UWSP Supports New Sexual Assault Bill

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A new bill was passed unanimously by the State Assembly on Feb. 9 stating that if sexual assault survivors participated in underage drinking during the incident, they cannot be cited. The university has shown support and is backing the bill that will next go to the state Senate.


There are several factors that affect a sexual assault victim’s decision to report the incident, one of them is being under the influence of alcohol. The bill states that sexual assault victims, and others who report such crimes, cannot be cited or have any ramifications for underage drinking if the assault occurred when the underage victim was drinking.

The Women’s Resource Center is an on campus, student-run organization dedicated to raising awareness and breaking the barriers around sex and gender issues while celebrating inclusivity, diversity and promoting equality.

“Our organization’s initial reaction was a happy one. It is a good reform of the bill and we are in support of it. We hope it will allow UWSP students and the survivors of assault to get them thinking about assault on campus more and to continue the discussion,” Lauren...
ACA Rumblings Raise More Important Questions

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Over winter break, I had to attend a mandatory meeting regarding the Affordable Care Act compliance and how it was limiting students to 25 working hours on campus. As a result, I came into this article frustrated, angry, and full of bias.

Once I began to investigate what was causing the students to go into an uproar, my opinion became more complex.

When looking at ACA compliance, many students claim there was a lack of consideration or preparation put into the act. They question why there wasn't an exception made for students to be able to work over 30 hours and still be considered non-full-time employees.

While this may be a valid point, many, myself included, never considered that the University of Wisconsin System may have assumed that students under the age of 26 would be covered under their parents' healthcare plan. And, in light of recent system wide budget cuts, they cannot afford to offer healthcare to full-time student workers.

You may be thinking, "So what, the system is still limiting the number of hours students can work regardless of whether or not they have the ability to receive health insurance.

Why can't the limit be 29 hours? Why can't students be allowed to work as much as they want?

No one ever stopped to ask themselves if it was healthy to work over 25 hours while being a full-time college student.

Many students work multiple jobs, go to class, are involved in extracurricular activities and barely have time to sleep in a day.

So, if it is unhealthy for students to work this much, why do they do it?

Believe it or not, most students on campus cannot cover the cost of college upfront. They work as much as they can in the attempt to make ends meet.

Limiting on-campus work hours will not change this fact.

"I don't like the thought of having to look for work off-campus. This university is my home, work and place of fun," said Matt Grutzza, senior communications major and Steiner Hall desk manager.

Grutzza is only one of many students caught in this position.

If students are working an extreme amount of hours just so they can cover the cost of receiving a higher education, we should be asking ourselves two important questions.

Why is the cost of college tuition so high? And more importantly, why isn't more funding being put toward our education system?

The Promoting Awareness/Victim Empowerment organization at UWSP's mission is to ensure that survivors have a resource to go to after the experience and to empower survivors.

"From a student, survivor and campus perspective the bill is insipiring because the state legislators are taking sexual assault seriously and giving the issue the acknowledgement it deserves. The bill is also survivor centered and could help in the healing process. Survivors will get the validation they need from officials that even though they were drinking it was not their fault," executive director Katie Menard said.

However, while the bill is finally taking a stand against this issue the long term effects are unknown. All are hopeful that this bill will help college campuses become safer.

"Getting rid of the penalty does not necessarily mean it will decrease the occurrences of sexual assault. I feel like the bill won't prevent the incidents," Cait Fleischman, senior botany major, said.

Survivors can get the help they need regarding excessive drinking on campus resources including the Women's Resource Center, Delzel Counseling Center and the Promoting Awareness/Victim Empowerment organization on campus.

Jenkin, executive coordinator and junior arts management major, said, "This is a step in the right direction and we also hope that this will lead to more realistic reporting statistics in the long run," Lyn Ciurro, programming liaison, added.

The bill is intended to diminish the stigma around sexual assault and drinking, confirming that drinking does not equal consent.

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Diversity and College Access is taking a step towards making everyone feel safe and accepted by implementing a transgender support group. By creating such a group, community members between the ages of 18-30 connect with each other, said Justin Lechleiter, Gender and Sexuality Outreach Services coordinator. "People may not know others in their situation and this is a chance for them to meet new people and just have that safe place where they can understand each other, share experiences, and build off that."

"The intent right now is to give people a place to safely talk and connect with each other," said Zachary Miller, sophomore psychology major, believes that a group like this is one more aspect that shows how diverse and accepting the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is.

"I totally love this idea. Everyone needs a place where they can connect and relate to other people," said Miller. Lechleiter explained that this is not a therapy group, but rather a place for people to gather and talk about what's going on in their lives.

"Eventually, I think that if there are concerns about our campus that aren't being addressed then this is a place for them to speak out and let us know that there is more that we can do," said Lechleiter. For those who may be apprehensive to attend the meeting, know that transgender allies and friends are also welcome.

"If you want to bring someone with to give you that comfort level, that's totally fine. This is here for anyone that needs it," said Lechleiter. "Diversity and College Access will also be hosting the Transvisibility Campaign at the end of March to educate students about what it's like to be transgender and what can be done to make the campus a safe and friendly environment.

"The important thing to know is that people who are transgender go to this school, they're not invisible and you won't truly understand where they're coming from unless you know them," said Lechleiter. "I think it's just a matter of education and hopefully acceptance overall."

New Transgender Support Group Hits Campus

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On Feb. 9 community members gathered at the Portage County Library to hear Lisa Theo, coordinator at Marketing and Social Media, share her knowledge on Harley Davidson's Fall Ride in Tomahawk, WI. Theo is among many faculty members at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point that have given lectures at the Portage County Library this year. Her lecture was a part of the College of Letters and Science Community Lecture series.

Scott Tappa is the marketing assistant for the dean of the College of Letters and Science. Tappa has been involved in marketing all of the lectures in the series.

"The community lecture series is our biggest outreach initiative for the community and we want to make sure that we are not only reaching people on campus. We are really trying to reach people in the community to get them engaged in what we are doing at UWSI," Tappa said.

Abby Heistad, senior communication major, is an assistant at the dean's office in the College of Letters and Science.

According to Heistad, faculty members are contacted by the office to speak about interesting topics. Theo was one of the faculty members contacted.

"Certain professors have really interesting topics that they have talked about before. Most professors that we reach out to are willing and interested to speak," Heistad said.

Heistad attended Theo's lecture and was surprised by the massive turnout that the Fall Ride, which attracts motorcycle enthusiasts, has.

"I thought it was interesting finding out how many people actually go to the Fall Ride. I didn't know that it was that big," Heistad said.

Theo said that though her family members do not ride motorcycles, they enjoy the sense of community that the Fall Ride brings to Tomahawk, which she considers to be home. According to Theo, Tomahawk's community grows during the Fall Ride because of all the tourists it attracts.

"Being the second largest employer in the region, the community not only appreciates what they do, but depends on Harley," Theo said.

Theo admits there are not many young people who attend the Fall Ride, because they are generally not able to afford expensive motorcycles.

"Does everyone in the community embrace it? Probably not, but most people do. Everyone should go up and witness this sometime in their life, it is a lot of fun," Theo said.
Students Address Taboo Surrounding Mental Illness

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Students arrived at the Dreyfus University Center on Feb. 10 to listen to their peers speak about mental illness.

The event “Coffee and Culture: Stigma Stops Here: A Discussion on Mental Health” was put on by the Student Involvement and Employment Office at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Samantha Barnum, sophomore communication major, is the leadership and marketing coordinator at SIEO. This was Barnum’s first time hosting Coffee and Culture.

“I think the first step to fixing the stigma around mental illness is acknowledging that there is one. I was really excited about the topic and I have worked with a few of the speakers from last night and I thought it was super awesome that they all showed vulnerability,” Barnum said.

Erin Cimino, senior psychology major, was one of the student speakers at the event that shared her personal struggles with mental illness.

"Just public speaking in general, I get really anxious about it, but I didn’t struggle through it tonight,” Cimino said.

Cimino spoke about mental illness and encourages those suffering from it to seek professional help.

“You’re not impossible to love, and you are worth more than you might convince yourself that you are,” Cimino said.

Andrew Tiernan, senior counseling psychology major, spoke alongside Cimino. Tiernan admits that the hardest part of sharing his story was telling audience members that he is homosexual and at one point, came close to killing himself.

Tiernan spoke openly about his difficulties with bullying in high school.

"To kids that are being bullied, a lot of times bullies are insecure with their lives and they take their aggression out on someone else. The best thing that you can do is walk away. I know it is easier said than done, but it is the greatest thing you can do,” Tiernan said.

Tiernan used positive thinking to help him get past his suicidal thoughts.

"I had to become comfortable with myself and my sexuality, which has allowed me to help someone else out there or be there for someone who is struggling,” said Tiernan. “People are there to love and support you.”

ENVIRONMENT

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Recently, a bill has been introduced to Congress that would delist the gray wolf in Wyoming and the Western Great Lakes Region, including Wisconsin.

Wolves in all of those regions, except Minnesota, are currently listed as “endangered” under The Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Wolves were hunted to extinction in the state of Wisconsin in the 1960s. In recent years they have returned to the state with a rising number in population.

Back in 2011, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisted wolves from the endangered species list. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources later issued a wolf hunt, as many believed the wolf population was becoming too high.

The hunt went on for three years, the WDNR website estimates around 650 wolves were harvested.


This took management of the species away from the state, and the wolf hunting season was discontinued.

Courtney Cordova, senior wildlife ecology major supports this move “Because we are now just beginning to understand how it affects the ecosystem, it should still be listed on the Endangered Species List.”

The purpose of the amendment in the Bipartisan Sportsman’s Act of 2015 is “To direct the Secretary of the Interior to reassess final rules relating to listing the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes and Wisconsin under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.”

The question remains, what is a recovered or stable population?

Biologists, hunters, outdoorsmen and farmers all seem to have contrasting views on what wolf pack numbers should be.

The WDNR formed the Wolf Advisory Committee, which is filled with scientists, sympathizers and anti-wolf interests. The committee decided that a suitable wolf population for the state of Wisconsin would be around 350 animals.

Dr. Eric Anderson, professor of ecology and member of WDNR Wolf Advisory Committee, stated that “the animal isn’t changing in numbers at all, it’s just the politics surrounding it.”

He believes that it is in the best interest of the wolf to be under the control of the state. With the wolf under federal protection, it becomes managed with the same protocols that wolves are managed in other states, which may not be the best management practices for Wisconsin wolves specifically.

Ethan Roberts, junior ecosystem restoration management and wildland Fire Science major, values wolves as an important aspect of healthy ecosystems.

He believes negative views of wolves emerge because “It’s a thing of fear, we haven’t had to be around wolves for most of our lives, and we don’t understand them, so we are frightened of them.”

In addition to the debate on whether or not wolves should be protected, there have been questions concerning the bill’s constitutionality.

The bill states that “Such re-issuance shall not be subject to judicial re-

view” (S. 659 Viz 2-10). This would prohibit the courts, from intervening.

Dr. Edward Miller, professor of political science explained, “there is no legal reason they couldn’t do this. There is no direct reference in the constitution to what the courts can and cannot do.”

Some people endorse the move to take wolves off the ESA, but not the Bipartisan Sportsman’s Act itself, as the bill holds many controversial amendments that have questionable impacts on the environment.

One such amendment in the bill would allow lead to be used in fishing lures, Lead, which causes brain damage in humans and animals.

Lead has been banned from fishing tackle in many states, including Wisconsin.

The bill was passed in the U.S. Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee on Jan. 21, but still needs approval in the Senate, as well as a signature from the president before it becomes law.
Natural Resources Career Fair Provides Great Employment Opportunities

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The College of Natural Resources held its annual Career Fair on Feb. 11 in the Laird Room, CNR Career Fair.

The fair assists students in their search for summer internships and provides opportunities for those hoping to start a career after graduation with a full-time job. In addition, there are also networking opportunities with a wide variety of organizations.

TA XIONG, junior water resource management major, attended the event and said, “[The career fair] gives an overview of what different jobs are in the area instead of hitting up 50 different websites to look for jobs.” He also said that “Getting an internship is important for hands-on experience.”

Internships provide experience and networking opportunities for young people joining the field. As a great addition to a resume, internships in natural resources provide students with hands-on skills that most jobs consider a necessity.

Flint Water Crisis Emphasizes Awareness of Water Science

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After two years of drinking and bathing in brown-colored, toxic water, Flint, Michigan is finally receiving the relief it has been seeking since April 2014.

Rick Snyder, Michigan governor, stripped power from local authorities and appointed an emergency manager who made the decision to switch Flint’s water source from Lake Huron to the polluted Flint River in 2014. It was the cheapest option while in the process of switching water companies.

In turn of events, water from the Flint River was so corrosive that it leached lead from old piping into water that went directly to residential areas, including homes, hospitals and schools.

Joseph Paolotti, junior natural resource planning major, is frustrated with the injustice of this situation. He said, “We don’t know or care where our water comes from anymore because it’s the way it is provided as a service. It’s not our fault. We hope the individuals in charge provide clean drinking water and are doing the right thing with science backing them up, but unfortunately most of the policies are influenced by money.”

Studies conducted by Virginia Tech scientists in 2015 concluded that the levels of lead in the water were unsafe for human consumption. However, Flint residents were repeatedly told by the local government that the water was safe even after the scientific team revealed their findings.

Kevin Masarik, UW-Extension groundwater education specialist, press­es the importance of scientific research.

“In any situation where the water source is going to be changed, it’s important to have an understanding of that change and the water quality being distributed into homes. It’s an example of why it’s important to listen to scientists. That’s one of the take-home messages I’ve gotten from this example,” Masarik said.

Associate professor Paul McGinley also encourages students to actively learn more about water resources.

“Drinking water is a great career option and this is an example of how important it is to have a good scientific background. It can be combined with a career that helps public health,” he said. McGinley recommends students who are interested in careers in water resources to craft their educational programs toward their future career goals and seek out part-time jobs or internships that would help them get active in the field.

Students are also encouraged to contact the water chemistry lab in the Trainer Natural Resource Center for hands-on experience.
The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball team had four players who posted double figures in the 74-63 win on Senior Day over Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opponent UW-Eau Claire.

Seniors Sean McGann and Stephen Pelkofer were two of the four Pointers to post double figures in the WIAC win. McGann posted a game-high 17 points, while Pelkofer had 14 points. A pair of underclassmen, freshman Ethan Bublitz and sophomore Zack Goedeke, rounded up the Pointers double figure pair of underclassmen, freshman Ethan Bublitz and sophomore Zack Goedeke, rounded up the Pointers double figure efforts with Bublitz contributing 16 points and Goedeke who added 11 points.

This was the last regular season home game for seniors Bill Patterson, McGann and Pelkofer. As a trio, they have helped UWSP attain a 90-23 record in their last four seasons.

On Feb. 10, the Pointers recorded a 65-61 win on the road against UW-Stout. Junior Taylor Douglas and Miceli recorded double figures with 14 points and 16 points, respectively. Freshman Katy Heine chipped in nine points and Mickey Roland had eight points.

The women's basketball team (17-6, 8-4 WIAC) will return to play, hosting a pair of WIAC opponents at the Berg Gym.

At 7 p.m. on Feb. 17, UWSP will take on UW-Platteville. The Pointers will square off against UW-La Crosse on Senior Day at 3 p.m. on Feb. 20 before heading into the first round of the WIAC Tournament.

Cornellier Records Second Hat Trick of Season with Win Over UW-Stout

The No. 3/4 men's hockey team earned a WIAC win, 5-2, against UW-Stout with the help of junior Lawrence Cornellier's second hat trick of the season on Friday evening at the K.B. Willett Arena.

Cornellier knocked in the Pointers' first three goals of the game -- two in the first period and his third in the second period. Sophomore Jacob Barber and Eliot Grauer each added a goal of their own to help the Pointers earn their 19th win of the season.

Freshman goalie Carter made 23 saves against the Blue Devils.

The following night, junior Jono Davis scored UWSP's lone goal of the night in a 2-1 loss against No. 8/10 UW-Eau Claire.

The Pointer goal was knocked in at the 1:20 mark in the third period, and from there, UWSP struggled in the attempt to obtain another goal to tie the game despite the fact that they outshot the Blugolds 47-16.

The Pointers (19-5-1, 5-3 WIAC) will head into the WIAC Championships as No. 3 and will face the second-seeded and WIAC co-champion Blugolds on Feb. 26 and 27 at the Hobbs Ice Center in Eau Claire.

Women's Hockey Records Win and Tie Against UW-Superior

On Friday night, the women's hockey team earned home-ice advantage in the semifinals of the WIAC Championships with a 6-1 over the Yellowjackets.

Freshman Lauren Smith got UWSP on the scoreboard in the first period with a 1-0 lead. Yellowjacket Emily Heid scored UW-Superior's lone goal of the game at 1-1.

At the 4:00 mark in the second period, senior Shauna Bollinger scored a goal of her own to put the Pointers up 2-1. Senior Rachel Reynard, sophomore Maddie Schlossmacher and freshman Cara Lemirande each added goals of their own in the remainder of the second period. Senior Emily Lester netted an assurance goal in the third period to help earn the win for UWSP.

On Saturday, Lester scored her only goal of the night to tie the game 2-2 with UW-Superior. Sophomore Ali Biagini began the team's scoring efforts with a goal in the first period.

The third-seeded Yellowjackets will travel to the center of the state to take on the second-seeded Pointers (14-7-3, 6-3-3 WIAC) in the WIAC Championships in a pair of games on Feb. 26 and 27 at the Ice Hawks Arena in Stevens Point.

Men's Track and Field Finish Third at Pointer Quad

The No. 11 men's track and field team had four event champions and finished in third with 146 points among four WIAC teams at the Pointer Quad.

Sophomore Darin Ward matched his school record of 8.27 seconds claimed the 60-meter hurdles and placed first. Freshman Cole Fitzgerald claimed the 800-meter run title for the second straight meet with a time of 1:54.81. Junior Benjamin Jurencik crossed the finish line of the 3,000-meter run in 8:35.07 to place first.

The final event champion for UWSP was sophomore Tanner Aker in the triple jump. He won the title with a jump of 7.05 meters.

continued on page 7
continued from page 6

The Pointers currently have 21 top-10 rankings in various events on the WIAC Indoor Performance List, including four jumpers in both the long and triple jump.

UWSP will host their third consecutive home invitational with the Big Dawg Invite on Feb. 20 at the Multi-Activity Center.

Women’s Track and Field Runner-Up at Home Invitational

The women’s track and field team finished second place with 110 points at their home invitational against three WIAC teams.

The women’s team also had four individual event champions at the meet.

Sophomore Leah Trempe was champion in the 400-meter run in 58.93 seconds. Junior Kathy Derks crossed the finish line first in the long jump at 3.40 meters.

Sophomore Ben Vosters won the 125-pound title to help the No. 23 team take third place at the 2015 WIAC Championships on Valentine’s Day.

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The women’s track and field team currently has 21 top-10 rankings in various events on the WIAC Indoor Performance List, including the 174-pounder.

The Pointers will travel to Minneapolis to take on No. 7 ranked Augsburg at 7 p.m. on Feb. 19.

Roland, Beginning to Thrive, Earns WIAC Conference Player of the Week Award

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Sophomore guard Mickey Roland’s all-around game was recognized recently with a WIAC Conference Player of the Week Award.

For a player who does a little of everything on the court, earning this honor came out of nowhere for Roland.

“It was honestly really surprising and shocking when I found out. I never really expected an award like that to be awarded to me, but I am extremely honored and grateful,” Roland said.

Roland, 5’8”, does a fair amount of her work down low. Being undersized, she has earned the respect of both her coaches and teammates by scrapping in the paint.

“I'm just a lot more comfortable with all aspects of the game, on the court in the system and off the court with the team and my teammates,” Roland said.

On top of her individual hard work and comfort with her overall game, it is Egner and assistant coach Diane Gilbert who continue to maximize Roland’s potential.

“Since I have gotten on campus coach Egner and coach Gilbert have developed me as a more confident and skilled player, they always are pushing me to improve my areas of weakness and strengths to be a better player,” Roland said.

When asked about the one quality that summed up Roland, it went back to what got her the award: defense.

“She has the most active hands I know,” Egner said. “She’s always deflecting balls and grabbing rebounds she sometimes has no business getting.”

Roland has not forgotten what got her where she is either.

“I pride myself first and foremost in my defense and ability to get steals,” Roland said.
Review: ‘This is Where it Ends’ Interest Ends Here

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Going into a book with expectations is always a dangerous game to play, but sometimes I can’t help it.

When I was younger I read “Nineteen Minutes” by Jodi Picoult and was instantly enamored. The way she crafted a school shooting made it feel as though I was right there when it happened.

Ever since, I’ve been searching for a book that would do the same thing. After reading “This is Where It Ends” by Marieke Nijkamp, I’m still searching.

I went into reading this novel expecting it to pull at my heartstrings. Which it did…in the last chapter.

This novel takes place over 52 minutes. During a school assembly Tyler, a drop-out, came in wielding a gun and starts killing everyone. As the story progresses we are introduced to countless characters and learn why Tyler was shooting everyone.

The misunderstood teenager thing is so overdone. I do wish Nijkamp had thought of a better reason for these events to happen.

Since the event took place in under an hour, I thought there would always be a new development, but unfortunately it meant there were flashbacks and drawn out scenes. At times it felt like this book was never going to end.

My main problem with this novel occurred right away. There were five viewpoints. Five.

No story needs that many in just 320 pages. It’s too much information and too many people. It was unnecessary and some viewpoints got repetitive.

All the kids in the auditorium were trying to call their parents, but at the end of every chapter there were tweets sent to and from those in the auditorium. So why didn’t they just text their parents instead of calling? It would draw a lot less attention to themselves.

Regardless of where the novel disappoints, the imagery is amazing. There are scenes where I can picture myself as the character. I can see Tyler walking down the hallway, flipping his gun. I can see the people trying to talk to the police.

In all, I think this book could have been a lot more compact by going in depth through one or two character’s perspectives.

“This is Where it Ends” gets three locked doors out of 10.

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What can ‘FNaF World’ Teach Us about Video Games?

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Near the end of January, Scott Cawthon released “FNaF World,” the latest installment of his “Five Nights at Freddy’s” series.

While I’ve never played any of his games, this franchise has developed a substantial following over the past two years. As a result there was a great deal of excitement surrounding this new title.

However, in the wake of some poor reviews and fan reactions, Cawthon pulled “FNaF World” off of Steam four days later, promising a refund for everyone who bought it along with a more polished version of the game which will be available online for free.

While Cawthon may not be the first developer to recall a game after its release, this incident has had me thinking a lot about the role and power of the creator in video games as opposed to other story-telling mediums.

After all, once a book or a movie is released to the public, the ability of the author or director to change their work is severely diminished.

While some artists like Ridley Scott, George Lucas, or Chuck Palahniuk have been able to do this over the years, the newer versions or editions of their films or novels are always considered separate from the original material and thus always compared or contrasted against it.

However, when it comes to video games it seems like the artist never loses their ability to sculpt, polish, and build on their work.

Despite the fact that “The Witcher 3” was released back in May, CD Projekt Red is constantly releasing patches and adding new features to the game’s world and mechanics. And Bungie took their post-release involvement a step further, replacing the voice work of “Game of Thrones” star Peter Dinklage in their title “Destiny” with new voice-overs from Nolan North.

Of course, the notion that a video game will continue to be reshaped, revised, and expanded on after its release is in many ways built into the industry as it exists today. Downloadable content is available for nearly every major franchise on the market, providing both small additions like new skins or weapons along with massive new playable areas and hours of new storylines.

Take “Fallout 3” for example, which introduced an expansion called “Broken Steel.” This expansion simultaneously raised the level cap from twenty to thirty, introduced an entirely new part of the world to play in and explore, and even changed the fundamental structure of the core game’s conclusion.

In many ways, all this speaks to what might be the most important lesson that “FNaF World” and Scott Cawthon have to teach us.

Video games by their nature are an interactive medium in which the passive viewer is given agency in engaging with them, and through that process is transformed into a player. In this regard, perhaps this form of storytelling demands a transformation of its creators as well.
“Deadpool” is a lot like a cute little puppy. I know, I know, but stick with me here. Puppies can be so loud and obnoxious sometimes, so obsessed with constant attention that they never calm down.

They also tend to splatter bodily fluids all over the place and seem to enjoy doing it.

Despite all of that, they are so good-natured and mind-blowingly sincere that you can’t resist their charm. Their impulsive immaturity and need for affection is what ends up making them so endlessly lovable.

The same can be said for “Deadpool.” In case you have been living under a rock, or in case you just happen to be older than 30, Deadpool is an R-rated superhero who regularly takes part in graphic acts of violence, sexuality and sarcasm. He is the anti-Superman in every sense of the word.

Other than being grossly inappropriate, Deadpool is also well-known for “breaking the fourth wall.” He is aware of his fictional existence and even speaks directly to the audience about it.

These qualities have made him a subversive, underground icon used for poking fun at the conventions of the comic book genre.

Don’t fool yourself into thinking “Deadpool” is only about being edgy and ironic though. It succeeds where lazy, nerd-pandering schlock like “Pride and Prejudice and Zombies” fails. “Deadpool” actually has a soul.

This is in large part due to Ryan Reynolds, who knocks his performance out of the park.

It is rare for someone to own a role as thoroughly as Reynolds does here. It is impossible to imagine someone else embodying the role on his level. Deadpool would be such an easy character to accidentally make annoying, but Reynolds walks the tightrope perfectly.

The rest of the cast is less impressive, but strong overall. The characters of Colossus and Weasel are other standouts, while the villain, Ajax, is one of the disappointments. He is played by the professionally-boring Ed Skrein, whose only convincing performance thus far has been tricking several studios into thinking he will be a viable leading man someday.

The antagonism in the film is a bigger problem here than just Skrein. Deadpool doesn’t face particularly imposing obstacles, mostly just the standard fare. As outlandish and creative as our protagonist is, the story itself is pretty conventional. We even get a perfunctory origin story that takes up way too much screen time, which is the kind of cliché that Deadpool himself would probably mock in other superhero movies.

These complaints are mostly nits since “Deadpool” works in all the dynamics where it is supposed to work. It is shocking and hilarious and offers a swift kick in the pants to a genre growing overly safe and stagnant.

“Deadpool” earns 8 “guys, a girl and a pizza place” out of 10.
Students audition for Dance Program

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Students interested in becoming dance majors will be auditioning in hopes of getting accepted into the dance program for fall 2016. According to ahealthiermichigan.org, dancing can improve your overall lifestyle. With the daily stress and anxiety students face with exams and extracurricular activities, dancing has shown to release dopamine and serotonin neurotransmitters that assist in uplifting a person’s moods. For college students, dance may be one of the best forms of free treatment for stress or anxiety.

“My advice to those auditioning now is to be yourself, trust in your abilities and enjoy the experience!” Emily Hein, dance and arts management major, said.

Each year approximately fifty students audition for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point dance program and twenty students are accepted. All students interested in being accepted into either the major or minor are required to complete an on-campus audition, as well as an interview. The applicant can choreograph the routine or have someone else do it. The audition routine is intended to be a one-minute dance only. These well-established requirements ensures dance major students are among the most qualified and talented dancers at UWSP.

There are students from all over the world that apply to the UWSP dance program. Elaine Mary Stone, an international student from Ireland, is no exception.

“Being an international student is something that I never imagined would happen, not in my wildest dreams! I feel very fortunate to be majoring in dance study at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.” Stone said.

Students will be accepted into the dance program after the Feb. 19. Twenty-six of the applicants will be individually considered for an incoming dance major scholarship.

“Deciding to audition for the dance minor program was one of the best choices I made at UWSP,” said Sam Skalbeck, musical theatre major and dance minor. “As a musical theater major I gained valuable skills that helped me become a more well-rounded performer. Training in dance expanded my ideas of what professional performance opportunities I could pursue.”

Students accepted into the dance program are required to have proficiency in two of the following areas: ballet, modern, jazz, or tap. For a dance minor, only one is required.

Students in the dance program develop the ability to work as part of an ensemble, the ability to work honestly with other dancers and the ability to be flexible in the artistic process with choreographers, directors, rehearsal assistants and peers.

In order to develop as a talented dancer, all new students began with the 100-level dance technique courses.

Dance is a competitive career and a substantial amount of time is taken to select the best dancers into the UWSP dance program.

“UWSP’s dance program refined my technical abilities as a performer and gave me a broader perspective of myself, and the world around me,” said Shane Donohue, a dance major. “After four years of training, I truly feel prepared to begin my dance career. I do not know who I would be today without the UWSP dance program.”

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MORGAN KOTH
Morgan Koth is a senior communication sciences and disorders (speech therapy) major.

SPOTTED AT: CPS Cafe

If you could go back to a previous age for a week, what age would it be?
"I’d say a senior in high school because I was totally in my groove. I had easy classes, I knew where I was going to go to college, I had a set group of friends and was confident with who I was."

What was your first thought when you woke up this morning?
"I was excited to have a speech therapy session with my very own client. We’re going to play valentines day games, it’s going to be a lot of fun!"

What accomplishment are you most proud of?
"I think the most recent one is that I help triple member participation in the organization that I’m the president of. I am also the volunteer coordinator for the SIEO and helped to increase the participation by 50 percent while I was in the position, which was so rewarding!"

If time travel was possible, what era/year would you go to?
"The 1950’s for sure, because I was in a musical about the nifty fifties when I was in 8th grade and thought the dancing and the clothes would be so much fun!"

SEAN CASEY
Sean Casey is a junior business administration major.

SPOTTED AT: CPS Cafe

If you could retire tomorrow, how would you spend the rest of your life?
"I would travel the world with my friends."

What was your first thought when you woke up this morning?
"It’s my birthday!!" (Feb. 10)

What accomplishment are you most proud of?
"Honorary discharged from the marine corps"

If time travel was possible, what era/year would you go to?
"The 70s, good music."

If you could go back to a previous age for a week, what age would it be?
"19. My English professor came into class every day in high school and told us how great 19 was."

If you could retire tomorrow, how would you spend the rest of your life?
"I would become an international flight attendant so I could travel everywhere. I would also attempt to learn multiple languages."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

FEB. 17
4 P.M.  "See Me For Who I Am" Book Release Reception DUC, Encore
6:30 P.M. Sustainable Film Series "This Changes Everything" DUC, Theatre

FEB. 18
7:30 P.M. Politics of Pot with Moe Spencer DUC, Theatre
7:30 P.M. Guest Recital: Aaron Boaz Michelsen Hall

FEB. 19
8 P.M. The People Brothers Band DUC, Encore
4 P.M. Quit-n-time series Faith Hatch Brewhaus

FEB. 20
8 P.M. Rap Show feat. Keving Davila and Phillip Scott-Dotson DUC, Encore
9 P.M. Nine Story Nachos DUC, Alumni Room

FEB. 23
7:30 P.M. Trivia Night Brewhaus
After Death, Adam Greene Connects Others Through Art

JENNA KOSLOWSKI
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
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Artwork by Adam Greene

Adam Greene was a man who dedicated his life to connecting with others through his art. Throughout his life he took photographs, painted, sculpted, made videos and collaged.

A more prominent theme within his work is blimps, which is told through the title of the exhibit.

Two blimps, Akron and Macon, were commissioned by the U.S. Navy to improve surveillance. During the construction and tests, they faced many problems and ultimately crashed, leading to most of the crew dying.

"They symbolized to him a lot of different things. They were about surveillance, about these machines taking over our nature and coming into our spaces," Leslie Walfish, the Carlsten Gallery Director, said.

Greene found old pictures and paintings at Goodwill and collaged pictures of blimps to show the invasion of the machines into everyday society and nature.

"His title comes from his interest in these and his creation of all of these blimp images that are referring to the Akron and Macon," Walfish said.

This exhibit is a way to celebrate Greene's legacy and the way he influenced others through his connections and artwork.

"It's a way of honoring him, remembering him and celebrating the legacy he left behind," Walfish said.

Stuart Morris, professor of art and graphic design, knew Greene personally and helped bring this exhibit to the gallery.

"Almost everything he did was involved in art, even at the level of the way he interacted with people and the things he made. He was constantly engaging in art activities," Morris said.

Greene understood art is something which does not take a break from day to day.

In a video which will be part of the exhibit, he said "Maybe it's something you do in the dreaming, in the sleeping, in the thinking."

This exhibit brings a different perspective to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point because most exhibits in the gallery are by faculty and students.

The reception party will be Feb. 20 from 2-4 p.m.