



**Football team beats
Stevens Point in
conference play**

**Halloween to be held by
Diversity Awareness Committee**

**Betz, college deans
experience Indian
culture**



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Morning-after pills may expire at year's end

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The stork does not bring people babies — unprotected sex does. As director of Student Health Services (SHS), Alice Reilly-Myklebust knows that while the stork is a myth, unprotected sex happens.

To help UW-River Falls students take precautions against unplanned pregnancies, SHS is providing a backup plan in the form of two pills.

Levonorgestrel 0.75 milligram tablets, otherwise known as Plan B, is available for UW-RF students at the River Falls Area Hospital and Pierce County Reproductive Health Services free of charge, as a student health fee pays for the emergency contraception medication.

Although SHS knows students are using the free emergency contraceptive, this could be the last year it is offered.

On Aug. 24, the FDA approved Plan B for over-the-counter (OTC) access to women 18 years of age and older. Females 17 and younger must still get a prescription for the emergency contraceptive.

Once released to pharmacies, the drug will be held behind the counter to monitor both prescription and OTC access. Women 18 and older must provide identification and then the drug can be purchased. As of this time, the cost of Plan B is unknown.

Although Plan B manufacturers will soon release the drug for OTC access, the exact date is unknown and SHS is continuing to offer the emergency contraceptive for the rest of the 2006-2007 school year.

“We are going to offer it through the rest of the academic year,” Reilly-Myklebust said. “We want to make sure it is accessible.”

After this year, SHS will reassess offering Plan B free of charge.

Based on the cost and availabil-

See Plan B page 3

HOMECOMING THROUGH THE EYES OF A RANGER



Beth Dickman/Student Voice

With the Chuck Norris tune “Eyes of a Ranger” echoing through the North Hall Auditorium, Nathan Kin, top, and Jeff Parker, make their way onto the stage to represent Hathorn Hall in the lip sync competition Wednesday evening. The event is held every year as a part of the Homecoming festivities. A parade, mechanical bull riding competition, Johnny Holm Band concert and medallion hunt were also planned for the week.

Vandals take aim at vehicles

Jennie Oemig and Helen Clarke

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Vehicle vandalism and small thefts have been on the rise on the UW-River Falls campus, leaving several students who park their vehicles in campus lots with hundreds of dollars in damage repairs.

In the past three weeks, there have been 15 separate reports of vandalism and theft in campus lots.

Last week, four students filed reports with Public Safety in regard to damages to their respective vehicles.

One vehicle parked in Ramer Lot had the rear window broken out and a speaker was stolen from inside.

The other three reports were from students who had parked their vehicles in O-Lot. CDs and a garage door opener were stolen from one vehicle, while a CD player and an amplifier and subwoofer with 12” speakers were stolen from another. One student reported damage to the dash of her vehicle as a result of her stereo faceplate being removed.

Public Safety Director Mark Kimball said the main thing the vandals are looking for are CDs and stereo equipment. He suggested that students should keep items of value out of sight to prevent them from being stolen.

Kimball said Public Safety is working closely with the River Falls Police Department to get a handle on the current rise in vandalism.

“They’re as frustrated as we are,” he said, adding that neither organization has any suspects in mind.

On Oct. 8 and 9, two vehicles parked in O-Lot were reported to have received damage. One of the vehicles had a side mirror torn off and another had a damaged dashboard, as well as a car stereo and CDs stolen from within.

In the same lot that weekend, another vehicle was found with the driver’s side door open. Contents of the glove compartment were removed, but nothing was damaged. There were no signs of forced entry.

Senior Al Stumph was signed up to live in South Fork Suites this semester, but he decided to live off-campus instead. Stumph said he would have had a vehicle parked in O-Lot if he were to have kept his room reservation in the residence hall.

“I’m glad I don’t live there with all the vandalism going on,” Stumph said. “I don’t need some asshole tearing the mirror off my car or smashing my windshield.”

Kimball said some of the vehicles that had items stolen from them appeared to have been left unlocked by the owner. He said he can’t stress enough how important it is that students lock their vehicles as a safety precaution.

Students take the risk of theft or vandalism when parking in campus lots.

“When [students] buy parking permits, there’s no

See Vandalism page 3

School spirit goes on strike

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In an odd scene the week before Homecoming, UW-River Falls’ cheer and stunt squad left Saturday’s football game with five minutes on the clock without having done anything to support the Falcons.

Instead of pumping up the crowd during Saturday’s 20-17 victory against UW-Stevens Point, Cheer and Stunt President Amber Frome held a sign that said, “No Stunting = No Cheering.”

Frome said stunting, including human pyr-

amids, jumps and tosses, are vital to the spirit of the squad.

“This isn’t something that’s new and crazy,” Frome said. “It’d be like telling the football players they have to play flag football.”

Frome said she received an e-mail Friday night from former Cheer and Stunt Advisor Jennifer Willis-Rivera, saying UW-RF had decided not to allow stunting.

Willis-Rivera said she was not informed the squad was planning a protest.

“It saddens me that they would take this action,” Willis-Rivera said. “They have not

been prohibited from cheering, only from stunting.”

Fans at the game had mixed reactions to the squad’s actions, or lack thereof.

Kim Vande Yacht and her daughter Jessica said they were disappointed that the cheerleaders were not performing.

“It’s sad not to have the cheerleaders,” Vande Yacht said. “We’d like to see them cheering because that’s fun for us.”

Freshman Michelle Johnson said the cheerleaders’ actions reflected poorly upon UW-RF.

“If they’re not going to cheer they shouldn’t come,” Johnson said.

Freshman Colt Wright felt it affected the attitude of the crowd.

“It definitely kills team spirit without a doubt,” Wright said.

On Saturday, Frome said the Cheer and Stunt squad had pulled out of all Homecoming activities. Tuesday the squad changed its stance and decided to cheer during the Homecoming football game, even if they aren’t allowed to do stunts.

“We’ll be happy to be involved in anything we can for Homecoming,” Frome said.

Frome said it was not the squad’s intent to offend anyone or reflect poorly upon UW-RF.

The squad originally planned to play a major role in all Homecoming activities, but those plans changed after the protest on Saturday.

Homecoming Committee Chair Marcus Bonde said he worked closely with Frome. “Even if they can’t do stunts, they can still cheer,” Bonde said. “It’s just unfortunate.”



Submitted Photo

From left, cheerleaders Laura Franz, Marcy Lutzen, Jenni Krueger, Jeanna Lundberg, Nicole Eldred, Mikayla Meyer and Nichole Stadler refuse to cheer at last Saturday’s football game after learning they could no longer stunt.

See Strike page 3

Congressman poses energy challenge

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With the push for energy conservation on overdrive, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, D-La Crosse, extended a challenge, dubbed “The Greenest Generation Challenge,” to UW-River Falls during his visit to campus Oct. 17.

“Conservation of energy is already on the forefront,” he said. “This is a challenge to the students to declare energy independence.”

He said he is gearing the opportunity toward the younger generation because energy conservation is already known and practiced by young people.

“I want this to spark the imagination of educators and students alike,” Kind said. “We just want to complement what’s already happening on campus.”

His proposal will help pivot the current dependence of the country’s consumption of current fossil fuels, like oil from the Middle East, keeping in check the rising cost of energy that reflects the increase of tuition.

“The younger generation will get us out of the energy consumption we are in,” Kind said. “The more we become dependent on oil, the less incentive of a change.”

The fierce competition on using technology to find different sources for energy is what will drive the competition, he said, like available hybrid vehicles, which use hydrogen power.

“I’m convinced we can do this,” Kind said. “The younger generation on campus can drive this, but what is lacking is leadership.”

He said many steps can be taken by students, like reducing the use of water and electricity, turning off lights, recycling as much as possible, and buying local goods rather than shipping across the country or world.

The Eco Club at UW-RF is concerned about what its members can do with conservation, said senior Josh Madetzke, a member of the club and conservation major.

“The main thing is awareness,” he said. “We need to get more peo-

See Kind page 3



Ron Kind

VOICE SHORTS

J-term registration open for students

Registration for the 2007 January term is now open to students at UW-RF. A variety of classes, study tours and senior capstone courses are offered throughout J-term, which begins Dec. 26 and goes through Jan. 21. Most classes meet Jan. 2 to 19. Students are encouraged to talk with their advisors for assistance in selecting courses.

Immunizations available on campus

The Campus Immunization Clinic is set for 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Kinnickinnic Room of the Student Center. Students should check their immunization histories and update any needed vaccines. Since there have been recent cases of mumps in the Midwest, two doses of the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine after the first birthday (at least 28 days apart) are recommended. MMR vaccines are available for free to UW-RF students, faculty and staff at the campus immunization clinic. No appointments are necessary. For more information, check out the Student Health Services Web site at www.uwrf.edu/student-health-service/ or call 425-3293.

Students smash car for fundraiser

The UW-RF Falcon Pulling team is hosting a car smash fundraiser Wednesday. A car will be placed in front of the Student Center for students to spend one minute beating up with a sledge hammer, bat, mallet or other item beginning at noon. Beforehand, students can purchase tickets to bet how long the engine will run without oil. The winner receives a gift certificate to a local restaurant. Tickets are \$3, and are sold through Tuesday in Ag Sci.

Poet to perform reading on campus

Duluth poet laureate Bart Sutter is coming to UW-RF for a reading at 3:30 p.m. next Friday in the Davee Library Breezeway. Sutter is said to be one of the most versatile writers in Minnesota today, writing both prose and poetry. His best-selling book, "Cold Comfort," is a series of short prose pieces covering "all things Duluth" from his life experiences there. Sutter is the only author ever to win a Minnesota Book Award in three separate categories. Copies of his books will be sold in the Student Center bookstore for autographing after the reading.

Fall observatory sessions still planned

The UW-RF physics department continues its fall observatory viewing sessions by probing into the past and examining how it relates to the future. "The Solar System Ain't What It Used to Be — Planets Beyond Pluto?" will be presented by UW-RF associate professor of physics Eileen Korenic at 7:30 p.m. with a telescope viewing to follow at 8 p.m. on the first clear night next week. The talks are held in Room 271 of Centennial Science Hall. The viewings take place on the 3rd floor outside deck of the same building, and typically run until 10 p.m. All events are free, open to the public and suitable for all ages. Dressing for the weather is advised. Interested people are advised to check the UW-RF physics department Web site (www.uwrf.edu/physics) and click on 'observatory' or call 715-425-3560 on the night to see if skies are clear enough.

Winter parking restrictions to take effect



regulations may be towed for snow removal, street maintenance or other public safety needs.

Alternate parking goes into effect Nov. 1 and lasts until March 31. Between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m., vehicles should be parked on the odd side of the street during odd days of the month, and on the even side during even days. Odd and even street sides are determined by house numbers. In addition to a \$10 parking citation, vehicles parked in violation of parking regulations may be towed for snow removal, street maintenance or other public safety needs.

Workshop addresses renewable energy

Renewable Energy 101 for Universities is a workshop put on by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA). This all-day workshop introduces participants to the basic technology of renewable energy systems so they can coherently advocate for renewable energy. Participation is open to everyone. The morning session includes multiple speakers talking about the latest technology behind wind, photovoltaic, solar water heating and energy efficiency. The afternoon session focuses on how to implement this technology, and getting renewable energy projects off the ground. The afternoon session concludes with a virtual tour of UW-RFs new environmentally-friendly Student Center. The workshop takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Nov. 4 in Rodli Commons. Lunch is also provided at the free workshop. For more information and registration, call Amanda Grey at 262-327-2317. This workshop is hosted by ECO and funded by the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, the MREA, Focus on Energy, and Renew Wisconsin.

Radio program offers practice for students

UW-RF is one of eight universities participating in a statewide college radio news network thought by organizers to be the first of its kind. The Wisconsin Broadcaster Association College Radio News Network is designed to offer student journalists and Wisconsin broadcasters a valuable resource. The network functions like a news feed service with student radio reports and public service announcements that have mass appeal, uploaded as MP3 audio files to a shared Web site. The WBA provided financial support to get the project off the ground and also provided assistance from its Web designer for developing the site. Six months after the network was proposed by UW-Milwaukee lecturer Maryann Lazarski, it is well on its way to fulfilling its mission as a resource, said Sandy Ellis, associate professor of journalism at UW-RF.



Briefs compiled by Leah Danley

SENATE

Senate drops coverage of event fee

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A group of about 60 students were planning to attend United Council's Women's Leadership Conference, but now the numbers may drastically drop. Student Senate agreed to pay for only transportation and lodging, totally \$3,440, rather than the original \$5,534 that was requested Oct. 10. Sixty individuals planned to attend the conference at \$35 each just for registration.

At the Oct. 17 meeting, Finance Director Adam Koski said the Shared Governance Committee removed the registration fee coverage for two reasons.

"The first reason is the UC referendum showed students spoke against their money going toward any UC event," he said of last year's campus vote to get out of United Council (UC). "The second reason is the tradition behind the number of students going reflects that it is their decision to go, and it should be their decision to pay like any other event."

Since UW-River Falls is not a member of UC, students attending the event would have to pay a \$35 registration fee. In the past, UW-RF students went for free with Senate paying for the cost of transportation and lodging.

UC is a non-partisan, non-profit, student-operated and directed organization commit-

ted to the enhancement of student life and the higher education in Wisconsin, according to a UC brochure.

The money for this year's conference will be taken out of the Shared Governance account, which now has a balance of \$32,700 without the \$3,440 removed, Koski said. The account is used to operate and support Senate. The major costs for Senate are traveling, supply and stipend costs.

The students who plan to attend the conference initially went to the Leadership Development and Programming Board to get funding, but were turned away because it wasn't a specific recognized student organization attending the event, rather a collective interest of students, Koski said.

Instead the group was encouraged to bring the issue up to Senate.

"We wanted the decision to be as fair with students' money as possible," Koski said.

The money in the Shared Governance account is allocated from student segregated fees, collected at the beginning of each semester, Koski said. Each student pays \$6.75 to this account.

The students attending the conference will now have to pay for the \$35 registration fee, and it will most likely change many minds as whether or not to attend for the amount of money, Eggers said.

"\$35 is a lot of money for students," Eggers said. "I think the amount of students

will drop by half, but it will benefit the right amount of people who want to go."

The Women's Leadership Conference works to empower female students with a number of workshops presented by students, and it is an opportunity to share knowledge, skills, experiences and passions with peers, according to a UC brochure.

If UC wasn't the sponsor of the event, there wouldn't have been any issues with paying for the registration or any other costs, Eggers said. But UC is involved, so it made it a little more difficult to make a decision.

"I will stand behind my Senate," he said.

Eggers said the reason the group came to Senate was due to past involvement with UC, and the association has paid for the students' traveling and lodging costs.

"Because UW-RF is not connected to UC, these events are now even more important to stay connected with what is going on in the state and other campuses," he said.

Eggers said he has attended the last two conferences, and it is a great tool to meet with other students across the state. He used the event to keep up on political issues through different workshops.

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

City slickers get agricultural experience

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A new program has begun at UW-River Falls that is designed to spark interest in the agricultural science field among inner-city students.

This year, the University awarded four inner-city students \$6,000 each per year for a four-year period to study agricultural science. Five students and two alternates were initially selected for the program, however one of the students withdrew from the program at the start of the academic school year.

The USDA Multicultural Scholars Committee sent a packet explaining the scholarship program, and applications were originally sent out to inner-city high schools, with Vincent High School in Milwaukee being the focal point. Committee members visited the schools and spoke with groups of students who expressed interest in the agricultural science field. Three of the four scholarship recipients came from Vincent High School.

Students had to submit an admissions application, an application

for the program detailing their interest in the agricultural field, and a letter of recommendation.

Professor of soil science Don Taylor and the scholarship committee were unsure of how many applicants there would be because there is not a lot of diversity in the agricultural science program. There were nine applicants total, and Taylor was pleased with the turnout.

"We had no idea how many would express interest," Taylor said. "We were happy with the nine applicants."

Freshman Lakiesha Townsell from Milwaukee attended Vincent High School. Townsell, who heard about the program from a teacher, would like to pursue a career in business.

"Agricultural business is a great way for me to differentiate myself and to have an emphasis in a specific field," Townsell said.

Although the subject is foreign to her, she is excited for the challenge and finds it enjoyable.

Howard Anderson is also a freshman from Milwaukee who

See Ag Science page 8

Changes lead WIS program toward uncertain future

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UW-River Falls biggest international program could experience some changes this next year as a result of the withdrawal of two important UW schools.

UW-La Crosse and UW-Eau Claire announced last spring to the other members of the West Central Wisconsin Consortium -- UW-River Falls, UW-Stout, UW-Superior -- that as of the end of summer 2007, they would no longer participate in the Wisconsin in Scotland (WIS) program.

According to Program Director Brent Greene, the universities want to leave the program because they want to have

the opportunity to start their own program to directly enroll their students.

"To remain strong, the program will have to bring in additional students, either from the remaining schools or from other universities," international studies Chair Wes Chapin said. "Either of these choices would require a change in focus and effort, and would have potential effects on the program."

The program is working to add UW-Oshkosh and UW-Whitewater, Greene said.

Another effect the program could feel is in the number of faculty and staff involved in the program.

"Because UW-EC and UW-LC have regularly provided staff and faculty, the remaining schools would either have to

increase their commitment to providing these personnel, or their replacements would have to be recruited elsewhere," Chapin said.

Students participating in WIS may be impacted as well if the number of students significantly decreases.

"[If the program becomes smaller], it would make it more costly for anyone who participates because there would be fewer people paying for the expenses," Chapin said. "Regardless of how many students are in the program, the building still needs to be heated, the staff still needs to be paid, the lights need to be on in the facility, and so on," Chapin said.

If other universities do not join the WIS program, students,

staff and faculty may not have the same experiences as past participants have had.

WIS is widely respected by students who have participated or are currently enrolled in the program, as well as by the program staff.

During the first week of September, 18 UW-RF students and one faculty member left for Scotland with 37 other UW students and five faculty and staff as part of the program.

They will remain in Dalkeith, Scotland, until mid-December.

The group is living in the Dalkeith Palace, an 18th century manor house rebuilt in 1701 on the site of the original 12th century Dalkeith Castle.

University of North Dakota

See WIS page 3

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

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Oct. 10

• Andrew J.L. Jacobson, 19, paid \$361 for receiving stolen property at Rodli.

A neon Blimpie sign was reported missing Sept. 29, and a witness called the River Falls Police Department Oct. 10 after seeing a group of students he recognized as football players carrying the sign Sept. 29.

According to reports, Jacobson admitted to finding the Blimpie sign outside Rodli, which he then picked up. He said he intended to bring it to Hathorn Hall to show his friends, but decided not to keep it and returned it to where he had originally found it.

Jacobson, however, was seen riding his bike with the sign, according to a witness statement.

The sign is valued at \$620.68.

• Leah M. Forehand, 24, was arrested at 540 N. Main St. on a warrant for failure to pay fines related to an OWI. She was also cited for operating after revocation. She was transported to Pierce County Jail at 1:40 a.m.

Oct. 11

• Tyler W. Nessen, 18, was cited \$375 for possession of marijuana at McMillan Hall.

At 10:30 p.m., police responded to a reported odor of burning marijuana on the fourth floor of the residence hall. Police briefly listened to a conversation through the doorway of room 436 before Nessen opened the door. He then briefly shut the door and locked it with a deadbolt, accord-

ing to reports.

Nessen admitted to officers that he had been smoking marijuana along with other people in the room. He was then taken to the police department, where 1.1 grams of a green, leafy substance in his possession tested positive for THC.

Oct. 12

• At 2:25 p.m., theft was reported from a vehicle parked in O-Lot. A garage door opener was taken, along with a disposable camera and several CDs. The stolen items have an estimated value of \$85. The vehicle was locked at the time of the theft.

• Theft was reported from a vehicle parked in O-Lot at 4:40 p.m. The face plate for a Sony stereo system was stolen, and the dashboard was broken. Damage is estimated at \$400.

Oct. 13

• Jesse W. Bigjohn, 21, was arrested at 581 South Spruce Street for second degree recklessly endangering safety and carrying a concealed weapon.

Police were called to Stratton Hall at 2:38 a.m. in response to a fight involving a knife.

According to witness statements, seven students approached the doors of Stratton Hall where their entry was blocked by Bigjohn. He asked them for IDs, falsely representing himself as an RA at the dorm, and said he was going to get them kicked out of school, according to reports.

Two male individuals argued with Bigjohn because he refused to let them into the hall, and Bigjohn threatened them with a black folding knife, holding it to the neck of one of the men and causing a minor lac-

eration, according to reports.

Bigjohn was transported to Pierce County Jail, where his blood alcohol content was tested at .18.

• At 12:44 p.m., damage was reported to a vehicle parked in the Ramer Field parking lot, 1050 Athletic Dr. The back window was broken and a subwoofer was taken from the car, valued at \$150. Damage to the window is estimated at \$300.

• Nicholas J. Robertson, 18, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in May Hall.

• Justin G. Ward, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in May Hall.

• Theft was reported from a vehicle parked in O-Lot. A CD player, 500-watt amplifier and subwoofer were taken, totaling \$500.

Oct. 14

• Skylar W. Knochenmus, 20, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Hathorn Hall.

• Robert L. Boddiford, 19, was fined \$375 for second offense underage consumption in Prucha Hall.

Brandon M. Stalcar, 20, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Hathorn Hall.

Oct. 16

• Kristine M. Kivel, 19, was cited \$172 for underage consumption. According to reports, Kivel was found pacing up and down South Wasson Lane at 3:45 a.m.

Oct. 17

• Benjamin E. Brewster, 20, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Hathorn Hall.

Plan B: Morning-after pill offered at Student Health Services

from page 1

ity of the OTC Plan B, SHS will continue to provide the service if the cost is too great for students to bear.

While the drug’s manufacturer, Duramed, gives a 72-hour window to take Plan B after unprotected sex or a failed contraceptive, Reilly-Myklebust has one message for UW-RF students - the faster Plan B is used, the better.

“It is more effective the earlier it is used,” she said.

The SHS director is so serious about early access to Plan B that

“It is certainly a viable option for couples who choose to use it.”

Tony Harstedt, senior

in a recent conversation with River Falls Area Hospital doctors, Reilly-Myklebust reminded physicians that providing the emergency contraceptive as a preventative measure is fine with the UW-RF organization.

Giving UW-RF students Plan B “in advance is OK with Student Health Services,” she said. “If a condom breaks, they can take it right away.”

According to the Food and Drug Administration Web site, taking Plan B as soon as possible after unprotected sex is the most effective form of treatment.

As a large dose of birth control, Plan B works by stopping the release of an egg from an ovary.

In addition, Plan B may also prevent the fertilization of an egg or its implantation to the uterus.

Plan B is distributed as two tablets. Once the first one is taken, the second tablet needs to be taken 12 hours after.

If a woman is already pregnant, Plan B will not work.

The efforts of SHS in making the emergency contraceptive available to UW-RF students have not gone unrewarded.

A National College Health Assessment study of unplanned pregnancies and emergency contraception use with UW-RF students shows that since 2000 the number of unplanned pregnancies has decreased from 1.5 percent to 1.2 percent, and the amount of emergency contraception use has risen from 4.7 percent to 8 percent.

Reilly-Myklebust sees these results as a positive sign.

“We try to offer services that are appropriate services that they utilize,” she said.

Reilly-Myklebust also reiterated that Plan B has been “proven a safe and effective way to prevent unplanned pregnancies.”

While the drug is safe to use, it is not without side effects.

According to the Plan B drug informational packet dispensed with the medication, the most common adverse effects are nausea, abdominal pain and fatigue.

Other side effects include dizziness, vomiting and diarrhea.

In his last semester at UW-RF, senior Tony Harstedt thinks SHS is doing a good thing by providing free emergency contraception.

“It is certainly a viable option for couples who choose to use

it,” Harstedt said.

While the 25-year-old said he does not think he would ever encourage a female to use Plan B after unprotected sex, he does think offering the emergency contraceptive is an appropriate service for college students.

Although Harstedt said Plan B is not a contraceptive option he would use, a UW-RF freshman thinks the two tablets make for a good option.

The female student, who wishes to remain anonymous, is currently on birth control but has visited Pierce County Reproductive Health Services.

She has Plan B as “a backup in case you don’t use a condom or during ovulation,” she said, adding her reason for being so precautions is that she is “not at an age where I want to have a baby.”

Her boyfriend is also very supportive of her insistence on safe sex.

“He thought I should get it [Plan B] with birth control,” she said. “It’s half his part too.”

The student said getting Plan B for free helps her financially because she doesn’t “make a lot of money.”

The freshman’s need for free emergency contraception solidifies the work of Reilly-Myklebust and SHS.

“Hopefully we are being able to provide access, information and education for a variety of health issues,” she said.

For more information on free emergency contraception from SHS, visit www.uwrf.edu/studenthealthservices.

Vandalism: Campus beautification hindered by damages

from page 1

guarantee,” he said. “That’s what they have insurance for.”

Several vehicles parked in N-Lot, K-Lot, W-Lot and E-Lot have also been reported damaged in the past few weeks.

At least one Public Safety officer is patrolling



Beth Dickman/Student Voice

Recent vandalism in O-Lot have not been curbed by surveillance cameras.

the campus at all times, and Kimball said two officers are working at a time for a good portion of the evening.

The lots on campus are equipped with surveillance cameras, but there is no way to ensure they will be scanning the right area of the lots at the right time, he said.

“It’s a black mark on the University,” Kimball said, referring to the amount of vandalism occurring in student parking lots. “I really feel bad.”

Besides damage to vehicles, UW-RF Facilities Director Manny Kenney has been aware of some destruction occurring on other campus property.

“Vandalism is always an issue,” he said.

With the recent campus beautification project, Kenney said some vandals are hindering the attempts to make the campus more appealing.

“We bought these nice stone trash containers and smoker’s urns to make our campus more attractive,” Kenney said. “Heavy as they are, we are still finding them tipped over. It can be frustrating.”

In the past, Kenney said there has been damage to trees and plantings, and lawns have been rutted up around campus. There has also been graffiti damage to buildings, and other features and boards on picnic tables have been broken as well.

“I am not aware of major vandalism to our grounds so far this fall,” Kenney said. “That can change quickly.”

Strike: Rules prohibit RF cheerleaders from performing stunts

from page 1

Bonde said he’s happy the squad will be involved in some aspect.

“Homecoming’s about the spirit, and they help with that,” he said.

The decision not to allow stunting came after looking into the new safety regulations of the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA).

The rules were updated following an accident in the spring involving a Southern Illinois cheerleader who suffered a cracked vertebra and concussion after falling from a 15-foot human pyramid during a basketball game.

The first rule states that all squads should have a qualified and knowledgeable advisor or coach.

Willis-Rivera said she is not a certified advisor and has no related background experience in cheering or stunting.

“Because of the AACCA guidelines, I am resigning from the position of advisor to the

cheer and stunt team,” Willis-Rivera said.

She said she was asked to take the advisor position as a favor to former Cheer and Stunt President Michelle Dodge.

The NCAA requires cheerleading coaches and advisors to complete an AACCA-certified safety course so the squad is included in the Catastrophic Insurance Program for the 2006-2007 season.

“Unfortunately I can’t invest that kind of time at this point,” Willis-Rivera said. “Also, I truly do not have the ability to be at all of the cheerleaders’ practices.”

Having a certified advisor at all practices is also a requirement in the AACCA guidelines.

Frome said the Cheer and Stunt squad has found a new advisor and is in the process of finding a certified coach.

According to AACCA guidelines, another problem is the squad’s inadequate practice facilities. It is an issue that Frome and Willis-Rivera had attempted to address, to no avail.

The squad has been practicing on the racquetball courts in the basement of Karges. Frome said the low ceiling there is not conducive for practicing intricate stunts.

“To ensure the safety of our cheerleaders, we decided to prohibit them from doing further stunts until a time when we would be able to provide them with a safe place,” Willis-Rivera said.

Frome said the size of the cheerleading squad has increased to 30 members this year, magnifying the poor conditions in Karges.

Willis-Rivera said she holds no ill will toward the squad.

“I wish them well and hope they are able to find a qualified coach,” she said.

Frome said she was confused because UW-RF made investments in the squad and it was recently granted club sport status.

“The school just spent \$3,000 on new uniforms,” she said. “Now they’re going to just sit in a closet.”

Kind: Plan will combine efforts to reduce energy dependency

from page 1

ple involved in Eco Club.”

With more involvement, he said, the University will have more ideas and helping hands for the challenge of reducing energy dependency.

“We really have to step up in order to prove it,” Madetzke said. “I hope things get going for us. We all need to work together; it’s what it’s going to take.”

His plan extends to work with all universities and technical colleges in Wisconsin.

“We want to establish an outreach not just to our state, but to the entire country and world,” Kind said. “We want to find ways to partner with everyone.”

With acknowledgement from government officials like Kind, and administration on campus, students can drive the challenge, he said.

“I want to highlight the universities and take it to Washington [D.C.],” Kind said. “I want to show them what is going on throughout the country and in our state.”

Federally funded grants will be implemented to students and the University for any initial start-up

costs to become more energy efficient, he said. The money will be pooled from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Mary Halada, vice chancellor for administration and finance, said a sub-committee has been set up within UW-RF’s strategic planning goals to work on energy conservation on campus, along with the proposal of Gov. Jim Doyle’s energy conservation program, UW Off the Grid Initiative.

“Students have already committed to this,” she said. “So we accept your challenge.”

The goal for students, Kind said, is to embrace and start on the conservation that needs to happen before fossil fuels are completely gone. Faculty, staff and administration can encourage and support the students’ efforts, ideas and plans in their own residence halls, classrooms and other buildings on campus.

“It takes the younger generation to kick us in the pants to get the ball rolling,” Kind said.

Changes in the daily lives of students, faculty and administrators do not need to happen, he said.

“Everyone just needs to be more creative as to what you are doing with energy,” Kind said. “I’m excited to see what will be happening on campus.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Wisconsin consumers and businesses may claim Microsoft settlement benefits.

Settlement to provide up to \$223,896,000 in benefits

A settlement has been reached in class action lawsuits against Microsoft on behalf of Wisconsin consumers and businesses that acquired Microsoft software from December 7, 1993 through April 30, 2003, for use in Wisconsin, and not for resale. Shortly after “final” court approval of the settlement, Microsoft will distribute up to \$223,896,000 in vouchers that eligible consumers and businesses can redeem to buy computers, peripheral computer hardware, or computer software made by any manufacturer. Eligible Microsoft software users may now request a claim form for the vouchers.

WHAT ARE THESE CASES ABOUT?

The Plaintiffs in the lawsuits claim that Microsoft violated Wisconsin’s antitrust and unfair competition laws and thereby overcharged consumers for some of its software. Microsoft denies these claims and contends that it developed and sold high quality and innovative software at fair and reasonable prices. The Court did not decide in favor of the Plaintiffs or Microsoft. Instead, both sides agreed to a settlement.

WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

You are eligible for vouchers if you resided in or were located in Wisconsin and you acquired the Microsoft software listed below, or a computer on which the software was already installed, for use in Wisconsin. The vouchers are worth \$23 for each Microsoft “Office” and Microsoft “Excel” license; \$15 for each Microsoft “Windows” and “MS-DOS” license; and \$10 for each Microsoft “Word” (including “Home Essentials” and “Works Suite”) license. You are entitled to claim the specified amounts for each computer on which you were lawfully entitled to use the Microsoft software in Wisconsin. Also, if you acquired multiple versions of the same product (or separately acquired upgrades), you’re entitled to the specified amounts for each version or upgrade. More information is in a detailed notice at the Web site below.

If the total value of vouchers issued to Class members is less than \$223,896,000, one-half of the remaining amount will be distributed as vouchers for hardware, software and technology services to certain Wisconsin public, tribal, and BIA schools that serve students from low-income households. The total value of vouchers issued but not redeemed will also be distributed to Wisconsin public, tribal, and BIA schools. Any of these vouchers that remain unused by the schools may be given to these schools or other needy organizations in Wisconsin.

HOW DO YOU GET BENEFITS?

Simply call or go to the Web site to get a claim form. To get benefits you need to fill out and send in a claim form postmarked no later than **June 30, 2007** or 30 days after the Court grants “final approval” to the settlement,

whichever comes later. You may also fill one out and submit it online for up to five licenses. If you acquired up to five copies of qualifying Microsoft products up to \$100, you can use a Standard Claim Form to ask for benefits, and you do not have to provide any additional documents or proof for your software. If your claim is larger, you can also use a Standard Claim Form, but you will need to provide additional information. If you are a volume licensee (e.g., “Open,” “Select,” or “Enterprise”), you need a Volume License Claim Form. All the claim forms are available at www.microsoftWlsuit.com or by calling 1-800-598-3050 toll-free. Claims may be audited and penalties apply for false claims.

TRANSFERRING YOUR BENEFITS.

You may transfer—sell, donate or gift—up to \$650 of your settlement vouchers to a public, tribal, and BIA school or charity of your choice. Vouchers may be transferred to anyone who does not intend to resell them. Transferred vouchers may be redeemed up to \$10,000. Vouchers can be transferred only once.

WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER OPTIONS?

If you don’t want vouchers and you don’t want to be legally bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself by **February 13, 2007**, or you won’t be able to sue Microsoft about the claims in these lawsuits ever again. If you exclude yourself, you can’t get any vouchers. If you don’t exclude yourself, you may object in writing no later than **February 13, 2007**, to any part of the settlement. Attorneys’ fees, costs, and expenses, and incentive awards, will be paid separately by Microsoft and will not reduce the settlement benefits you get. The lawyers representing you will request \$33 million in attorneys’ fees, plus reasonable costs, and expenses, plus \$5,000 as an incentive award for each Class Representative who helped the lawyers on behalf of the whole Class. The detailed notice explains how to object or ask to be excluded. The Circuit Court of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, will hold a hearing in these cases, called *Spence v. Microsoft Corp.* (No. 00-CV-003042), *Capp v. Microsoft Corp.* (No. 05-CV-011127), and *Bettendorf v. Microsoft Corp.* (No. 05-CV-010927), on **March 30, 2007**, to decide whether to give final approval to the settlement, and to consider the lawyers’ request for fees, costs, expenses, and incentive awards. You or your lawyer may appear at the hearing, at your own cost. If the settlement is approved, Microsoft will be released from liability for claims in these cases as stated in the Settlement Agreement. For more details, call toll-free or go to the Web site below.

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EDITORIAL

Expand Homecoming, include more students

Walking through the campus and community, one would expect to see decorations, daily activities and royalty campaigning – all immersed in a sea of red and white. Yet student life at UW-River Falls seems to have seen virtually no changes since last week.

One thing is clear though – this year’s Homecoming Committee has worked harder than those in the past. For the first time in more than two decades, the parade will travel through downtown River Falls. The theme, Showdown at the RF Corral, is also a welcomed change from last year’s irrelevant paradise motif.

Yet it still feels as if excitement for this annual celebration is seriously lacking.

Maybe the nonexistent Homecoming spirit has something to do with the exclusion of a large part of the student population. If you’re not an alumnus or active member of a student organization, Homecoming doesn’t really seem to offer you much.

Sure, you could buy a shirt for \$5 – it would have gotten you a free ride on the mechanical bull. But to compete in the other events – parade, lip sync, war paint, Org-On-Trail derby, food drive, change wars, pop tabs – you had to enter as a recognized student organization or residence hall.

Even royalty candidates are required to be sponsored by a student org. Who said the race for Homecoming queen had to stop being a popularity contest after high school anyway?

If you’re not involved with a group on campus, your options for participating in the week’s festivities were limited to logging online to vote for royalty, or running around campus to search for the hidden medallion.

Homecoming is supposed to be geared toward getting alumni back on campus, not to mention squeezing their pockets a bit in the process. But will graduates really want to come back to River Falls a few Octobers down the line if their Homecoming experiences weren’t fulfilling while they were students?

Next year, the Homecoming Committee could benefit from creating more opportunities for individuals and groups of friends. Scheduling activities during the day – when most students are on campus – would likely turn out a higher number of participants as well, and maybe even generate more school pride in the process.

But most importantly, the administration should consider getting involved in the Homecoming planning process by sponsoring programs and events, and creating stronger ties with the city.

After all, bigger events mean more people, and a greater number of visiting alumni will surely lead to a beefed up bank account.

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

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The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper’s advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

Letters to the editor must be legible, and contain a first and last name and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Letters can be submitted at 304 North Hall or to student.voice@uwrf.edu. Please limit letters to 300 words.

The *Student Voice* reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. Letters to the editor become the property of the *Student Voice* and cannot be returned.

All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Humanitarian relief needed

I am reminded of the words to a rock song by Midnight Oil a few years ago: “How can we dance when our earth is turning ... how do we sleep while our beds are burning?” In other words, how could the world dance while the Holocaust took place? (Remember the scene from Schindler’s List?) And how could we sleep while the genocide in Rwanda took place?

And how can we sit by now while genocide is occurring in Darfur, Sudan? With hundreds of thousands of people already dead and 2.5 million more lives at ominous risk, how is it that the international community has not yet found a solution?

Perhaps it’s time for our country to act. And isn’t it time that our nation’s citizens take a stand? We must ask why there are not stronger efforts to negotiate with Sudan’s president in support of United Nations peacekeeping troops. And why are there no concerted efforts to increase funding and resources for the understaffed and underfunded African Union peace force already in Sudan, as well as an expanded mandate for their efforts? It seems this may be an acceptable solution for all parties.

Finally, why is there inadequate humanitarian relief in the area?

The United Nations refers to Darfur as potentially the greatest humanitarian crisis ever. Let’s not sit by while this genocide unfolds. To contact President Bush and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, go to www.savedarfur.com. To contact our legislators, go to www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

The conscience of our nation cannot tolerate a repeat of Rwanda.

Jackie Brux
Professor of economics

Marriage vote needs more info

As I was browsing the Web site for the Family Research Institute of Wisconsin, I found it to be quite entertaining. This extremist organization is very effective in twisting the truth and making it visible to the average, uninformed voter. They present an extensive list of pastors and ministers who are for this constitutional amendment, but after counting, just four out of 254 are women. Only four women!?! What sort of message is this sending? Do we think women should be subservient, passive and the property of men again?

The Web site also has a question and answer section. One question says, “Doesn’t Wisconsin law already define marriage in this state as one man and one woman?”

To that they answer, “No, it does not.”

Wisconsin state statutes state that marriage, so far as its validity at law is concerned, is a civil contract to which the consent of the parties capable in law of contracting is essential, and which creates the legal status of husband and wife. While the words husband and wife appear several times in the statutes, nowhere in Wisconsin state statutes is husband defined as a man and wife defined as a woman.

Let me state this: If marriage wasn’t already defined as one man and one woman, I think there would have been some sort of court case in Wisconsin suing for same-sex couples to have the right to marry. Oh, but wait, there aren’t any gay people in Wisconsin.

Let’s not let these people fool us. Find out the real facts for yourself. Become an informed voter. Think about what you are hearing and seeing.

Does it make sense to you?

Get the facts at: www.fairwisconsin.com

Lacey Felmlee
Student

Anti-smokers should adjust

I am writing in response to the column titled, “Protect students from smoke.” Ms. Aune, an asthmatic, doesn’t believe restrictions on smokers are working, and smoking should be banned on campus. Aune asks whether it’s the department’s job to protect her health. The answer is no.

The only person responsible for a student’s health is the student. People who suffer from asthma must take extraordinary precautions for their own health, as they have complicated health issues. An example of this is the students with severe allergies to peanuts. It is unreasonable for the allergic student to expect everyone in a school or workplace to adjust their behavior so that they can remain healthy.

It is so much simpler for the asthmatic or allergy sufferer to adjust their own behavior to ensure their own health needs are met.

Muriel Montgomery
Student

Socialist beliefs misunderstood

In response to the letter, “Campus has no need for socialists,” it seems necessary to clear up misconceptions about what our student organization, Socialist Alternative, actually represents.

I’d like to say that I agree with the writer’s assessment of the conditions in the former Soviet Bloc. Under the policies started by Stalin, the economy was planned by a privileged party bureaucracy. We agree that under this system the economy favored the members of the ruling elite.

However, Socialist Alternative is an organization that fights for the rights of workers, students and communities against the exploitation and injustice perpetuated by the capitalist system. We see the global capitalist system as the root cause of terrorism, war, poverty, discrimination and environmental destruction. Socialist Alternative absolutely rejects the totalitarian systems of Russia and eastern Europe, which have nothing to do with real socialism. The Stalinist oligarchy that oppressed the working class was obviously not a genuine workers’ democracy.

We campaign for the building of a mass workers’ party to represent workers, youth and the environment against the two parties of big business. We call for democratic socialism where people will have control over their daily lives. Some might say that our stances on particular issues are unrealistic under capitalism. We believe that the realization of these goals is more reason to strive for a socialist society, based not on profit, but on need.

On our national organization’s Web site, <http://www.socialistalternative.org/about>, we do say that we stand for, “Mass pickets and militant action to stop union busting, plant closures, and layoffs.” Militant action can be as simple as a strike or the type of civil disobedience employed during the civil rights movement. This has proven effective as a tool for winning wage increases, benefits and rights for workers the world over.

Unlike under the political systems of Russia and eastern Europe, Jan Pospichal was free to speak about his opposition to the formation of Socialist Alternative at the public meeting that we held last month. I chaired that meeting, and Mr. Pospichal asked questions and voiced his opposition multiple times during the discussion. I do find it odd, however, that while he writes of democracy in his letter, he feels that our organization, which was formed and is run by students at UW-River Falls, should “not be welcomed on our campus.” True democracy welcomes all viewpoints, and as such democracy itself welcomes the Socialist Alternative.

Nick Shillingford
Student

Controversial vote on ballot

There are many reasons that people support the ban on equal marriage and civil unions, as well as oppose the ban.

There are a few reasons stated by supporters of the ban. As Family Research Institute of Wisconsin Chairwoman Julaine K. Appling talks about frequently, children need both a mother and a father. This comes from a woman who not only doesn’t appear to have children of her own, but also lives with another woman. Well, I wonder, does

this mean that we must go after single parent families?

Also, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, same-sex parents can and do great jobs of raising their children, and could do an even better job if the parents were able to enter into a legally binding relationship. Supporters of the ban also frequently call it the “Defense of Marriage Act.”

If supporters really want to defend marriage, they should look at what is really threatening marriage — divorce. Depending on your source, the divorce rate for the United States is around 50 percent. Now that’s a threat to marriage!

Many churches, unions and Wisconsinites oppose the ban. One reason is that the ban changes nothing. On Nov. 8, there won’t be thousands of gay couples going to the courthouse getting married. People of Wisconsin also oppose the ban because it is against the values of Wisconsin people.

On Nov. 7, Wisconsin and its citizens have a chance to be the first state to oppose the ban on equal marriage and civil unions.

Paul Bladl
Alumnus/staff member

Vote to oppose death penalty

A recent poll taken by the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute shows that 54 percent favor the death penalty. As you know there will be a non-binding referendum on the Nov. 7 ballot regarding this issue. I believe the public is largely unaware of the research evidence on the death penalty. For instance, the death penalty does not deter people from committing homicide. States with the death penalty have higher rates compared with non-death penalty states. Then too, states that have restored this penalty have not witnessed a decrease in homicide. Also, the death penalty is often discriminatory against minorities and the poor. Contrary to popular belief, it costs much more to execute someone than it does to impose life imprisonment without parole. And there is no real safeguard against ending an innocent person’s life. DNA tests are certainly a big step, but this can only apply in some cases. Since the early 1970s there have been more than 100 people on death row who were found to be innocent due to mistakes made in the criminal court proceedings, including witnesses who mistakenly identified the defendant or outright lied, thus influencing the jury’s decision.

In my opinion, the death penalty serves only to satisfy the emotion of revenge against offense and the offender. People found guilty should be given life imprisonment without parole.

Robert Pionke
Professor emeritus

New music lacks character, quality

I don't want to sound old or dated, but music these days is just awful. Laughable, even. Brooke Hogan has a song with the lyrics, "I'm just trying to live but you're all up in my grill." For starters, she hasn't worked a day in her life, so it's hard to believe that she is just trying to live. Second, she is a rich little blonde girl so the idea of her "grill" is a joke. But people watch it, listen to it and buy it. This goes back to MTV's theory that if they present anything in the right way, you will like it. For example, in 1994 when Michael Jackson kissed then-wife Lisa Marie Presley with that awkward, robotic head tilt. Watching it even today makes everyone feel freaked out. But everyone at Radio City Music Hall cheered like it was the end of prohibition. MTV pulls the same trick with that new Beyoncé video in which she doesn't really dance. I don't even think she knows what she is doing. It looks like they force-fed her a truckload of meth, cracked her over the head with a shovel and taped her convulsing for three minutes. Probably one of the worst things to ever happen this year is Hinder's "Lips of an Angel." If you don't know this song it's also easily recognizable by the actions of pretty much every girl within earshot. They all gather in a little circle singing (out of tune, mind you), and they all agree, "Oh my God. I love this song - it's about me!" No, it's not - stop talking. At best, that song sounds like something a 50-year-old movie producer thinks rock music sounds like. Like when you are watching an action movie and a chase scene crashes into a concert. There is a band playing what is supposed to be rock, but really you sit there and say, "That's not what concerts are like and that's not what my music sounds like." Like in "School of Rock." All the bands sound like the most ripped-off cheesy rock ballads ever. Or we get garbage like "SexyBack." Because he is the guy who is bringing sexy back. As though sexy was ever out of style. I promise you have never heard a girl say, "Forget that tight shirt, just bring me that burlap sack - I'll just duct tape it. I just want to look like a sack of potatoes when I go out tonight." Oh, that's right though, it's JT. So anything he records is gold. MTV could play 50 minutes of him making out with a snare drum and people would spend months talking about how original and sensual it was. But it doesn't have to be like that. When Pink Floyd was on tour, lead singer Roger Waters hated that his own fans were treating the band as though they were gods. At one point during the Animals tour he spit on a concert-goer, just 'cause he could. This alienation and other influences prompted the band to put out "The Wall" in 1979, one of the best selling double albums of all time. We don't have to like music just because we hear it a dozen times a day (KDWB, MTV), and we don't need to like music because someone made a porn movie (Paris Hilton). Don't get me wrong, I am not a music snob. In moderation I like bad music just as much as the next guy. But at least I have the decency to listen to it quiet shame by myself. I'm pretty sure I have some Kelly Clarkson on my iPod. I'm not proud of it, but what do you do? I defy you to find someone without Kelly Clarkson on their iPod. It might be hidden under a different name, like Metallica or Kenny Chesney, but it's there. Trust me.



AJ Oscarson

at least I have

Schools need security force

Do you trust school principals, teachers and custodians with concealed weapons on school grounds? Wisconsin Rep. Frank Lasee does, and he thinks the rest of us should too. Although I do understand that Lasee is using a shock-factor tactic to make us think of lesser alternatives, there are so many things that can go wrong with putting guns in schools. The issue shouldn't be whether or not we put guns in schools, but how to keep guns out of schools. At first Lasee was saying that teachers should basically have the guns in their desks for whenever they need them. Later he said the guns would be locked up in the school so they wouldn't fall into the wrong hands. I wonder what the chances that the armed "bad guy" will be near where the school guns are kept so that a staff member can say "Hold on a sec," and run to get a school gun? I don't think it's very likely. Let's say a student brought a gun to school with the intent to kill, and a school official had a gun in their hands — do you think they'd be able to shoot little Johnny before he shot them first? Under normal circumstances, the staff member may be a perfect shot, but under pressure they might miss and either hit someone else or the bullet may ricochet off a locker and hit an innocent bystander. We need to identify and counsel these troubled students before this happens. It's difficult to profile and identify troubled students, but maybe that is something we should spend more time on. Although categorizing students isn't a good idea — especially if other students find out that Johnny is on the "most likely to shoot up the school" list — it is a good thing for staff to know about so they can report odd behavior or conversations they may notice. I'm not saying all "troubled" students are dangerous. In fact, I used to be a "troubled" student when I was in high school. What I am saying is that we should have more outreach programs for students, and we need to educate the parents on gun safety in their homes. Parents need to realize that no matter how bad of a neighborhood they may be in, they shouldn't leave an unlocked gun around the house. If you need to have a gun in your bedroom, use a trigger lock and have the key on a string around your neck at all times, even when you sleep. Also, hide it in a place that little Johnny can't reach, and most importantly, doesn't know about! We also need to keep random people out of schools. Two of the recent shootings were middle-aged men who came into the schools with guns. As for the one in the public school, he shouldn't have been able to get past the front hallway. Maybe schools should invest in silent alarm buttons around the school (like the bank ones in the movies), such as under teachers' desks and the hall monitors' desks, which would alert the police that their assistance is needed. I propose that instead of having school staff carrying around loaded guns, we should have school police officers roaming the halls and the perimeter of all schools. An armed police officer would deter Johnny from bringing a gun to school more than a staff member whom he's known for years with a gun locked up in a safe in the school office.



Nicole Aune

Support UW-RF student athletes

Until the second half of the football game last weekend, the mood was rather depressing at Ramer Field. The cheerleaders were seated in protest on the track. The north end of the bleachers — where the students usually sit — was bare. An occasional pep band tune was the only sound that made its way over the dull roar of the crowd. It certainly didn't seem like a typical college football setting. Ramer did light up toward the latter part of the game as the Falcons sealed a 17-20 victory over the UW-Stevens Point Pointers, and rightfully so. Things went well for the Falcons. The offense netted more than 330 total yards, the special teams were exceptional, and the defense held the Pointers to 91 yards rushing and recovered two fumbles. Unfortunately, there was one stat that was concerning to more than just the football team: attendance. Add that to the virtually silent crowd and you have nothing more than a great performance in a lousy environment. Only 868 people came through the stadium gates last Saturday afternoon. To put this figure in perspective, compare it to recent attendance marks set by other Division III schools in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Last week UW-Stout hosted UW-Eau Claire, and 4,237 people were at the game. About 9,500 people attended the Whitewater-La Crosse game. Frankly, that is piss poor. There is no good reason for such a horrible turnout — the weather couldn't have been better, and the game was at an accommodating 2 p.m. on a Saturday. The football team sucks, one might say. Bad excuse. Before they faced off last week, neither Stout nor Eau Claire had winning records, yet they can produce nearly five times the number of fans that UW-RF can generate. The River Falls campus has fewer students enrolled than those other colleges, one might say. Bad excuse. St. John's University, a Division III school in Minnesota and one of River Falls' past foes, has less than 4,000 students on its campus, yet it had nearly 12,000 fans packed in its football stadium when its football team hosted Carleton earlier this year. Less than a decade ago, the UW-RF football team was posting winning seasons and capturing conference championships. The team has hit a rough patch over the past few years, there's no arguing that, but if college sporting events were all about winning to the fans, there would be no sense in going. Here's a fact: half the teams that play on Saturdays win, and the other half lose. Fans are there because they are fanatical about their team. It isn't just the football team that is suffering meager attendance. Right now the Falcon volleyball team is sitting at the No. 4 spot in the conference accumulating a 19-8 record so far this season. At the last home match against UW-La Crosse, there were only 145 people in the stands. Compare that to the 734 in attendance at Stout's home opener this season. There is no good excuse for this lack of student representation. It seems like every other college sports venue has a vicious, rabid, borderline-insane student section exploding with cheers and laughs and flat-out good, hearty fun. The students that make up these athletic teams thrive on the crowd's behavior, and being able to perform in front of friends and classmates is one of the most enjoyable aspects of being a college athlete. So slap on a layer of body paint, mix a vodka drink in a Nalgene bottle, and do some damage this homecoming weekend and beyond.



Ben Jipson

Respect others' decisions when it comes to smoking on campus

The issue of smoking regulations has been hotly debated for as long as I've been going to school on this campus — almost to the point where it has become one of those issues that people roll their eyes at when mentioned. I have read countless arguments advocating a smoking ban, but none of those arguments really took the time to examine a smoker's point of view. When I was a freshman (many years ago), my fellow smokers and I were able to enjoy a relaxing cigarette right outside the door, protected by the overhang from the rough elements of nature such as snow, rain or -300 degree temperatures. The next year when I moved off campus, there were new rules that stuck smokers next to extremely unattractive barrels in the middle of a path or on the grass in order to better protect the lungs of those who have chosen to live a nicotine-free life. "Stay 25 feet away from the door," the signs said. Or else we are all gonna die! Yeah, maybe I am going to die, because when I want to have a cigarette I have to go stand out in the middle of nowhere as the rain pours down on my head, the harsh wind bites my nose, or someone who is mockingly coughing at the sight of me smoking doesn't cover their mouth and their germ filled breath travels at the speed of light into my own unsuspecting eating orifice and I catch pneumonia. But never mind me, I'm the villain. I respect those who have chosen not to smoke. They have a hell of a lot more willpower than I do, but I do not feel like I should be constantly ridiculed because I have a bad habit. I get told time and time again that smoking is bad, it causes cancer, it stinks and I am killing myself. That's fine. Everyone is entitled to their opinion and I do not totally disagree, but I don't walk up to every 500-pound person I see at McDonald's and tell them that those three Big Macs they are eating are probably going to cause them to die of a heart attack, or that their weight alone puts them at risk for a plethora of health problems. I keep my mouth shut. And yes, I understand that those 500-pound people are not going to cause me to die because of their own bad habit, nor are my intentions in life to kill an innocent bystander because they inhaled my second-hand fumes. Not only would knowing that I committed murder eat away at my conscience, but I am sure that it would affect my karma and come back to bite me in the ass somehow. What I am saying is that I am a human being who enjoys the taste of a cigarette. I fell victim



Beckie De Neuvi

to Big Tobacco some time ago and by no means do I think it was the best decision that I ever made. But smoking does help me to focus and calm down. It is my guilty pleasure. While I respect the right of those who do not smoke to live in a smoke-free environment, I expect a little more empathy for my own well being. Perhaps there could be a smoking hut or at least a little overhang that protects smokers from the sometimes intensely harsh weather conditions. Or maybe even a smoking room in University buildings where people could go to indulge in a cigarette when it is too cold to go outside. Smoking blows, and the majority of the people who smoke will tell you that they would like to quit or are trying to quit. But in the meantime, it would be nice for people to be a little more empathetic and come to a compromise that makes both sides of the issue as happy and healthy as they would like to be.



Judy Vang, junior

"There's the Halloween party next Friday with all of the diversity organizations, and on Halloween I'm taking my little brother out trick-or-treating."



Mike Karuschak, senior

"In a drunken stupor."



Lakiesha Townsell, freshman

"I'm going to the DAC Halloween party on Oct. 27. Otherwise, I don't know right now."



Koua Chang, sophomore

"I'm going to scare little kids in McMillan Hall. We try to give them a good haunted house."



Lana Li, junior

"Well I have the haunted hall to go to. Me and my residents will decorate the wing of the residence hall, and the kids are going to come through."



Katy Leisch, senior

"On the day of Halloween I am going to be a nerd and dress up. I'm going to hand out candy."

STUDENT voices

How are you planning to celebrate Halloween?

Traditions bring interest, fun to game



Sarah Packingham

Border battles. Head-to-head competitions. Intense screaming fans painted from head to toe in their team's favorite colors. Paul Bunyan's Axe. Those four things are the beginning of something huge, at least to a sports lover like me.

Traditions.

Merriam and Webster define traditions as: an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior.

In all sports, traditions will play a huge role in team and fan morale. Traditions help pave the way for how a season is going to be played out.

In Minnesota and Wisconsin,

border battles are a huge part of Division I collegiate sports. One of the first major clashes of the school year took place last weekend in Madison and the rivalry was as hot as ever.

The Minnesota Golden Gophers traveled to Madison to take on Bucky and his team of Badgers. Besides the traditional border battle, these two teams played for the traditional traveling trophy.

Every season, these two teams play to bring home Paul Bunyan's Axe until the next season's match-up takes place, along with bragging rights to claim your team is the best Big Ten team in the two states.

This season the two teams faced off for the title for the 58th time. The Badgers have taken home the axe in 10 out of the last 12 attempts. The rivalry between the two teams is known as one of the best in the entire country. Following the game, the team who wins will be given

the trophy to display at their home stadium.

This season, the generally top-notch, Bowl-worthy Gophers have been looking flat, so when they traveled to Madison, it was sure to be a tough game.

The Badgers, ranked one of the top teams in the country, were expected to beat the maroon and gold down at Camp Randall.

That they did.

Wisconsin made Minnesota sorry that they traveled all the way to Madison. The Badgers walked all over the Gophers with a 48-12 score, sending the visiting team home ashamed.

Paul Bunyan's Axe is snug in its home in Madison for another year.

Here in River Falls, unfortunately, I don't see as many traditions. I don't see as many fans caring about them. Maybe I'm wrong and they do exist, but in almost two and a half years here, I haven't seen any.

Even in high school we had

traditions. We had big rivals and heated battles. During each year of my high school career, my school's hockey team played a neighboring city at least twice a season with the potential of meeting once again in the playoffs. Students would go all out to cheer for their team, painting their faces, losing their voices and sometimes getting a little mean.

Traditionally, fights would break out and mean things would be said. We would each get lectured and told to behave better next time. But in high school would you ever listen? Not very likely.

I was always one of the good fans who just went to cheer for the rivalry and have a good time, and it was scary to see people take a hockey game too far.

One of the most heated battles I see each year here at River Falls, is the men's hockey team against UW-Superior. It seems like both teams always play

each other at crucial points in the season, usually when both teams are vying for a conference title.

The two teams play their best in an attempt to get better placement in WIAC and have a better chance at getting a top spot in the playoffs.

As much as I enjoy sports traditions, they're also easy to get sick of. People don't know when to quit.

It's just so easy to get wrapped up in the sport that you just keep going. So as good as traditions can be, it's necessary to make sure they aren't overwhelming.

I love to cheer, watch my favorite teams and have fun. I love watching Paul Bunyan's Axe being presented to the winning team and the celebrations unfold.

Traditions help make sports what they are.

But most importantly, they need to be carried out with as much class as possible.

End of regular season nears

Sarah Packingham
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The UW-River Falls Falcons played three games in the last week and came away with a 2-1 record, improving their overall record 9-3-2 and bringing their WIAC record to 5-1-0.

Games started on Oct. 13 at Bethel. Falcon senior Ashley Peterson kicked off the scoring for the game and that was all the offense the Falcons were going to get, even though they had the shot advantage 23-11.

On Saturday, the Falcons traveled to UW-Stevens Point to take on the Pointers in a key WIAC game. With just 16 minutes remaining in the game, senior Amy Jensen scored to break the 0-0 tie and give the Falcons the 1-0 win.

On Tuesday, the Falcons

See Women's soccer page 7

Fighting Cocks take a beating from Angry Beavers

Men's rugby falls to Bemidji State team

Sarah Packingham
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On Oct. 14, the UW-River Falls Fighting Cocks men's rugby team played in the Minnesota Rugby Div. III League Championship game in Eagan, Minn., and although they did not win, they put up a good fight.

River Falls took on the Bemidji State Angry Beavers in the championship game and lost by a score of 12-10. This was the first time since 2003 the Fighting Cocks played for the title. Back in 2003, a year the team went undefeated, they won the title.

"It was a very close game and we ended up taking second place with a score of 10-12," Tyler Stevens said. "This was frustrating because we could have won, but it just didn't happen for us. It was still a good game, and all of our guys played their best."

Fifth year player, Stephan GrandPre said he thought the team played well, but the Fighting Cocks suffered the heartbreaking loss in the end.

"Bemidji started out strong and capitalized on some penalties scoring the first try and going up 0-5. The Fighting Cocks slowed down the game and played to their traditional style, dominating with strong pack play," GrandPre said. "The hard work, strong rucking, and dominant scrums of the forwards combined with the quick passing and illusive running of the back line to help UW-RF's Tom Johnson score the next two tries, putting the Fighting Cocks ahead of the Angry Beavers 10-5...unfortunately the Bemidji backline scored on a long breakaway and by converting the try Bemidji went up 10-12."

Up until that time, the men had played seven games and won all of them to secure their spot in the championship game. Three games were in the All Minnesota Tournament and the remaining four were league games. River Falls won all four of their league games.

In the league, they beat St. Mary's 44-5, Carleton 35-5, Southwest State 14-7



The UW-River Falls Fighting Cocks men's rugby team poses for a team picture following one of its four league wins earlier this season. The Fighting Cocks were undefeated in league play and made it to the championship game, losing 12-10 to the Bemidji State Angry Beavers.

and Gustavus 25-12.

"This strong season was not without its hardships including many injuries to some key players," GrandPre said. "Our current team is led by several fifth year students but is supported by a strong base of first and second year players. The future looks very bright for these experienced underclassmen as they look to lead the Fighting Cocks to further success."

The team was very close this season and it is possible that the way they all got along helped the team do so well this season.

"Our teammates are really great," Travis Moe said. "We had a good group

of rookies this year who played well throughout the season, and it will be really hard to replace some of our veteran players who are graduating."

For veteran players like GrandPre, being a member of the rugby team has meant a lot to him.

"The team is a tightly knit group and strong friendships are built. My teammates become some of my best friends," GrandPre said. "I was proud to play my 50th game for River Falls next to longtime teammates Tom Johnson, Joe Bayer and with injured Dietz Peterson coaching us from the sidelines. These are the players that I will cherish my memories of playing

with and look forward to hopefully a few more games alongside them."

If there are two things that set rugby apart from other sports, they are the camaraderie and the toughness of the game.

"Rugby is a unique sport because of the social aspect with other teams afterwards. You can be playing the game and ready to fight every one of their players, but once the match is over you go to the social and it is all forgotten on the pitch," Stevens said. "You sing the great rugby songs, eat some food and you hang out with all the other players who are just as sore as you, no matter what team they are from. It is also

unique because it is so physical and we still don't need to use pads to soften the blows."

The Fighting Cocks are scheduled to have a scrimmage against UW-Eau Claire this weekend, so practice will continue for one more week and then they will have some time off.

"After that we will play again in the spring season," Stevens said. "Practice will start in late February or early March."

The Fighting Cocks will play another half dozen games or so in the spring.

The games could possibly include the long-standing All Saints Tournament in St. Cloud, Minn.

Soccer club hopes to kick into varsity

Ben Brewster
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UW-RF has had varsity women's soccer since 1994, but there has never been a men's team. Last year though, a group of students decided to try and change that. Currently there is an active club team that was started by senior Tony McFarlane. He said it started with an idea three years ago with the intent of eventually becoming a varsity team, but didn't become serious until last fall.

McFarlane set up the team and did the talking with the officials in the activities department. He was also able to obtain funding from Kurran Sagan at the Leadership Center for things like referees and buses, and was helped out by the women's head coach Sean McKuras who gave them balls and other equipment.

Sophomores Alex Hovde and

Thiago Scolari found out about the team last fall at the involvement fair on campus. They helped to generate more interest by posting flyers in Rodli, the Student Center and through e-mail. The team has since grown to 18 players and holds tryouts.

McFarlane says the team is very energetic and loves the sport. This year they've had some new freshman joining the team, but with several seniors graduating they will be looking for players next year.

Hovde and Scolari are also co-captains of the team along with McFarlane and sophomore Dustin Engh. Since McFarlane is a senior he will be taking over the team next year, along with his duties of talking to officials and fundraising. This year the team paid \$1,200 for new uniforms out of their own pockets, and next year they have to raise \$3,000 for league fees, equipment, referees, buses and fields.

The team is planning on doing

a fundraiser such as a bake sale or through a local business like Applebee's or Dairy Queen. They are also the acting coaches of the team. The team is currently without a coach and is in desperate need of one. Their best candidate right now is a former Woodbury High School coach. Senior Kyle Reimann said that not having a coach is the toughest thing about being on a club team. He says that coaches provide direction and order and keep the players committed.

The team's season started a week into the school year and goes until the weather gets too cold, at which point they will be part of an indoor league that plays at Bielenberg Sports Center in Woodbury, Minn. They practice at the intramural fields and play their games at Ramer Field.

The team only played three games this year. Their last game was played last Thursday at Ramer against UW-Eau Claire.

Earlier in the year they beat UW-Stout at Ramer and lost to them at their field in Menomonie.

The team is getting closer to becoming a varsity squad. Hovde said he hopes the team achieves varsity status by his senior year. To reach this feat, the team must play at least six games in a season, have a set roster of 18 to 20 players and have people show up to their games. They need support to prove the team is serious.

Title IX is perhaps the teams' biggest obstacle though. All universities need to have an equal number of men's and women's varsity teams. In order to become a varsity team, a women's club team must gain varsity recognition as well. The best candidate right now is women's rugby. The team is definitely heading in the right direction though, and Hovde says "we won't stop until we have a varsity team."

Ready for winter?
Check out the
Student Voice
next week for a
preview of the
2006-2007
UW-River Falls
men's hockey
team.

Diversity groups coordinate costume party

Keighla Schmidt
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Ghosts, witches, superheroes and otherwise are all invited to celebrate diversity at the Diversity Awareness Committee (DAC) Haunted Halloween weekend dance party and costume contest on Friday, Oct. 27. The party is held in the South Fork Suites conference room from 9 p.m. until midnight.

Admission is \$1 or one non-perishable food item to be donated to the River Falls food shelf. The event is sponsored by DAC and run by all of the diversity organizations at UW-River Falls.

Ashley Olson, DAC chairperson, said costume contests are scheduled every half hour, and a different diversity organization will award a prize and explain what the group does. The event is not only to commemorate Halloween and get people together, but also to highlight all the student organizations cele-

brating diversity on campus. "I'm really excited because it's the first event all of the diversity orgs collaborated on," Olson said. All students are encouraged to attend the party. "It's an opportunity to meet and learn about the different groups and people on campus," Olson said.

The reason a costume party was chosen as the joining forces affair is because, "It's a neutral event to get a lot of people there," Olson said. "It's social, so people can meet others and get interested in what we're all about."

Miriam Huffman, who advised DAC until recently, said the group often got the diversity organizations together to get them familiar and comfortable with each other. This is the first event to get the campus familiar with them while they are all together. "They'd bring in facilitators to gauge things on campus,"

Huffman said. "Newsletters would be sent out for the diversities to be aware of each other. There was no purely social gathering before."

Taking over for Huffman, Karyn Kling is the current advisor of DAC.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Kling said. "It's about all of the diversity orgs coming together for the entire campus."

One of the participating diversity organizations is the Black Student Union (BSU).

BSU President Tony Anderson said he likes the idea of getting involved with the party because BSU is trying make itself more visible to the campus, as wells as collaborating with the other diversity organizations.

"This is one opportunity to get out on campus and be visible," Anderson said. "This is an opportunity to get out there and open doors for future opportunities."

When its BSU's turn to judge the costumes, Anderson, who is

planning to show up in Peter Pan attire, said he is anticipating the organization to judge based on best or most unique style.

Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) is another diversity organization participating in the holiday celebration. GSA President Lacey Felmlee said she has similar aspirations as Anderson for the party's goals.

"It's a collective effort," Felmlee said. "It will also show that there is diversity on campus."

Felmlee said she hopes the organizations will show growth from familiarizing with each other to getting the word out on campus-wide cooperation.

Aside from BSU and GSA, the Asian American Student Association, Community Action Theatre Troupe, Native American Council, International Student Association, and Latino Student Organization are all planning to participate in the Halloween costume contest and dance party.

Charity aims to help children in need

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For many children, Christmas signals the arrival of Santa Claus and the promise of shiny new presents. But for those living in impoverished areas around the world, the idea of receiving a gift is almost impossible to imagine.

The fourth annual Operation Christmas Child charitable drive on the UW-River Falls campus is aimed toward bringing a little holiday cheer to children in need.

The purpose of the campaign is to collect toys, school supplies, toiletries and other non-perishable items. Gathered into shoeboxes, the items will be sent as Christmas gifts to poverty-stricken children ages 2-14 all over the globe.

Cultural Awareness Through Talking and Sharing (CATTS) has joined forces with the Native American Council (NAC) to organize and promote the drive, which runs until Nov. 13.

CATTS Co-President Carol Xiong said while everybody on the UW-RF campus is free to contribute, student participation is especially desired.

"We're trying to do a student effort here," Xiong said. "We're trying to get the students involved."

Donation boxes have been placed in all of the residence halls, the Davee Library, the Student Center, Rodli Commons, North and South Halls, and Career Services for students to leave contributions, Xiong said.

A box has also been placed at Freeman Drug Store, 104 S. Main St., for people in River Falls who wish to help out.

Monetary donations of \$7 are also being accepted. The amount covers the shipping and handling charges of each shoebox, Xiong said. Envelopes are located at every donation site.

This campus crusade is just a small part of a larger worldwide effort.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse. According to the mission statement on its Web site, Samaritan's Purse is "a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world."

International Operation Christmas Child collection efforts last year yielded more than 7.6 million shoeboxes,



Beth Dickman/ Student Voice
UW-RF student Ruzin Mirza, right, and CATTS Advisor Linda Alvarez decorate a donation box with wrapping paper.

which were sent to children in 95 countries, according to the Web site.

In addition to providing hope to millions of disadvantaged children worldwide, Operation Christmas Child acts as a mission for spreading the word of Jesus Christ.

Along with the shoebox gifts, children are given Gospel booklets in their own languages, the Web site said.

CATTS and NAC advisor Linda Alvarez said the project's Christian affiliation is not the main reason for the student organizations' participation.

"[The affiliation] was less important to the [organizations] than the other aspects of the program, which is clean water, literacy, food distribution, and AIDS and reproductive education," she said.

Xiong said she believes the religious aspect of the project is a good thing, but that it shouldn't deter students from getting involved.

"It doesn't require anyone to be Christian to help these children," Xiong said.

CATTS held its first Operation Christmas Child drive on the UW-RF campus in 2003. Efforts were coordinated by previous

Co-President Micaela Rodriguez, who had participated in the program at her high school, Alvarez said.

The discovery that a CATTS member had benefited from the program as a child helped to inspire the group's involvement.

The member, former UW-RF student Zer Vang, received a shoebox gift during his stay in a Thai refugee resettlement camp, Alvarez said.

"[Zer] really sort of impacted the group because it was the first time he had ever gotten a present in his life," she said.

"But more than that," Alvarez said, "[Zer] found it absolutely incredible that someone on the other side of the planet would be interested in what was happening to him."

The campaign that first year was a success, with more than 400 shoeboxes collected, she said.

Due to the overwhelming response to the inaugural effort, CATTS decided to make the project a yearly affair.

The NAC has come on board to help with the 2006 drive.

NAC President Trista Maulson said the group decided to join the effort because members thought it was a worthy cause.

"The reason why we want to get involved is because we want to show that we care, not just as an organization but as a campus," Maulson said. "It's not something that we have to do, but it's something that we really want to do."

Invitations have been sent to all of the residence halls and student organizations on campus for wrapping parties on Nov. 13 and 14, she said.

The parties will take place in the Multicultural Student Programming Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on both days.

Shoeboxes will be filled with the items gathered from the donation boxes, then wrapped and delivered to the Operation Christmas Child distribution center in Woodbury, Minn., Alvarez said.

Donations of shoeboxes, wrapping paper, Scotch tape, paper tissue and large rubber bands are being accepted for the parties, she said.

When asked whether they would contribute, UW-RF students gave positive responses.

Freshman Dorian Strother said he plans to give because he feels empathy for the children's plight.

"I can see the situation they're in," Strother said. "I've been blessed enough to have gifts."

Sophomore Zach Mast said he agrees with the drive's mission.

"I think it's a good thing to do — providing presents for people that don't get that much in other countries," he said.

Mast also said he thinks donating is something his fellow students can afford to do, citing dollar store purchases as cheap and effective ways of contributing.

Sophomore Jasmine Engler said she likes that the drive is taking place on campus, which makes it easier for her to "seek out."

"A lot of us don't have the transportation necessary to go to a different charity," she said. "Whereas with [the drive], we can simply go and find cheaper toys and still give within our price range."

Maulson said she believes in the importance of people everywhere having a happy holiday season.

"Everyone deserves a good Christmas, whether you're here in the United States or you're across the world," Maulson said.

WIS: Program offers cultural emergence

from page 2

student Colleen Rooney and UW-RF students Sarah Sorensen and Ben Simonsen are a few of the students currently studying in the country.

Rooney went to Scotland through UW-RF as a transfer student. "Right now I have classes Monday through Thursday and get to travel any weekend I want," Rooney said in an e-mail. "[WIS] is nothing compared to any other program through any other university."

Sorensen said she was excited for a trip the group had planned last weekend.

"There was a house trip last weekend to the Castles of Northumberland, where many parts of Harry Potter were filmed," Sorensen said in an e-mail.

WIS organizes field trips for the group, provides host families if students choose that option and offers internships in Scotland.

One student had an internship with the Scottish Parliament, Greene said.

"What's great is that we get three-day weekends, two four-day weekends, and a 10-day break to travel," Simonsen said. "Many of us will be going to Italy for our break."

"We designed the program specifically to allow cultural emergence and experience," Greene said. "It serves as a good launching pad for global experience. The only way we are going to have hope for peace is if we get to know other cultures."

UW-RF students Kelsey Salstrom and Kennedy Cullen went to Scotland last semester, and said the program was successful in fulfilling its purpose.

"I was really able to experience the culture by volunteering in town and taking advantage of the cheap airfare to see the world," Salstrom said.

Cullen said she agrees that WIS offers a good cultural experience. "I learned a lot about other cultures and was able to get to know some of the local people in Scotland," Cullen said. "I loved traveling to different countries each weekend and getting to know another country a little more in depth than you would a normal vacation."

It is also easy to see why some people claim WIS doesn't provide enough of a cultural experience, Salstrom said. Participants live in a big palace with about 70 other UW students and are taught almost entirely by UW professors.

"But the semester abroad is entirely what you make of it, and you can either hop right into the Scottish culture or stay more within your comfort zone of American culture," she said.

Chancellor Don Betz toured Scotland with students, staff and faculty in August for a leadership training course.

"Scotland is historically rich and beautiful, and is an incredible and enriching experience," Betz said. "I cannot think of a better place to study."

WIS provides an opportunity for students to develop individual growth, Program Assistant Flossie Hughes said.

"Students realize they can make it on their own without being an hour away from home," Greene said.

Salstrom said the program as a safe middle ground for students.

"It is a good study abroad opportunity that provides a safe middle ground for those students that want the experience but aren't quite ready to delve into a completely foreign culture," Salstrom said.

WIS is the biggest international program offered on campus, and was founded in 1986.

Ag Science: Students explore program

from page 2

attended Vincent High School. He was chosen to take a week-long trip to the UW-RF campus, and from there slid into the program. Anderson said he enjoys working outside and in the future would like to pursue a career in marketing communications.

"I hope someday I will be a play-by-play announcer for the Milwaukee Admirals," Anderson said.

Freshman Sarah Nielsen from Maplewood, Minn., heard about the program through her high school advisor while searching for scholarships. She said she enjoys the agriculture field because it is "different and interesting," she said. She would like to pursue career in biotechnology.

The final recipient, freshman Ted Cannady from Milwaukee, attended Vincent High School and enrolled in the scholarship program during his second semester at UW-RF. He heard about the program from geology professor Bob Baker, who encouraged him to major in agricultural business. Cannady has been interested in environmental science since his freshman year in high school and would like to manage an agricultural business someday.

"I am pleased with the program," Cannady said. "My professors and my advisor are treating me pretty well."

The four students will visit their high schools once a year to tell other students about the UW scholarship program in hopes of recruiting them.

"I hope that this great program will become an on-going program for the University," Taylor said.

The University also plans to work with the students to get them involved in agriculture internships that offer hands-on experience.



Beth Dickman/ Student Voice
Scholarship recipients, left to right, are Ted Cannady, Howard Anderson, Lakiesha Townsel and Sarah Nielsen.

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Play brings dating problems to the stage

Shalena Janis
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Love, humor and ultimate humiliation are a great mix for a play, but the classical comedy “She Stoops to Conquer” has a different style.

“It’s a laughing comedy with a complex plot that ties everything together,” said Gorden Hedahl, director and theater professor. “It has stood the test of time and still has that neat history within it.”

The performance will be in the Blanche Davis Theatre of Kleinpell Fine Arts Building Oct. 19-21 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$12 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors.

The theater department chose the play because in a four-year cycle, every play must have a different genre to it, he said. If a student stays at UW-River Falls for their entire four-year degree and attends every play each semester, they will have seen four major different varieties of material.

“I have been teaching theater for 36 years and did four shows before the fall of 2005,” Hedahl said about his experience of directing. “I want to finish my career focusing on theater; it’s a different kind of energy.”

The premise of the play is based on a younger gentleman who is interested in a courtship with a young lady, but can’t bring himself to talk to her, Hedahl said.

According to Hedahl’s director’s notes, playwright Oliver Goldsmith wrote the play as a “laughing comedy” in response to the “sentimental comedies” that had been so popular in the 18th century.

“With his brilliantly complicated plot based on misunderstandings, practical jokes, mistaken identities, and commentary on the customs and manners of the time, Goldsmith created a new model for comedies based on a ‘portrait of human folly and frailty,’” Hedahl stated in his notes. “All of the strands of the plot are wonderfully tied up and tied together, and by the end of the evening we hope that the only tears shed are those of Mrs. Hardcastle, whose plots and plans are happily foiled. We hope that you enjoy the play.”

Character Kate Hartcastle is played by River Falls native Dana Clausen, who moved to New York City right after high school.



Dana Clausen and Mike McKay practice for this fall’s drama production. ‘Conquer’ is McKay’s last theater performance as a UW-RF student.

Submitted photo

“I have been in many, many plays and musicals — I actually couldn’t tell you an exact number,” she said. “It’s probably somewhere in the neighborhood of 30.”

The main character then misrecognizes her as a barmaid while dressed as a less-sophisticated woman, but in turn she stoops him because she knows he is shy around her.

“It is so similar still today with all the confusion of responding between men and women,” Hedahl said. “The blind date aspect of the play is just like what young people are doing today.”

Mike McKay, an avid actor in many theater productions, is taking on his last role during his career at UW-RF, as he is graduating in December, Hedahl said.

“He has had a number of leading roles, like in ‘Rocky,’ ‘Cabaret,’” he said. “Everything has ranged from serious plays like ‘Two Rooms.’ I have seen him do a whole range of things.”

Hedahl said he directed McKay’s first play, and he has been involved on stage in significant roles ever since he started at UW-RF.

Not only are there veteran actors in the cast, but many first-year students auditioned and received major roles in the play, he said. The actors come from all different majors.

Clausen is a first-year music major. “I hope to be in many more productions while I’m attending UW-RF,” Clausen said. “I think we have a quality theater program with a lot of talented professor directors and student actors.”

Ever since she won a tap dancing duet with her sister, she said she fell in love with performing. Since then, Clausen has trained with some of the best vocal, dance and acting instructors in the Twin Cities and New York City, including Children’s Theatre Company, Broadway Dance Center, and the American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

“It is a good mix of actors,” Hedahl said. “They are working very hard in a very short period of time.”

The cast began working Sept. 17, reviewing the script and working on lines Thursdays through Sundays, he said.

“It’s only been one month of working on this play,” Hedahl said. “It’s been pretty quick with people working very hard for three hours a night.”

Tickets are on sale now at the University Box Office. The phone number for the office is 715-425-3114 or 1-800-228-5423. Visit the Web site at www.uwrf.edu/scta.

Never Shave Again Tour gets wild crowd



Erik Wood

Fine Line Music Café. Oct. 14. The Never Shave Again Tour. A line-up of bands Silverstein, Aiden, along with The Devil Wears Prada, and The Stick Up.

With the tour just beginning a day prior in Milwaukee, each band gave 110 percent. The show erupted with the sounds of Ontario’s own The Stick Up. For an opening band, it was shocking to see how talented the entire band was. Good, solid rock music. Overall, the set played was solid and lively. The moshing began immediately, thanks to an all-ages show being put in place only days before the event.

After a surprising performance, almost instantly the second band appeared on the stage. What was expected to be a pop-

punk act with an inference from name only totally rocked the roof off the Fine Line. Howling death metal screams, insane keyboard melodies and mind-boggling hardcore breakdowns, The Devil Wears Prada put the crowd into a moshing rage. Bodies continued to fly everywhere as circle pits exploded everywhere. Rockers everywhere were getting on all fours to have others leap onto the crowd to keep up with the amount of body surfing.

As the last howl echoed on from front man Mike Hranica, the crowd came to a wallowing calm as the set closed and the stage emptied.

Next up was Victory Records’ newly found flagship band Aiden, a terrible live four-piece post-hardcore, gothcore, punk band with a fan base I cannot even understand. Lead vocal Wil Francis leapt around the stage frantically while swinging the mic, which he proclaimed he would break by the end of the set. To sum

it up lightly, the band was absolutely horrid. Sketchy vocals and etchy guitars plagued the stage with an obnoxious stage presence. It’s one thing to move around showing that you love what you do, but having a stage prop totally set aside for members to jump on and off of to look cool? Please spare me from erupting in laughter at a show, thanks. During the smash hit “Die Romantic,” a medieval battle scene took place as the crowd separated to polar opposite sides of the floor, and on a count from Wil, chaos broke loose. But as said before, stage presence is one thing, but your music actually has to be good.

Finally, the moment all of Fine Line was waiting for — the headlining band, also a part of Victory Records, took the stage as the crowd exploded with excitement.

With a little tour prelude, the sounds of

Howling death metal screams, insane keyboard melodies and mind-boggling hardcore breakdowns...



The Never Shave Again Tour stopped in Minneapolis to rock Fine Line Music Café.

“Your Sword Versus My Dagger” smashed into the ears of Minneapolis. Lights flaring and the sheer howls of Shane Told shattering eardrums, the crowd erupted into circle pits. Playing everything ranging from “Already Dead” to the greatly anticipated but also expected “Bleeds No More,” Silverstein obviously has what it takes to play with the big boys.

With Wil from Aiden appearing in the encore, as usual, both front

men were engulfed in the Minneapolis crowd as the final screams subsided and mics were thrown down with a silent exit. The Never Shave Again Tour continues on throughout late November, with guest appearances including Scary Kids Scaring Kids, It Dies Today and He is Legend.

Unfortunately all Midwest tour dates are over by now, but before you know it they will be back and most likely better than this time — if that’s possible.

‘Jesus Camp’ leaves viewers with opposing opinions



Nick Welsh

In the past I’ve always enjoyed seeing documentaries because you realize the story being told is often true. But in the case of “Jesus Camp,” that wasn’t so.

This particular documentary covers the Evangelical Christian community in the United States by looking at a summer camp in North Dakota where children are taught the fundamentals. Here children arrive from all over the country to learn more about God and to test their devotion.

Becky Fischer started the camp and has run it for a few years now. Though I didn’t think of it at first, by the end of the film I realized how much of a religious fanatic she was. For example, in a conference room before a meeting she prayed about the chairs, the electricity so it wouldn’t go out and even her PowerPoint presentation!

Not only that, but I’ve never seen so much pro-Bush propaganda.

Kids who were interviewed often came from deeply religious families educated through homeschooling, taught that science doesn’t explain anything, evolution is untrue and global warming isn’t a reality.

Throughout the film an underlying message of an “army of God” comes up again and again — even the first shots of the film show children in unison waving sticks like

swords while covered in paint.

I hate to admit it, but there were times where I thought these kids were being trained as soldiers of God out to do his bidding as if they were preparing for a repeat of the Holy Crusades back in the middle ages. By the way the adults talked, it’s as if they’re at war against Islam as well as the U.S. government for taking prayer out of schools.

Fischer tells impressionable young children that in Middle Eastern countries kids at age five are taught to use guns and grenades, almost as if they must be trained. Whatever happened to the age-old tradition of camping, fishing and canoeing at summer camp?

Not only that, but I’ve never seen so much pro-Bush propaganda. For example, a cutout of the president is presented in the front of the room where children are told he’s a great man because he too is a born-again Christian, and these kids ought to come near it to feel some supernatural presence.

When this happened, the entire room erupted in laughter. Apparently those portrayed aren’t aware of the atrocities his administration has done in recent years.

Even Harry Potter was under fire. Fischer yells out, “Warlocks are enemies of God! In the Old Testament Harry Potter would have been put to death!” Apparently she doesn’t realize he is what we would call a fictional character.

Fischer even calls a conservative radio show promoting the indoctrination of American children everywhere as God-fearing Christians while dismissing democracy. Instead, according to Fischer, there should be a ruling religion over the government, which sounded similar to the Taliban.

Though it supposed to be taken

seriously, the audience was laughing as if it were a comedy. I asked people and they all agreed how ridiculous it was. Simply put, this documentary revealed to us how people believe in something so much. It’s mind-boggling.

Once the film ended someone yelled out, “God that was terrifying!” Another dubbed it, “The best horror movie of the season.”

Instead of persuading the audience, it dismissed them in a uniformed fashion.



Jenna Lee

It would be easy to say that this film is just a sad portrayal of brainwashed little redneck children. But to look at it that way would be to miss a more important issue.



Ratings for movies are based on a scale from one to five. A film that scores five stars is worth seeing at least once. A film that scores one star is horribly acted or directed with no substance.



Nick is a senior studying history. He enjoys watching comic book superhero movies.



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

This movie was completely intense, but very important to understanding a new population of Americans. Throughout the movie, the kids are called “The most important generation in American history.”

It is a pretty big responsibility for a 10 year old.

When I walked out of the theater I started looking at the kids who were riding bikes past me in a completely different way — somewhere between awe and fear. Can you imagine not being able to tell ghost stories?

Can you say that the study of science is all just made up and doesn’t answer any questions?

I can’t, but for the kids in the documentary “Jesus Camp,” those are two fundamental beliefs in their Evangelical way of life.

And if you think this film is just about religion, then you are just as naïve as the kids in the movie.

The timeframe set for the film is when President Bush nominated Sam Alito Jr. for the Supreme Court last year. It may not have seemed like a big deal, but I was unaware how overjoyed conservatives were.

Throughout the film, we are reminded of the political importance of Evangelical Christians because clips from religious talk radio shows are played to praise the nomination as a sign from God.

Ted Haggard, a preacher and the president of the National Association of Evangelicals, is interviewed in the film saying that if all the Evangelicals voted, they would win every election — as if they were making their religion a political party. Mike Papantonio, a nationally syndicated radio host, offers the opposing, but as

forceful commentary.

While the overall tone of “Jesus Camp” is political, the focus is on the kids.

Becky Fischer is a Pentecostal children’s minister who runs a summer bible camp in North Dakota called “Kids on Fire.” Here, they are trained to pray for “righteous judges” who will overturn Roe vs. Wade.

They smash dinnerware as a symbol of how they will break the government’s hold over them. They even touch a cardboard cutout of George Bush to “feel his power.”

I feel totally cheated that my summer camp memories only involve tetherball and sneaking off to skinny dip at night!

Twelve-year-old Levi is a young preacher (with a wicked rat tail, might I add) who is probably the most articulate of the kids we follow through the film. At one point Fischer asks him when he got “saved.”

And if you think this film is just about religion, then you are just as naïve as the kids in the movie.

Levi says, “At five I got saved ... because I just wanted more of life.”

The other kids, 10-year-old Tory and 9-year-old Rachel, are seen several times in the film sobbing and speaking in tongue, but they don’t seem to truly understand why they believe the things they do.

Can you really blame them? This documentary is not shown in every theater because it is not the same fluff you’ve been spoon-fed before.

You’ll have to make a trip to the cities if you’re interested in learning more about the direction this country is going. I think that is worth the gas money.

“Jesus Camp” was overwhelming to my heart and soul. When the credits started rolling, my eyes were welling up. I’ll let you decide why.

