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Loan Burden to Ease on Students, Obama Says

President Obama has revealed his new "Know Before You Owe" financial aid program last week, which will make student loans easier to repay and more affordable. The Occupy Wall Street movement has brought forth overwhelming student debt as a key issue to solve, and in response the president will put this new plan into effect with his executive powers.

"Student loan debt has now surpassed credit card debt for the first time ever," Obama said. "And when a big chunk of every paycheck goes towards student loans instead of financial aid program last week, nenwa I 28@uwsp .edu ing student debt as a key issue to ment has brought forth overwhelm­will put this new plan into effect with people who were in WISPIRG last year basically saying that WISPIRG shouldn't be recognized."

In his speech at the University of Denver - Colorado, Obama said that he was tired of waiting for action from Congress on the decreasing affordability of higher education, and that he understood the importance of American student financial burdens. In this plan, students who particip­ate would be allowed to limit their monthly payments to 10 percent of discretionary income, which is five percent less than it was previously.

Students and alumni still in debt could lower their monthly payments roughly one to two hundred dollars a month. This policy change could affect up to 1.6 million low-income persons who are buried in student loan debts. Originally, this payback cap was set to take effect two years from now, but the president has bumped it up to this coming January.

Along with the monthly pay­ment cap, the new policy will allow borrowers who have more than one student loan to consolidate them to reduce interest rates, in some cases as much as a percentage point.

"It doesn't sound like much, but it adds up in the long run, especially if you're going to be paying off your loans for 15 to 20 years to come," said Jacob Winters, a UW-Stevens Point student. Also, the president's accelerated plan includes a reduction in how many years until federal loans are forgiven. Previously, it wasn't until after 25 years that the government would lift the debt, but now under Obama's order the wait period is down to 20 years.

Obama said that by taking con­trol of the initiative and pushing it through with his presidential pow­ers he hopes to show the people of America that he is taking action in this economic downturn while Congress wastes time.

But the president still has his work cut out for him in the battle to make higher education more afford­able-federal student loan interest rates are set to double in July of 2012.

The senior vice president of the American Council on Education said that he believes the administration is acting in the best interest of students but the real problem lies in the rising interest rates to come.

**Broadcasters Prepare for First Ever National Emergency Test**

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This Tuesday, television and radio broadcasters will conduct a test. It will only be a test.

On November 9 at 2:00 p.m. EST, the Emergency Alert System (EAS) will conduct its first-ever nationwide test on all radio and television sta­tions. This test will interrupt pro­gramming for three minutes.

Emergency broadcasting has existed under different names. The first system, CONELRAD, was insti­tuted in 1951 by President Harry S. Truman to provide Americans with emergency information in a wartime event. The Cold War. Since its inception, emergency broadcasting has gone through numerous incarnations with different names, and expanded to include information including weather, emergencies.

While EAS tests have been per­formed on a state level, a nationwide test has never been conducted, and there has never been an emergency urgent enough to use an emergency broadcast.

Mark Tolstedt, Professor of Communication and former faculty advisor for WWSP-90FM, the university’s radio station, says that people should not be alarmed and the national test is not an indicator for trouble in the future.

"It's just good planning and prepar­ation. I don't think it has anything to do with our threat level," Tolstedt said.

Tolstedt compared the tests and broadcasters to medical professionals running practice situations to make sure they're prepared for real e mergencies.

"You want paramedics to go out on practice calls because when the real call comes in they are trained. We want any emergency personnel to be trained, and that's what this is doing, across the country," Tolstedt said.

WWSP-90FM's Station Advisor John Gosz said that the campus sta­tion should be prepared for this test, and that new equipment was installed last spring to ensure they would be ready.

While Gosz acknowledged the importance of newer technologies such as the internet and wireless devices, he insisted that radio is a great method to distribute important emergency information because of its ease of access and availability to the public.

"It's less of a prominent source, but it is a reliable and time-tested source. It works. That probably cannot be said of the internet and other wireless technology. It's a simple sys­tem, and radio is still widely used and free to the public," Gosz said.

Gosz said he is thankful that there has never been a need to use the EAS on a national level. "Fortunately it has never been used. There has never been a situa­tion of that great importance that it needed to be activated. If there was, it would be in very serious emergency," Gosz said.

**Correction:** In the Oct. 27 article entitled "WISPIRG Recognition Denied by SGA Senate" by Michael Wilson, SGA Senator Nichole Guelcher was misquoted as saying that "the Speaker of the Senate (Parker Smith) had sent an email saying WISPIRG should not be recognised for a variety of reasons." What Guelcher actually said is that "the Speaker of the Senate had some emails from people who were in WISPIRG last year basically saying that WISPIRG shouldn't be recognised."
Lighting the way to energy efficiency

BRIAN LUEDTKE
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Greetings, children of the great recession. In this week's column we will discuss a simple way in which consumers can make an impact and save time, electricity and money. It is a simple concept that is commonly dismissed and overlooked: energy efficiency.

Amory B. Lovins, director of research at the Rocky Mountain Institute said, "Converting to efficient lighting equipment would save the U.S. equal to the output of 120 large power plants plus $30 billion a year (1991) in fuel and maintenance costs."

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires general-purpose light bulbs to be 30 percent more efficient in 2014. As a result of this act, incandescent light bulbs will be illegal after 2014.

Incandescent bulbs work by passing electricity through a metal filament until it becomes so hot that it glows. The result is 90-95 percent of the electricity converted to heat and 5-10 percent of the electricity converted to light. Incandescent bulbs make great heaters, but very inefficient sources.

Thanks to many technological advancements and demand from all sectors of the economy, efficient light sources are on their way. You may have used or seen a compact fluorescent light (CFL) at home, work or school. They are the bulbs with the white base that has some tubes sprouting out and going back in. CFLs are four times more efficient, last up to ten times longer than incandescent bulbs and make good area lighting where bulbs will be on for more than 15 minutes at a time. Turning the bulbs on and off repeatedly affects the bulbs lifespan.

Unfortunately, these bulbs contain mercury and therefore should be handled carefully. The amount of mercury in the bulbs is actually less than the amount of mercury emitted from the burning of coal for electricity to light the bulb. CFLs also require special recycling, which can be done where they were purchased. However, CFLs, which convert 80 percent of electricity to heat, are really just a stepping-stone until a more efficient, affordable and easily recyclable technology is developed.

Light emitting diodes (LED) and organic light emitting diodes (OLED) are the future of lighting. LED's are now available which can substitute for most situations where an incandescent bulb or CFL was used in the past. Some of these LEDs are reported to last 50,000 hours. They can be turned on and off like incandescent bulbs without decreasing their life span.

OLEDs are a whole new kind of light; they consist of sheets of carbon-based compounds that will glow. These sheets could be put on walls or ceilings to illuminate a room as well as many other applications.

In a Department of Energy study, where LED lighting was compared to current lighting over 20 years (2010-2030), it was estimated that $120 billion in energy costs would be saved. This would also reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 246 million metric tons of carbon.

Choosing the right bulb for the right situation, such as putting LED’s in places that require frequent turning on and off (bathroom, closet, kitchen) and CFL’s in places that require area lighting for long periods of time (living room, dining area) can save time, money and electricity all at the same time.

"Our entire society rests upon—and is dependent upon—our water, our land, our forests and our minerals. How we use these resources influences our health, security, economy and well-being."

—John F. Kennedy

Switching to energy efficient light bulbs can save time, money and electricity.

Dean Thomas awarded Conservation Medal

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Christine Thomas, Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, has been awarded the National Society for the Daughters of the American Revolution’s Conservation Medal and Award at the 120th Continental Congress Gala Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C.

Dean Thomas was nominated for this recognition by the Stevens Point chapter of NSDAR. This award goes to a man or woman with a distinguished service record. Dean Thomas has just that.

For example, Thomas organized the first workshop of the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) in 1991. BOW, a non-profit educational program gives women age 18-80 an opportunity to learn outdoor skills and has since expanded to 40 U.S. states, Canada and New Zealand, with over 20,000 participants.

Thomas received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Central Michigan University, a master’s degree in water resources from UWSP and a doctorate in land resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Currently, she is vice chair of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, chair of the Conservation Division of the Boone and Crockett Club and secretary of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. She has also served as vice chair on the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

The NSDAR was founded in 1890 and is headquartered in Washington D.C. The society is a non-profit, non-political women’s service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America’s future through better education for children.

The 120th Continental Congress Gala Awards Ceremony is "not to be confused with the United States Congress' the Daughters of the American Revolution national meeting is named after the original Continental Congress which governed the American Colonies during the Revolutionary War," according to NSDAR’s website.

Defying the International Monetary Fund, Greece’s Prime Minister George Papandreou announces citizens will vote in referendum to decide whether the country’s financial system should accept a $140 billion bailout from the Eurozone.

Victor Bout, former Soviet Military officer, who was convicted in New York for attempting to sell arms to a Colombian terror group.

Led by NGOs such as Greenpeace and Oxfam International, thousands of anti-global capitalism protesters march in Nice, France as police seal off the nearby resort of Cannes, where the “Group of 20” (G-20) nations will begin meeting Thursday.

Scientists at the mayo clinic have discovered how to neutralize cells that have stopped dividing, which are attributed to the causes of aging. The experiments have been run successfully on rats.

China has successfully joined two spacecraft in space for the first time in the country's history. The unmanned Shenzhou 8 successfully docked with the Tiangong-1 space lab. The union was made over China.

Saif al-Islam, son of former dictator Muammar Gaddafi, is believed by the International Criminal Court’s chief prosecutor to be trying to flee Libya with the aid of hired mercenaries.

Republican presidential Herman Cain has been accused by a third, anonymous, woman who claims to be the object of inappropriate behavior and remarks in the workplace.

Protesters in Saint Paul's Cathedral, London, have been allowed to continue their encampment on church grounds when the City of London dropped its eviction plans.

Israeli reportedly test-tissue a ballistic missile as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahou and Defense Minister Ehud Barak try to muster a majority in the cabinet to support military action against Iran.

Mothers of "war on drugs" victims in Mexico form nonviolent activist group demanding military’s accountability for the disappeared.

After UNESCO, the UN cultural committee, overwhelmingly voted in favor of Palestine’s status as a member state, Israel announced Tuesday that it planned to build more settlements in occupied territories and freeze the transfer of tax revenues owed to the Palestinian Authority.

Human rights advocacy organization Human Rights Watch condemns Turkey for suppressing Kurdish intellectual, political science professor.
Retain Our Retention Rates

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As the ninth top public school in the Midwest, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has drawn quite a bit of attention lately. According to the Policy Analysis & Planning fact book (a collection of retention rates here at UWSP), there has been an 8.9 percent increase in retention of first to second year students and a 1,000-student increase in enrollment from 1995 to 2009.

"The most recent retention rate as of Fall 2010 freshmen to Fall 2011 is 80.4 percent. The rates have steadily improved over the past several years. The most recent three-year average was 80.2 percent, increased from the 76.2 percent three-year average before," said Shari Ellertson, Director of Policy Analysis and Institutional Research.

This new level of retention rates has been the goal for the administration for 2015, and reaching one of its major goals has been a successful break-through. However, directing attention towards retention rates has not come without challenges.

"A major challenge for us has been our ability to free up resources to direct towards retention when we are faced with severe budget reductions from the state," said Greg Diemer, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs.

This will be the biggest challenge with retention rates in the coming years. Resources are currently being placed into the faculty and staff identifying and assisting "at risk" students. Cuts to the budget could mean a huge dent in the resources to help these students. At this point, the biggest issue will be sustaining the retention rates we have achieved so far.

As someone who assists leadership positions in allocating resources to high priority retention efforts, Greg Diemer says that he "has not been involved in discussions regarding any chances to our retention rates, but I know everyone will apply due diligence to maintaining the higher rates we have attained."

State Budget Lapse Hurts UW-Stevens Point

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On October 14 the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was informed that the UW System will be required to make up a large portion of the $174.3 million state budget lapse being implemented by the Department of Administration (DOA) for 2011-13.

Unlike budget cuts, which come before money is given to universities by the state, budget lapses require funds to be paid back to the state during the fiscal year.

"A base cut means that they take from our budget and it's gone forever. A lapse in this case is something that they take for the year, so instead of spending that money on campus for things we had planned for, we have to give it back," Budget Director Erin Hintz said.

The UW-Stevens Point administration have not come to any decisions yet about what projects, developments, or renovations that will have to be scrapped to return the money.

"We will be looking at the challenges that presents for us, which includes the inability to replace obsolete equipment, infrastructure issues that we will not be able to take care of, along with all sorts of things, but we do not have the specifics yet from the administration for 2015, and reaching one of its major goals has been a successful break-through. However, directing attention towards retention rates has not come without challenges.

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"$2.7 million is what we can expect to pay for sure, but if [the lapse] is worse than they projected, we could pay back up to $4.27 million," Hintz said.

The UW System claims that the balance is offset between schools and other government agencies.

"We are not asking to be exempted from the lapse but rather we are asking for a more reasonable calculation that assigns a more equitable target for our UW System and our institutions," said Freda Harris, Vice President of Budget and Planning.

The budget lapse has not been finalized and could grow by the end of 2013 to over $300 million, making the effects permanent.

"They're calling it a 'lapse,' but if it becomes more of a long term thing then it could be considered a base cut," Hintz said.

The Pointer
The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point women's volleyball team won their first regular season conference championship in 30 years with their victory on Oct. 26 over UW-La Crosse (25-1, 22-25, 25-14). This victory propelled the team into the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference finals.

"I am very proud of my team and what they have accomplished this year, especially after starting the season with nine freshen," Head Coach Stacey White said. "We earned the first seed (25-6, 7-1 WIAC) so we will have a first round bye from [Tuesday] night's matches." Being the highest seed gives us the opportunity to host the WIAC championship matches."

Point will also host the tournament semifinals in the Berg Gym on Friday, games starting at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The championship matches will be played Saturday at noon and 2:30 p.m. White added that the winner of the tournament earns an automatic bid to the Division III national tournament.

Number two seed UW-Whitewater (24-7, 7-1 WIAC) also received a first round bye. Number three seed UW-Eau Claire and five seed UW-Platteville will join the tournament Friday after defeating UW-River Falls and UW-Oshkosh, respectively.

"We need to come ready to play hard and earn every point," White said. "Our team needs to pass well and serve tough throughout the entire tournament. Staying aggressive will be key to our success as well." All WIAC students are admitted free with a valid college ID. Adults are $8, youth (17 and under) $5 and children four and under are free. Tickets will be available at the doors.

Pointer Football Falls to Number One Whitewater

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point football team fell short of a victory on Saturday when they traveled to UW-Whitewater to battle the Warhawks, going down 31-16.

It didn't take long for Whitewater to get on the board, scoring in under 2 minutes on a 47-yard touchdown run by senior running back LeVell Coppage. Coppage broke the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference career rushing record after just four carries in the game. He also leads the WIAC in rushing this season.

Point followed suit with a few long passes from sophomore quarterback Mitch Beau, leading to a one-yard touchdown run by freshman running back Ben Wetzel. The extra point by senior place kicker Jere Fohrmann was off target, keeping the Warhawks in the lead 7-6.

Coppage continued to display his rushing abilities as he scored on the second drive from six yards out. The 14-6 lead was quickly challenged on the next drive for Point when Fohrmann drilled a 42-yard field goal, taking the score to 14-9.

Whitewater answered with a 57-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Matt Blanchard to junior wide receiver Tyler Huber, increasing the Warhawk lead to 21-9. The second quarter brought much less scoring but Point did make it on the board early on a pass from Beau to junior wide receiver Theo Maglio, making it a 21-16 game.

Maglio, who began the season as a defensive back but switched to wide receiver three weeks ago, has made his presence felt. In the two games prior, Maglio posted seven catches for 158 yards and two touchdowns. He was named the WIAC Offensive Player of the Week last week.

Point went into halftime just five points down and looking to ruin the Warhawks' homecoming the same way they did in 2008, which was the last time Whitewater lost a regular season game. But the Warhawks had their own idea in mind.

Whitewater sophomore kicker Eric Kindler posted the only points in the third quarter when he connected on a 23-yard field goal with under 8 minutes left. The final score of the game came on another long touchdown run by Coppage, sealing the 31-16 victory.

Point, now 2-3 in WIAC play and 4-4 overall, will face the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Saturday in their final home game. Kickoff for Senior/Parents Day is 1:00 p.m. at Goeke Field.
The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's hockey team won game one against St. Norbert 5-1 at home on Friday thanks to a hat trick from sophomore forward Kyle Heck. The following night, the Green Knights got redemption as they handed the Pointers a 4-1 loss.

St. Norbert, the number one seed in Division III hockey, fell behind early in game one after Heck scored his first goal in the first period. The goal came in a double assist effort from sophomore forward Kyle Politz and sophomore defender Tyler Krueger.

"We did what our coach told us to do and it worked for us," said Heck, who is this week's Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Athlete of the Week. "If it wasn't for my teammates I wouldn't have gotten the award."

A turnover by St. Norbert led to Heck’s second goal of the first period, giving Point a 2-0 advantage over the Green Knights.

Point found themselves short-handed, allowing St. Norbert the chance for a comeback. Green Knights freshman forward Cullen Bradshaw found the back of the net on a power play in the second period, bringing them within one goal.

At the end of the second period, junior defender Sean McNeeley tapped in a goal off of a rebound, giving the Pointers a 3-1 advantage.

"We want to be a team that is difficult to play against," first-year Head Coach Chris Brooks said. "We want to be a team that plays with passion."

The third period was all Pointers. Junior forward Nick Kenney sank a goal assisted by sophomore forward Max Bobrow. Junior forward Johnny Meo followed that goal with an assist to Heck for his hat trick, sealing the 5-1 victory.

"The system we are running is more complicated," said Heck, referring to the change in coaching scheme. "You have to work on it every day... He really knows his stuff and we really like that about him."

The second game of the series took place in De Pere, Wisconsin, at the Green Knights’ home arena. The first goal for St. Norbert came within 10 minutes of the opening period when senior forward Johan Ryd scored, giving the Green Knights a 1-0 lead. Less than a minute later sophomore forward Emil Haque scored his first goal of the season, extending the lead to 3-0.

Point finally scored on a goal by junior forward Brandon Busse in the second period, eliminating the shutout. However, in the third period junior forward Kyle Stroh scored for the Green Knights, putting them on top by the deciding 4-1 margin.

"We took too many penalties in their building," said Coach Brooks. "We need to pay attention to detail... play to our identity."

Coach Brooks came to UWSP from the Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees out of Texas and is only the fifth coach in Pointer hockey history.

Junior goalkeeper Nick Graves saved 20 of the 21 shots in the first game and 24 of the Green Knights’ 28 shots in the second. Point is now 1-2 overall and 1-1 in Northern Collegiate Hockey Association play.

The next game for the Pointers is Friday, Nov. 4 at 7:00 p.m. against Augsburg at Willet Arena.
You never know who you might see in London!

London is in the top 20 largest cities in the world. This city is so diverse there is always someone new that you can meet. You never know in London, you might just pass shoulder to shoulder with someone famous.

You can always hang out with Will and Kate like you see me doing. Just kidding, they are look-a-likes. There is always a chance to see the Royals, or at least see where they live. A bunch of students from our group, visited Buckingham Palace and saw Kate’s wedding dress.

Last month our group of students went to the National Theater for a show. On the way to the theater there was a movie premiere for “Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy,” me being the big celebrity guru did not realize who was just steps in front of me: Colin Firth. When I told the other students about the movie premiere they were very disappointed in me for not getting an autograph from the celebrity. I guess if I would have known who that was I would have been in the right place at the right time!

This last weekend there was a NFL party across the street from our housing. Some players from the Bears and Buccaneers were there. Our group from UWSP had the chance to see a couple of them. There were very few fans outside, maybe since they know about our rivalry with the Bears, or probably because American football is not very popular in the UK.

While in London you never know who you’re going to see. You just have to keep your eyes peeled!
In the quest to seek even more shortcuts in the kitchen, I've compiled a list of tips from family, friends, past failures and successes, the Internet and even what I've learned at past employment. I hope that maybe one or two of these tips will be new to everyone and one or two more will be actually helpful while you make your next meal.

**Baking:**
3 tsp = 1 tbsp - this is a handy conversion that I often use because my tablespoon-sized measuring spoon goes missing more than I'd like.
Always measure while baking. Baking is a precise science, and it's not as easy to go by taste like you can in cooking.
If a recipe calls for buttermilk, you can easily make it yourself with 1 cup of milk and 1 tbsp of white vinegar.
Chill cookie dough before putting it on the cookie sheets and freeze leftover cookie dough. Chilled cookie dough allows the leavening ingredients to work with the butter before they lose their texture.
While separating egg whites, if any yolk gets into the whites, use half of an eggshell to scoop the yolk from the whites. The yolk is naturally attracted to the shell.

**Fruits and Vegetables:**
If you roll lemons or limes on the counter before juicing them or micro-wave for 10 to 15 seconds, they will yield more juice and be easier to juice.
To avoid tears when cutting an onion, freeze the onion for 10 to 15 minutes prior to cutting.
If you Blanch vegetables (stop the cooking process by dunking vegetables into ice water) after boiling, they'll keep their color.
To easily remove the outer shell of garlic cloves, smash the garlic glove under the flattened blade of a knife, but be careful not to hurt yourself.

**Cooking:**
Always trim the fat off your chicken before cooking. No one wants extra fat.
Conventionally it is said to boil pasta in a large pot with a lot of water and wait until the water is boiling to add the pasta; however, if you start your pasta in a frying pan with cold water (about 2 cups for every 12 oz of pasta), raise it to a boil and keep an eye on it, you'll be left with perfectly cooked pasta.
Recipes are guidelines. If you do not like a certain herb in a sauce, then replace it or don't use it. Recipes are also not meant to be definitive and do not take personal preference into account.
Sliced garlic is less likely to burn than minced garlic while being sautéed.
And a tip from me to you, always enjoy your time in the kitchen. Put some music on, grab your favorite beverage (beer), take everything one step at a time and eventually you'll get into the rhythm and start to relax.

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**"Thoroughly Modern Millie": Opening Soon**

**MONICA LENIUS**

Tap dancing, 1920s glam, musical numbers, and comedy is coming to Jenkins Theatre this month with "Thoroughly Modern Millie." After seven weeks of rehearsal, the UW-Stevens Point Department of Theatre and Dance will debut their musical with "Thoroughly Modern Millie.

Set in the 1920s, when women were high hopes of marrying a rich man. The turning point comes about when she checks into a hotel owned by the leader of a slavery ring in China.

"The show has great "audience appeal" because of its humor, jazz music, 1920s costuming and tap dancing," to name a few elements. You can't help but walk away from this performance without having laughed a lot. You'll have a huge smile on your face," said Tim Howard, director and coordinator of BFA Musical Theatre.

As someone who has done over 100 shows himself, whether acting or directing, Howard describes the biggest struggle as the size of the group and navigating 35 actors on stage at once... between all the cast, band and designers, there are over 100 faculty and students directly involved in getting this show running.

This group has been rehearsing five times a week, four hours each time. By attempting to make-up, manage a band on stage, and create the 1920s flapper costumes, this epic love story requires much preparation. However, this love story isn't so hard for some.

"The fact that my actual girlfriend and I get to play the romantic leads is awesome! In addition to a longstanding relationship we've also worked together a number of times before on stage, so it just makes the process that much more comfortable for both of us," said John Ford-Dunker, the actor who plays Jimmy Smith.

Because of his tendency to explore the darker sides of musical theatre, this character was a little more difficult for Ford-Dunker to create.

"It has been a bit of a challenge to get the character to the sort of stylized level of Jimmy Smith's fast, smooth 'everything all the time' attitude that was rampant in the 1920s," Ford-Dunker said. "But the thing I love about this musical is that there's never a dull moment. You will either be clapping, laughing, cheering, or booing at any given moment."

With the demanding rehearsal schedule and performances looming in the near future, Ford-Dunker is pleased with the chemistry the cast has been able to maintain.

"We've worked hard but have laughed a lot in rehearsal. That was my favorite part of the whole production process, the laughing," said Howard.
Opening Day is Headed Our Way

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I'm not much of a hunter, but from growing up in a family that hunts, eating venison burgers and being watched by deer heads on my living room walls has become a norm. Throughout the years I've learned a thing or two about deer hunting, including the infamous holiday opening day for firearms deer hunting season, falling on Nov. 19 this year.

As gun hunting season draws near, many people, including students at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, are awaiting the excitement of being back in the woods and catching that elusive buck.

Erik Hendrickson, a UWSP sophomore who deer hunts, spoke about why he loves hunting.

"I love being able to see and experience nature and how all of the animals, not just the ones I'm hunting, interact with nature in the ecological system that I'm learning about in my lectures. I like seeing how I relate to it and how I impact it," Hendrickson said.

"I normally go gun hunting, but I've been bow hunting before up in Antigo, which is my hometown, and I've also been hunting in the Upper Peninsula. I haven't been able to hunt around here yet, but I was hoping to sometime," Hendrickson said.

"Deer hunting has become a tradition in many families, where many generations of men head up to their cabins and spend their days in the woods in the next few weeks, good luck and good hunting."

As for the rest of us non-hunters, don't be surprised as you find yourself driving behind a split open deer on the highway somewhere.

Photo courtesy of Eric Osterdyk

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The University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Department of Military Science celebrated their successful move into their new suite in the Health Enhancement Center at the beginning of the semester. They had previously been located in two different parts of the Student Services building.

"It is wonderful that we are all in one area," said Major Eric Beuerman. "We really are in the hub of everything now," referring to the fact that the new facilities are directly in the middle of campus.

"We are able to do drill and ceremony in the parking lots, and squad movements in the athletic fields. The amount of resources that are available now is fantastic for our needs. Plus it is just a lot easier for people to find us," Beuerman said.

Construction began last fall and was completed early spring semester. The department started the transition from their old offices over spring break but it was not until this summer that they were able to get settled into their new home.

The new facilities include a new classroom, a meeting room, a ten-person classroom that can be used as a laboratory, a computer lab and offices for cadre and support facilities.

"Everyone is now in one spot," said Beuerman. Previously the department was divided in two different parts of the Student Services building, with some staff and support services divided from the other cadre.

"We never really saw the students unless they specifically sought us out. Now we are able to see them all the time."

The program currently has 20 contracted cadets who have committed to commissioning upon completion of their training. They average about 10 commissions each year, mixing between both active duty and reserve components of the army.

Maj. Beuerman said that aviation is a popular choice for cadets but that it is a very hard branch to get into. Some of the more popular branches as of late have been signal and military intelligence.

In addition to the contracted cadets, the program teaches a one credit introductory course that immerses students into military life. About 110 students participated in a field training exercise at Fort McCoy at the end of September where they participated in various events like obstacle courses, a rappelling tower and a paintball course.

"Most students that take the course do not go on to contract as cadets but it provides them an opportunity to experience some things they've never done before," said Beuerman. "The seniors in the program take charge of the exercise. They plan and execute the training the whole weekend."

Military Science Comes Together In New Facility

Photo courtesy of UWSP Department of Military Science

UWSP Military Science students power through the obstacle course at Fort McCoy.
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With the unemployment rate a half a percentage point higher than when he entered office, while at the same time staring at a massive state­wide recall effort, Governor Scott Walker called a special session of the legislature to focus on jobs.

This special session was announced with great fanfare by the governor in hopes that a distracted public would see that he was doing something about the ongoing eco­nomic malaise and loose interest in jobs like a "laser beam" and that they would see that Walker was going to fall far short of the 250,000 jobs he had promised to make during his term as governor, with the state on track to add about 160,000 jobs by 2015.

Walker called upon the legisla­ture, saying they needed to focus on jobs like a "laser beam" and that they need to "get away from all the other stuff, all the other subjects debated around the Capitol that distracted us from this."

So of course when the special session started, the legislature began working in earnest on bills that would spur economic activity and position Wisconsin to have the edu­cated workforce to compete in the 21st century economy.

Instead we saw bills urging the teaching of abstinence in pub­lic schools, when to cross a railroad track, on resisting arrest, when you are more likely to stay poor and wonder why."

So far we have debated bills was one that eliminates the use of race in the administration of the Talent Incentive Program, which pro­vided grants to 4,300 needy students in 2009-2010. In an economy where the unemployment rate is 16 percent for African Americans, double that of whites, it is a program that provides hope to students who may not have any way to help themselves.

Each month the unemployment numbers are released and each month the unemployment rate for those with a bachelor's degree remains steady at just over four percent.

"We are about opportunity and denying or making it harder, or ignoring the need for that opportunity for some select members of our society does not make that need go away," Representative Gordon Hintz said during debate of the bill. "If you look at what has happened to social mobility over the past 50 years. If you were born poor 40 years ago you had a better chance of climbing that social ladder than anywhere in the western world. Today if you are born poor you are more likely to stay poor and we wonder why."

And that is what makes the Occupy Wall Street movement that important. In today's society the top one percent is hoarding a disproport­ionate amount of wealth and with that immense wealth being hoarded it leaves the rest of the nation fighting for the scraps that are left behind.

Over the past 30 years the income for the top one percent has nearly tripled while the bottom 80 percent has lagged behind quite considerably. So when public education gets gutted or important programs that increase the quality of life for the most vulner­able society, it does not affect them in the slightest and they are able to continue with life as normal.

Which brings us back to the special session of the legislature. Instead of focusing on bills and policies that were poised to brighten the economic future in Wisconsin, the Republican­led legislature instead wanted to expand hunting seasons and define what a bicycle is. I have been finding myself using the words "shame" and "shameful" a lot this past year but there is no other way to explain what has happened in this state, and the country, since the elections of 2010.

These people truly have no shame.

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