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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

STUDENT VOICE

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Online courses offer UW students more flexibility

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As budget cuts continue to take their toll on the number of new professors hired, courses offered and class sizes at UW-River Falls, more students are looking to online classes to fulfill program requirements.



Vande Yacht Vande Yacht also said that demand for online courses at the University has increased over the past few years.

"I believe that P ED 108 [online] helps students greatly with meeting degree requirements," he said. "I also believe a lot of students utilize UW Colleges Online to complete some General Education requirements during the summer and during the academic year."

UW Colleges Online is a system that allows students from UW System schools to take online courses and have them count towards their degree requirements. The program "offers readily-transferable general education curriculum at its 13 two-year campuses across

the state," according to its Web site.

Courses offered by UW Colleges Online range in variety from art, chemistry, history and political science, among many others. Credits earned through the UW Colleges Online program transfer to most UW System schools and are "widely accepted by other institutions."

Vande Yacht said he believes that online classes offer students more flexibility and convenience in their course schedules. However, he said that they can also require students to be more responsible.

"I also believe a lot of students utilize UW Colleges Online to complete some General Education requirements during the summer and during the academic year."

Dan Vande Yacht,
 UWRf registrar

"Most online courses do not allow for procrastination," he said. "Students need to be self-motivated and have good time management skills."

In addition, he said the learning style of online courses does not benefit all students.

"Some people learn better in a traditional classroom and would miss the face-to-face interaction and attention from professors and other students," Vande Yacht said.

UWRf junior Becky Gaiovnik said she enjoys the flexibility that online courses offer.

See Online courses page 3



Building a school, one mile at a time

Sally King/Student Voice

UW-River Falls students, staff and faculty took part in the Bike to Uganda event Wednesday in the University Center. The event was sponsored by Building Tomorrow to help raise money to build a school in the African nation of Uganda.

Two res halls to undergo summer remodeling



Tenna Maki/Student Voice

Grimm and Stratton Halls (pictured) will both receive interior and exterior remodeling this summer.

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This summer, renovations will begin in Grimm and Stratton Hall which will include new furniture, windows, doors, floor work and a touch up on paint. New card readers will also be added to all of the residence halls.

The remodeling will cost \$300,000 for Grimm and \$400,000 for Stratton, as well as \$500,000 for the furniture in both halls, Residence Life Assistant Director Julie Phelps estimated.

All residence halls this summer will also be getting new card readers. These new proximity card readers are called "prox-readers" and will allow a student to have their card close by to get inside, instead of having to swipe the card through the reader.

Residence Life will be trying to restore different resi-

dence halls each summer depending on spending opportunities and the conditions of the halls.

"It's an ongoing process and every year we look at what needs to be done. Right now we have a projected six years out on what we want to do but that depends on budget expenses," Phelps said.

The Residence Life staff also listens to the input of students concerning the living area that they inhabit throughout the school year. Grimm Hall desk assistant Laura Reimann said that the wooden doorframes look old and that new tiling is needed in the bathroom.

"It really doesn't look too bad, but it's needed because of the other remodeling done in the other halls," Reimann said.

Most of the renovation

See Renovations page 3

LDPB divides funding, programming groups

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The Leadership and Development Programming Board (LDPB) is responsible for things at UW-River Falls such as programs, events and money given to student organizations. LDPB is split in to seven subcommittees, and these subcommittees take charge of programming on campus. The Board has recently split into two specific departments: programming and funding.

According to Student Organizations Coordinator Jon Levendoski, when LDPB moved into the University Center from its old location at Hagestad Hall, the amount of student participation and involvement grew significantly. With the additional numbers, LDPB had to accommodate. By splitting into two separate and specific departments, the boards can better focus on each topic respectively.

Karyn Wells will be advising several programming positions on Falcon Programs, the new programming board, including: concerts programmer, performing arts programmer, campus traditions programmer, film programmer and special events programmer.

"Falcon Programs will be responsible for all of the programming that the current LDPB committees are responsible for,"

See LDPB page 3

Residence Hall Association to unite present organizations, committees

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Students who live in UW-River Falls residence halls gave their approval by voting for the formation of the Residence Hall Association for next fall semester.

According to the Residence Hall Association information guide, "The UW-River Falls Residence Hall Association will act as the primary governance body regarding policies, procedures and decision-making with respect to the campus residence halls."

"Students could vote until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 130 students voted in favor, 19 against," Tracy Gerth, Residence Life area coordinator, said. "It is what we were hoping for; this will really help student leadership. It will consolidate and

make a more effective and more efficient campus, a step forward for this campus."

According to Sandra Scott-Duex, director of Residence Life, only students who live in the residence halls on campus were allowed to vote on April 27 and 28 regarding the outcome of the association.

The reason behind RHA is to ultimately improve the campus.

"There has been an interest with students and I believe students that live on-campus have unique needs and concerns," Scott-Duex said. "RHA will bring the current residence hall committees and organizations under one umbrella."

One UWRf student supported the Residence Hall Association.

"It will allow them to build concise goals," student Jenny Anderson said. "It will be better for everyone

because they will all be on the same page."

The new association will bring any organization or committee that is directed towards the dormitory halls into one group.

According to Mark Klapatch, Student Senate member, Area Council, Residential Living committee and National Resident Hall Honorary will all combine and make up the Residence Hall Association.

RHA will assist the campus in a unifying manner.

According to the Residence Hall Association Web site, "RHA will

work to provide additional opportunities for residence hall students to partake in leadership positions in regards to programming, fundraising, and overall leadership development on a state, regional and national level."

"This will really help student leadership. It will consolidate and make a more effective and more efficient campus, a step forward for this campus."

Tracy Gerth,
 Res Life area coordinator

RHA becomes incredibly visible on-campus, students know what RHA is, improve campus experience for students and be incredibly close with the professional staff," Scott-

Duex said.

RHA will begin deciding details and the planning process this summer, yet the fall of 2009 is not the first time RHA has been a part of the UWRf campus.

"Years ago, there was an RHA, but it was disbanded," Scott-Duex said. "All UW schools have an RHA except UW-Madison and River Falls at the moment."

According to Klapatch, UWRf had a RHA in 2003-04.

"There are several schools in the UW System that are in the creating process, including UW-Superior," Gerth said. "In the past, other schools like UWRf may have got their RHA cut due to a budget cut and other reasons as well," Gerth said.

See Association page 3

VOICE SHORTS

FalconFile converts to automatic deletion

Effective May 2, changes will be made to the treatment of FalconFile trash folders. Currently, folder owners/administrators must manually empty the trash folder in order to permanently delete files and free up available quota or storage space. On May 2, an automated and recurring process will be put in place to permanently delete files from trash after they have been there seven days. This will be done both for personal and shared folders, and is similar to how e-mail trash is handled. Contact the ITS HelpDesk at 715-425-4357 or helpdesk@uwrf.edu with questions.

New parking permits on sale

Parking Permits are available for purchase online for the 2009-10 academic year. Purchase eligibility dates are: Seniors (90+ completed credits) beginning April 20, juniors (60-89 completed credits) beginning April 27, sophomores (30-59 completed credits) beginning May 4 and freshmen (29 or less completed credits) May 11.

Wellness contest awards Twins Tickets

UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services is sponsoring the Wellness Weekly Contest to win two lower reserve tickets for the Minnesota Twins game May 24 vs. the Milwaukee Brewers. To enter, e-mail Mark Huttemier at mark.huttemier@uwrf.edu a short paragraph on a time you had to face real change in your life and how it affected your sense of mental health. Each week there will be a new question to respond to. Students may e-mail one submission per week and with each submission, their name will be added to the drawing.

Broadway star to speak at UWRF

Anthony Rapp, Broadway actor (Rent), author, and movie star is coming to UWRF on May 4th. The event starts at 8 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom and is free to students with a student ID, \$3 for people under 18 and \$5 for general public. Tickets will be sold at the door starting at 6:30 p.m.

Sara Barielles to play during Finals Fest

Sara Barielles will play during the UWRF Finals Fest at 8 p.m. on May 8 in the Knowles Complex. Students can purchase tickets for the event at the University Center information desk or online at: studentlife.uwrf.edu. Tickets are limited and the event is coming up soon so now is the time to purchase. Tickets will cost \$8 for UWRF Students, Faculty, and Staff and \$15 for the general public

Student athletes do not receive academic credit

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Student-athletes at UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stout may earn academic credit for playing on university sports teams, but not so at UW-River Falls.

Some student-athletes at UWRF are unhappy with not having this option and confused as to why it is not offered.

Kathryn Krause, a member of the UWRF women's cross country and track teams, said "I do think it is a bit ridiculous that we are required to take P.E. classes when all year long I'm doing some sort of physical workout pretty much every day. We even learn about muscles, weights, nutrition, strength training and recovery."

Cassi Campbell, a member of the UWRF women's hockey team, agreed.

"I think the amount of time we spend toward our respective sports is more than an equivalent to the amount of time directed toward a P.E. class," Campbell said.

UW-Eau Claire's policy for student-athletes receiving physical education credit is stated in the UW-Eau Claire Men's & Women's Athletic Eligibility Requirements, which says, "A student can receive one credit for participating an entire season in his/her sport. This credit can count toward the physical education activity credit required for graduation. This credit is applied at the end of the term and should not be figured into the 12 credits required by a student-athlete to be eligible during the term."

"It is completely up to the department as to whether athletes are allowed to receive credit at different UW schools. But it is not an individual choice; it is a department policy that is accepted by our university," Matt Wiggins, professor and chair of the department of kinesiology at UW-Eau Claire, said.

UW-Stout also offers physical education to student-athletes, although they must first take a lecture physical education class called Orientation to Intercollegiate Athletics. After they take the lecture class, they can register for athletics as a credit.

"At Stout you can count a maximum of two P.E. credits total towards a degree as a general education requirement, so by the time they take the orientation class, only one credit after that actually counts," UW-Stout Athletic Director Joe Harlan said.

UWRF football Head Coach John O'Grady said that "the UW campuses do have some independence today and they do a lot of things differently from one another."

Bailey Vikstrom, a member of the UWRF women's hockey team said she thinks that athletes at UWRF should get P.E. credits for being an athletes.

"While I'm here practicing three hours out of my day, other students get to take those P.E. classes for only 50 minutes and they are given credit for that," Vikstrom said. "Student athletes are always getting the shaft when it comes to academics. If other schools are doing this, why isn't River Falls following along?"

UWRF admission requires diploma or equivalency

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The admissions process at UW-River Falls evaluates the applications of prospective students who hold varying types of completion certification ranging from high school diplomas, high school equivalency degrees (HSED) and general educational development (GED) certificates.

The two types of diploma equivalency certification are available through the Wisconsin department of public instruction. Each will result in a different kind of documentation upon completion and both will result in different qualifications. To complete a GED, the recipient must complete a series of tests successfully in order to earn this type of certification. The GED indicates educational development, although it is not the equivalent of an HSED. HSEDs are more similar to a high school diploma and are becoming the minimum credential needed for employment. There are a number of ways to earn a HSED, although the completion of a GED could be a possible starting point toward obtaining a HSED, according to the department Web site.

Alan Tuchtenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment services, said that the Admissions Office upholds a regulation set by the UW System Board of Regents when processing the applications of students that hold degrees of educational completion other than a high school diploma.

"There is a Board of Regents regulation in the state that requires us to require an HSED from a Wisconsin resident," Tuchtenhagen said. "The feeling is that the standards typically for a GED are not as high as what most employers would like to evaluate them to be equivalent to a high school diploma."

An HSED is not required for students who are out-of-state applicants, and in that case it would be possible for an applicant who holds a GED to be admitted to UWRF. Tuchtenhagen said that the admissions office does receive applications with GEDs but that the occurrence of such application submissions is rare. He said also that applicants with HSEDs are more common in the

admissions process.

Tuchtenhagen said home-schooled students are more common than applicants with GEDs and HSEDs.

"A home-schooled student needs to demonstrate that they have taken the same required curriculum as someone coming out of a regular school and we look at their grades, their transcript and we look at their test scores," he said.

"Home schooled applicants need to be able to demonstrate that they have studied the same curriculum."

Alan Tuchtenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment services

Home-schooled students who receive HSEDs may be more dependent on ACT test scores than those who attend high school classes, Tuchtenhagen said.

"The difference is obviously we have to accept the transcript that the home school is presenting us and so we don't have a class rank, we don't have a way of benchmarking so usually with a home school student and sometimes with a GED student, it puts more emphasis on the test scores," he said. "So to validate that home schooler, we'll look at your ACT scores and if your ACT scores are pretty good we'll go ahead and admit you."

Student Senate Finance Committee approves new equipment funding

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The Student Senate Finance Committee (SSFC) has made the decision to use \$12,959 of surplus student fee money to fund the purchase of equipment for student organizations.

The Student Senate approved the allocation of up to \$30,000 for the committee to spend several months ago. The SSFC decided that it only needed \$12,959, which the Student Senate approved at its weekly meeting Tuesday night.

Requests that the committee granted include new computers for the Student Voice, a new laptop for Dance Theatre, new computers for Association of Computing Machinery, new volleyballs for the men's and women's club volleyball teams and new equipment for the men's and women's lacrosse teams.

Students pay 10 separate segregated fees each year for a total of about \$1,000 to support various programs on campus. One of the 10 segregated fees is set up specifically to support the 163

student organizations on campus.

Each year a spending budget for the Leadership Development and Program Board, along with its seven sub-committees, is determined by taking the projected number of incoming students and multiplying it by student segregated fees to come up with the amount of money that they will use to budget for the upcoming school year. The left over money is put into the University reserve surplus account, which is where the \$12,959 will be taken from.

Student Organizations Coordinator Jon Levendoski said that the number of incoming student is usually projected a little lower than the actual number that will attend the coming year to ensure that over budgeting does not occur.

"The enrollment will most likely be higher than what has been projected so the surplus goes into the University reserve," Levendoski said. "It's better to be safe than sorry."

Every few years the SSFC decides to take money from the surplus account to use for one-time funding of equipment for student organizations. Student

Senate agreed to allow the reserve account to be used to fund possible capital purchases. A one-time funding committee of eight students was appointed by Student Senate to handle the matter.

Student organizations could request that a portion of the money to be spent on them by submitting a capital equipment request form. These forms were due April 17.

SSFC looks at the requests and decides which ones to approve. They look at things such as the amount of the request, whether the request is reasonable and whether or not it violates any rules such as a request for personal items for individuals.

One-time funding chair and Student Senate Finance Director Dustin Pfundheller said that the committee looks at whether the organization needs the items requested.

"We essentially look at how fulfilling the request will benefit the club and the University," Pfundheller said.

The funds will go to the financial officer of the student organizations to be used whenever they wish.

RIVER FALLS POLICE/UWRF POLICE DEPARTMENT

Editor's note: Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

April 21

- Dylan T. Mohn, 19, was cited for underage consumption at Grimm Hall.
- Lee R. Underdahl, 19, was cited for underage consumption at Grimm Hall.

April 22

- Benjamin A. Kron, 20, was cited for underage consumption at 1018 S. Main St.
- Timothy D. Cullen, 20, was cited for underage consumption at 1018 S. Main St.
- Aaron R. Zimmerman, 19, was cited for underage consumption at 1018 S. Main St.

- Jordan L. Gullicksrud, 18, was cited for underage consumption second offense at 1018 S. Main St.
- Nathan D. Gillett, 20, was cited for underage consumption and loud and unnecessary noise at 1018 S. Main St.
- Michael B. Zwiefel, 20, was cited for underage consumption and loud and unnecessary noise at 1018 S. Main St.

April 23

- Preston T. Green, 20, was cited for ID card violation at Dick's Hometown Liquor at 1141 S. Main St.

April 24

- Tad M. Norris, 22, was cited for public urination at 124 S. Main St.

April 25

- Bradley J. Brubaker, 19, was cited for underage consumption second offense at Grimm Hall.
- Abbie G. Holmes, 18, was cited for underage consumption at Grimm Hall.

April 26

- Christopher L. Plummer, 23, was cited for disorderly conduct at 115 S. Main St.
- Laura R. Sonnek, 20, was cited for underage consumption at Crabtree Hall.



FIND FREDDY'S FEATHER

Find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice!

E-mail the Voice @ editor@uwrf.edu

Be the first person to report the find AFTER 10 a.m. Friday, 5.01, and win a Prize!

Last week's winner: Andrew Sisulak

This feather does not count

Listen to students broadcast live!

Tune in to
WRFW
88.7 FM

The Best Stuff on the Radio

Online courses: Majority of online classes offered at University in graduate program

from page 1

"I really like online classes," she said. "I feel like it makes it easier with my busy schedule to get things done because I don't have to actually go to class and I can read the lecture when I have time."

Gaiovnik said she has taken a number of online classes at UWRF, including PED 108 (Health and Fitness for Life) and MARC 100 (Introduction to Marketing Communications). Both, she said, have allowed her the ability to work at a pace that suits her.

"It's really nice to be able to work ahead if I know I'm going to have a busy week," she said. "However, I think the University should offer more [variety of] online classes instead of most of them being graduate classes."

According to a poll on the Student Voice Web site, 74 percent of responders think UWRF should offer more online courses.

Gaiovnik said she had never heard of the UW Colleges Online program, but thinks it is a great way to help students work on their degree.

"It sounds like a convenient way to help finish up degree requirements," she said. "With everyone's lives so busy these days—including college students—online courses just seem like an effective way to get classes done."

Renovations: Hathorn, Crabtree halls to be remodeled next summer

from page 1

projects happen during the summer as construction would impact students' lives during the school year.

"They need new desks, and the mailboxes are so small," Johnson Hall desk assistant Ben Klinkner said. "I agree that new furniture is needed in Stratton."

During February, students picked out furniture they liked based on a showcase of many different brands. The Residence Life staff tried to get everything that the students want, as long as it was within the budget.

"The new furniture looked nice and I really like the new desk chairs," Resident Assistant Danielle Cochran said. The desk chairs can switch from a chair and desk to a chair without legs that sits on the floor.



Phelps

Grimm Hall was of high importance in getting remodeled because "it looks old and feels old compared to some of the other halls," Phelps said.

Also partly because of the wear and tear by the usage of the Kansas City Chiefs that have stayed in Grimm Hall for the past 18 years during the summer.

This summer, Grimm Hall has been taken offline for use by the Chiefs. The Chiefs have been asked to stay in McMillan instead, as a result of the construction.

Stratton was picked out among the other halls to get repaired because it needed new windows and new furniture.

"We space them [residence halls] out, what could we do where and what could we afford," Phelps said.

Next summer's plans include the renovations of Hathorn Hall and Crabtree Hall. In Hathorn, plans so far are for new windows, furniture and a heating system. In Crabtree, the bathroom and roof, among other renovations, will be considered next year.

The following summer, construction on the addition of the South Forks Suites will begin. The project has been approved and towards the end of June 2011 they will decide on architecture. The construction will last roughly 18 months and is expected to be completed by 2012.

"The new furniture looks nice and I really like the new desk chairs."

Danielle Cochran, UWRF resident assistant

LDPB: New programming board made up of 15 student positions

from page 1

Wells said, "We feel that by having one committee instead of several, it will be much easier to plan, market and provide opportunities for students on campus to get involved."

The new Falcon Programming Board will consist of 15 student-held positions. The 15 students are heads of different program-related committees.

"For example, we have a concert committee within the Programming Board. Finals Fest would fall under this category. The one student who heads the concert committee would be responsible for issues involving space and equipment," Levendoski said. "They're also in charge of contacting the performer. This person can have people who work for and with them, but they are the one who heads the whole opera-

tion."

The new Programming Board hopes to involve more students now that they can specifically focus on programming issues.

"I really think the creation of Falcon



Wells

Programs is huge step in the right direction for programming on our campus," Falcon Programs' Film Series Director Brandon Kesler said. "One of the main goals of creating Falcon Programs was to bring all the separate committees together with the idea of being much more cohesive and better quality of programs for students, and the commu-

nity."

The funding board, titled Allocable Fee Appropriation Board (AFAB), will take over the LDPB function of allocating money to the student organizations on campus including the annual budgets and single event funding. In addition, the

AFAB will also take over the Senate Finance Committee.

"This split is going to make our funding processes more consistent. They'll be cleaner and more transparent, which is beneficial for the student organizations," Levendoski said.

The Funding Board is still under a lot of construction, but LDPB members are optimistic for its future.

"Members worked long and hard to create the new funding board in a very short amount of time. It may not be perfect at this time, but it is a great stepping stone, and I foresee more changes happening next year," Kesler said.

UWRF is not the only university that practices a program like this.

"Most university systems use this system. UWRF used to use it about 15 or 20 years ago but we changed to the idea of LDPB to cater to our specific students," Levendoski said. "And now, returning back to the original system will better benefit our students."

Unity in the Community events aim to bring campus together, teach cultural appreciation



Sally King/Student Voice

Members of the UW-River Falls Jazz Ensemble perform in the University Center on Wednesday during the University's annual Unity in the Community Event. Other events were held throughout the day in an effort to display the diversity on campus, as well as to help teach cultural appreciation.

FOCUS ON U

Rebroadcast daily on channel 19

9 a.m., 5 p.m., 9 p.m.

Studio audience season finale to be taped on May 7th

Special guests: KSTP's Jason Davis and UWRF music professor Sarah Parks

uwrf.edu/csta/focus

Association: Res Living, Area Council to become separate committees within RHA

from page 1

Each committee and organization that will be united to make RHA will see alterations in the fall.

According to the Residence Hall Association information guide, Res Living and Area Council will no longer exist. Within RHA, there will be separate committees that will deal with all of the agenda items Res Living currently deals with, as well as various committees that will cover the responsibilities of the two current Area Councils. The National Residence Hall Honorary will continue to exist in the fall, yet they will concen-

trate on their original duties.

"NRHH will now be able to do what they are supposed to do," Scott-Duex said. "Leadership, recognition and service has taken the spot of the past RHA since it ended."

RHA has been voted on and approved by the students of the University. The next step is to bring the association to the campus for the benefit of the students.

Overall, the positive change to the campus will bring improvements and a step forward for the campus.

"RHA could be the next big thing on campus," Klapatch said. "So get excited."

CORRECTION:

In Ken Weigend's story entitled "Director of University communication resigns," Debra Toftness's first name was misspelled as Deborah. In the same article, Mark Kinders' former job title was incorrectly stated as director of media affairs. His title was director of public affairs, meaning that Media Affairs and Public Affairs never merged. The merger was simply between Public Affairs and Publications.

EDITORIAL

Elections for Senate receive poor turnout

This year the UW-River Falls Student Senate elections voter turnout increased from 345 to a whopping 401. That total is a woefully anemic 6 percent of the total student population.

This statistic is scarily low. The Student Senate is an integral part of the democracy of this campus. They are in charge of budgets for all the student orgs and make a bevy of decisions that affect UWRF. In order for students to be heard, they need to elect their officials. Democracy doesn't really work when only 6 percent of the population votes for the politicians that make decisions for all 100 percent.

But the voter turnout, shocking as it is, is the product of an apathetic student body that was under-informed through a lack of formal advertising and information surrounding the election. Both the Student Senate and the Student Voice dropped the ball when it came to informing the general student body on what they needed to know.

In the weeks prior to the election, it is the Senate's responsibility to educate and inform the campus on every aspect of the election process. Looking around campus, info on who was running, their platforms and where and how to vote was scarce. The only thing that was prevalent around campus was the annoying plethora of sidewalk chalk promoting the different candidates. But it is hard to take candidates seriously when the only place their name can be found is in pink and baby blue letters scrawled sloppily under the collective feet of the student body. In order to fall in line with other UW schools in terms of voter turnout, the Senate needs to take advertising the elections more seriously and get the information out on the platforms and how to vote.

But the blame can't be placed squarely on the shoulders of the Senate. The Student Voice, the institution most responsible for bringing campus news to the student body, had no coverage leading up to the election. It is the duty of this paper to seek out news and relay that information. In this specific instance, it was this paper's job to go out and find information on the individual candidates and their platforms. It was also our job to relay the details of how and when to vote. The Student Voice should have run a story on the candidates and voting process but failed to do so.

In the end, these elections were voted in by 6 percent of students because the two organizations that should have informed students neglected to.

Editorials represent the opinion of the Student Voice Editorial Board and are prepared by the editorial staff.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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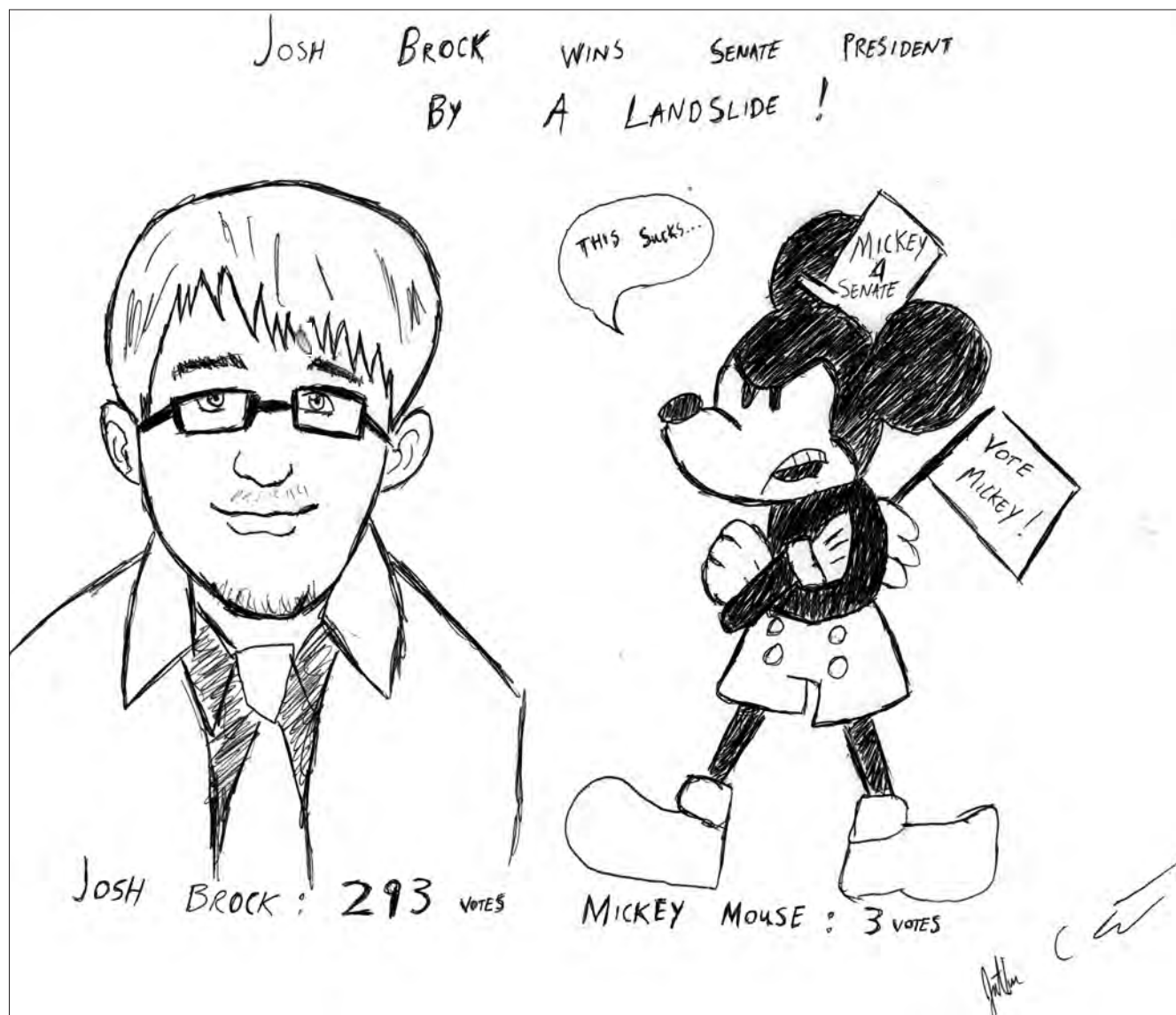


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Single copies of the Student Voice are free. Printing is paid for through student fees.



By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students play into illegal consumption

People irk me. I'm not talking about the oblivious sidewalk crossers or the people that F their Ls after dropping a piece of Sodexo toast, that's a whole other story.

Today, it's the people that choose to consume "adult beverages" before reaching legal age. What's wrong with you people!! (Apologies to Robert Downey Jr.)

It has become more and more apparent to me that I was brought up in a different household than the majority of my generation. When I was in high school, my mom told me that if I wanted to drink, that I shouldn't bother coming home...EVER! This was enough to convince me not to drink in high school.

Last year, I lived on the first substance-free floor at UWRF, and it was a great experience.

There was no pressure to drink, we found common interests, made lifelong friendships and we always remembered what happened the next morning. This is why I will be returning to substance-free housing next year.

The ethics of the student body need some serious questioning. Not only do students drink under age, they become fans of beer on Facebook.

Students aren't even secretive about illegal consumption anymore, and it's just so sad. Is it going to kill you to wait two more years to start drinking when it is actually legal?

Or maybe I'm missing out. I've never had alcohol, and I don't plan to until I legally can.

But I don't think alcohol is the magic fountain of youth Magellan was in search of, and if you need it to make your significant other more attractive, it may be time to find a new significant other.

You want to break the law and expect the University to be okay with it? If you do make a decision, legal or illegal, you should be pre-

pared to face the consequences. OWN UP TO YOUR CHOICES, UWRF!

You're breaking the law, and it's time that the University is able to dish out some punishment.

Maybe Chapters 17 and 18 are just the kick in the pants the students need to start acting their age, rather than their blood-alcohol level.

Grady Stehr,
student

Christian student follows golden rule

Reading the article written by Shawna Carpentier in the April 17 Student Voice greatly frustrates me as a Christian. I grew up all my life hearing about and trying to embody one of the greatest lessons learned throughout all faiths: THE GOLDEN RULE.

For me it is that simple. I find it hard to believe that the great human race has such a hard time getting the concept of three little words.

The golden rule tells us to treat/love others and we would want them to treat/love us. We should learn to love everyone for who they are, not to classify them or put them in a box that makes us feel comfortable.

Why should it be my or Ms. Carpentier's place to tell anyone who they must be and how they must live? Why should anyone be the "law" on who can marry who? I would like to thank Ms. Carpentier for being one of those very same people who help to give Christians a bad name.

Please do not put words in my mouth. Yes I am a Christian! Yes I am bisexual! Yes I go to church and even teach Sunday school! I am a part of the Journey House Campus Ministry Leadership Team! All of these things make me who I am—a good Christian person. So do not put words in my mouth when you speak as a Christian.

Know that all Christians are not major conservatives. Please speak for yourself and not the entire religion

because we are a diverse group of people! Do not put words in my mouth or the mouths of others. When I read the Bible I have NEVER found where it is written that it is wrong to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or even straight.

These ideas of "wrongness" come from the reader's interpretations. Again, please do not put words in my mouth because they are not my views—speak for yourself and not for me.

Kristin Klossner,
student

Oppression leads to discrimination

I am compelled to respond to the opinion piece written by Ms. Shawna Carpentier ("Columnist believes politics, religion inseparable") published in the April 17 issue of the Student Voice. Ms. Carpentier was reacting to another's contention that "religion and morality had no place in the issue of same-sex marriage."

I understand her perspective as being this country was founded on Christian values and that marriage, being a religious institution, needs to be protected in the present from the infringement of lesbian and gay people seeking access to marriage and that we cannot really separate church from state in this regard.

While I agree marriage has been traditionally a religious institution, it is officially sanctioned by the federal government of the United States as a civil institution, as well.

If we had true separation of church and state in this regard, I think the government would get out of the business of marriage altogether, rather sanctioning civil unions for everyone, heterosexual and lesbian and gay, alike, and leaving marriage in the domain of religious institutions.

With that said, I think a more critical issue was tapped in me when I read this article and to which I have responded previously at another institution.

Oppression is oppression. Its packaging may appear to be different on the surface, but its insidious effects are no less devastating, particularly for its intended targets and, ultimately, for all of us.

For when one group of people is discriminated against, we are all vulnerable as potential targets of oppression and discrimination. By fighting amongst and between them, persons in oppressed groups remain in the positions the oppressor has put them and wants them to stay: disempowered and shut out from the privileges associated with being dominant.

There are common and parallel threads, both in terms of history and the human experience of less-than-equitable treatment, running through all groups of oppressed persons who have sought or who are seeking the civil rights we are supposedly guaranteed through the U.S. Constitution.

Instead of arguing whose experience of oppression is worse than another's experience, as well as justifying why the status quo is applicable in the present, we should be coming together, sharing our experiences, addressing our fears, healing our pain, moving toward understanding and becoming allies working for justice for all people.

Doing so is not being "politically correct," it is our obligation as citizens of this country...and the world.

I commend UWRF in working toward the fulfillment of its obligation to persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning, as well as to all other persons on this campus. As such, I extend an invitation to all on this campus who want to come together through dialogue to seek deeper understandings of the members of our campus community and to become the change we wish to seek in the world.

Todd A. Savage,
College of Education and Professional Studies

Something on your mind?

Write a letter to the editor.

Submit your letter to editor@uwrvoice.com or deliver it in the box outside 304 North Hall.

Personal fear important, national fear used to enslave

The American economy has been widely discussed, criticized and hotly debated over the last several months. It's gotten to the point where even I am tired of hearing about the recession and the economic cost of living. I think there is a more important cost that extends to every facet of our lives as U.S. citizens. I call it the cost of fear. It may be elusive and impossible to quantify, but it's always there.

Our fears are what hold us back from becoming a truly united culture and voicing our full opinions, even in a democratic system. And it's been that way ever since we became an established nation. For all the variety and potential of the human race, our behavior and actions have always conformed to relatively simple patterns. I believe it all comes down to our instincts. They govern us almost completely, whether we like to admit it or not. As a species, we are geared toward self-preservation. Fear is that timeless emotion that allows us to survive.

The problem is that there's simply too much fear to go around in today's America. It has become a detriment to our progress. Even if there are no real threats around, our leaders will exaggerate or imagine new ones so we'll cooperate with their policies. That's the point where fear is no longer helping us, but is being used against us. And if you know the basic aspects of history, even just American history, you can



Nathan Sparks

see that it's happened again and again. The aftermath of World War II is a good example.

With the Germans, Japanese and Italians defeated, our leaders needed a new enemy—if only to justify their international ambitions and persuade the American people to go along with it. Because the Soviets' cultural ideas were so different from ours, making an enemy out of them was not difficult. But no rivalry can last forever, and when the Soviet system collapsed about 20 years ago, we found ourselves in the same position as after WWII.

It may sound strange, but the truth is that we depended on the Soviet Union—which is why its collapse left many of us feeling more uncertain than triumphant. Like so many young nations before us, we were childish and insecure. We depended on our enemies to give us an identity, rather than our common sense. Two huge nations had spent 40 years frightening each other—and themselves—with shadow puppets on the wall of history. And in the end, where did it get us? A massive, dangerous weapons buildup had been rendered useless. An amazing amount of money was gone. Three generations of Americans had lived with the implied threat of nuclear war—all to confront an opponent that, beneath the posturing and propaganda, was just as scared and confused as we were. And I guess it wasn't enough, because now we're doing it

again. Since the U.S. is still a representative democracy, its capabilities are limited if it doesn't have public support. So the authorities find a vague, scary mental concept and repeat it over and over to make us go along with the plans they've already decided on. Let's call it the "-ism factor." Monarchism, secessionism, anarchism, communism—they've all been used that way. And the new one, of course, is terrorism.

When we think of a "terrorist," most of us picture a fundamentalist Islamic militant, or someone close to that. We act as if there's something special about what those groups are doing, but there really isn't. People have always used fear against each other, and they'll keep doing it as long as it's an effective way to get what they want. It's certainly worked on us.

In fact, that's why we'll never really eliminate terrorism—because we all use at least a subtle form of it. If our authority figures weren't exploiting our everyday worries to some degree, national security wouldn't be such a big deal. It's kind of a balance of fear. They keep us just frightened enough to support their agendas, but not so frightened that we'll break down into mass hysteria.

You can't just blame the people in charge, though. It's our fault too, because we keep falling for it. I try to be optimistic, but it's unlikely that the trend will change anytime soon. Real change starts with the individual. Fear is natural and important, but it's up to us to decide where its usefulness ends.

Pirates don't deserve equality

In the past two weeks pirates have dominated the maritime news—yes, pirates! The Somali pirates have been causing havoc on the seas. They have hijacked several U.S. ships in the last few weeks. So what's the real solution? Is it to invade, bomb, use diplomacy or send troops to the pirates' land bases in Somalia?

The solution could involve a few of those possibilities. The U.S. has the power to use force against the pirates and to protect our men and women at sea. We must do so.

With the threat of pirates being real and dangerous, we must design a policy that empowers the people at sea—empowering the crew on each ship with weapons, so that if attacked they can protect themselves and defend the ship.

Invading without the help of other nations would not behoove the U.S.—remember we don't need another Iraq 'go it alone' fling.

This country has seen too many lives lost that way; we don't need to lose any more. Without support from another country in the process of invading, I don't think that it is a good idea. The world community is, however, being affected by this problem.

The U.S. is not the only country that will suffer a loss from these ship attacks. The pirate attacks affect international shipping, which in turn affects all of the countries that do business with the U.S. overseas to some extent. With the world community behind us, sending troops may not be a bad idea. However, that's once again with the

world community supporting us and other countries willing to send troops in as well.

Sending in troops would only prove to be difficult. This idea would involve sending troops into a dangerous area and trying to kill the pirates on land. Once again, in theory this idea doesn't sound bad, but it is. The U.S. has

already continued to send more troops to Afghanistan and still has a lot of troops in Iraq. We don't need to have a lot of troops in Somalia.

Bombing the pirate land bases was an option that came up recently and many experts have had their say on the matter. Now it's my turn.

Bombing the land bases isn't a bad idea in theory. It would destroy their weapons that they have so many of, it would kill some of them, which the U.S. has already done and hopefully it can destroy some of their other resources that are kept at their land bases.

As mentioned earlier, I think at this point we can throw the idea of diplomacy out the window. They're trying to kill us, so we shouldn't bother negotiating with them.

In the end, the answer is either bombing or invading the Somali pirate land bases, equipping our ships with weapons so that we can protect them ourselves and having the world community behind us.

Without the world behind us, the U.S. risks hurting its relations with foreign leaders, something that cannot, and should not be risked.



Gary Klaput

Faith does not require any approval

It's obvious that the issue of same-sex marriage is a passionate one for many people. We live in a great country where we are able to share our beliefs and opinions. It was my choice to share my beliefs on this issue and I stand by them.

Despite much criticism, my beliefs aren't something I am willing to compromise. I think to be able to call something a belief you must hold steadfastly to it.

I do not waver on what I believe is wrong and what is right morally. I am convicted to the truth of the Bible and the existence of Jesus Christ and therefore what He says is what I believe.

Did I misquote the Constitution? Yes. Deserving of critique? You bet. Funny? Absolutely! I can laugh at my mistakes, but you know what, I still believe God has played a big part in making this country. Our money doesn't say "In God We Trust" for nothing, but that's trivial because I believe God is founder of this world.

Even if Christianity was a minor religion in this country, I would still be standing for God. Even if this country wasn't founded on Christianity, if our founding fathers really were Deists, it wouldn't matter; I would still believe that God has a place in this country and in the issue of same-sex marriage.

I don't need political or social credibility to know the truth of my beliefs, that's called faith. For those of us who believe in Jesus and are committed to Him, that's all we need.

The point of my column was to express that I do not believe that someone can say that religion and morality has nothing to do with same-sex marriage and that it should be kept out of it. For people like me, who have certain religious and moral beliefs about homosexuality and marriage, it means everything.

If I think homosexuality is wrong and I believe that marriage is for a man and a woman, then of course I am not going to support same-sex marriage. That is not discriminatory. It's standing up

for what I believe in and it's my obligation as a Christian to do so.

In light of me comparing same-sex marriage to polygamy and bestiality in regard to marriage, it is my personal opinion that if you allow same-sex marriage you open the door for many other types of "marriages."

The reason I believe that homosexuality is a sin is because I believe we are born into a world of sin. Every person, even the most righteous of people, are tempted with sin from the time they are born. If they give in, they can fall victim to it. A sin is a sin to my God, no matter what it is. The liar, the thief, the coveter and the murderer commit their acts by choice. There's not genetic explanation for any of those things in my opinion, it's just that sin got the best of them.

It was not my intent to offend anyone by what I wrote, but I also know that I can't control that people may take offense to something they don't

agree with. I don't hate gay people nor do I think that they should be ostracized with any sort of cruelty.

As a Christian, I believe in loving all people. I have love for gay people; I just don't agree with same-sex marriage or support something I believe to be a sin. If I did support something I believe to be a sin

out of the sake of equality or freedom, then it would be pointless to believe it's wrong. Why have beliefs at all?

It's sad that I couldn't state my opinion or share my beliefs without people having to resort to obscene insults, threaten acts of physical harm upon me and all the other expressions of hate in a land where we are supposed to have freedom of speech and freedom to believe. We are too worried about being politically and socially correct that any expression that is not "correct" is considered unfair or inappropriate. Everyone loses out when we worry about those things. And frankly, people don't practice enough respect.



Shawna Carpentier

Legal marijuana would hurt stoners, not help

Every 35 seconds I see a new article online about how weed needs to be legalized, or how it's not as dangerous as we think, or how it could save the economy or about how President Obama admitted to smoking it back in the day with a tone of voice that's somewhat justifying in the eyes of marijuana and its purpose.

The problem is that these sites, namely Digg.com, post links to these articles based off popularity, and I'm certain that those nominating pro-weed propaganda are in fact the stoners who want the goddamned drug legalized. I'm sick of how much coverage this tiny green plant is getting.

It seems every stoner and their stonified mother is standing up for the drug now, and it's getting all sorts of attention from the higher-ups in the judicial system. Yesterday I read about a retired San Franciscan judge who endorses the legalization of marijuana. How many times has this article been approved by readers as of this writing? 2,877. It's like the users of America have finally found something worth fighting for. They've managed to heave their heavy asses off of their scratchy couches, log on to the Internet and fight for the only thing they have going for them.



Brad Brookins

Legalize weed to save the economy, legalize weed to stop the violence, legalize weed to SAVE THE WORLD. I say don't legalize weed simply to keep the hardcore stoners of the America on their toes, because that's all they have going for them. Lazy, soft-spoken, peace thriving lack-of-much-excitement suckwads.

If marijuana becomes the legal thing to smoke, then I'm certain a fat chunk of American chain-users will end up dead in some way. I'm willing to bet that the very first day weed becomes legal we'll see a mass self-execution of stoners. We'll see the first cannabis overdose, and be forced to use nuclear weapons to decimate the heavily-populated areas that hosted "First Time Weeder" parties. At these parties, virgin smokers will inhale such a vast amount of THC that they will engage in the act of "freaking out."

During the first stage of the freak out, the user will become convinced of unseen, hindering forces that are out to get them. This sense of mild paranoia will chip away at the back of their brain until they become further convinced that they are surrounded by hostility. They will then enter a state of hysteria controlled only by a second collective unconscious that binds all those freaking out together in sort of a

mob of lunatics. As the world turns bright red and crashes around the "freakers," they'll turn on the regular stoners—all adapted to heavy smoking of all kinds—and cause a mass riot; similar to a zombie apocalypse.

I can only imagine the reaction of the National Guard as they're dispatched—probably underprepared to deal with the freaked and freaking. The Marines will be called in to replace the underequipped National Guard, and will stop at nothing to cease the insurgence of new stoners. Nuclear technology will become the only way to halt the invasion of the fresh-users.

So in short, don't give in to these lazy suckers. Why should we endorse the idea of making the slovenly of society even more slothful? By keeping weed in the same legality that it is—illegal—we'll actually be helping the bong-bearers enjoy their green-Jesus all the more. If it becomes legal, it'll lose its edgy status and become a normalized routine.

Think about it this way: a nap is gratifying because it's under the clock, whereas a night's rest is guaranteed every night (unless you're genetically modified to live without the need to rest). The nap is the potentially jeopardizing high, and the night's rest is the legalized high—nothing risky, and not really all that worth looking forward to because it happens all the time. Keep the stoners of America alive by keeping the heads-up.

STUDENT VOICES

Do you think marijuana should be legalized?

Kahla Gutting, freshman

"For medical purposes, yes, but not for recreational purposes."



Timothy Wucherer, junior

"No. It would be a distraction for drivers or workers."



Blaze Swift, sophomore

"Yes. The government could make money off of it."



Jim Cipera, sophomore

"The cons would outweigh the pros."



Halya Zhang, sophomore

"No. Learn the pain from China's opium wars."



Falcon softball team continues its winning ways

Joe Engelhardt
joseph.engelhardt@uwrf.edu

After winning both games of a doubleheader at UW-Platteville, the UW-River Falls Falcon softball team returned home and continued their winning streak by winning both games of a double header against Hamline April 23.

In the first game, Hamline jumped out to an early lead by scoring single runs in the first and second innings. In the top of the seventh, Hamline added another run to lead 3-0. With the Falcons down to their last three outs, they came back to score three runs to tie the game. Senior Rachel Mathias got the inning going with a solo home run to left field. After the next three hitters reached base, with one out, Jamie Klein delivered an RBI single to the pitcher. The next batter, Dana Book walked to bring in the tying run. The score remained tied until the ninth, when Cassie Peterson drove in the winning run for the Falcons with a bunt single, scoring Mindy Rudiger.

In game two of the doubleheader, the Falcons scored early and often against Hamline starter Kelsey Tacheny and won 3-0. Patty Olson had three hits and Book had two hits including a home run. Freshman Rose Tusa pitched a complete game shutout walking one and striking out 12.

The next day, The Falcons played host to the UW-Oshkosh Titans in the second to last conference games

of the regular season. The Falcons got off to a good start, taking the lead in the first inning thanks to a two-run home run by Mindy Rudiger. The Falcons added three more runs in the third leading, 5-1. Once again, Tusa was able to dominate her opponents striking out six in 6 1/3 innings. The Titans were not finished as they tied the game by scoring two runs in both the fifth and sixth innings. Once again, they played an extra inning, with the Falcons coming out victorious thanks to a walk off game-winning three-run home run by Mathias. The Falcons won the game 8-5.

In game two, once again, a lot of runs were scored, with the Titans gaining a 7-1 lead. UWRF made a comeback that fell a little short, as it was only able to score four runs, all on a grand slam by Rudiger. The Titans won the final game 7-5.

“Getting victories like these are important for us. We know that winning conference games are crucial,” Ruidger said.

In their final home games before the postseason, the Falcons hosted the UW-Stevens Point Pointers. In game one, the Falcons put up four runs in the second inning thanks to a grand slam by Mathias, her third home run this season. Tusa started the game for the Falcons, striking out five in three innings and allowing zero earned runs. Falcon Heidi Emmer gave up one run in the sixth, but it did not matter, as the Falcons won the first game 5-1.



Sally King/Student Voice

Mindy Rudiger of the UWRF softball team makes contact during the Falcons' sweep of UW-Stevens Point last Saturday at Ramer Field. The Falcons have an 8-8 record in the WIAC.

In game two, the Pointers scored first with a run in the second. From that point on, it was all Falcons, as they won the second game 9-1. Book and Rudiger both homered and Jessica Lundgren added three hits to help the Falcons.

UWRF finished 5-1 on their home-stand, and continued its winning

ways with its final two games, winning 7-5 and 11-10 at St. Mary's.

“I've seen a lot of good things especially on the defensive end and we've also had strong at-bats,” Head Coach Jody Gabriel said.

UWRF received the No. 5 seed in the upcoming WIAC tournament, and will be facing UW-Eau Claire

on Friday, May 1 at UW-Superior.

“After starting conference play 0-4, it feels good to be in the playoffs,” Rudiger said.

UWRF played Eau Claire to begin the conference season and lost both games to the Bluegolds, 4-3 and 5-3 in Eau Claire on April 2, the first WIAC games of the season.

Men's relay team breaks school record, women finish third at Mac Invite

Justin Magill
justin.magill@uwrf.edu

A school record was broken in the 4x800 relay by the UW-River Falls track and field team on April 24 at the Drake Relays, widely regarded as one of the nation's most competitive meets.

Indy Liljevall, Nick Zeien, Scott Degner and Alex Zeien destroyed the previous record of 7:50.64 by more than 11 seconds, posting a time of 7:39.42, which was good enough for a fifth-place finish in the race.

Oklahoma Christian University (OCU) won the event with a time of 7:30.08, while three other WIAC schools placed in the top six.

UW-Stevens Point placed second, less than one second behind OCU, and UW-Whitewater finished fourth, just ahead of the Falcons relay team. UW-Eau Claire finished sixth, right behind UWRF.

Degner said the WIAC middle and

long distance runners proved that it is competitive on a national level at the Drake Relays.

“The WIAC has always been a powerhouse on the national level for any middle and long distance event,” he said. “Having all four teams that participated from the WIAC in the top six shows not only how talented this conference is, but how deep each team is.”

Degner said another record-setting performance at the conference meet could be a lot to ask for as most of his teammates will be in other events, unlike what they did at the Drake Relays.

“I would be surprised if we ran faster this weekend,” he said. “A few of us will have individual races before doing the relay. The conditions at Drake also set us up for running a fast time. When you have that many high caliber relays and ideal temperatures, there's only one option you have and it's to run fast. It would be more realistic to break it

again next year if we were to return to Drake as all four of us are returning next year.”

The 4x800 team was the only one sent by UWRF to compete in the Drake Relays.

“They did great,” UWRF Head Coach Martha Brennan said. “It was good to see them do it at the venue they were at. We have never had four people on our team that could run this event like these guys do.”

For Degner, breaking the school record is special, but a feat that his teammates thought they could accomplish.

“It's a pretty exciting moment,” he said. “Going down, we were pretty confident we could surpass the record. It was probably more exciting how we did it and the setting we had to break the record.”

At the Macalester (Minn.) Invitational the Falcon women's team placed third thanks to a first place performance by Jessica Reed in the 100-meter hurdles with a time

of 16.02 in the finals and Carly Eggert won the 1,500-meter run in a time of 4:52.2.

“Just a great meet for them,” Brennan said. “Everyone did really well for us.”

UWRF had 111.50 points for the meet, which trailed second place College of St. Benedict's (Minn.) 124 and the University of Minnesota's first place performance of 150 points.

Reed won the 100-meter hurdle event despite not being able to practice for the past two weeks and gave the Falcons 10 points, which may have kept them in the third place spot.

“I have been off for two weeks so it was nice to come back,” Reed said, who had been rehabilitating a foot injury during that time. “I was just biking and using the elliptical for rehab, so it was nice to have a good race.”

Brennan said Reed's performance was good timing.

“It was nice to see her win right before conference,” Brennan said. “It wasn't her best race and she was a little disappointed in the time, but she has some confidence going in.”

The running events were not the only ones UWRF was successful in as the throwers, who have been consistent all season, had another stellar meet.

Maranda Dohrn placed third in the shot put with a throw of 38-6 3/4, while River Falls native Caitlin Brendum finished second in the hammer throw with a mark of 151-4 and fourth in the javelin throw with a 94-9 toss.

The WIAC meet is on Friday and Saturday at UW-Oshkosh and Brennan said the Falcons will be ready and in a familiar position.

“We are going in as the underdog, which we have been for a long time,” she said. “A lot of times we do better in that role. We have faced adversity before, so we should be fine.”

Stafford has the pressure of Detroit on his shoulders after signing bonus

Why should an NFL player get a guaranteed \$41.7 million for not playing a single down in professional football?

This is what Matthew Stafford, the No. 1 overall draft pick in this year's NFL draft, got after signing a deal with the Detroit Lions.

Granted, he may have had a solid collegiate career at the University of Georgia, but come on. This is the NFL.

Everyone, even the biggest, strongest and fastest guys in college say the game is a lot tougher.

His bonus money is more than what Peyton Manning, arguably the best quarterback in the league, made in 2004 with a \$34 million bonus.

It is also much more than Ben Roethlisberger's \$25.2 million—and he is a two-time Super Bowl champion.

It would have been a little easier to swallow if Stafford was in the Heisman Trophy mix, but he was not even invited to New York for the awards presentation.

The three finalists for the Heisman were Tim Tebow of the University of Florida, University of Texas quarterback Colt McCoy and Sam Bradford of the University of Oklahoma. Bradford won the award, but lost in the national championship game to Tebow and the

Gators by a score of 24-14.

This however is not Stafford's fault. Once again, the Lions show why they are the league's worst when it comes to running a professional sports team.

There is no problem picking Stafford for the team, even though some, including myself, believe Mark Sanchez of the University of Southern California is better, but handing him

that much money for the work he did in college and a few scheduled workouts does no justice whatsoever.

Being able to give a player that much guaranteed money shows that you have the cash, so you should spend it wisely, especially in Detroit, which is getting hit hard in the current economic climate.

If things get sour early for the Lions, management should not expect to see a filled Ford Field.

At Georgia, Stafford had the pressure of leading the preseason No. 1 ranked team to what was supposed to be an outstanding season.

In a handful of easy games, he had last season, Stafford dominated, but when the Bulldogs had to play the University of Alabama, he could not find a way to come through, losing to the Crimson Tide 41-30.

Four games later, Georgia played Florida and got dominated.

Stafford was horrible, going 18-33 with no touchdowns and three interceptions.

He did come on strong toward the end of the regular season, which included a five touchdown performance against Georgia Tech University, but it ended in a loss to the Bulldogs arch rival.

In some of the big games last year, Stafford was not at his best.

He was three-for-three in bowl games, but none of them were against quality opponents. The Bulldog defense overmatched an inferior University of Hawaii team in the 2008 Sugar Bowl and beat a weak Michigan State University team in the 2009 Citrus Bowl.

For Stafford, the whole weight of the Detroit Lions organization is on his shoulders and with all the guaranteed money he now has along with his six-year contract worth \$78 million. He is on a team that does not have a lot of talent, but does have a saving grace in wide receiver Calvin Johnson, who had a superb season, despite being the only offensive threat last year.

The only good thing is that this exposed the player's union about these ridiculous bonuses rookies get and at next year's collective bargaining agreement changes will most likely be made to stop these travesties.



Justin Magill

Sports Wrap

Rudiger ties WIAC home run record

Mindy Rudiger hit her second homer of the game in the second game of a double header against St. Mary's University on April 28 at Ramer Field. It was a three-run shot in the seventh, that helped UWRF to the 11-10 win. It was Rudiger's 12th home run of the season which ties her own record for homers in a season.

The home run was the 38th of her career and ties Rudiger for the lead in career homers in the WIAC. Eau Claire's Casey Leisgang (2005-08) and Superior's Sarah Tarasewicz (2002-05) also had 38 career homers.

Mathias earns WIAC softball honors

Left fielder Rachel Mathias (Sr., Ripon, Wis.) helped the Falcons to five wins in six games last week and has been named the WIAC position Player of the Week.

Mathias, 5-5, hit .438 in the six games. She was 7-16 with four runs scored. She hit three home runs and had 10 RBI. She also walked four times and had a .550 on-base percentage. She finished the week with a 1.000 slugging percentage.

Witte invited to Packer rookie camp

Falcon football center Scott Witte has been invited to the Green Bay Packers rookie mini camp that will be held April 30-May 3.

Witte, from Cedarburg, started for the Falcons at center for four years and played his final season in 2008.

He was named to the 2008 All-WIAC first team and earned honorable mention in 2006 and 2007.

Sports Wrap courtesy of UW-River Falls Sports Information

Reviewer shares opinion on worst albums of 2009



Andy Phelps

Last week, I provided a list of albums that I considered to be the cream of the crop so far in 2009. For my final review of the semester, I thought it would only be fitting (and fun) to look at the other side of the coin: the bad, the worse, the downright horrific and “Chinese Democracy,” which resides in a special circle of music hell. The following is a sampling of (in my opinion) the worst “albums” of the past academic year.

Guns ‘N Roses—“Chinese Democracy”: It feels awkward to even categorize this album under “Guns ‘N Roses,” as Izzy, Duff and Slash have all long-since moved on. Rose sings like it hurts, his voice a desperate, pathetic echo of the youthfully exuberant howls that made him famous in his younger days. Did I mention that there is no Slash? After listening to flaccid, distracted tracks like “This I Love” and “Sorry,” it is clear that all the reasons Guns ‘N Roses were worshiped 20 years ago

have long since evaporated, leaving only an egomaniacal, attention-starved 47-year old burnout who has rewarded the endless patience of his fans with a collection of over-produced tracks that all fail miserably. After years of anticipation, “Chinese Democracy” turned out to be worth less than the free Dr. Pepper promotion that came with its release.

Nickelback—“Dark Horse”: Possessing creative songwriting skills of a three-year-old and the lyrical prowess of Barney the Dinosaur, Chad Kroeger and his fellow bandmates continue on their never-ending goal to record the lamest rock album in history. No small feat, but they are rapidly approaching the top of the mountain. “Dark Horse” is littered with ridiculous clichés and ignorant, Neanderthal choruses (“S is for the simplicity / E is for the ecstasy / X is just to mark the spot”), all of which are topped off

by the painfully obvious fact that none of the band members know how to play their instruments. Given a guitar, drum set or microphone, Terri Schiavo could do a better job.

Various Artists—“Johnny Cash: Remixed”: If there is anything more insulting to a the man in black than having his iconic career masterpiece, “I Walk The Line,” remixed featuring the vocals of Snoop Dogg, I can’t think of it. If that sounds bad, then an electro-infused shakeup of “Folsom Prison Blues”

will have your gag reflex doing cartwheels. This project takes juxtaposition and creative initiative way too far, and comes across as the ultimate sick joke. The sad truth is that his son, John Carter Cash, was the creative force behind “Remixed,” and should be thrown in a gulag for committing such an unspeakable atrocity.

John Carter Cash was the creative force behind “Remixed,” and should be thrown in a gulag for committing such an unspeakable atrocity.

Asher Roth—“Asleep in the Bread Aisle”: All right, this final pick is probably too easy, but it’s perfectly justified. The subject matter of Roth’s first single, “I Love College,” which (for whatever reason) has been occupying a lofty spot on radio playlists reveals that he probably loved college a little too much and got an academic suspension after a freshman year. For someone who claims to value higher education so much, his rhymes are surprisingly elementary. The rest is mid-numbingly dull, and only gets worse as Roth

emerges from the haze of weed that surrounds most of the content. “We go hungry in our own country / I wonder what it’s like living in Hungary,” he muses. Lazy, repetitive and completely lifeless.

Andy is an English major with a journalism minor. He enjoys gambling and Korean soap operas. He possesses a deeply-rooted dislike for Nickelback.

‘The Soloist’ does not receive full attention of audience it deserves



Nathan Piotrowski

Some movies fly under the radar, when they should be getting the full attention of all audiences, and “The Soloist” is no exception. With its cast of Robert Downey Jr. and Jamie Foxx, one would have thought it would be receiving more press, but it truly seems to have fallen by the wayside. The film is a masterpiece in both the technical and acting aspects, but it does fall short in getting audiences through the story, although it has an excellent plot.

The movie is based on the true story of the relationship between L.A. Times columnist Steve Lopez and a homeless musician with schizophrenia by the name of Nathaniel Ayers. The film follows the two, as Steve makes attempts to try to better Nathaniel’s quality of life, while writing about their relationship in his column. The movie also does a lot to try to make the audience aware of the homeless population and their daily struggles, especially those who suffer from mental illness, and it does a good job of it too.

Foxx and Downey Jr. truly did step up to the plate with this movie when it comes to acting. Not only is it believable, it does really play with the emotional heart strings (pun very much intended) of the audience because it is just that good. The audience is brought in by the interactions between the two, especially towards the end when Steve sees just how much he has affected another person. Granted it is still early in the year, but I would not be surprised if at least

one of them was able to garner some award nominations for the film.

The true glory of sound is brought out within this movie to great effect. The movie has a lot to do with music, and the sequences where Nathaniel plays or even listens to music are some of the most beautiful sequences throughout the film. However, there is indeed a dark and haunting side brought out in the film through Nathaniel’s schizophrenia, where shrieks, wails and voices do torment him, and can even scare the audience. Overall, with the mix of the two, it does a great job of capturing a range of human emotion.

What the film does not accomplish entirely is getting the audience through the plot. It is a slow movie, not that I mind, but most people will be bothered by the fact that there isn’t a whole lot that happens throughout the course of the film. The movie does indeed reflect real life in its harsh realities and small triumphs, but most audiences are not going to want to see real life on the screen, and it will bore most audiences with its pacing and lack of action.

Once again, I have seen a movie that will be in my mind for quite awhile, but I doubt that many others will enjoy it as much as I. But, if nothing else than getting to see Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr. do what they do best, I would suggest this movie to anyone who asks me. Even with its shortcomings, it’s a movie that truly does come out to make audiences think. Almost everyone leaving the theater will at least be humming Beethoven for quite awhile after, therefore leaving an effect on them, which is exactly what movies are supposed to do.

Even with its shortcomings, it’s a movie that truly does come out to make audiences think.



“The Soloist” stars Robert Downey Jr. and Jamie Foxx.

www.soloistmovie.com

Nathan is a digital film and television major with a film studies minor. In his spare time, he attempts to be a professional lottery winner.



‘17 Again’ follows similar plot to ‘Big’, not worth the money



José Cruz, Jr.

The cinema of our time needs a new injection of imagination. That is not to say that interesting movies have not been stemmed from one original premise—what I mean is that much of the time we have one concept that is several times over, and not always with a positive result. In any concerned cinephile’s mind, the question should come up: Why should we pay \$10 to see a movie that we basically saw already a couple of years ago? “17 Again” is another failed rehashing of the same plot that was used in 1988’s “Big.” “Why should we have to see this predictable scenario play out again?” you might ask. Well, the New Line marketing department would probably tell you: “Because it has Zac Efron, and the kids love him!”

Mike O’Donnell (Zac Efron) is a senior at Hayden High School, and may earn a college scholarship via his basketball ‘talents.’

However, right before the first play of the big game, his girlfriend Scarlet breaks up with him. To him, the only way to save their relationship is to ditch the game and ask for her hand in marriage. Fast forward 20 years later, and Mike (now Matthew Perry) and Scarlet (Leslie Mann) are going through a divorce, and his children can’t stand him. While driving in the rain one night, he sees a man (Brian Doyle-Murray, who looks strangely like his brother Bill in “The Life Aquatic”) about to jump off a bridge. Mike stops, only

to discover a whirlpool underneath the bridge that sucks him in and spits him back out as his former 17-year-old self. Now Mike must correct his selfish and asinine ways, reconnect with his children, and reconcile his marriage so he can be an adult again.

First off, I would like to say that I am not a fan of Zac Efron or his work (I use the term ‘work’ very loosely). Something as banal as the “High School Musical” films launched him into stardom, and kids have loved him ever since, for some inconceivable reason. So anyone can imagine that I had a grudge against this film before I even entered the theater. When the first shot of the movie is Efron shooting hoops with his shirt off, you know exactly what demographic the film is aimed for. You can actually see the narcissism foaming from his mouth as he talks.

“17 Again” is a very generic film on several fronts. The plot device used to switch Matthew Perry into Efron is as simple as can be. A ‘spirit guide’ morphs him into a teenager, and all he must do to change back is spend a little time with his family. Not too complex. And this is merely a subplot, as the majority of the film is spent getting Mike into crazy and awkward predicaments that fall flat in terms of comic value. There is also a mediocre ‘lesson’ to be learned: spend more time with your family and don’t live in the past. There are plenty of other better films to get this same half-assed sentimentality from.

Presumably, children will like this film. Despite being a PG-13 movie, both the plot and star are aimed toward the younger audience. But for the adults, it treads over familiar territory, especially that of “Big.” “17 Again” feels like a sub-par effort, and that is only because it is unfunny, all too familiar and certainly not worth \$10.



“17 Again” casts Zac Efron as a man who gets the chance to re-live his life.

www.rottentomatoes.com

José is an English/creative writing major at UWRF. He enjoys documentaries, horror and independent films.



Check out the Student Voice online at:

www.uwrvoice.com

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Student Senate election results

- President: Josh Brock
- Vice President: Dan Scott
- CAFES Senator: Sandra Kirchner
- CAS Senator: Jordan Kocak
- CBE Senator: Katie Rose

- COEPS Senator: Amy Wickenhauser
- Non-traditional Senator: Brent Hopkins
- At Large Senators: Alex Nelson, Brad Kerschner, Katy Van Puten, Kayla Godes, Patrick Okan, Tyler Halverson, William Larson

River Falls hotel construction to be completed in June



Nathan Sparks/Student Voice

The new building will be a Best Western hotel and is expected to be completed in two months.



Nathan Sparks/Student Voice

The builder of the hotel is Twin Creek Construction, which began construction in the summer of 2008.



Tenae Maki/Student Voice

The new hotel will be located between the Holiday gas station and the UWRF campus. This is the corner of Cascade Avenue and Main Street. The hotel will be approximately 100,000 square feet in size.



Nathan Sparks/Student Voice

The Best Western hotel is worth around \$10 million.

Nathan Sparks
nathaniel.sparks@uwrf.edu

The Best Western hotel down the street from UW-River Falls is expected to be finished in less than two months.

The three-story building, located on the corner of Cascade Avenue and Main Street, is around 100,000 square feet in size with an underground parking level. When opened, it will feature 86 rooms, a swimming pool, a kitchen and an interior restaurant and bar with a banquet area.

In cooperation with the City of River Falls, Martinsen Investment and Land Company will lease the property to Best Western. The City will profit from the hotel, which is worth about \$10 million, in the form of tax payments at \$136,000 a year.

The builder is Twin Creek Construction, which began the project on June 30, 2008, and

is now in the final phase, Twin Creek General Superintendent Dave Hackett said.

"We just have to install kitchen equipment, casework, doors and hardware [and] a little siding," Hackett said, adding that the project was right on schedule with no significant setbacks.

"Any one that we had, we've overcome."

The construction has stayed within a tentative budget of \$6.5 to \$8 million, and the prices of the rooms themselves are still being worked out by the hotel management. Formerly a vacant lot, the site was evaluated as an appropriate spot for the hotel last year, Martinsen representative John Garden said.

"River Falls has kind of been historically under-roomed," Garden said. "We did a feasi-

bility study on the whole area, and that indicated that it would be a good spot. And our early requests for room reservations [...] has indicated so. We're confident about it."

Sophomore and animal science major Beth Marsh said the hotel could bring in more people and money to River Falls.

"I think it's good for visitors to campus," Marsh said. "[But] it doesn't have to be as big as it is."

Sophomore journalism major Jessie Behrman said the new hotel would create some new jobs in the city, but doubts about whether it was necessary.

"I don't really think we need one. It's an awkward spot, just in the middle of town," Behrman said.

Junior English major Brian Aamodt said the Best Western may not get enough business to be successful.

"I don't think River Falls is a particularly high-traffic area," Aamodt said. "I don't think they'll turn much of a profit. Not enough to substantiate a building that size."

As the development finance coordinator for Martinsen, Garden said the hotel would serve an important purpose.

"We wouldn't spend a lot of money in a big investment if we weren't sure [about it]," Garden said. "The economy has changed a little, but we had everything in place before [the recession]."

Martinsen is based in Ashland, Wis., and also owns other properties around the River Falls area, including Char's Family Hair Care Beauty Salon and various housing developments.

"We wouldn't spend a lot of money in a big investment if we weren't sure [about it]."

John Garden,
Martinsen representative

"The essence of break dance is being you, and you put your own flavor to it."

Hannah Wertz,
Break Dance Club member

'Break Out' features talent, battle between break dance teams

Naomi Vogel
naomi.vogel@uwrf.edu

The University Center's Falcon's Nest was filled with neon shaped lights swirling on the walls as a rectangular spot light indicated a stage on the floor for three break dance crews competing in an annual event called Break Out, April 23.

Co-president of the UW-River Falls Break Dance Club Hannah Wertz explained the rules of a Break Out. There is no specified uniform; dancers can wear whatever they are comfortable in, Wertz said. There are four to 10 people in a crew, and they have three to six minute rounds. The dancers cannot touch each other. After the rounds, the judges decide who

wins, Wertz said.

The competing crews were The Sexys, Operation Fresh and The Looney Tunes Crew. The winning crew at the end of the night was The Looney Tunes Crew.

In the middle of the event there was a performance by the UWRF Girl's Hip Hop club that is led by Wertz.

The Break Dance Club hosts two events a year, Break Heart and Break Out. Last year's Break Out had approximately 200 people.

Students who attended had various reasons

for why they were interested in the event. Freshman animal science major Bethany Lattu said she heard about the event through flyers in the cafeteria.

"I like watching. It's really amazing how they do all those things, because I wish I could do it," Lattu said.

Biology and ecology major Abby Cole said she came to the event because she likes the music.

Junior biology major Josh Thao said he grew up break dancing and wanted to check out UWRF's Break Dance Club.

The Break Dance Club was started three years ago by student Mekha El-shadi Jones. El-shadi Jones now is co-president alongside Wertz. The Break Dance Club has approximately 10 active members who practice three days a week in Hagestad Hall.

El-shadi Jones said it takes a lot of planning

to advertise and put together this type of event. El-shadi Jones said the student who used to market the event was gone this year, so they ran into a lot of problems.

Wertz said she is the only girl in the club and she loves it.

"There are not many girl break dancers. It is a male dominated dance style," Wertz said.

To join the Break Dance Club there is no previous experience required and no costs.

"Just come to practice," Wertz said. "The essence of break dance is being you, and you put your own flavor to it."

"We basically started from scratch this year," El-shadi Jones said. "Last year's event is what we normally do."

El-shadi Jones said next year's events will be "bigger and better" because they already have started planning. El-shadi Jones said his vision for the break dance club was to have "more community interaction and promote hip hop culture in a positive way."

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