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Welcome home.

UWSP welcomes a new class of freshmen to its campus **page 7**

inside

news

Bioplastic recycling initiative started on campus **page 2**

sports

Point football team wins nail-biter out West **page 5**

pointlife

Dorm life in the 1970s **page 12**

INDEX

NEWS	2-4
SPORTS	5-6
POINTLIFE	7-10, 12
OPINION	11

ONLINE: CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

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News

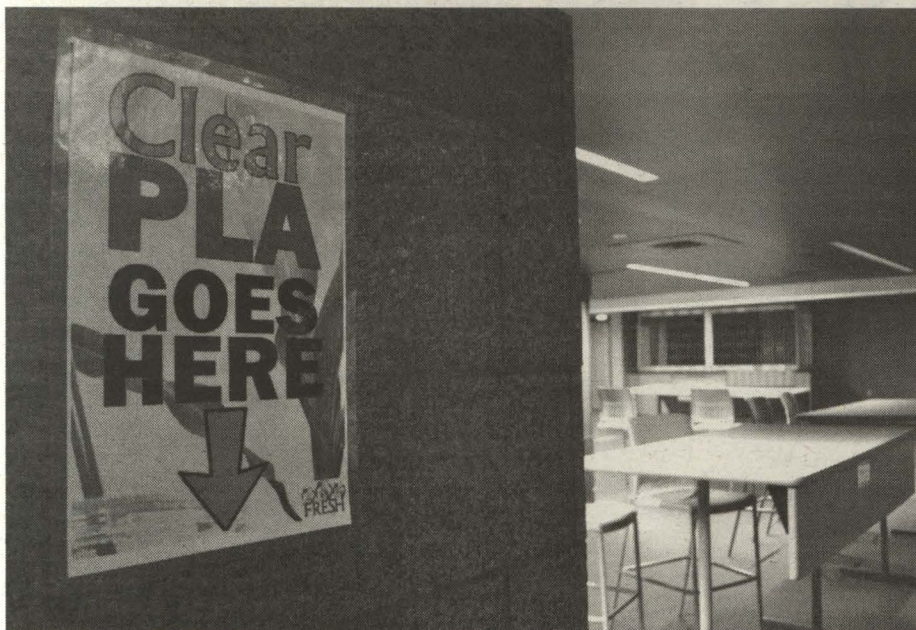


Photo by Samantha Feld

UWSP uses a variety of disposable food containers made of PLA

FRESH Starts Bioplastic Recycling Project

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If you've eaten at the Debot or Dreyfus University Center dining halls, then you may recall drinking out of those clear plastic cups that have "compostable" and "made from corn" written on them. You may also remember just simply throwing these cups in the garbage.

Students' confusion about the recyclable corn bioplastic cups (or PLA cups, short for polylactic acid) will be put to rest this year, as the university has recently jump-started a recycling campaign for them.

FRESH (Focused Research Effort for Sustainable Habits), a project of the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST), is heading up the PLA recycling project. This project will include collecting, rinsing, and storing all discarded corn products from the DUC and Debot dining centers.

Waneta Kratz, graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and FRESH's Project Manager, began the project after hearing about the idea from Paul Fowler, the Executive Director of WIST.

"Well, maybe if you had a student-run organization under WIST

implement a recycling program for this and run the whole advertising campaign and really spread the word...then that would be a great way for students to get involved and have WIST become wider known on campus," Kratz said.

Right now the project is set up as a demonstration to gauge the environmental sustainability as well as the economic feasibility of such a recycling campaign on campus. UWSP has already been using PLA products for two years, so Kratz claims that FRESH is trying to more efficiently use products the campus already purchases.

"So what we're focusing on is getting the full sustainable potential out of these products that the campus is already paying a lot more money for versus traditional products made of petroleum-based plastics," Kratz said.

The university currently uses PLA products from the company Eco Products, but will be getting their PLA products from Earth Choice after those supplies run out. Both products will be recycled in the same manner.

A more sustainable campus

FRESH's current role at UWSP is to collect, rinse and store all PLA products that are collected on campus. The plastics are then sent to WRR Environmental Services, an Eau Claire-based company that takes over the chemical recycling process called hydrolysis.

Hydrolysis involves taking the

See FRESH on pg. 3

Decisive year for national student movement

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The student movement in the U.S. is spearheaded by two organizations of relevance to Wisconsin students: the immediate one is the United Council of UW Students, our state-wide student association. Founded at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1960, it is not only the largest and oldest in the country, representing 152,000 students--it is also the highest funded.

The second organization is the USSA, or the United States Student Association. It is the oldest, largest, and "most inclusive" national student association, founded at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1947. The inclusivity is visible, and it goes above the identities of its membership. For USSA inclusivity is a goal, an issue and a tactic - it is a way of life.

On the week of July 22-27, over a hundred students and USSA staff attended USSA's 64th yearly congress, hosted at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee. The gathering came at a critical time for the student movement in the United States and in the world.

At the convention, students from several Wisconsin campuses joined students from other statewide stu-

dent associations and direct-member campuses in Oregon, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, California, and the host state to elect the incoming leadership and set the organization's platform and agenda for the year. Some changes to USSA's internal structure were also proposed.

Tiffany Dena Loftin ran for the Vice President seat unopposed. After a mildly competitive two-way race, the Presidential seat swung strongly in favor of Victor Sanchez Jr. Both Loftin and Sanchez attended the University of California-Santa Cruz.

"We have the ability to change the conversation in Washington, and students are certainly ready," Sanchez said after his victory.

Vice President Loftin commented on the experience of a Historically Black University or College hosting the Congress, stating that "the persona and hospitality of students at a HBCU is different from every other campus, so much so that I felt more awoken by history to believe in change today."

"It was the best thing in my organizing career so far, working with students to defeat barriers to higher education on land that used to belong to a plantation," Loftin said.

Among the resolutions approved were the adoption of national Pell Grant and TRIO lobbying campaigns. Both of these campaigns deal directly with the diminishing of government investment in education. TRIO programs are federal student services programs that assist folks from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as people with disabilities and non-traditional, low-income and first-generation students.

A UW System report issued this week stated that it will need to, among other things, eliminate 51 full-time positions under Governor Walker's current two-year budget. Adding to state budget cuts to education across the country, debt ceiling compromises between President Obama and Congress will shift roughly \$125 billion of federal student loans funds from subsidized to unsubsidized for this academic year, forcing students to pay for accrued interest on loans during their college years.

See Movement on page 4

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news

Study finds at least 8% of UWSP drivers on cell phones



Photo by Samantha Feld

A study by The University of Utah confirms that using a cell phone while driving delays one's reaction time as much as having a blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent

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A recent study conducted by UWSP students found that 8.4% of drivers on campus were actively using a cell phone. Over three-quarters of those found on their phone were engaged in a phone call while approximately twenty percent were seemingly involved in texting on their phone.

Last March the students of Professor Tamás Bodor's Communication Research Methods class (COMM300) marched out in pairs to their respective observation locations to study University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point traffic via unobstructive observation. The research sought to gather information about cell phone use while driving. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., student researchers put pencil to paper and recorded various anonymous data such as driver age group, sex, cell phone and turn signal use at the exit of Parking Lot X as well as at the

corner of Isadore Street and Fourth Avenue.

Cell phone use was determined at the observer's discretion. If a driver appeared to be texting, talking on their phone, or possibly texting the student researcher recorded it as such. The drivers' ages were separated and recorded into four different age groups. The results showed that the likelihood of cell phone use decreased as the age of the driver increased.

Gender was also an interesting and important aspect of the study. More male drivers than female were recorded; however, both a higher number and higher percentage of female drivers were determined to be actively using a cell phone while driving. One out of every ten (10.7%) female drivers was observed as using a cell phone, whereas only 6.5% of male drivers were observed as using a cell phone. The differing rate of

"According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) (2009), 18% of all fatalities in distraction-related crashes are linked to cell phones."

FRESH/PLA can be used for multiple purposes

Continued from page 2

PLA and exposing it to high heat and pressure until it returns to its original state, lactic acid. This lactic acid can be used for numerous purposes such as making new plastics or even creating an environmentally friendly form of rock salt.

Amy Novack, FRESH's Marketing Associate, says the project intends to find a way to bring the value of recycled PLA products back to UWSP.

"Right now we're trying to see if there's an end-of-life cycle that can actually be brought back to campus," Novack said.

If the PLA products on campus are recycled to form rock salts,

the university both saves money and helps the environment. This is because the rock salts that would be made from the process would not contaminate ground water, as traditional sodium chloride rock salts do.

"The principle is that we're using a product that's made from a renewable resource versus a finite resource."

Kratz believes the university is headed towards a sustainable future

cell phone use while driving among males and females was found to be statistically significant. This finding is consistent with other studies of cell phone use while driving on U.S. campuses.

The study also offered evidence that cell phone use leads to inattentive driving. Altogether, 25.3% of drivers actively using a cell phone failed to use turn signal properly while 17.2% of drivers who were not actively using a cell phone did so. The effect of cell phone use seemed to play out differently for male and female drivers. Among males, using a cell phone was not associated with a significantly higher rate of inadequate turn signal use. Among females, however, those who used a cell phone were significantly more likely to fail to use turn signal than those who did not use a cell phone (27.1% vs. 13.6%, respectively).

In summary, the study found that one is most likely to use a cell phone while driving if between the ages of 16 and 25 and female. As to the possible outcome of cell phone use, the findings are in line with previous research: using cell phones while driving leads to poorer driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) 18% in 2009 of all fatalities in distraction-related crashes are linked to cell phones. Research has also suggested that using a cell phone while driving has an impact on the driver's reaction time to a degree that is equivalent to a blood alcohol concentration of .08%. If anything can be said, it is that everyone has the power to reduce the amount of distracted driving instances by avoiding the use of their cell phones in the car. Drive safely!

Fierce partisan battles raged this summer

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Wisconsin's turbulent political weather from this spring did not wane over the summer. The state saw an unprecedented recall campaign against nine state senators from both parties. In addition to the recalls, the legislature passed two controversial pieces of legislation involving voter identification and concealed carry, as well as the state's highly contentious biennium budget, all of which passed largely along party lines.

In July, Republicans were successful in holding the majority in the state senate after Democrats were able to recall only two of the six Republican state senators they targeted, Sen. Randy Hopper of Fond du Lac, and Sen. Dan Kapanke of La Crosse. Overall, six Republicans and three Democrats had faced recall elections. All three Democrats had won their respective elections.

The recall elections were a direct result from February when Governor Walker introduced his budget repair bill that would close the state's budget deficit largely with benefit cuts to state workers, and restrain their rights to collectively bargain for anything but wages. This sparked outrage around the state resulting in record-setting protests at the state capitol in Madison that had persisted for weeks.

In an effort to raise public awareness, and perhaps defeat the bill, all 14 Democratic senators left the state for over three weeks, preventing a quorum from being established and thus a vote on the bill. Republican lawmakers were at a loss for how to get them to come back to the state, trying to limit their staff's access to copy machines and parking spaces, to withholding lawmakers' paychecks unless they picked them up in person.

Eventually, Republicans stripped all fiscal elements from the Budget Repair Bill, thus removing the 20-member quorum requirement in the Senate. The bill was passed 18-1 in the senate and 53-42 in the assembly.

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin openly supported the recall process of Republican senators who had voted for the bill, while independent groups worked on recalling Democratic senators for leaving the state.

The state constitution and state law says that only those lawmakers who have served at least one year of their term are eligible for the recall process. Those groups wishing to initiate recall procedures had 60 days to gather signatures equaling at least 25% of the vote the governor received in that district during the last gubernatorial election.

See Battles on pg. 4

news

Battles/Campuses deal with concealed carry

Continued from page 3

Voter ID

Wisconsin residents will start having to show a photo ID when they go to the polls with beginning the spring primary next year. Governor Walker signed the Wisconsin Voter ID bill into law this May saying, "Protecting the integrity of our elections is central to ensuring our government has the full faith and confidence of the citizens it represents."

Commonly held acceptable forms of identification include a Wisconsin DoT-issued drivers license or ID, a military ID and a U.S. passport. University-issued ID cards from Wisconsin-accredited schools can also be used if they have a date of issue and expiration, as well as the signature of student, none of which are currently featured on UWSP ID cards.

Governor Walker and Republican

legislators stated that requiring a photo ID to vote would protect against the threat of voter fraud from interfering in elections. "If you need an ID to buy cold medicine, it's reasonable to require it to vote," Walker said.

Democrats counter saying this bill fixes a problem that does not exist. They also claim it will improperly deny the right to vote to vulnerable demographics that do not readily have access to acceptable IDs, namely the elderly, students, shut-ins and minorities, all of which tend to vote Democratic during elections.

"Republicans will spend millions of taxpayer dollars to expand government and deny voters their rights," said Mike Tate, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair. "They have limited rights rather than expanding them."

Following the passage of the legislation, the state will issue free identification cards to anyone who requests one, provided they do not already have a state-issued drivers license or identification card that is currently valid.

Concealed Carry

The state legislature repealed the state ban on the concealed carry of handguns, becoming the 49th state to do so. This leaves Illinois as the lone state prohibiting concealed carry.

Residents wishing to carry will have to undergo a training course and obtain a permit, which will allow them to carry concealed weapons in most public buildings. This includes establishments that serve liquor as long as that person does not consume any. Businesses can post a sign at their entrance indicating that weapons are

not permitted if they choose to.

Proponents of the bill championed the passage, claiming that it was a constitutional right and is necessary for citizens to adequately protect themselves. The campaign to get the bill passed had been ongoing for years but had been stymied by Gov. Jim Doyle and Democrats in the legislature.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) said the passage was "a great victory for the people of Wisconsin and for the 2nd Amendment."

Opponents counter, fearing more guns will only result in more gun violence. Sen. Spencer Coggs (D-Milwaukee), who voted against the bill, said, "The solution is less guns, not more guns."

Decisive year for national student movement

Continued from page 2

The austerity, privatization and deregulation maneuvers sweeping the developed world are argued for in terms of economic responsibility and recovery. However, according to a House of Lords (UK) study, for every £1 invested in higher education, the British economy expands by £2.6, including an immediate return of around £1.30 in tax revenue, which the government can use to repay the public debt or reinvest in other public services. However, among other austerity measures, the Coalition Government voted in November to hike student fees to £9,000, leading to a momentous, student-led but middle-class-wide uprising all across the United Kingdom.

Still fresh in students' memory is the fact that according to the Bank of England, the cost of the 2007-08 banking industry bailouts to the British taxpayers was around £1.2 trillion (USD \$2 trillion). The Coalition is also expanding Britain's nuclear arsenal.

Unemployment in the U.S. currently remains at 9.1% according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with even worse averages for demographic groups between 20 and 30 years old. This July saw the lowest rate in summer youth employment since the Bureau began its record in 1948.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is currently invested in seven conflicts, including the two longest wars in its history. Furthermore, the non-partisan Congressional Research Office reported last week that zero-bid (non-competitive) military contracts have tripled in the past decade.

Without exaggerated views, arrogant gung-ho mentalities or hopeless dreams of radical change around the corner, United Council and USSA's members lay the groundwork for attainable victories for student access to higher education.

For example, one of USSA's most commonly adopted campaigns in recent years is in support of the DREAM Act, which allows a path to citizenship for the children of undoc-

umented immigrants who become college students or join the military. Proponents argue that access to higher education for these students is the best way to get a return on society's investment on their K-12 education.

As of Monday, the California State Assembly and Governor Brown ratified and signed into law the state's version of the DREAM Act, which gives limited access to financial aid to undocumented students but does not offer a pathway to citizenship. Even though the DREAM Act has recently fallen short of a U.S. Senate vote (after passing the House of Representatives) again, the passage of this state law is a paramount victory for student organizers in California.

Also in attendance at the USSA Congress was Angus Johnston. Decades-long USSA member and alumnus, Johnston is one of the leading contemporary historians of student activism and a professor at the City University of New York.

Currently, "the student movement in the United States is in a position of amazing strength," said Johnston. "It is building incredible relations with labor and other organizations; the student body in the U.S. is more likely to be first-generation, more likely to be female, non-traditional, students of color, working class, openly gay, have a disability... it is more representative of the people of the U.S. than it has ever been."

There is an incredible power in that, he stressed. "If the students represent the state population, they cannot be dismissed by media and politicians as ivory tower brats separated from society's issues," Johnston said.

Referring to student activism in Wisconsin and California, Johnston concluded, "We are headed to a very exciting time. There is more student

power around than in decades. The question is: are you going to win? My answer is that you already are."

As attendants arrived at the convention, news stories emerged about Norway's Anders Behring Breivik, a man with reported ties to fundamentalist Christian as well as militant, racial purity, pro-gun rights, anti-Islam and anti-immigration organizations. Behring followed his bombing of the Prime Minister's office at the Labor Party headquarters in Oslo on July 11 by driving to the largest annual convention of student activists, in the Utoeya island northwest of Oslo, and opening fire on the crowd, killing 85 student leaders.

Breivik, who has been charged with "acts of terrorism," called the killings "atrocious" but "necessary."

These events made the reality of an internationalized student movement chillingly palpable. As the story developed, Johnston urged the assembly of students at Florida A&M University to

recognize the similarities between one meeting of student leaders and another. Proportionally, in terms of national population, the murder of 85 student leaders in Norway would equal the murder of 5,400 student organizers in the United States.

Whereas for the first time in modern history, the following generation's prospects are more grim than ours, students across the world are—from Greece to Gaza to Chile and Wisconsin—organizing a coherent push back on behalf of public education. Within its broader social context, the student movement can serve the function of a vanguard for all social sectors—such as labor, community, religious and other advocacy groups—by providing the example, information, discourse and the will to fight for government accountabil-

ity, decent standards of living and adequate public services.

"In my experience, in order to form alliances with other sectors of society and inspire them to act, students must educate themselves and others about issues facing these sectors," said Sarah Kelley, a student from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and an intern for Jobs with Justice.

To empower these sectors, organize and act for social change, Kelley noted, "The people of these sectors need to be informed of their own rights and the ways they are being abused if they are going to be moved to take effective action. However, today's standard model of education often serves to control social norms and maintain current hierarchies of power."

Students at the USSA Congress offered their insight on the broader prospects of the student movement.

David Castillo, from the University of California-Riverside, said, "Our passion for justice is fueled by the injustices we see prevalent in America and the world today, but even with our own passions we must reflect and always be self-critical on what we want to accomplish as a movement."

"Activism is a combination of engaging in social and personal transformation," said Kelley. "We cannot realize and change injustices in our country and in our world without realizing and changing them in our own personal actions. Or as Martin Luther King understood this, we must undergo a 'radical revolution in values.' In this post-9/11 period especially, we must know the importance of values like compassion, generosity and love."

"The student movement in the United States is in a position of amazing strength..."

-Angus Johnston

Sports

Pointers sneak by in season opener

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point football team kicked off the 2011 season with a nail-biter against Willamette University of Oregon on Saturday. Salem's high temperatures didn't equal high scoring as both defenses combined to allow just 14 points.

Senior kicker Jered Fohrman put the first points of the season on the board with a 30-yard field goal to cap off a 10-play, 41-yard drive.

The Bearcats had a chance to tie the game at three apiece, but Willamette kicker Mitch Rowan's 48-yard try sailed wide right.

After the Pointers were unable to capitalize on their good field position, junior punter Brandon Matznick pinned Willamette on their own one yard line. The Bearcats rallied with a 91-yard drive down to the Pointer 8 yard line.

Faced with a fourth and two, Willamette was knocking on the door and threatening to either tie or take the lead, but senior defensive back Kody Morgan intercepted quarterback Brian Widing's pass and ended the Bearcats' threat, taking a three point lead into halftime.

Point's defense came up big again in the third quarter. With Willamette

pinned on their own two yard line, the Bearcat punter mishandled the snap and was tackled inside his own end zone for a safety. On their next drive following the safety, senior running back Cory Flisakowski brought the ball to the Bearcats' 21 yard line after a 36-yard gain, Point's longest of the day.



Photo courtesy of theasiasun.com

Fohrman then converted his second field goal attempt of the day, a 37-yarder, to widen the margin to 8-0.

With 27 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Willamette running back Jamiere Abney burst into the end zone for the Bearcats' first score of

the game. The Pointers then lined up to stop a two point conversion that would have tied the game at eight. Widing found receiver Jake Knecht for what would have been the tying score, however, Knecht went out of bounds before the catch, giving the Bearcats a failed two point conversion.

Point then recovered the onside kick and was able to run off the final 24 seconds, cementing their 8-6 win.

Willamette outgained Point 242 to 204 in the game, however, defense was the final decider. Interceptions by Morgan and senior defensive

back Joe Mleziva as well as the third quarter safety made the difference. Sophomore linebacker Cody Seibel was also a major contributor on opening day recording 11 tackles and 1.5 sacks.

Maybe the busiest player of the day was punter Brandon Matznick. Of Matznick's seven punts, four were downed inside the Bearcat 20 yard line. He averaged 41.1 yards per punt.

Flisakowski had the highest offensive output for the Pointers with 71 yards off 16 carries, while junior running back Keith Ingram added 35 yards on 10 carries. Sophomore quarterback Casey Barnes converted 4 of 8 passes for 36 yards.

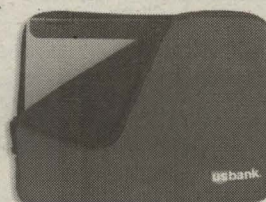
While the victory over Willamette wasn't the offensive showcase Point would have liked to see, as sophomore kicker Chad Roethlisberger put it, "It's good momentum going into the Pink Game against Platteville."

Saturday's game versus Platteville will mark the second straight year that Stevens Point has held the Pink Game. The Pointers will don pink uniforms in honor of those who suffer from breast cancer. The jerseys will be auctioned off during the game and proceeds will go towards funding for breast cancer research. Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

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sports

FYI: Three World Cups happened this summer

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COMMENTARY

Few people in the U.S. might have noticed, but this summer was a seriously thrilling one for the world's sport, soccer, or--as Clausewitz once said: "diplomacy by other means." The Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) held not one World Cup this summer, but three.

Even if we might have missed them, World Cups are no small thing for folks around the globe--let alone three.

I was lucky to be visiting Mexico City as one of the three FIFA World Cups kicked off. Mexico hosted the 2011 FIFA Under-17 World Cup; Colombia hosted the Under-20 World Cup; and the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup was held in Germany, as U.S. soccer fans remember with mild disdain, after barely losing the title to the Japanese team and falling into second place.

The Cote d'Ivoire team became the star of Africa during the U-17 World Cup, demonstrating their talent through Souleymane Coulibaly's record-matching nine goals.

One of the most exciting moments of these World Cups was the story of Julio Gomez, the star player in the Mexican Under-17 team. After demonstrating his skill and class, Gomez was injured during a semi-final game against Germany. He came back onto the pitch with a bandaged head and scored the winning goal of the match, thus taking Mexico into the final against Uruguay.

At the final, hundreds of thousands of Mexicans showed up at the Estadio Azteca Stadium to support their hometown heroes. Hundreds of them wore bandages around their heads in solidarity with Gomez, who was able to play despite his injury. With two brilliant scores and a clean sheet, Mexico stole the golden Nike



Photo courtesy of theasiasun.com

goddess trophy from Uruguay. This was the first World Cup in which Mexico was both host and winner.

Egypt surprised the world with their courage and dedication when they emerged from stage one of the 2011 Under-20 World Cup with seven points, on par with Colombia, Argentina, Portugal and Brazil. The tournament was particularly good to Portugal, France, Mexico and Brazil, all of whom made it to the semi-finals. Mexico's Under-20 team was defeated 2-0 in the semi-final match by the Brazilian team and then landed in third place after winning against France.

Throughout the tournament, the touch, style and technique with which Brazil's players maneuvered their way through their enemy's ranks was simply fun to watch.

Brazil found its match in the final game, however, as Portugal relentlessly pushed back every time Brazil scored. With Oscar's hat-trick shot during added extra time, the Brazilians secured the victory, taking the title with a final score of 3-2.

Soccer fans in the U.S. might remember the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup, as our team made it to the final. Despite the sound work and solidity displayed by the USA, particularly our stars Hope Solo and Abby Wambach, Japanese heroine Homare Sawa stepped into a perfect play and, at the last minute of extra time, evened the score, thus leading into a penalty shoot-off. This turned the tables in her country's favor, and Japan walked away with the trophy.

FIFA held a press conference on the penultimate day of the 2011 Women's World Cup to exalt and celebrate the international relevance that women's sports have gained.

A fourth international soccer tournament this summer was the Gold Cup, also FIFA-sponsored. Even though several countries in CONCACAF (the North, Central American and Caribbean football division) qualified to participate, the final match for the title was, for the third consecutive time, disputed

between long-standing rivals United States and Mexico.

The Gold Cup final was played on June 25 in a fully sold-out Rose Bowl Pasadena, CA, before 93,000 fans (most of whom wore green). Both teams entered the final match with all-star line-ups. The match was opened by USA's star Michael Bradley, who accepted a corner kick pass by Freddy Adu and landed the sphere in the back of the net. Then in the 23rd minute, Landon Donovan kicked another goal in for a 2-0 lead.

As a sense of confidence had sunk in for the USA, the second half began. These last 45 minutes belonged entirely to the Mexican team, which, with the vital help of Manchester United and Mexico's star athlete, Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez, took the cup once again. Goals by Chicharito, Andres Guardado, Pablo Barrera and finally Giovanni Dos Santos shattered any hopes the USA had for the match, which ended with a 4-2 score.

Even though Dos Santos was the player of the match, featuring in numerous play against the U.S., Chicharito was de-facto crowned CONCACAF's best player as he was given the title of Most Valuable Player of the Gold Cup.

Regardless of how we feel about soccer, and even if we didn't care to notice, this was an exciting summer for world sports.



From left: Carlos Fierro, Gomez and Jorge Espericueta--all Mexican--scooped the top three player awards of the tournament.

Photo courtesy of theasiasun.com

Pointlife

A day in the life of a freshman

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The first day at college for a freshman can be nerve-wracking, exciting, and ever so crazy. The Pointer was able to see it all. Following two freshmen exploring their way through a new place is nothing short of interesting.

Freshmen often come into college with a picture of it in their head of what they think it will be like. "The things I picture most [about college life] are big frat parties and lecture halls where the teacher seems a mile away, probably because that is how movies portray a 'typical college,'" said Dana Thompson, freshman graphic design major.

One of the most exciting aspects of college life for freshmen is the fact that this will be the first time, for many, that they're away from their parents. The fact that you are not supervised, have no curfew, and don't have parents ragging on you

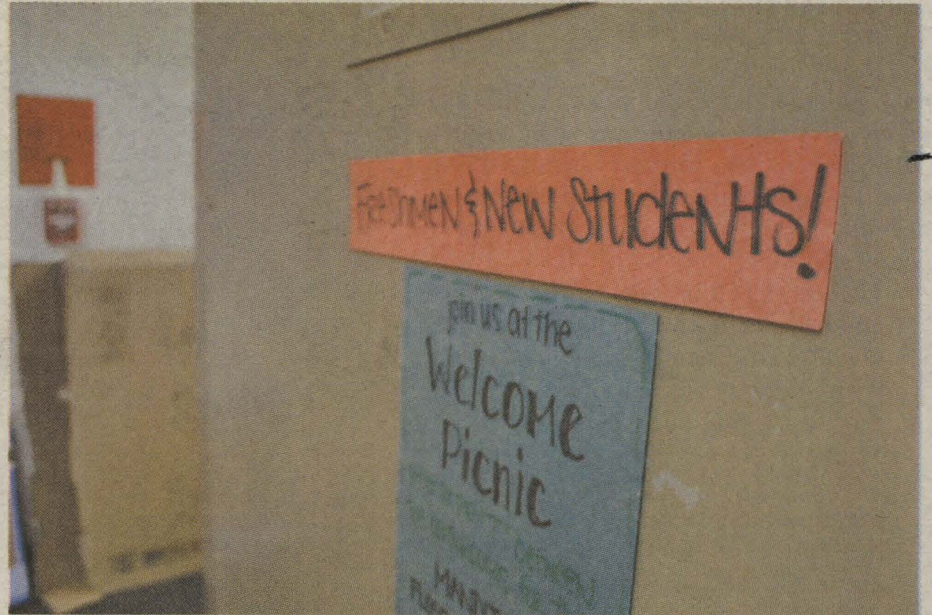
to get your homework done is just the freedom that high school students yearn for. Now it's finally here. With all the thrills in that newfound freedom there inevitably come some worries.

"The thing I am most nervous about is staying organized. In high school, our teachers still chased us around to remind us of our make-up math test for the following morning," Thompson said.

Many freshmen also come into college knowing very few or no people at all.

"I'm most excited about meeting new people," said Jacob Doney, freshman physics and chemistry major. "Coming from a high school of 600 kids, there's not a whole lot of variety going on."

Many freshmen have already met new people through the "University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Class of 2015" group on Facebook. Both Thompson and Doney said that they have already made a few friends through the group and plan on



This weekend marked the beginning of welcome week for new students and freshman.

meeting up with them.

Facebook also has become a great means of communication for meeting a random roommate.

"I know my roommate just from Facebook. We were both partnered with different girls; we actually lived in different dorms. She wanted a new roommate and my roommate could no longer attend UWSP so we were both in need of a change," Thompson said.

Doney found out who his roommate was going to be a few weeks ago, who is actually an international student from Korea. "I can't wait. It'll be a fun experience," Doney said.

The real college life sometimes isn't what freshmen have imagined it to be, but that's not always a bad thing. Saturday was a rainy day here in Stevens Point and that caused a few changes in plans for some people.

"I was sitting by myself, in my room, on Facebook in the first moments I had in college. It was pouring outside so nobody really wanted to go outside, so I was stuck in my room," Doney said. However, being stuck inside the dorms for a while made meeting new people that much more easy.

"The best part of my day was meeting my roommate and

our hall mates. We went bowling down the hallway with a little plastic bowling set. Then, a few brave souls went body bowling with a blanket. It was by far the best icebreaker ever," Thompson said.

The first night of college can be an experience for many freshmen. Doney spent the night hanging out with the new friends that he made in his dorm. Thompson went over to her friend's house to meet some upperclassmen.

The ability to meet new people at Stevens Point is something that surprised both Doney and Thompson the most.

"A lot of people are extremely friendly here. I mean, how many places can you turn to the person next to you, whom you've never met before, and just start talking to them?" Doney said.

Doney and Thompson both arrived at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on Saturday with different expectations about what college life is really like. Most of these expectations involved pictures portrayed by films and television. Real college sometimes may not be what incoming freshmen are expecting, but rarely is that a bad thing.



Boxes, bags, refrigerators, and all other dorm room necessities fill the sidewalks of the dorms this weekend, as new students move in.



Freshmen Katreena Nowak and Emily Huemann organize belongings in their new dorm room this Saturday.



Freshmen Dana Thompson (left) and Amanda Hostettler (right) move into their new dorm room home at Watson Hall.

Photos by Samantha Feld

pointlife

New Suites offer luxury, privacy to students

DAN NECKAR

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**multimedia
section**

When alumni reminisce about their days of living on campus, they usually think about the cramped dorm rooms, the outdated buildings and the horrors of sharing a bathroom with forty other students.

Beginning this fall, students have another alternative to look forward to. The Suites@201 offer spacious suite-style housing with four bedrooms and a complete kitchen and living room complete with furniture.

The new building also features numerous community kitchens with dining and lounge areas, elevators, recreation and study areas and soundproof rehearsal spaces for musicians.

Hall Director Christina Lorge-Grover said that the demand for the suites came from the students, and that other University of Wisconsin Schools have been offering this style of housing for years.

"I think that Stevens Point was one of the only UW schools left that didn't have an apartment-style resident hall. It's something that's becoming expected," said Lorge-Grover, who is eager to accommodate a wide range of students on campus.

Lange-Grover said the suites offer a different style of living to please students who have not had their needs met in the past. Upperclassman graduate students, non-traditional students and those transferring from other institutions will inhabit the new building.

The suites also make pushes towards greater environmental sustainability. Much of the materials such as wood, carpet and glass are recycled and recovered from within Wisconsin. Lorge-Grover estimated that the suites project has created approximately 200 jobs since its inception.

Assistant to the Director Scott Strand knows what it's like to make the transition into this building from the other dorms. Strand lived in Hyer Hall, the smallest residence hall on campus until it was demolished to make room for the suites. The original Hyer Hall was built in 1963.

He said that having his own bathroom was the greatest perk, and he was happy he wouldn't have to put up with the antics of sharing a restroom in the old dorms.

Strand said that the new look impresses people as soon as they walk through the door.

"As soon as they came into the building and saw the lobby, they instantly were captivated by the building. It's brand new and it's beautiful and it's not like a traditional residence hall. I feel very fortunate to be here," Strand said.

Tracy Vogt is a student who recently moved into the suites, and she said she enjoys the freedom of having her own place with a full kitchen, where she chooses her meals.

While Vogt says the new suites have less of a communal feeling than the traditional halls where residents kept their doors wide open, her suitemates have all had very positive reactions to the new building.

"When everyone comes in and sees the view, there are a lot of 'wows'," Vogt said.

Students wishing to live in the suites next year can do so in the spring during residence hall sign-ups.



Spiral staircases provide access between study lounges on each floor in the suites.



A complete kitchen comes standard in each suite as well as a couch, chair, and coffeetable.

[tips for freshmen]

COMPILED BY THE POINTER STAFF

1. DON'T HIDE IN YOUR ROOM. Get out there and have some fun.

2. IF YOU ARE IN YOUR ROOM, LEAVE YOUR DOOR OPEN. This is the fastest way of making friends.

3. GO TO EVENTS ON CAMPUS. You'll get involved with student organizations, and there's usually, if not always, free food.

4. DON'T SKIP CLASS. It's a tempting thing to do, but the easiest way of getting an A in a class is simply by showing up.

5. THE CLOSEST PLACES TO BUY COFFEE ARE: Debot, CPS Café, Homegrown Café, the Brewhaus, Food for Thought Café, Starbucks, and Zest Coffeehouse and Bakery. Use them well.

6. KEEP YOUR FILES ORGANIZED ON YOUR COMPUTER. Having files everywhere just makes things more stressful.

7. SKIP THE DRAMA; that was for high school. This is college, and drama is just a waste of time.

8. PARTY SMART. Don't be obnoxious and loud. If you play loud music, you're going to get caught.

9. STAY ACTIVE. Run, walk, skip, play intramurals. Don't let that freshmen 15 get you.

10. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE BUS PASS. You don't have to walk if you don't want to.

photos by Kaitlyn Luckow

Make your dorm more like a home

KAITLYN LUCKOW
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Living in the dorms means living in a small place. Working with such a small place can be difficult, but here's some ways that you can make your small room into a home.

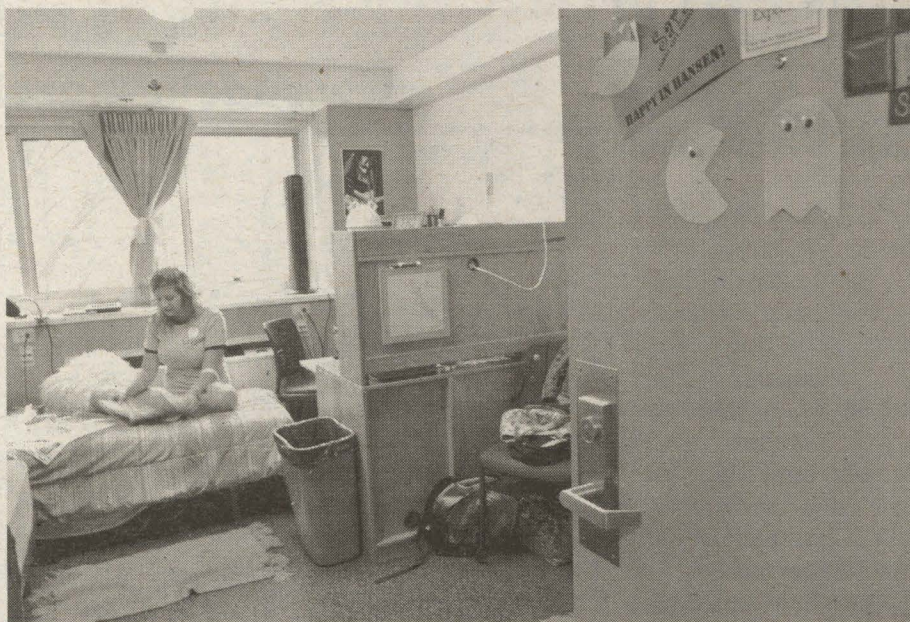
1. DON'T BE A HOARDER.

Contrary to what you believe, you don't need to bring the birthday card your best friend made you in second grade to college, or the shirt that hasn't been in style since the 90s and never will be again, no matter how optimistic you are. You don't need to bring everything to college. Downsize and be reasonable. The less stuff you bring, the more space you'll have.

2. FOCUS ON THE DESK. Your desk is the most important thing to decorate, not your walls. You're paying a lot to study at college, so you should be most comfortable while studying; you'll be doing a lot of it. Make sure that your studying space will actually make you want to study.

3. LIGHT IT UP. The florescent lights in the dorms don't necessarily scream out homey or comforting. Buy some of your own lights. Buy desk lamps, string Christmas lights around the room, even try a lava lamp.

4. BE ARTSY. Let's face it, we don't have any money to spend on paintings



Hansen Hall Community Advisor Sara Rebers relaxes in her dorm room ready to assist new students with their needs as they arrive to their new living spaces. Photos by Samantha Feld

or anything to decorate our walls. So, why not do it yourself? Who cares if you're not any good and it looks terrible? You can just say that it's modern art and has some deep, philosophical meaning.

5. ADD A RUG. The dorm carpeting might not be as fun as you were hoping (at least it's not shag). Buy a fun rug and it will change your whole room around.

6. GET CREATIVE SEATING. Desk chairs aren't ideal for movie nights, and no one really likes to sit on the floor. Buy some big pillows, a butterfly chair, or a beanbag chair to make things more comfortable.

7. PANTRY. Put all of your food onto one shelf and keep it in one place. It'll be like having your own small kitchen area in your room.

8. PRINT PICTURES. People don't print out their pictures nearly often enough as they should now that you can just post them on Facebook. Get them printed and hang them all around your room. It'll give it a personal touch.

9. MATTRESS PAD. If you have troubles sleeping, maybe it's time to get a mattress pad. Mattress pads can make the difference in whether you get two or eight hours of sleep. Memory foam is a life saver.

10. MAGIC MIRRORS. Adding mirrors into a small space has the magical ability to make that space seem nearly twice as large.

"Vive La Revolution" Book Review

MICHAEL WILSON
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COMMENTARY

"Vive la Revolution." Mark Steel. Haymarket Books, IL, 2006.

If you're looking for a witty and inspiring book to read, check out "Vive La Revolution" by frequent Guardian and Independent columnist, and renowned BBC comedian, Mark Steel. Imagine Eddie Izzard's stand-up "Dress to Kill," except about the French Revolution and as told by one of today's funniest historians, or most brilliant comedians. Steel's academic and stand-up backgrounds merge perfectly into a non-complacent view of modern history that provides a fascinating and hilarious account of one of its most remarkable events.

Although chronologically ordered and well-flowing, this is no ordinary retelling of the French Revolution, its principles or legacies. Instead, the French Revolution is presented from the perspective of the 1880s French working class to the international working class today with immediate prescience.

This incredibly well-researched, panoramic and ground view of the revolution is enveloped by some of the most interesting facts about it you would have never otherwise learned: quotes from journals (one of which, refuting the possibility of a revolution in 1887, is quickly followed by Steel's: "Typical bloody columnist"); the way a riot being called for by the Parliament backfired; Jean-Jacques Rousseau's childhood fetishes; the Marquis de Sade's sexual eccentricities;

ties; the early connection--through the electricity question--between Jean Paul Marat, Maximilien Robespierre, Benjamin Franklin and more.

With each topic, event or personage, Steel brings us to understand the relevance of a struggle by every-day people who had been pushed too far by a doctrinal system that favored exorbitant privilege for a few while depriving the vast majority of any rights.

In Steel's words, taken from his "Introduction to the U.S. Edition": "The French Revolution may be worth people in the U.S. taking a look at now, not to learn that it began in 1789 or to marvel at the beauty of Marie Antoinette's gowns, but because it suggests that at certain times, the

"...at certain times, the most apparently invincible can be curtailed by a crowd armed with the will to realize its own potential."

most apparently invincible can be curtailed by a crowd armed with the will to realize its own potential."

The book is truly written

for anybody. The flow and narrative make the reader insatiable, regardless of background. Steel's expertise on the subject comes clear, yet lacks any pretense or armchair monotony. His introduction shatters academia and its traditional snobbery; it refutes the way in which the revolution has been negatively portrayed by the political economy of education, which would prefer we didn't know the instances in which concentrated power can be challenged by organized masses. Steel alerts us that if these examples of successful social change cannot be sufficiently concealed, contemporary education can at least present events like the French Revolution as atrocities, possibly well-intentioned but



photo courtesy of amazon.com

inevitably turned into terror, blood and tyranny.

You can sense the stereotypical British dry wit in each page, although his sordid sense of humor retains the ability to surprise with spontaneous "f-word" paybacks and raunchy end-of-the-paragraph one-liners. This is a hilarious, fascinating and unique look at the French Revolution and the people who made it.

At times goofy and always on-point, Steel's insight and unapologetic defense of the revolution offer the everyday people of today a powerfully relevant look at an erroneously discredited event. It was very difficult to put down, and definitely a great read.

[Puzzles]

Sudoku 9x9 Easy

www.sudoku-puzzles.com

ACROSS

- 1. Jessica of "Fantastic Four"
- 5. The U.S. Open or the Masters
- 10. Dungeons & Dragons and others, briefly
- 14. No longer worth discussing
- 15. Deserted
- 16. Part of the HOMES mnemonic
- 17. Type of football league for girls
- 19. Short-tailed rodent
- 20. Spread out for showing
- 21. Old TV western starring Chuck Connors, with "The"
- 23. Move off of milk
- 26. Piec for an equestrian
- 27. Pastry chef's ingredient, often
- 34. Paul who inspired a playable Google doodle
- 35. ____ Chips
- 36. Pick on
- 37. Inits. of urgency
- 39. Pull out all the stops (both parts of this fit the theme)
- 42. Musial who was "The Man"
- 43. Two matches in the Final Four
- 45. Cold capital
- 47. Positive poem
- 48. Be a persistent annoyance

- 52. Part of a spork
- 53. Well (up)
- 54. Broker to whom "people listen," according to an ad campaign
- 58. Be unable to swallow
- 62. Tragic king
- 63. Rap song that samples "Under Pressure"
- 66. Child's placemat diversion, possibly
- 67. Breakfast times for Burns
- 68. Super Mario ____
- 69. Smeltery supplies
- 70. White mushroom of Japan
- 71. Fencing tool

DOWN

- 1. Band boosters
- 2. "Keep me in the ____"
- 3. It often has milk poured into it
- 4. When the toaster crows

		5	8		6			
	4					8	6	
9	8				2	1		
6		4	5				7	
				3				
	1				7	2		4
		8	4				9	2
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			3		5	7		

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62					63			64	65					
66					67						68			
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- 5. Decrease the value of, say
- 6. One in a European chain
- 7. Plat du ____
- 8. Really feeling it
- 9. Made the calls
- 10. Balance sheet figures
- 11. Occasion for crowning a king and queen
- 12. ____ monster (lizard type)
- 13. Taken in, as "Taken"
- 18. Mentally undress
- 22. Shopper's aid, often
- 24. Sacha Baron Cohen character with poor grammar
- 25. Albania and Croatia are the last to have joined it (abbr.)
- 27. Paneful?
- 28. At zero, say
- 29. "Me too!"
- 30. Game with clue words you have to avoid
- 31. Seminole rival
- 32. Carne ____
- 33. Keep coming, as a magazine
- 38. Flickr uploads
- 40. "It ____ your concern"
- 41. Show with many covers
- 44. Funny few minutes
- 46. Missouri River feeder
- 49. not late
- 50. One who has turned right?
- 51. Actor and Olympic gold medalist Buster
- 54. Sesame Street character who talks about himself in the third person
- 55. Emotion in the darkness, sometimes
- 56. Confusing situation
- 57. He followed Claudius
- 59. 1982 role for Robin Williams
- 60. Tubular instrument
- 61. Milieu for a broker (abbr.)
- 64. Sign
- 65. "Who Are You" is its theme

Opinion

It Is Time To Put Real Criminals In Jail

LOGAN CARLSON
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The decision by federal regulators to file a suit against the financial institutions that created the toxic mortgage-backed securities that plunged the country into The Great Recession is a step in the right direction, but sadly will not provide the disincentive to employees of the financial institutions from trying to skirt the already weak regulations in place and causing the next financial catastrophe.

Nearly three years after the biggest collapse in our financial system since The Great Depression, not one individual is sitting in jail for their role in the collapse. Not one.

The only reason Bernie Madoff is in jail for his role in an entirely different Ponzi scheme was because he stole from other rich people. The banks only stole money from the poor schmucks they could lure in with low

introductory rates, only to rapidly inflate their payments later and bankrupt them. Our financial institution acted like an anglerfish whose prey strayed too close to its shiny light of salvation in a sinister abyss.

Until the federal government starts to indict the individuals who were responsible for the mess we are still trying to drag ourselves out of, we are only going to see this vicious cycle repeat time after time.

These banks give colossal bonuses to their top executives, who are ultimately accountable for their companies' actions. In 2009, the year after the financial crisis, Morgan Stanley gave out \$14 billion to their employees in salaries and bonuses. Goldman Sachs, the great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, as dubbed by Matt Taibbi, gave out over \$16 billion - \$4.7 billion in the first quarter of 2009 alone.

Let that fact sink in for a second. Months after forcing the federal government to save AIG so it would not lose billions on credit default swaps (essentially insurance) they had purchased on mortgage backed securities that they themselves created, and knew were absolutely worthless, they were giving out \$4.7 billion to their employees in compensation for their performance.

"Great job guys. We nearly destroyed the world economy. Now lets go celebrate with a weekend in the Hamptons."

If that is not a WTF moment I don't know what is.

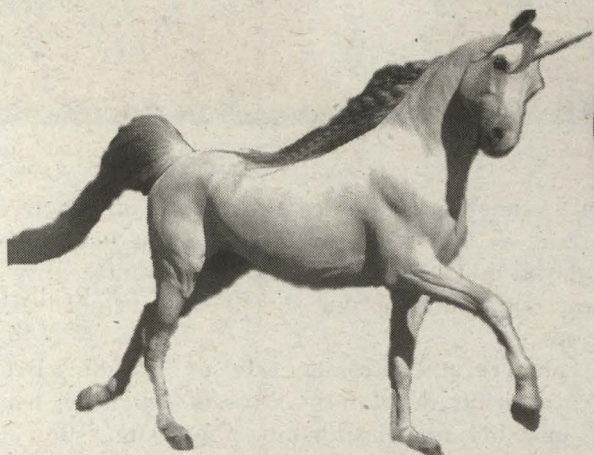
Ultimately, these banks may be forced to pay back a portion of the money they received when Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac purchased these securities, and they may even be fined millions of dollars. But they have a history of gladly paying these miniscule fines while continuing to make money hand over fist.

Goldman was fined \$550 million in 2010 by the Securities and Exchange

Commission for its involvement in the subprime mortgage mess it made billions off of. That is the largest fine ever imposed by the SEC. What is \$550 million to a company that made a profit of \$8.35 billion while still giving out \$15.4 billion in compensation in 2010 alone?

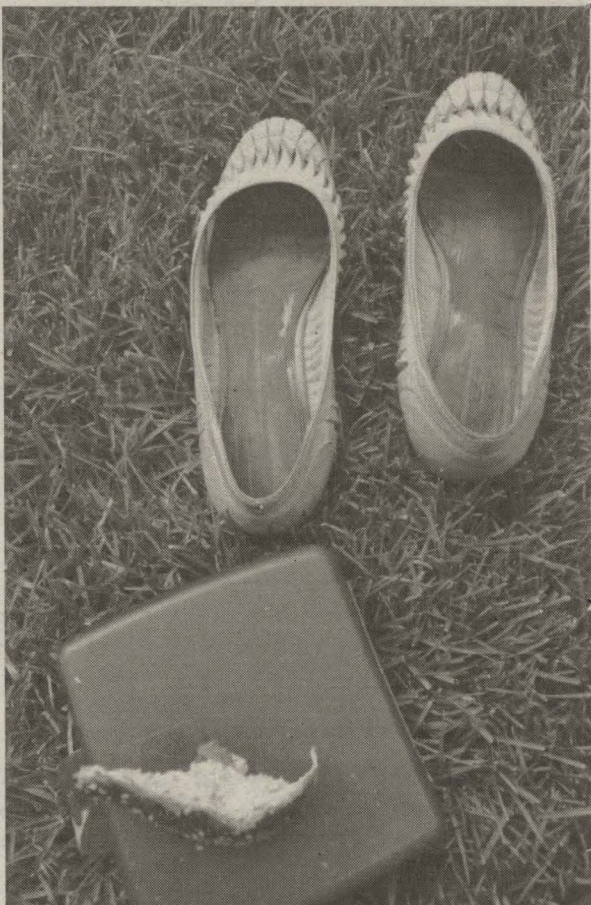
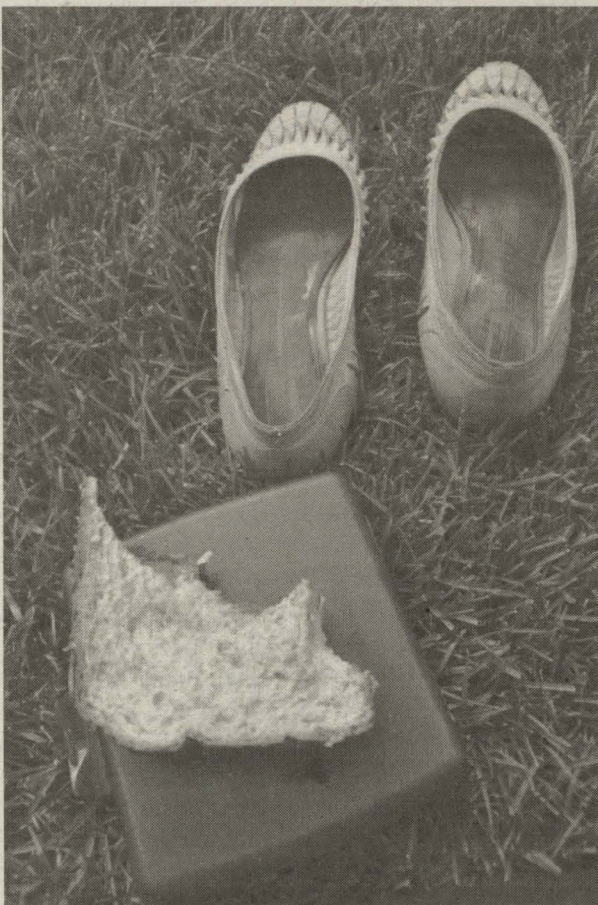
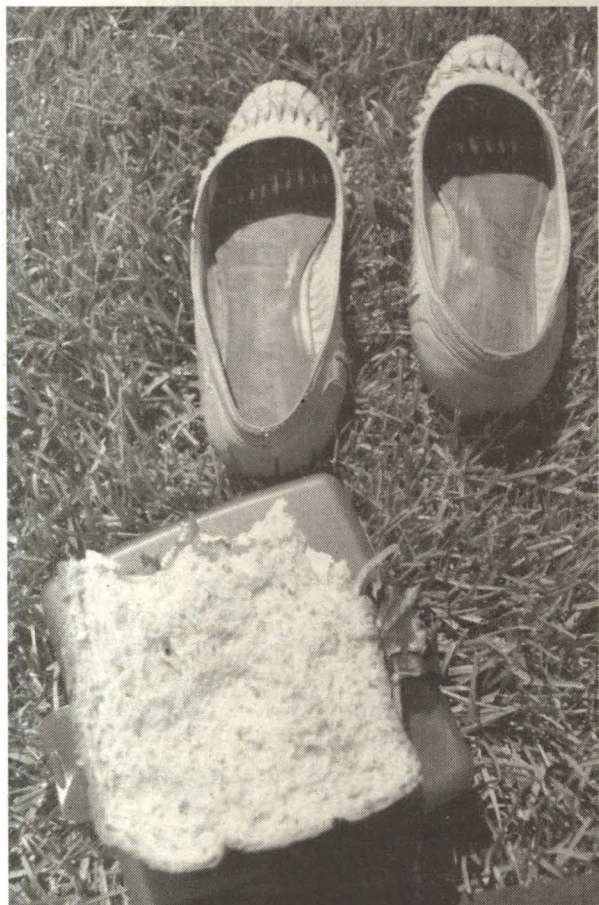
And that is where the root of the problem lies. A fine is merely a slap on the wrist to the banks. They will gladly take them while making boatloads of cash and their employees are handsomely rewarded for their efforts.

Until those individuals who were at the heart of the financial crisis start spending time in a federal "pound me in the ass prison," this cycle of financial crises will only continue unabated; only next time they will only try to push their luck further, knowing the consequences will not be extreme enough to deter them from the profits and bonuses that await them.



Have an opinion?
Share it with us at:
pointer@uwsp.edu

[image(s) of the week]



Submit your own on images of the week to us by email, on facebook or twitter, and they could appear in next week's issue.

Photos by Samantha Feld

If These Dorm Walls Could Talk

A Pointer Alumnus' recounting of dorm days past

LES JOHNSON

Stevens Point Alumnus '77

COMMENTARY

Late at night when you are worming about that mid-term you have in the morning for Sociology and can't sleep, have you wondered what tales the walls of your dorm room could tell? What was life like for the Pointers that lived in your dorm room? Indeed, they all studied, partied and experimented like you, but what was life like back in, say, in the '70s?

Let's turn back the clock a bit. The location is Knutzen Hall; the timeframe: 1974-1977. At the time, Knutzen housed 230 post-adolescent males. Not a good idea by the university, that much maleness in a small space led to way too much creativity and insanity.

You may have heard from your parents there were no cell phones, DVDs or computers and we walked five miles uphill both ways to class in a blizzard. We had an intercom system and one phone at the end of the hallway. Your friends called the main desk and you were paged in your room to go pick up the phone at the end of the hallway to receive your call.

The showers were gang showers. No individual stalls, just one big room. Our room doors were always open to see and chat with passers-by. The door was only closed when you really needed to study.

Everyone was given a nickname like Crane, Buke, Mongo, Chief, Spider, Zo, Corn Dog and Tut, to mention a few. I now realize those nicknames were to protect the guilty. We had visitation hours - no women after midnight or before 7:00 a.m. If you wanted to spend the night with a female it meant sleeping in the high jump pit by the track, the woods around campus in your sleeping bag or sneaking her into your room risking getting caught by your RA.

Let's get to the fun stuff. In the winter of 1974, the boys of 3rd South got bored. A couple of ingenious fellows brought back two pieces of plywood. Taking old towels, we placed the boards against the two entrances to the gang shower and stuffed towels in the drains and around the boards to create a tight seal. Turning on all the showers, the water started to fill up the area. In a few hours we had a swimming pool. The water was about three to four feet in depth and we proceeded to have a pool night on the third floor. Sleep secure at night: those dorms are built well because



Photo submitted by Les Johnson

The Knutzen Hall staff of 1976 poses for a pic in their very dated attire.

they can hold thousands of gallons of water.

An interesting ritual was the affection your fellow floor mates showed each other on their birthdays. Returning from the dining hall (Debot) you would be greeted by the members of your wing. You knew what was about to happen because instinctively you would turn to run down the stairwell but it would be blocked by other wing mates.

Attempting to fight your way out of the mob of 15 to 20 young men, you would be restrained and dragged into a room. There you would be placed face down on one of the beds and your bottom would be exposed to the ritual of the "Black Ass." Indelible black markers and shoe polish would be applied as a badge of affection from your wing mates. It was always fun the next day to appear in the shower to display your symbol of care and love from your wing.

I don't want you to think that we were not responsible young adults. One afternoon I remember a hall mate returning from K-Mart which was north of campus. He showed us his recent purchase of a BB gun pistol. Marveling at this acquisition, a half a dozen of us ran to the merchant to purchase the remaining pistols.

Returning to the floor, we realized the gun fight that was about to proceed could be potentially dangerous.

Thinking back to words from our mothers about "shooting our eyes out," we ran to the bookstore. There we purchased chemistry goggles to protect our eyes. Back at Knutzen we spent the afternoon playing cops and

robbers shooting each other. The next morning in the shower we proudly displayed our welts from the pellets to each other and no one shot their eye out.

Later I became a Resident Advisor (RA) to further develop my sense of responsibility and leadership. One night after returning from an evening at Ella's (did I mention pitchers were \$1.25) with two other RAs, we ran into the RA on duty making rounds at 2:00 a.m. The four of us made small talk until one of us came up with the idea how much fun it would be to frighten our fellow RAs.

Grabbing our bathrobes and a towel we reconvened outside my room. One of my colleagues brought his rather large hunting knife as an accessory. He thought it would be a nice touch to our plans. The university, feeling we were responsible adults, gave each of us a building master key to unlock rooms when a student got locked out.

Using our master key, we keyed into our first victim, I mean, colleagues', room. Standing over their bed in our robes and towels over our heads, we held candles in our hands and softly preformed a Gregorian chant. We all held our lit candles except for the one gentleman who brought the knife. He held that over the bed while they slept. We chanted until they woke up.

I can tell you the human response to an event like this comes in a variety of reactions. One staff member slept in the raw and he gave us his take on our escapade by flipping his covers back and telling us to bite - enough

said. Another bounced off the ceiling and told us we didn't scare him as he fumbled for his glasses. Yet another did not wake at all. The next morning he told us we were in his dream standing over his bed chatting. That night we learned about the power of suggestion.

At this date in my career I don't want a call requesting a visit to the Chancellor's office for a disciplinary hearing, but I did want to share a few of the tales from back in the day.

So, the next time you see us alumni in our 50s walking around campus, take a moment and explore your history as a Pointer.

We have lots of fun stories to share.

"So, the next time you see us alumni in our 50s walking around campus, take a moment and explore your history as a Pointer."

And the next time you can't sleep, think about all the former students that have lain in the bed where you are now. They are teachers, business people, scientists, environmentalists, politicians, doctors, lawyers and a hundred other contributing members of society. All of them once, just like you, found their way to Point.

Slept tight, I still have that master key.

"The showers were gang showers. No individual stalls, just one big room."