Locked and loaded: UW-SP Protective Services to introduce armed police officers to campus

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Students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point might be seeing more armed police officers patrolling campus in the near future after a committee organized by the Board of Regents to evaluate security of UW campuses presents their report next week.

"Immediately following the Virginia Tech shooting last spring, President Kevin Reilly [president of the University of Wisconsin System] commissioned a committee to look at the UW-security system," said Bill Rowe, director of Campus Security.

The committee is expected to recommend that every UW-system campus have armed police on campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Currently we are the only campus in the UW-System to not already have armed police officers," said Bob Tomlinson, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

Chancellor Linda Bun nell is also expected to mandate that the UW-SP campus have armed police officers before the entire UW-System requires it.

"Currently, there are three full-fledged police officers on campus and that number is expected to climb to seven in the near future." Tomlinson explained that not every protective services officer would be armed; only the seven officers that have been trained at the police academy.

"We are doing this because our officers are encountering an increasing number of people who are hostile towards them. Most of these people are not students, but it is not fair to our officers to put them in that kind of situation without the means to protect themselves," said Tomlinson.

"Our number one concern has always been the safety of our students; we take that very, very seriously." Student Government Association President Justin Glodowski expressed concern that administration did not consult SGA before making the decision to arm police officers.

"Some students are concerned that having guns on campus will provoke violence. Some students actually feel unsafe having guns around campus," said Goldowski.

Tomlinson views the initiative as a means of preventing a tragedy like Virginia Tech from happening at UW-SP.

"If something like Virginia Tech happened here, the first thing people would say is we need to have armed police on campus to keep the students safe. I say why do we have to wait for someone to get hurt, why not take the initiative," said Tomlinson.

The committee organized by the UW-System is looking at several different aspects See Police officers on pg. 2

Do not fear, Caption Courage and your "Everyday Heroes" are here

Sara Suchy
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While most University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students were slowly awakening to a wicked hangover from the homecoming festivities, five ambitious and clearly well rested students competed in the Apple Insomnia 24-hour film festival.

Lee Vaughter, Jeremy Kraemer, Jeff Swanson, Erin Jaspersori, and Cory Scharrer had 24 hours to create the best quality short film they could while following the specific criteria set by Apple.

The five-person team created "Everyday Hero." Each member of the group was somehow involved in virtually every aspect of the film. They wrote a script, found all the props, shot the footage and edited the film all in the space of 24 hours.

"We were all really nervous the night before," said Kraemer, "so we didn't get a whole lot of sleep." The team woke up at six a.m. on Saturday morning and waited for Apple to release the final instructions so they could begin.

In order to ensure that See Heros on pg. 2

Inside This Week

Daylight savings time starts Sunday, Nov. 4 @ 1 a.m.
From **Police officers** on pg. 1

of campus security and crisis prevention and management.

"One of the things they are looking at is making our counseling center more visible to the students," said Gladowski.

From **Heroes** on pg. 1

the movies were made in the allotted time, Apple released a list of materials of which three must be used in each movie.

"We used a park bench, and old person and the line 'don't you tempt me,'" said Kraemer.

With the requirements in hand, they took two hours to write the script of "Everyday Hero" starring Kraemer as Captain Courage, an ordinary, maybe a little bit nerdy, guy who wants to be a super hero.

After the script was complete, they spent the majority of the day finding props and shooting the footage.

"We worked until sunset then spent the rest of the night and into the morning editing. We finished at 4 a.m. with four hours to spare," said Kraemer.

**SGA Weekly Update**

The bike program is up and running! We have bikes available for students to rent for free. Rental periods will be for a semester at a time. You will be charged for the bike. We are looking for donations of bikes in working condition as well. If you have a bike that you would like to donate, please contact Colleen Kiefer at colleen.kiefer@uwsp.edu.

**Right now, SGA feels that not many people know that the counseling center exists or is available to students.**

"We want the students to know that there is a place that they can go to get the support they need," said Gladowski.

**SGA is looking to form a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) committee. One issue this committee will be discussing is gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. If interested, please contact Melissa Phinney at mphinney78@uwsp.edu.**

**We are looking for participants for an International Fashion. If you have a country you would like to represent please e-mail Xixi Meng at xmeng556@uwsp.edu.**

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SGA Communications and Public Relations Director

**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 can be mailed or delivered to The Pointer, 104 CAC, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or sent by e-mail to pointer@uwsp.edu. We reserve the right to deny publication for any letter for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit letters for inappropriate language or content. Names will be withheld from publication only if an appropriate reason is given.

Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.
Daylight saving time comes to an end on Sunday

Angela Frome
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This coming Sunday will mark the end of daylight-saving time (DST) and also serves as a reminder of the upcoming winter season. Early Sunday morning, clocks are to be changed from 2:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., giving students here at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point a much needed hour of sleep.

There may have been some confusion as to when the time change was supposed to occur. The dates of DST have been changed, so the period of time is now four to five weeks longer.

In years past, DST would begin on the first Sunday in April and end the last Sunday in October. Starting this year, DST began four weeks earlier on March 11 and will also last one week longer, ending Nov. 4. States do not have to participate in DST, but if they choose to, they must adhere to the established starting and ending dates, according to info-please.com. The site also says that there are a few United States and territories that do not observe DST, including Arizona, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Guam.

The U.S. Naval Observatory Web site states that the regular time change was established by the Uniform Time Act of 1966. Since then, the starting and ending times of DST have been changed in several instances. Most recently, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 enacted the changes we are subject to in the year 2007. DST functions as a way to better utilize the amount of daylight. The sun appears to rise and set one hour later, making the day seem longer and allowing people to participate in activities much later into the evening. It is also beneficial because there is less need for artificial light, so less energy is used. Students here at UW-SP will also be feeling the effects of DST on their schedules in the coming week.

“I’ll get an extra hour of sleep,” said UW-SP student Matt Zastrow, “so I’ll probably go to bed an hour later.” In spite of those positive effects, Zastrow said “The hardest part is readjusting [to the time change].”

Communication major Emily Groves agreed that the end of DST is tough.

“I hate the sun being up when I get up,” she said.

What would Hannah Arendt say today?

Briana Soroko
POINtLIFE REPORTER

Hannah Arendt passed away over 30 years ago, but her contributions to the study of mankind are still considered innovative thinker’s ideas are still considered. On Monday Oct. 29, the philosophy department of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point hosted a lecture entitled “What would Hannah Arendt say today?” and surmised how the theologian would feel about the war in Iraq, environmental pollution and other current issues.

Although many consider Arendt to be a contemporary philosopher worthy of Socrates and Augustine, she always refused the label. Arendt considered herself to be a political theorist and was most interested in the affect that power and authority have over society. As a Jew growing up in Nazi Germany, Arendt was undoubtedly familiar with how people can be manipulated by a dictatorship. Her two most influential books, “The Origins of Totalitarianism” and “The Human Condition,” were used at the lecture to surmise how she would feel about our government today.

“The Origins of Totalitarianism” was published in 1951 and ruffled many feathers because it suggested that Stalinist Communism and Nazism both stemmed from the same identity. It can be safely surmised from this work that Arendt would not approve of the “War on Terror.” She believed that war should only be fought for true freedom. What the Bush administration has implemented upon the people of Iraq does not pass her definition of this precious liberty.

“The Human Condition” states that all of men’s activities can be broken down into three categories: labor, action and work. Labor is what we do to survive, such as foraging for food. It’s an endless task and, in her own words, “Banal.” Actions, said Arendt, is the only permanent activity men can perform. Rulers fall, regimes end, but their deeds and works cannot be erased. Work is the products we make. They are not permanent since all inventions eventually break, decay or are discarded. If Arendt had lived today, she might have rethought her assessment. The polluting byproducts of work do not go away, as we are now experiencing. Arendt’s message pertains to the world today as much as it did 50 years ago. Governmental control and true freedom must be regulated, as history shows. It’s a delicate balance, and her studies reveal ways in which this harmony can be achieved.

Your Mission:
Solve the puzzle below. When you think that you have the answer, e-mail your answers along with your mailing address to puzzlehunt@yahoo.com. The first five people to send in the correct answer will receive a free large 2-topping pizza or triple order of Toppersticks. Winners will be at the judges discretion. Answers are due Tuesday at midnight the week following publication.

Your Puzzle:
There is a common English word that is nine letters long. Each time you remove a letter from it, it still remains an English word - from nine letters right down to a single letter: What is the original word, and what are the words that it becomes after removing one letter at a time?

Last Week’s Answer:
What comes next in the sequence? 11118213211

What was the best Halloween costume you saw this year?

Kristen Olsen - Senior

Down in Madison, I saw someone dressed as a hotdog with mustard and relish.

Jesse Salcido - Senior

I saw a guy with a stuffed pithbull and dog collar wearing a Michael Vick jersey.

Dan Enge - Sophomore

On my way to class I saw a fiasco of ninjas coming out of Pray-Sims! Seriously, there was 20 of them wearing black hoods with bandanas.

Kris Hess - Sophomore

I’m going to have to give a shout out to my cousin. He and his friend dressed as Mario and Luigi and then had the guts to go eat at Debut like that! During our meal, their friend, dressed as Quail Man, joined us, so I felt pretty special!
My beef with fall raking (now meatless!)
I'm the culprit: committing random acts of leafing

Steve Seaman del
The Pointer
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People in Stevens Point really love to rake. On my walk to class, I see people raking. Driving around town during rush hour? More raking. My neighbors? They tack up their leaves with some sort of new fangled leaf vacuum, which is actually much noisier than raking.

And the point of raking? To enjoy a nice, green, leaf-free lawn before another leaf inevitably falls from one of the (presumably) hundreds of thousands of trees in the greater Stevens Point area. Even if you don’t have a single tree in your yard, leaves will blow, fall or be blown (explanation forthcoming) onto your lawn.

Newsflash: raking is a losing battle. If you seriously have so much excess downtime that you find it necessary to remove the leaves from your lawn, I have a few English papers that need writing and a psychology requirement to fulfill. Don’t worry, the professor tells me these requirements are easy and won’t consume more than 30 minutes of my time.

In fact, 30 minutes is roughly a third of the time that the guy down the road spends raking per week; that’d still allow him a full hour of close-and-personal time with his beloved leaves.

In fact, after a frustrating mid-term exam and a dark walk home last week, revenge was mine. The greenest of all green lawns that I pass every day on the way home from campus was just in the wrong place at the wrong time and received a fistful of leaves from the gutter. There was something about that blank canvas that I couldn’t leave undisturbed. And yeah, it totally made me feel better. I’ve always loved the crunch of leaves under my feet in the fall. Hell, that’s why they call it “fall” in the first place. Leaves are not only expected, but acceptable. The point of lawnmower comes through. Don’t be a leaf Nazi; allow the leaves to congregate as they wish. Think twice about piling them on the curb, awaiting imminent death by garbage collection. They’ll just blow back into your lawn anyways.

The leaves have won, sir... the leaves will always win. And when they don’t, beware of random leafers lurking around that dark corner.

Hunters urged to target wild pigs

State wildlife officials are encouraging hunters to help eliminate a growing population of feral pigs by reporting feral pig sightings or shooting them if they encounter them in the field while pursuing other game.

Feral pigs are also known as wild pigs, wild hogs, wild boars, European wild boars, Russian wild boars or razorbacks. They are found in as many as 23 states. In some states, they are descendents of European swine released by Spanish and European explorers. In others, they are descendents of escaped or released domestic swine or even hybrids of European and domestic swine.

A fact sheet on feral pigs in Wisconsin including a list of counties where feral pigs have been sighted or killed is available from the Department of Natural Resources Web site. Maps showing public hunting grounds can be found at draw.gov – select Maps, then DNR Managed Lands, then Recreational Lands for opportunities to find wild pigs on public hunting grounds.

Feral pigs have been documented in Wisconsin since at least 2000, but they have appeared in many additional areas in the past couple of years and have now been found in at least 29 counties. Biologists say that finding these animals in the wild is likely the result of unintentional escapes from domestic swine facilities, releases from game farms or illegal stocking.

"Free roaming pigs can be preying on many species including white-tailed deer fawns and ground nesting birds like grouse, woodcock, turkeys and songbirds."

Feral pigs are considered unprotected wild animals and may be hunted year-round. The only day they cannot be hunted with a gun is the Friday before the nine-day gun deer hunting season. Also, hunting hours are the same as deer during the nine-day season. During the rest of the year, there are no hunting hour restrictions.

There is no bag limit on feral pigs. Landowners may shoot feral pigs on their own property without a hunting license. Anyone allowed to shoot a feral pig as long as they possess a valid small game license and landowner permission if they are on private land.

State officials do ask that anyone shooting a feral pig call a DNR service center or contact a DNR wildlife biologist so that blood and tissue samples can be collected for disease testing in collaboration with USDA and the State veterinarians office.

Feral pig sightings can be reported through the DNR Web site or by calling Brad Koelle, Wildlife Damage Specialist at (608) 265-2151.

"They’re also efficient predators preying on many species including white-tailed deer fawns and ground nesting birds like grouse, woodcock, turkeys and songbirds."

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Love your body everyday!

Briana Soroko
SCIENCE, HEALTH & TECH. REPORTER

"You are more than what you weigh" is the message that was driven home at this year's Love Your Body Day. On Oct. 25, the Women's Resource Center hosted a potluck in lower Debot, complete with goodies ranging from cereal sticks to brownies. Pink ribbons and heart-shaped balloons set the mood while the Health Promotion Office and guest speaker Paula Kramer discussed ways in which we can improve our body image.

There were standard methods mentioned, such as eating healthier, exercising, and embracing our curves, as well as ways you wouldn't generally think of. Kramer, of the New Directions Counseling Center, described how dressing according to our DISC personality style greatly increases confidence.

Once the presenters were finished, the Dancers of Shaharazad performed and instructed the proper way to swirl hips. It was, all in all, a relaxing evening, filled with food, talk and dancing.

One in 10 people in the United States suffer from an eating disorder. Anorexia, the most fatal psychological disorder, is prevalent among women between the ages of 18 and 24. For this and many other reasons, the Women's Resource Center will be holding a monthly support group. These meetings are for anyone who has suffered with an eating disorder or is simply fed up with idolizing withering corpuses. For more information, e-mail bsoroko37@uwsp.edu.

Want to have some fun and support a good cause?

Jessica Spengler
THE POINTER
jspengler236@uwsp.edu

On Saturday Nov. 10, the University of Wisconsin-Steves Point Women's Studies Program will be holding the Third Annual Belly Dance Fund Raiser Event for the Portage County Family Crisis Center at Clark Place in Stevens Point.

The fundraiser begins at 5:00 p.m. with a silent auction and live music and entertainment by groups such as the Bongora Club, a group that explores different dances from India and belly dancers from all over Wisconsin, including the Dancers of Shaharazad, the Portage County belly dancing club. Their faculty advisor, Pamela Luedtke, is the organizer of the event, and will also be dancing.

The Dancers, along with others from Stevens Point, Eau Claire, Nekoosa, Marshfield, Appleton and Wausau will be performing their different styles throughout the night and will end with a group dance that everyone in attendance is encouraged to take part in, even if they are not a dancer.

"This is about dancing and about being together and exploring ideas," said Luedtke. "It doesn't matter what you dance like.

Three years ago when Luedtke came up with the idea for the belly dancing event, her reasoning was two-fold. First, she wanted to bring community awareness to domestic violence after losing a friend to it, and second, to celebrate life and the support given by the Family Crisis Center by using belly dancing, an activity Luedtke feels is confidence boosting.

"When a woman comes into my class for the first time, I notice a huge transformation of confidence from the time she walks in to the time she leaves," said Luedtke, who also teaches belly dancing.

Luedtke and her fellow organizers are very clear that domestic violence is not confined only to women, and that men, children and the elderly are also victims.

"It comes down to the root of how we treat each other," said Luedtke. "Domestic violence is not gender or age based.

Accompanying the belly dancing fundraiser this year was a community forum held on Tuesday Oct. 30 at the Portage County Library. The forum included speakers discussing how to notice when domestic violence is happening and what to do if you suspect someone is being abused.

This was the first year the forum was held.

Luedtke hopes both the education from the forum and the publicity from the fundraiser will help the community become involved and make their voices heard.

"In exploring issues of domestic violence, education and awareness are crucial," said Luedtke. "I think it's important to realize how the community feels about domestic violence.

The support for the belly dancing fundraiser has increased over the last two years from only making $100 in the first year to $2,000 last year. Their ultimate goal is to make the same or even more this year.

Doors at Clark Place open at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 10. The cost is $5 at the door, but anyone wanting to give more is welcome to. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Local artwork and donations from other area stores will be available to bid on at the silent auction. Proceeds will go to the Portage County Family Crisis Center.

Anyone interested in volunteering can do so by contacting Ian Dreger at (715)345-6063 or by e-mailing ian.dreger@uwsp.edu.

Sick and tired of unsuccessfully dipping your sushi into soy sauce while using chopsticks? Ever wish there was an easier way to enjoy your favorite Japanese cuisine? Well then look no further than the Sauce Dispensing Chopsticks.

These unique utensils have the same basic idea as a pipette you might find in biology lab. The top half of the stick holds the sauce, and when squeezed, only the amount you desire will be dispensed onto your delicious piece of sushi.

The chopsticks are made from ABS and polypropylene, both types of plastics which means these may not be the sturdiest of chopsticks. However, they are able to withstand temperatures ranging from negative five degrees to 90 degrees. And at $21 for two pairs, how could you go wrong?
The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's hockey team has a fresh sheet of ice this year with a new head coach, who plans to encourage the team to be winners both on and off the ice.

Head Coach Wil Nichol believes his players should not only play hard on the ice, but also get their education and be good members of the community.

"If they leave UW-Stevens Point under my watch and they're just hockey players, then I feel like I have failed them. I want to teach them to be more than just being a hockey player," said Nichol. He has high expectations and 10 years of experience in coaching to back up his style of coaching.

Nichol expects the team to work hard every second of every practice, but also "have an environment where they want to come to," he said. He wants them to enjoy the game, but also realize how small the window is to be a college athlete.

"I don't want them to take anything for granted. I don't want them to waste any time. I want them to set high goals and try to attain those goals," he said.

As a former UW-SP hockey player, Nichol brings back a lot of tradition to the UW-SP men's hockey team. He has educated the team about past teams and what they have accomplished.

"I've done that in hopes that it lights a fire under our guys... that they will add to that tradition and create their own legacy," he said.

The past season for UW-SP men's hockey was not as successful as most would have hoped. Nichol plans to change the team by starting this year with a "fresh sheet of ice."

It's all about consistency. That is what University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's ice hockey head coach, Ann Ninnemann, is looking for in the Pointers this year. Well, that and a steady and unwavering amount of hard work in order to top the third place standing the Pointers took last year in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III tournament.

"I would like the team to constantly keep improving and developing their skills and team play," said Ninnemann regarding the team's goals for the 2007-2008 season. "So far the first few weeks of the season I have seen great improvements from our team in various areas, both on and off the ice."

This year the team faces a few changes in the roster, including a change between the pipes after starting goalie Amy Statz played her final game for the Pointers last March, while key defensive player Chris Hanson also made tracks and graduated last spring.

"Graduating a starting goalie has a challenge of its own, as there is a process of filling a void that has been consistent for four years. We have a couple of good young goalies who are working to step up and fill in the starting goalie position," said Ninnemann.

Not only are the goalies looking to step up, there are a few freshman additions to the roster that Ninnemann hopes to see fill both offensive and defensive spots.

Women's hockey preview

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"Graduating a starting goalie has a challenge of its own, as there is a process of filling a void that has been consistent for four years. We have a couple of good young goalies who are working to step up and fill in the starting goalie position," said Ninnemann.

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Women's hockey preview

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Wrestlers hit the mats with big goals

**WRESTLING**

Jessica Spengler
THE POINTER
JSPENG26@UWSP.EDU

With nine starters returning, a winning group of new freshmen and a set of high goals make the 2007-2008 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point wrestling team one to watch this season. Of the nine returning starters, three of them, Eric Bath, Craig Bollig and Jake Calhoun, were national qualifiers in 2006-2007. Bath finished third season in the country and received All-American honors. Coach Johnny Johnson is confident that Bath and the other seniors on the team have set a good example for the younger guys coming up. "The leadership on the team is very strong. They have a great work ethic and desire to take the program to the next level," Johnson said.

Adding to Johnson's confidence is the group of incoming freshmen on this season's squad. Many of them competed in state tournaments during their high school careers or have winning records, but even those who do not, Johnson is excited to work with. "Some of the freshmen haven't wrestled very long, but they are fun to work with because their learning curve is so big," said Johnson. "The kids who have been wrestling are winners and have lots of talent. I am very happy with the freshmen that we have." UW-SP squad placed second at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference meet and 20th at the NCAA Division III championships this past season, making the goals for the 2007-2008 team very high. "Our team goal is to get a trophy at the national tournament, which means we have to be in the top four," said Junior 133-pounder Jered Kem. "We have the right guys, and the right team to do it."

Johnson agrees. "This is really the group that could set the standard for the future of our program," said Johnson. Besides the national tournament, Johnson's expectations for the team are quite simple: everyone is expecting to come in every day, work hard, set lofty goals and try to achieve them. He would also like to see the team take first place at conference. Kem is excited to see where the team ranks nationally at the end of the season. "I think we're going to surprise a lot of people," Kem said.

The Pointer wrestling team will begin their season on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Pointer Open at the UW-SP Multi-Activity Center. The tournament, which means we have to be in the top four," said Junior 133-pounder Jered Kem. "We have the right guys, and the right team to do it."

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The 90FM album of the week: Serj Tankian: "Elect the Dead"

Dan Neckar
90FM DJ

Having put alternative-metal giants System of a Down on hold and a hiatus since May 2006, singer Serj Tankian with "Empty Walls," a loud, "Bill Gates Finally Getting Into 'Morning Bell' and 'Optimistic,' a barrage of guitars and other Tankain's eerie chanting and this intentionally weird rriess. started to sink in. Now I think I even like it better than 'OK Computer.' This perfectly encapsulates post-'Kid A' Radiohead, prickly and uninviting at first, but with a little patience and persistence, the incredible emerges. There's something special about going through a process to love an album, especially when it yields a masterpiece on the level of 'Kid A.' Such growing love for an album often makes the album better.

Then again, that long slog event before anyone had heard a note.

While this revolutionary announcement was incredible, the most important aspect of the whole thing was the Denghishin formations of the album release. It ensured that the music industry elite heard the album at the exact same time that we poor people were left with an Internet connection did. Music critics didn't get an advance copy, nor could they download the advance copy and smirk above others with their early knowledge. The only ones left behind are the luddites waiting for the CD to hit the shelves in early 2008. It would be easy to say that we should leave behind the two elephants in the room, Radiohead's past discography and status as our generation's Beatles as we pre-ordered the unique, un- conventional album release, and focus on whether the music is any good. It's impossible in this case because the music is so intricately tied to what's occurred around it. In "Rainbows" is the beginning of a new era for Radiohead; it is a definitive break from the "Kid A" through "Hail to the Thief," and the new release system reflects that. Radiohead's listeners, and is, generous. "In Rainbows" is at times tuneful and soulful, but it leaves behind much of the paranoid dread of Radiohead's previous albums and instead sounds like an upbeat symphony.

"In Rainbows," Radiohead's seventh album, made a unique kind of impressiveness. The band announced details of the album, obtainable via their official Web site, 10 days before its release. As for the price, the Web site quizzically said, "It's up to you." In short time, the news had spread from the Internet to mainstream media outlets and created much buzz that any advertiser could dream up. "In Rainbows" became an event that surfaced in the absence of System of a Down guitarist Daron Malakian's furious shred. Despite this slight weakness, Tankian's instrumentals (he plays almost everything he hears on record) are incredibly sharpened throughout the album, which is more than can be said about his vocals. When Tankian isn't trying to say too much, his under­cooked political songs, he's saying the opposite. I love the "Saving Us," which features such brilliant lines as, "But you were the one for me/and now you're going through the door/when you take that step I love you/baby more and more." Another low point on the...
Katie’s Curiosities: Is Halloween a broken holiday?

Katie Adams
ARTS & REVIEW REPORTER

When my mother was a young girl growing up in Detroit, everyone in her neighborhood knew everyone else, and all the kids played in the street until the streetlights went out alone, dressed in their homemade costumes to trick-or-treat at familiar doors where they received apples, dimes and hand-made popcorn balls. Even in a city famous for being dangerous, my mother was able to experience Halloween as a time of joviality for connecting with friends and neighbors. Thirty years later, around the time I turned eight, nighttime trick-or-treat became a thing of the past. We had just moved from Utah to Wisconsin and my new friends were incredibly excited about their Halloween costumes. We all wore our costumes to school for a Halloween parade, and my friends all had thin, short-sleeved costumes: Theresa was a sock-hop girl with a poodle skirt and a white t-shirt; Marja was a gypsy with a flowing skirt and a thin lace blouse; Becca was a hippie with a long tie-dyed dress and a "PEACE" headband. Meanwhile, I was a bunch of grapes: a smock covered with purple balloons, designed to be easily worn over six layers of long pants and sweaters. I remember quite clearly the confusion I felt. Why wore all of these girls wearing so little? Trick-or-treating happened at night at the end of October. It was a cold event!

My new friends must have thought I was crazy. They had never gone trick-or-treating at night. My new town in the Midwest held trick-or-treating on the Sunday before Halloween from two to five in the afternoon. The afternoon was usually sunny and warm, and nobody wore a sweater under a costume. So, on the afternoon of the Sunday before Halloween, the four of us trundled out in our costumes with pillowcases for collecting booties from our neighborhood acquaintances. We didn’t know everyone in the neighborhood, but tagging along behind us, waiting on the street while we rang doorbells, were our moms: chatting, making quick repairs to our homemade costumes and keeping a watchful eye on the neighbors they didn’t know very well.

Last Sunday, 15 years later, I went trick-or-treating on the weekend before Halloween. From three in the afternoon to six in the evening, kids and their parents walked up to the doors of houses of people they’d never met, in costumes they’d purchased from stores, requesting candy. As we took my friend’s 2-year-old daughter up to different houses, we discussed how strange this Halloween holiday is. On what other day of the year is it acceptable to hide your identity, ring doorbells at random houses and take candy from strangers? Gone are the days of hand-made treats—the threat of razor blades and needles in them have made sure of that. Gone are the days of homemade costumes—most people don’t even know how to sew anymore. Halloween is a broken holiday. Where it can go from here is a mystery.
Letters & Opinion

Your College Survival Guide

Red Fish, Dead Fish

Pat Rothfuss
WITH HELP FROM GALAXY COMICS.

Dear Pat,

I used to hate a great piranha who was with me through hell and high water (pun intended), who survived no matter how badly I messed him between residences. When he died (through no fault of mine, I swear), I got a couple plants, a crab, an algae eater and seven fish over two months. My problem is that they keep dying! I only have the bottom feeders and two fish left! My boyfriend (who is sort of fish-savvy) says that sometimes fish just die for no reason, like a fishy version of SIDS. I've checked the water a zillion times, and it's fine. A worker at the pet store said that my tank looks great, I should have no problems.

Now, I'm not asking for advice on how to keep them alive. I just want to know when should I give up? I could deal with it if it were somehow my fault and I could fix it. But everyone keeps saying that fish just die. I should move on. "C'mon," they say, "it's just fish. Who cares?" Well damnit, I care. Poor little guys. Now somehow the crab has also disappeared, and one of the other fish has died - I'm down to the algae eater and one fish.

Finding Illegitimacy a Saddening Hassle

P.S. Man, thinking up clever acronyms is harder than I thought. If you just want to put "Morgan Mills" on the end, you're totally forgiven.

P.P.S. Coffee, candy and board games are all awesome, but whatever happened to "I am not Pat Rothfuss" t-shirts?

Y'know, Morgan, I'm always amazed when people remember the "I am not Pat Rothfuss" t-shirts. What's more, I'm always surprised when people actually want one.

For those of you who are new to the game, a little background story:

Years ago, someone wrote in a letter telling me how much they hated me, my column, my face and my politics. It happens from time to time. However, on this particular week, I didn't have any other letters, so I printed the hatemail, replied to it in a polite yet scathingly humorous manner and made a joke about how I'd give the author an "I am not Pat Rothfuss" t-shirt if they wanted one.

They didn't, but everyone else asked for one. I printed up about 20 shirts, and they were gone within a week. The second printing came a couple years later, and they were snatched up too. The last batch was printed to help promote the release of the "College Survival Guide" back in 2005. I have a few of those left over. I wear them when I want to confuse people. Or when I'm feeling ironical. Or when it's a laundry day.

So the question is: would people really like more "I am not Pat Rothfuss" shirts? Even in lieu of cool gift certificates? If so, drop me a line at proth@wsunix.wsu.edu. However, be aware that shirts are only given to the faithful, so it might be a good idea to include some specifics of what outrageous lengths you would be willing to go to in order to obtain said shirt. If I get enough e-mails with amusing, ideas I'll print up a batch of shirts and do a column on it.

On the main subject of your letter, here are my theories.

As you know, Governor Jim Doyle and legislative leaders came to UW-Madison last Friday to sign the 2007-09 State budget into law, and held a second budget ceremony on the UW-Milwaukee campus the same day. Those events marked the end of a lengthy process that touched all of us in one way or another.

The growth of venues is significant, reflecting his personal support of a solid UW System budget - one that funds course commitments and invests wisely in the Growth Agenda for Wisconsin. Even more significant is the broad statewide support that brought us to this point. Legislators from around the state tell me how impressed they were by the letters, phone calls, e-mails, postcards, and personal comments they received from constituents who wanted to ensure that higher education remained a top priority in this budget. They heard directly from faculty, staff, students, alumni, business leaders, chambers of commerce, parents, labor unions, and other stakeholders.

Thankfully, our elected leaders are listening. As a result, the Associated Press reported earlier this week that the University of Wisconsin System is about to get bigger, citing Growth Agenda initiatives at various institutions. In my opinion, the headline should be: "Wisconsin is about to get better.

The Growth Agenda is not just about building the University bigger. It's about expanding educational opportunities, enhancing our quality of life, creating new jobs, improving the state's business climate, strengthening local communities, and boosting per-capita income. In the end, it's about creating a brighter future for our children and grandchildren.

We've taken one important step toward that future, but the journey is far from complete. We must focus now on working with the State to provide a competitive pay plan for faculty and staff. Where certain campus initiatives and building projects were not funded by the legislature, we must review our support for these vital initiatives.

As we gear up for the efforts ahead, I want to take time to recognize all the good work you have done to advance the Growth Agenda. Although the long budget delay certainly contributed to some anxiety at our institutions, the final outcome should be reassuring for our future university family.

Thank you for your contributions to this positive outcome. Working together with our allies throughout the state, I believe we made a successful argument this budget cycle about the central importance of the University of Wisconsin to the future of our state. We'll build on that success in the years ahead.

Kevin P. Rielly
UW System president
Resident’s Evil
Joy Ratchman

I’ve been in a low choir fines. I’m not sure what’s going on, but it seems to be a ritualistic ceremony. How do YOU know?

KenAnime
Roger Vang

Albert, then, I’ll give you all I’ve got! I won’t hold back one bit.

Neverland
Lo Shim

He’s not even trying; shaming me by not even doing it right! He’s going to get it real!

Little Cynics
Joy Ratchman

fascinating.

Muse
Ryan Tidball

You’re gonna need bypass surgery.
IT’LL BE MY FIRST TRIPLE OF THE SEASON.

Funny When Drunk
Scott Allen

You’re still under my bed, aren’t you?
As I raise from my slumber I shall mix chaos and horror upon you! As I gorge myself upon your sally I shall bear your mind assaillant in my ang of madness.

WORD SEARCH: CREEPY CREATURES

goblin banshee
unicorn gnome
gryphon bigfoot
kappa mermaid
dragon cockatrice
cockatrice doppleganger

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