



\$3 million renovation will spruce up Ramer Field

Vaccine for HPV now available at River Falls Clinic

Falcons beat No. 1 St. Norbert



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UWRF pays price to stop plagiarism

Nick Sortedahl
nicholas.sortedahl@uwrf.edu

A year ago UW-River Falls English professor Steve Luebke tediously sifted through papers trying to determine if they had been legitimately written.

"I had concerns about plagiarism," he said. "I was concerned that I wasn't always catching it."

Luebke tried running passages through Google to see if any of his suspicions were correct, but the process was time consuming and typically fruitless.

Then, in the spring, administrators in the College of Arts and Sciences decided to pay \$6,000 for the use of Turnitin.com.

Turnitin.com allows registered users to turn in their research papers and have them cross-referenced with an extensive database of scholarly work. The paper is then given an originality report, which is provided to both students and professors. The Web site also allows professors to attach comments and grade papers online.

Luebke was one of 13 UWRF professors who used Turnitin.com spring semester and has been very impressed with the site's services.

"It's not just something where you can say 'I gotcha,'" he said. "It's also a learning tool for writing."

During its trial run, more than 900 UWRF students were required to use the Internet resource aimed at deterring academic dishonesty.

CAS Dean Terry Brown decided to fund the use of Turnitin.com because she believed it would raise the level of academic integrity on campus.

"I have had experience with people deliberately plagiarizing," Brown said. "This is about raising the bar for academic performance here."

See Turnitin.com, page 3



UWRF student Katie Mattison pays for her purchase at Econo Foods with her credit card. Plastic has become a popular form of payment for college students across the nation, with UWRF being no exception.

Kenny Yoo

Charge it

College students rack up credit card debt

Samantha Wenwoi
samantha.wenwoi@uwrf.edu

It was an appealing offer in the mail that enticed UW-River Falls sophomore Jake Grovum to get his first credit card.

The Visa, which was offered through his bank, promised the 19-year-old overdraft protection on his checking account.

"If I had \$20 in my checking account and used my check card for something that was \$25, the bank would charge the difference to my credit card," he said. "It seemed like a pretty good deal at the time."

Grovum said he usually pulls out his credit card to pay for clothing or when he is "unsure how much money I have in my checking account."

But after accruing about \$500 in debt, the sophomore is considering cutting his plastic in half.

"I just think credit cards allow you to buy things you obviously can't afford and usually don't need," he said. "That's a dangerous combination."

At UWRF, Grovum's experience is common.

Credit card ownership is the norm, rather than the exception, on campus.

Approximately 60 percent of students possess at least one, according to the 2006 results of the American Health Association National College Health Assessment.

The highest concentration of campus credit card debt falls between \$500 and \$999, which means Grovum's deficit is not out of the ordinary.

Usually obtained for convenience or in case of financial emergency, students report that obtaining a credit card is particularly effortless.

A U.S. Department of Education study found almost half of all college students are inundated with credit card offers on a daily or weekly basis.

Bob Casey, branch manager of the WESTconsin Credit Union, said there are a couple of reasons why credit card companies are targeting this particular demographic.

See Debt, page 3

College life is all fun and video gaming

Jennie Oemig
jennifer.oemig@uwrf.edu

In a generation when the terms gigabyte, podcast and blog are used in everyday conversation, it

is not uncommon to walk into a dorm room and find multiple video game consoles situated among packages of ramen noodles, leftover pizza and empty beer cans.

UW-River Falls is no different. And the number of students and the amount of time they spend playing video games, as well as online games, is steadily increasing as technology continues to develop.

The introduction of new, more advanced gaming consoles continues to entice people to try their hand at games like Guitar Hero 2, Halo 2 and Madden 2007.

Two new consoles were released last month, creating a stir at local department stores and intriguing gamers to shell out more than \$500 to take home one of the systems.

Sony introduced two versions of PlayStation 3 (PS3) on Nov. 17, with limited numbers of consoles offered in department stores. A 60GB PS3 is priced at \$599, while the version with a 20GB hard drive costs \$499. The limited availability and high demand for the systems

resulted in consumers standing outside stores nationwide to obtain one of the consoles.

Sophomore Kyle Bruggenthies said he was going to wait outside to ensure he received one of the consoles, but decided against the idea.

"I think they are both decent systems, albeit the PS3 is heavily overpriced," he said. "Yet Sony still takes a loss on each console sold."

Though the PS3 was just released, Sony executives are already at work planning the next PlayStation console. On the PS3 Web site, Paul Holman, vice president of technology for Sony Computer Entertainment Europe, announced plans are underway for the release of PlayStation 4 after 2010.

Two days after the PS3 was released, Nintendo introduced the Wii system. With 512MB of

See Gaming, page 3



Lorin Jacobs, left, and Travis Engel play Guitar Hero II in the comfort of their dorm room at 116 Crabtree Hall.

Kenny Yoo

Professor evaluation to undergo changes

Blair Bengs

blair.bengs@uwrf.edu

As the end of the semester draws near, UW-River Falls students can be assured of one thing — upcoming professor evaluations will give them the opportunity to either reward teachers they enjoyed or slam the ones they didn't.

While evaluations are an inevitable part of each semester, UWRF junior Lynn Schneider said she is in favor of a change in the process.

"Evaluations, as is, are not in the least effective," Schneider said. "Instructor evaluations need to have a section where issues can be addressed, such as course content and how a class is conducted."

Though the business administration major said the instructor ratings are "a very poor measurement" of how professors are doing, she does have a solution to the problem.

"Give students an opportunity to voice opinion — even just a few lines," she said about the lack of a comment area on the current evaluation forms.

It appears Schneider is not the only one who ponders the usefulness of the eight-question instructor evaluation forms.

Provost Charlie Hurt said there is a key factor in the question of worthwhile evaluations — the difference of opinion.

"It depends on who is asking," Hurt said. "They can be incredibly effective if a faculty member chooses to use them as an element in course improvement. Can students or others see immediate improvement? Not as often as they and others might want."

Hurt can sum up his overall thoughts on the current evaluations in two sentences.

"Effective? Yes, to a point," he said. "Perfect? No."

To combat this issue, Hurt said the University will take steps to improve the quality of evaluations.

"We are looking at a number of ways they could be improved," he said. "I will be working with Faculty Senate and with Student Senate in the spring to see what steps we can take."

Faculty Senate Chair Wes Chapin said while instructor evaluations will be undergoing some changes, the current process is still a valuable one.

"Because UWRF is a teaching-oriented university, we take course evaluations very seriously, and they are a component in retention and promotion decisions for faculty," he said. "They can serve as one tool of several that help faculty to ascertain whether they are teaching students effectively."

To gauge the levels of how UWRF students are being taught, Chapin said the group is involved with determining how professors will be rated.

"The Faculty Senate approves standard course evaluations used

See Evaluation, page 3

Campus, community show appreciation for Chiefs

Amber Jurek
amber.jurek@uwrf.edu

In honor of the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club's dedication to UW-River Falls, the University will present the organization with the Outstanding Service Award during the fall commencement ceremony Dec. 16.

Chiefs Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Denny Thum will accept the award.

"[The organization] is very excited to receive the award," Thum said. "We have had a great relationship over the past 16 years with the University and the community."

The Chiefs have been holding training camp at UWRF for 16 years, and the organization was

nominated for the award because of its significant contribution to the University and the River Falls community.

"The Chiefs have benefited the University and community in so many ways," said Mary Halada, vice chancellor for administration and finance. "To me, the greatest advantage is the students' experience that is associated with [the team's] training camp."

Halada, along with Public Affairs Director Mark Kinders, Camp Coordinator Larry Testa, and UWRF Registrar and former Chiefs Intern Dan Vande Yacht, wrote letters of recommendation for the organization to the Faculty Senate External Relations Committee.



Jens Gunelson

Kansas City Chief Ty Law signs autographs for fans during Family Fun Day Aug. 5. The football team will be honored with the Outstanding Service Award for its contribution to the campus and the rest of the River Falls community.

See Chiefs, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Music dept. sponsors holiday concert series

UW - River Falls is sharing the gift of music this holiday season through a series of concerts sponsored by the UWRF music department Dec 10-16. All concerts are to be performed in the Abbott Concert hall located in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building. Events are subject to change; visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/music/events.html> for schedule changes or call the music department at 715-425-3183 for more information. Admission for some concerts is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for students.

Community helps organization raise money



Beth Dickman
Ruzin Mirza helps decorate shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child this year.

The money and shoebox gifts were donated by students, faculty, staff and members of the River Falls community.

Student wins national proficiency award

A UW-River Falls freshman received a national proficiency award at the October National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis. Kaleb Santy, an agricultural education major from Pulaski, Wis., was named the national winner in the area of Emerging Agriculture Technologies. The award was presented to Santy for an innovative project that dealt with lowering the somatic cell count (SCC) in lactating dairy cows through the use of natural, homeopathic substances instead of antibiotics. Over the course of two years Santy developed a mixture of egg whites and honey that worked similar to antibiotics in lowering the SCC.

McNair scholar presents on retention rate

UW-River Falls McNair scholar Sage Lavant presented her paper on the retention rate of UWRF students at the Association for Institutional Research — Upper Midwest (AIRUM) conference, held in November in Bloomington, Minn. Lavant prepared a poster presentation and was asked to convene a session, which marks high honors for an undergraduate student. The McNair program is designed to assist low-income, first-generation college students to prepare for and enter graduate schools with the ultimate goal of a Ph.D. Accepted students receive paid internships, funding to attend research conferences, waived GRE and graduate school fees, eligibility for graduate fellowships and assistantships (up to \$40,000 per year) and more.

Mural honoring history professor unveiled

Campus and community members showed up for the unveiling of a mural Nov. 28 in the west hallway of the Wyman Education Building honoring the late history professor Ed Peterson. The mural, composed of six different stances portraying the professor in action, was created by Garrett Bergemann, a senior fine arts major. While Bergemann said he never had taken a class from Peterson, he wanted to make an image that would inspire the campus community. Bergemann chose to represent Peterson for his passion, evident in classroom photographs. Peterson's wife Ursula, of River Falls, also attended the event.



Ed Peterson

Last observatory session is scheduled

The final observatory session of the semester, "The Star of Bethlehem," is set for the first clear night of Dec. 11, 12, 13 or 14. UWRF physics professor Eileen Korenic will speak on the subject at 7:30 p.m. in Room 271 of Centennial Science Hall. The viewing will take place at 8 p.m. on the third floor outside deck of CSH. Next semester's observatory viewings are set for February ("Blood on the Moon: Lunar Eclipses"), March ("Remembering the Astronauts: Space Accidents") and April ("Stars of the Pharaohs: Orion and the Pyramids"). All events are free, open to the public and suitable for all ages. Interested people are advised to check the UWRF physics department Web site at www.uwrf.edu/physics, and click on "observatory," or call 715-425-3560 on the night of a viewing to see if skies are clear enough. Contact Spiczak via e-mail to be placed on an e-mail viewing notification list.

Internships in China available to students



Wong How Man

There will be an informational meeting Dec. 13 at 3:30 p.m. for UW-River Falls students who want to be part of an international experience this summer in China with UWRF distinguished alumnus Wong How Man. Wong founded the China Exploration and Research Society in 1986. The internship is based at his center in Yunnan, China. Students will explore remote regions of China, conduct multidisciplinary research, implement nature and culture conservation projects, and distribute results through education and popular channels. The meeting will be held in room 138 of Rodli. For more information call the Office of International Programs at (715) 425-4891.

Wal-Mart store no longer planned for RF

After years of probing and finding a tentative site at the juncture of Radio Road and Hwy. 35, Wal-Mart seems to have closed the door on building a Supercenter store in River Falls. The word came via e-mail from Olsson Associates, an Edina, Minn., engineering firm that represents the international retail chain. The company gave the following reasons for its decision: the Department of Transportation won't allow a traffic signal to be installed at Radio Road and Hwy. 35 because a signal didn't fit with overall plans; the DOT said it would take three to five years to build the planned interchange; and extending utilities to the site posed challenges. River Falls City Administrator Bernie Van Osdale said he thinks the traffic signal was the primary issue that influenced Wal-Mart's decision not to build in the city.

Briefs compiled by Leah Danley

Correction

Last week's page 5 opinion column, "Black Friday causes concern this year," was erroneously credited to Nicole Aune. The author of the piece was Sara Hauer, a biweekly columnist for the *Student Voice*. The editorial staff of the *Voice* sincerely apologizes to both Hauer and Aune for the misrepresentation.

SENATE

Senate raises stipends for members

Shalena Janis
shalena.brandt@uwrf.edu

For the 2007-08 academic year, Student Senate president, vice president and chair positions will receive a \$50 stipend increase, which hasn't occurred for six years.

The change in pay was addressed by Jim Vierling, facilities and fees board chair, who introduced the motion Nov. 30 to the Finance Committee.

The reason for the proposed increase was "two fold," Vierling said.

"The first is to increase the pay due to the change in times," he said. "Directors, presidents, vice presidents and board chairs have increased duties over the past years, resulting in more time spent with their duties here and less time being able to work at their jobs."

With the raise in Senate wages, student segregated fees will not be increased for 2007-08, Vierling said. Senate stipends are paid through the Shared Governance account, which is funded through student fees.

The only change will be seen by Senate in its account, said Finance Director Adam Koski.

The Senate president is now paid \$225 a month, and the vice president, directors and chairs are each paid \$150. Every position, excluding director posi-

tions, will receive a \$50 increase; the director positions will receive a \$25 raise.

Originally, the motion was to implement the increase during the second semester of the 2007-08 academic year, but President Joe Eggers said the amount of experience should not change whether or not a student is paid more the second half of the year rather than the first.

"We need to hold them up to the same standard all the time," he said.

Vierling said the intention of the \$50 difference for the second semester was to allow senators to learn in their roles as leaders and to properly do their work.

As a first-year director, Senator Derek Brandt said he believes the workload is more than an at-large senator, who doesn't chair or direct a committee.

"You do learn more rapidly and there is a lot more work to do as a director or chair," he said.

Senators who work as chairs and directors go beyond the minimum 10 hours assigned for the position, and the work obligates them to go outside the requirements, said Natalie Hagberg, Leadership Development and Programming Board (LDPB) chair.

"I am working more and harder the first semester because I am learning," Hagberg said.

Senator Jason Meier said he was the dissenting voice during

the discussion and recommendation process for the motion during the Finance Committee's meeting.

"It is a volunteer position," he said. "It's nice we do get compensated, but it's volunteer work; we shouldn't get paid."

The amount of time an executive committee member works on their responsibilities and tasks hinders their ability to get another job or to make some kind of living, he said.

"Because they are among the leaders on campus, I think they deserve to be compensated for more than what they are," Eggers said.

Vierling said the increases should not be used to replace a job, but to alleviate some stress accompanied by the responsibilities and roles of the position. He also had in mind that the change will permit directors and chairs to focus on campus issues.

"The increase is nothing huge," he said. "It just allows them that time for a Friday night off or to attend a campus event."

Other Senate News

- LDPB approved the UWRF Affirmation to the Free Expression and Rights of Student Organizations, which will be forwarded to Chancellor Don Betz for review. The affirmation follows a rul-

ing in Hosty vs. Carter, where administration at Governor's State University in Illinois "halted publication of their student newspaper," according to the Associated Collegiate Press Web site.

The Affirmation of Free Expression Rights of Student Organizations states, "The students and administration of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls affirm the free expression rights of recognized student organizations."

"This allows student organizations the free voice they deserve," Hagberg said. "It helps student orgs to protect their rights when they are questioned about something they say."

• Members of Senate will be in the Student Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12. They will be located at a table designated for students to ask questions and raise concerns.

• An informational session about class period changes will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8 in the President's Room of the Student Center, regarding issues, suggestions and information about decreasing Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes by five minutes.

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

HPV vaccine available at RF clinic

Beckie De Neu
rebecca.a.de-neui@uwrf.edu

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is the most common STD in the United States. It is estimated that 50 percent of all sexually active men and women acquire some type of HPV in their lifetime. Statistics also show the majority of people infected with an STD are between the ages of 15 and 29, putting college students at the heart of the problem.

According to the American Social Health Association, there are 70 strains of the HPV virus, and 30 of them are sexually transmitted. Some types of genital HPV cause genital warts, while others are linked to abnormal changes in the cells of the female cervix. These abnormal changes are the No.1 cause of cervical cancer in women.

Often no symptoms are present after exposure to the virus.

"The only way to tell if someone has acquired HPV is if there is a presence of warts in the genital area or if a woman has an abnormal pap smear," said Beth Shockey-Woll, a nurse practitioner at the River Falls Medical Clinic. "Even the abnormal pap smear does not necessarily mean that they have HPV."

While HPV is a dangerous virus, it can go away on its own.

"In a typical healthy woman the virus will



Zach Nagle

A syringe is used to administer three shots of Gardasil, the new vaccine for Human Papilloma Virus that was approved in June. The vaccine protects against the four most common strands of HPV and is recommended for women ages 9-26.

clear on its own within 18 to 24 months," Nurse Practitioner Helen Butts said. "Sometimes it does lead to a number of different types of cancer."

In June 2006, the Food and Drug

Administration approved Gardasil — a vaccine that helps protect against the four most common and devastating strands HPV.

See HPV, page 8

Hire A Falcon helps students find jobs

Rachel Ogrodnik
rachel.ogrodnik@uwrf.edu

With graduation in sight, some UW-River Falls students are now looking for jobs. Though seniors are taking their steps away from the University, the Hire A Falcon System can offer one final piece of service before students embark to the real world.

"It is an online job and internship search tool that assists students to find opportunities where the employer or recruiter is specifically wanting a student from the University of Wisconsin System or UWRF," Hire A Falcon System Career Advisor and Recruitment Coordinator Melissa Wilson said. "The employers are looking for someone enrolled in the four-year program."

Wilson said she suggests the Hire A Falcon System to students due to its simplicity.

"Without this system, these opportunities would require hours of searching," she said. "It's a quick and easy way to access job postings in one site."

Hire A Falcon System Web and Database Administrator Matt Fitzgerald agrees.

"Students would need to search multiple Web sites and newspapers to uncover the positions that we consolidate into this single resource, with jobs and internships geared for college students and graduates," Fitzgerald said.

In order to log in to the Hire A Falcon System Web site, students can use a guest username or register with their own personal information. Wilson said she recommends students create their own accounts so they can access all the extra features.

Though freshmen through seniors can register, most of the employers are looking to hire a four-year graduate.

"It's important for students to keep their personal information current ... we all know how often students move," Wilson said. "If an employer is trying to get a hold of you, it is important that they know where to find you."

Besides listing personal information, students can create or upload a résumé to the site. Wilson said this is how students can be proactive in their job search.

"It is the student's job to apply for positions because businesses simply don't have the time," she said.

See Falcon, page 8

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Helen Clarke
helen.clarke@uwrf.edu

- To accommodate for graduation visitors, vehicles must be removed from the Ramer Field parking lot by 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15. Ramer permit-holders can park their vehicles in any alternative student lot until 6 p.m. Dec. 17, though the Ramer lot will reopen to students at 8 p.m. Dec. 16. Vehicles in violation of these rules may be towed at the owner's expense.

Nov. 29

- Two computer speakers were reported stolen at 9:15 a.m. from

room 207 of Wyman Education Building. The speakers are white, approximately five years old and a tall, slender style. The total value of the stolen items is estimated at \$70.

Dec. 1

- Nicholas T. Simonson, 19, was fined \$249 for deposit of human waste and \$249 for underage consumption in Prucha Hall.
- Sarah T. Hastings, 18, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Hathorn Hall.

Dec. 3

- Samantha J. Bekx, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.

Debt: Building credit comes at a price

from page 1

“[Students] have a higher level of disposable income as a percentage of their total income,” he said.

This means after paying for rent, food and other necessities, college students have more money left over to spend on material items compared to other consumer populations.

Casey said it has been proven that students usually stay loyal to their original card, continuing to use it for many years.

“The first credit card a student gets is the one they keep the longest,” he said.

Even after obtaining two other credit cards, UWRF senior Jon Strande said he mainly uses the Discover he got at age 19.

The 22-year-old said he usually charges gas and cigarettes to the card, which has a balance of about \$1,100.

“It’s nice to have,” he said. “You just gotta make sure you don’t spend beyond your means.”

Strande said he is “slowly” chipping away at his debt, normally paying more than the minimum amount due every month.

“It’ll probably be done by the time I’m done with school,” he said.

According to Casey, the danger comes when students accumulate so much debt that they are unable to pay it off.

“If a college student incurs too much credit card debt, they may be forced to make a decision between taking fewer credits and working more, or worse yet, leaving college so that they

can afford to make the credit card payments,” he said.

Casey said a student’s credit rating, which is ascertained from their credit availability and whether they’ve paid their past bills on time, determines their financial future. Obtaining a job, renting an apartment and being approved for a home loan all depend on a decent credit score.

“This is the modern way of quantifying what a person’s character is,” he said.

At one point, UWRF senior Angela Hauge was about \$1,700 in credit card debt.

Expenses for a friend’s wedding and a spring break plane ticket to Florida charged to her Visa contributed to the hefty balance.

“I think the more you use it, the easier it is to keep using it,” she said.

After working to pay off a large portion of the bill this summer, the 21-year-old only has a balance of \$200 left.

But she said she learned a lesson about sensible credit card usage.

“I probably went a little overboard on mine,” Hauge said. “I could have been smarter with my cash on hand, which wouldn’t have made me use my credit card in the long run.”

Casey said he recommends students use credit cards, but to do so responsibly.

“It is important to learn how to use credit and to build a strong credit history,” he said. “Start small ... and pay the balance monthly. Use the card as a convenience, not a way to finance a higher standard of living.”

Turnitin.com: 23 instructors using \$6,000 program to legitimize students’ work

from page 1

The number of UWRF students registered on Turnitin.com almost doubled this fall.

“The whole problem of plagiarism has been around for awhile,” said Tracey Gladstone-Sovell, professor and political science chair. “This makes tracking down the suspicious papers so much easier.”

Turnitin.com levels the playing field for students who turn in legitimate work, said Jim Madsen, professor and physics department chair. He said he has seen a huge change in his students’ work since he began using the site in the spring.

“Now I’ve essentially had no examples of plagiarism,” he said. “Before [Turnitin.com], it was more than a handful.”

This fall the number of professors at UWRF using Turnitin.com increased to 23. Madsen said he is surprised more faculty members aren’t taking advantage of its services.

“I don’t think, anecdotally, that faculty are doing a very thorough job of looking for plagiarism,” he said.

Gladstone-Sovell also serves as the UWRF campus administrator for Turnitin.com. She deals with any faculty or student problems with the Web site.

“It’s surprising how few problems there have been with this,” she said. “I don’t think anyone’s had any technical problems.”

Faculty who use the site would like to see UWRF’s subscription to this resource renewed.

“The whole problem of plagiarism has been around for awhile. This makes tracking down the suspicious papers so much easier.”

Tracey Gladstone-Sovell, political science professor



Screen Shot

A screen shot of Turnitin.com shows the plagiarism-prevention section of the academic Web site. With plagiarism frowned upon in academic institutions, Turnitin.com provides professors with a means of screening students’ work.

Senior Brian Hogenson has used Turnitin.com and was torn when considering future use of the site’s services at UWRF.

“That sounds like a lot of money for a program only used by a minority of the faculty,” he said. “However, if Turnitin.com is the wave of the future on college campuses, our university should try to keep up.”

Future funding will have to be sought outside the CAS, Brown said.

“I was willing to pay for it [initially] because I deeply believe in it,” she said.

One proposal is an increase in the student technology fee, Gladstone-Sovell said. The increase would cost about \$1.10 per student.

“There are so many more pros than cons,” Gladstone-Sovell said. “If we don’t get the

student technology fees, we’ll pursue funding elsewhere.”

If Turnitin.com is picked up beyond this semester, its services could be integrated into the UWRF Web site.

“By next fall it ought to be the case that Turnitin.com would be integrated into the drop-box on D2L,” Gladstone-Sovell said.

Madsen was emphatic in his support for renewing the services of Turnitin.com.

“Six thousand dollars is not insignificant, but if I look at the amount of time I would spend looking at those issues it’s well worth it,” he said. “That’s what technology should do for you.”

Gaming: Creators provide various choices for video game addicts

from page 1

internal flash memory, Wii allows gamers to not only play new games, but also download classic Nintendo games like Donkey Kong, Mario Bros. and Sonic the Hedgehog.

Gaming system and computer game creators try to ensure many different types of games are available to comply with the different tastes of individuals.

Simulation games became popular with the introduction of the Sim series, which Alicia Hermesen said are her favorite games.

“It’s interesting to see how moods and physical status can affect a person in their environment, and also it’s kind of addicting,” she said.

Other games that allow direct competition with real people via the computer are also popular among fans of science fiction and fantasy.

Sophomore Pauline Ceulemans said she enjoys playing World of Warcraft and Dungeons and Dragons because of the interaction with others.

“You’re not really hiding in your room alone with your computer,” she said. “You’re playing in a world where your real life best friend can be fighting by your side in the game.”

Games like Guitar Hero II and Dance Dance Revolution allow gamers to make themselves part of the game by replacing standard controls with a plastic replica of a Gibson SG guitar and a dance pad.

“I like Guitar Hero ... because it is very fun to hear yourself making the music,” sophomore Dan Graul said.

Like so many others, UWRF students pass the time by playing video games or computer games.

Freshman Ryan Brehmer owns a PlayStation 2 (PS2)

“As long as you can balance studies and gaming, everything works great.”

Tammy Jugovich, student

and spends at least three hours in front of his TV and computer screens each day.

“I pretty much play a lot of video games because there is nothing else fun to do here,” he said.

Though Nintendo and Sony continue to release new consoles to keep up with technological changes and continually revamp graphics, some people still own and play games on archaic systems.

Hermesen said she and her brothers own Atari, Nintendo, Super Nintendo, Nintendo 64 and PS2 consoles, yet with her hectic schedule she rarely plays as much as she would like.

“I get maybe two hours or so a week — that’s during a good week,” she said. “If I wasn’t so busy, I would play a lot more. If I get hooked on a game, then I’m tempted to take a break from studying and get on the PS2.”

Other students do not allow their studies to interfere with their desire to pick up a controller or log onto Yahoo! to play games, but rather use the disruption as a way to avoid homework.

“While video games can affect my studies, it isn’t because of the games,” Ceulemans said. “It’s because I’m a procrastinator and hate this school.”

Ceulemans said that she is taking a hiatus from playing her favorite game, World of Warcraft.

“The reason I’m taking a break from games is because I use them as an excuse to delay my homework, and it works better than other procrastination methods because it’s enjoyable,” she said.

Tammy Jugovich finds that playing video games can be a good stress-relieving mechanism.

“For me they really don’t affect my studies much, but they help to relieve the stress,” she said. “To be able to take a break and just play around on a console with friends is nice ... As long as you can balance studies and gaming, everything works great.”

Evaluation: Forms determine effectiveness of professors

from page 1

by all faculty,” Chapin said, adding that the current form is not the only option for academic departments.

“It is possible that some departments have questions that they design themselves, or that some individual faculty use their own questions, but these would be evaluated questions used in addition to the University’s required evaluation form,” he said.

While the department of communicative disorders does not have its own questions for evaluation, Chair Mike Harris said the results of the eight questions on the current form can be used in multiple ways.

“The surveys are used as a component of personnel decisions regarding retention, promotion and post-tenure review,” he said. “The survey results become part of the instructor’s personnel file within the department. Instructors also place the results in their portfolio.”

Though individual faculty members can ask additional questions on forms, Harris said the current system rates instructors in the areas of knowledge, organization,

ability to explain concepts clearly, enthusiasm, ability to enhance learning, expectations, feedback, and treatment of students with regard to fairness and respect.

Student response on evaluations is something Harris said he takes seriously for his department.

“The survey results become part of the instructor’s personnel file within the department.”

Mike Harris, communicative disorders chair

“As chair, I review the results, as does the dean of the college,” he said. “I have the opportunity to meet with individual faculty members to discuss the results.”

When David Trechter was reviewing the results of the agricultural economics department, the department chair said he noticed a trend that needed to be changed.

“Our department does look at student evaluations across all the classes and professors who administer them each semester attempt to respond to the results,” Trechter said. “For instance, the overall department evaluation and those of individual faculty members in the department were a bit lower for the question that asks about ‘explanations.’ Accordingly, we are attempting to use more examples in our classes this term.”

Though Trechter does not yet know the results of this semester’s increased efforts, he said there is anticipation as to how the department responded.

“When the fall evaluations come back, we’ll look to see if the explanations score moved in the hoped-for direction,” Trechter said.

While this semester’s evaluations are only one week away and students like Schneider won’t get their “few lines” to express their thoughts this fall, the upcoming work between Hurt and the Faculty and Student Senates may have UWRF students seeing different evaluations this spring.

Chiefs: Football team helps fund several University projects, brings commerce to the River Falls community

from page 1

“I think it’s a long overdue recognition,” Kinders said. “There are numerous reasons why they deserve the award.”

Since the Chiefs have been training at UWRF, the organization has done many things for the region, given the University name recognition and endorsement, offered internship opportunities to students and helped fund improvements for facilities.

“The people have done a good job hosting us and letting us be a part of their community,” Thum said.

Prior to the Chiefs training at UWRF, many people were not familiar with River Falls and the University.

“Every day the team is in camp, our name is out there,” Kinders said. “Through gross media impressions, people hear our name.”

The most significant effect the Chiefs have had on the community and University is economic.

“For UWRF and the St. Croix Valley, the impact has been extraordinary,” Kinders wrote in his letter of recommendation. “[There have been] \$35 million in economic impact and 150,000 visitors to the campus.”

Halada said the community earns \$1 million to \$2 million each year when the Chiefs spend money in the community and bring fans in during the summer months.

“[They bring business into the community] in what is normally kind of a downtime,” she said.

While the organization is training during the summer, many events are planned for Chiefs fans, including Kids and Senior Days, Family Fun Night and competitions.

“It’s a great way to draw the University and community together,” Halada said.

The organization has affected UWRF by helping to fund many projects, such as allowing for the irrigation of all four football fields and the \$3 million remodeling project for Hunt Arena and Knowles Center.

In the summer of 2005, 12,300 square feet were added to Knowles, which included locker rooms, restroom and shower areas, a training room and workroom, remodeling for offices and the laundry area, and air conditioning.

“The Chiefs lobbied [the government] to get improvements in Knowles Arena,” Kinders said. “If it weren’t for the Chiefs, we would still be with a space deficit.”

The addition was part of an effort to keep the Chiefs here.



Jens Gunelson

Kansas City Chief Larry Johnson is bombarded with footballs as fans patiently wait for the Pro Bowl running back to autograph their red and yellow memorabilia.

“The state gave 75 percent of funding to keep the Chiefs here,” Halada said. “They had received other offers from schools around the nation, but they chose us.”

Concession stand profits have also helped UWRF.

Halada said the gazebo and pavilion at Ramer Field were funded with these profits, as well as classroom remodeling and equipment.

While the community and University have benefited significantly from the economic impact, students have benefited another way.

Since training began on campus, the Chiefs organization has provided 70 students majoring in communications fields with internships.

“[The internships] have given students immersion into the top-rank professional experience,” Kinders said.

In his letter of recommendation, he wrote, “The Chiefs have been tremendous mentors to our students, and have always been gracious in providing them with the information they need to complete their assignments, as well as giving them guidance on their career aspirations.”

Senior Jude Harder is a marketing communications major and one of the many students who interned with the Chiefs last summer.

“I am pursuing a career in the field of professional sports, either in marketing, public relations or journalism, hopefully,” Harder said. “The internship with the Chiefs encompassed all of those fields, so it was a good chance for me to test them and see what I liked best.”

Harder said a big part of his job was interviewing fans and posting stories on the organization’s Web site.

“What I learned most from the experience is that having good people and communication skills can get you very far in the fields of marketing and journalism,” he said. “I also learned that Kansas City folk love their Chiefs and come from all over to catch a glimpse of them at summer training camp.”

Thum said when the Chiefs first made the decision to train at the University, they knew they had a winner. The football club has the option to renew its contract with UWRF every year.

EDITORIAL

ITS fails once again

Was anyone else wishing they could punch through their computer screen Tuesday morning without suffering physical or monetary damages? Yeah, us too.

Apparently the e-mail demon is at it again.

After receiving four different error messages intending to rationalize the inabilities of the inbox, it became clear that the e-mail problem was not well-defined. And what is one expected to do in this situation? Turn to ITS, that’s what.

Visiting the department’s Web site is the first and most logical answer. However, after a good 30 minutes of investigative work it is easy to see that no tab or link efficiently brings about even a trace of a solution.

So try the search box, you say? But to no avail. The search feature on the ITS homepage searches the entire UWRF site, not just ITS. And the general e-mail support and policies it eventually leads to are perfectly useless.

No information available on the Web? OK, that’s forgivable ... even though a technology department would be expected to have some sort of instruction available on the information superhighway.

So we opt to make a phone call instead. Yet arriving at the ITS homepage, a relevant phone number is difficult — if not impossible — to find. The extension of every ITS employee is listed, but no explanation is offered as to who should be contacted for what issue.

It seems that the natural place to turn would be the HelpDesk. The section of the Web site devoted to this “first call for help” indicates HelpDesk workers provide assistance for various technology services — but not e-mail.

Scratch that plan then.

After exhaustingly searching the ITS site for anything e-mail, it is apparent that assistance from ITS cannot be obtained through guidelines on the Web or even a general phone number.

Maybe we should send them an e-mail?

Oh wait ...

Ironically, the e-mail problems we have suffered all semester were accompanied last week by an aesthetically pleasing renovation to the UWRF homepage. Though different departments are responsible for e-mail and Web design, the failing efforts of one have us questioning the other.

Why can’t the individual who created the new homepage also craft a user-friendly site for ITS?


A March campus IT review (www.uwrf.edu/administration/campus-it-review/) assessed many areas of the department, but lacked focus on a vital topic for students: e-mail.

While ITS Web visitors are now commonly encouraged to send e-mails to ITS for more direct assistance — as noted on the HelpDesk and SquirrelMail log-in sites — this begs the question: How does one send an e-mail if the problem *is* the e-mail?


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WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Thursdays during the regular school year.

All editorial content in the *Student Voice* is determined by the newspaper's Editorial Board. 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 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall or to student.voice@uwrf.edu.

The *Student Voice* reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters.

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 is paid for through student fees.



With graduation comes regret

As I mentally prepare to take my final steps as a student next weekend, it has become increasingly obvious that I don’t really want to leave. And with that realization has come much reflection on the past five years of my life.

Two years ago, I was stuffing classes into my schedule, desperately trying to graduate this December so I could ... what was it now? Oh yeah, get married.

I lived a basically quiet life at home, spending most days with my significant other and sporadically throwing in social bouts with a few best friends from high school. I talked to a few people in classes on campus, but couldn’t tell you that there are three libraries in this city (or how to locate any of them), I had never eaten in “the cave,” and Ground Zero remained a thing of the past — 2001, to be exact.

I had absolutely no connection to River Falls and couldn’t wait to erase its virtually nonexistent dent from my memory.

Yet here I sit, sipping wine from a champagne flute, thinking about how much I

don’t want to leave this part of my life behind.

I’ve never been good at taking advice. In fact, I prefer to argue against it — always — and when it turns out I was wrong in the first place, I take credit for finding my way out of those bad decisions with a firm sense of the better ones.

So from all the stupid choices I made in the past five years, here’s what I know now:

I should have ignored the stereotypes about UWRF as a high school senior and started my freshman year here instead of at the U of M.

Yes — cows, rodeos and all.

It’s not the institution’s reputation that is vital to college success, but rather the opportunities available.

Eat that, *Minnesota Daily*.

I should have cared less about noise and more about quality of life by moving to River Falls instead of commuting 25 miles six days a week.

I would be \$5,000 richer had I been smarter about this one— coincidentally wealthy enough to purchase a new car, considering all the miles I put on Silvia.

I should have started working at the *Voice*

Helen Clarke



the minute I stepped foot on this campus.

Do you have any idea how refreshing it is to develop friendships with people who share your passions and ethics, rather than sticking with the ones this superficial society opts to group you with?

I should have left my high school boyfriend where he belonged — in high school.

My hometown tends to breed people who believe the entire world is encompassed into a relatively small suburban plot, and leaving means dropping off the face of the planet.

Well then strap me into a spacesuit, because at 22 I haven’t met nearly enough people to make any sort of rational decision on who I should spend the rest of my life with.

I should have learned Silver Strike, foosball (go Team Fucking Awesome!), Golden Tee and Beer Pong a few years ago, so I wouldn’t have to exhaustingly cram four years of college fun into one final semester.

Wait— scratch that last part. Flooding my final semester with Amaretto Sours, picnic days and “Almost Famous” on the roof has been the best time of my life.

I knew I did something right.

Well then strap me into a spacesuit, because at 22 I haven’t met nearly enough people to make any sort of rational decision on who I should spend the rest of my life with.

Veteran writer entertaining yet pointless

Seeing as this is the last time I have to write a column for the *Student Voice*, or any other paper for that matter, I realized I really don’t want to write a column. I say that because I am on vacation in Colorado in a coffee shop that looks out at the Rocky Mountains.

Needless to say — my motivation is lacking.

I have been writing columns for this paper for close to three years, and they have covered all topics ranging from awful relationship advice (just assume your girlfriend is cheating on you, it just makes everything easier) to politics (I am not a fan) to daily wisdom my friends pass on (if your shower only has warm water for 30 seconds, make sure to wash your genitals just in case a “situation” with a “girl” should arise, according to Leslie Starr — whom I promised I would work into a column before I left).

But the problem is that I have no idea what to write my last column about. I could do the standard grandiose advice or burn the bridges I have made while here.

Both imply that as a columnist I have some innate knowledge about campus life — but I don’t.



AJ Oscarson

I can guarantee you every columnist has heard, “I only pick up the *Voice* for your column,” from someone. Anyone.

Thus, columnists feel like they have some sort of key to the campus life, but we are really just people writing as we think aloud.

I have been here for nearly six years and still need help getting textbooks, registering for classes and knowing where to eat on campus.

I generally rely on a consortium of friends to drag me along through the semester, as well as remind me of test days and when projects are due.

So I am sorry, I cannot give you any advice that will help your education in any way. I can, however, give you tips on Golden Tee, Silver Strike or air hockey.

It would be oxymoronic for someone like me to give advice on anything that is actually relevant.

An example: The other day at an interview I was asked, “Where do you want to be in five years or 10 years?”

Now generally in an interview for a job, people tell the employer what they want to

hear, but I don’t really do that so I came back with, “I honestly have no idea.”

Awkward silence. Followed by more awkward silence.

Luckily, as a journalism student I have been taught to endure at least 10 seconds of silence, thus forcing the other person to speak.

If you look to this space for advice, you are one misguided student — similar to myself.

When I asked my friends what I should write my last column about they said things like, “Jessica the princess,” “How stupid AJ Oscarson is” and “How Chuck Norris’ father is actually Bob Barker,” which apparently can be explained via Scientology and because they “kind of look alike.”

Needless to say — my friends are insane.

But they have provided a lot of fodder for some truly horrendous columns, so it all works out for the better. I think.

Now I want to end this column, but I am not sure how to write an ending for a column about not wanting to write a column.

It’s kind of like your parents telling you that you were a mistake on your birthday. Which happens to be on Christmas.

When I asked my friends what I should write my last column about, they said things like ... “How Chuck Norris’ father is actually Bob Barker” ...

Have something on your mind?
Need to express some thoughts or concerns?
Don’t miss your last chance this semester!

Submit a letter to the editor to student.voice@uwrf.edu, or it drop off at 304 North Hall by noon Wednesday.

Cereal is essential ingredient for dating

Finding a worthy partner is always a difficult task. Establishing some source of commonality with another person can seem next to impossible, but Web sites like eHarmony.com have started to make the laborious task easier.

These sites attempt to use personality correlations to match



Ben Jipson

users to one another, but even the most thorough evaluations seem not to ask the most telltale questions. For a question to be meaningful, it needs to reveal several aspects of oneself.

It was troubling for me to see that breakfast cereal preference didn't make it on eHarmony's list of questions, as it is a fundamental component of many people's day.

Unlike lunch and dinner, cereal is the one meal that doesn't typically vary. A cereal eater loyal to his or her brand doesn't switch to a different kind mid-box — one box is finished before another is opened. This

could take days depending on the box size, and even after one box is gone, there's bound to be a box of the same kind of cereal waiting to take its place.

Cereal eaters love their breakfast and they're loyal to their brand. I'm no Cupid, but love and loyalty have got to be two of the most desired personality characteristics. And cereal choice holds much more information than that because, let us not forget, breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

Cheerios Chewers, for example, care about a healthy diet but don't necessarily make it a priority. Like the tiny Os in the box, they may be plain and uninteresting on the outside, but they're packed with wholesome goodness and aren't composed of superficialities like coloring or unnatural flavors.

A Froot Loops Fanatic is happily carefree and unconcerned with reality. This personality type could be fitting if you like to slam a Red Bull before an

exam or get pleasure from pain. Be careful, though, because your first date might include base jumping off North Hall or lighting things on fire.

Don't let the smiling vampire on the front panel of the Count Chocula box deceive you. Count Chocula Cravers live to hate the world around them. Their souls are as dark as the chocolate milk left in the bowl. But if you are into whips and chains in the bedroom and think Megadeth is for pussies, a Count Chocula Craver might be right up your alley. Just remember, the Count might be smiling, but he's still a vampire.

A Special K Consumer is often as watered-down as the skim milk with which it is eaten. But if you regularly meet your daily quota for fruits and vegetables even before the lunch break rolls around, or if you enjoy jumping on a treadmill to forget about life's hardships, the Special K Consumer is right for you.

This evaluative method isn't completely flawless, as there are some who choose not to eat breakfast. It is sad, but apparently their demanding schedules don't permit a morning

meal. These are the Cereal Killers. It's hard to ascribe any precise attributes to Cereal Killers, but they likely consume their morning meal through a slice of cold Luigi's pizza and a pot of strong coffee. Skipping an opportunity to have a bowl of breakfast cereal in the morning is sketchy — not to mention an abomination — so beware of the Cereal Killers.

There are hundreds of other cereals, and for each is another type of cereal eater.

Deciphering between the different types isn't as tricky as one would imagine. Take a look at the box design, read the ingredients, feel the sweet sustenance in your hand.

Then, the next time you roll over in the morning to find an unfamiliar bedmate, you needn't worry about an awkward exchange of phone numbers or explaining that a late-night hookup isn't a usual practice of yours. Instead, simply prop a pillow underneath your head, look your bedmate in the eye and ask the one question that'll determine the fate of your new-found acquaintanceship: "So, what kind of cereal do you like?"

Even good students skip class

I am going to put this very bluntly. As a student who has spent four and a half years on this campus, I proclaim it is not necessary for professors to have attendance policies.

When I first came to college I went to class every single day. I got up at the crack of dawn to beat the morning shower rush in Parker Hall so I could smell fresh and look pretty for my 9 a.m. classes. I was eager to learn and believed my professors were knowledgeable and respected me for pursuing higher education.

It was after I fell asleep a few times and aced a couple tests after skipping class that I started to realize not all of my professors were that knowledgeable, and it was not absolutely necessary for me to be in class every day.

I have been enrolled in a fine share of classes in which I believe I can learn more

on my own by reading from the book than listening to a professor who drones on about irrelevant subjects.

I have also been enrolled in classes in which professors constantly call on students who don't know the answers to questions and embarrass them in front of the rest of the room. "You need to practice more than the rest of the students," one professor said to a quiet boy my class.

I have one professor this semester who constantly picks on the same people.

"Why don't you know the answer?" "Haven't you been doing your homework?" "You need to come to class more."

Any professor who keeps asking their students questions like that is making students despise the course even more and discouraging them from showing up in fear that they will be embarrassed yet another time.

I complete all of my homework assignments. I read and study for all of my exams, and I get better than average grades, so why does a professor have the right to take away points if I choose to

sleep in my bed for a couple of hours rather than in their class?

The students who are chronically absent will most likely drop out anyway, and attendance policies aren't going to change that. All they do is cause students to not pay attention, fall asleep and drool in class. Aren't snoring students a bigger distraction than not having them there at all?

I understand there are certain seminar and interactive classes that rely on the attendance of the students. Those classes have the right to have attendance policies.

I also understand the school uses attendance policies to regulate some scholarships and financial aid, but the way I see it, the students who do receive these scholarships most likely aren't going to throw them away by performing poorly. Lack of attendance doesn't mean lack of education.

Most of us pay for our education with some type of school loans and have gotten ourselves into extreme debt in order to become knowledgeable and active members of society. If we want an early weekend or want to get our errands done during our boring class so we can work on a paper later that night, we should have the right.



Beckie De Neuvi



Derrick Knutson

Time-management skills come with college years

I woke up this morning and it hit me that there are only two weeks of classes left before finals. After I stopped hyperventilating over how much work I still have to do before the end of the semester, I realized just how quickly the semester has gone. This is most likely the case with many students across campus — college is an atmosphere that isn't conducive to slow, lazy days and relaxation.

Most of my time this semester has been eaten up by classes, work and volleyball. Hectic schedules are common for most students across campus.

When one gets further along in their college career, their time becomes more scheduled and it is difficult to find time to fit everything in. When we enter college as freshmen, we are

told, "Become involved; it is a great way to meet people and you will end up as a more well-rounded person because of it." I won't argue against this advice.

The activities I have chosen to become involved with have definitely led to meeting new people, and I believe they have helped me grow as a person. The only problem I have with my hectic schedule is that it doesn't leave very much time for anything else.

Professors should take into account that many students across campus have jobs or are involved in something other than classes.

Some majors are more about students' test-taking ability, but in others students need to go out and do more

than just classes to make themselves attractive to prospective employers.

I'm not saying professors need to lighten the workload so much that students only need to spend about a half

hour of time on their class per week, I'm just saying that professors need to choose the most important aspects of their courses and teach them, rather than incorporating frivolous busy work into their classes.

I would like to be proficient at the things I need to know to get me a job. Maybe everyone could be done with college in less than four years if universities

didn't incorporate so much useless crap into our education.

Coupled with the increase in activities and course workload that goes along with one's progression through college is a loss of interpersonal connection with people we meet along the way. I have found this to be very true this semester.

There are a couple people very close to me who I make a point to see on a regular basis, but I have other close friends who I will go weeks or even months at a time without seeing because I just don't have time for socializing. It is a

sad aspect of college life, but it's something that happens to nearly everyone who decides to further his or her education. Sacrifices have to be made and much of the time personal relationships become the victims of these sacrifices.

So can a person really divide their time equally amongst all the important aspects of their life?

The answer to the question is simple: No. Certain things take more time than others, and that is just the way it is.

The only thing we can do is try to be as productive as we can with the time we are given. That means just crack down and spend quality time doing homework, try your best in your organizations and cherish the time you're able to spend with friends.



Nicole Aune

Class availability affects retention

Had I known that as of 2001 only 24.9 percent of UW-River Falls students graduated in four years, I never would have even applied. The overall four-year graduation rate at all schools in the UW System wasn't much different, at 26.6 percent.

On the UWRF Web site, prospective students are told that the amount of time it takes to complete a degree will depend on the choices they make as a student. It goes on to say students are encouraged to take an average of 15 credits per semester in order to graduate in four years.

As for myself, I have taken an average of 15 credits per semester and am on schedule for when I should graduate. The number of credits I still need in order to graduate isn't the problem — the problem is the courses I need are not offered.

The UWRF Web site goes on to say, "Last year, UW-River Falls had the second highest four-year graduation rate in the University of Wisconsin System." However proof of this is not provided in the form of numbers. The only statistics I was able to find were from 2001, which stated only about one-fourth of UWRF students graduated within four years. I'm sure prospective students and their parents wouldn't be as impressed if they knew that so few students graduate in four years.

It is often impossible to register for the recommended classes until a couple semesters later. At least this is what I have found in my major. I love my major and do not want to rip on the department, but something desperately needs to be done.

A couple friends of mine who have the same major are experiencing more difficulties getting into classes. They registered at a later time than I did and even now in their junior year they were only able to get into one class for their major. That's ridiculous.

As I looked through eSIS I noticed many professors teach only a few classes per semester. I'm sure there is a logical explanation for this, but it makes life even more stressful for overwhelmed college students when their dream of getting a degree and getting on with their lives is crushed.

When I was a freshman I was told I need not worry about a minor until my junior year. I ended up switching minors a couple times, which meant I didn't start my current minor until spring semester of my sophomore year. Though this was before my previous advisor told me I needed to start worrying about a minor, it created some problems.

Most courses I need have prerequisites, so I wasn't able to get into the classes until I had taken the 101 course, which I am taking right now. Next semester there is one course offered for my minor that is required. J-term and summer courses are not available for this minor, so that is not an option. As for next fall — my senior year — only two of the required courses are offered, and they're in the 300 and 400 levels, which worries me since I haven't been able to take most of the 100- or 200-level classes yet.

You may think I am just complaining because I didn't plan things out well enough. But for those of you who know me personally, you know I am an overly organized, planning person who is simply becoming frustrated.

I know that many people, especially those in my same major, are frustrated with the inability to register for the courses we need since there aren't enough openings. I hope that in the future, students who plan ahead and work hard will have the option of graduating in four years if they're attending a four-year college.



Chad Ronayne, junior

"It's going to be a step up with high-quality food. I think they're aware that most students aren't satisfied."



Andres Moreno-Richey, freshman

"I like the options — they're better than the old food options."



Brittany Kamrath, junior

"It all looks fantastic. I'm new so I don't have the best comparison to the old options, but now it seems the options will be good."

STUDENT VOICES

What do you think about the food options for the new University Center?

Holly Kromray, Senior



"It's a good variety of food, and the taste is better than anything we've had on campus, in my opinion."

Steve Baisden, junior



"It was awesome — it was really good food. I especially liked the mondosubs, the smoothies and the Coyote Jack's burgers."

Becky Kalbfell, sophomore



"I thought it was really good. There was a large variety. It doesn't taste like fast food at all."

Gopher fan offers support to Bucky



Nick
Sortedahl

I'm about to commit the ultimate form of sports fan suicide. I'm going to be an advocate for my team's arch rival. There is nothing easy about this for me, but I have to do it. Here goes ... The Wisconsin Badgers football team got screwed by the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) this year. That felt so wrong to type, but it is the truth. I'm a Gophers fan born and raised. Usually, when the Badgers lose or get jobbed in some way, shape or form, it puts a smile on my face. Not this time. Not when the real enemy, the BCS, is so vile and repugnant it makes me clench my teeth and pound the keys of my computer with a steadily increasing fury just thinking about them.

The BCS, because of a rule that doesn't allow three teams from the same conference to get a big money game, has slighted the Badgers from a bowl game. Since fellow Big Ten Conference members Ohio State and Michigan have earned BCS game bids, poor Bucky Badger is left out.

If the Badgers would have gotten a BCS bowl bid, as the rankings say they deserved, they would have gotten a payout between \$14 million and \$17 million. The payout for the Capital One Bowl, the game the Badgers will be playing in on New Years Day against Arkansas, is just over \$4 million.

That's a nice way for the BCS to welcome the Badgers' first-year head football coach Bret Bielema, the youngest head coach in Division I-A at 36. Watch him lead a team with eight new starters on offense to the number seven ranking in the most important poll in the country, then screw his program out of at least \$10 million. Bielema has nothing to be ashamed of. But that's not what the BCS would have us believe.

The only blemish on Wisconsin's record this year is a 27-13 loss, on the road, to third-ranked Michigan. Keep in mind that the Wolverines have a 69-9 record in the Big House during Lloyd Carr's 12 years as Michigan head coach.

Since that Sept. 23 game, the Badgers have rattled off eight straight wins. They are one of the hottest teams in the country. Only undefeated Boise State and Ohio State have longer winning streaks among the BCS's top ten ranked teams. Voters have taken notice of Wisconsin's dominance. In the final regular season polls, the

AP ranked the Badgers sixth and the USA Today Coaches Poll has them ranked fifth. Even the omnipotent BCS rankings have the Badgers ranked seventh.

One of the teams Wisconsin surpassed for a BCS game, Notre Dame, was beaten by the Wolverines 47-21, under the exact same circumstances as Wisconsin. Plus, the Irish are ranked eleventh (four spots lower than the Badgers) in the BCS standings and have two losses. Sure, there is the rule about too many teams from one conference getting BCS berths, but it's an unnecessary rule made by an unnecessary committee. A committee that is too scared of change to give college football fans what they've been longing for - a chance to see teams settle things on the field instead of on paper.

My gripe isn't entirely about the Badgers getting screwed out of money. It's about them getting screwed out of a chance to play for the ultimate prize, a national championship.

They might not deserve it as much as Florida or Michigan, but you can't tell me that a team that lost only once all season, on the road, to a top three team over two months ago, doesn't deserve a shot.

Just remember you heard all this from a Gopher fan. A team that will likely never even sniff a shot at a college football national title in his lifetime.



Kenny Yoo
Michael Brudzinski swims the breaststroke during practice Tuesday afternoon at Karges Center. The women's swim team hosts Augsburg at 1 p.m. Saturday at Karges Center.

Swim team makes a splash at St. John's

Sarah Packingham
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls men's and women's swim team competed at the St. John's Invite on Dec. 1 and 2. The women finished in first place at the dual meet, while the men finished fourth out of four competing teams.

Though the meet was rough for the Falcon men, they are not letting it get them down for the remainder of the season.

"This season is going great. Everyone on the team is having a really good time," junior Tom

Fritchen said. "Everyone is getting along really well."

Sophomore Danielle Mandich agreed.

"The season is going really well," she said. "Many of our meets have been very close and everyone on the team continues to have great swims."

This season has been strenuous for all the athletes involved, even the older swimmers with more experience.

"The whole season has been a little tougher than years' past," junior Anthony Yarusso said. "I think the extra work is definitely paying off. Many of us have already accomplished our

goal times."

Individual athletes have goals they hope to accomplish before the end of the season. They also hope to accomplish team goals.

"Personally my goal this season is to place at Conference in at least two individual events and to place in the top four in any of the relays that I am in," Mandich said. "A team goal is to place better than last season at Conference finals and for everyone to get at least one lifetime best this season."

Though the Falcons have made it through half of the sea-

See **Swimming**, page 7

Falcons narrowly defeat No. 1 St. Norbert, improve record to 9-1

Wins move hockey team up the ranks

Sarah Packingham
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls men's hockey team entered the weekend ranked sixth in the country in Div. III men's hockey, but following two weekend wins over unranked Lake Forest and No. 1 ranked St. Norbert, the polls were bound to be different this week.

On this week's USCHO Poll, released on Tuesday, the Falcons moved up two spots to No. 4 in the rankings. St. Norbert fell to No. 3, just one place ahead of UWRF.

While the Falcon players and coaching staff admit that they don't follow the rankings too much right now, they do appreciate the recognition.

"The polls are more for the fans," head coach Steve Freeman said.

Freeman went on to talk about the NCHA poll, which will come out in the middle of January. In this poll, the teams are ranked on five different criteria and playoff bids are determined using these rankings. Freeman said that is the one thing the Falcon squad will truly be focusing on.

On Dec. 2, the Falcons took on St. Norbert, a tough opponent every season, with this match-up being no exception.

In the first period, junior Jim Henkemeyer scored a power-play goal, with Jim Jensen and Tyler Kostiuik assisting to give the Falcons a 1-0 lead. St. Norbert's Marc Belanger scored the tying goal about halfway through the period and the game would remain tied 1-1 until the



Zach Nagle
Derek Hansberry goes in for a shot against St. Norbert Saturday night. This weekend the Falcons will be on the road against Scholastica and UW-Superior.

third period.

At 8:23 of the final period, Green Knights' Lonny Forrester gave the team its first lead of the game, but it wasn't enough to keep the Falcons down. Sophomore Derek Hansberry tied the game up with a goal of his own.

"It was one of the biggest goals I've scored in a long time," Hansberry said.

But the Falcons weren't finished yet. Henkemeyer lit the lamp one more time to give the Falcons the 3-2 lead with 3:42 left in the game. The Falcons held on and goaltender AJ

Bucchino was called on to make a number of saves to solidify the Falcons' victory. Bucchino finished the game with 36 saves, winning his ninth game of the season in net.

"I took it as another day," Bucchino said of the St. Norbert game. "I tried to stay calm and

relaxed. The puck seemed to keep hitting me."

Going into the game, players on both sides were anticipating an intense game.

"Both of us had good records," Henkemeyer said. "We knew it would be a good game and we outworked them in the third."

While St. Norbert came in with a higher ranking, the Falcons didn't think the Green Knights were a team they couldn't beat.

"They weren't as good as they were last year," Hansberry said.

See **Men's hockey**, page 7

Senior goaltender Lindner keeps Falcons in games

Sarah Packingham
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls senior goaltender Amber Lindner is modest in her accomplishments and will constantly say that hockey is a team game and that she just does what she can to help her team.

"I cover their backs when they need it and they cover mine," Lindner said.

Lindner was recently named the conference player of the week following her efforts in goal against the No. 3 ranked UW-Stevens Point Pointers.

Her performance in goal helped the Falcons beat the Pointers and tie them over the weekend. Lindner said this was the first time in her four-year career with the Falcons that the

team was able to beat Stevens Point on their home ice.

Lindner has been playing hockey since she was in the second grade, but it wasn't until she was in seventh or eighth grade that she began playing goalie.

"I cover their backs when they need it and they cover mine."
Amber Lindner, women's hockey goalie

"I started because the girl's hockey program in Moorhead didn't have a goalie," Lindner said. "I said I could try it and I kept going."

And she has kept it going all the way through her college career at River Falls.

"I came here mainly for the hockey program," Lindner said.

She went on to talk about how the Falcons had a strong season the winter before she came to River Falls and she wanted to be a part of it.

"It's amazing," teammate Renae Bergh said. "When she's in the net we're so comfortable and confident."

Bergh said she believes that Lindner's play over the weekend was the reason the Falcons picked up a win and a tie in Stevens Point.

"I didn't know the games were outstanding," Lindner said of her weekend. "But people keep telling me that they were."

Lindner said she thinks that playing for the Falcons has built her character, but thinks that anybody who plays any sport builds character by having a drive for doing something they love.

"Being involved in a sport can change you," Lindner said. "Especially being in a team sport where you work with people, things and situations."

Lindner's hard work on the ice carries over to the classroom. The senior will be graduating in May with a degree in Communicative Disorders. Following her graduation from UWRF, Lindner hopes to go on to graduate school and get a doctorate in Audiology.

Lindner said she has hopes of coaching hockey once she fin-

ishes with her education. She is still unsure of what age group she would like to work with, but is leaning toward high school aged athletes.

In her spare time when not playing hockey or in class, Lindner likes to watch the sport on TV.

"If I'm not playing it, I'm watching it," Lindner said.

With the season almost at its midway point, Lindner said she has goals set aside for the team and herself.

"I'm just going to do everything I can to keep in games," Lindner said. "We're not scoring a lot of goals so every save



Amber Lindner

counts. It's a team sport, it's not like one person can make or break a game. And we're [the team] going to strive for what we can accomplish and take it step by step."

This weekend the Falcons host Finlandia at home on Saturday and Sunday. Games are set to begin at 7:05 and 2:05 p.m., respectively.

These games are going to be tough for the Falcons because Finlandia is a conference foe.

Lindner said she knows that she and her teammates will have had a good week of practice and come out ready to play at Hunt Arena.

The Falcons play at Gustavus on Dec. 13.

SPORTS WRAP

Women’s basketball improves record to 5-1

The UWRF women’s basketball team beat UW-Stevens Point 67-60 on Dec. 2 to improve the Falcons’ record to 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the WIAC. Traci Reimann led the way for the Falcons scoring 17 points and registering nine rebounds. Chantele Melgaard and Kelli Hilt also had strong performances. The first half was close as River Falls led by as much as five and the two teams went into the locker room with the Falcons leading, 25-23. The second half was also close as the teams went back and forth throughout. The Pointers led by as much as two, but the Falcons went ahead with a three-pointer from Reimann and would never fall behind again. UWRF shot 20-45 (.444) from the field, including 4-12 (.333) from three-point range. UWRF was 23-31 (.742) from the line. Stevens Point shot 25-63 (.344) from the field, including 3-13 (.231) from behind the arc. UWSP was 7-14 (.500) from the line. The Falcons play next on Dec. 9 vs. UW-Platteville at 3 p.m.

December 2 results	1-2; Lechault 4-6-3; Heuer 4-3-1; Nicastro 4-1-0; Pepper 2-0-0
UW-Stevens Point 23 37 — 60	
UW-River Falls 25 42 — 67	
UW-Stevens Point (pts-rebs-assist)	UW-River Falls (pts-rebs-assist)
Neuenfeldt 15-7-1; Webber 9-2-2; Van Gompel 9-0-1; Houghton 7-7-1; Kranz 6-	Reimann 17-9-1; Hilt 14-6-2; Melgaard 13-5-5; Lindman 9-4-1; Cordes 7-6-0; Flansch 4-4-1; Preiner 3-4-2

Women’s hockey skates to win and tie on road

Two goals by Jenna Scanlon late in the third period pushed the Falcons into overtime, but the game ended in a 2-2 tie with UW-Stevens Point on Dec. 3. The Pointers came out strong in the first two periods scoring the first goal late in the first period, with the second coming just 28 seconds into the second period. The third period was controlled by the Falcons, with Scanlon putting the Falcons on the scoreboard 12:32 into the third period. Scanlon scored again a few minutes later at 16:27 on a power play that tied the game up and sent it into overtime. That was Scanlon’s third goal of the season; she was assisted by Stefanie Schmitz and Kacie Anderson. Neither team scored in overtime despite time outs taken by both teams and UWSP having a power play opportunity at 3:52. The Falcons had one shot on goal in the overtime, while UWSP had three. The Falcons play next on Dec. 9 at 7:05 against Finlandia at Hunt Arena.

UW-River Falls 2, UW-Stevens Point 2	UW-River Falls 2, UW-Stevens Point 1
UW-River Falls..... 0 0 2 0 - 2	UW-River Falls..... 0 1 1 - 2
UW-Stevens Point.... 1 1 0 0 - 2	UW-Stevens Point.... 0 1 0 - 1

First period 15:10 SP - Lewandowski	Second Period 06:51 RF - Anderson (LeBlanc) 09:22 SP - Butler (Phillips, Kellin)
Second period 00:28 SP - Sosnowski (Grossmann)	Third Period 14:35 RF - LeBlanc (Sunderman, Juven)
Third period 12:32 Scanlon (Juven) 16:27 Scanlon (Schmitz, Anderson)	Goalkeeping (min-shots-saves) RF - Lindner (60:00-26:25) SP - Statz (59:00-13:11)
Goalkeeping (min-shots-saves) RF - Lindner (65:00-35:33) SP - Statz (65:00-21:19)	

SAAC annual Soles for Souls drive going on now

The annual Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Soles for Souls drive is set for the next few months at UW-River Falls. The drive collects shoes throughout the months of December, January and February and then delivers these shoes to the local Salvation Army. The Student Athlete Advisory Committee encourages everyone to participate in this by donating new or slightly used shoes to the drop boxes that are located next to the gymnasium in the Karges Center and the Knowles Field house. SAAC is an organization that is geared toward improving the college experience for student-athletes by allowing individuals to become involved within the community. According to Student Athlete Advisory Committee vice president Julie Sperstad, “last year this event was very successful. We raised 166 pairs of shoes, this year we plan to go above.”Throughout the year the organization performs various community projects including The Trick or Treat for Canned Goods which raised nearly 900 food items this last Halloween.

Sports Wrap Courtesy of UW-River Falls Sports Information



STANDINGS

Men’s Basketball	Men’s Hockey
WIAC Standings	NCHA Standings
UW-Stevens Point(5-0)	St. Norbert (10-1-2)
UW-Lacrosse(5-1)	UW-River Falls (9-1-0)
UW-Platteville(5-0)	UW-Stout (8-1-2)
UW-Stout(3-1)	UW-Superior (9-1-0)
UW-Oshkosh(2-1)	St. Scholastica (6-3-1)
UW-River Falls(2-3)	UW-Eau Claire (5-5-1)
UW-Whitewater(3-2)	UW-Stevens Point (4-5-1)
UW-Eau Claire(2-3)	Lake Forest (2-9-1)
UW-Superior(1-5)	
Women’s Basketball	Women’s Hockey
WIAC Standings	NCHA Standings
UW-River Falls(5-0)	UW-Superior(9-2-0)
UW-Lacrosse(4-2)	Lake Forest(5-0-3)
UW-Stevens Point(6-1)	UW-River Falls(5-1-3)
UW-Stout(6-1)	UW-Stevens Point(6-2-1)
UW-Eau Claire(5-2)	UW-Eau Claire(3-4-1)
UW-Oshkosh(5-3)	Finlandia(3-5-2)
UW-Platteville(4-3)	
UW-Whitewater(4-3)	
UW-Superior(2-3)	

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

SHOWCASE HOME GAME

Women’s basketball



UW-RF vs Platteville

3 p.m.

Karges Center

The UW-River Falls Falcons look to go 7-0 in the season and continue their undefeated conference streak on Saturday afternoon as they host UW-Platteville for a 3 p.m. tipoff. The Falcon men will hit the court at 1 p.m. for the first game in the Saturday afternoon doubleheader.

For all your news needs check out:

www.uwrfvoice.com

Comeback too late for men’s basketball

Sarah Packingham
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls men’s basketball team hosted UW-Stevens Point on Dec. 2, boasting a 1-0 conference record. The Falcons attempted to improve their record to 2-0 in conference, but were unsuccessful as they fell to the Pointers 81-73.

The loss brought the Falcons record below .500 at 2-3, while falling to 1-1 in WIAC play.

Jontae Koonkaew led the Falcons with 17 points in the loss.

Most recently, the Falcons traveled to UW-Eau Claire to take on the Blugolds in a hard-fought conference game.

However, the Falcons fell short to the Blugolds on the road, losing 63-62. The Falcons were ahead by one with under four minutes to go in the final half, but Blugold Zach Ryan scored with only two seconds remaining to give the home team the one-point victory.

Courtney Davis and Jontae Koonkaew lead the Falcons with 15 points each.

While it’s early in the season, the Falcons are very positive and have high expectations on what is to come.

“I feel that the season is going alright as of right now,” junior Ryan Thompson said. “I think that we’re still in the process of getting acquainted with everyone since there are so many new people on our team this season. I think we’re competing though and we will continue to improve as the season goes on. I think we’re capable of doing a lot of good things this season.”

Thompson is one of four juniors on a Falcon squad with no seniors and six freshmen.

Even though the team is so young, Thompson said he doesn’t think they are inexperienced and he believes that the team will continuously get better as the season progresses.

The returning Falcons are working with a new coaching staff.



Kenny Yoo

Freshman guard Jontae Koonkaew goes up for a basket against UW-Stevens Point Dec. 2 at Karges Center. The Falkons host conference rival UW-Platteville Saturday at 1 p.m.

“I feel that every season will have ups and downs. I think some of the adversity that we are facing this year is just our youth and having a new coaching staff and a new system that comes with that,” Thompson said. “Sometimes it takes a little while to start clicking as a team like you wish for with a new system and whole new group of new faces on the team. But, I really feel the sky is the limit for us.”

In fact, Thompson had nothing but praise for the young members of the Falcon squad.

“The freshmen are doing great. There is no doubt in my mind that we have the best freshman class in the conference,” Thompson said. “Two of the freshmen are playing huge roles

already early in the season being Jontae and Nate. They have adjusted very well to the collegiate game, and that’s not an easy adjustment for any ball player. The other four guys are doing well also, and they seem to be improving everyday. They are all capable of having great careers here.”

The Falcons hope to have a successful season and finish toward the top of the conference with the potential of making it to the national tournament.

“As a team we want to make the NCAA tournament. In order to do that we will need to either win our conference tournament or finish in the top two or three in our conference standings during the regular season,” Thompson said. “We know that

we are capable of playing and beating anyone in our conference. It’s just a matter of us working together, playing defense and doing it.”

The next game for the Falcons is on Saturday against conference rival UW-Platteville. The Falcons take on the Pioneers in the first game of a Falcon basketball doubleheader at 1 p.m. at the Karges Center.

December 2 results	UW-Stevens Point 42 39 — 81
UW-River Falls 29 44 — 73	

UW-Stevens Point (pts-rebs-assist)
Rortvedt 20-6-0; El-Amin15-2-3; Beamish 14-4-4; Krautkramer10-3-1; Jackson 8-1-1; Krull 7-10-3; Hicklin 4-5-1; Moses 3-5-3

UW-River Falls (pts-rebs-assist)
Koonkaew 17-3-5; Davis 14-8-2; Thompson 14-2-3; Robertson 11-4-1; Pearson 7-5-1; Kelly 7-3-2; Olson 3-1-0

STARTING STRONG



Kenny Yoo

Senior Megan Lindman goes up for a shot against Stevens Point Dec. 2. The team traveled to UW-Eau Claire Dec. 6 and lost its first conference game of the season 60-50.

Swimming: Prepares for home meet

from page 6

son, they’re not even close to being done yet.

“We’re at about midseason and we only have a few more swim meets before winter break which we go to California to train for 10 days,” Fritchen said.

Following the trip to California and the J-Term break, the team will only have a few weeks left of practice before heading off to the conference meet.

Mandich described how she finds swimming to be so much different.

“Everyone on the team gets along very well and everyone encourages each other both during practice and at meets,” Mandich said. “Even though swimming is an individual sport we have a very close

team and it is nice to know that when you are up on the blocks, you have an entire team that is cheering for you and truly cares about your race.”

This weekend, the women’s team competes On Saturday against Augsburg. The meet is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. at Karges.

Women
December 3 results
RF 706, UND 139

UW-RF top finishers (event/time/score)
1. RF A 2:02.40, 200 Medley Relay; 1. Twenty 1:08.77, 100 Backstroke; 1. Cannady 1:13.83, 100 Breaststroke; 1. Crane 2:39.54, 200 Butterfly; 1. Mandich 25.79, 50 Freestyle, 1. Auble 3:02.73, 200 Breaststroke; 1. Cannady 1:08.71, 100 Butterfly; 1. O’Brien 5:26.11, 400 IM

Men
December 3 results
St. John’s 827, SDSU 693, UND 289, RF 220

UW-RF top finishers (event/time/score)
5. Ormson 2:21.99, 200 Backstroke; 6. Orlando 5:50.70, 500 Freestyle; 6. Orlando 2:33.96, 200 Butterfly; 6. Ormson, Johnson, Yarusso, Moe 1:57.01, 200 Medley Relay

Men’s hockey: Ready for road test

from page 6

“But we definitely have some areas we could improve on. They were pretty solid in the first two periods.”

Freeman said St. Norbert has three defensemen and a goaltender who have the opportunity to be All-Americans, but the Falcons played well.

“They’re very talented and bring a lot of speed and toughness,” Freeman said. “The difference really was special teams.”

The home ice advantage was also on the Falcons’ side Saturday night.

“The crowd was instrumental,” Freeman said. “They got right back into it after St. Norbert scored. It’s like having an extra player on the ice.”

Bucchino was very pleased with the entire team’s efforts on Saturday night.

“It was our hardest working game all year,” Bucchino said.

Following his weekend efforts, Henkemeyer was named NCHA and WIAC Player of the Week.

“Jim’s a solid player.” Hansberry said. “He plays well on both sides of the ice.”

On Friday night, the Falcons hosted NCHA competitor Lake Forest and skated to a 3-1 victory over the visiting Foresters. The two teams skated through a scoreless first period before TJ Dahl gave the Falcons a 1-0 lead. Dahl recorded a point for the ninth consecutive game, while a Forester was serving a two-minute penalty for diving. Jensen and Kostiuik also scored in the second period to give the Falcons a 3-0 lead

UW-River Falls 3, St. Norbert 2
St. Norbert..... 1 0 1 - 2
UW-River Falls..... 1 0 2 - 3

First period
03:54 RF - Henkemeyer (Jensen, Kostiuik)
12:56 SNC - Belanger (Boyd, Hazelwood)
Third period
08:23 SNC - Forrester (Wheeler, Boisjoli)
10:35 RF - Hansberry (Dahl)
16:18 RF - Henkemeyer (Jensen, Dahl)

Goalkeeping (min-shots-saves)
RF - Bucchino (59:39-38:36)
SNC - Jones (59:05-28:25)

entering the third.

Lake Forest’s Tyler Canal broke the shutout and pulled the Foresters to within 3-1. That was where the scoring would end, giving the Falcons momentum for the Saturday night game against St. Norbert.

“We had a 3-0 lead and we kind of let off the gas,” Freeman said of the Lake Forest game.

“They’re very talented and bring a lot of speed and toughness.”

Steve Freeman,
men’s hockey coach

The Falcons are on the road Friday and Saturday for two of the team’s toughest road tests of the season. They play St. Scholastica on Friday and UW-Superior on Saturday. The games are set to begin at 7:05 and 8 p.m., respectively.

Henkemeyer knows that the road trip will be tough for the Falcons. He said he and his teammates will have to play physical and come out hitting. Both teams have also had a good season up to this point and neither one can be taken lightly.

St. Superior is currently ranked fifth in the country.

Scholastica has been gradually improving over the past few years and will surely give the Falcons some competition for the win.

These are the final two conference games for the Falcons before the break.

The Falcons finish up the first half of the season on Tuesday, with a home game against St. Mary’s.

The game is scheduled to begin at 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena.

UW-River Falls 3, Lake Forest 1
Lake Forest..... 0 0 1 - 1
UW-River Falls..... 0 3 0 - 3

Second period
07:30 RF - Dahl (Henkemeyer, Borgestad)
10:29 RF - Jensen (Dahl)
13:05 RF - Kostiuik (Kerns)
Third Period
12:44 LFC - Canal (Lee, Oke)

Goalkeeping (min-shots-saves)
RF - Bucchino (60:00-30:29)
LFC - Kohuch (59:02-48:45)

Interactive mystery dinner has students solve murder

Kate Garlock

kate.garlock@uwrf.com

The boss is dead and it's up to River Falls to solve the murder, but does the city have the resources? Will the students of UW-River Falls help catch the murderer?

First Year Experience (FYE) and Student Events and Activities Committee (SEAC) have faced a large challenge as they try to engage students in a genre of show nearly 20 years old — the Murder Mystery Dinner being hosted in the new University Center next semester.

SEAC Coordinator Karyn Kling said when the idea was broached to students, very few knew what a murder mystery involved. This presented a challenge marketing the event to students.

In order to bridge this gap, the committees have been advertising the event with phrases like, "Get a Clue," in hopes that students will make the connection between the

crime-solving game Clue and the Murder Mystery Dinner, Kling said.

"Students know what Clue is," Kling said. "[The Murder Mystery Dinner] is a highly interactive theatrical event where the audience becomes part of the performance and works together to solve the mystery."

A murder mystery was attempted on campus a couple years ago, but didn't muster the response programmers had hoped. Kling said the new venue and new group of students could make the event a success.

"You're going to get a group of friends going to it, and they're going to have a great time," student Marcus Bonde said. "When they go back and tell their friends about it, they're disappointed that they didn't go."

Bonde is one of the students responsible for planning the Murder Mystery Dinner. He said he was excited about the event, despite not knowing very much about murder mystery parties.

"I love putting on events; I just need to know a little bit about it," Bonde said. "I just thought it was a great idea."

Still, he knew it wouldn't be an easy event to plan.

"I think a lot of [students] will be deterred, only because it costs \$10," Bonde said.

But he said the value of the evening is worthwhile.

"If a student were to go up to the cities it would easily cost \$50," he said.

Faculty, staff and community members are also invited to the event.

"It's a great way to meet people that [students] might not know already, and a great way to interact with the professors," Bonde said.

Another challenge faced by the committees was coordinating an event in a venue that has yet to be open to the public — the ballroom in the new University Center. The ballroom is an ideal venue for the event because it is a sit-down dinner, and the ballroom provides some elegance, Kling said.

Kling and FYE Co-Director Miriam Huffman have been able to tour the facility as professional staff to get an idea of what needs to be done. They also worked in collaboration with Chartwells, which is catering the event, Kling said.

Bonde said this will be the first major event in the new building, and that is a great selling point. Students, faculty, staff and community members are given this opportunity to view the newest addition to the UWRF campus.

At the event, guests are placed in the center of a murder scene and asked to find out who committed murder.

The Murder Mystery Dinner is a chance for these parties to interact with each other in a setting outside of class.

Set at the employee appreciation party for the fictional company 2M, guests are asked to discover who killed the boss out of a line-up of suspects including the smarmy marketing director, the office rabble rouser and the loveable security guard.

"It's not your traditional stage-up-front show," Kling said. "It's very interactive. Actors are part of the dinner and the audience is part of the show."

Mystery Café, the nation's original comedy mystery dinner theater, puts on the show. The theatre company is based in the Twin Cities and has been performing since 1989.

Each Mystery Café show is a fast-paced roller coaster of punch lines and pratfalls, sidesplitting gags and hair-raising suspense, accompanied by a three-course meal.

The event is scheduled for 7 p.m., Jan. 27. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$20 for faculty, staff and community members. They can be purchased at the Leadership Center front desk in the Student Center.

Falcon: Service provides a wide selection of jobs across the nation

from page 2

Résumés can be stored in a student's account along with other documents, such as a cover letter.

If a student is not sure how to create the perfect résumé, they can utilize the résumé critique provided by Career Services.

UWRF is not the only university that has this service. At least 10 of the 13 universities in the UW System have similar software.

No matter what program a student is using, the job search component is the most important feature, Fitzgerald and Wilson said.

"The job agent feature allows students to receive a daily e-mail listing of new jobs that we receive each day without them needing to log in to their account," Fitzgerald said. "This is called 'passive job searching,' which requires minimal effort."

Wilson said though the job search agent is the most important feature, it is used the least on students' accounts.

"Students are busy and don't have enough time to visit the Web site," she said. "Luckily for them, they don't have to be proactive. They can receive e-mails."

Sophomore Shawna Carpenter said she had never heard of the Hire A Falcon System, but would consider using it in the future.

"I think it would be something I would use as a type of watchdog for a career," she said. "If you don't know where to look for a certain job, you probably won't find it, but it sounds like this service would help."

The job agent includes nationwide job options, but most of the opportunities are available in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Some of the businesses looking for employees are Wells Fargo, State Farm and IBM.

Types of job positions include internships, part time, full-time entry level and full-time experienced.

The Hire A Falcon System also offers a directory of mentors.

"It's an online location where students can find a listing of people who are willing to speak with them regarding career options," Fitzgerald said.

The Hire A Falcon System serves 1,376 students, as well as some alumni, at this time. The Hire A Falcon System can be located at www.uwrf.edu/ccs/.

Students may ponder usage of numerals on timepiece

Jennie Oemig

jennifer.oemig@uwrf.edu

Walking past the train station clock on campus mall, UW-River Falls students may find themselves questioning the education they received about the use of Roman numerals.

The 4 o'clock hour on the face of the timepiece is represented with the Roman numeral IIII instead of the commonly used IV. However, neither version of the number can factually be construed as the incorrect representation.

Director of Purchasing Tom Weiss was in charge of deciding what type of clock would be placed on the campus mall last spring. He said the train station-style clock was purchased from The Verdin Clock Company.

"It is very common on clocks ... to have replaced the IV with the IIII," Weiss said, adding he has several Howard Miller pendulum clocks at his home that represent the 4 o'clock hour in the same fashion.

Marsie Rowan, a marketing representative for The Verdin Clock Company, reaffirmed what Weiss had said.

"It's traditional for the 'four' on clocks to be represented as IIII," she said.

This trend in numerical history can be seen from coast to coast and around the world.

If you happen to visit the Franklin Mint in Beverly Hills, Calif., you will find that 4 o'clock on the timepiece is represented with IIII. The same is true of the clock that stands in the courtyard at Merrimack College in Andover, Mass.

The more commonly taught version of the Roman numeral IV can be seen on one of Britain's well-known tourist attractions, Big Ben, which was completed between 1858 and 1859.

London is neighbor to the Greenwich Observatory, where another famous timepiece is displayed. A 24-hour Galvanic-magnetic clock, known as the Master Clock, represents the fourth hour as IIII. The clock displays Greenwich Mean Time, or World Time, which, according to the Greenwich Mean Time Web site, is "the basis of every world time zone, which sets the time of day and is at the centre of the time zone map."

In Ancient Rome, Roman numerals were used as the standard numbering system, as well as for everyday arithmetic.

The practice of subtractive notation guided early Romans in laying out the guidelines for what many have come to know as the proper form of Roman numerical notation.

Though these guidelines were created, some Romans did not abide by them when building the now historical Colloseum

If you have ever been to the Colloseum, you may

notice there are 33 archways still standing, and each one is numbered. Arch 29 is represented as XXVIII, arch 54 as LIIII and arch 44 as XLIIII. Clearly, the use of subtractive notation went out the window while the monument was being constructed. This would lead one to believe that there really is no right or wrong way to utilize Roman numerals.

In subtractive notation, it is difficult to perform mathematical operations on Roman numerals. In order to ease the process, the removal of subtractive notation is necessary.

Many other theories have been given as to why there are two differing opinions as to how four should be represented in Roman numerals.

In his book, Time & Timekeepers, Willis I. Milham, suggests IIII is commonly used because it is aesthetically pleasing.

"On the other side of the clock dial the VIII is the heaviest number, consisting of four heavy strokes and one light one, as it is usually made," he states in the book. "It would destroy the symmetry to have the IV with only two heavy strokes on the other side. Thus IIII with four heavy strokes is much to be preferred. The change may therefore have been made for reasons of symmetry."

Members of an alt.horology newsgroup have devoted a page of their Web site, Clocks and Time, to the discussion on the IV vs. IIII debate.

So as time goes on, so will the long-running debate



Zach Nagle
The train station clock on the campus mall uses the Roman numeral IIII instead of the commonly used IV. While it may seem wrong to many, it is common to see this representation of the four on clocks across the world.

over which Roman numeral representation is correct. Use your own judgment, because neither answer is right or wrong.

HPV: Vaccine protects men, women from common sexually transmitted disease

from page 2

"It protects against cervical cancer, vaginal cancer, cancer of the vulva and genital warts," Shockey-Woll said.

The vaccine is a series of three shots given throughout six months. It is recommended to women ages 9-26, and prevents some strains of HPV but doesn't treat them. Those who have been exposed previously to HPV can still get the vaccine, and studies show it still protects against the other types of HPV that the vaccine fights.

Though Student Health Services does not pay for the vaccine, it is offered at the River Falls Medical Clinic.

"The vaccine costs around \$120 a shot, and so far insurance companies have

been very cooperative," Shockey-Woll said. "We recommend that our patients check with their individual company before deciding to get the vaccine."

Gardasil does not protect from all types of cervical cancers and doesn't replace regular exams. It is important for women to continue to schedule yearly pap tests.

Some female students at UW-River Falls have contemplated getting the vaccine.

"I've had abnormal pap smears before, and I think that this is so awesome that people can actually be protected of it before they get it," a female student, who wishes to remain anonymous, said. "I most likely will get the vaccine."

Senior Lindsay Schlosser also thinks it's a good idea.

"I think that every girl should get this vaccine," Schlosser said. "It protects them from so many types of cancer."

Though HPV is the most common, other STDs can also be asymptomatic, causing those infected to possibly spread the disease without knowing.

"Nationwide the most common STDs are HPV, Chlamydia and Herpes," Butts said. "In this area [River Falls], we see more Chlamydia than anything else."

She also said it is important for sexually active individuals to be responsible and informed about contracting and spreading STDs.

"Anyone who is 15 to 30 and not in a monogamous relationship should get tested for STDs regularly," Butts said. "This will ensure them that if they do

have an STD, they can get it treated properly before there are any other complications."

Pierce County Reproductive Health and the River Falls Medical Clinic offer free STD testing to students at UWRF. The tests include HIV, Chlamydia and certain Herpes cultures. Though there is no specific test for HPV, they also offer free pap smears for women.

"Students should practice safe sex, including condoms and dental dams for oral sex," Director of Student Health Services and Counseling Services Alice Reilly-Myklebust said. "All of these things are offered to students free through Student Health Services at Pierce County Reproductive Health and River Falls Medical Clinic."

Employment

Have a Heart Inc. We are looking for Care Givers and Personal Care Assistants to work with children and young adults with developmental disabilities. Flexible hours on weekends and during the week available. Training and support provided. Call Amber: 715-425-7754
P/T Janitorial help at LBM needed. Hours are 2PM to 10PM various days a week. Valid driver's license required. For interview call 715-425-6954

Employment

Positions Available on Campus! Technology Leadership Cadre (TLC). Student helping students with technology. Job description at http://www.uwrf.edu/tlc/member/tlc_pos.pdf. Application deadline December 18.

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Student Voice Business Office
410 S. Third Street, 304 North Hall
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Phone: 425-3624 Fax: 425-0684

Ruthless band considered noise



Erik Wood

So as I sat around this weekend pondering what new music to review, a few groups crossed my mind.

First of all, I contemplated the ever-so-catchy and tempting Black Eyed Peas star, Fergie. Then I came to my senses and realized I would rather not sicken myself with the sheer stupidity of her music.

So I turned to my wonderful colleagues within the *Student Voice* staff for suggestions.

Someone tipped me off to a group whose producer is actually a UW-River Falls alumnus.

It's a group from Loonatix productions — calling themselves the very interesting, yet borderline ridiculous name Ruthless with an album called *Strawberry*.

At first, I had no idea what to expect. That is, until I noticed the label's name — Loonatix productions — and I knew I was in for something. I just didn't know what that something was.

Apparently the label is one of underground hip-hop and alternative. But to me, it's absolutely brainless. Ruthless's album, *Strawberry*, which hit local stores Nov. 21, can only be described as a talentless mess of dim-witted lyrics performed by a slew of ridiculously named individuals who actually think

they possess musical talent.

Please, refrain me from mutilating my eardrums with a plastic spork!

The artists are named Phatty McGee, Professor Fresh, Rentz, The District and Just Smoke. Is this seriously a great joke in the music world?

Because I couldn't help but laugh uncontrollably.

While driving in my car, I thought I would bump it within the company of close friends. Big mistake. No one should suffer from the ridiculousness and repulsiveness that Loonatix Productions puts on.

Sure, murder rap — or gangsta rap — is one thing, but to mock Insane Clown Posse and completely fail at it is a sheer



Ruthless' most recent album, "Strawberry," was released Nov. 21.

cry for help. Yes, Insane Clown Posse had its run, but in now way, shape or form should Ruthless should be considered music. It's an unnecessary nuisance in the music world.

With track names like, "Rotten," "Thick," "Just Smoke Lives," "Ripe" and "Bear vs. Gorilla," you should ask yourself: What could possess someone to think of such preposterous titles as these? In my wildest dreams, I could not envision myself destroying my intelligent quotient with this ruckus. I would never recommend anything like this to anyone. Trust me, this is not hip-hop, rap or alternative. It's noise — end of story.

I warn you before you drop this into any CD player, be prepared to roll on the floor with uncontrollable laughter.

UWRF grad manages hip-hop crew

Keighla Schmidt
keighla.schmidt@uwrf.edu

Growing up attending a private Lutheran school, Joe Rask kept his radio dial tuned to country music. At the time, the 2003 UW-River Falls alumnus could not have foreseen his musical future.

Rask is part of the Minneapolis-based hip-hop production company Loonatix.

Loonatix is a record label that boosts the Twin Cities music scene by providing a unique style. What Rask described as "hype-hop," or hybrid hip-hop, the sound can be likened to bands such as the Beastie Boys or Cotton Mouth Kings.

"We're definitely on the different side of the spectrum than the radio hip-hop," Rask said. "It's in-your-face music, and it's not for everyone."

With lyrics about how women should vanish if they don't want to smoke weed, and titles such as, "What If I Kill You," Rask has found himself venturing from the Johnny Cash and Garth Brooks music his mother encouraged as a child.

"Johnny Cash is the original gangsta rapper," Rask said, noting the lyrical content and delivery Cash used.

Yet one of Rask's first encounters with music outside the country genre was at 12 years old. "A kid had The Chronic album by Dr. Dre," he said. "I was a Lutheran-school kid and couldn't believe some of the stuff that was being said."

He said he and his mother went to Best Buy, where he wanted to purchase The Chronic tape. With the "parental advisory" sticker attached, his mother wouldn't let him get a copy. The sales clerk offered M.C. Hammer, but it wasn't sufficient for Rask.

Progressing from there, the band 311 blew up his freshman year of high school, and he became a dedicated fan.

His musical passion grew to include Rage

marketing communications degree from UWRF.

His involvement as a band manager began when he was enrolled in a radio and television production class at UWRF and had the equipment to record an album for a friend's band.

"We recorded a really bad record," he said. "But if it wasn't for that class, I wouldn't be doing any of this."

Always attracted to the creative side of marketing, Rask also spends some of his time working on the designing and promotion of Loonatix merchandise.

Professionally, he looks up to a label that excels at successfully putting out popular merchandise — Psychopathic Records.

Specifically, Rask also looks up to the Psychopathic band Insane Clown Posse (ICP), which he said he believes to be a genius at marketing to the 12- to 25-year-old male demographic.

ICP has been influential in other ways for the Loonatix production company.

ICP held a contest to find the next band to be signed to its label. There were more than 1,000 initial applicants, which were narrowed down to two. Performing at an outdoor concert, the winner was determined by listener votes, and the Loonatix band Ruthless fell short by a margin of 65 votes.

Despite losing the competition and chance to be on a national label, it's still an accomplishment both Loonatix and Ruthless use to gain credibility in the local and national music scenes.

"It's easy to get on national shows because we've played with national bands," Rask said. "Now we're no longer blown off."

Ruthless also went on tour across New York to cities including Manhattan, Rochester and Syracuse. They made other stops along the east coast in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Cleveland, Ohio. Working their way back to the Midwest Loonatix stopped in Detroit to play at St. Andrews Hall, the club depicted as The Shelter in the 2002 movie, "8 Mile", before ending back in Minnesota at The Rock Nightclub in Maplewood.

"It's not a huge tour," Rask said. "But it's a start."

Back on the local scene, at least one of the



"Hype-hop" production company Loonatix is a Twin Cities music label managed by a UWRF marketing communications alumnus.

label's six artists has played at most of the major Twin Cities venues, including First Avenue, the Quest Nightclub and Fine Line Music Café.

While Rask didn't coordinate either show, two of the artists on the Loonatix label — Al Trahms, better known as Professor Fresh, and Ruthless - made appearances at the RF Underground last April, as well as at Hallapalooza one year.

"Big Joe put that together," Fresh said about the Underground performance. "I love to play the music."

When none of the other scheduled acts showed up to the Underground, Fresh put on what he describes as a "punk rock" flavor of hip-hop show by himself.

The vulgar lyrics brought a strong "tongue lashing" by the professional staff to the people who booked them when they played at an outdoor event in April 2004, Rask said.

Though surrounded by a group of friends who put out the type of music often referred to as "horror core" and engage in the smoking tactics their lyrics proclaim, Rask is different from his crew.

"He's great to work with," Fresh said. "We're all pot-heads, and he's not."

Fresh said Rask is responsible, and he's good at promoting the label and events online.

Rask said it's hard to be the one who's sober all time, but someone has to do it.

"Sometimes I have to be the grown up," he said.

The sober days are not like his college days, when he said he spent plenty of time socializing at the bars with his agriculture major roommates.

Coming back to River Falls, Rask said he sees some changes in a negative light regarding the community and campus relationship and feels the desire to change the event scent on campus.

"I would love to go back to campus and work there," he said. "They seem to be out of touch with fun."

'Déjà Vu' story not worthy of recollection



Jenna Lee

a beautiful Halle Berry look-alike washes up on shore.

At first glance it looks like she is just another one of the casualties of the explosion because she is badly burned, but something doesn't fit — her body was found an hour before the explosion occurred. Carlin believes she must play some pivotal role in solving the case, and while learning about all of her activities leading up to the time of the detonation, he falls in love.

The FBI, headed by Agent Pryzwarra (Val Kilmer), brings Carlin to the base that has been set up to work on terrorism. The technology used involves surveillance that is extremely high tech. Though I never fully understood exactly how it worked, the FBI researchers had discovered how to 'fold over' time and create a wormhole that can see exactly four days and six hours into the past. It's hard to imagine when these researchers had time to do all this work in quantum physics when (if you look closely at the computers in the background) all the screensavers on their monitors are close-ups of women wearing silky black bras and undies.

Carlin decides to take the technology one step further, and instead of just looking into the past, he transports himself back, not only to save the ferry, but the woman as well.

Catching the terrorist (Jim Caviezel) proves more difficult than expected, and Carlin fails. Again, I am no expert on how time travel works (especially in Hollywood), but every time Carlin fails (i.e. dies), he gets to go back and try again until both the girl and ferry are safe.

They do not come out and say this outright in the movie, but it is the basis of the plot as well as the feeling of déjà vu.

For example, at the beginning of the movie Carlin is walking around a ship deck where all the body bags are being lined up. His cell phone rings, but when he pulls it out of his pocket the sound is not coming from it, but from inside a body bag.

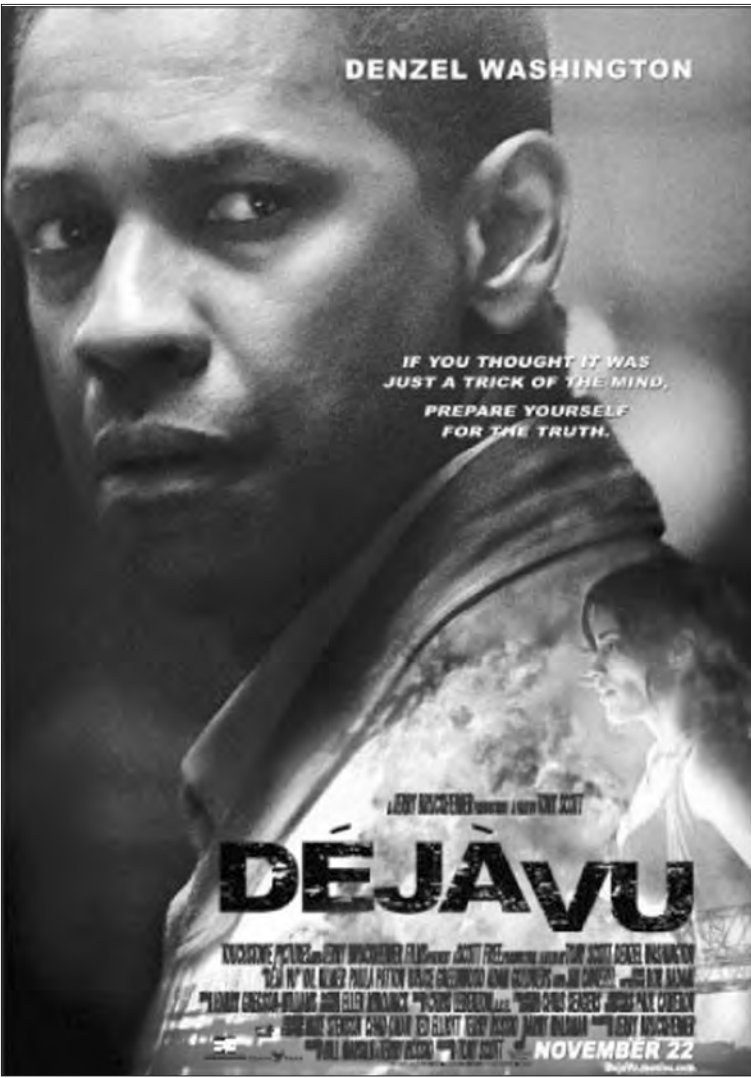
This led me to only one logical conclusion — that the person in the body bag was one of his "failed" selves, only he didn't remember it. Does that make sense?

I might have to see this one twice too.

I didn't mind the whole "go back until you get it right" scenario because it has a lot to say about the power of faith and divine intervention. Maybe scientific theories don't have all the answers. However, considering the intensity of the film, I thought it could have been a little more "Donnie Darko" and a little less "Run, Lola, Run."



Nick Welsh



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.

We've all seen Denzel Washington at one time or another in the past, and I for one have come to deeply respect the actor. He has proven to be a chameleon on screen, whether it was as the bitter Malcolm X or a calm Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter.

But I must also say I haven't seen any work of his that was really all that good in recent years, and "Déjà Vu" is no exception.

In this story, Washington plays Doug Carlin, a detective for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, who is investigating a recent terrorist bombing of a ferry outside New Orleans.

Finding clues along the shoreline like Sherlock Holmes, he is able to piece together the puzzle with hasty reasoning, leaving even those in charge of the investigation stunned at his ingenuity.

Recruited by an agent on the case (Val Kilmer), Carlin is introduced to a surveillance system capable of pinpointing anywhere in the city from any viewpoint, four days in the past. Not fooled, Carlin realizes it also has the ability to transport solid objects in the past, as if it were a time machine.

Using this technology, Carlin and a team try to discover the identity of the terrorist responsible by watching the past of one of his victims from the explosion, Claire Kuchever (newcomer Paula Patton).

During this time, her beauty captivates Carlin to the point of passion. Even when the terrorist is discovered and arrested, Carlin cannot ignore the fact that Claire will soon die and goes back to change her future.

I'm not sure why, but I just couldn't really get into this film. Sure, there were some admirable, heart-pounding scenes, but I always felt as though they were missing something.

It couldn't be the acting. Washington was fine, and Patton was indeed marvelous. I thought she did a splendid job despite the time restraint her character had on the screen.

Though director Tony Scott has always had a reputation for brief and frequent film editing, it wasn't as though I felt overwhelmed. In fact I really felt the building tension a few times.

Perhaps it was the story itself. The notion that there is a reason why you have that feeling of déjà vu is original, but the idea of time travel has been done plenty of times before.

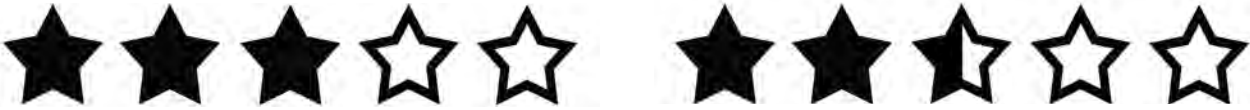
There were moments when Washington rejuvenated the film, bringing it back to life. But I found that the other supporting characters really had nothing to offer.

As I was exiting the theater, I didn't hear anyone else discuss what they had just seen. Perhaps they were like me — not knowing what to feel. It wasn't necessarily bad, but it wasn't all that great either.

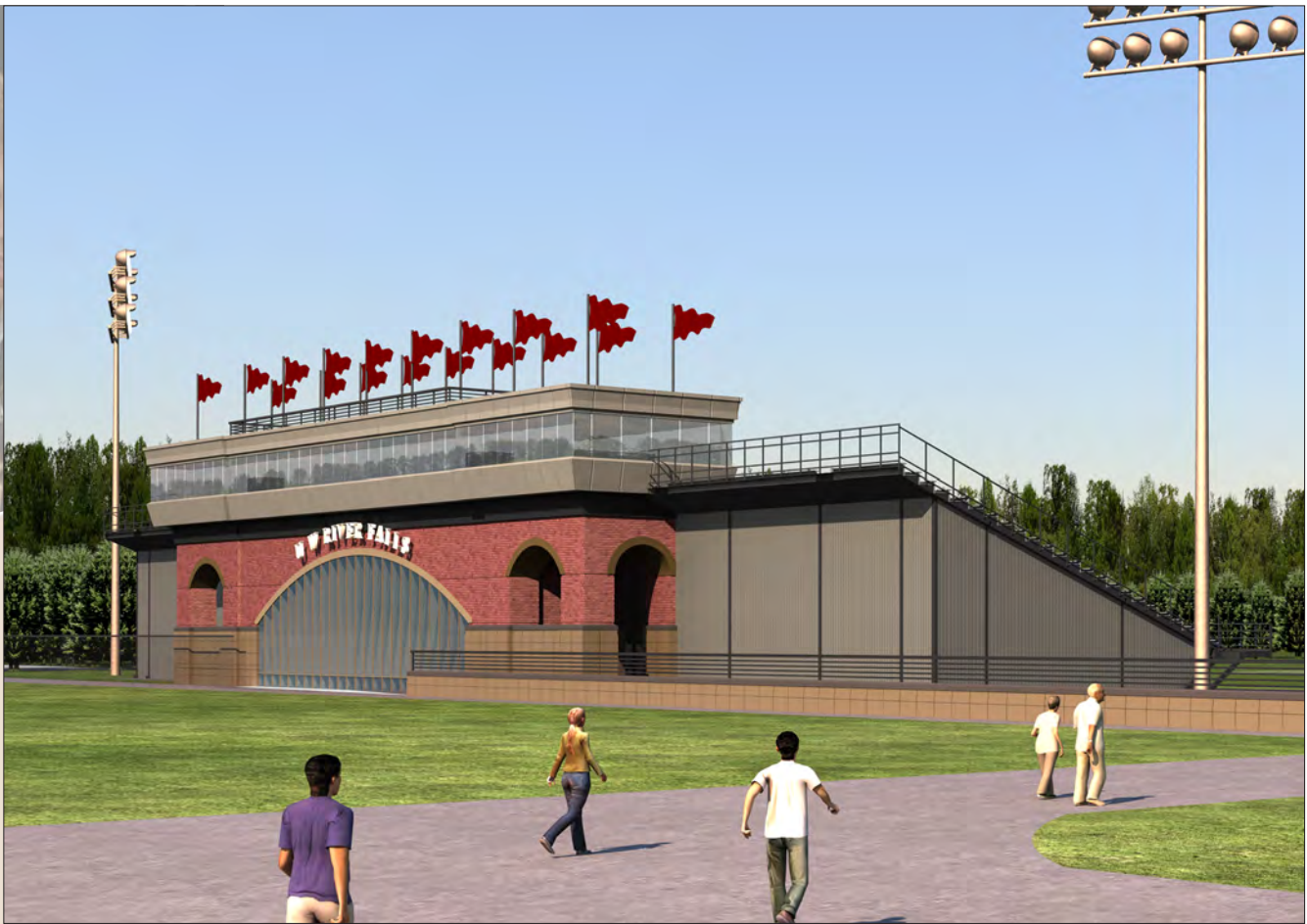
There were moments when I was caught up with the suspense, and at other times I was glancing at my watch wondering what time it was.

I suppose the best I could recommend is to wait for it to come out on video. That way if you like it, you'll have a good time. Or if you don't, then at least you won't feel as though you've just wasted a ton of money.

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



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



Submitted graphic
This computer-generated image shows the University’s prospective new entrance to the Ramer Field stadium. The project is budgeted at \$3 million, and the initial groundbreaking is expected during Homecoming 2008.

Ramer facelift in the works

Beth Dickman
elizabeth.dickman@uwrf.edu

Imagine yourself in the bleachers cheering on the UW-River Falls Falcons. The wind is chilly and obtrusive, the lights are dim and obstructing your view, and the concessions available are less than desirable.

That image is about to change with major renovations to Ramer Field. Instead of wind blowing constantly across the field and bleachers, 250 trees will be planted around the perimeter to add a break in the stream and improve the overall aesthetics of the stadium.

But the plans for the revised stadium call for much more than landscaping.

When it is complete, the bleachers will be enclosed in brick with an elevator inside to make the press box handicap accessible. The lights will be brightened and moved behind the stands, and the grass will be replaced with artificial turf. The new press box will stretch the length of the bleachers and offer a comfortable place for the athletic department to entertain alumni and other guests who may be interested in making donations to the school.

“You have to spend money to make money,” Athletic Director Rick Bowen said, adding he hopes to promote more alumni participation and donation by showing them a good time in the new press box.

This renovation comes with a high price tag: \$3 million. Students and taxpayers are not footing the bill; it is the University Foundation and private donations that will fund every penny to cover the total cost.

“All money must be in the bank before construction can begin,” Campus Planner Dale Braun said. “Not just pledges.”

The timetable for this project changed significantly with a sizable donation from a local source. First National Bank of River Falls donated \$500,000 to the University Foundation for the project.

Before the large donation, the timeframe was uncertain, but Bowen has high hopes to perform a groundbreaking ceremony during the UWRF homecoming game in the 2008 season.

The building stage of the project is still a fair amount of time away, but Bowen insists it is important to get students, staff and community members excited about what the renovations will bring to the University and the community.

“It’s about image, it’s about community,” Bowen said. “This is a first-class university in a first-class city with a third-class athletic facility.”

The renovations will improve the look of the stadium completely while offering more versatility.

The athletic department and University Foundation hope to build the new stadium and draw in more players and fans. With an updated facility, it is possible to host a wide array of events and offer a better atmosphere for players and spectators.

“Compared to our sister universities, ours [stadium] looks really bad,” Braun said. “It even comes down to school pride.”

Aesthetics aside, the addition of artificial turf will keep Ramer up to par with the rest of the UW System. UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, UW-Platteville and UW-Oshkosh have installed artificial turf and now have the ability to use their stadiums for soccer, concerts, band competitions and other events that go beyond football. UWRF lacks the ability to do any of these things with the outdated field.

Ramer Field was built in 1969, and updates have been meager ever since. In the 1970s a small locker room was added to the south end of the field, and a public address system was the last of additions completed no more than five years ago.

In the UW System, all other universities except UW-Stevens Point have updated their stadiums or have a plan in the works to do so. Yet Ramer Field remains with amenities similar to a small-town high school stadium with worse lighting, Bowen said.

“We rarely, if ever, have taken recruits right out to our stadium while they are visiting campus,” Falcon football coach John O’Grady said. “It would be a detriment to do so. We don’t even have running water in our press box. I’ve been

using the bathrooms in the press box at most of the other stadiums in our conference for almost 30 years.”

A Dec. 1 meeting was held with an architect to discuss the proposed project and get a better idea of the funds needed and opportunities available.

O’Grady will be thankful for the running water and bathroom facilities that are now a part of the plans for the press box. It will be worthy of visiting alumni and prospective players when it is complete.

Ramer Field is now being used for UWRF and River Falls High School football, but it is also used by the Kansas City Chiefs during the summer for training camp. While inhabiting UWRF, the Chiefs use Ramer for practice.

As of last week, the Chiefs had not been approached for donations or help in funding the project, and Bowen is not relying on the organization’s help.

“We only have one-year contracts with the Chiefs,” Bowen said. “There are three other universities in Missouri willing to build the team its own facilities.”

The Chiefs have a large presence during the summer in River Falls, drawing a plethora of outsiders to the small town and bringing in business for local commerce.

Updating Ramer Field would be a good way to encourage the Chiefs to continue using River Falls as a practice camp, Bowen said.

“I want to emphasize this is a community project,” Bowen said. “The University is doing this, but the community is really going to benefit from the renovations too.”

Bowen became the full-time athletic director April 1 after serving UWRF as basketball coach for 20 years. He is the driving force behind the Ramer Field renovation project and spends half his time working on it.

“I’m using 40 to 50 percent of my time raising money,” Bowen said. “I just want to leave here a better place than I found it.”



Rick Bowen

Ramer facts

- Ramer was originally built in 1969
- Football field is used by UWRF teams, River Falls High School football team and the Kansas City Chiefs

Proposed future renovations:

- Artificial turf
- Bleachers enclosed in brick
- Brighter, relocated lighting
- 250 pine trees around perimeter
- Elevator
- Updated locker room
- Plumbing in press box



Submitted photo

The bleachers at Ramer Field stand open without an enclosure. According to the renovation plans, they will be surrounded by brick, and an extended press box and elevator will be added.

