirman
Sponsored by the National Communication Honor Society, UWSP division Lambda Pi Eta.

Senior Josh Iserloth scored nine of his game high 20 points in the final 3:30 to lead the Pointers to a 69-64 victory over UW-Stout.

UWSP shot 12-15 from the free throw line in the final four minutes, including 7-8 for Iserloth as Point is now 2-0 in the WIAC for the first time since the 1993-94 season.

"This was just one of those grind 'em out type games," said Head Coach Jack Bennett. "It may not be pretty, but it's awfully intense, and it's awfully impressive."

Iserloth ended up 11 of 16 from the charity stripe for the game and he also added eight rebounds.

Iserloth was joined in double figures by a pair of teammates. Sophomore Jason Kalsow recorded a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Nick Bennett also continued his solid season with 13 points. A Neil Krajnik three pointer and a Jason Kalsow dunk in the final two minutes of the first half gave Point a 34-26 advantage.

The second half was a back and forth battle as the Pointers were unable to pull away from the Blue Devils. Twice UWSP pushed their lead to ten, but on both occasions Stout crawled back into it.

The Blue Devils tied the game up at 48 minutes when the Pointers were down 48. Iserloth was joined in double figures by a pair of teammates. Sophomore Jason Kalsow recorded a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Nick Bennett also continued his solid season with 13 points. A Neil Krajnik three pointer and a Jason Kalsow dunk in the final two minutes of the first half gave Point a 34-26 advantage.

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Wisconsin sports fans
By Dan Mirman
SPORTS EDITOR
The average front row fan is usually a woman with a chest that costs more than my car (sometimes the chest is bigger than my car as well). Next to her is a man who feels the need to talk on his cell phone for roughly 93.5% of the game. It is obvious that these people do not care as much about the outcome of the match as much as they care about being seen by other people.

It was seeing these non-fans that gave me a moment of clarity about the Packer faithful. They don't care how they look, or how they are perceived by the rest of the country. They care about supporting their team as much as they care about being seen by other people.

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Speaker discusses an ocean of possibilities

By Leigh Ann Ruddy
OUTDOORS EDITOR

In a crowded Laird Room Wednesday, Ocean Robbins addressed 240 high school students and 40 high school teachers about the necessity of making a difference for the environment at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education's (WCEE) conference entitled, "Waste Not, Want Not: Choices in Consumption and Sustainability."

"...we have a capacity to make a difference, to take a stand and to change the world."

WCEE of the CNR at UWSP holds an environmental conference each year for Wisconsin high school students to educate them about the environment and make them more aware of the things they can do to help change the present status of the environment.

Robbins' message entailed a sense of responsibility for these young students, saying that there is "a sense of hope that we have a capacity to make a difference, to take a stand and to change the world."

In his speech to the young students, Robbins included many of his life stories and the changes he made as an exceptional young kid.

By the age of 7, Robbins assembled a peace rally at his grade school. At age 10, Robbins ran his first marathon and at age 17, he started up the group Youth for Environmental Sanity (YES). At this time, Robbins and other members of YES! conducted a national tour, spreading their message of environmental sanity and key contributions that high school students could make toward the betterment of the environment.

By using himself as an example, Robbins instilled a message to these young students that they are capable of making changes in the environment and the whole world by taking steps towards ecological sustainability.

"At times of fear," Robbins said, "sometimes people step back and sometimes people step up to make a change. That's what a leader does, to make changes whether it's the popular thing to do or not."

Robbins was quick to throw out the normal stereotypes many people may have about environmentalists. He acted out the roles comically of a nerdy, science-type relaying information about global warming, an overzealous environmental-type and a tree-hugging, peace loving hippy-type for all of which, Robbins does not fit the bill.

Through his personal stories of growing up on a small island off the coast of Canada to triumph stories of YES! and other organizations, Robbins showed the audience the ease of taking a stand and the outcomes that come with being involved in progressive action.

Robbins relayed countless statistics, warning the young students that their choices become environmental impacts for the rest of the world. Robbins highlighted facts about environmental racism saying that three out of five African-Americans and Latinos in this country live in a neighborhood with a toxic waste site.

Robbins also mentioned military spending in the U.S. compared to other nations saying, "We need to consider our country's priorities. What are the impacts of this spending?"

According to a statistic Robbins read to the crowd, America spends $343 billion on the military annually. Russia spends $59 billion and the countries of Cuba, Iran, Iraq and Syria combined spend a total of $14 billion per year.

Along with his membership to YES! and other organizations, Robbins has written a book along with co-author, Sol Solomon, Choices For Our Future, A Generation Rising for Life on Earth. The book emphasizes the message of Robbins' speech, helping high school students to realize adopting a more ecological responsible lifestyle will help curb some of the negative environmental impacts humans create. The main themes of the book are over-consumption, waste reduction, vegetarianism, energy-efficient living and peaceful living.

Near the end of his speech, Robbins described conditions of factory farming. A hush came over the crowd as Robbins portrayed factory chicken farming conditions.

Robbins depicted the chickens' claws growing over the chicken wire. Chickens' beaks are clipped off so they can't fight or peck at each other and Robbins said most of the time, chicken coops are stacked on top of each other and the feces from other birds drops down on top of other birds' heads. Robbins also discussed the conditions for veal calves as they are raised in factory farms. As the 240 high school students listened intently, the mood in the room changed and there's question to whether some of these kids will ever eat meat again.

For the rest of the day the high school students participated in environmental education presentations and programs according to the conference's title.

Old style sandy mountain breakdown

By Adam Mella
ASSISTANT OUTDOORS EDITOR

Earlier this year the Trans-McDill Pond Fault's tectonic plates began to shift and spewed sandy dredge onto the former disc golf course. Over the course of this fall, the dredge accumulated at such a severe rate that before our very stunned eyes, an entire mountain range composed mostly of sand, muck and rock formed.

While nobody knows the exact height of this ever-changing heap, it has been recently concluded by The Pointer's outdoor staff that the sand mountain is now the highest peak in Stevens Point and perhaps all of Portage County.

As the mountain continues to grow, officials at both Rib Mountain and Timm's Hill fear that the sand mountain may soon surpass both of them to claim the title as Wisconsin's highest point.

Reports from local climbers claim that the continued spewing of dredge results in exhilarating climbs to the summit overlooking the train yard.

The Pointer staff warns that the mountain is entirely on private property and attempting the dangerous ascent may result in trespassing fines, altitude sickness, sand inhalation and a general sense of euphoria.

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Stop by The Pointer office, Room CAC 104 to pick up an application.

Architecture by
William Donald Klein
"The Great Space of Thought"
coming soon to UWSP.
See his work on display at www.williamdonaldklein.com

OUTDOORS ACTIVITIES

Buy one, get one FREE @ the climbing wall in the MAC until Dec. 13.

Contact the Bill Cook Chapter of the Izaac Walton League about the upcoming Ice Fishing Annual in January.

Remember kids, homemade gifts are even more appreciated—Doing this will also help reduce waste this holiday season. Happy Holidays!
My Christmas request for Santa

Dear Santa,

I know I'm kind of old to still believe in you, but I still do and know that you'll make everything turn out all right on December 25th.

I saw something about snowshoes, they kind of just ignored me, and I got no response from either of them. A few weeks after that, my dad and I were at Fleet Farm and we walked past the snowshoes. I started looking at them, making gestures of excitement to maybe give my dad some kind of clue that I really wanted snowshoes. My dad seemed kind of receptive, but he's getting old and he often forgets things after five minutes.

So, my Christmas wish for this year is, could you help my folks out with the snowshoe bit?

I know I often kid with my mom because she still signs our presents "from Santa", and I tell her there's no such thing as you, so I hope my name hasn't been crossed off of your list. I've been pretty good this year. Since I've written or spoken to you, so I hope my name has't been crossed off of your list.

I'm not sure what your policy is on kicking people off of your special list and I question whether I'm too old to be on your list, but I just really want a pair of snowshoes and have a bad feeling in my stomach that my parents completely forgot.

I have another request, and I'm not sure what you're all capable of, but it'd be super cool if you could maybe bring some snow our way. You see, my sweet boyfriend who's living in Mexico is going because he's never gone.

I just want enough for us to hike around a bit (me in my new snowshoes and Bjorn in one of my parents' many wooden pairs).

I wish you, your reindeer, the elves and Mrs. Claus the best of the holidays season, and hope you have a safe trip while delivering toys and snowshoes.

I'll be making cinnamon cookies and will most definitely have milk out for you when you come to our house (snowshoes in tow).

Love,
Leigh Ann Raddy

Holiday Special

The Holidays are coming and so is Christmas Break. Get yourself a really cool gift and rent an apartment for next school year. Save yourself some holiday cash and bring in this coupon for $15 off your monthly rent, a limited savings of $90 over a year lease. It's not much, but are any of the other guys giving discounts for the holidays? Call 341-2120 for a tour.

VILLAGE APARTMENTS
Happy Holidays!
OFFER EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2003

Let's go Ice Fishing

Fishing or finals? Tough choices on the horizon

By Adam Mella
ASSISTANT OUTDOORS EDITOR

I simply can't believe another semester has sneaked by once again. What have we accomplished so far? Somewhere along the way, I let my straight A's dream fall from my memories, flew to Europe, rolled a few games at Skipp's and still managed to do my share of fishing in between. Thankfully, the angling has been steady throughout the fall and now as the semester closes, we fisherpeople face a terrible, harsh choice. Saving our grades with a miraculous final charge through the university's final exam brigade, or taking the more relaxing approach to finals week by going off into the countryside like wildmen looking for tasty freshwater fish. A tale as old as time itself, indeed. So then, let's hear what these tiny Mr. Mellas on my shoulders have to say.

Advantageous Mr. Mella

Now listen here! You have put in all sorts of hard work and studious hours at the library this semester toiling to get good grades. You have been fishing all along and getting by just fine, but this is the time of the year to buckle down, finish the job and seal the deal, kid.

Ice fishing in mid-December is important, too.

What happened last time you went out fishing, anyway? You didn't get one certain bite and ended up warming yourself by the bottle. I know the fish are out there and the weather has been so pleasant lately; however, you must remember why you are even in Stevens Point. Not for the fishing and not for the exciting nightlife, but for the academic pursuit of knowledge and the acquisition of the skills you will need to succeed in this tough world. Hunker down and do what you've got to do for one honest week and then, kid, you can fish as much as you want for the entire month of winter break.

Just think, one more week of learning. For a whole month of relaxation, it's not so bad, guy. That's right, agree with Advantageous Mr. Mella; I'm your friend, and I'm just looking out for your best interests.

Grab a Five Alive and your geography book.

Mr. Winters’ two cents

Hey kids, how's the action been on the ice lately? I've heard that it has been pretty damn decent. As far as myself, I really haven't been able to get out much. That's right; at this old age, I'm still a slave of the system and with a couple of my buddies. They said they'd been hitting the pan fish in the morning time primarily. They said that the best action was on mousy jigs, especially for bigger, flakey tasters. Tip ups have been doing well too, with lots of Northern starting to really drop the tooth down during their favorite season of the year.

Some people may be leery of the ice with the splendidly warm weather of late, but I assure you folks that almost all the area lakes and backwaters could support a grizzly bear on an ATV.

Lastly, I'd like to simply mention, have an illustrious yuletide. Packers vs. Vikings (told you so), and "Go on and Git."

Pure Evil Mr. Mella

Now listen here, over on your left shoulder. Hey, you're not going to listen to that other guy are you? When was the last time he did anything good for you? Surely, you told him about the dangers of hula-hoop scuba diving in November, but remember the time he told you to wake up early to go over some notes last Tuesday, or the time he told you you were the devil? That guy is a dick!

I'm the one that told you to skip class when you caught those keeper walleye and I'm the miniature self that planted the idea of two-man-saw secret ops in your feeble, feeble mind.

You know that finals are just a sick, perverted hoax on college students put on by the government to distract you from the real issue...man! To hell with it; the fish are biting and there is a sweet deal on whiskey at the liquor store this week. You can study tomorrow when that cold front moves through. The fish are going to be slamming those glow-jigs today for sure! Wait now and the opportunity may already have come and gone, dude.

Remember what Johnny Tuittel said about taking life by the beating, live, bloody heart and eating it with your bare teeth? Just think, one more day of fishing, a few hours of studying, some wimpy finals and then a whole month more of relaxation.

That's right; agree with Pure Evil Mr. Mella. I'm your friend, and I'm just looking out for you best interests. Grab your fishing bucket and your Creek CD.

Original Mr. Mella

Well there you have it folks; I've got to stop out eating those moldy tuna salad subs, seriously. Whatever you do decide to do with your finals week, good luck to you all. Enjoy your winter break and always remember, through the end of this year, and into the next, "Let's Go Ice Fishing."
“No air guitar, please.”

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Words of Wisdom From the Senior
Why does Christmas entertainment always have to be so piss poor?

By Josh Goller
ARTS & REVIEW EDITOR

Trick or treating is over and the turkey has been eaten. That can mean only one thing: the airwaves are officially packed full of crappy holiday specials. Corporations sponsor one annoying TV Christmas special after another while recording artists cash in by cutting holiday records for widespread consumption.

The saddest thing about the holidays is that most Americans settle for this mass-produced garbage. For example, many people are content to accept Christina Aguilera Christmas albums as legitimate holiday music. I, on the other hand, think that Christmas carols lose some of their sanctity when sung by a whore. Meanwhile, last year's Christmas album by Destiny's Child proves that midriff-flaunting sex symbols can bump and grind one minute (detailing how "bootylicious" their bodies are) while crooning a festive rendition of "Silent Night" the next. And though their castrato voices lend themselves nicely to the high note in "Oh Holy Night," I really can't stomach another N'Sync Christmas carol (what's next, a Fatboy Slim remix of Jingle Bells?).

As bad as the recording industry can be, television is the real devil when it comes to crappy holiday entertainment. TV producers are quick to select struggling stars to take part in their lackluster Christmas specials. But deep down, I'm actually not all doom and gloom when it comes to the mother of all holidays. I realize that (on rare occasions) I have a tendency to sound a bit sarcastic and cynical in this column. But in reality, like many people in this country, I love Christmas. The food. The family togetherness. The rad gifts. The ooshy-gooshy feeling I get when I set out a plate of Snackwell's wafers and a glass of soy milk for Santa on Christmas Eve. Hell, I'm more warm and fuzzy toward this holiday than those Hallmark Hall of Fame specials I despise so much.

And as far as holiday music is concerned, I refuse to listen to anything not recorded by Mannheim Steamroller. There's no changing my mind, I'm set in my ways. Although, I do admit that if Eminem ever came out with "I Saw Drunk, Abusive Bitch of a Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" or Marilyn Manson ever recorded "Santi-Claus Superstar," I'd probably buy it.

after this, the corporate ladder will be a piece of [cake].

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Saturday, Dec. 14
Day Old Bread

U.C. Encore

Thursday, Dec. 12
Know Boundaries

Clark Place

Friday, Dec. 13
Dave Steffen Band

Saturday, Dec. 14
Louise Taylor & Bob Hillman

Amherst Coffee Company

Friday, Dec. 13
Jeff Erickson Trio

Saturday, Dec. 14
Tommy Bentz
2002 in review:

An unofficial record of the year's top rock releases

By Mike Kerkman
ARTS & REVIEW EDITOR

In no particular order, here's some of the best music releases hearing the copyright of 2002.

The Breeders — Title TK (4AD)

Well worth the long wait, Title TK is less pop, far weirder and even better than Last Splash. Kim Deal's voice is like no other, and the quiet and pop, far weirder and even better than fantastic album! today, I still am.

Mr. Lif — Emergency Rations (Definitive Jux)

Hearing this for the first time just a couple months ago, I was blown away. Hearing this again today, I still am. 1) Killer hip-hop beats. 2) Scathing, politically-left lyrics with state of blind patriotism and civil rights violations.

That's no small statement, but damn, they just make the best cut "Home of the Legendary Catalogue." "Murray Street" is a fine addition to their expansive, expansive, expansive.

Sonic Youth — Murray Street (DG)

Sonic Youth are everything music should be. That's no small statement, but damn, they just make such perfect music. Experimental, loud, catchy, noisy, beautiful, weird, I love every second of it. "Murray Street" is a fine addition to their expansive, expansive, expansive.

The flaming lips — Yoshimi Versus the Pink Robots (Interscope)

Competing for that "best title" award, the Lips have scored again. This is spacey, tricky, over-the-top and shimmering. It's some sort of story about Yoshimi (the same Yoshimi of the Japanese band Boredoms) and a band of robots programmed to feel emotion. Or something. Whatever it's meant to be, it came out great. This is bound to be on many a year-end favorites list.

The "Net Nerd's" Nook

By Josh Goller
ARTS & REVIEW EDITOR

Few people recognize web-site construction as an art form. However, there are plenty of individuals who spend countless lonely hours working on this art. For those who enjoy the artistic mentality of seemingly pointless arts, here's a short list of fun places to start. Happy browsing.

Comboxers Experience www.comboxers.co.uk

As notoriety of the modulator, the combover hairstyle is represented at this site with five photo galleries packed full of actual combovers.

The Official Ninja Webpage www.realultimatepower.net

Once again in the disguise of the mudlet, the combover hairstyle is represented at this site with five photo galleries packed full of actual combovers.

Blackalicious — Blazing Arrow (MCA)

Gift of Gab is straight-up the best rapper of all time. I think of. Check out "Chemical Calisthenics" and try to tell me there won't be better. This is the solid and consistent album, with an array of collaborations including members of Jurassic 5 and Rage Against the Machine. "It's Going Down" is a number one single in some parallel universe.

Tom Waits — Blood Money (Anti)

This record could not have been from 2002. I can't figure out, though, if it's because it's released ages ago, or because it sounds like it's from ages to come. Who makes music like this? If I cut and paste comments people I know have made about this album, the "cookie monster singing the carnival album's soundtrack to hell." Rock on!

Jim O'Rourke — I'm Happy, and I'm Singing, and a 1,2,3,4,5 (Mega)

OK, technically this is a 2001 release, but Drag City didn't release it statewide until '02 so I think it counts. Plus, it's just that great. Jim is now an official member of Sonic Youth (there's a theme going on here, isn't there?) but note that, he was releasing his own amazing stuff. This is one of his "Powerbook" releases: experimental music composed entirely on computer (as opposed to his "Pop" releases, which are equally genius). These three pieces are gorgeous. It's given me chills. Plus, the disc gets the year's award for best title, hands down.

The Santa Clause 2

By Geoff Fyfe
ARTS & REVIEW REPORTER

The tagline for They states, "First comes the warning. Then comes the mark. Then comes the terror." A more accurate line would read, "First comes the tidium. Then comes the boredom. Then comes the sleep." Except for a few admittedly suspenseful moments (especially the opening and ending scenes), They is the latest in a long line of boring, undifferentiated horror flicks.

They has a promising premise concerning the childhood fears of the director and the concept that the creatures we suspected to be hiding under our beds and in our closets might not have been make believe. The protagonist, Julia Lund (the wafer-thin Laura Regan), suffered from night terrors as a little girl, but is now studying for her master's degree in psychology. One night, she is torn away from her E.M.T. boyfriend Paul (Marc Blucas) to meet her old friend Billy (John Abraham). The mystical Billy informs her that the creatures they feared from their childhood dreams are real and that they have come back to claim him. Before she can make sense of it, he kills himself rather than be taken by these creatures.

At Billy's funeral, Julia meets Sam (Ethan Embry) and Terry (Dogmara Dominczyk), who also suffered from night terrors as children. After showing Julia the circular marks on her body, they claim that their concerns that "they" waited for them. Soon, Julia starts seeing strange shapes in the shadows, lights start flickering out around her and people around her start disappearing. She even receives a mark of her own. It seems that the light in Julia's inhuman "they" are after her too.

Amazingly, even though "they" fear light, Julia and friends never think to hit either to someplace bright, but instead go poking around every dark corner they can think of, including a duct and a subway tunnel. But, it's funny to expect anything less from horror film characters. It's never explained exactly what "they" are, why "they" have chosen certain kids or why "they" want to kill them. We never even see a full glimpse of these creatures. When we do get a peek of them, the special effects look like the filmmakers ran out of money.

But, this is not going to qualify for Oscars anytime soon, Regan is an unappealing and rather stupid heroine and her obvious anorexia doesn't help. Blucas, as her jerky boyfriend, emotes with all the facial expressions of an Easter Island statue. Only Embry (That Thong You Do, Can't hardly Wait) makes his paradigm character quirky and likable. Otherwise, I was rooting for "they" the entire time.

To its credit, They does have the courage to conclude with a doowtbeat ending, one that will send a chill up your spine. However, it's too little, too late to save the film. As for the added "Wes Craven presents" title, don't hold your breath. Craven had nothing to do with this film, but only whored his name out to give it credibility. They joins a long line of similar "Wes Craven presents films, all of them mediocre at best. But hey, at least this film is better than Dracula 2000.

TOPS AT THE BOX OFFICE

1. Die Another Day
2. Analyze That
3. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
4. Empire
5. Treasure Planet
6. The Santa Clause 2
7. Crazy Nights
8. Friday After Next
9. 8 Mile
10. The Ring

UPCOMING DVD RELEASES

Like Mike
Contempt
Halloween: Resurrection
K-19: The Widowmaker
Unfaithful
The Crocodile Hunter
Contempt
Halloween: Resurrection
K-19: The Widowmaker
The Pointer

**COMICS**

**tonja steele**

by joey hetzel

**jackie's fridge**

by bj hiorns

**Spark it**

by: Mel Rosenberg

Upon receiving News
Concerning President Bush's threats
of Nuclear War on Iraq.

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**JoBeth!**

by bj horns & joey hetzel

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I am a student at UWSP.
Jared Boyer

MISCELLANEOUS

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