Students share their studying habits and strategies for Finals Week page 7
The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit against the State of Wisconsin on Tuesday, alleging the voter ID law signed into law by Governor Walker this summer violates the 24th amendment to the U.S. Constitution by imposing a form of a “poll tax” on particular groups of citizens in order to vote.

The lawsuit claims the state is imposing a de-facto poll tax on some citizens who lack the required documents to obtain a free ID card to vote. The state is offering free ID cards, but to get one, citizens must have a copy of a birth certificate, which can cost around $20.

“This lawsuit is the opening act in what will be a long struggle to undo the damage done to the right to vote by strict photo ID laws and other voter suppression measures,” said Jon Sherman, an attorney with the ACLU Voting Rights Project.

Republican lawmakers, and Governor Scott Walker, who signed the bill into law, claim as defendants, the courts will uphold the constitutionality of the bill.

“The common sense election reforms signed into law earlier this year by Governor Walker are constitutional,” said Cullen Werwie, a spokesman for Walker. “Requiring photo identification to vote helps ensure the integrity of our elections - we already require it to get a library card, cold medicine, and public assistance.” - Cullen Werwie

“Requiring photo identification to vote helps ensure the integrity of our elections - we already require it to get a library card, cold medicine, and public assistance.” - Cullen Werwie

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee estimates that 177,399 Wisconsin residents over the age of 65 currently lack a driver’s license or state photo ID and would be ineligible to vote. Also listed as a plaintiff is an 86-year-old woman from Brokaw, WI, who lacks a birth certificate. The state has a record of her birth, but the doctor misspelled her maiden name, and to fix that, Frank would have to incur fees of around $200 and a weeklong court process.

A 2005 study done by the Government Accountability Board approved on Tuesday the issuing of new IDs for UW System. The UW System Administrators are currently working on making their ID cards compliant with the new regulations for the next elections, and UWSP administrators say they will have them available to students who need them by February 2012.

The ACLU lawsuit differs from the one filed by the League of Women Voters in October. In that lawsuit, which was filed in state court and joined by the United Council of UW Students, the groups claim the voter ID law violates the state constitution by naming a third class of citizens who are ineligible to vote. The UWSP Student Government Association is currently looking into filing an amicus curiae brief in favor of the League of Women Voters’ lawsuit.

South Carolina and Texas both passed voter ID laws during the past year, but the federal government is currently looking into whether those laws violate the Voting Rights Act. Under Section 5 of that law, certain states must get federal approval to modify their election practices. Wisconsin does not fall under Section 5 and therefore is not subject to federal approval.

The ACLU Files Federal Lawsuit Against Voter ID

THE POINTER

Letter to the Editor

THOMAS M. MILLER
Old Main

As the campus’ legislative liaison (government relations) the past 14 1/2 years, I’ve attended many SGA Senate meetings throughout the years and have worked collaboratively with student leaders on their administrative tasks.

Starting with SGA President Jessica Hussein in 1996 through this academic year’s Ruthledge SGA administration, I have had the pleasure to work with many wonderful young campus leaders. Whether left, right, Green Party, independent, I have sought to work in a positive fashion with the student leadership voted in by their student peers throughout the years.

But as I sat last Thursday evening’s SGA senate meeting (public forum) something gave me pause. SGA leadership, senators, and impasioned UWSP students and former students rose to state their positions before their peers on the proposed Pointer Compact (differential tuition).

It was no Christmas miracle per se... but what I witnessed was an affirmation of the finest ideals of Jefferson, Madison, and many of our founding fathers.

While democracy, civil debate, and the art of compromise may be sorely lacking in the present-day Madison Legislature and U.S. Congress, for a brief moment last Thursday three generations of SGA leadership rose to the moment and held a discussion/ debate that would have made Abraham Lincoln proud. This is what democracy looks like!

Understanding both sides of the differential tuition debate, I could not be prouder of UWSP students, past and present, who give voice to their positions without acrimony or name calling. All who took part in last Thursday’s forum deserve high praise.

Leaders are born in such crucibles. I believe many leaders last Thursday evening were born and Wisconsin will be a better place as these Pointers take wing beyond these hallowed halls in the coming years.

The Pointer
news

[full circle thinking]

Case Study Updates and a New Gassy Nightmare

BRIAN LUEDTKE
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Throughout the semester this column has discussed many topics, from solar roads to tar sands. Over time those stories developed to become what they were and have developed further to become what they are now. The following is an update on some of these situations as well as a new demon to face: a gassy, rank creature who pioneered the technology, will have a prototype parking lot built in the spring when the snow melts. The race for the solar roadway is on.

Keystone XL Pipeline

After more than 1,200 arrests and 12,000 people surrounding the White House, the Keystone XL pipeline has been set back by the Obama administration for a 12-18 month review. “The President deserves thanks for making this call. It’s not easy in the face of the fossil fuel industry and its endless reserves of cash” said Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org. McKibben went on to say, “If this pipeline proposal re-emerges from the review process intact we will use every form of non-violent civil disobedience to keep it from ever being built.”

The bottom line is, when President Obama stands up to big oil, we stand with him,” said Jane Klee, founder of BOLD Nebraska.

Greenhouse Project

The Greenhouse Project in Stevens Point is moving along with hard work and dedication from volunteers and students. The Greenhouse Project will open its doors officially some time in 2013. “There’s 31,000 square feet of dilapidated building here, and that’s really the bottom line,” said Marcus Decker.

This Wednesday, December 21, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Agnes Jone Interior Architecture Gallery students in the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Interior Architecture program will be highlighting design work in the community. One of Katja Marquart’s classes spent the semester working on the space planning and usage of the front of the greenhouse facility. This class will be presented in both this media, and ideas that have developed over the semester. For more information consult The Greenhouse Project’s Facebook page.

Somalia

Even with the short rainy season and aid, the famine in Somalia is still threatening starvation for some 250,000 people. Malnutrition rates are extremely high at three times what the United Nations considers the emergency threshold.

A project to resettle some 4,000 willing families has begun. Families are provided with three months worth of food, shelter material and $100-150 US dollars.

“We are just at the beginning of a phase of a potential recovery if everything goes well,” said Luca Alinovi, head of the Somalia Office of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

A New Gassy Nightmare

Most scientists thought that this wouldn’t happen for years, if at all. Unfortunately, and I mean really unfortunately, they were wrong. As the Arctic Sea ice retreats from Siberia, the carbon dioxide that was once locked away is being released, in the guise of methane.

Humans are reported to breathe more potent of a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, so often methane is blown out to weaken the effects. Why? Because humans don’t breathe methane, and burn it in CNG (compressed natural gas) vehicles, power plants and the like and get some use out of the remaining methane on Earth.

“Plumes” have gone from tens of meters in diameter to kilometers in diameter. In what the scientists called “a small area” of 10,000 square miles, they have found over a hundred of these plumes bubbling up from the ocean floor and into the atmosphere.

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Differential Tuition Passed by 21-3 Student Senate Vote

MICHAEL WILSON
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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student Senate voted Thursday, December 8, to approve the differential tuition proposal, the Pointer Compact, giving administrators the go-ahead to carry the plan to the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents and the Wisconsin Legislature. If all goes as planned within the Old Main administrators’ timeline, the plan will be in effect by the next academic year.

The Pointer-Compact, which has been in the works at UWSP for at least two semesters, will raise approximately $5.4 million annually through a tuition increase of $648 per student, of which $220 will ensure Pell Grant-eligible students are held harmless from the increase.

The proposal was put together by the Pointer Compact Development Committee, made of six administrators, including the chancellor, five students and three faculty members. who pioneered the technology, will have a prototype parking lot built in the spring when the snow melts. The race for the solar roadway is on.

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The proposal was put together by the Pointer Compact Development Committee, made of six administrators, including the chancellor, five students and three faculty members.
Penokee Controversy

BRIAN LUEDTKE
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The Florida-based company Gogebic Taconite (GTAC) wishes to mine a vein of iron ore containing more than two billion tons of iron ore in Northern Wisconsin. In order for this to happen current environment regulations on water quality, which have made mining in this area impossible since the 1970s, must be altered. As controversy over the cultural, environmental and economic aspects of the mine has arisen across the state and nation, bluegrass band Horseshoes and Hand Grenades, from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point has decided to throw a festival in May to raise awareness about the mine proposal and its possible detrimental effects.

Cultural Concerns

According to GogebicTaconite.com, “The first phase of the project will focus on approximately a 4.5 by 1.5-mile stretch of land located in iron country.”

The problem with this seemingly small piece of land is that it is located at the head waters of the Bad River watershed connected to the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians reservation. “The Tyler Forks River is one of the most beautiful places in Wisconsin,” said members of Horseshoes and Hand Grenades David Lynch, Adam Greuel, Russel Pederson, Sam Odin and Colin Metelka.

Environmental Concerns

“[I]t is clear, based on available geologic and environmental information, that such a mine cannot be developed and operated using current mining technologies and practices without destroying the environmental quality, including the air, land and forests, wetlands, streams and rivers of the Bad River watershed, the Bad Water Indian Reservation and Lake Superior,” said a Black River Band statement released on December 13, 2011.

As a result of the mining process, the mine will fill with ground and rainwater, which must be pumped out. This results in a lowering of the water table on the north side and an increase in surface water (fresh from the depths of the mine) on the south side.

“Tampering with water levels has a huge affect on those lakes and waterways there,” said Horseshoes and Hand Grenades.

On the north side, the wild rice and trout-laden first order streams might be seriously affected. On the south side, heavy stream and overland flow will likely lead to increased erosion and other effects on the beneficiaries and inhabitants of the watershed.

Economic Concerns

“If we look at other communities who have entertained this exact same industry in exactly the same manner, there’s unemployment, empty business, empty Main Street, polluted rivers, indefensible fish and poverty that’s worse than prior to the mine,” said Joy Schellie, a resident whose house is within five miles of the proposed mine.

The mine promises to create some seven hundred jobs. However, the number of jobs left for locals after the company brings in highly trained workers is unknown. As part of the mining operations, roads, infrastructure and schools need to be upgraded, which GTAC has planned to do.

According to the Black River Band’s statement: “If anything, iron ore taconite mining in the Bad River watershed near Lake Superior will probably destroy more existing local jobs in the tourism, forestry, fishing and natural resources sectors than it would ever create.”

For more information on the Penokee mine or the awareness music festival to be held at UWSP, the campus’ athletic fields, check out a video interview with Horseshoes and Hand Grenades on our website.

The Pointer
Women's Hockey Wins Friday, Ties Saturday Against Bluegolds

ANDY HESSE
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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's hockey team started off their home weekend series against UW-Eau Claire with a 1-0 win. The following night the Pointers tied the Bluegolds with a 3-3 draw. Senior forward Cassandra Haluska scored in both games, while senior forward Erin Marvin and junior forward Brooke Hanso recorded assists.

Eau Claire managed to out-shoot UWSP 24-14, but couldn't find a way past freshman goalie Jenna Beilke-Skoug. Point also found themselves in the penalty box three times for six minutes in the third period. Saturday's matchup began with the Pointers scoring first, but Beilke-Skoug was able to stop 11 of 12 shots. Point has found themselves in the penalty box 13 times more than their opponents and senior captain Arial Novak leads the team in penalties with nine.

Point has found themselves in the penalty box 13 times more than their opponents and senior captain Arial Novak leads the team in penalties with nine. Point travels to Madison to take on Edgewood College Sunday at 4 p.m. tipoff.

The Pointers are on a 27-day break. They return to action on Jan. 6, 2012, against Gustavus Adolphus College. The weekend series takes place at Ice Hawks Arena starting at 7:00 p.m. Friday and 2:30 p.m. Saturday.
If God Is For Us...

GUS MERWIN
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COMMENTARY

I really didn’t want to get into this argument because I know this subject has more division than Edward and Jacob, but I’ll chance it.

Tim Tebow is a winner—fact. You can argue as much as you want, but he’s done it everywhere he’s been.

I don’t agree with the notion that Tebow is ‘terrible’ and has no business being a starting quarterback. I do agree that his mechanics are suspect, but it’s his second year in the pros, so calm down.

The word I can use to best describe his quarterbacking is ‘unconventional.’ But the thing I have the biggest problem with is this—who decided what’s conventional?

Sure quarterbacks are expected to do certain things like take the snap, hand the ball off and throw it to another guy. Aren’t they also expected to lead? To make plays? To win?

Maybe their offense is just a glorified wildcat, but it works. Tebow puts the Broncos in the best position to win.

You could argue that if Tebow wasn’t at quarterback the first three quarters the Broncos wouldn’t have to make comebacks in the fourth. But if Tebow wasn’t at quarterback in the fourth quarter they wouldn’t be making comebacks at all. Are you going to trust Brady Quinn with anything but a clipboard in crunch time?

Yes he throws goofy, but they pay coaches lots of money to work on that. Look at how much better Michael Vick has thrown the ball later in his career. But even if his passing abilities are spotty at best, he is still a playmaker.

Why wouldn’t you want a quarterback that’s agile and can make things happen with his feet? Would you prefer having a guy that’s as mobile as a church organ?

I think much of the animosity felt towards Tebow is a direct result of his personality. His faith is an important part of his life and he makes it known. Maybe he could tone it down a bit in certain settings, but why does everyone have such a big problem with him being religious?

He’s not trying to convert everyone. He’s not about to lead some sort of revival. He’s not handing out little bibles outside the HEC.

So what if he says he’s still a virgin? If you have enough time on your hands to read one of my articles you probably are too. Not everyone is Wilt Chamberlain. Some people just don’t think about it. They have other things to do.

How can people go from claiming him as possibly the greatest college quarterback ever to being an awful professional player? His methods are pretty much the same, and his results haven’t changed.

Head Coach John Fox is doing what any coach should do. He’s adapting to the personnel he has. Why run an ineffective system when you have players that can get the job done a different way?

Tebow is much more than a great athlete. He is a good person, he’s charismatic, likeable, and he has high moral standards. No matter how much criticism he gets, he will always be able to rise above it.

No matter how poorly a player performs or how bad they get ridiculed, the greatest response they can have is victory. They can quiet an entire crowd with a single point towards the scoreboard.

The English clergyman George Herbert said, “Living well is the best revenge.” You can be sure Tebow will, whether you hate him or not.

[This Week in Sports]

Senior post Ashley Averkamp was named the WIAC Athlete of the Week for women’s basketball following her performances versus the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and Illinois Wesleyan, where she averaged 17.5 points and 7.5 rebounds in the two games.

Womens basketball moved to 9-0 Wednesday after a 71-50 victory over the University of Wisconsin-Stout for a pre-game huddle. Senior post Ashley Averkamp.

Senior offensive lineman Grant Malmquist and senior defensive back Joe Mleziva wrapped up their final day of practice for the Bowl of the Stars in Puebla, Mexico.

The Milwaukee Brewers put finishing touches on a three-year contract with third baseman Aramis Ramirez and introduced him to the media in a press conference Wednesday. Ramirez will wear number 16, worn last season by backup catcher George Kottaras.

Tim Tebow can take a hit while playing quarterback.

Pitt’s former head football coach Todd Graham accepts offer to coach at Arizona State. Graham informed his team via text message. It will be Graham’s fourth team in six years.

Junior goalie Nick Graves was also named the WIAC Athlete of the Week for men’s hockey after racking up 64 saves in Points weekend sweep of the University of Wisconsin-Stout.
Stressed Much?

MONICA LENIUS
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Final exams. These two little words conjure up images of sleep-deprived students clutching coffee and others gripping their hair in frustration. This is not how it has to be though. Whether you’re a final exam veteran or an amateur, listen up and repeat after me: finals do not have to be that bad.

It really comes down to three things: preparation, attitude (as in relax) and sleep.

“I’ve had to stay up all night listening to Tech N9ne and cramming for finals,” said William Schachtschneider on some of his habits.

It’s easy to freak out about wanting to do well on exams but you won’t do well if your mind is going in a million directions.

“I study in my room with the music on and eat a lot of ice cream. It keeps stress levels down,” said Amanda Arnold, a freshman this year at UWSP. Relaxation can improve your grades because it allows you to have a clearer mind. Once the clutter is sorted out, it becomes easier to focus.

With relaxation comes sleep. It’s a word that on a regular night for college students is difficult to attain.

“I definitely have lost sleep over exams. I was always afraid I’d oversleep like a bunch of other people I’ve heard of,” said Alexander Gotch, a business management major. Take many small naps to help retain information and avoid oversleeping. However, when worse comes to worst, all-nighters are the next best option.

“I am suffering from extreme sleep deprivation. The only upside is that I get to hear my roommate talk to herself in her sleep,” Arnold said.

Keep me awake!

Late night snacks are a good way to keep energy up if suffering with an all-nighter experience.

“I late night food helps me study. Marvins, Perkins and Taco Bell are my favorites,” said Morgan Zwick. Jimmy John’s, Marvins, Bamboo House, Toppers and Pizza Hut deliver at various times throughout the night.

If none of this appeals to you there is always the new Late Night Campus Delivery option; open from 10 p.m.-3 a.m. Thursday-Saturday and 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sunday. Its slogan ‘the late night cure you’ve been craving’ says it all. They are a restaurant delivery service for restaurants that don’t offer delivery. As of now, they are partnered with K Bueno and Politos. Just call 657-353-5623 and add $4 to whatever you want because of delivery fees and the food comes right to you.

Needless to say, people are anxious for finals to be over.

“I can’t wait to snowboard and go drinking,” Schachtschneider said.

Student Artwork Displayed, Juried for Gallery Show

This year’s award for Best in Show and recipient of the Arts Bash Award was Jeff Heath, a junior, for his work ‘Alienation,’ a mixed media work featuring glass figures standing on a carpet of moss.

“My more conceptual work, like this, is more about disconnections, alienation. The figures represent a human interaction using a plant form to represent that,” Heath said about his piece.

When asked about the quality of this year’s exhibition, Heath was humble: “I was really surprised that I got Best in Show because of how much really good work there was this year.”

Ryan Weisenfeld, winner of the William J. Handord Memorial Art Excellence Award for his piece ‘Flying Aussie,’ agreed with Heath, saying, “It feels great. I’m glad it got recognized, it’s a great piece and I’m just excited to have it in the show. It makes it even more prestigious to have the comforts you want because of delivery fees and the food comes right to you. Needless to say, people are anxious for finals to be over.

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Terrible Habits That DOOM Students for Finals

Procrastination and cramming.

By doing this all semester, it’s likely that you will know and remember nothing. If you are guilty of this try studying the basics of the course and your exams from the semester to get at least a fundamental knowledge.

“Early bedtime’ll get you,” Heath said.

Not wanting to leave the comforts of your warm bed has happened to all of us, but by doing this repeatedly, there are probably gaps in your notes. Talk to other students to get things you missed.

Falling Asleep During Class.

In a large lecture this doesn’t seem like such a big deal. However, when looking at your notes for the first time before your final, they can appear as drunken hieroglyphics.

Can’t Say No To Tempting Distractions?

Temporarily deactivate Facebook, avoid Pinterest, hide the remote, turn the music down, go cold turkey on the online shopping, and turn off your phone. Whatever it takes to concentrate!

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Photo by Samantha Feld

This is my first (time entering), so I’m really surprised ... This is the first award I’ve gotten, college speaking. I’ve gotten some things in the past but not for anything I’ve done here. It feels awesome,” Pooley said. Pooley won the Almost Rembrandt Award for her print of Jesters I.

Out of over 300 pieces that were submitted to the Juried Student Exhibition, the independent juror, Benjamin Reinhart, a professor from Lawrence University, narrowed the field down to around 100 pieces for the show. Reinhart then selected this year’s award winners, with awards ranging from Best in Show to awards for excellence in ceramics, painting, drawing, photography and printmaking as well as Foundation Awards for exceptional work from freshman artists.

“As far as what gets in the show, that’s up to the juror,” said Robert Erickson, UWSP’s printmaking professor and stand-in awards presenter. “Sometimes the juror will put a lot of pieces in; sometimes they will put very few pieces in. Most years they want a lot of pieces in and have a lot of students represented in the show.”

Cash prizes also went along with the awards, ranging from $25 for Foundation Awards to $500 for Best in Show.
pointlife

[a vague attempt at something delicious.]

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

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"Tis the season for giving and receiving, friends and family, ‘toy soldiers and nutcrackers, ice skating and snow angels, snowmen and snowwomen. Not to mention all the holiday specials on the television. The nostalgic monster deep inside of me awakens after the first snowfall, feeds on my goose bumps as I remember the presents I received years ago. Remember the feeling of warmth that spread from the tips of your toes to the end of your hair after taking the first sip of hot chocolate (with copious amounts of marshmallows) after a long day of snow fort building and the smell of wood burning in a chimney that accents a dark and crisp winter night.

But don’t call me a romantic just yet. Maybe after I rant and rave about grandma’s succulent, perfectly cooked, brown sugar-encrusted ham, the scalloped potatoes with a block of cheese added on top or maybe the holiday treats, cherry pie, double chocolate cake, sugar cookies nestled in frosting, homemade peanut butter cups, and the list goes on. Yeah, maybe I’m a romantic.

In the spirit of giving, I’d like to share with you one of my favorite recipes that mom shared with me. It’s a very simple recipe for chocolate-covered pretzels that I’ve had ever since I can remember.

In ingredients:
- A bag of your favorite pretzel variety (could be the regular twists or large pretzel rods)
- 1 package of semi-sweet chocolate chips or chopped chocolate
- Or/and: 1 package of white chocolate chips or chopped white chocolate

In directions:
1. Peanut butter for chocolate-covered pretzel sandwiches

Sprinkles of all variety to make them festive and look great

2. Fill a pot about 1/3rd with water, then place on high heat until it starts to boil, then keep on a low rolling boil.

3. Place well-fitting glass bowl on top of the pot of boiling water (if you’re doing two different chocolates using two pots, discoveries to boild...)

4. Melting chocolate chips on low heat, stirring frequently until the chocolate is shiny and smooth.

5. With wax paper on the counter, begin to dip the pretzels into the chocolate until covered and remove them with the tip of a knife or fork, laying the pretzels onto the wax paper.

6. Top with sprinkles or drizzle a different chocolate on top if you choose, and wait to cool. When cool, you can make your peanut butter pretzel sandwiches or enjoy them just the way they are.

New Brew Master Steps Up For Point Brewery

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There’s a new Brew Master in town, and his name is Gabe Hopkins, giving the Point Brewery a second brewer champion under its roof.

Hopkins, an Oklahoma native who is a student of regional breweries in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, will be working alongside long-time Point Brew Master John Zappa.

The addition of a second master will expand the production capacity to keep up with the company’s double-digit sales growth.

We expanded our production capacity to keep up with increasing demand, and it was only a matter of time before we needed to bring in some brewing reinforcements,” said Joe Martino, Stevens Point Brewery Operating Partner.

Hopkins earned a degree in biochemistry from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and during his career he has brewed everything from American ‘macro-beer’ lagers to high-end craft ales and lagers.

“My brewing philosophy is very simple and straightforward: I want to brew the best, most drinkable craft beers possible and continue to grow Point’s brands,” Hopkins said.

His talents have been put to good use as the brewery has been increasing its sales. Point Oktoberfest, one of the brewer’s chief growths, has proven so popular that the brewery has had to increase its production by 70 percent this year alone.

To meet the ever-increasing demand for Oktoberfest and its other year-round or seasonal beers, the brewery has expanded its production capacity 25 percent to 100,000 barrels along with more warehouse space and new aging and fermenting tanks.

“Brewing high quality, drinkable craft beers is what Point Brewery does best and I am excited to become a part of the team,” Hopkins said.

“Satisfying Point’s loyal customers and recruiting new craft beer drinkers from the world of ‘macro-beers’ is what it is all about.” Workers at Point Brewery are excited to have Hopkins on their team.

“We are thrilled to add someone like Gabe, with his experience, talents and creativity to our brewing team,” Martino said. “Point Beer lovers everywhere will reap the benefits.”

The brewery, founded in 1857, aimed its original target market to the logging company’s workers but has grown over the years into a nationally acclaimed brewery.

Their hand-crafted beers, including their flagship Point Special Lager, won the gold medal in the American Premium Lager category in the 2003 Great American Beer Festival.

For more information on the brewery or its products, visit their website at www.pointbeer.com or call 1-800-369-4911. Tours of the brewery are also available and times can be found on their website.

Everyday Activity Tips for Maximizing Brain Performance

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Finals. This is the time of the year to eat well, rest and know the simple everyday activities that enhance our brain’s performance.

1. When you first wake up, wiggle your toes. Start by wiggling all of them back and forth, and then just the fat toes. Almost a quarter of the bones in your body are in your feet, as well as hundreds of nerve endings and pressure points; activating these with slow and increasing movement will get your brain ready for the day.

2. Stretch your arms and legs, and then get up.

3. Wake up, give yourself at least an hour before turning on your TV, computer, videogames or whatever screens. Make time to sit and relax. You can try to meditate and/or you can visualize your day ahead. Keep your body in movement is just another way to make your neurotransmitters shine when you most need them to.

5. Walk, run or ride your bike to class and work. Exercise is one of the most important things you can do for your body, your self-confidence, and your brain. It’s important to get your endorphins going in the morning to feel good, enhance your mental circuits and foster your metabolism all throughout the day.

Keeping your body in movement is just another way to make your neurotransmitters shine when you most need them to.

6. Listen to a podcast or something stimulating. If you can, tune into or download some stimulating conversations about whatever issue you want. This will get your brain activity going for the day.

7. Set time to get your work and studying done. Nothing prepares us for future success more than the feeling like we accomplished our daily tasks.

8. Drink tea or juices instead of coffee and soda. Teas such as green tea, black tea or chai have good doses of much-needed caffeine in them, but they also contain anti-oxidants, which nourish your brain.

9. Sleep. The most important thing you can do for your body, your self-confidence, and your brain. It’s important to get your endorphins going in the morning to feel good, enhance your mental circuits and foster your metabolism all throughout the day.

10. Drink tea or juices instead of coffee and soda. Teas such as green tea, black tea or chai have good doses of much-needed caffeine in them, but they also contain anti-oxidants, which nourish your brain.

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pointlife

Humanities vs. Sciences: Is One Harder Than the Other?

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Are humanities majors easier than science majors? Do students switch from sciences to humanities because it's easier and vice versa? A few students from UWSP weighed in on this age-old question.

Sharon Mushel, a non-traditional nursing student, thinks sciences are much more difficult, but she wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's a lot of coursework of thinking," Mushel said. "[Working toward this degree] is the hardest thing I've ever done, but I didn't get into it to take the easy route either." Dr. Austin Seda, a communications major, shared a similar sentiment. "I would definitely say the science path involves more challenging courses and that humanities are less intense work, but more of it."

"It's hard to compare them on the same level."

Looking at the facts available, a list of declared majors over the last ten years found on the Registrar web page, shows that there might not be one answer to this question. UWSP has a strong and growing interest in the sciences overall, though almost all majors have only grown over the years. For instance, there are over 200 more biology majors now than there were in 2001. The Psychology major has also increased by over 100 majors are more about "thoughts and explaining your reasoning," whereas sciences majors are based on "knowing and applying facts."

"It's hard to compare them on the same level," said Emily Schmid, a natural resources major. "They're two very different ways of thinking."

Shmid explained how humanities majors are more about "thoughts and explaining your reasoning," whereas sciences majors are based on "knowing and applying facts."

"I'm really looking forward to starting a new chapter in my life, to grow out of the 'college' mindset and start my future," Kennedy said. "But ironically, it's the thing I dread the most. I welcome change in my life, but it's difficult when I've made UWSP my home for the past four and a half years. It will be hard to move away and start a career, but it will be something new and exciting to look forward to!"

After spending the past six and a half years at UWSP, Alicia Gaede received her Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Family and Consumer Science and is now graduating with a Master of Science in Human and Community Resources.

"Although I'm going to miss the professors and the connections that I have made while at UWSP, I'm looking forward to moving on to the next step in life and working in the field of Family Life Education," Gaede said.

"Get to know your professors because they are wonderful resources. They already have a great network of mentors and colleagues around the world that they can introduce you to and help you with your future career plans," Gaede said.

As the graduates enter the real world and step into this new phase in their lives, a variety of changes and emotions are expected. Along the way, each graduate's least favorite question will be asked: "What are you going to do now?"

Somewhere between the job searching, the arranging of living situations and the sorting through the confusion, remember your achievements. You've reached a whole new level of independence that is easier to let loose. So whenever your future takes you, let it take you where you dream.

Traveling Europe

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Traveling around Europe is like traveling around the United States distance wise. Everything is very close for proximity and transportation is endless.

Recently a group of us from Stevens Point went on a journey to Ireland. This is like going from Wisconsin to Michigan, except that the ferry we went on was like the Titanic! It was amazing; we did not think we were on the right ferry. There was a restaurant, duty free shop, bed rental, and even a movie theater. This was luxury! We were not even expecting to find food. I thought we would just park and sit until we reached Ireland. This was a treat compared to what we would encounter next.

Once we reached Ireland we would have to ride a bus for 5 hours to see the Blarney Stone. This was definitely worth it since we got to kiss the stone hanging upside down three stories high! Thrilling! Once we kissed the stone we were to become skilled with flattery. Everyone was giving excessive compliments on the bus the whole rest of the trip! We then were off again on the bus. We stopped at food festivals, a beach, and went to the Cliffs of Moher. I would definitely recommend going to the Cliffs of Moher. The view is amazing, and getting there is half the adventure. It is just something that makes you speechless.

The roads in Ireland were crazy! They twisted and they turned with the lush green landscape in the distance. During our endless bus ride we came upon a car hauling a trailer of sheep. At this instance we were also on a curve on the edge of a cliff on a huge bus (very scary). Luckily the car with the sheep backed up and let us through. Once again we were off!

This trip was very, very fast, but there sure were some great memories that were made. Hopefully there are more to come.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE POINTER STAFF!

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What would happen if the Occupy Wall Street movement, the local food movement and the environmental movement converged? Imagine producing sustenance for yourself, living sustainably with a sense of community...and the environmental consequences. Some communities can be generated locally, what else is needed? Inevitably, with climate change and ecocides, some communities will thrive and others will falter.

Change is an out-of-body experience. Change is a lobotomy.

In Support of Scott Walker

RACHEL GILANE
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As American citizens, we are all granted certain rights that should be exercised by every one of us; one of those rights being the right to vote those who can serve as a representative into office. On January 3, 2011, Governor Scott Walker was welcomed into office as the 45th Governor of the state of Wisconsin. In accepting his new role as Governor, Walker inherited a deficit over 3.6 billion dollars. When voted into office, Wisconsinites felt they were electing a man who could not only turn Wisconsin around, but create a prosperous workforce. The voters put their faith in Governor Walker’s abilities to save Wisconsin from its recessionary faults. As one of those voters I choose to stand behind Walker and support his efforts to pull Wisconsin out of the recession.

In a world where public workers in Wisconsin have shown a terrible dis­taste for Walker because they appear to misinterpret the meaning and purpose behind his proposed bills. These same workers are the people who refuse to pay money toward their own pensions and a more reasonable amount of money toward their health care bills. These are the same workers who expressed out­raged because the Governor wanted to limit their ability to collectively bargain rights. However, if these workers looked into the private sector, they would find a much harsher reality. It is rare in the private sector to pay little to nothing for health care, bargain wages, and have a secure pension. Many private sector workers are responsible for their own welfare, yet the workers working in the public sector are forced to cooperate at the wills of the unions. The unions were initiated as a post-Depression era initiative to help the economy return to a normal standard of money flow. The only purpose these unions serve today is the primary benefactor of a massive deficit. In part the unions have aided in the advance of Wisconsin’s monetary deficits.

As a concerned voter and citizen, I urge you to stand with Governor Walker through these trying times. You can take a stand through phone call, email, or letter. I urge you to stand with Governor Walker through these trying times. You can take a stand through phone call, email, or letter. I urge you to stand with Governor Walker through these trying times. You can take a stand through phone call, email, or letter.
**The Beets- Let the Poison Out**

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ALBUM REVIEW

Right out the gate with this album you get a wave of rock and roll, folky indie straight to the dome. This new album has very uplifting, groovy, rhythmic sections that have you rocking back and fourth like a metronome. The style is very much its own. I, personally have a difficult time even likening it to other bands.

However, the excessive use of slow bass riffs and acoustics do remind me of The Magnetic Zero's song "Home," just not on that level. They did do a pretty interesting incorporation of a flute, which I thought had an extremely whimsical trippy sense to it. As the album progresses, it has even more trippy in-between sections that leave you wondering what exactly is going on, only to surprise you with a funky bass line and drums that leave in you mildly euphoric awe. Nothing is really "pushing the envelope" here, but it does have a really interesting combination of songs, which reinforces a nostalgic appreciation of this style of music.

The lyrics happen to be the most outstanding aspect in my opinion. This is because more than one person is singing the entire time (hence the reference to "home") which makes you just want to jump in and sing a few lines. Along with the "oohs" and "aahs," the backup vocals give it a stellar essence few bands capture well.

Overall I have to say it's not groundbreaking by any means. Definitely worth the listen, though, due to its enchanting lyrics, silly, uplifting chord progressions and fitting bass and drums will really have you walking away with a smile.

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**All We Want For the Holidays Is..... [A Tacky & Selfish Wishlist] By The Pointer Staff**

"To be a real boy." -Nate Enwald

"More Studying?" -Michael Wilson

"A new camera!" -Dan Neckar

"Anderson Cooper." -Kaitlyn Luckow

"That sweater. I'm dead serious." -Emma St. Aubin

"All I want for Christmas is Jenna Marbles." -Logan Carlson

"I asked for rollerblades so I might be on time to all of my classes or money for my trip to Greece." -Monica

"A giant bowl of oatmeal paired with endless coffee and multiple issues of New York Times Magazine." -Samantha Feld

"I asked my parents to use my gift money and donate it to Oxfam International; a third world country will benefit from it more than I. I also asked for a copy of Terrence Malick’s 'The Tree of Life'...amazing." -Aaron Osowski

"I want a kitten(s). In a perfect world I’d get a new SLR camera and Macbook Pro. Hmph. In reality, I asked for a subscription to Communications Arts Magazine and maybe some new Aldo boots." -Amanda Hays

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The Pointer