



STUDENT VOICE

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Eric Ebert/Student Voice
Friends of Crystal Schobat gather in Crabtree Hall. Clockwise from left: Chris Gilliam, Raymond Moore, Rosalie Schaffan, Carly Robaidek, Stacy Villard and Jenny Phillips.

Friends, family remember loved one

Student's death marks new beginning for many

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The tragic death of UW-River Falls student Crystal Schobat Jan. 30 sent a tremor through much of the campus community. While the whole campus absorbed the impact of the situation, news of Schobat's death hit harder on the third south wing of

Crabtree Hall. "It got really quiet," said Jenny Phillips, friend to Schobat. Schobat's Resident Assistant Rosalie Schaffan said word of the accident, and later the death, spread quickly throughout the hall. Most residents were informed by word of mouth, but Schobat's roommate Stacy Villard said she

found out about the accident after Schobat's mother called to tell her. The Crabtree Hall staff later broke the news of her death to the hall. However, after the initial shock settled down, Schaffan said the floor regrouped and created a plan in remembrance of a good friend. "It was a tight group," Schaffan said. The students decided to raise

money, which they now plan to use to plant a tree in memory of Schobat somewhere on campus. "It has more symbolic meaning," Shaffan said. The group also considered purchasing a memorial bench but was concerned about future vandalism. The ripples of Schobat's death have gone beyond remembering

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CAS dean search narrows to three candidates

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The College of Arts and Sciences is closer to having a new dean named. The list was narrowed down to three Feb. 3. Dr. Terry Brown, Dr. Lonnie Guralnick and Dr. David Pittenger are the three remaining candidates who will be coming to campus. "We certainly had a lot of interest in the position," said Connie Foster, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies and chair for the search and screen committee. Foster could not release how many people had applied for the job. Brown is currently UW-River Falls interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dean. She received her master's at Virginia Tech and received her doctorate from the University of Florida. Brown said she would like to turn her interim position into a permanent position. "This campus and college is entering into a very exciting time," Brown said. "I would feel honored and privileged to lead the college in such a dynamic time." She said Chancellor Don Betz's strategic plan for the campus will make for a "great opportunity." Guralnick received his doctorate in Botany from the University of California-Riverside. He has been published 10 times in technical publications, according to his Web site. The site can be reached from the Western Oregon University site where he is currently a biology professor and chair of the division of natural science and mathematics department. He said UW-RF is similar to his current university, but without an ocean. Guralnick coached a girls' soccer team and was on the school board for his children's school, he said. "We like getting involved with the community," he said. He has taught at Western Oregon for the last 16 years and hopes to move up to the dean position. Guralnick will be on campus Feb. 19 and 20. Pittenger said he is attracted to UW-RF because of the University's dedication to a strong undergraduate program. UW-RF resembles his current campus, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, in size and community atmosphere.

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TO SMOKE OR NOT TO SMOKE?



Kirsten Farrar/Student Voice
Rachael Langton, a sophomore and resident of Stratton Hall, takes a drag of a dove cigarette.

Senate committee seeks enforcement of fines for 25-foot rule

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Students and staff who live in residential buildings at UW-River Falls are frustrated with people who are smoking too close to the buildings, causing residential assistants to look into enforcing more punishable rules.

"Personally, I can't do much, just verbally let them know to move away from the buildings," said Vang Lor, an RA in Prucha Hall. The study lounge and sauna in the basement of Prucha Hall have been closed for two weeks because people have been caught smoking cigarettes in both areas. RAs and the hall manager decided to close the rooms because of the violation, Lor said. "No one can use it at all," Lor said. "Someone disrespected the rooms, and now nobody can use it." The hall manager of Prucha Hall has put up signs to help the situation with people not abiding by the 25-foot rule.

The 25-foot rule for smoking around buildings on campus states smoking is not allowed in any building on campus; smoking will be banned within 25 feet of all campus buildings. It is expected that all individuals will comply with the policy. The policy is also based on two Wisconsin statutes, said Mark Kimball, Public Safety director. According to statute 101.123, smoking is prohibited in any "educational facility." Any building used principally for educational purposes in which a school is located or a course of instruction or training program is offered that has been approved or licensed by a

state agency or board. According to statute 101.123(2)(bv), no person may smoke in a residence hall or dormitory that is owned or operated by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System or in any location that is 25 feet or less from such a residence hall or dormitory. Included in the statutes is a penalty for anyone who violates the rule. Statute 101.123(8)(a) states any person who willfully violates the previous statutes after being advised by an employee of the facility that smoking in the area is prohibited, shall forfeit no

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System aims to reform RA policy

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A system-wide policy concerning Resident Assistant conduct has been devised, after the January meeting of a group comprised of a representative from each of the UW-System campuses and three student body presidents. In a letter to UW-System chancellors and regents, System President Kevin P. Reilly wrote, "The RA Working Group was convened to consider the degree of influence RAs exercise within the residence halls, their responsibility for providing an open, inclusive, and supportive environment for all students who live in residence halls, and the RAs' own personal interests in being engaged and active participants in campus life." While an incident at UW-Eau Claire has not been cited as the cause for the policy, it likely sparked the debate, showing the need for a system-wide rule on the issue. As reported by the institution's student newspaper, The *Spectator*, UW-Eau Claire senior RA Lance Steiger received a letter during the summer from the University's Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life Deborah Newman, informing him that hosting Bible studies as he did during the 2004-2005 academic year were punishable unless stopped. According to the newspaper, Steiger has since filed a civil suit against the University. Representing UW-River Falls at the January meeting were Executive Director of Student Services Gregg Heinselman and Student Senate President Nick Cluppert. "We talked about what campuses are doing now," said Cluppert, who spent two years as an RA. "The discussion revolved around meetings in rooms and whether RAs can hold them on

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Graduation fee becomes another student expense

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After years of writing out tuition checks at the beginning of each semester, there's a sense of victory and relief in making that final payment to the university. Yet many students may not know that one more fee needs to be paid before graduating: a \$40 graduation fee. This fee accompanies a graduation application due within four weeks of the beginning of the term in which a student plans to graduate, according to the UW-River Falls registrar's Web site. The spring 2006 application deadline for students wishing to participate in the commencement ceremony is Feb. 10. It does cover "all the costs associated with grad-

uation," said Alan Tuchtenhagen, executive director of Enrollment Services. But the \$40 does not cover the graduation cap and gown. It does include diplomas, diploma covers, the ceremony and program printing. The fee can be rolled over and used for one more semester if a student fails to meet graduation standards after paying the fee, Tuchtenhagen said. The graduation fee is not standard across the UW-System. UW-Stout charges students \$30, UW-Milwaukee charges \$40, UW-La Crosse automatically bills its students for a \$15 graduation fee after 95 credits have been completed and UW-Oshkosh does not charge its students a grad-

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Kirsten Farrar/Student Voice
Janie Huot is one of many office staff at the registrar's office who help students with the graduation process.

VOICE SHORTS

LOCAL

UW-RF offers new course

This spring, the UW-River Falls College of Business and Economics will offer Human Resource Management, according to the *River Falls Journal*.

This 12-week course uses the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM(r)) Learning System, and will help professionals and practitioners build Human Resource management skills.

It will cover a variety of topics ranging from strategic management to occupational health, safety and security. Classes begin on Feb. 20 and will be held Monday evenings.

Contact the UW-RF outreach office at outreach@uwrf.edu or 425-3256 or 800-228-5607 for more information or to request a registration form.

University granted nearly \$3 million

UW-River Falls received \$2.8 million in faculty grants for the 2004-05 school year, just shy of the record \$3.3 million awarded in 2003-04, according to UW-RF Public Affairs. A total of 79 proposals were submitted to various programs, with 43 granted and six still outstanding. While many grants went to new proposals, a large portion of the money went to continuing programs. The funds will support conferences, forums and research, among others. The goal this year was to have at least a 50 percent success rate in grants funded. That goal was reached with a more than 64 percent success rate.

REGIONAL

Bill aims to protect military funerals

Wisconsin may be the first state to ban protests directly outside of military funerals.

According to the *River Falls Journal*, Thursday night state lawmakers sent Gov. Jim Doyle a bill that would keep people from protesting right outside a funeral.

It would require protestors to stay at least 500 feet away from a funeral site an hour before and after a funeral ceremony.

The bill is aimed at members of the Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church, who have traveled around the country protesting at military funerals.

The church members think God is killing the soldiers to punish America for its acceptance of homosexuality. GOP Assembly sponsor Rep. Terry Musser, Black River Falls, acknowledges the plan will probably face a legal challenge on First Amendment grounds, but he thinks it's worth the risk, adding it's important to protect people at their most vulnerable time when they're burying a loved one.

Others worry that lawmakers are acting as censors or "thought police." Superior Democrat Rep. Frank Boyle said he hates the people who have protested at these military funerals, but he thinks restricting their rights erodes the very freedom that soldiers are fighting for: the freedom to demonstrate and to express an opinion.

Gov. Jim Doyle has promised to sign the plan once it reaches his desk. According to Doyle's spokesperson, Anne Lupardus, there has not been a date set as to when the governor will sign the legislation. At least five other states are considering similar bans.

New facility for artists to open in May

In the coming weeks, construction will begin on the facility that organizers hope will become a focal point of culture in New Richmond.

According to the *New Richmond News*, the anticipated grand opening for The Space is May 12.

Right now, the planned visual and performing arts facility is nothing more than a stripped down office space in the Domain building behind Subway and McDonald's. But a dedicated core group of volunteers is working hard to make the center a reality.

Many residents have positive comments and support the plan. Initial plans call for an artist gallery, which will showcase a featured artist each month.

A retail gallery is also planned, where local artists can put paintings and art pieces up for sale. The Space will also include a small performing arts stage with seating for about 60 people. Additional space will be available for art classes and presentations.

The Space is governed by a local board of directors interested in expanding arts opportunities in New Richmond, and is patterned after the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson.

The group has been discussing the idea of an art center for about a year. The May 12 grand opening event will kick off with a featured artist presentation and music from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are available through the New Richmond Community Education office at 243-7421.

NATIONAL

School considers required drug testing

TOWN AND COUNTRY, Missouri — Parents may be charged \$60 to help pay for mandatory drug tests for students at a high school, a rare program hailed by the White House but disparaged by civil libertarians.

According to CNN, Christian Brothers College High School has not decided whether to implement the program, but officials have asked parents to respond to a survey on the idea and have not set a timetable for a decision.

Randomly selected students who test positive would be offered help and asked to leave school if they fail a second testing 100 days later.

If the program moves forward, about 15 students a day would be randomly selected for testing at the start of an academic year until the entire student body has been checked. Random tests would continue during the year.

A section of hair about an inch and a half long would be cut from a student's head and sent to an outside lab to check for marijuana, cocaine, PCP, Ecstasy, methamphetamine and opiates.

Findings would not be placed on a student's permanent record.

Like Christian Brothers, schools around the nation have been trying to determine what's helpful and what's over the line when it comes to testing children for drugs. President George W. Bush voiced support for student drug testing in his 2004 State of the Union address, helping to fuel interest, said the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Briefs compiled by Amber Jurek

SENATE

Award nominees announced

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At the Student Senate meeting Feb. 7, the floor was open for senators to nominate juniors and seniors for the Chancellor's Award.

The Chancellor's Award is the highest non-academic award for a junior or senior.

Each of the nominees has to be of junior or senior standing to apply for the position, said Nick Cluppert, Student Senate president.

The Senate nominated six students at UW-River Falls.

First, senators selected their choice. Once the number reached six the nominations were closed, and each senator who nominated a student said why he or she made the nomination.

The application process includes two letters of recommendations, along with the person nominating the student, Cluppert said. A resume must accompany the letters.

The applications are due Feb. 17 to the

Dean of Students Office.

An interview will follow the submission of the application, and the senator must accompany the nominee to the interview.

The students who were nominated were Jim Veirling, Nicole Peterson, Carole Xiong, Eric Ebert, Chee Moua and Vang Lor.

"It is a very prestigious award," said Vicki Hajewski, Senate advisor.

In most years three to six students win the award, but as many as 10 have won in the past years.

Other Senate News

• Senator Vang Lor said he has had students asking him about adding a milk-vending machine in Ag Science.

Asking Falcon Foods if it would like to add some of its products to the machine was also suggested.

Lor said he is looking into the possibility of different flavors of milk and yogurt.

Students pay for unapproved building

HHP plan uses student, other non-state funds for 15 percent

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The buildings considered necessary in the department of health and human performance (HHP) have been an issue at UW-River Falls since before 1992 when the first proposal was made for a new HHP building.

Since then a proposal has been presented every two years, and it has yet to be approved.

The most recent plan was given to the Space and Planning Committee on Jan. 23. A meeting is set to take place to discuss the financial options on Feb. 8.

Campus Planner Dale Braun redrafted and presented the proposal to the Space and Planning Committee.

"We know that if we don't do something to the HHP buildings then more of the facilities will fall into that [disrepair] condition and have to be closed," he said.

It is not only the faculty and staff who realize the rough shape of the buildings. Braun said the campus as a whole is looking forward to a new building with updated facilities.

Nick Cluppert, Student Senate president, said, "I definitely think we need this ... I mean, the roof of our pool fell in at the beginning of the year. We definitely need a new facility."

Still, Cluppert said he and other Senate members aren't completely happy with the direction the proposal is taking. The state has yet to approve the proposal, but students are already paying \$15 per semester in student fees.

"Now that we're putting money into this ... I'm definitely dedicated to making sure the students' money isn't going to be wasted," Cluppert said.

The state is requiring that 15 percent of the estimated \$44 million comes from non-state funds.

"15 percent must come from non-state funds, not necessarily student funds," Braun said.

UW-RF prepares for accreditation

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University faculty, staff and students are once again taking part in the regional accreditation process in preparation for the scheduled visit in spring 2008 of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC/NCA).

Accreditation of a university takes place once the institution in question proves to a review board that certain predetermined requirements have been met.

"All UW universities are accredited," Chancellor Don Betz said. "It means that we meet and exceed the standards established for institutions of higher learning by this regional association."

Every 10 years, universities that want to be accredited must provide evidence in the form of data and documentation to the HLC/NCA in order to prove each university is doing what they say in areas such as effective teaching, integrity and student learning.

The accreditation preparation process for UW-River Falls began during the fall semester of 2005 and will be completed by the spring of 2008.

"A successful accreditation process and outcome is vital to students, faculty, staff, administration and alumni alike," Betz said. "UW-River Falls has earned a solid reputation for academic excellence and as an exceptional institution with a passion for teaching and learning, which we will

demonstrate by responding to the established criteria for re-accreditation."

The first step in preparing for accreditation is the gathering of data and information, which will help provide the evidence needed for a university to be accredited. This process, known as a self-study, is already underway.

Last semester, Gorden Hedahl, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), was appointed to be the leader of the self-study portion. This semester, however, Hedahl is overseas taking part in the Wisconsin in Scotland program. Brad Caskey, associate dean of CAS, was chosen to take over Hedahl's duties.

"I was the only one nominated by the planning committee and it made sense that I would do it given my position at the college," Caskey said.

Although Hedahl is not on campus, he is still involved and receives updates on the progress of the self-study.

"I am continuing to be involved with some of the processes while I am in Scotland, and I will continue to act as coordinator when I return," Hedahl said.

Accreditation is necessary to not only ensure that the institution is successfully carrying out its duties, but also to give students better financial aid opportunities.

Accreditation also allows students transferring to other institutions to retain the majority of credits taken at UW-RF and apply them toward an education at a different university or technical college.

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

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Jan. 30

• Public Safety and the River Falls Fire Department were called to May Hall after a fire alarm went off around 11:30 a.m.

According to the Public Safety report, there was smoke and the smell of ammonia coming from the area of room 10 in the May Hall basement.

Officers contacted one of the hall's custodians, who said she had allegedly spilled some ammonia, wiped it up with paper towels and thrown them in the trashcan. She told officers the can then began to smoke and the fire alarm went off.

River Falls Fire vented the area and cleaned up the spill. Officers were later informed that an empty toilet cleaner bottle may have reacted with the ammonia in the trash bag.

• Public Safety reported vandalism to a state vehicle parked in A-Lot to the River Falls Police around 10:20 a.m.

According to the report, the state-owned van had allegedly been parked in the lot to the east of North Hall since Jan. 27. Since

then, the driver's side window had been busted in.

Police estimate damage around \$300.

Jan. 31

• A fire was reported to Public Safety on the Crabtree tennis courts around 11:15 p.m.

Officers received a call from a witness who said she could see something burning inside the tennis courts from the South Fork Suites.

When officers arrived they reported finding a small fire within 10 feet from the east gate. The fire consisted of burning paper and was stomped out by Public Safety officers.

Estimated damage to the court is unknown.

Feb. 3

• Public Safety, RFPD and RFFD were dispatched to Kleinpell Fine Arts building around 11:30 a.m. after a fire alarm activated.

The smoke detector on the second floor outside of room 289 had been set off. Officers found ash from several sheets of paper below a bulletin board in the hallway

• Cluppert talked about a student representative meeting in Madison about the Wisconsin budget proposing a new system for providing financial aid to students for higher education.

The Wisconsin Covenant is suggesting in the budget to have seventh and eighth graders sign a commitment guaranteeing they will keep a certain grade point average to attain financial aid from the state.

• The Senate motioned to hold the changes to the electoral structure in the by-laws until the next meeting.

"There are a lot of changes," said Senator Joe Eggers. "The previous elections seem to work well."

Eggers said members should go through the by-laws; he said it should not be someone on the Structural Planning Committee.

Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Student Center's Regents Room.

This is a point of disagreement between Senate and the Space and Planning Committee.

"It was presented to Senate as we need to find 15 percent of the total value to pay for it," Cluppert said.

Even though the 15 percent that is required for the project outside of state funds does not need to be provided by the students, Senatate has already added the \$15 per semester fee to the total student fees in order to cover this amount.

The HHP building has yet to be approved by the state. It is a concern of the department that enrollment will drop if the facilities are not updated, Braun said.

Since 1992 there have been other buildings and grounds concerns that have taken precedence, such as the library and the student union.

"The number one priority ... is a new HHP building, or at least a project to solve their problems," Braun said. "The quality of some of our Phy Ed. facilities is the worst in the state ... hopefully soon we can meet the program needs for the department."

"Regional accreditation is one of the major factors in considering eligibility for student financial aid, and it is also a significant factor in determining the transferability of credits to other institutions," Hedahl said.

Because so much information and evidence must be gathered in several different areas, six task forces have been organized. Each task force is assigned a predetermined category and is responsible for generating evidence that meets certain criteria established by the HLC/NCA.

"With the revised accreditation criteria, we are not only reporting on what we have accomplished, but what we are planning to do, so that we continue to be a vital organization," Hedahl said.

Once all of the information and data are gathered, UW-RF will host an evaluation team of experts from other universities. These experts will draft a formal report to be presented to a review committee.

If the University failed to retain accreditation, a great deal of time, funding and effort would need to be put forth to become reaccredited.

"This process would negatively impact students as dollars and effort moved toward a reaccreditation focus," Caskey said. "A loss of accreditation would also likely result in a loss of federal funding that could negatively impact everything from access to student loans to the inability to compete for

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near the room.

Damage is estimated at \$100 to replace the bulletin board.

No witnesses have come forward at this time.

Feb. 4

• Wallace K. Waruiru, 23, was fined \$356 for battery after allegedly punching a man in the face around 106 N. Main St. at 2:25 a.m.

River Falls Police were called to the area in front of Johnnie's Bar after a fight was reported. Officers state they found a man bleeding from his nose along the sidewalk near the bar.

The man told officers he was punched in the face by Waruiru for no reason. The man said he allegedly never provoked Waruiru or fought back.

Waruiru was lying on the ground nearby.

According to a witness statement, Waruiru punched the man in the face and then fell over.

Police stated that Waruiru was unable to stand on his own and was very intoxicated. Waruiru was placed under arrest for battery and transported to a treatment center.

Schobat: Father is grateful for UW-RF students attending funeral

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her in the future. Many friends remember her for the person she was.

“She smiled all the time,” Phillips said. “Even if she was sad.”

Along with being adventurous and outgoing, Schobat was known to be very giving and nice to everyone.

Even when the accident occurred Schobat was returning from work in Stillwater, Minn., at the Home For Life — a special needs animal shelter.

“She was going to school to be a vet,” Shaffan said.

Even in death, Schobat’s presence was felt in River Falls as well as at her funeral Feb. 4.

Raymond Moore, a UW-RF student who attended the funeral, said Schobat’s father shared a story about how he dropped his

cigarette around the time of her death. He told Moore he knew it was a sign from her to stop smoking.

Schobat had always wanted her father to quit smoking, Moore said.

About 15 friends of hers traveled to Mayville, Wis., for the funeral.

Schobat’s father, Bryan Schobat, was grateful for the UW-RF students that attended the funeral.

“That was the most important thing at the whole funeral,” Bryan said. “She’s touched so many people’s lives in the short time she’s lived.”

Bryan said his daughter really loved the people at River Falls. The support shown by people she worked with and friends was unbelievable, he said.

Schobat’s death has also brought other friends closer to

“I’ll never stop loving her. And I’ll probably never stop crying.”

Bryan Schobat, Crystal’s father.

one another.

“I was drifting away from all these guys until this happened,” student Chris Gilliam said about his friends in Crabtree.

Overall, the residents agree that the hall has become a much friendlier environment.

Since the accident, residents have checked in on one another. What was once a floor has since become more of a community.

Yet other wounds of this tragedy will take more time to heal.

“Crystal was the most beautiful

girl I ever met,” Bryan said.

Still reeling from the whirlwind of the past week, Bryan said his daughter was full of love for everyone.

And while her life may have ended abruptly, her presence will not be forgotten easily.

“I’ll never stop loving her,” Bryan said. “And I’ll probably never stop crying.”

A memorial is scheduled to remember Schobat Feb. 15 in the Cooklock room of the library.

Dean for student development and campus diversity Blake Fry said the memorial will feature a picture display as well as a comment book.

“I think it’s important, even those that didn’t know Crystal hear stories about her,” Fry said.

After the memorial, the book will be sent to her parents.

Fry said an e-mail will be sent when details are finalized.

Dean: Candidates strive for position

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If hired on as dean, Pittinger would like to be close to the classroom and listen to others’ thoughts, he said.

His credits include a master’s at Texas A & M in a broad array of courses and holds a doctorate from the University of Georgia in experimental psychology.

Pittinger will be on campus Feb. 22.

“Through my career I’ve committed myself to being a teacher,” he said. “I like talking about ideas with a lively dialogue, and a campus is good for that.”

The three candidates are expected to visit the campus to meet with faculty, staff, students and community members, Foster said.

While on campus the candidates will be attending an open

meeting after lunch, Foster said. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and interact with all the candidates.

“There is a long list of character [attributes] and skills,” Foster said.

She said the candidate should have the ability to move projects forward and be able to represent the CAS very well.

The committee that narrowed the list down represented a wide range of fields, from journalism to business.

“It’s been a great committee,” Foster said. “It’s been a smooth process.”

The University has had many recent changes taking, including a new chancellor and last week’s addition of Dale Gallenberg as the new dean of the College of Agriculture Food and Environmental Sciences.

Policy: Final RA guidelines serve both public, students

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campus or elsewhere.”

Cluppert said most UW campuses allow RAs to have meetings in residential buildings, but not their own rooms. The goal is for them to remain approachable to students with views that may conflict with those of the RAs organizations, he said.

“UW-RF does allow RAs to lead and facilitate student meetings in their room,” Heinselman said. “Most of the UW-System schools do, with the exception of a few.”

UW-Eau Claire, UW-Whitewater and UW-Madison did not allow RAs to host meetings in rooms or residence halls in general prior to the committee meeting, Cluppert said.

“The debate is on: is the room an office or a living space?” Cluppert said. “Are RAs working the entire time they’re in the building?”

According to the Jan. 11 Resident Assistant Working Group Final Report, “In particular, there is agreement that RAs can participate in, organize, or lead meetings as long as they don’t use their position to inappropriately influence, pressure, or coerce student residents to attend. The determination of where the meetings may be held has been left to the discretion of the individual institutions.”

Flexibility has been an influential factor for all parties involved in the policy construction.

“We want to ensure that cam-



Kirsten Farrar/Student Voice

RAs Anne Beckman and Michelle Maccoux look over a Web site while working at Prucha Hall’s front desk.

pus can maintain their uniqueness,” Cluppert said. “We hope to create a policy that says campuses can make up their own standards with a policy in the books to back it up.”

The variation between institutions has been made clear by the different stances UW-Eau Claire and UW-RF have taken on the subject.

“Eau Claire feels that they shouldn’t be able to do that [hold meetings] in their residential buildings because students will associate them with their organizations,” Cluppert said. “But we didn’t want to discourage RAs from being active on campus and taking part in the opportunities they’re interested in.”

The first meeting of the RA Policy Committee was held the first week in January, and the group later connected via teleconference the following week.

UW-System chancellors met in Madison to view the rough draft of the proposal, and it will be forwarded to the Board of Regents in the coming weeks.

“We’re trying to have a set of rules - a common groundwork - leaving flexibility for each institution’s local differences,” said Chancellor Don Betz. “We’re very solid in that area.”

Betz and other University staff said they believe the final policy will serve both the public and students.

“I feel very good about our employment practices and expectations of Resident Assistants as student leaders and role models,” Heinselman said. “We aspire to hire student leaders, peer mentors and role model students as Resident Assistants. Spiritual Life is just one of many developmental areas we encourage students to explore.”

Fee: Graduates support future payment methods

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uation fee.

The cost discrepancies across the UW-System are based on where the university gets the funds to cover graduation costs. Some campuses pull money from other sources, Tuchenhagen said.

The registrar’s office likes having a separate payment, Tuchenhagen said.

“This method allows us to track it,” he said.

Tuchenhagen said there is no proposal to change the amount of the fee, but the way it will be paid will change. There are two future payment methods being considered. One is paying electronically over eSIS, similar to the system implemented for the current semester to pay the \$100 tuition deposit. The other would be to add the \$40 onto a tuition bill.

The purpose of this, Tuchenhagen said, would be to save students time, reduce lines at the registrar’s office and avoid

creating an inconvenience for students who may have trouble paying the fee.

“It’s easier for students not to have to cough up \$40,” Tuchenhagen said.

The response for students is greatly in favor of changing the payment method to electronic or as part of tuition.

“I don’t like paying for things with cash out of pocket,” graduating senior Jon Lundgren said. “I’d rather pay for it when I’m paying for everything else.”

Smoking: Resources needed to enforce fines

from page 1

more than \$10.

The smoker stations located outside of many buildings on campus are supposed to be at least 25 feet from the buildings to help keep people from smoking too close.

Lor brought the issue to the Student Senate’s attention at the Jan. 23 meeting to see what Senate can do about the situation. He said he is looking for a way to better enforce the policy.

A committee of members on the Senate has been formed to look into the issue of enforcing stronger rules. The committee has gone to Public Safety to find

out what further steps need to be taken.

“Now, it is just a start,” Lor said. “It’s getting a voice out there.”

The only thing Public Safety is able to do is ask people to be considerate, Kimball said.

The policy that is currently being enforced is written the way it is, so it can be changed to make it current with the learning and living environments we live in, Kimball said.

Some campuses do have fines, but they are not severe or expensive, and the number of tickets that are given out is minimal.

The number of officers on campus is already few, and

adding patrols of the buildings for people smoking too closely would be nearly impossible with the number of officers Public Safety has.

“We can’t do that [fines] with the staffing we have right now,” Kimball said. “My suggestion, before we get into fines, is more education and advertising to ask people to comply.”

Informing people of the negative effects of first- and second-hand smoke might help people quit smoking rather than a citation to enforce the policy, Kimball said.

The problems seem to be occurring more often during the night rather than the day, said Keven Syverson, Student Health Services health educator.

“During the day, it’s followed a lot,” Syverson said. “At night, students are gathering outside the doors.”

When winter approaches, Lor observed people start getting closer to the buildings to keep warm and try to avoid the wind. Once spring comes around, people start moving to benches and picnic tables, which are farther from the buildings.

Residents are also complaining about smoke entering their rooms from outside, Lor said.

Smokers standing too close to buildings have become a large issue many students and staff on campus are concerned about.

Overall, a change to the policy with much more enforcement is going to be the biggest issue that will be addressed on the campus, he said.

Lor said he knows the issue needs to be heard from both sides, and listening and working with the students who smoke will also help the situation.

WIAC 2006 • WIAC 2006 • WIAC 2006 • WIAC 2006

Men's and Women's

Tournament Schedule

Monday, February 20

Women's Quarterfinals, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21

Men's Quarterfinals, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22

Women's Semifinals, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 23

Men's Semifinals, 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 25

Women's & Men's Championships, 3 or 7 p.m.

The postseason tournament champions are awarded the conference's automatic bids to the NCAA Division III Basketball Championships. All games will be played at the site of the highest seeded team. Tickets may be purchased at any WIAC athletic ticket office.

Tournament website: www.uwsa.edu/wiac

WIAC 2006 • WIAC 2006 • WIAC 2006 • WIAC 2006

Check out the Voice online at www.uwrf.edu/student-voice

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EDITORIAL

Faculty voice lacking volume

Faculty Senate is the designated legislative arm of the faculty, working with matters related to educational policy making. This group of elected members meets bi-weekly and is one of the major controlling factors of academic policies, such as adopting grading systems, and approving new curricula and academic calendars. While Faculty Senate is only one link in the chain of shared governance, it still has a lot of authority over policy approval. However, many students on campus don't even realize Faculty Senate exists or what its functions are.

This becomes a problem when controversial issues, such as the recently adopted plus minus grading scale, come up for approval. In instances where major policy changes are being considered, it is imperative that Faculty Senate visibly address its decision with the campus community.

The students are the direct recipients of nearly every policy decision implemented by Faculty Senate, and ultimately shared governance. It is our right as students to know what decisions are being made about policy and why.

More importantly, it is a goal of Faculty Senate to work with students.

"The University views the student as the major reason for its existence, and its courses, programs, and activities are designed to that purpose. To attain them, faculty and students work together in partnership," according to the Faculty/Academic Staff Handbook.

As of the time of this publication, Faculty Senate has only approved four motions for the 2005-2006 academic year. The Student Senate often approves four motions in one week alone, and it meets on a weekly basis.

With the amount of issues the Student Senate explores weekly, it seems very unlikely that Faculty Senate has a lack of issues to work on.

Yet the group has cancelled meetings on more than one occasion due to lack of issues.

Low faculty salaries, rising student debt and a grading system that is still not consistent across campus are just a few of the issues that could be addressed weekly by the Faculty Senate.

As a legislative body, Faculty Senate should strive to make as much or more of an impact or as Student Senate. Having a strong faculty backing for Student Senate would make its motions all that much more powerful, especially at the regional and state levels.

This goes without mentioning how beneficial it would be to have an active political climate between Faculty and Student Senate on campus.

The end results from a more proactive Faculty Senate would only benefit the students and campus as a whole.

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

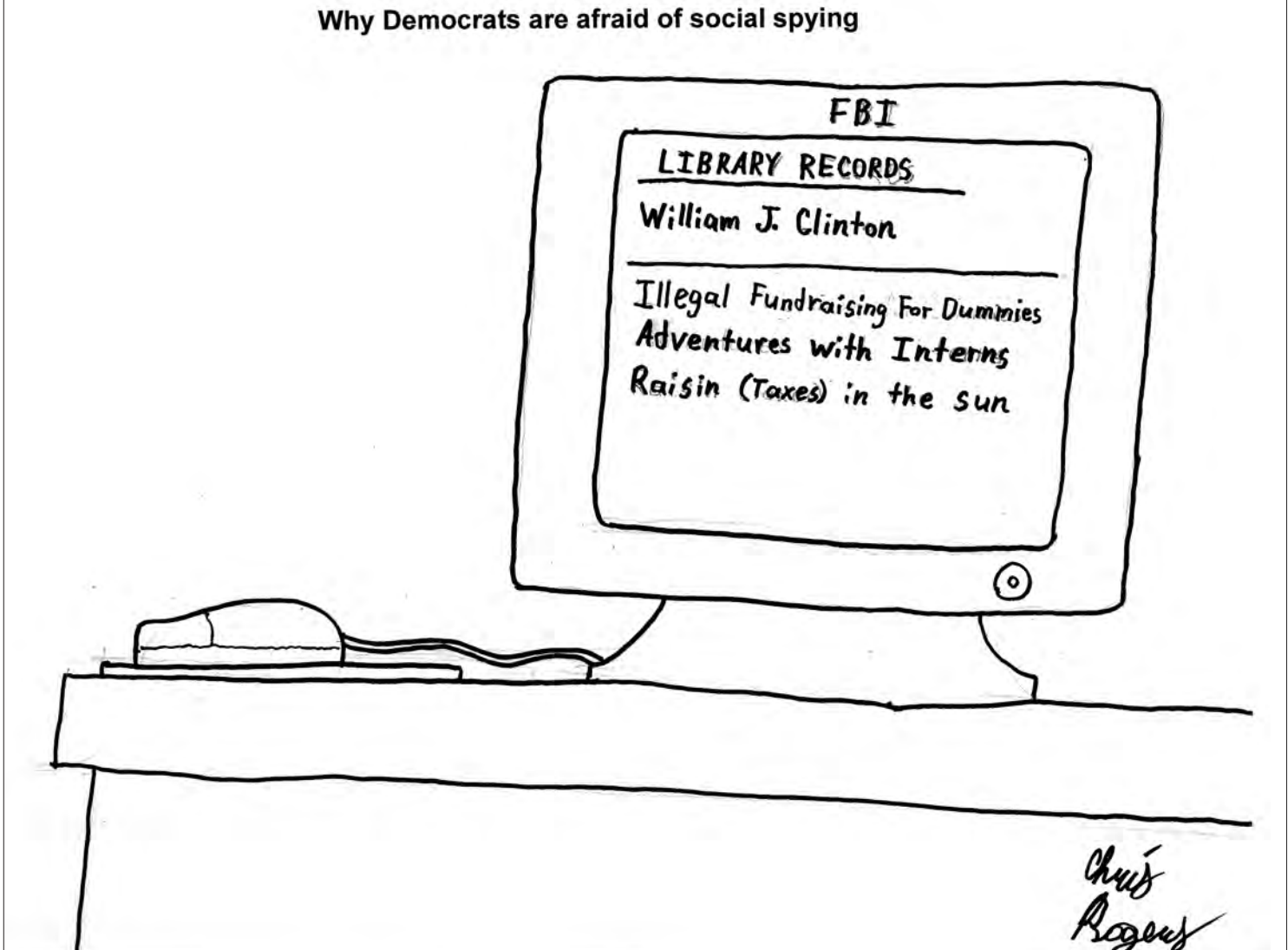
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Single copies of the *Student Voice* are free. Printing costs are paid for through student fees.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conservation contest

Hear ye, hear ye!
Be it known that Student Senate, Residential Living, ECO Club, and Area Councils are sponsoring a contest between the dorms, a contest that will last all semester. It shall be a competition of creativity, of restraint, and above all, of conservation.
Translation? From now until April, there is an ongoing energy conservation contest between the dorms. Every month, the amount of energy you use - water, heat, and electricity - will be measured and weighed against that of the other dorms.
The dorm with the lowest energy use per student will win a cash prize of \$500, to do with as you like.
Second and third place will also win cash prizes. These will be awarded the latter part of April - in light of Earth Day. Every dorm is involved, with the exception of South Fork Suites (don't worry, South Fork, we'll get you next year).
The rising costs of coal, oil, and natural gas are a concern to us all. As costs continue to rise, UW-River Falls will be paying more for their use - which translates to yet another hike in tuition costs for we students. Let's see if this semester, we can beat them at their own game, and not only stabilize our energy usage, but actually lower it.
For more information, see the posters in your wing or your RA.

ECO Club

Conceal, carry is misunderstood

I am writing in response to Nate Cook's column on Conceal and Carry.
The notion that "more guns on the street ... will never make us safer," fails to pass logical criteria. Cook's statement implies that guns have decision-making powers, as if guns themselves are the causal determinant of his perceived diminished safety.
He is correct, in part, in that the change in the number of guns, statistically speaking, can be expected to generate a proportional change in shooting incidents, just as a change in the number of cars on the road can be expected to generate a proportional change in vehicular accidents and deaths.
However, what Cook fails to

address is behavior. An educated, law-abiding, responsible driver is aware of the penalties and/or dangers associated with certain driving behaviors, and is less likely to engage in such behaviors. In effect, the individual practices defensive driving.
Likewise, the same is true with gun owners, only my defensive carrying is scorned by Cook, while I assume he would permit my defensive driving. Both practices are in fact the same behavior.
The truth is this: We cannot control how other people behave. We cannot mandate that all people respect life and one another.
Furthermore, we can't predict their actions. The problem is not that these people are crazy and may attempt to kill the innocent. The problem is that these people know there is no one capable of stopping them before they kill the innocent. If you think critically, you will note that one of these things we cannot change, but the other we can.
In no way do I endorse arming anyone and everyone.
The only people who should carry a firearm are those individuals willing to accept the personal responsibility and legal liability for using a firearm in defense of one's self or of others.
Yet, we are not permitted to protect and defend that life from those who would not respect it. In reality, if we are not permitted to defend it, we are not entitled to it.

James King
student

Clarifications

- In the Dec. 2 issue of the *Student Voice* in the story headlined "Pitcher perfect," it should be clarified that in the quote by Jenny Crnobrna saying "Spending too much money, losing things, getting beat up, or not practicing safe sex," Crnobrna was referring to possible outcomes from binge drinking and not personal experiences.
- In the Dec. 9 issue of the *Student Voice* in the story headlined "Female presence in engineering field lacking," it should be clarified that Arpan Kumar Jani was referencing discussions that had taken place at the Women and Science Conference and not voicing his own views.

Voice your opinion

Submit your letter to the editor or guest column at 304 North Hall

Don't let apathy get in the way

BE HEARD

London shows pictures via noise

"Take in the sounds, listen for the music all around you," my best friend told me as I left to go on my three-month study abroad tour of Europe.
He also told me to keep in mind no matter how different a person may seem, they're still a person.

Touring in London for a week now, I've tried my best to keep both pieces of advice in mind. So far, I think I've done an alright job.
Later that night there was a mixture of angry and cheerful shouts from people watching a football (soccer) game at the pub. Others around them were simply talking to each other about the events of their days. At the bar, bartenders were popping the tops of beer cans for the customers as wells as grabbing glasses and filling them from the tap. From the kitchen I could hear orders being announced from the waiters to the cooks. There was laughter and clinking of glasses as people toasted each other.
Another side of the pub played 1980s American techno remixes from the speakers.
The pubs are not the only places to hear unexpected music. Underground subway stations are a symphony of noise. With so many people in such proximity, languages and accents from all over the world provide some background sounds to the whoosh and rhythmic thump of an approaching train announces. The ringing cell phones provide

an occasional distraction in the music being played by the performers trying to make money by serenading the people all around them. The distinct clack of a high-heeled shoe makes as it strikes the cement floor indicates that you should step to the side because a woman is rushing to make her connecting train.
Standing in Westminster I heard the carillon of St. Stevens Tower ringing before Big Ben rang announcing it was 4 o'clock. The honking horns of vehicles roaring around on the opposite side of the street beep as a warning to move. Each bicycle operator has a bell to click on the handlebar to get pedestrians to move out of their way, that they occasionally utilize.
Inside, the noises I hear take on their own lives. In Internet cafés, where everyone must pay for access by the minute, I notice the sound of hurried and frantic typing fingers trying to make the most of the time they have purchased. The music they have on the radio is the same music played on easy listening music stations back home.
The hostel room I'm sharing with three, sometimes four, other students in the International Traveling Classroom program with me becomes a rehearsal room for a backup group in a band while I try to fall asleep. Being accustomed to my own bedroom in my River Falls apartment, the noises are very new to me. Two people with

very distinct snoring sounds, a clicking of tongue sucking, and mysterious moaning of a wearied traveler all distract the jumping counting sheep of my mind. Each morning one of the three alarm clocks will beep and wake me up, as long as we have them set to the right time zone and twelve-hour setting.
When I decide to use my new iPod and concentrate on the "must hear while in England" mix, all the other sounds are drowned out. Forcing me to observe everything through sight, I see people.
Aside from missing or yellowed teeth, smiles are internationally recognized. Laughter looks the same everywhere. People use hand gestures to enforce words they are saying to make it easier for someone who speaks another language to get the message they are trying to convey. When writing this column in a room full of 50 or more travelers, I can see all different influences of pop culture. There are punks, preps and classy dressers surrounding the people of all ages. People read the newspaper and books, watch television sitting down, and check their e-mail the same.
What's unfortunate for me is that it took an eight-hour plane ride to travel a quarter way around the world to put my senses on high alert. The commonality of people is more important and prevalent than the differences. Listen to your neighbors blasting music in the dorms and take a mental note of the squeaking sound tennis shoes make as they pound down the sparkled staircase steps in Kleinpell Fine Arts building.
Londoner, Venetian or UW-River Falls student, each is a person.



Keighla Schmidt

Food plans hurt some students

Has anyone ever wondered why freshmen and sophomores are required to be on a meal plan?

Most meal plans cost between \$800-\$900, and allow the student anywhere from five to 19 on-campus meals per week. Many people find this food to be adequate, and are more than willing to pay up front for their meals so they don't have to worry about it for the rest of the term. But is it really necessary that meal plans be mandatory?

When browsing the UW-River Falls Dining Services Web site, it is painfully obvious it isn't exactly the most lenient office on campus. At the bottom of the page it clearly states that, "Exemptions to the mandatory meal plan policy will not be granted for employment reasons, class schedule conflicts or for financial reasons."

This strikes me as wrong right off the bat. Exemptions cannot be granted for employment or financial reasons? So this is saying that if I work in a grocery store or dining facility and can get all of my meals for free, I still have to pay the school for food I don't need?

What if I have to work to pay for school during the dining hours, and would rather eat meals with my co-workers instead of



Hans Hage

having to make after-hours trips over to Rodli Commons?

It's great that Dining Services is willing to work with students to accommodate their needs, but what if students would prefer to not eat at odd hours?

I also don't understand why students are forced to have a meal plan even if financially it is not possible for them to attend school and pay for a meal plan. Isn't the purpose of attending a university to earn a degree?

Why then are some students forced to make a decision between paying for food and getting an education?

This seems like a very warped concept. Maybe to the people at Dining Services, \$800-\$900 isn't a lot of money, but for most students it could be the difference between continuing their education or moving back home.

Even medical exemptions are difficult, if not impossible to come by.

I have spoken with two individuals recently who were denied medical exemptions even though they have documented proof through their clinic that they need a specific diet that the school cannot provide.

Instead of allowing these students to make their own meals that meet their personal dietary needs, Dining Services rejected their requests. One of them asked that a decision be made immediately so they could figure out if they were going to continue living in the dorms, but was only contacted by Dining Services after well over a month had passed. The student was then billed for one of the most expensive meal plans.

Had Dining Services been a bit more prompt in their decision, the student would not have continued living in the dorms and certainly would not have chosen that particular meal plan.

So why is it necessary for students to purchase meal plans?

I believe what it comes down to is money. The UW-River Falls Administrative Policy Paper 25 (available online) states that "It is the goal of the University to provide a stable number of students on the residential dining plan to receive a cost effective bid from prospective food contract service companies."

It should be the responsibility of the University to make food available to everyone who wants it without forcing students to purchase meal plans so the school can meet some sort of quota.

There has to be a better way of doing things.

Support U.S. work, victories

Well everyone, the biggest sporting event which takes place every two years is back again.

Yes, the Olympics start today with a big ceremony and I am very sure they will be terrific just like every year. But how many of you really watch any of the Olympics?

I remember when I was young we only had four channels on the tube, and when the games came about my mom would subject us to numerous hours of the millions of different types of figure skating. To me, it was absolute torture, but to many others it is very riveting and exciting.

he had a point there.

The Olympics have a way of pitting countries against each other in a sort of who-is-better type of competition, which in its own kind of twisted way, is a little war.

In my mind this makes the Olympics a little more exciting. All political correctness aside, some of these advertising people should make their commercials a little more country vs. country. For instance, "Iraq vs. United States, one match to end it all." I think that would be pretty catchy.

The athletes have also changed in the Olympics.

The winter Olympics started in 1924 and only had a few events such as: Nordic skiing, speed skating and ice hockey. Now, it is a huge event that is televised everywhere and has the ability to turn once national heroes into just another athlete with an endorsement contract.

While it still appeals to many people around the world, it is not the same as it once was. In the 2002 Winter Games world leaders and commissioners of the Olympic Committee called for a period of peace that would give the world a reason not to fight.

The truce was called on to give the athletes safe passage across the many countries they had to travel to get to the games, not for them to stop fighting.

Even Adolph Hitler found the games had some hidden meaning.

Hitler was once believed to have said "(referring to the Olympics) was a way to pursue war by another means."

Even though Hitler was not someone who was was agreed with most of the time, I feel that



Jason Conway

Olympic athletes used to be revered to the highest degree, and now after the two weeks of the games they slip from our minds like an ugly girl's name at the bar.

Some of the athletes do get lucky and find some endorsement deals, but only a select few. I believe these people should be held with a higher regard than they are. They train their whole lives to be in these games, and even getting a bronze medal should be considered a very great achievement. We should at least try to recognize them for their accomplishments. If nothing else, we should try not to forget their names as fast as the girl at the bar.

While going to the Olympics is the best way to support, just tuning in for a little while everyday will help the cause. It costs billions of dollars to put on the Olympics and most cities hosting the Olympics in the past couple of years have been struggling to break even.

So lets support our "soldiers" in their upcoming war and cheer them on to victory.

Bush spying usurps vital laws

The Bush Administration is currently facing criticism for eavesdropping on American citizens without court approval.

Some members of the Senate, both Republicans and Democrats, argue that the surveillance - namely wiretapping - does not fall within the confines of the president's power, but Attorney General Alberto Gonzales claims that the administration's plan is legal.

In its most basic form, the argument is rooted in two contradictory portions of the law: the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) passed in 1978 and the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force Resolution, permitting the president to "use all necessary and appropriate force" to combat future terrorist attacks.

As a result, the courts are left to decide which law has precedent over the others.

But when there is something like FISA enacted, which deals strictly with foreign surveillance, the ambiguity in the law becomes clearer: the more specific law - in this case FISA - reigns supreme.

Now, no American wants terrorists to attack our country, and if it is known that terrorists are communicating with other terrorists, then surveillance should be used.

The request must then be approved by the Attorney General and one of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court



Ben Jipson

members. This process is imperative because it ensures that the surveillance is justified.

Thus there is evidence that surveillance is needed, and second, all branches of the government are involved.

If there aren't any restrictions placed on the president's executive power by the courts or the legislature, it's quite likely that more and more of the president's "necessary and appropriate" actions will go uncontested, and more and more civil liberties will be breached.

Normally, FISA would provide an efficient means through which potential threats could be

monitored, but Gonzales argues that the monitoring processes outlined in FISA are much too sluggish and slow for it to be effective.

In an effort to make the FISA's processes run more quickly, Congress argued that they have amended the act five times since 9/11, which included giving the attorney general ability to approve an "emergency order" of surveillance.

The order allowed surveillance to take place as long as a court order is prepared within 72 hours of the administration of the surveillance. Again, Gonzales argued that this simply isn't enough time.

If the laws need to be changed in order to be effective, they should be changed. Government should not look for ways to get around the law.

Bush budget runs deficit, cuts health, education

While President Bush was in the middle of dealing with the War on Terror, Hurricane Katrina and a \$413 billion federal budget deficit last September, he urged Congress to help by "cutting the fat" out of the federal budget.

This past week, President Bush took matters into his own hands when he sent Congress a \$2.77 trillion federal budget for 2007, in which he cut the fat by attacking education, health care and Medicare.

President Bush declared he would create a federal budget while maintaining the current tax cuts, which disproportionately benefit the upper economic class. He would also deal with the rising costs of the war in Afghanistan and Iraq and the new costs of rebuilding the Gulf Coast.

The president addressed the issue of accomplishing all of this while the federal budget was running on a major deficit during last week's State of the Union address. He claimed this could be accomplished by substantially cutting funding to social programs, which he deemed to be poorly performing.

The proposed federal budget targets 141 social programs, which President Bush has deemed "poorly performing." Of those 141 programs, nearly one-third are in education.

The proposed cuts dramatically decrease funding for vocational education, drug-free schools, parent resource



Nate Cook

centers and support for the arts. President Bush has deemed the budget cuts to these programs necessary to afford the tax cut for the rich, but on the other hand has decided that a record increase in military spending could be handled.

Not only does this proposal target education as a major source of cuts, it also targets health care through the \$35.9 billion cut to Medicare and Medicaid for the elderly and disabled over the next five years.

Lower-income senior citizens often rely on Medicare as well as Medicaid to help pay for the rising costs of

health care. The citizens who are on these programs receive irreplaceable benefits from the programs and rely on them heavily to survive. President Bush has deemed these programs "poorly performing" and decided that funding needed to be cut.

President Bush is proposing substantial funding cuts to programs in education and health care, which benefit a great number of lower-income families and citizens in the United States as a way to sustain tax cuts, which benefit the rich.

It boggles my mind to think money that has been going to inner-city schools to help keep them drug-free environments will now be used to pay for tax cuts, which will allow the upper-class citizens to buy a new yacht or a luxury vacation.

The president inherited a \$230 billion federal budget surplus from President Clinton, which he turned into a record deficit through tax cuts and poor decisions. The president claims he can reduce this deficit in half by 2009 by making the spending cuts to education, health care and other social programs.

However, under this proposal, the federal budget will reach a record high deficit of \$423 billion, which might be a bit of an underestimate considering that the proposal only lists \$50 billion for Iraq.

The bottom line is that we are looking at an all-time record high federal budget deficit of over \$423 billion with increased military spending and tax cuts for the rich at the expense of funding for education and health care for lower-income citizens.



Mikayla Fischer, sophomore

"The small living space and the bathrooms. That's about it unless you get a bad roommate."

STUDENT voices



Scott Juel, sophomore

"The lack of privacy and the showers."

What is the worst part about living on campus?



James Martin, senior

"This campus is a suitcase college. People should stay on weekends."

Zach Freese, freshman



"Prucha Hall is too far from Rodli."



Jesse Jaworski, freshman

"Having to have a meal plan the first two years is ridiculous."

Erica Marquand, junior



"You don't have space for everything and you have to move year after year. You don't get to pick your roommate all the time either."



Submitted Photo
Leah Baron and Lou Paulson display their Mirage jerseys while in high school. The two were high school teammates.

THE DYNAMIC DUO

Baron and Paulson play through high school and college hockey together, build friendship

*Sarah Packingham
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu*

Ever since seniors Leah Baron and Lou Paulson met each other as sophomores in high school on the same hockey team, the two of them have been inseparable. Baron attended Hermantown High School, while Paulson attended Proctor High School. Their schools, along with Marshall High School in Duluth, Minn., combined to create one girl's hockey team. And with that, the Proctor, Hermantown, Marshall Mirage became a force to be reckoned with in Northern Minnesota. Since the girls didn't attend the same high school, they didn't meet each other until they were on the ice. "I really did not know her and we did not really like each other at first, but by the middle of the season we were friends and even played on the same line," Paulson said. Baron shared the same feelings

on their initial meeting. "I was scared of Lou when I first met her, but mostly intimidated," Baron said. Baron was also worried about what the rest of the team would think about her. She had only been playing on hockey skates for a few short weeks, and was a figure skater up until she joined the team her sophomore year of high school. Leading up to their initial meeting the two women had different on ice experiences. The only hockey relation for Baron was watching her brother play and trying on his equipment for fun when she was five, while Paulson had played for a few years. "Hockey skates were very different for me, but the skating was still natural. It was the stick handling, shooting and team components that I needed help on," Baron said of her early hockey career.



Submitted Photo
Lou Paulson (top left) and Leah Baron (front), along with fellow captain Lindsay O'Keefe, lead the Falcons this season.

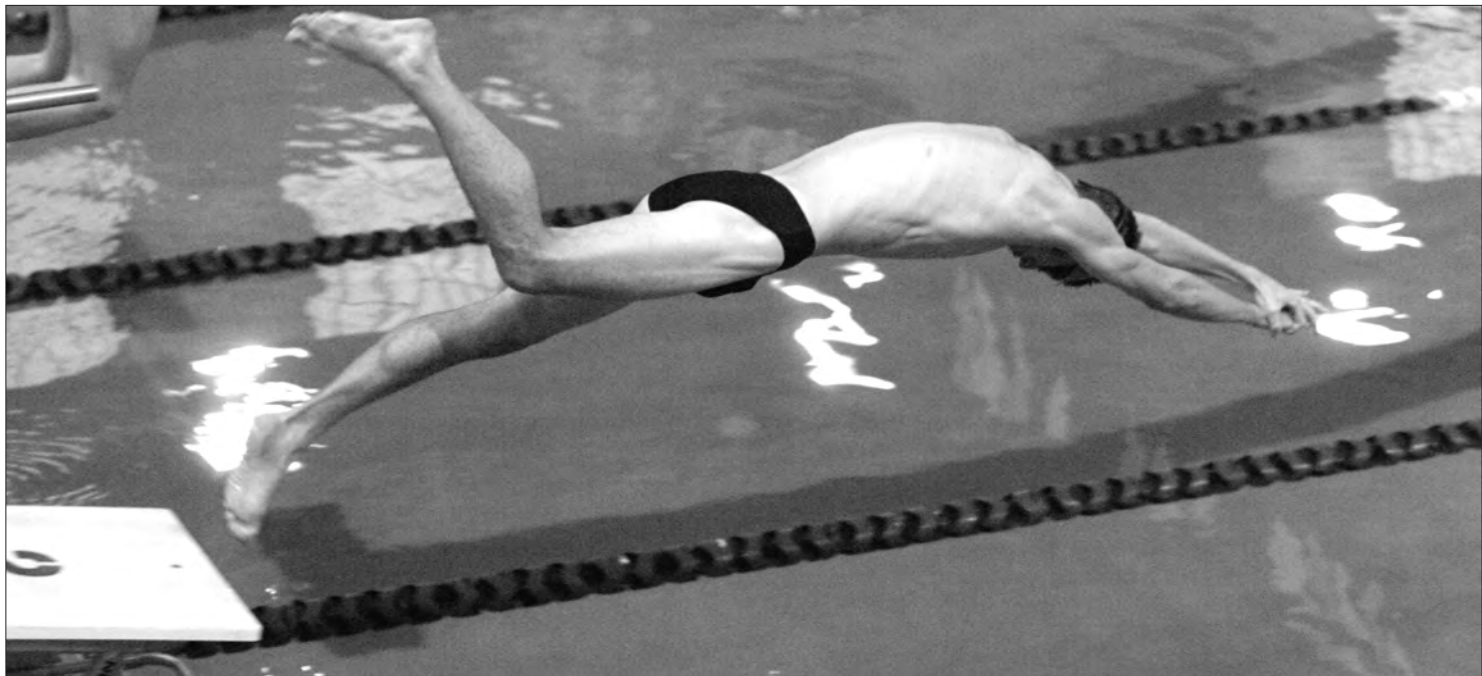
See Duo page 7

Falcons take the plunge into championships

UW-River Falls hosts event for first time in years at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center, hopes for best results

*Sarah Packingham
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu*

On Friday and Saturday the UW-River Falls men's and women's swim teams head across the border to host and participate in the WIAC Championships. This is the first time in years that the Falcons will host the championship meet and they are pleased to do so. There has been a lot of extra preparation that River Falls had to do to get ready for hosting this meet at the University of Minnesota. While choosing a site, the pool decided on was the Aquatic Center at the University of Minnesota even though this is the first time the WIAC Championships have ever been held outside of the state of Wisconsin. The Falcons have had a week away from competition and are planning on entering the championships well rested. UW-RF hasn't competed since Jan. 28 in the last home meet of the season against St. Mary's. Both the men's and women's teams won the meet and ended the regular part of the season on a high note. The men's team won its meet 94-55, while the women's team completed the day with a victorious score of 121-67. "Our meet against St. Mary's was a great chance for swimmers to see what kind of shape they are in. There were some wonder-



Jens Gunelson/Photo Services
A men's swimmer for the UW-River Falls team dives into the pool at River Falls High School in their final home meet of the season against St. Mary's University Jan 28. The Falcons compete in the WIAC Championships this weekend at the U of M.

ful times posted across the roster," senior Eli Eschenbauch said. "It was also our parents' meet so we got to honor our parents and thank them for the support they have shown the team. We also chose to honor our seniors at this meet and let them know that they will be missed next year." This season was filled with ups and downs for River Falls, as the Falcons weren't always swimming top times and winning every meet. This season the Falcons began training long before the first

meet on Oct. 7, and training has not ceased. River Falls hard work has been evident throughout the 14 meets, invitationals and relays. This season the swimmers all worked hard in and out of the pool. "The work ethic of the team this year has been extremely dedicated. Each member of the team has stepped up and understands that the work and dedication they put into their swims will be reflected at the conference meet," Eschenbauch said. This weekend the Falcons hope

they will have success against other WIAC competitors to springboard a number of River Falls athletes to the NCAA meet. Placing well in this weekend's WIAC Championships may be difficult with other tough teams taking place, including UW-Green Bay and UW-Eau Claire. The event began on Feb. 9 and will conclude on Feb. 11 at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center. Even if the Falcons fail to make the NCAA meet, they'll still take a lot of memories out of this season, and the seniors have years

of memories to recollect. "Reflecting on the season, I can't help but smile. The swimmers are my friends and we had some great times. The work in the pool and the sore muscles are worth it when you get to hang out with some of your best friends," Eschenbauch said. "As far as swimming goes we had a strong group of freshmen on the team this year."

UW-RF hits the pool all weekend at 9 a.m.

Falcons host Coca-Cola Invite

*Matt Zinter
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The UW-River Falls track team started off the season in good fashion by going to the Stout Open and competing at Mankato.. "Our second meet in Stout went pretty well," junior Rick Stewart said. "A couple freshmen had great times and Micola Kamper had an awesome pole vault jump." Senior Sarah Rudesill took first place in the 800-meter dash and sophomore Krista Hasselquist took first place in the shot put, throwing the ball more than 13 meters. "Krista already has qualified for nationals," freshmen Kelly Piersak said. "She is easily one of our most athletic girls." Sophomore Micola Kamper earned the Falcons Player of the Week for his fourth place performance in the pole vault. Freshman Dave Jones took second place in the 400-meter dash and junior Clint Christy took second in the long jump by jumping over six meters. "Clint is one of those guys that I know will do very well this

year," Stewart said. "He is a sprinter that will make a big impact on the team." Junior Jill Crandell is the biggest returning star for the Falcons this year, being in nationals for both the high jump and the heptathlon for the outdoor competitions. She also was involved in almost every event last year at least once, including such events like the 800-meter, 100-meter hurdles, long jump, shot put and javelin throw. Crandell is coming off a great year and hopes to have another one follow. The Falcons' next meet is the Coca-Cola Classic, which is held here in River Falls. Piersak and Stewart hope to do well. "We are getting better every meet we are in," Piersak said. "We will have great times and jumps, I just know it." Stewart agreed. "We are starting to get really good at starts," Stewart said. "We are getting good times in workouts which will show up in meets." The Coca-Cola Classic will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday Feb. 10. Results from the most recent meet found on page 7.



Jen Dolen/Student Voice
River Falls junior Krista Cordes goes up for a shot against UW-Platteville last Saturday.

Searching for final wins

*Sarah Packingham
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With only two games left in the regular season, the UW-River Falls women's basketball team hopes to end the season on a high note. The Falcons are fresh off a cou-

ple of key victories this season in WIAC play. The Falcons' most recent game was Wednesday night in Eau Claire. The Falcons unfortunately fell short and lost to the Blugolds 56-32. Megan Lindman was the leading scorer for the Falcons with eight points.

On Feb. 4, the Falcons hosted UW-Platteville in their final regular season game in front of the home crowd. The Falcons beat the Pioneers by three, 50-47. Miranda Biteler had a game high, 15 points, to lead the

See Basketball page 7

Trade upsets local fan



Matt Zinter

I am an avid basketball fan. You can put me to the test on any question about college, pro or even some high school trivia about basketball and I would probably know the answer. With that said, I can say that my favorite professional basketball team, the Timberwolves, is not doing so hot. The Wolves' record is at three games below .500, 22-25. That is just plain sick in my view. They hold third place in the Northwest Division, which is a division that has flat-out bad teams like the Trailblazers, Jazz and Supersonics. Earlier this year, the Wolves made a trade with the Boston Celtics that was supposed to help the team dramatically. The trade sent forward Wally Szczerbiak, center Michael Olowokandi, guard Dwayne Jones and a first round draft choice to the Celtics for guard Ricky Davis, center Mark Blount, guard Marcus Banks, forward Justin Reed and two second round draft choices. This trade was supposed to help out the Wolves' franchise very much with the help of Davis' defense, considering Szczerbiak has no defense. The trade hasn't helped at all.

Since the trade happened, the Wolves have had three wins and four losses. This is not what General Manager Kevin McHale was hoping would happen. I remember back in the 2003-2004 season when the Wolves went 58-24, becoming the second best team in the league. I would sit down on my couch and watch them in action, knowing they would win every game. They had all-stars like Sam Cassell, Latrell Sprewell and Kevin Garnett leading that team to victory. I now sit on my couch just hoping they can make it a close game to win, and also hoping I don't yell at the TV for dumb mistakes that the Timberwolves make. The point I am trying to get at is that, first of all, the trade wasn't that bad of a trade. Ricky Davis is a great player, but trading away our leading scorer (Szczerbiak) at this point in the season wasn't the wisest move from McHale. Second, I believe that Davis and Blount will be great assets for the team in the future. Next season they will be great, but you can't just bring in two great players to a team that has been losing. They will learn the offense and do awesome things next season. Finally, I

See Zinter page 7

SPORTS WRAP

Men’s hockey heads north, gains victories

The UW-River Falls men’s hockey team traveled to Duluth, Minn., last Friday and faced the Saints of St. Scholastica. The game was tied at the end of the first intermission with one goal each. River Falls took over in the second period, scoring three goals to the Saints’ one.

The third period was a breeze for the Falcons, scoring another goal and winning the game 5-3.

Sophomore TJ Dahl and Freshman Derek Hansberry both had a goal and an assist in the victory over St. Scholastica.

The team is in second place in the NCHA conference, trailing St. Norbert.

“Understanding the team concept is why we are successful this year,” said head coach Steve Freeman. “We try to pay attention to the small things that give us the best chance for success.”

The Falcons’ next home game is against UW-Stout on Feb. 10. The game starts at 7:05 p.m.

February 4 results				First period			
UW-River Falls	x x x	— 1		8:20 CSS - Menzies (Nelson)			
UW-Stout	0 0 0	— 0		12:05 RF - Hansberry (Dahl)			
February 4 results				Second period			
UW-River Falls	x x x	— 1		10:17 CSS - Kordyban (Stengl, Menzies)			
UW-Stout	x x x	— 0		13:25 RF - Usher (Hansberry)			
No Stats from the Superior game				13:57 RF - Borgestad (Henkemeyer, Usher)			
Goalkeeping (min-shots-saves)				17:12 RF - Dahl (Henkemeyer, Borgestad)			
RF-Bucchino				Third period			
				12:20 CSS - Martini (Tucker, Nelson)			
				19:40 RF - Kostjuk (unassisted)			
February 3 results				Goalkeeping (min-shots-saves)			
UW-River Falls	1 3 1	— 5		RF - Bucchino (60:00-49:46)			
St. Scholastica	1 1 1	— 3		CSS - Bounds (58:58-29:25)			

Women’s hockey dominates Eau Claire

The UW-River Falls women’s hockey team played the Blugolds of UW-Eau Claire last Saturday. The game started off great for the Falcons when they ended the first period with a 3-0 lead.

There was no turning back for UW-RF when they scored two more goals by the end of the game, winning 5-1.

Junior Jennifer Wallace was the star of the game scoring two goals and earning one assist. Her performance elevated her to NCHA Player of the Week.

The Falcons have had some ups and downs in the season so far, but head coach Joe Cranston believes that the team has handled the “adversity” very well.

“I believe that we are a very focused team right now,” Cranston said. “I believe that it will help us throughout the playoffs.”

The Falcons’ next game is at home against Lake Forest on Feb. 10. Game time is at 7:05 p.m.

February 4 results					Second period	
JW-Eau Claire	1	0	0	—	1	7:00 RF - Wallace (unassisted)
JW-River Falls	3	1	1	—	5	Third period
						1:11 RF - Juven (Burgh)
First period						
5:26 RF - Baron (Wallace, Landgraf)						
7:11 UWEC - Schultz (Smits)						
10:44 RF - Jenson (O'Keefe)						
17:21 RF - Wallace (O'Keefe)						
						Goalkeeping (min-shots-saves)
						UWEC - Arendt (60:00-33:28)
						RF - Lindner (60:00-21:20)

Men’s basketball wins in final seconds

The UW-River Falls men’s basketball team played a close game against the Blugolds of Eau Claire Wednesday. The game was very close in the first half, with the Blugolds holding a 27-29 lead.

With less than 10 seconds remaining in the game, junior Hans Hoeg shot a jumper and made the game’s winning shot. The Blugolds had one last chance to win, but failed to do so with two seconds remaining.

Sophomore Ryan Zylstra led the team in scoring with 27 points and added nine rebounds. Hoeg was right behind him with 21 points and four rebounds.

The Falcons’ next game is on Saturday, Feb. 11 at UW-Whitewater. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

February 8 results				Holwin 3-0-1; Vetterk 0-3-0; Birkel 0-1-0			
UW-River Falls	27	32	— 59	UW-River Falls (pts-rebs-assist) Zylstra 27-9-0; Hoeg 21-4-3; Thompson 6-1-4; Maas 3-7-2; Kelly 2-0-1; James 0-2-1; Kossoris 0-2-0; Olson 0-0-1; Pearson 0-0-1			
UW-Eau Claire	29	28	— 57				
UW-Eau Claire (pts-rebs-assist)							
Riley 12-6-2; Ottney 12-4-0; Bardon 10-6-3; Beyer 10-5-1; Meyer 5-2-0; Ryan 5-0-2;							

STANDINGS

Men’s basketball				UW-Superior(4-17) 0 13			
WIAC Standings	W	L		Men’s Hockey			
UW-Stout(17-4)	10	3		NCHA Standings			
UW-Whitewater(15-5)	9	3		St. Norbert (19-2-2)	9	1	2
UW-Stevens Point(14-7)	9	3		UW-River Falls (16-4-3)	8	3	1
UW-Lacrosse(17-5)	8	5		St. Scholastica (15-7-1)	6	5	1
UW-Oshkosh(15-7)	8	5		UW-Superior (12-9-2)	5	5	2
UW-Oshkosh(15-7)	8	5		Lake Forest (12-11-0)	6	6	0
UW-Platteville(10-10)	5	7		UW-Stevens Point (11-9-3)	5	6	1
UW-River Falls(6-16)	5	9		UW-Stout (12-11-0)	5	7	0
UW-Eau Claire(11-11)	3	10		UW-Eau Claire (2-18-3)	0	11	1
UW-Superior(5-16)	0	12		Women’s hockey			
Women’s basketball				WIAC Standings	W	L	T
UW-Stout(15-7)	10	4		UW-Superior(17-2-2)	7	2	2
UW-Stevens Point(16-6)	9	4		UW-Stevens Point(12-4-3)	6	1	2
UW-Oshkosh(15-7)	9	4		UW-River Falls(12-8-1)	7	4	0
UW-Lacrosse(17-6)	8	6		Lake Forest(11-5-3)	4	2	3
UW-River Falls(11-12)	7	7		UW-Eau Claire(6-11-4)	0	7	4
UW-Whitewater(12-10)	6	7		Finlandia(7-12-2)	1	8	1
UW-Eau Claire(11-11)	6	7					
UW-Platteville(9-12)	5	8					

For complete stats check out UW-RF Sports Information Web site at www.uwrf.edu/sports

Track & Field		Men	
Women		January 28 results	
January 28 results		MSU Open	
MSU Open		No Team scores kept	
No Team scores kept			
UW-RF top finishers (event-performance)		UW-RF top finishers (event-performance)	
6. Rudesill, 1000-meter - 3:07.58; 7.Reed, 55-meter hurdles - 8.81; 2. Hasselquist, Weight Throw - 15.08m ; 14. Kromray, Pole Vault - 3.09m ; 4.Hasselquist, Shot Put 12.75m.		13.Meissner, 200 meter - 23.36; 14. Christy, 500-meter - 1:10.89 ; 19. Christy, Pole Vault - 3.43m; 28.Wienrich, Long Jump - 5.32m; 8.Olson, Shot Put - 14.18m.	

SHOWCASE HOME GAME

Sport event



The Falcons conclude the regular season of play this Saturday night against UW-Stout. The Falcons will travel to take on Stout on Friday night before returning home to Hunt Arena to finish the season in front of a home crowd. The Falcons enter the weekend with a record of 16-4-3 overall and 8-3-1 in conference play.

Basketball: Looking to playoffs

from page 6

Falcons to victory.

The Falcons played without leading scorer and rebounder Traci Reimann, who is out with a broken foot. They were also without Jana Benitz, who ranks sixth on the team in scoring.

“We’re having to make a few adjustments in the offense and defense,” Head Coach Cindy Hovet said. “We’re going to have to find our rhythm again.”

On Feb. 1, River Falls traveled to UW-Stout to take on the WIAC conference leader. Unfortunately the Falcons came up short, losing by eight, 64-56. Reimann had a top-notch game for the Falcons scoring 13 points and 13 rebounds. Biteler scored 15 points to lead the Falcons in scoring. The Falcons had the lead going into the half-time, but couldn’t hold on for the victory.

“I don’t think the record of 11-11 reflects the strengths of our team,” Hovet said. “We’ve won huge games and we’re competing in every game.”

On Jan. 28, the Falcons took on UW-Oshkosh, the first place team in the WIAC conference.

The Falcons came out strong and beat them 67-48. Krista Cordes was the leading scorer with 14 points, while Megan Lindman, Reimann, Biteler and Kim Sorenson all scored more than 10 points.

The Falcons were able to keep Oshkosh’s scorers to only a few points; the leading scorer in the game only had nine.

“We beat them pretty handily,” Hovet said.

Earlier in the season, the Falcons beat UW-La Crosse when La Crosse was number one in the WIAC conference.

River Falls finishes the season on the road at WIAC conference foes UW-Whitewater and UW-La Crosse.

“It [being on the road] makes the whole pre-game routine different. When you’re at home you get to eat where and when you want, and at home you have your shooting down,” Hovet said. “But on the road it’s completely different, but it’s been done a million times before.”

The Falcons hope to step up their play in these last few games and do well on the road to jumpstart their season into the playoffs.

There are eight other teams in the Falcons’ conference, and only the top eight make the playoffs. The top four teams get a home court advantage for the first round of the playoffs.

Hovet said her team was tied for fourth as of Tuesday, and if the Falcons do well in the end of the season and come away with victories, there is be a great chance River Falls will be at Karges for the beginning of the playoffs.

The team work ethic has been most admirable, Hovet said. The team is executing plays and passes well, and their strength conditioning has been helpful to the team this season.

The women work with a strength coach twice a week before coming to practice, and the conditioning is really going to pay off for the Falcons toward the end of the season.

Hovet sees her team as able to do some damage in the playoffs and she stresses that its nearly .500 record is not as reflective as the tie for fourth in the toughest conference in the country.

The Falcons travel to take on UW-Whitewater Feb. 11 at 1 p.m., and they hit the road to conclude the regular season on Feb. 15 at UW-La Crosse at 7 p.m.

M. Hunstock 2-1-0; Speckel 1-1-0; Cordes 0-5-1; Nakaike 0-3-3; C. Hunstock 0-0-1; UW-Eau Claire (pts-rebs-assist) Arciszewski 16-6-2; Bri. Hakanson 10-4-0; Becker 8-5-8; Bro. Hakanson 7-3-0; Zenner 6-5-2; Van Drasak 4-3-0; Rounsville 3-0-0; Charboneau 2-1-0; Foschi 0-4-2.

February 8 results			
UW-River Falls	21 11	— 32	
UW-Eau Claire	26 30	— 56	

UW-River Falls (pts-rebs-assist)			
Lindman 8-5-0; Biteler 7-3-1; Kauth 6-3-1; Sticha 3-2-0; Preiner 3-1-1; Sorenson 2-2-0;			



Jen Dolen/Student Voice

Junior Kendra Sticha takes a shot against Platteville. Their next game is Feb. 11 at Whitewater at 1 p.m.

Zinter: Upset about Timberwolves

from page 6

believe that this team will never be what it was like in the 2003-2004 season. That team was just remarkable. They will, however, be just as good as that team in the next couple years because of this trade.

With the post-season being just two months away, the Wolves have to make something happen in a hurry. They have 35 games left, 20 of which are in the Western Conference alone. They are, as of now, out of playoff contention by two games. I believe that the Timberwolves will be able to pull it out in the end and make it to the playoffs. This team has the potential to do it; they just need to show it.

Don’t forget to check out the Falcon athletics on 88.7 WRFW-FM. Tune in this weekend as they carry Saturday’s hockey game vs UW-Stout.

Duo: Baron and Paulson lead Falcons

from page 6

Paulson played for a few years as a young child, and then took a couple of years off before joining up again when the girls’ program began in sixth grade. She spent her earlier years skating with the boys.

By the time Baron and Paulson were seniors in high school, they were both named captain of their high school squad. Paulson was also a captain of the Mirage her junior year.

Both have risen to be captains once again, this time for the Falcons.

Since Baron and Paulson began playing hockey there have been some changes to the game, but both women find them to be positive.

“I think [the game] as a whole since I started, the talent and skill level has improved, but also the speed of the game. When I first started, my parents would say it is like paint drying,” Paulson said. “Now they love watching and say the speed of the game has improved tons.”

Baron agreed and gave her advice on what has made the changes in the game.

The number of girls in hockey is growing rapidly and the players have started at a younger age, much like the boys’ and men’s programs.

It’s uncommon for a high school team to have two of its top players go to the same college and play on the same team, but UW-River Falls has been lucky enough to have both Baron and Paulson playing hockey. Both women didn’t always think that their high school playing careers would lead them to playing in college.

“I never really thought about it until my junior or senior year of high school when I saw other girls on the team getting recruited,” Paulson said. “Then when I was a senior I realized that I really wanted to play and actually River Falls was one of my top choices.”

The decision to come to River Falls came fairly easy to Paulson, but the choice was not as easy for Baron. Paulson went on a tour of River Falls and brought Baron with her, which helped her make up her mind to attend River Falls.

“I think she liked it as much as I did, so I pretty much had to make her fill out an application or else,” Paulson said. “I did not know where she would go to school because she hadn’t applied anywhere else.”

Luckily for Baron she found River Falls to be the perfect place for her.

“I went with Lou to visit, everything fell perfectly into place,” Baron said. “They had a figure skating program that I could coach, they had a tennis team, the hockey coach was interested, and it was away from home. Lou wanted me to come too, so it was perfect.”

As seniors at UW-RF, both of these women have plans for their future.

Baron plans to coach figure skating in Stillwater, Minn., and work as a trainer at Acceleration

“I was scared of Lou when I first met her, but mostly intimidated.”

Leah Baron, senior hockey player

MN. She also wants to become a certified personal trainer and help her skaters reach the national level.

Paulson hopes to get a job in the business field in the Twin Cities and coach in River Falls so she can pass on her knowledge of the game.

Baron and Paulson have known each other for the last seven years, and having such a strong friendship has made them a dynamic duo both on and off the ice.

“Leah, she is a person who is really easy to talk with, she is always willing to listen and she uses that with the girls on the team as well as me,” Paulson said. “She is by far the best skater on our team and she never takes a day off. If you have watched a game, she is always flying around the ice trying to make something happen. She’s a great person.”

Baron had great things to say about Paulson as well.

“It may have taken us a while to understand each other, but now that we have been playing hockey together for seven years and lived together for three, we are two peas in a pod,” Baron said. “I’ve always envied Lou with her talent of the game, and still do look up to her. She is always working hard and is so reliable on and off the ice.”

It’s been said that taking part in athletics can also impact one’s whole life. Baron agrees wholeheartedly.

“This hockey experience at college will go with me wherever I go in life. I will take so many positive things away from it and I know I wouldn’t be the person I am today without the relationships I’ve made, hurdles that had to be jumped and memories I’ve been blessed with,” Baron said. “I’ve learned a lot in the past four years, and I enjoyed every part of it.”

These two ladies hope the mark they leave on the River Falls program is a good one.

“I always want to leave a good mark on a program by working hard and becoming a role model. I hope people who come watch us play see how much fun we have here and how we strive to be an excellent program,” Paulson said.

Baron elaborated on Paulson’s thoughts.

“I feel like finishing four years in a college sport is an accomplishment in itself, and that says a lot for the program,” Baron said. “We only have three seniors this year, which shows that not everybody is cut out for that kind of commitment, but showing recruits that players make it all the way through is a positive thing.”

Baron and Paulson’s team is in action this weekend against Lake Forest College.

TOP PERFORMERS



AJ Bucchino Men’s hockey

Bucchino was the starting goaltender for the Falcons last Friday and Saturday as his team took on St. Scholastica and UW-Superior. He stopped 46 shots, a career high, against St. Scholastica on Friday night. The next night, he earned his second shutout of the season stopping all 23 Yellowjacket shots. Those games improved Bucchino’s season record to 9-2-3. He currently has a 9.34 saves percentage and a 2.11 goals against average.



Ryan Zylstra Men’s basketball

Zylstra’s Wednesday night was full of career highs as he lead the Falcons to a 59-57 conference victory over UW-Eau Claire. He scored 27 points for a career high along with five blocks, which was also a career high. He also had nine rebounds, to tie his previous career high. He also scored 13 points against UW-Platteville on Feb. 4. Zylstra and his team currently has a record of 6-16 overall with a 5-9 record in the WIAC conference games.

Accreditation: Self-study marks first step

from page 2

outside funding for research projects.”

In order for the accreditation process to be successful, members of the campus community will play a key role.

“Everyone on campus, from students to custodial staff, will be involved on some level,” Caskey said.

Some students are already involved in the process and are taking part in the task forces that have been established.

“Student input is critical to the overall accreditation process,” Caskey said. “They have direct input as to the types of information we should and will gather, and the form that information should take.”

Mehka El-shadijones, one of

the students contributing on a task force, said that he wasn’t sure yet how he is helping the process, but that his insights will be beneficial as time goes on.

“Honestly, I feel like the group I’m in really needs me,” El-shadijones said. “I’m a student, but I’m a transfer. I’m not originally from this community, so my perspective is different.”

Accreditation obfuscation

Process defined through colleges, departments and universities

Jennie Oemig

jennifer.oemig@uwrf.edu

With all the talk of accreditation this year, it can get confusing as to what is actually being accredited.

Accreditation can take place at the department, program or university level.

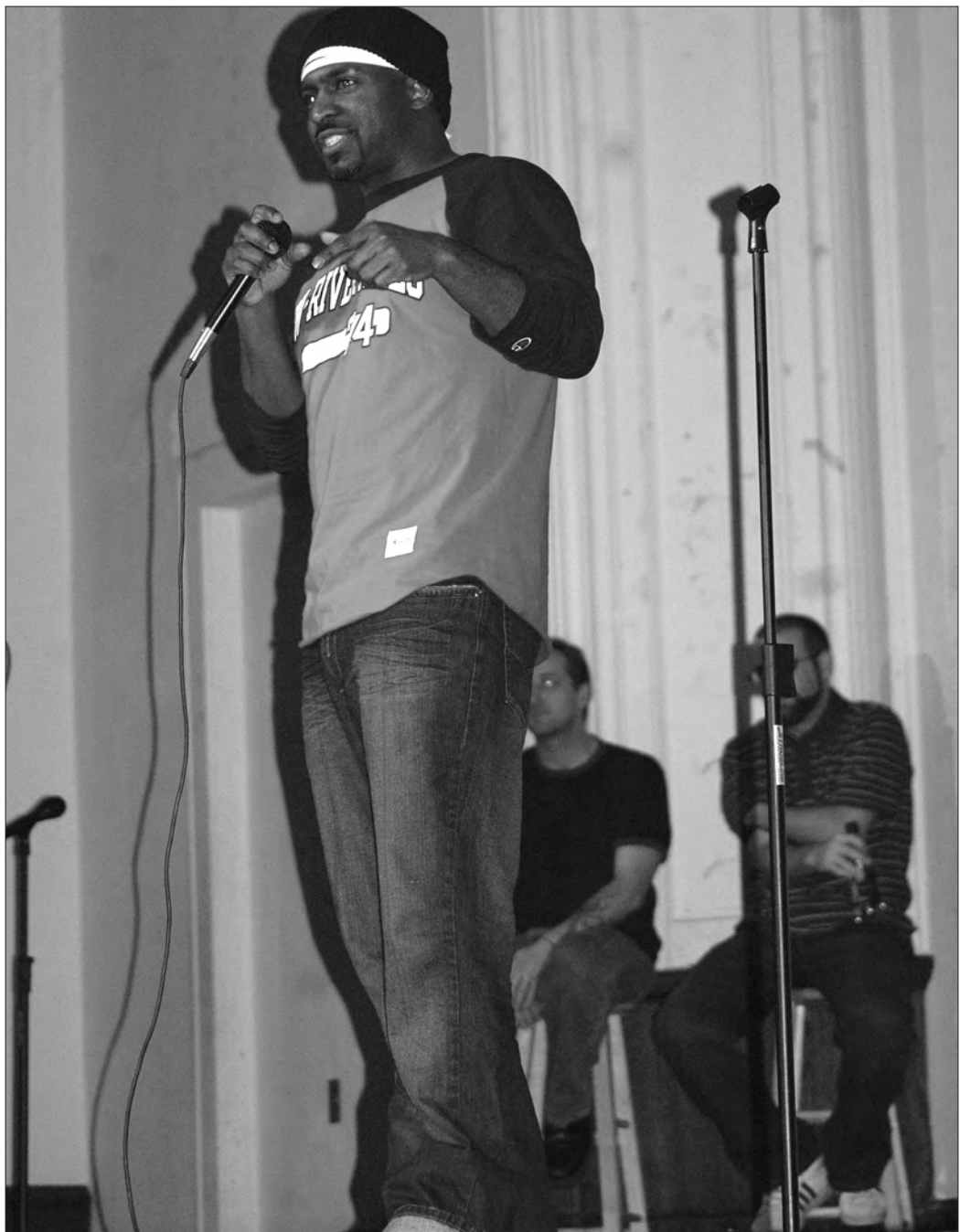
The accreditation taking place in the depart-

ment of journalism represents an example of a departmental accreditation, and the College of Business and Economics (CBE) is an example of an accreditation at the college level.

Although these other accreditation are not directly linked to the University’s regional accreditation, the information gathered can be used as examples of the quality of educational programs at UW-RF.

The accreditation process for CBE and the journalism department will also generate specific evidence that can be used in the HLC/NCA report for University accreditation.

POLITICAL POETRY



Jen Dolen/Student Voice

Poet Bryonn Bain speaks to a crowd in the North Hall auditorium Feb. 6 as part of the Race and Religion Symposium. Poets Jason Carney and Kevin Coval also presented.

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Falcon Favorites



Blake Fry
Dean for Student Development and Campus Diversity

This is Fry's first year here at UW-RF. He previously worked at the University of Central Oklahoma, where he worked with Dean Don Betz. Fry said the best part of his job is providing basic needs for students. While his position is not the most visible or exciting job on campus, he said much goes on behind closed doors. Fry finds it exciting just knowing he is helping people every day. Fry said the hardest part of his job is having to make the decision about a student's future. The baseball and American Idol fanatic can be found with his family or volunteering at the Center For Victims of Torture in his spare time. "Spending time with my family is my number one priority in life beyond my job," he said. In December, Fry will be graduating with his doctorate in higher education administration from Oklahoma.

Campus Calendar

Friday, Feb. 10

9 p.m. to 5 a.m. - All Night Party
Are you ready to party? Recreation, special events and the residence halls are hosting an All Night Party open to all students. Come play BINGO, scale the rock wall, ice skate, sing some karaoke, box a friend, test your skills as a Sumo Wrestler, take your picture with Freddie and much more. Lots of prizes are available. Come out and have some fun!
Fee: Free to all students
Location: Hunt/Knowles Complex

Tuesday, Feb. 14

11:15 a.m. Coffee with The Times
A conversation series on current issues and events.
Wes Chapin, associate professor of political science, will lead a discussion on "The Future of Iraq."
The "Coffee with The Times" series is sponsored by the American Democracy Project and The New York Times Readership Program.
Fee: Free
Location: Davee Library Atrium

Monday, Feb. 20

3-4:30 p.m. - Reception Honoring Research, Scholarship and Creative Achievement
A reception will be held to celebrate the research, scholarship and creative achievement of the faculty and staff of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Papers, journal articles, books, visual art works and materials pertinent to grant requests produced by the UW-RF faculty and staff during the 2005 calendar year will be displayed. Sponsored by the Chalmer Davee Library, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of Grants and Research.
Fee: Free
Location: Chalmer Davee Library Atrium

FALCON REVIEWS

Sin City begets Panic!

Erik Wood
student.voice@uwrf.edu

Hurry up, but do not Panic! Tickets are selling out fast to another new and upcoming band known as Panic! At the Disco. The name came from a song originally named Panic! and transgressed into what we now know as Panic! At The Disco. From Las Vegas and with newly found overnight stardom, Panic! At the Disco has hit everywhere from MTV, local radio stations, to Billboard Charts nationwide. Unlike other pop-punk/emo bands, Panic! At the Disco brings unique sound with catchy, humorous vocals and a harmonizing keyboard. "We didn't want to write a record that had 11 of the same songs on it," guitarist Ryan Ross said. He later said, "In order to make sure that didn't happen, the band came up with the concept to divide the album into two halves: the first futuristic, with drum machines and synthesizers, and the second being nostalgic, with Vaudevillian piano and accordion." Many other bands lack flare with similar lyrics, conformed fashion, power chords and useless screaming. Panic! hit the punk scene in late 2005 with their debut album, *A Fever You Can't Sweat Out*. Only a few months later, they have been blessed with overnight stardom. This album is one you definitely cannot afford to miss. Be sure to check out popular tracks like "Time To Dance," "The Only Difference Between Martyrdom and Suicide is Press Coverage" and "I Write Sins, Not Tragedies."



They will undoubtedly make you want to dance your pants off. If you find yourself unable to live without it, check out Best Buy where you can drop a measly nine bucks on these newfound rock stars. Like always, if you do not want to fork over your hard earned dollars, check them out at www.purevolume.com/panicatthedisco or check out their MySpace profile at www.myspace.com/panicatthedisco to catch a free preview or download. Also, don't miss your chance to catch them live in Minneapolis at The Quest nightclub on March 17 with The Academy Is..., hellogoodbye and Acceptance, if you are lucky enough to find a ticket.

Panic! At the Disco is straight amazing. Do not let these guys go without a listen!

Ratings for music reviews are based on a scale from one to five. An album that scores a five is worth a listen, while an album that scores a one is better left on store shelves.

4.5

Du jour

Orange Whip
Ingredients:
4 oz Orange juice
1 oz Rum
1 oz Vodka
1 package cream or creamer
Ice cubes

Mixing instructions:
Pour ingredients over ice and stir.

Kioki Coffee
Ingredients:
1 oz Kahlua
1/2 oz Brandy
Coffee
Whipped cream

Mixing instructions:
Stir. Add whipped cream to the top.

Knockout Punch
Ingredients:
8 oz Hawaiian Punch
1 shot Tequila
1 shot Rum

Mixing instructions:
Pour together, mix well.

The Student Voice does not condone underage drinking. If you are of age and choose to drink, please do so responsibly.

'Brokeback' spurs controversy



Nick Welsh

The movie "Brokeback Mountain" is about how two cowboys that worked together one summer in Wyoming found attraction for one another, resulting in a lifelong bond. The movie, which has been nominated for eight Academy Awards including Best Picture, has been under enormous controversy during the past few months by the American public because of its homosexual themes between the two cowboys: Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal). The story starts out in the summer of 1963, when the two men are assigned to herd several hundred sheep. For weeks, they are quiet towards one another. It isn't until they reach nearby Brokeback Mountain that they begin to share dangers from a bear to a hailstorm and get to know one another. Though one person always needs to sleep with the sheep at night, Ennis gets too drunk to walk the four-mile hike between their campsite and the sheep herd, so he sleeps next to Jack in the tent. Jack is also intoxicated. That night they make love, and both are shocked the next morning. Although they want to keep this between the two of them, wishing to put it in the past and forget about it, they realize that there is something between them. At the end of their journey, they go in their own direction. Jack hopes to see Ennis again the following summer, whereas Ennis wrestles his affectionate feelings for Jack with guilt and shame. Jack suggests the idea of them starting a new life with one another, but Ennis cannot do this. When he was a boy, his father showed he and his brother the mutilated body of a man left at the bottom of a canyon. It was known that the victim lived with another man, rumored that perhaps they were even lovers. This homophobic murder horrifies young Ennis, later becoming his worst fear. But they continue to see one another a few times each year,

unable to ignore their passions. Realizing that most people would not approve of this, they resort to deception, masking their trysts as innocent fishing trips. First of all, I thought the acting was exceptional. You cannot help but think that these aren't actors, but real people. But eventually, I got the impression that this film really wasn't going anywhere. You hope that it'll have a happy ending, so one day they may live with each other in peace, but that day never comes. I'm surprised I've been hearing so many positive things about it. It was a well-acted movie, but beyond that there wasn't really anything special about it. This seems to be like 2005's "The Aviator." It is a decent movie, but it seems everybody is making it out to be more than it actually is. If anything, it feels like more of a political film than anything else. It's an effort to try to persuade people that homosexuality isn't evil, even though much of mainstream society has already been okay with it for a number of years now. If Hollywood is to honor a film, let it be because it has earned the honors, not just because it (homosexuality) happens to be a popular, debatable subject right now. There were several outstanding films released in 2005. I just don't believe this was one of them.

Nick Welsh is a 21-year-old junior majoring in history. He enjoys comic book superhero movies.



Ratings for movie reviews are based on a scale from one to five. A film that scores a five is a stellar movie worth seeing at least once, while a film that scores a one is a horribly acted or directed film with no substance.



Jenna Lee

Now I know some of you aren't going to like what I have to say about this movie, and I can accept any of your hate mail because that's just part of being a critic. But before I get into that, I must describe my criteria for where the movie ranks on the one to five scale. The point of any film is for the audience to come away with something - any sort of feeling that makes one think a little harder about his or her own lives or something that they are not familiar with. Even if a movie is a piece of crap rolled up on a reel, it may still have you contemplating why it was so bad. The definition of a truly awful movie would be something that took up two hours of your life and you walked out of the theater feeling no different than you did when you sat down in the seat. Unfortunately, "Brokeback Mountain" was one of those films. It did not make me think, positively or negatively. It was simply two hours of my life. I can already hear my readers' cry of outrage.

"But Jenna, this is a breakthrough film about gay love and passion that could never be fulfilled. Anyone can relate to a love that can never be." I understand that feeling too, of course, which is why I can't give this film a good rating. If you liked this movie simply because it is about two gay cowboys, then you are buying into bigotry and stereotypes. This movie should not be viewed as anything better (or worse) than a straight love story. Love is love, no matter who it is between. I don't know why it is being hailed as such a breakthrough - gay love has been going on for centuries; it's nothing new. And don't miss my point and think I hated it because it was about gay love, that's not it at all. I just don't think it matters if you're gay or not. You can't choose who you love, as Ennis (Heath Ledger) and Jack (Jake Gyllenhaal) tragically find out for themselves. Tragedy seems to be the core theme throughout this movie. Not only does the denial of their relationship ruin Ennis' and Jack's lives, but their wives' and children's as well. For almost 20 years, these women and children live without knowing the truth - which destroys any hope for the trust and honesty that one deserves in a relationship. If the men could have both come out with their true selves, the women wouldn't have been so heartbroken when they found out. The children could have also gotten to know their fathers much more intimately, like a family should (but I understand how impossible that seems in a time like 1963). The cowboys are not the only victims here. "Brokeback Mountain" looks like an edgy new film that fills the void in the typical movie industry - and that may be true for an audience that wants to seem "hip" and "insightful." But if you really get it, you'll know that in reality this is just another story of a hard life under hard circumstances. No different from the Jones' down the street or Ace and Gary in the dorm next to yours.

Jenna Lee is a sophomore studying journalism and music history. She enjoys watching dark comedy movies.

2.0

2.5

Quartet to sing hearts out for valentines

Blair Bengs
blair.bengs@uwrf.edu

This Valentine's Day, a quartet of UW-River Falls men will break into song as they spend the day playing Cupid.

Beyond Cadence, led by Jay Fahl, 20, will perform singing valentines for unsuspecting friends and lovebirds Feb. 14.

The romance-spreading quartet consists of Fahl; senior Patrick Callaghan, 22, singing baritone; sophomore Scott Perau, 19, singing bass; and sophomore JJ Mosher, 20, singing tenor.

When surprising the recipient of the singing valentine, Beyond Cadence will go anywhere at UW-RF and throughout the city of River Falls.

The service includes a serenade of a barbershop ballad or contemporary love song where the quartet will present a rose and a card from an admirer.

In keeping with the element of surprise, the songs the quartet will sing are secret.

"It's a unique valentine," Fahl said. "It's a pretty good deal."

Although the sentimental serenade is a sweet gesture, it may not be the perfect gift for everyone.

"I think it's cute," sophomore Nitasha Boyer, 19, said.

While Boyer said she would be somewhat embarrassed to receive one, she thinks they

would be cute for someone else.

As far as who would enjoy a singing valentine, "it depends on the person," Boyer said.

Beyond Cadence, which has been practicing together for three months, is contest-oriented, Fahl said. Its focus is getting pieces ready to go in front of judges.

The group is working toward international competition as a college quartet and offering singing valentines is another form of preparation for the four-some, Fahl said.

"This is really about getting out in front of new people and singing so we can master our nerves and perform well at national prelims," Fahl said.

Although Beyond Cadence does not perform regular gigs, it would alter its schedule to do so, Fahl said.

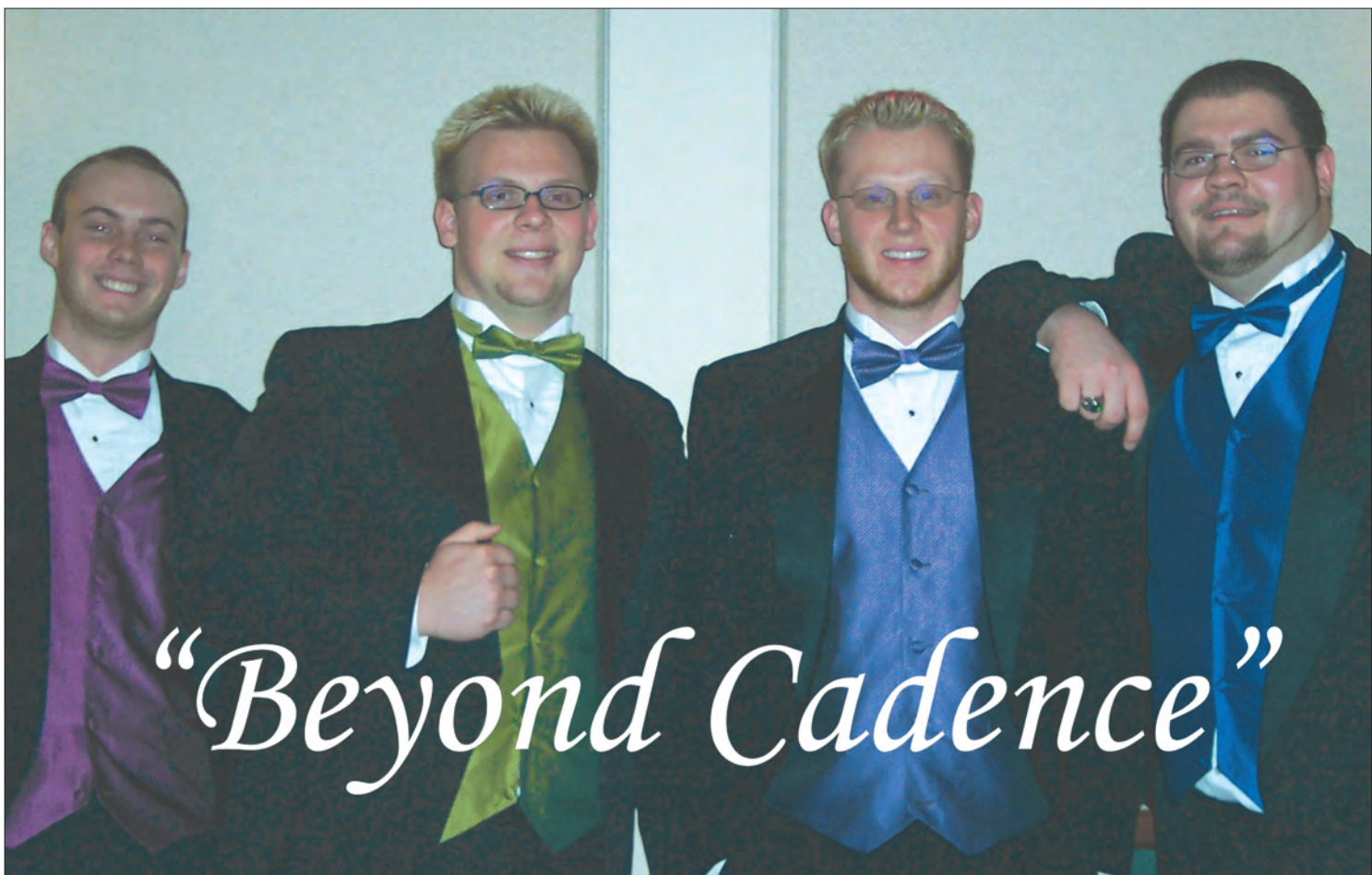
The quartet is offering 40 time slots ranging from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 14.

Because they are willing to travel anywhere throughout the city of River Falls and on the UW-RF campus, the quartet is allowing 15 minutes between each job for travel.

Fahl said the valentines offered by Beyond Cadence are the most inexpensive in the area. They are charging \$25.

"We are half the price of other singing groups in River Falls and they only sing one song," Fahl said.

Another perk of a singing



Patrick Callaghan, Scott Perau, Jay Fahl and JJ Mosher form the quartet Beyond Cadence. This Valentine's Day, the quartet will be lending a helping hand to those who are tired of the same old Valentine's gift. Instead of flowers, a box of chocolates or a teddy bear, give your significant other the gift they will not soon forget.

valentine is the cost of Valentine's Day's most coveted item. A single rose will be given to each recipient of the Beyond

Cadence serenade.

To order a singing valentine for that special someone, contact Jay Fahl at (715) 308-3420 or e-mail

him at jason.fahl@uwrf.edu.

Beyond Cadence is asking for all orders to be sent in by Sunday, Feb. 12. They are will-

ing to accommodate special requests to perform singing valentines on Saturday, Feb. 11, and Sunday, Feb. 12, as well.

Roommate have six toes?

Two-headed squirrel pop out of the garbage can?

Call the Student Voice at

425 - 3118

2006 Chancellor's Award for Students

The Chancellor's Award is given annually to a small number of juniors and seniors for outstanding commitment, leadership, and service. Traditionally, approximately six awards are given each spring. The awards will be presented at the Chancellor's Award Reception for students the evening of April 17. The Chancellor's Award is the highest non-academic award given to students at UW-River Falls.

Nomination forms are available at:

- ♦ www.uwrf.edu/dos/
- ♦ Dean of Students Office
- ♦ College Deans' Office
- ♦ Academic Success Center
- ♦ Personal and Professional Development Center
- ♦ Student Services and Programs Office
- ♦ Student Senate Office

Completed packets of information, including nomination forms, are due at the Dean of Students Office by February 17 at 4:30 pm. Please call the Dean of Students Office with any questions (3711).



LIP SYNCING IN THE SHOWER



Kirsten Farrar/Student Voice
Winter Carnival events continued with the lip sync competition on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

WHICH CAR IS YOURS?



Brand New



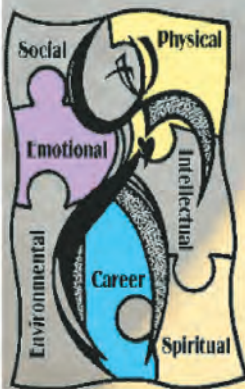
Smashed Up

(Okay, so maybe this isn't quite what you drive...but you get the picture!)

69% of UWRF Students have never driven a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

88% of UWRF Students have not been in a vehicle with an intoxicated driver.

Data from UW-RF Alcohol and Other Drug Use Survey, Spring 2005



68% of the student body drinks zero to five days per month.

Student Health Services

715.425.3293

Located in East Hathorn

Larissa Fildes Spring 2006