GDRs undergoing overhaul at UW-SP

Rick LaRoche

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On Thursday, March 13, an open forum will be held to discuss the future of the general degree requirement program.

Last spring, representatives from other universities reviewed how the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point organized its curriculum. The review was the first step in the re-accreditation process for UW-SP.

"The report told the university what the Higher. Learning Commission [the accrediting council for UW-SP] may have concerns about," said Academic Issues Director Andrew Letson. One of those concerns was the GDR pro-

in favor of a program that was less than 40 credits or more than 45," said Letson. The current GDR program stands at approximately 55 credits.

Letson explained that the current program while longer, does not take into account GDR credits that are earned through major required cours-

"No students are out there taking 55 credits of strictly GDRs," said Letson.

After the review was filed, the Academic Affairs Committee, headed by faculty and senate members, created the General Education Review Committee to undertake the task of assessing the program. The GERC's goal is to have the GDR changes in effect for the freshmen class of 2009.

The GERC is made "We were notified by the up of eight faculty mem-

provost that he would not be bers, Student Government President Justin Glodowski and Letson.

> "Right now we are in the process of gathering feedback from faculty, staff and students," said Letson.

> Information is being gathered through surveys, e-mail, Residential Living questionnaires and two open forums. The forums are scheduled for this Thursday, March 13 and Wednesday, March 26. Both will be held at noon in the Dreyfus University Center Theater. Students are urged to attend.

> In feedback gathered by SGA earlier in the year, a far majority of students wanted to see less GDRs and complained about the lack of availability of writing emphasis courses. All the feedback gathered by the GERC will help shape the objective of the GDR program.

"Once we understand what students and faculty think the program should contain we will develop the specific objectives of the program. From there we will go through the curriculum... as of now, we have not decided on any courses," said Letson.

Letson stressed the importance for student feedback.

"The system we have in place now is from the late 1970s, and it could be another 20 to 30 years before the university revisits the issue. What we don't want is to come up with a new system and then have students say, 'This isn't what we wanted," said Letson.

Students who want to make sure their opinion is heard are urged to e-mail Andrew Letson at alets410@ uwsp.edu or sgaexec@uwsp.

UNSO gets budget after going through appeals process

Katie Leb KLEB524@UWSP.EDU

After being held in tandem for over two weeks the United Nations Student Organization on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has next year's budget approved.

3-0-2 to zero fund the student organization.

President Chance Whitby was shocked and dismayed at the decision of the finance committee.

"I believe that the Finance Committee made an arbitrary decision in deciding to zerofund UNSO, while other partisan, faith based organizations



Members of UNSO attend the annual National Model United Nations last year. The group will be attending this year's NMUN during spring break.

UNSO was denied all funding from the Student Government Association Finance Committee after annual budget minutes were released. The committee voted

received a rather large budget," said Whitby.

The decision for zero funding came from Wisconsin State Statue 36.09(5) that states that if a student organization is

Start wearing your wellies



Photo by Katie Leb

When you get back from spring break make sure you bring your wellies (rain boots). With all of the snow we've received this year, flooding is sure to occur.

part of a class, it is not eligible for funding from SGA or state

"The SGA was more than willing to hear the UNSO's appeal at public forum and many Senators and Executive Committee staff initiated contact with me regarding the UNSO budget," said Whitby. "The Finance Committee however has a maze of red tape around it and strict deadlines that must be followed."

Some of the "red tape" includes the process of appeals. According to Adam Lehmann, vice president of SGA and finance committee member, appeals can be of two kinds: administrative error and viewpoint neutrality.

"Administrative error is where you can appeal on the fact that with the information you presented, the finance committee misinterpreted it," said Lehmann. "Viewpoint neutrality is where you are obviously bias one way."

Student organizations wishing to appeal must also follow strict deadlines.

"They have 30 business

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THE POINTER

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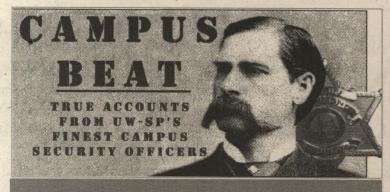
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Smith Hall March 6, 2008 2:10 a.m. Type: PUBLIC INTOXICATION

Report of an older, drunk, angry man pounding on the front door outside the lobby of Smith Hall causing a disturbance.

Parking Lot Q March 6, 2008 9:09 a.m. Type: **TRAFFIC**

Stevens Point Police Department reports an individual stopped at their office to report another vehicle struck her vehicle in Lot Q.

Off Campus Location March 6, 2008 2:12 p.m. Type: **TRAFFIC**

An individual reported that while a co-worker was delivering printers to Watson Hall, the individual's vehicle was struck by a truck.

May Roach Hall March 6, 2008 11:22 p.m. Type: **DRUG USE**

May Roach staff called to report marijuana in room. Reported smell was strong but wouldn't admit to it. Individuals smoking were not residents and were later evicted.

May Roach Hall March 7, 2008 10:30 a.m. Type: **COMPLAINT**

An individual reported what appeared to be urine on the individual's room door.

Steiner Hall March 10, 2008 9:56 a.m. Type: **COMPLAINT**

Desk worker reports that an envelope was received with the flap torn off.

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days from the release, and that does not include spring break, to appeal their budget decisions," said Lehmann.

Afterlobbying and maneuvering for UNSO, Whitby is glad that both sides were able to solve the situation amicably and by students. The finance committee cut some parts, but the overall agreement satisfied both parties.

"It's great that we finally cleared up any confusion that we had, and they got

the money they needed for their trip next year," said Lehmann.

"This issue demonstrates that issues can be resolved by involving all parties and giving them a voice," said Whitby. "In the manner the budget issue was resolved, is closely resembles some of the principles and values of the United Nations."

The educational group of UNSO began on the UW-SP campus in 1997, focusing on international affairs, focusing on the goals and functions of the United Nations.

SGA Update: March 13

Voice Your Opinion on GDR's!

The General Education Policy Review Committee is holding open forums to discuss the purpose of GDRs. Come voice your opinion! Dates: March 13 and 26, 2008 When: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Place: The DUC Theatre

SGA is currently seeking senators. Help make a difference on campus! No experience necessary – our staff will train you. For more information or for an application, contact Jenn Boyd at jboyd394@uwsp. edu.

Multicultural Film Festival!

Come enjoy movies that explore a variety of multicultural issues. Examples of movies to be shown include "The Color Purple" and "Motorcycle Diaries." When: March 24 to 28, 2008 Where: The DUC Theatre Time: 7:00 p.m. daily

For more information, contact Xixi Meng at xmeng556@ uwsp.edu.

Building Unity!

Wisconsin's largest multicultural conference is open and free to all students of UW-SP!

When: April 11 to 13, 2008 Where: UW-Madison campus Time: Check-in begins at 5:00 p.m.

For more information or to sign up to register, please contact XiXi Meng at xmeng556@ uwsp.edu.

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EDITORIAL POLICIES

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

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



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Ask the lawyer: learning the legalities of leases

Jan Roberts

STAFF ATTORNEY FOR THE STUDENT LEGAL SOCIETY

In the rush for student housing, many University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students feel pressured into signing a lease. They don't want what looks like a great house to fall through their fingers. But remember this: the housing market is a buyer's market. You, as a student in search of quality off-campus student housing, are the buyer.

Once your name goes onto the line at the bottom of a lease, as the tenant, you are hooked into a series of mutual responsibilities and obligations. It is important to know what those obligations and responsibilities are prior to signing. Unless you have bought a vehicle or a house on credit, prior to signing a lease, this will probably be the most significant financial contract that you have signed thus far in your lifetime.

No one is putting a gun to your head to sign, so educate yourself and think about what you are doing before you sign on the dotted line. I have spoken to many students who rushed into signing a document they later regretted.

Back in the 1960s, when your parents were kids, a tenant rented a piece of property "as is." It didn't matter if there was no heat, or the ceiling fell down or the toilet didn't work. But the old fogies who later became lawyers, judges, legislators and consumer advocates changed much of that.

Through a series of Wisconsin cases from the courts of appeal, and legislative and administrative advocacy, residential rental practices have become a subject of consumer regulation. Chapter ATCP 134 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code and chapter 704 of the Wisconsin Statutes, set many legal requirements of leases and define the respective responsibilities of landlords and tenants.

nished to a prospective tenant health or safety of the tenant before a rental agreement is must also be specified. entered into and before any security deposit is accepted ly metered, the landlord must

from the prospective tenant. If disclose this fact to the tenant you don't understand it, don't sign it. Once it is signed, the landlord must give the tenant a copy at the time the agreement is entered. I have spoken with a number of students who were never furnished with their leases.

If earnest money or a security deposit is given to the landlord by a tenant in the form of cash, a receipt must be given bearing a notation identifying the nature and amount of the payment. A receipt is not necessary if a check is given bearing a notation with the purpose of the payment unless the tenant requests a

Leases also have many disclosure requirements. For example, there must be a phone number for the person authorized to collect rent and manage and maintain the premises. The tenant should be able to contact them.

The tenant should also be able to contact the owner of the premises or another person authorized to accept service of legal process on behalf of the owner. This is included so that the tenant can sue the landlord if necessary. Legal documents that initiate a lawsuit have to be served on the opposing party, and this is included to protect that right of a tenant. As staff attorney for the Student Legal Society, I am amazed at how many leases fail to specifically identify the person authorized to accept service along with his or her

Conditions affecting habilitability must also be disclosed. All uncorrected housing code violations must be specified. Things like lacking hot or cold running water, unsafe heating units or heating units not capable of maintaining a temp of 67 degrees are examples. If the unit is not served by electricity, or the electrical wiring and fixtures are not in safe operating conditions, this must also be disclosed.

Any structural or other conditions which constitute Leases have to be fur- a substantial hazard to the

If utilities are not separate-

and shall disclose the basis on which charges for utility services are allocated between rental units.

I have reviewed many leases that landlords have made with students. I have never seen any of the above disclosure requirements relating to the conditions of the premises identified in a lease. I am sure that the reason is that no one would rent an apartment where the lease said the electricity or the plumbing was not in good operating condition, or that the furnace was unreliable.

Landlords have a responsibility to inspect the premises between tenants and determine whether or not the systems within a unit (plumbing, electric, heat, etc.) are in good operating condition.

There is an issue when a tenant walks into an apartment at the beginning of the lease period, and it looks like a hurricane has just struck. Students need to adequately inspect units for these conditions prior to signing a lease and at the move-in date. Landlords need to be promptly informed verbally and in writing of all maintenance related problems.

As an aside, there are many good responsible landlords out there renting to students. I inevitably see the problem cases, and of course, do not hear about the many good landlord-tenant relation-

Chapter ATCP 134 also contains a number of prohibited provisions in rental agreements. A lease may not authorize a "self-help" eviction by the landlord, which does not go through the eviction process in small claims court.

A lease also may not provide for accelerated rent payments in the event that a tenant defaults in payment of rent or waive the landlord's obligation to mitigate damages by making reasonable efforts to re-rent the premises in the event of the tenant's default in payment of rent.

The tenant is not required to pay the landlord's reasonable attorney's fees in any legal action or dispute arising under the rental agreement, except for nominal attorney's fees authorized under the small

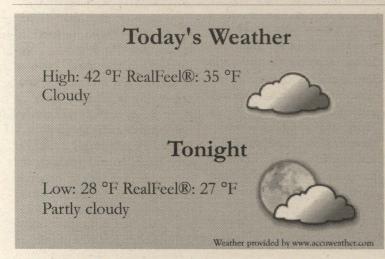
claims statute.

Leases should also state that the landlord is not relieved from liability for property damage or personal injury caused by the negligent act or omissions of the landlord. Liabilities cannot be imposed on the tenant for personal injury or property damage caused by natural disasters or the tenant's guests.

The signing of a lease could obligate you to pay several thousand dollars over a period of time. Think before you sign. Learn what your obligations and responsibilities as a tenant are. Look around and shop for the best situation for yourself. Help and legal advice is avail-

If you are a student who is considering signing a lease, and would like it reviewed by the staff attorney of the Student Legal Society, appointment times are available. I hold office hours on Thursday evenings, and am willing to meet with students at alternate times if necessary. Visit the Student Legal Society Web site at http://www.uwsp. edu/stuorg/sls/index.htm for more information.





Outdoors

Grey Squirrel Project observes white-tailed deer behavior

Greggory Jennings OUTDOORS REPORTER

Members of the Grey Squirrel Project assisted graduate student Ryan Walrath from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with his white-tailed deer study at Sandhill Wildlife Area this past weekend. The Grey Squirrel crew was shutting down their traps for the day when they saw Walrath and his assistants with the captured deer near the rocket nets.

The group moved the sedated deer, a doe and her two fawns to an enclosure in Sandhill to be processed. The sleeping deer were fitted with a proximity collar, a pit tag inserted just under the skin on top of their heads and a small tissue sample was taken for DNA testing for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The deer are marked with different color inks so the researchers can tell the animals apart. The deer have different

~Live without Rearets:

Study Abroad Now

colored collars for identification also.

While the animals were asleep, the UW-SP students checked the deer's body temperature, heart rate and respiration every 10 minutes. The deer were wrapped in blankets to protect them from the cold until they get up and walk away. To wake up the deer, Mike Watt, assistant to Walrath, injected the deer with tolazine to reverse the affect of telozol, the sedative. The deer are observed for responsiveness, and the times are recorded at certain different points, like when the deer raises its head, or it rested on its chest and could control body balance and the time it stands. However, they usually bolt up and run a short distance away almost bowling over unwary

The purpose of the study is two fold. First is a baiting regime study looking at the contact rates between related and unrelated maternal pair of deer. This is accomplished by watching the deer in an enclosure from an elevated blind about 10 feet off the ground. The visual observation occurs at one hour before and after sunrise and sunset.

The second part of the study is to test the proximity logger collars for reliability, a new research product. The collars are supposed to collect data every 15 seconds as to when the two maternal groups of deer interact. The data collected are the date of interaction, the other deer the individual deer interacted with and the start and length of time of the encounter. When it's known that the collars are working properly, a single reading will be used exclusively.

The researchers want to see if there is a change in behavior from when deer feed in natural diffuse forage to feeding over bait piles. It is already known that deer home ranges shift to center around bait piles, that there is more deer use of areas around bait piles

and deer home ranges overlap more near bait piles. Therefore, there is a potential for disease transmission.

After the trials are over, the deer are darted, collars are removed and the deer are placed outside the enclosure. They are observed as they recover from the drug. The deer are not taken back to where they were captured, because Sandhill Wildlife Area is only twelve square miles in size. The deer will find their way back to their "home" ranges that are about two miles apart. Ryan and Mike can be contacted at walrath2@wisc.edu and ecomwatt@yahoo.com, respectively.



Photo by Gregg Jennings

Grad student Ryan Walrath, UW-Madison Research Assistant, monitoring the vitals of an adult female deer.

And the winner is.. Steve Seamandel Where the F were y

Steve Seamandel
THE POINTER
SSEAM113@UWSP.EDU

ESPN has the ESPYS; The Office had The Dundies. And now, Outdoors has The Winties. I decided that this year, winter deserved its own set of awards. The winners are reminded to keep thank yous to a reasonable length so as to keep the show moving.

Undisputed champ of the winter: Snow. Move over, New England Patriots and move over, New York Giants. The sheer amount of snow that we received this year was staggering, and it's safe to say that the snow would have handily defeated either the 18-1 Patriots (even without the use of videotaping practices) and the Super Bowl champion New York Giants with a barrage of blizzard-like conditions coupled with subzero temperatures.

Season MVP: The snowblower. Anyone with a snowblower on their starting roster definitely had a leg up on the perils of winter this year. I got so accustomed to my shovel this winter that I now enjoy a quiet romantic dinner with it twice a week, and if its lucky, it gets to spend the night. I'm all for cranking the tunes and hitting the sidewalks with my trusty and beloved shovel, but enough is enough. I was luring my neighbor's snowblower closer and closer to my portion of the sidewalk by using estrus scents and making snowblower mating calls...

Disappointment of the Season: Global Warming.

Where the F were you all winter? For once, we would have gladly welcomed global warming with the red carpet treatment, but it skipped practice, couldn't make a shot to save its life and basically was a noshow all winter long. With all the hub-bub it garnered after Al Gore Hollywood'd the crap out of global warming, we were all expecting huge things from you this winter. I'm talking "shorts and Coronas in January" huge things. Now we're looking at ice fishing in May. Thanks a lot for the horrible showing this winter, global warming.

Sixth Man Award: Any weather person in Northern Wisconsin. Let's face it: winter is your World Series up here. I've always found the lack of modernism in the local news up here pretty laughable, and even more so was the stern and professional gusto of all the weather reporters. Old or young, skinny or fat, they all were able to accurately predict the same thing: "It's gonna snow." Well, congratulations. What else, it's gonna be cold? Nevertheless, the weather people did provide me with an adequate reason why not to go to class.

Loser of the Year: Any home-owner who refused to shovel. Mr. Pat Rothfuss commented on the sheer laziness of some a few weeks ago; how some people actually went as far to shovel or plow their driveways but not the sidewalks. A big old middle finger to all you lazy bastards and bastardettes who made me choose between skating down your sidewalk on four inches of pure ice or walking in the street. Street walking reigned supreme.



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Change Your Life

Men's track team finishes season indoors, looks forward to competition outdoors

Jessica Spengler THE POINTER JSPEN826@UWSP.EDU

The 11th-ranked University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's track and field team competed in its final indoor meet before the Nationals this Friday and

Saturday, March 14 and 15 at the Last Chance Meet at the Multi-Activity Center.

Nicholas Ver Duin had the fastest time in the 400meter dash, posting a provisional qualifying time of 48.57 seconds, his fastest all season and the third fastest time in the country. Van Duin was recently named Performer of the Meet at the WIAC indoor track and field championship after taking two events and being part of the first place 4x400 meter relay team.

Van Duin's performance throughout his career at UW-SP has earned him many other honors including Outstanding Freshman for Track Events, and MVP for track events as well as being named Team Captain.

"Receiving this award is a great honor, especially coming from one of the best track and field conferences in the nation. There are a lot of great athletes who had many great performances at the meet, so receiving this award is truly an amazing feeling," said Van Duin.

At the Last Chance Meet, Cory Baumann was first in the one-mile run with a time of 4:23.01 seconds, and the 4x400-meter relay team ran the second fastest time today with a time of 3:17.21 seconds.

Looking back on the season, the team is happy with the results and understands the improvements that need to be made.

"We had a great season," said Van Duin. "We had a lot



Photo by Mae Wernick

The Pointers earned second out of 18 teams at the Last Chance Meet on March 8 in the Multi-Activity Center.

of fun competing throughout the season. We won every meet up until the Conference Championships, which hasn't happened in a while. At the conference meet, we had some good things happen and some bad things. I believe we are just as good as a team as the teams that beat us, although I think what we need to work on is preparing for big meets. The ability is definitely there."

The track team outdoor season begins March 29, at the North Central Invitational in Naperville, Ill. at 12:30 p.m.

"The team is a great group of guys, and I enjoyed competing side by side with them throughout the indoor season," said Ver Duin. "I'm really looking forward to finishing it up, and continuing on into the outdoor season."

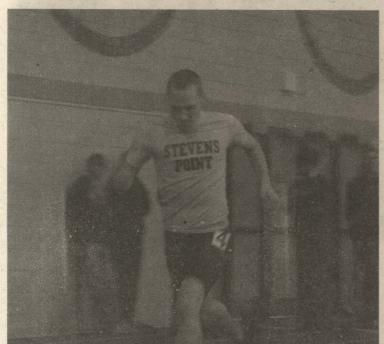


Photo by Mae Wernicke

The Pointers start their outdoor season on March 29 at the North Central Invitational.

Wrestlers complete season

Rochelle Nechuta THE POINTER RNECH142@UWSP.EDU

Seniors Eric Bath and Craig Bollig were the two Pointers left standing this past weekend in the NCAA Division III wrestling championships. They both earned All-American honors while Bath wrestled to fifth place and Bollig rose through the ranks for third.

As Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference 197-pound tournament champion, Bollig went into the national tournament with a 32-1 record this year. He wrestled – after a first round bye for a win.

Bath scored second place in the WIAC tournament after a loss in the championship game and was catapulted into the NCAA tournament for the second year in a row as an atlarge qualifier.

"Johnny's a great coach and will get the best out of every one," said Bath. "Coming in as a freshman I never thought I'd be a two time All-American, and Johnny taught me to expect more and taught me what I needed to know to allow me

to accomplish everything I did."

The Pointer wrestling team finished second as a whole in the WIAC Tournament with 131.5 points. They fell behind University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, who won the title with 147.5 points and seven first-place finishes for their squad. As a result, UW-SP sent six wrestlers to the NCAA Division III Tournament.

"I felt like we had a very good start and we put ourselves in a situation to win the tournament. But, we were not able to close the deal and once we lost the momentum we struggled," Head Coach Johnny Johnson said about the WIAC tourney.

Senior Jake Calhoun made an appearance at nationals after a second place finish for WIAC in the 125-pound bracket and fell to the no. 1 seed Chris Heilman in the first round of the NCAA. The senior's season ended with a second 6-3 defeat in the tournament.

The Pointers made a strong showing at the WIAC tournament Junior Jered Kern lost the championship

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From Wrestling on pg. 5

game with a 9-5 result, as did Chase DeCleene at 141-pounds with an 11-3 defeat. Ben Engelland was another Pointer to travel to the top of the tournament and fall short in the final hour. Chad Gregory was in the championship as the team's heavyweight wrestler, but would be pinned.

Also finishing in the top five for the Pointers were Jake Wozniak in third for the 165-pound bracket, while seniors Chris Brown and Kyle Mueller took fourth during the WIAC weekend.

Pointers Calhoun, Wozniak, DeCleene, Bollig, Bath and Engelland traveled to the NCAA tournament to compete in the last contest of the year, but only Bollig and Bath would survive to finish as All-American wrestlers.

Now that the season has expired, the Pointers are thinking about the future and the long months ahead.

"Always, we want to look at all the technical areas we can improve and start on that. And, of course, recruiting is a priority now," said Johnson. "I feel strongly that we have a tremendous school and wrestling program. We are losing a lot of seniors so we have many shoes to fill."

"I feel strongly that we have a tremendous school and wrestling program. We are losing a lot of seniors so we have many shoes to fill."

Though he is not eligible to wrestle next season, Bath is eagerly looking forward to next season as an assistant coach.

"I think that the team as a whole is going to just keep getting better and I'm excited to see what they have in store for us in the years to come."

Johnson says he is sad to see the seniors go, but believes they have done their part in maintaining a strong UW-SP wrestling legacy.

"I think this is a great group of guys who have a very positive future in front of them. I'm especially proud of the group of seniors we had this year. I put a heavy burden on those guys to create a positive environment for the future of this program and each and every one of them stepped up to the challenge. I will miss all of them."

Pointers slowed to a stop in NCAA Tournament

Rochelle Nechuta

THE POINTER RNECH142@UWSP.EDU

At University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point there was a disappointed group of women's basketball players on Friday, March 6.

The Pointers faced St. Norbert College in the first round of the NCAA Tournament at Berg Gym at UW-SP. It was a rare occasion this year when the Pointer women's basketball team had difficulty playing to their expected potential.

They had a heartbreaking 57-71 loss to the Green Knights on Friday night in their first home court loss of the season. The game marked the end of the 2007-2008 season for UW-SP who completed their run with an 24-5 overall record.

"It's always tough when your season comes to an end, regardless of when it comes; you're never prepared," said Head Coach Shirley Egner. "and when you're in the NCAA Tournament, you've got that one and done or survive and advance [mentality], however, you want to look at it."

With an eight-point run to start off, the Green Knights took the lead while the Pointers worked to meet their stride and met them at 21-21 with six minutes left, but would end the first half lagging 27-31 against St. Norberts at the buzzer.

The second half of the game saw a flat Pointer team that allowed the Green Knights a 15-2 run and 52.2 percent shooting. The game ended 57-71 for the Pointer loss, while St. Norberts would ride on into the second round against University of Chicago.

Coach Egner admitted that the team allowed its opponent too many easy shots during the game.

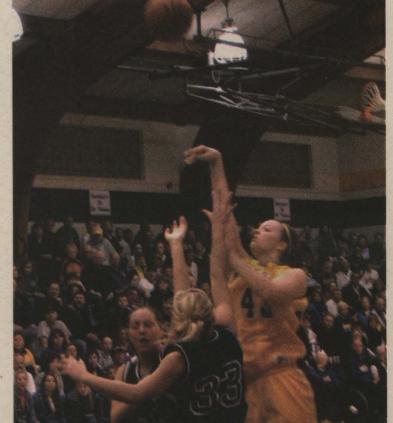
"We didn't defend; our gaps weren't good, we didn't have good vision- though I think we out-rebounded them," Egner admitted. "Going down the stretch, we needed to get some quick threes but the bottom line is we just didn't defend."

That failure to defend cost the Pointers advancement in the NCAA Tournament.

"The season's over, and that's painful, but we didn't play our best basketball out there tonight; that's not to take anything away from St. Norbert's, because St. Norbert's beat us," Egner said in a press conference after the game. "But we did not play 'Pointer Basketball' out there."

The consensus between coach and senior Laura Neuenfeldt was that the team did not play together like they had previously during the season.

"We didn't play 'Pointer Basketball,' at times I don't think we played as a team and a lot of girls were trying to take it on their own shoulders,"



Pointer Chelsea Kranz rising above the rest in a shot attempt.

said Neuenfeldt with a disappointed demeanor over the loss. "It's a great way to end. I'd never been here before."

As a senior, Neuenfeldt finished her career with 21 points in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, earned a conference tournament title and was given an All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference first team spot this season. Another senior, Haley Houghton, also

earned the first team award.

"I've got six seniors in there that were loyal and dedicated to our program and raised the bar in their four years," said Egner. "We concluded the season at 24-5 and that's nothing to hang your head about... We'll have long months to figure this baby out, and I guarantee we'll get back at it in the fall."

Softball team starts season with high hopes

Aimee Freston THE POINTER AFRES251@UWSP.EDU

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point softball team is coming off with a record beating season.

Last year, the team ended the season with its best single-season winning percentage with a 33-10 record and advanced to the NCAA Division III Tournament Regional. They hit a single-season record 37 home runs and batted a .342 batting percentage.

This year, the Pointers plan on continuing their success. The squad welcomes back 11 returning players, four of which were position starters.

"I have high goals and expectations for this year's team," said Head Coach Ann Munzenmaier. "We have great senior leadership and a talented freshmen class. I think we will continue to progress throughout the season as our younger players become more experienced

and our pitchers settle in."

Leading the Pointers are seniors Korryn Brooks and Laura Van Abel. Brooks caught every inning last season and threw out 17 of 30 potential base stealers and picked off seven runners. She had a .404 batting average with eight home runs, the second highest in school history.

Shortstop Van Abel had 65 hits last season and 103 total bases. She finished the year with a 20-game hitting streak and has been a first team All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection the last two years.

Adding strength to the outfield are seniors Danielle Ashbeck and Niki Schomer. Ashbeck had a .238 batting average with a .405 slugging percentage in 40 starts last season. Schomer scored nine runs for the Pointers and had a .333 on base percentage.

On the mound, Pointers will need to replace powerhouse pitcher Stephanie Anderson. Anderson finished the season 19-7 with

a 1.66 ERA and set a singleseason school record with 160 strikeouts in 181.2 innings

But Munzenmaier is confident that this year's pitching staff will go the distance. Senior Hope Krause had 17 starts last season with a 14-2 record. She had 47 strikeouts, a 2.71 ERA and opponents batted .289 against her.

The only other returning player with pitching experience is junior Allison Dorn with six career starts and a 2-2 record. Sophomore transfer Kayla Kastenmeier will add depth to the pitching staff as she transferred from Division II Winona State. She had a 3-2 record and 1.13 ERA in five starts last season.

"We have an excellent pitching staff this year in Hope Krause, Kayla Kastenmeier and Allie Dorn," said Munzenmaier. "I expect more great things from this group of ladies. The team has high expectations for what they hope to accomplish this year and that includes our pitching staff. Having a

tough mindset on the mound will be a determining factor in every game we play."

The Pointers are ranked 17th in the NFCA Division III preseason poll.

"The WIAC will be very tough again this year as three teams are already ranked in the top 25 in the country, but I think this team will rise to the challenge. It's going to be an exciting year," said Munzenmaier.

The softball team lived up to their high expectations of a successful season when they opened the season at the Auggie Dome Tournament with a 4-0 record.

They had a combined score of 35-4, sweeping both Ausburg College and Concordia-Moorhead.

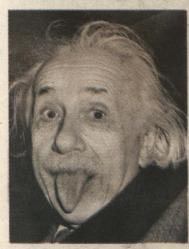
Krause was name the WIAC Softball Pitcher Athlete of the Week based upon her perfomance at the opening games.

The Pointers will travel to Tucson over spring break to play in the Tucson Invitational Games in Arizona.

Science, Health & Tech

Happy birthday Einstein

Jessica Spengler THE POINTER JSPEN826@UWSP.EDU



With Albert Einstein's birthday coming up on Friday, March 14, it is important to recognize the achievements of such a great man. The theory of relativity, E=mc2, is one of the most widely recognized equations on the planet. But no need to bore you with that. Einstein was known for his quirky habits and beliefs. In honor of his 129th birthday, here are some interesting Einstein facts.

1. He liked his feet naked.

"When I was young, I found out that the big toe always ends up making a hole in the sock," he once said. "So I stopped wearing socks." Einstein was also a fanatical slob, refusing to "dress properly" for anyone. Either people knew him or they didn't, he reasoned - so it didn't matter either way.

2. He hated Scrabble.

Aside from his favorite past-time sailing ("the sport which demands the least energy"), Einstein shunned any recreational activity that required mental agility. As he told the New York Times, "When I get through with work I don't want anything that requires the working of the mind."

3. He was a rotten spell-

Although he lived for many years in the United States and was fully bilingual, Einstein claimed never to be able to write in English because of "the treacherous spelling." He never lost his distinctive German accent either, summed up by his catch-phrase, "I vill a little t'ink"

4. He loathed science fiction.

Lest it distort pure science and give people the false illusion of scientific understanding, he recommended complete abstinence from any type of science fiction. "I never think of the future. It comes soon enough." He also thought people who claimed to have seen flying saucers should keep it to themselves.

hands.

5. He smoked like a chim-

A life member of the Montreal Pipe Smokers Club, Einstein was quoted as saying: "Pipe smoking contributes to a somewhat calm and objective judgment of human affairs." He once fell into the water during a boating expedition but managed heroically to hold on to his pipe.

6. He failed his university entrance exam.

In 1895, at the age of 17, Albert Einstein applied for early admission into the Swiss Federal Polytechnical School (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule or ETH). He passed the math and science sections of the entrance exam, but failed the rest (history, languages, geography, etc.)! Einstein had to go to a trade school before he retook the exam and was finally admitted to ETH a year later.

7. Alcohol was not his preferred drug.

At a press conference upon his arrival to New York in 1930, he said jokingly of Prohibition: "I don't drink, so it's all the same to me." In fact, Einstein had been an outspoken critic of "passing laws which cannot be enforced".

8. He equated monogamy with monotony.

"All marriages are dangerous," he once told an

interviewer. "Marriage is the unsuccessful attempt to make something lasting out of an incident." He was notoriously unfaithful as a husband, prone to falling in love with somebody else directly after the exchanging of vows.

9. His memory was shot. Believing that birthdays were for children, his attitude is summed up in a letter he wrote to his girlfriend Mileva Maric: "My dear little sweetheart... first, my belated cordial congratulations on your birthday yesterday, which I forgot once again."

10. Einstein had speech

difficulty as a child.

As a child, Einstein seldom spoke. When he did, he spoke very slowly - indeed, he tried out entire sentences in his head (or muttered them under his breath) until he got them right before he spoke aloud. According to accounts, Einstein did this until he was nine years old. Einstein's parents were fearful that he was retarded - of course, their fear was completely unfounded!

*Information Netorama and Albert Einstein Online.

Celebrate the infinitesimal greatness that is pi

Sara Jensen SJEN236@UWSP.EDU



On Friday, March 14, math enthusiasts everywhere will be celebrating what is known as Pi Day. This is the day when people can' pay tribute to the never-ending number 3.14.

There are several days which pi celebrations could fall on, depending on date for-

For the true pi fans, there is even a precise pi hour, minute and second. When pi is taken out to seven decimal places, Pi Second, as it is known, occurs

Larry Shaw, an employee of the San Francisco

Exploratorium, began Pi Day in 1988. Known as the "Prince of Pi," Shaw inaugurated Pi Day with fellow staff members by marching around one of the Exploratorium's circular spaces. They then went on to eat a few fruit pies.

There are a variety of ways in which people celebrate Pi Day. One can of course eat a piece of pie, the desert or pizza variety. Or you could really get into the spirit of things and see to how many decimal places you can memorize pi.

On 2004's Pi Day, Daniel Tammert recited pi to the 22514 decimal place from memory. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the campus has been known to send out acceptance letters to potential students on Pi Day.

The reason pi is so much more popular than most other numbers is that it's an irrational number, which means it goes on infinitely without repeating.

It was first "discovered" by Pythagarus to show the relationship between the diameter and circumference of a circle. He did so by dividing the circumference by the diameter, which gives you pi.

So this Pi Day, what will you do to celebrate? If you need a little inspiration, check out the numerous pi songs on YouTube.

matting. In America, because we tend to write our dates with the month preceding the date, Pi Day falls on 3/14. But in European countries, Pi Day would fall on July 22, written out as 22/7.

at 1:59:26 p.m.

Even bundled up with all the scarves we can find in our closets, those biting cold winds know just how to get to us. So to help alleviate the cold of those days when you just want to stay wrapped in the warmth of your blankets, there's a

It's the middle of March already

and cold temperatures are still making

us wear our winter hats and mittens.

device to help you feel just a little bit

Sara Jensen

SJEN236@UWSP.EDU

THE POINTER

Well, at least your hands will be a bit warmer, with the Eneloop Kairo, a palmsized hand warmer. This rechargeable little device can warm your hands for up to seven hours, depending on how much heat you need. At 80 grams, the Kairo can get as hot as 110 F or adjust to a milder toasty temperature of 102



Warmth that

palm of your

fits in the

degrees. Temperature control is completely up to the user via one switch, and you can even pick the color you want-white, black or pink.

At \$40 each, the pebble-sized Kairo is a bit of an investment. But then you have to factor in just how important warmth is to you. And if it helps, the company also makes a model for the feet as well as pets.

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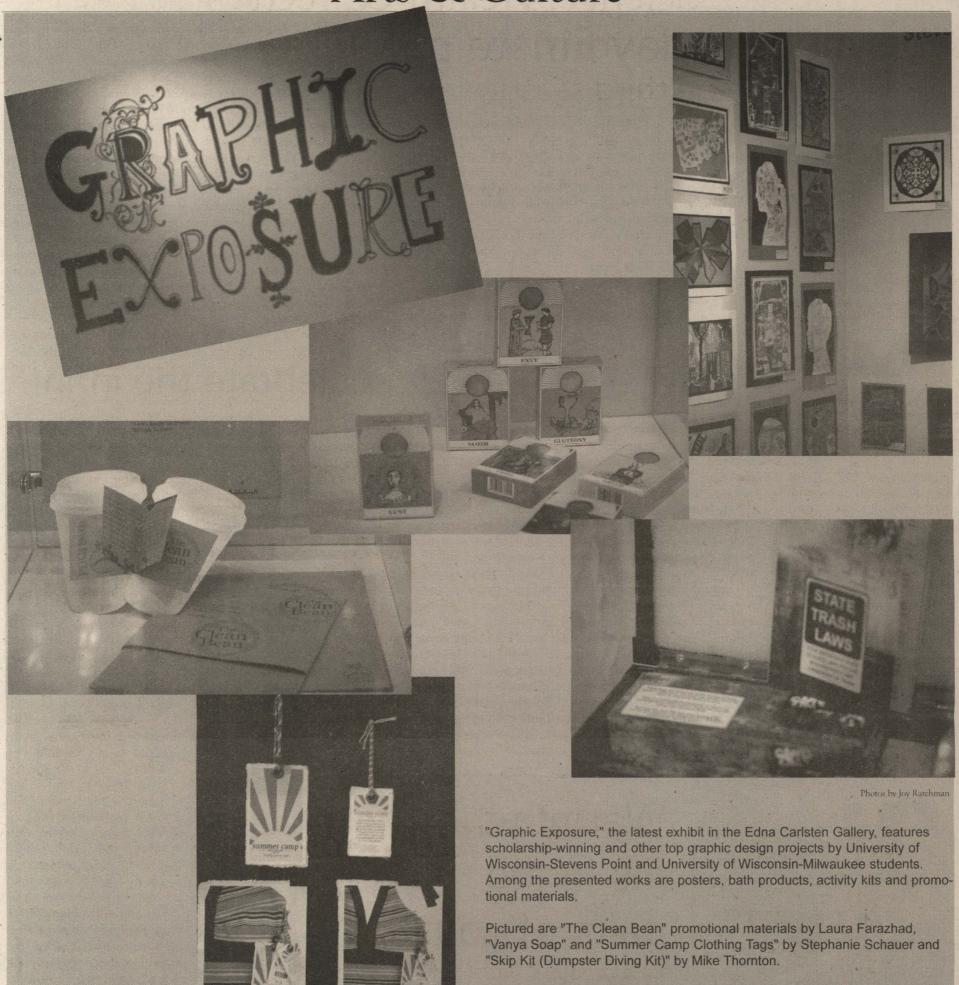
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Arts & Culture



Reporter gets "extra"-ordinary opportunity with Johnny Depp

Ashley Schlosser THE POINTER ASCHL336@UWSP.EDU

For many, appearing in a Johnny Depp movie would be a dream come true. For some Wisconsinites, this dream may become a reality. Over the past two weeks, the casting director for the upcoming film "Public Enemies," Joan Philo, scouted the Wisconsin and Illinois areas for background extras. Auditions were held in Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison and Oshkosh for all ages with

a few appearance specifica-

Jesse Cyr, another UW-SP student, and I woke up at dawn to ready ourselves for this opportunity. We arrived at a middle school in Oshkosh, where the auditions were being held, about an hour and a half early. Security was apparent. The place was surrounded by the Oshkosh Police Department. After waiting 20 minutes in the freezing cold for the hundreds of other enthusiasts in line to move, we were funneled into a maze of caution tape to wait in the gymnasium.

The talent pool was strongly encouraged to arrive in 1930s attire, complete with hair and makeup. Men were advised to wear a dark suit with an overcoat and women to wear a dark dress or skirt and a curly hairstyle. This type of dress will be used in the film, which is set during the Depression Era. Dark clothing reflected the spirit of the time.

The film focuses around the historical bank robbers John Dillinger (Johnny Depp), Pretty Boy Floyd (Channing Tatum) and Baby Face Nelson (Stephen Graham). Criminals in the United States were termed "public enemies" during the 1930s because of the damage they did to society. The film's title derives from this catchphrase.

in the Schneider Student Gallery

The exhibit is complemented by artwork from area elementary school students

Once in the gymnasium, everyone was handed an information card to provide the casting director with basic physical and personal information. After that excitement had withered away, we had much time to size up our competition. Extremes on both ends were present. Some went all out with the 1930s look. Our favorite group of oblivions encouraged some

of Wisconsin's stereotypes by sporting camouflage baseball caps and snowmobile jackets while spitting their chewing tobacco into a Monster energy drink can. Priceless.

Groups of 30 people at a time were let through to the casting director. She spoke briefly about the process of casting and shooting the film. We then gave our information cards to one of several photographers in exchange for a number used with our mug shot. This was the end of our exciting journey... or was it? Now, we hope for a phone call from the casting company.

"Battlestar Galactica:" characters, cliffhangers and the DVD release of the third season

Joy Ratchman THE POINTER JRATC567@UWSP.EDU

"What I really want to rent is this, but I don't know if you'd like it," said Andy. He pointed to the first disc of "Battlestar Galactica, Season I," where it sat on the shelf of Family Video. We had gone to Family Video in search of something to watch as we hunkered down for an impending snowstorm, and we had been searching for a DVD to rent for the past half hour.

I picked up the disc, raising an eyebrow at the blonde bombshell on the cover. I expected stereotypical science fiction, but we hadn't come up with anything to rent and the snow was beginning to come down heavily. I enjoy science

occasionally - I've never cared for "Star Trek," but I enjoy the quirky, off-beat "Firefly" and grew up with the original "Star Wars." I figured it couldn't hurt to give "Battlestar Galactica" a try.

"We can rent it if you want to. I don't care," I replied.

"I don't care," has since become, "I've got to see the third season before the fourth season starts on television in April. Why isn't it released on DVD yet?"

The show's premise is simple, by science fiction standards. Twelve human colonies exist somewhere in distant space. They created robotic assistants, called Cylons, which rebelled and declared war on them. Both sides reached a peace treaty, and the Cylons virtually disappeared for 40 years. They make a sudden, aggressive reappearance and

Commander William Adama (Edward James Olmos) must call his battlestar (space warship) back into action. The tables turn on humanity, and the series follows their ensuing fight for survival.

'Battlestar's" worldbuilding is skillful and believable. The technology has been well thought-out. It updates but draws allusions to the original 1978 series and frequently quotes it too: "All of this has happened before. All of this will happen again." The action is very character-driven and, as a result, engaging. Despite the first-rate special effects, technology takes a back seat to the series' human aspect.

"Battlestar Galactica" is fairly progressive by science fiction standards. The 21st century update features a multitude of strong female lead roles and a multi-ethnic

cast. Some of these characters, notably Starbuck and Admiral Cain, were originally male.

When I read that the series incorporates abortion, torture interrogation and other modern issues, I rolled my eyes. When I saw the episodes, however, these elements didn't seem out of place in the scheme of the Battlestar Galactica world. Many of the episodes make tongue-in-cheek nods to current politics, but they don't get preachy. Closer examination reveals that the supposedly modern themes, especially the governmental ones, are fairly universal to science fiction. The viewer is invited to wonder what kind of commentary is being made, but the progression of the story is the real point.

The series has a tendency to build up expectations,

then turn everything upside down with an unexpected plot twist. Each season ends with an intense cliffhanger. Although I didn't see the pilot miniseries, the first two seasons or the "Razor" miniseries on television (and therefore didn't have to wait very long for the first few cliffhangers to be resolved), the final minutes of the second season left just as much in the air as any of the others and promised more drama. Thankfully, season three will be released on March 18, 2008, and season four will begin in April.

"Battlestar Galactica" is a series worth watching, even if you aren't a major science fiction fan. Intense, character-driven action, cast diversity and skillful worldbuilding make it a series not to miss.

Eroica Trio to play Sentry **Theater**

Rick LaRoche THE POINTER RLARO831@UWSP.EDU

The Eroica Trio, an American chamber music trio, will play the Sentry Theater on March 29.

The trio consists of Nickrenz, piano; Susie Park, violin; and Sara Sant'Ambrogio, cello. They have toured extensively, released six recordings for Angel/EMI Classics Records and have garnered multiple Grammy Award nominations.

Each of the founding members of the trio trained at the Juilliard School of Music. The group took their name from Beethoven's "Eroica Symphony."

In 1991 the trio took first place in the Walter W. Naumburg Chamber Music Competition. Their first com-

pact disc recording, "Eroica Trio," won National Public Radio's 1997 Performance Today award for "Debut Recording of the Year."

As one of the first allfemale chamber ensembles to reach the top of their field, the group performs everything from classical Beethoven to contemporary work and are one of the most sought-after trios in the world.

According to the trio's Web site, "[The Eroica Trio] has established a unique identity by creating innovative programs that span 300 years of music. A typical Eroica Trio concert might include the Baroque symmetries of Vivaldi, the passion of Brahms and Paul Schoenfield's contemporary Café Music with its echoes of jazz, spiritual and theatre music."

The show will start at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29

and last until 9:30 p.m.

Tickets available at University Information and Ticket Desk by phone at (715) 346-4100 and toll free at 1-(800)-838-3378. Ticket prices are \$18 for adults, \$14 for seniors, \$6 for highschool or younger and \$4.50 for UW-SP students in advance. UW-SP students can also receive free tickets at the door the day of the show if seats are available.

Moreinformation on the Eroica Trio can be found at http://www. eroicatrio.com/.

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Productions

Avra J. Juhnke THE POINTER AJUHN217@UWSP.EDU

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Thursday, March 27: Can You Spell UW-SP? Spelling Bee 7:00 p.m. The DUC Encore Prizes will be awarded, Must be a UW-SP student

Friday, March 28: Pert' Near Sandstone, **Bluegrass Concert** 8:00 p.m. The DUC Encore Free with UW-SP I.D. \$4 wit-

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Your College Survival Guide:

Writerly Advice

Pat Rothfuss

WITH HELP FROM: THE AFTERDARK COFFEE HOUSE

Hi Pat,

I need some writing advice, and I thought that since you're a big, internationally famous novelist now, you might be able to help me out.

I've just finished the first draft of my novel. Now I need to get an agent. The problem is that I don't know the first thing about how to track one down or get them to read my book. I don't really know what I should do

I mean, what is the thing that will help me get to the next step?

Your fan,

Honestly Dave, my advice is to work on the book before you even start hunting for an agent.

I know that's not what you want to hear. But it's the best advice I can give you.

Now believe me. I understand how you feel. You don't want to wait, revise, tinker and edit. You've finally finished your huge project. You feel awesome. You've worked for months or years to get to this point. It's finally done. Now you can sell it and get rich and famous. Or you can at least take the first step toward becoming moderately less poor and obscure.

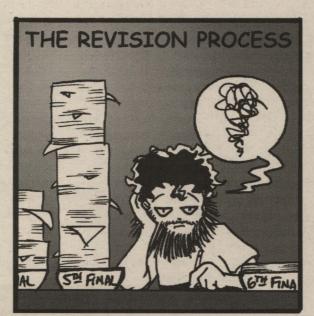
I'm guessing that's how you feel because that's how I felt back in 1999 when I "finished" my trilogy.

I say "finished" because it wasn't. My story had an ending, sure. I'd written the trilogy all the way through. But was it finished? Good lord, no. Nowhere close.

Let's approach this from another angle. Let's say your query letter catches someone's attention. A high-powered hypothetical agent named Larry.

If you're lucky, Larry will read your querry letter and will want to see the first 30 pages of your book. When he reads those pages is he going to say, "WOW, this is awesome! I can sell this for sure!" or is he going to say, "Hmmmm, this looks

I'm guessing if you just finished the first draft of your novel, it's going to be the latter.



When that happens, the agent either has the option of putting a ton of time and effort into you and your rough manuscript. OR they can toss it aside and read one of the dozens still sitting on their slushpile, hoping for something that's clean, tight, polished, and ready to sell right now.

Which option do you think they're more likely to pick?

It's my belief that you should never show your work to anyone in the publishing world until it's as absolutely as good as you can make it. Until it shines like a diamond. Rough drafts don't shine, as a rule. Mine certainly didn't. That's why I was rejected for years and years.

I'm actually glad the book was rejected during those years. Sure it was frustrating, but it forced me to go back, revise my novel, and improve myself as a writer. I learned things about plot and character, about structure and brevity, about scene

If that early version of my novel had made it into print, odds are it would have been been read by a handful of people, then quickly remaindered and forgotten. That early version of the book wouldn't have recieved gushy reviews and author quotes. The publisher wouldn't have ponied up money for advertizing and a website.

But I was lucky, because I was rejected for all that time, I got seven extra years to work on my story. My book is worlds better now. And as a result, people are really enjoying it.

You say you want to take things to the next step, Dave. Here's the next step. Revision. The first step is the draft. The second step is the revision. The third and fourth steps are probably revision too. The fifth step: crying and cursing the name of god. Sixth step well maybe revision.

Am I saying you should spend ten years working on your novel? No. Of course not. I'm just saying that first you need to work on your craft as a writer. THEN you should focus on your product. LASTLY comes the selling of it. Leave

But when that book shines like a diamond, and it really is time to get that agent. Feel free to drop me an e-mail, Dave. I can give you some pointers. I spent two years doing it wrong, I can help you avoid my mistakes.

Pat

E-mail Pat for advice at proth@wsunix.wsu.edu. If your letter is selected, then you, like Dave, will recieve a fabulous gift certificate from our generous sponsors.

If you're looking for a place to drink coffee and revise your novel, why not stop by the Afterdark Coffee House?

Located in scenic downtown Stevens Point, the Afterdark is open until 3:00 a.m. That's right kids, it's open until three in the morning. Whether you're studying for midterms or just getting out of the house while your roommates have noisy sex, the Afterdark Coffee house is the place for you.

A Woman's Intuition: Half Way

Sara Suchy THE POINTER SSUCH489@UWSP.EDU



Well you've made it; you're half way through the semester! Isn't it exciting? To be honest, the second half of second semester

is the hardest part of the school year for me. It's right around this time that daylight saving time robs me of an hour of needed sleep, the temperature is slowly morphing into something less and less resembling a frozen wasteland and every once in a while I hear the sweet sound of birds singing on my way to class. It's like a little scene from Mary Poppins, if only I could snap my fingers and my homework would be done, my bills would be paid and Showtime would magically appear on my TV.

How can I be expected to get anything done when such beauty waits just outside my doorstep? Well, I guess it's not quite beautiful yet, more icy and muddy, but soon it will be beautiful.

If you happen to be reading this before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, remember to vote for your SGA president and vice president as well as on the two referendums. Local elections are always the most important.

If you're looking for something to ponder while your wiling away the hours doing a whole lot of nothing (like I plan to be doing next week), ponder this: The Pointer will be hiring soon after you come back! All of our positions will be open to applicants, and if you're a registered student, you can apply. We need everything from graphic designers, business savvy minds, photographers, editors, gods of the AP stylebook (copy editors) and, of course, a brand new

editor-in-chief. I'll be riding off into the sunset in May, and this paper will need a fearless leader to saddle up and guide it through the 2008-09 school year.

It looks great on a resume, it's practical experience working for a real newspaper and a whole lot of fun. The applications will be outside the Pointer office soon after break as well as printed in the paper.

You'll have our annual April Fools issue of the Pointer to look forward to when you come back along with your regular serving of campus news to peruse in these pages. Have a fun and relatively safe spring break and remember it's always better to beg forgiveness than to ask permission.

SUMMER IN MAINE

and

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Paul Johnson

Comics

Resident's EviL



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Neverland

I used to be Andre Dorian's roommate. Word on campus links your name with his, so I thought I'd warn you. He kills all the fun and he's a jerk. You don't want to date him, trust me





if you didn't REEK like BEER.

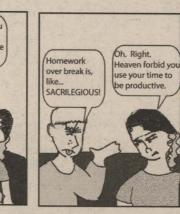
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WORD SEARCH: SPRING BREAK







Count James









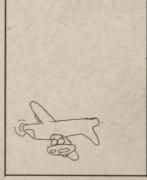
Joy Ratchman











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Campus Cinema (1:00) 5:00 9:00

(12:55) (2:55) 4:55 6:55 8:55

Never Back Down (12:50) (3:00) 5:10 7:20 9:25

> Semi-Pro (3:00) 7:00

Doomsday (1:10) (3:15) 5:20 7:25 9:30

Horton Hears A Who!

10,000 B.C. (12:45) (2:55) 5:05 7:15 9:25

No Country For Old Men:

Vantage Point:

The Spiderwick Chronicles (1:00) (3:00) (5:00) 7:00

Fool's Gold (12:25) (2:40) 4:55 7:10 9:30

College Road Trip (12:50) (2:50) (4:50) 6:50 8:50

(Saturday and Sunday Only)

Comments on Comics?

e-mail Joy Ratchman at jratc567@uwsp.edu.

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Black glasses case w/ glasses inside.

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