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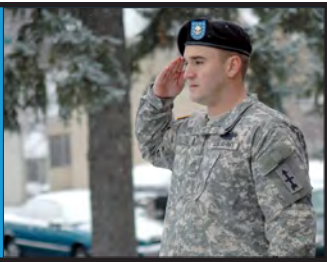
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UWRF students serve their country in Middle East



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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D-Day approaching for HHP facilities

Chancellor Betz leads the fight for additional state funding

Nick Sortedahl

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On Monday while most UW-River Falls students and staff will be relaxing and enjoying their spring break, government powers in Madison will be making a decision that will dramatically impact the future of UWRF.

Chancellor Don Betz, Campus Planner Dale Braun and Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Mary Halada, will be in Madison for the March 12 higher education subcommittee meeting, which serves as the initial hurdle for UWRF to receive state funding for a new health and human performance facility.

If the proposal passes the March 12 subcommittee, it must then be approved by the State of Wisconsin Building Commission March 19, and then must also be approved, along with the state budget, by Gov. Jim Doyle.

Despite all the hurdles, administration, students and faculty are doing everything they can to get the project approved.

"This is the No. 1 facility priority of this institution," Betz said. "It's been before four bienia. We are resolute for the project to go as planned and build this new facility."

The estimated cost for the new facilities, if it is accepted into the 2007-09 capital budget, is almost \$40 million. Nearly \$6 million has already been allotted to the project, \$3.8 million was raised from an increase in segregated student fees that was approved by Student Senate in 2000 and the UW-River Falls Foundation promised \$2 million.

The longer the project is delayed, the more it will cost due to inflation. The cost has already increased nearly 25 percent since it first was recommended for planning and subsequently shot down by the state legislature in 2001.

Student and faculty support

There has been a massive undertaking to show how important upgrading the HHP facilities is to UWRF.

"For us, right now, in this building, this is a make or break time," Athletic Director Rick Bowen said. "We have to convince the powers that be of our needs. If anybody in Madison would come and take a look at what we have, that would speak for itself."

As evidenced by more than 1,700 petition signatures supporting the new HHP facilities project, many on campus see the need for an upgrade.

"I think we have a better case to get this done than anybody else in the state," Betz said.

Aside from the petition, many students and faculty members have written personal letters and called legislators to show support for the new facility. Some of those letters were also hand delivered to the offices of legislators in



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

The ceiling of the laundry room in the basement of Karges Center is deteriorating due to a broken water main Feb. 17. The incident left two inches of standing water.

Madison, along with brochures, which outline the need for an upgrade.

"If you can personalize this and have faculty and students write personalized letters, I think any good public servant pays attention to that type of thing," Bowen said.

This is a contrast in the approach the University had previously employed.

"In the past we might have sat back too much

and said 'please choose us,'" Bowen said.

On Feb. 28, UWRF students Kurt Blomberg, Stacy Dekkers and Katie Leisch delivered the petitions to Wisconsin legislators.

"We were certainly received well," Leisch, who is an HHP double major, said. "Many told us that what we were well on our way and doing exactly what we needed to be doing. They most certainly knew of the project and often said they had been receiving calls and letters from other students, faculty and staff in the days previous."

A long time coming

The Karges Center was built 50 years ago with the needs of a student body of 1,500.

"This is an educational building that has seen its day," Bowen said.

With the overall student body now surpassing 6,000, the amount of space Karges provides doesn't meet the need of students.

"Every touring visitor that I have accompanied through the facility has been surprised by how inadequate it is," Betz said.

That's the way Karges has been seen by faculty for more than a decade. The University officially recognized this in 1994 after an analysis was conducted by the HHP department.

See HHP, page 3

Sexually-explicit DVDs surface around River Falls

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Concern among law enforcement officials and parents has heightened as sexually explicit pornographic DVDs have been surfacing at several locations in River Falls.

The DVDs have been found on or near the school grounds of Rocky Branch, Westside and Greenwood elementary schools, as well as Meyer Middle School. They have also been found at locations such as Mr. Movies and Bo Jon's Flowers on Main Street.

"We started getting them back in December," Jill Anderson, manager of Mr. Movies said.

According to River Falls Chief of Police Roger Leque and Anderson, the DVDs have titles similar to real movies, but with sexual connotations.

"The titles are like something we would carry here but with different wordings," Anderson said.

There have been titles such as "Final Desecration 2," "Load Trip," and "Exorjism of Emily Rose."

"The DVDs depict sexual acts," Leque said.

Michelle Jensen, a freshman and employee at Mr. Movies, said a lot of people don't know Mr. Movies is the first place the DVDs appeared, and the media hasn't made the public aware.

School officials have cautioned parents and children

See DVD, page 3

SHS provides kits to eliminate flu, cold symptoms

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Fall brings cooler temperatures, colorful foliage and bonfires. However, it can also bring with it body aches, sniffles and sinus pressure.

Cold and flu season strikes every year as the seasons change and temperatures begin to drop.

To make this time of year a little less painful for students, Student Health Services is offering cold and flu kits.

In late 2004, health officials on campus took notice when Chiron Corp. announced that due to problems encountered in its British plant, it would no longer be able to supply millions of doses of flu vaccines to the United States.

According to an Oct. 6, 2004, press release, a spokesman said Chiron, which was expected to provide nearly half of the U.S. supply, could not release the produced vaccines because of problems with the sterility of the manufacturing process.

Student Health Services staff, aware of the implications of an impending shortage, decided as a group to take action and started a project that is still in existence today: offering cold and flu kits to students.

The kits contain items that are considered helpful for symptoms of colds or the flu: cough drops, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, facial tissue, antibacterial hand wipes, disposable thermometers and information.

In the kits, students can find a plethora of helpful tips, from suggestions for home treatments to lists of symptoms, indicating a need to seek certified medical attention. Also included is a comprehensive list of preventative behaviors; for example, coughing into one's sleeve instead of hand to prevent the spread of germs.

Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of Student Health Services, said the kits weren't necessarily started with long-term intentions, but have caught on with UWRF students.

"We made the kits as a response to [the vaccine shortage], but they became such a popular item that we

See Flu, page 3



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

A fan rests on the floor of a lab located in the basement of Emogene Nelson Center, keeping the room cool. Temperatures can often surpass 100 degrees in the summer.

Students pose as Freddy Falcon during campus events

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Freddy Falcon evolved from a 1930 *Student Voice* contest that named the athletic teams on campus. The \$3 prize was awarded to the person who could name a swift, accurate and fearless predator. Harry Roesse's winning entry was the UW-River Falls Falcons.

This semester, some students have been borrowing the costume from the Involvement Center and wearing it at campus events.

Freddy Falcon has been seen at freshmen move in, Weeks of Welcome and student activities. However, the mascot was not in attendance at the opening of the University Center.

Freddy's absence at the beginning of spring semester for sporting events, such as the atten-

tion-grabbing hockey games, and the week dedicated to the new University Center raised questions about his whereabouts amongst students.

Stratton said senior Amber Frome would be the person to contact in regards to reservations and access of the costume. Frome responded via e-mail, but said all information was off the record.

Any cheerleader questioned at this time refused to talk after speculation arose that they were keeping the costume and refusing to allow Freddy Falcon to appear at events. They would not go on the record with their information.

The UWRF cheerleaders and Freddy Falcon usually performed side by side at events like football games, but they have not been seen together since the group staged a boycott at the Oct. 14 game due to the then-advisor no longer allowing stunting.

Sophomore Jenny Phillips said a friend obtained the costume and asked her if she would wear it for the All Night Party.

"The costume was warm, and I was only in it for no more than two hours," she said.

Phillips said she had a good time wearing the Freddy Falcon costume.

"It was a lot of fun and everyone wanted a picture or to mess with me," she said.

Senior Lisa Stratton said she wore the Freddy Falcon costume during a presentation Feb. 26.

"I am a cheerleader and have played Freddy before, which is why I thought to use him in a creative way during our presentation," she said.

According to the cheer and stunt Web site, the organization performs at "all men's basketball

See Freddy, page 3



Jens Gunelson

The face of Freddy Falcon has been absent from many campus events this semester.

VOICE SHORTS

Students spend spring break in Africa

Students will travel to Morocco over spring break, March 9-17, to study Moroccan art, archaeology, architecture and culture. The Treasures of Morocco trip is a program sponsored by UW-River Falls and Educational Resources, Inc. and is directed by Dr. Steven Derfler. Morocco is located at the northwest tip of Africa, which has allowed the country to absorb elements of European, Sub-Saharan African and Arab culture making it a unique place. For more information contact Derfler at steven.l.derfler@uwrf.edu

Minneapolis-St. Paul group to perform

New Primitives will perform at 8 p.m. March 20 in the Falcon's Nest Entertainment Complex located in the University Center. The group explores popular music through high-energy rhythm and blues, ska, raggae, calypso and world dance music, and regularly performs in the Minneapolis-St.Paul area. The performance is free.

UWRF professor produces Czech plays

UW-River Falls English professor Marshall Toman produced two Czech plays in conjunction with the Lex-Ham Community Theatre. The plays will be performed together at 7:30 p.m. March 9-10 and 2 p.m. March 11 at the historic Sokol Hall in St.Paul. The first feature "Motomorphosis" was written by Vaclav Havel, a Czech playwright, Communist dissident and a former president of Czechoslovakia-cum-Czech Republic. He wrote the play as a reference to Franz Kafka's famous work "The Metamorphosis" where Gregor Samsa awoke one morning to find that he had been transformed into a giant insect. Havel's play is set in the 1960s when Czechs were "car-crazy," and his characters turn into automobiles. The second feature "Fire in the Basement" was written by Pavel Kohout and is set after the fall of Communism in the early 1990s. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for firefighters and people over age 60 and \$15 for the general public. For more information, contact Marshall Toman at 425-3537.

Student to hold art exhibit on coexistence

UW-River Falls student Andi Back will present her artwork in a show March 20-30 in the Chalmer Davee Library. The show "A Creature of Comfort" is a display focusing on the coexistence of animals and humans, and will feature prints, photographs and some installation work dealing with the influence both animals and humans have had on one another. Back is a senior majoring in fine arts. The exhibit will be held during regular library hours. For more information, contact the library at 425-3321.

UW-Madison instructor accused of racism

UW-Madison Law Professor Leonard Kaplan is under criticism for telling a law class that the Southeast Asians have no skills other than killing, and most second-generation Hmong-Americans join criminal gangs. Two of the 15 students in that class filed a complaint, accusing Kaplan of creating a racially hostile learning environment and promoting stereotypes against the Hmong. Kaplan said he didn't make the comments and told Law School dean Kenneth Davis he was misquoted. In a letter to Davis, he said he was explaining how governments fail to respond to poverty and the challenges of dealing with new cultures. Davis has apologized and approved a request by Hmong students to start a cultural classroom series.

Event held to discuss history of schools

The History Series: The Early Days of Medicine and Education will be held at 7 p.m. March 13 at the Hudson Municipal Building Community Room on 4th street. Presenter Carol Keller will speak on the book "Remembering Rural Schools of St. Croix County." She will share her insight on the book and share historical information on area schools, teachers and students. The St.Croix County Historical Society is presenting the series. For more information, call 715-386-2654.

International stipends given to students

International travel stipends are being given to students based on need and the expenses of the varying study abroad options. There are other requirements for the scholarships, such as grade point average and a written essay that addresses the question of why the program meets the academic goals of the student. The money that was given to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) started this year and comes from an account of \$30,000. The money was given to the department last year, but was not awarded until now. It was started with the initiative to internationalize the campus by giving students opportunities they may not have otherwise had. The funds being given to students come from the UW-River Falls Alumni to a foundation that decides how much money will be awarded to CAS for these scholarships. The scholarship money awarded is only one of the things that the money is being applied toward.

There were six students who were awarded money for traveling abroad. Brady Fosse is going for J-term to Egypt, Suzanna Lee is traveling to Italy over J-term, and Nicole Purtell is participating in the Guadalajara exchange program during summer 2007. Rebecca Sullivan and Peter Tufigno are both participating in the International Traveling Classroom this spring, and Judith Wickham, is currently studying at Massey University in New Zealand. Each student was able to apply for a scholarship worth up to \$1,000 for study abroad. They may or may not be awarded the full \$1,000 based on needs and other circumstances.

States uphold tuition reciprocity agreement

The higher education boards of Minnesota and Wisconsin have agreed to keep the university tuition reciprocity agreement between that states' universities for now. The agreement covers students enrolling in Wisconsin and Minnesota universities in fall 2007 under provisions of the current agreement for at least the next four years. The reciprocity deal dates back to 1968 and allows Wisconsin students who attend Minnesota public universities to pay the same tuition as they would at a comparable Wisconsin school and vice versa.

Local tech. school shows interest in Rodli

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Students, staff and faculty have been talking about what will happen to the Rodli Commons building since its services were relocated to the University Center over winter break.

While the long-term plan for Rodli is still being discussed by administration, UW-River Falls is trying to find a temporary plan so it doesn't stand empty for long.

Mary Halada, vice chancellor for administration and finance, said while the utilities in the building have been turned down to save on costs, she would prefer the space be occupied.

Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) in River Falls may be the solution to filling the space. The college has recently expressed interest in renting space in Rodli to use for classes. The college's administrators toured the building Jan. 18 and again on March 5 to take a better look at the space to see if it suits the college's needs.

Leslie Bleskachek, the River Falls CVTC campus manager, said no decisions have been made yet as to whether the college will use Rodli for classes, and probably won't be for awhile.

"I think it is a possibility, but not a certainty," Bleskachek said. "We have to think about what type of classes could be offered in the space."

Bleskachek said CVTC is looking at the building because they have had space issues for awhile.

"To us, it's an interesting space to look at because we need more space," she said.

If CVTC does decide to hold some of its classes in Rodli, Bleskachek said classes could be held in there as soon as next fall.

"We would start out small and grow and grow some more [in Rodli]," Bleskachek said.

If CVTC were to decide to rent Rodli, Halada said it would help the University with its finances.

"If we can come up with a win-win situation here, they could use that space, pay us for that space and help offset our costs," she said.

Alan Tuchtenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment services, agreed.

"We want to generate revenue to keep the building running," Tuchtenhagen said. "I don't think the University needs all of Rodli right now, at least not in the short-term."

UWRF student Ashley Schorn said she thought CVTC using Rodli was a good idea.

"I would say we are good on space, especially with [the new University Center]," she said. "There are rooms in there that aren't



Niki Paton/ Student Voice
Rodli commons is being looked at as possible classrooms for Chippewa Valley Technical College. The University wants to fill the empty building.

even being used." A potential downside if CVTC were to offer classes in Rodli is limited parking.

Halada said while this may be a problem, there hasn't been any conversations about it because UWRF doesn't know CVTC's needs.

Tuchtenhagen said after CVTC administrators decide to use the space or not, the University will know what to do next with Rodli.

"One possibility is to use Rodli for class space for our faculty," Tuchtenhagen said. "After we see how much of the building they want to use, we can decide what we want to do with it. We would like to keep part of Rodli to use for classes one way or another."

UWRF student Peter Wetzel said the idea of CVTC holding classes in Rodli was good, however, he thought the University's gym was going to be relocated to Rodli.

"I heard they were going to put the gym in Rodli," Wetzel said. "I would like to see it turned into a gym. For my personal interests, a gym in Rodli would be convenient."

While the University waits to hear CVTC's decision, administrators will continue to discuss plans for Rodli in the near and distant future.

"We are not going to shut the building down and padlock the doors," Tuchtenhagen said.

Halada said right now there is discussion about using the River Room and Blue Room for UWRF classes next fall if CVTC does not use the space.

Graduating with honors takes time

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Some seniors are confused about the actual calculations of their grade point average when it comes to participating in the commencement ceremony. The ceremony is sometimes held the weekend before finals week, but this semester it is held the week-end after finals.

"Students need all requirements to graduate," Academic Standards Committee Member Wes Chapin said.

Chapin said the last semester is required for seniors to graduate and is calculated into their cumulative grade point averages.

The date for the commencement ceremony varies from year to year because of a few factors. Chapin said the ceremony is held close to the end of the term because students should not have to postpone job opportunities, internships, living arrangements or graduate school. If students did show interest in waiting around for grade totals to be finalized and the diplomas printed, they would be waiting a minimum of two weeks for the ceremony.

"I would wait to take finals to make sure I graduated," senior Jenny Isaacs said.

"I would not wait two weeks to walk because that would push back starting a job," senior Marques Mekosch said.

Another issue involving students participating in the ceremony without having official grades in is honors. When seniors regis-

ter to graduate, their academic standings at that point are what are recognized in the ceremony. Therefore, seniors must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher the semester before graduation to be recognized as graduating with honors in the ceremony.

Academic standards committee member Kurt Leichtle said that students are eligible for honors after the ceremony if earned in the last semester. If students need the last semester to obtain honor status, they will be accredited with obtaining honors. Even though students will not be recognized in the ceremony as graduating with honors, graduate schools and employers will see the achievement. Students can contact the registrar's office to get a certificate stating the achievement if they obtained honors status after the ceremony.

"I don't think it's fair to graduate with honors, but not be recognized. You should be recognized for your hard work," Isaacs said.

There are four types of honors that are awarded to seniors. According to the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Handbook, Senior Merit honor is defined as "graduating seniors who have maintained a minimum cumulative 3.500 grade point in their last 60 credits at UWRF with no outstanding F's, SPs, or incompletes during those last 60 credits." The handbook defines the Cum Laude honor as "graduating seniors who have maintained a minimum cumulative 3.700 grade point average for their entire college career, at all institutions, with no

outstanding F's and no outstanding incompletes." The Magna Cum Laude honor is "graduating seniors who have maintained a minimum cumulative 3.800 grade point average for their entire college career, at all institutions, with no outstanding F's and no outstanding incompletes." The Summa Cum Laude as "graduating seniors who have maintained a minimum cumulative 3.900 grade point average for their entire college career, at all institutions, with no outstanding F's and no outstanding incompletes." The Senior Merit honor is the only honor that calculates the grade point average from the last 60 credits; all the other honors are purely cumulative from all academic semesters.

Some honors that students may not be aware of are the freshmen, sophomore and junior honors. The handbook indicates, "each spring, superior scholarship is recognized by the awarding of freshman, sophomore and junior merit to those students enrolled during the spring term. To receive merit, students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.500 with no F's, outstanding incompletes or repeat grades on their academic record." The divisions of these standings are based on credits. To obtain a freshmen merit, students must have completed 14-38 credits; sophomores must have completed 39-67 credits; juniors must have completed 68-110 credits. All of these credits must be earned at this University.

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

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Feb. 23

- Colt N. Wright, 19, was fined \$375 for second offense underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
- Lauren M. Lafond had her car towed from N lot after purchasing a parking permit for \$90 from another student, Kassandra R. Yaeck, who had moved off campus. Transferring a permit from one student to another is against UWRF parking regulations. Yaeck was responsible for all fees associated with having the car towed, according to reports.
- Christina M. Sykora had her car towed from L lot after obtaining a parking permit from another student, Heather N. Thompson, who had moved off campus. Thompson was cited for misuse of parking services. When Sykora was confronted by UWRF Parking Services she pretended to be Thompson. After running Sykora's plates her name and residence confirmed that the permit did not belong to her. She has been cited for parking with no valid permit, improperly obtaining a permit and towing fees, according to reports.
- Marcus S. Sand had his car towed from W lot after obtaining a permit from another student, Geoffrey S. Torzewski, who had moved off campus. Transferring a permit from one student to another is against UWRF parking regulations. Sand was responsible for all fees associated with having his car towed, according to reports.

Feb. 27

- At approximately 8:30 p.m. Christina M. Sykora, 19, was arrested for an ID violation at Dick's Plus. Sykora attempted to use a fake driver's license to purchase alcohol. Skyora's friend, a passenger in her car, identified Sykora as "Christi" confirming the differences in the name on the ID and Sykora. She was fined \$172.

March 2

- At approximately 2:05 a.m. at Mel's Midtowner on Main Street, Andrew H. Kolstad, 21, was arrested for battery and disorderly conduct, according to reports.
- Ryan R. Tomczik, 23, was fined \$172 for shoplifting a breakfast sandwich from the Holiday Gas Station. Tomczik is also required to pay \$1.59 in restitution.

March 3

- At approximately 8:15 p.m. Henry J. M. Ulm, 19, was arrested for an ID violation at Dick's Plus. Ulm attempted to use a driver's license and matching military ID card belonging to another individual without that person's consent. When Ulm was unable to recite the address or information on either form of identification the clerk called the River Falls police. Ulm was fined \$172.
- Jamie L. Petrie, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Hathorn Hall.
- Kyle D. Hartwig, 18, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Hathorn Hall.

March 4

- Michael C. Illies, 28, was fined \$107 for public urination on the 100 block of Main Street.
- Kyle J. Carver, 18, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.

- Student parking lots E, K, N, L & O will be closed over spring break for snow removal. The closure will be in effect from 8 p.m. Sunday until 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 16th. Vehicles found parked in these lots during the closure are subject to a citation and towing at the owner's expense.
- Students leaving vehicles on campus over spring break can utilize rows one through 11 at Ramer Field. Vehicles must be moved back to their proper permit location by 6:00 p.m. Sunday, March 18th.

Briefs compiled by Amber Jurek

Flu: Kits remain in high demand around campus

from page 1

kept them going,” Reilly-Myklebust said. “Now it’s hard to keep up with demand.”

Tara Sowle contracted whooping cough last semester, but wasn’t diagnosed until she’d had it for a significant period of time. Before being prescribed antibiotics, she said she used cough drops from the cold and flu kits.

“I think they were in the basement of the library on a table, maybe down by Student Services,” Sowle said. “I saw they had cough drops, so I got my fair share of them.”

In order to meet students’ needs, Student Health Services tries to keep kits available in a variety of ways.

While the kits aren’t necessarily advertised, Student Health Services does its best to keep at least a few in places, like the Student Health Services office. If requested, other areas, such as residence halls, can get some to display at the front desks.

Reilly-Myklebust said keeping them available to be picked up on demand as well as bringing them to student health-related events has kept the use of the kits going up gradually.

“We’re getting better about distributing them, bringing them to events,” Reilly-Myklebust said. “Like, I try to bring a few to the immunization clinic every month.”

In response to the suggestion around campus that this winter has been more harsh than previous winters in terms of students and faculty getting sick, Reilly-Myklebust said it’s hard to measure which buildings have been the “sickest,” since Student Health Services doesn’t keep track of where students spend most of their time.

“It’s hard to measure, since it’s not like [Student Health Services] asks [the students they treat] their major. There are always colds going around, always upper-respiratory things going around,” Reilly-Myklebust said.

Reilly-Myklebust also said the clinic always sees more students getting sick around times



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Flu kits are available for students at location, like Student Health Services. With the demand surprisingly high, SHS has kept the kits as a long-term service to UWRF students.

of high stress, such as midterms.

It was rumored that Kleinpell Fine Arts had the largest amount of students contracting sicknesses, but as to whether or not there is a certain building to blame, students and faculty give mixed responses.

Theresa Kurtz, who has a Women’s Studies class in KFA, said the volume of students going through the building on a daily basis could be at fault.

“Since there’s wide range of studies, there’s the most traffic going in and out,” Kurtz said.

Faculty member Kristine Butler has an office in KFA and said in an e-mail interview that it wouldn’t surprise her if the building’s construction was the cause of students and faculty getting sick.

“I think the ventilation is real-

ly bad there,” Butler said.

Student Phil Bock tutors in the Writing Center, and said he doesn’t seem to notice more sickness in the building than other places.

“If anything, maybe the Ag Sci building or basement of North Hall,” Bock said. “They’re so cold and damp all the time.”

Whatever the cause and whatever the symptoms, being sick is an unpleasant experience. With help from the health department, UWRF students have a way to make it a little bit easier.

To inquire about cold and flu kits, contact Student Health Services at 425-3293.

Freddy: Students represent campus as official mascot

from page 1

home games and selected men’s basketball away games. All men’s hockey home games. Selected men’s hockey away games (while classes are in session). All home football games and some selected away games.”

Junior Erin Foulkes performed as Freddy Falcon from 2004 to 2005 during the football and hockey seasons.

Foulkes said she auditioned for the position her freshman year. Two people conducted the interview, one was the captain of the cheerleading squad at the time.

Foulkes said the judges then took that information back to the cheerleading squad to ask if any of them had objections. She said she remembered Frome being another cheerleader who asked her questions in her interview.

“It was an informal interview about my passions and why I thought I could fill the exciting roll of Freddy Falcon,” she said. “They also asked what I thought I could bring to sporting events as Freddy.”

Foulkes said she would attend UWRF events as Freddy Falcon that took place on campus, near River Falls, or an event that was of importance to the University.

“Most sporting events I went to were where cheerleaders were also attending,” she said.

Foulkes said the Freddy Falcon costume consists of a lot of parts. She said most people admire the muscular look, and Freddy Falcon appears ready to beat any opponent.

There is only one Freddy Falcon costume used for events. “We take very good care of the costume and make sure nothing happens to it,” Foulkes said.

“Freddy Falcon is the icon of UWRF, and I am honored and proud to have been a part of it ...”

Erin Foulkes, student

Foulkes said performing as Freddy was the best thing she did in her college career.

“Freddy Falcon is the icon of UWRF, and I am honored and proud to have been a part of it while I was here,” she said.

A current person designated as Freddy Falcon could not be reached or the information was off the record.

For further information on Freddy Falcon or how to reserve the costume, students should contact the Involvement Center.

DVD: Children possible targets of videos found around RF

from page 1

about the DVDs that have been found on or near school grounds, but Jensen said she worries about other locations where they have been discovered.

“I think kids could find them in the parking lot and not realize these are the same ones they’ve been warned about,” Jensen said.

According to Wisconsin statute 948.11, exposing a child to harmful material is a felony, punishable by up to 3.5 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The last DVD finding was reported to police on Feb. 14, but Anderson said she feels the recent media coverage from outlets such as the River Falls Journal and WCCO-TV in the Twin Cities may have temporarily halted the events. However, she said she doesn’t think it’s over.

Leque said he and the police don’t know what the intention of the individual or individuals who are doing this is, but he and others like Anderson are concerned they may be targeting school-age children because of the titles of the DVDs, and their placement on or near school grounds.

Anderson found a DVD outside of Meyer Middle School, which she said raised her level of concern for children in the community, including her 13-year-old daughter who attends the school.

“What if my daughter picked that DVD up?” Anderson said.

Leque said the police are doing everything they can, and the DVDs have been sent to the Wisconsin State crime lab, with hopes of finding something that may link the movies to the individual or individuals responsible for these crimes.

“I wish this person would just screw up somehow so the cops could catch them,” Anderson said.

Leque said he hopes the media coverage will open the community’s eyes to the issue.

“Most of our success with solving crimes comes from information we get from citizens,” he said.

If anyone has information that may be helpful for the case, they are asked to contact the River Falls Police Department at (715) 425-0909 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-303-8477.



Niki Paton/Student Voice

Jill Anderson manages Mr. Movies, where the first sexually-explicit DVDs surfaced.



HHP: Current facilities inadequate for faculty, students

from page 1

“I was on a committee in ‘94-’97 and we were told we’d be moving into a new building in ‘06,” Bowen said.

A number of reasons played into why the move hasn’t come to fruition, and those involved in this latest effort are resolute in not repeating avoidable mistakes.

“The economy played a major role,” Bowen said. “[Plus] I don’t think we lobbied near hard enough. The time has come where we gotta quit being so nice. We’re sitting here in the largest growth area in Wisconsin. People that make these decisions need to be convinced what a viable entity we are.”

Current state of facilities

When those involved in UWRF health and human performance program speak about the classrooms and labs in the Emogene Nelson Center and Karges, the term inadequate is used repeatedly.

“There is something definitely wrong when labs for courses like biomechanics and exercise physiology have to be held in a hallway,” Leisch said. “There becomes a point when the nature of the facilities become embarrassing. How is the HHP department/major supposed to be taken seriously? It is time to make a facility that meets the standard of academics, students and faculty that UW-River Falls prides itself in having.”

The Emogene Nelson Center originally served as a food service facility and was granted to the HHP department in 1983.

“We have done a pretty good job of taking what we have and making it functional,” Bowen said. “How long can that continue before you say enough is enough.”

The Karges Center gym is outdated, which has led to a number of complaints.

One of the most troubling aspects of the gym is the hardwood floor, which is built on a concrete base, increasing the wear and tear on athletes who practice and play on its surface.

“We have an inordinate number of back and leg injuries,” Bowen said.

Some current players have felt the wrath of the antiquated playing surface.

“Back in high school I never really had any [injury] problems,” men’s basketball player Rory Trimbo said.

After practicing at Karges for two years, he has now developed a bad lower back, shin splints and wears braces on both knees.

“My body is feeling really down already after two years,” he said. “I don’t know if I can do it a third year. My body feels so old ...”

Trimbo had the opportunity to survey other arenas in the conference and says Karges is “probably the worst. The gym obviously needs to be re-done.”

Another issue with the gym is ventilation. In the summer when UWRF serves as the host to summer camps for multiple sports, temperatures are often “unbearable,” Bowen said.

Another problem is the pull-out bleachers. Due to design flaws, spectators can’t sit in the front row and moving from their seats can be difficult.

“For anybody over 65, it’s unsafe,” Bowen said.

The basements of Karges and the Emogene Nelson Center are referred to as dungeons.

“When I first came here in 1986 I would not even bring basketball recruits down here [Karges] because it was so bad,” said Bowen, who served as head men’s basketball coach from 1986-2006.

The basement underwent renovations 15 years ago that Bowen estimated cost \$7,000.

“When they did this, they got a lot of bang for their buck,” Bowen said. “I don’t know what we would have done if they wouldn’t have remodeled this.”

Bowen personally undertook remodeling the men’s basketball locker room, installing flooring, lockers and a television.

“It’s still a dump,” Bowen said. “But everything considered, it’s not bad.”

To magnify the problems in the basement of Karges, a water main

broke in the laundry room Feb. 17. The room is “the most used room in the building,” Bowen said.

“I have to offer at least two two hour practices a day,” Henderson said. “And we can only do certain things [during practice].”

Hope for the future

Even though attempts to get the HHP facilities upgraded in the past have failed, Betz is very confident this time around; the need is so great that it can’t be ignored.

“It is woefully unable to meet the needs [of students and athletes],” Betz said. “Even more importantly it’s the most dilapidated of the facilities in the WIAC.”

HHP department chair Faye Perkins said she believes geographic reasons may have had something to do with the failure of past efforts, but there is a reason for optimism this time around.

“I think that UW-River Falls always has an uphill battle because of our distance from Madison,” Perkins said. “It’s getting harder and harder to ignore us because of the growth we’ve had.”

With almost half of the student body involved in intramurals or enrolled in HHP courses and 10 percent of the student body either majoring or minoring in HHP, the state of the current facilities affects more than just athletes.

“The standard of academics and output of promising individuals in the workforce is high and is only becoming higher and higher,” Leisch said. “We are already behind in reinforcing this standard through our facilities and cannot afford to lose any more ground.”

If the funding for the new facilities is approved, the new facilities wouldn’t be ready until approximately 2011, yet this doesn’t stop current students from wanting to do a good deed for future generations.

“I won’t benefit from it,” Trimbo said. “But hopefully others can benefit from a better learning environment.”

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EDITORIAL

Winter weather raises questions

Before the winter weather struck hard last week, students around campus were pondering the question, are we going to have classes?

Early last week, Blake Fry sent out an e-mail to all students, faculty and staff warning them of the snow that was to come and to advise every person to use their best judgment when deciding whether to drive to campus or not.

We can only imagine the frustration that professors felt when every time they opened their e-mail twenty new messages popped up, all about the exact same topic.

So, why weren't classes canceled for the whole University early in the day on Thursday, or Wednesday night when TV news programs began announcing other schools and public events that were closing down for the weather?

It seems somewhat absurd to have students driving from the Twin Cities metro area or rural towns of western Wisconsin in order to make it to their morning classes (when the snow had already started) and then have classes canceled at 2:30 p.m.

Isn't there formal protocol for bad winter weather considering we are attending a college in the upper Midwest, an area prone to lots of snow and below-freezing temperatures?

This winter has brought about a series of questions about procedures on this campus in relation to the season and student safety.

Why are all, but one of the lots closing down over spring break in order plow when the last snow fell two weeks prior? Shouldn't the lots be relatively clear by now already? Why are students forced into the snow when the sidewalk sweepers come through, especially when all rotating brushes do is move the dusty snow and buff the ice below it to a perfect shine?

Lastly, why, as a professor on campus pointed out, would it be appropriate to have students brave the weather at 10:10 a.m. when the University advised them not to be there only 15 minutes before?

The entire system seems disorganized and chaotic, causing more questions than there are answers for.

The University took precautions in order to secure the students safety (though staff were not off the hook since the school did not close), but when the decision to drive to campus or not is left to each individual in a large group, then problems are bound to arise. Why would it be worth holding class when students can choose not to come, "for their safety," since the professor will have to re-teach the information the next class period anyway?

In the end, it seems like more work for the faculty and staff, and a large amount of anguish and frustration for everyone.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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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 afternoon.

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



Campus reacts positively to weather

After surviving the frigid cold snap of late January and early February, I was quite nervous last Wednesday. Every news teaser I saw was warning of an epic storm that would cover the Minnesota and Wisconsin area with massive amounts of snow.

What bothered me about this was the prospect of driving to UW-River Falls in a blizzard, because I am all too familiar with Pierce County's inability to effectively plow roads, such as Highway 35 and my own 1050th street.

Fortunately for me, UWRF was on the ball and ready for the storm. As I was sent home early from work Thursday to ensure that I would have a chance of making it to my little farmhouse safely, I was terrified at the thought of driving my Ford Escort through that mess on Friday for classes. In fact, all I could hear in my head was a former professor of mine explaining the detriment of driving a Ford



Blair Bengs

Escort, as he said, even a strong wind can almost blow your vehicle off the road. (This is absolutely true by the way.) Thankfully, after a quick visit to the UWRF Web site, I saw the posting about class being canceled Thursday and that students were urged to use their best judgment on Friday. I have to commend those who were in charge of the decisions about last week's weather. Thank you for putting the safety of students and faculty first and foremost, even though I am sure that shutting down the University for a day can pose quite a challenge. Canceling classes Thursday and allowing students to make their own call on whether or not to drive to UWRF on Friday was definitely the best decision to make as the snow accumulation on Friday totaled 12.2 inches in the metro area, according to Sven Sundgaard of Kare 11. For those who live on campus or in the city of River Falls, making the trek to cam-

pus may have been a more realistic task; for those who commute, the prospect of braving winter's worst storm so far was a daunting one. As for myself, I did not even have the option to contemplate driving on Friday because we did not get plowed out of our driveway until 2:00 that afternoon. In fact, it is probably good that it happened this way because if I had the opportunity to go on Friday, I would have tried since one of my classes has a stringent attendance policy. More than likely, I would have ended up in the ditch or stuck in a snow bank because, while my faithful "white bullet" is great for gas mileage and sharp turns, it just cannot handle rain, snow, sleet or basically anything other than a dry road. So, on my behalf and for all the other commuters at UWRF, thanks to everyone involved in making the right choices during last week's storm and for following the guidelines of the inclement weather practice. It is good to know that UWRF takes the safety of its students and faculty so seriously.

Columnist bids farewell to God

Dear God, It's been a little while. I think the last time we talked it was about a test or a girl, or maybe winning the lottery, I'm not really sure. I'm writing today, not to ask for anything, but to say, "Thanks, it's been real."

I just wanted to let you know that I am prepared to renounce Christianity as my religion; I think it's best for the both of us. I'm growing really tired of people like Brother Jed, the street preacher who graced UWRF with his presence last fall.

The springtime anti-abortion clan is constantly reminding me that I will be going to hell because I believe a woman has the right to choose when it comes to abortion. They never ask if I agree with doing that to one of my offspring, but that is my choice.

Let's not forget the Christians who think less of me because I stand up for homosexual equality. I have found I am secure enough to look past my own sexuality; I see Christians treating homosexuals much the same that Americans treated blacks in the 20th century.

I always thought this country would try to learn from its mistakes, but then again, the Bible says that all gays are going to hell. For the record, I'm not really sure where it says that in the Bible, but that is the general message I receive from such radical Christians.

Don't get me wrong; we have had some great times together. I have learned a lot about my life, thanks to that book. The stories about the boy-turned-savior have taught me how to treat people, and how to live my life. Sometimes we need to step back and look at the big picture. What is the point of judging others on their beliefs? How much fun can someone have from hating people? I guess hating others seems like a waste of my time, and since so



Mike Pearson

many of your self-righteous followers find joy in said activities, I'm starting to feel like I don't fit in.

You have taught me to care for others, enjoy the simplest details and embrace who I am. My church has taught me about right and wrong, and they have also told me about your willingness to forgive people. You seem like a really cool guy, or perhaps a really cool girl, and these lessons that I have learned will stay with me on my travels.

When people ask me about my religion, I am more than willing to talk about my beliefs, but I am still a little embarrassed to say I am a Christian. I was thinking about becoming a Muslim, but I was told all Muslim's are terrorists. I'm a music major; with all of my classes, rehearsals and practice time I just don't have time to become a suicide bomber. Judaism sounds like a nice option, I mean, Jesus was a Jew after all, but I'm not sure if I could live without pork, and I'm a little worried about learning how to speak Hebrew.

I'm not really concerned with whatever title I attach to my beliefs, they're all the same anyway. The popular organized religions focus around one central spirit and prophets. Sure Judaism says that Jesus wasn't the Messiah, but they still recognize him as a knowledgeable guy. Muslims have Mohammed, a great prophet believed to be connected to God. Does that sound familiar?

My point is this: my life experiences have guided me along this "journey." I have learned a lot from the stories in the Bible, and my church is a second home for me. Many Christians are too quick to judge; they are hotheaded and unwilling to change because of a book. The Bible isn't about a bunch of words, it's about the message inside; it's about a way of life.

Petty complaining annoying, solves nothing

If there's one thing about human nature that I can't stand, it's the incessant whining and complaining people do on a daily basis. I haven't been privileged enough in my life to meet one person who is an exception to this rule.

Not all forms of complaining bother me. In fact, some forms of complaining are completely necessary in order to solve certain issues that need to be attended to. However, some of the useless, trivial drivel I hear come out of people's mouths regarding the weather, their job or how their cell phone sucks,

just drives me nuts sometimes. Do we even realize how good we have it these days? Obviously not. Just take a look at Kris Evan's column and you can realize that all the trivial things in life are better than being stuck in Africa.

I say "we" because I'm not an exception to this either, I get sucked into it quite often. In fact, just a few minutes ago I was complaining about my wet socks.

While wet socks are about as uncomfortable as an enema (I'm just guessing here), I am going to accomplish absolutely nothing

by languishing over my little self-conceived tragedy. That right there sums up the problem and the solution.

If you find yourself about to gripe about something that either no one, or no one but you, can fix, don't waste your breath, or someone else's time bitching about it. Take care of the damn problem yourself, or shut up!

Plus, when people start to complain, it opens the complaining floodgates. How many times have you heard someone go on a rant about how much they hate the weather and then you join in? Me too. It's sad really. You would think people have something better to spend their time talking about. But instead, as usual, we just take the easy way out.

Complaining is also a negative

thought process. Just like the warning label on your favorite liquor of choice says, it should be enjoyed in moderation. But all too often, just like with your favorite booze, we indulge ourselves. This is fairly typical of our society, which in my opinion, is spoiled rotten.

I know you're thinking to yourself, 'this guy's a hypocrite, he's complaining about people complaining.' Yes, I am. But this is a problem that can be solved. It deserves to be complained about along with health care, the war in Iraq and many of UWRF's dilapidated facilities.

So next time you think about raising a stink because your cell phone doesn't get reception, just think about how lucky you are to even be able to have one in the first place.



Nick Sortedahl

Reasons behind daylight-saving time questioned

Ever since I found out that daylight-saving time will begin on March 11 this year, almost a month earlier than in previous years, I have been questioning the necessity of the time shift in an overall sense.

Not only will daylight-saving time start earlier, but it will also end later in the year. Normally the observance time ends in October, but this year, with the institution of the Energy Policy Act, it will last a week longer. This means that from now on, only about four months will not be included in this period, which makes me wonder why it is even encouraged. Would it be so terrible if we “sprang forward” and never “fell back?”

Since I was young, I never really understood why it was that during certain days of the year, we were told to either turn our clocks ahead one hour or back one hour. In theory, this is just a ludicrous idea. Not only is it a burden to change the time on every watch, clock radio, television set and several kitchen gadgets in the house, but it can be confusing as well.

I understand the rationale behind daylight-saving time is to allow for better use of daylight. This is something I don’t understand whatsoever. Does the color of the sky really have that much affect on how we use our time? Webexhibits.org claims that daylight-saving time saves energy. But, seeing as how we have never not “sprang forward” since 1918, how do we really know how much energy is being saved.

Days naturally get longer as the Earth tilts on its axis and, seeing as how daylight-saving time coincides with temperature increases, it would make sense that energy use decreases. People are turning the heat in their homes down.

To what data are we comparing this decrease in energy use? It makes no sense to compare it with the winter months, seeing as how it is colder and people tend to stay in their homes more often. Besides, winter days are shorter, requiring more light usage. Summer, regardless of the length of daylight we receive, is a time when people are always on the go. Children are not in school, but are typically outdoors and families probably tend to eat out more during the summer.

In a sense, we have no data to which to compare the energy conservation during daylight-saving time. We must first find out what the results are when we don’t observe it at all. It is still unclear to me as to why we continue to enforce daylight-saving time when we don’t know what life is like without it.

Maybe energy would be saved regardless of this observance, especially considering the climatic changes the country has been experiencing in recent years. Days seemed to be warmer here last fall and winter has been more bearable than in year’s past. Hawaii and Arizona, excluding the Navajo Nation, do not observe daylight-saving time, and they survive somehow.

A stipulation in the Energy Policy Act was added so that Congress retains the right to revert back to the original observance period if energy savings are insignificant in comparison or if it is an unpopular change. Since this seems to be an experiment of sorts, I say, if it turns out to be unpopular, we find out what happens if we eliminate daylight-saving time altogether. If unpopular, we can always reinstate the observance period we have become familiar with.



Jennie Oemig

There is no hope for Africa

Why are people drawn to the “Dark Continent?” Many of my friends want to do mission work in Africa, half of Hollywood is up in arms over Darfur and Sally Struthers is still trying to save the children for only \$18 a month; but all I can tell these people is that Africa, as a continent, is a lost cause. No amount of volunteerism or money can save it from a history of colonialization and a present situation of warlords, disease and corrupt governments.

When colonial powers took over the entire continent, they polarized and victimized the inhabitants by introducing the caste system. They brutalized the indigenous people and gave them a pretty big chip on their shoulders. When the colonialists left, everybody wanted a piece of the pie, so warlords popped up everywhere and started vying for power. The military coups and death began, and humanitarians everywhere started thinking up ways to fix Africa.

But you can’t fix it. Philanthropy can’t help a lot of African countries because many lack basic natural resources. The problem of overpopulation spreads the few resources even thinner. Life won’t last in a place with poor agriculture and contaminated water. Some would say we can teach agricultural techniques, give them clean water or drop supplies, but will that take



Kris Evans

care of everyone? Can we stop guerilla fighters from taking these supplies or murdering the farmers and forcibly recruiting the children as soldiers? What really shows that the continent is screwed is that some countries DO have abundant natural resources and are still Third World nations.

Take Angola for example. They sit on huge oil wells, and a massive number of diamond mines. By all rights, they should be the wealthiest nation in all of Africa. Instead, the guerilla militia uses diamond mining as a means of funding rebellion that the sanctioned government must quell by using oil money. The guerillas enslave villagers to mine the diamonds and then chop their arms off with machetes so that they cannot support the sanctioned government. Everyone loses in a country that has limitless potential.

The most recent genocide is the one in Darfur. (Not to be confused with the geno-

cides of Rwanda, Uganda, Congo or Somalia.) There have been over 400,000 people murdered in Sudan so far. That much death is hard to imagine; I think it is downright evil. Many are saying that the U.S. government should step in and stop the killing, but nothing we could do would stop the murders, and our intervention would only be a temporary fix. We would stop the killing, but as soon as we left, it would continue, so we would be stuck there, holding the hands of a people who aren’t willing to help themselves. Much like the current situation in Iraq, we can take their guns, but we can’t remove the hate from their hearts.

The problems in Africa go deeper than I could ever tell. My friends who have gone for mission work still have nightmares of being held at gunpoint and of starving children. You can go ahead and believe in that “power of one” crap, but no amount of your time or money can help a continent that is on a course for self destruction.

It comes down to this: until we can find a way to stop men from coveting and lustng for power, they will continue to defile Africa, regardless of how many starry-eyed college students join a “Save Darfur” Facebook group.

But you can’t fix it. Philanthropy can’t help a lot of African countries because many lack basic natural resources.

Customers have no respect

It’s Saturday afternoon at the bridal shop where I work and we were swarmed with girls waiting to try on their gowns. The appointments for this particular day had been booked for the past three weeks, yet for some unknown reason my manager chose to keep the department painfully understaffed. The lack of help pushed us 20 minutes behind our appointment log and we were scrambling to catch up. With most customers, a simple apologetic explanation of the situation will suffice. On this Saturday, however, I listened to the biggest tantrum I had ever heard in the five and a half years I have worked in retail.

A bride and her mother came waltzing into the shop 15 minutes late for their appointment (which really didn’t matter given how behind schedule we were), and marched to the front of the already lengthy check-in line to declare their arrival.

Very apologetically, I told the duo we were running behind and would get them up to a room as soon as possible.

This response, which was more than acceptable for every other patiently waiting bride in the reception area, was not what

the mother wanted to hear. For the next 20 minutes, I had to suffer through the mother’s ranting and raving over how terrible we were as a store and how inconsiderate I was as a sales associate. I can handle slander and accusations but, when the mother declared “you are here to work for me, and I expect my scheduled appointments to be on time,” a light bulb went off in my head and I knew that I had the topic for my next column.

For anyone who has worked in customer service before, you understand this scenario very well. A customer is upset over poor or slow service and assumes that the entire event is your fault. Although, when the situation is out of your hands, it seems ridiculously unfair to have to be the punching bag for the establishment as a whole.

There are so many complaints about poor customer service, but what about the sto-



Laney Smith

ries of how many poor customers there are? My words of advice to anyone planning to eat out, go shopping, see a movie, get a haircut or even answer a telephone: have a little respect! If you are visiting a place that works by appointments or reservations, keep in mind that it is run like a

doctor’s office; there will always be a wait, so plan accordingly. Even if you have never worked a customer service job before, consider for a moment what we must be going through: maybe our co-workers are newly hired, it’s been an extremely busy day and we still haven’t gotten a break or we are out of stock in a particular item. Many of

those issues can’t be helped at that particular moment. Be sympathetic of the situation, and we will do our best to make you happy as a customer. Consider this for the next time you dine out: we don’t work for you, you chose to do business with us.

Budget cuts affect campus media drastically; entertainment thrives

On Tuesday I had the honor of sitting in on one of the most frustrating meetings I have ever experienced. Representing the *Student Voice* along with our business manager and faculty advisor, I joined students from WRFW, Focus (television) and Prologue (literary magazine) at the Campus Media Committee (CMC) meeting to discuss the most recent disappointing numbers that we were given as our budget from the Leadership Programming and Development

Board (LDPB). I understand that as students increase on campus, the number of student organizations is bound to go up as well. However, when groups like SEAC receive an astronomical increase from last year’s allocation, it affects other groups negatively across the board. I may be biased, but in only



Beth Dickman

two years, the overall budget allocated to CMC has decreased by 20 percent. The group sat for over an hour arguing over pennies and who should give up various parts of their budget. I argued that printing costs were set in stone and were more important than anything else, while Focus argued

that they were desperate for a new set. Neither argument is less valid than the other, but when budgets are cut dramatically from year to year, every penny is worth fighting for tooth and nail. As members of the media working for the student body, it is difficult to give up funds and sacrifice not only the amount of news, sports and entertainment pieces we offer, but also the quality of our publications. In the end, each area of CMC sacrificed a significant part of

their budget as well as the overall quality of the paper, radio, TV and literary publication. It may seem important to allot more funds to an organization in order to bring in bigger and better entertainment, but that entertainment won’t even get publicized because there won’t be space in a shrunken newspaper or time on the radio. What made me the most angry is hearing the speculation that SEAC asked for more money than it needed because it knew it would have to give up a large

percentage of their budget to other organizations. I have no idea whether this is true or not, but just the fact that a student organization would do that in order to “benefit the students” is unfair and disgusting. That may benefit the student body in one way, but it hurts the students in other areas. Hopefully next year the old adage “quality, not quantity” will not be forgotten when students are disappointed that a specific event isn’t covered or a hockey game isn’t broadcasted.



Amanda Gunn, sophomore

“I think he’s a good one. High energy... fits River Falls and the environment that it’s in”



Krystin Ralston, sophomore

“I honestly had no clue there was a mascot. I didn’t even know we had one ... I definitely think we should have one. It would help bring more spirit to the school and get people to come to more events.”



Jeff Parker, senior

“Personally I am a big fan of Freddy the Falcon. When I go to a sporting even or see Freddy on campus at any event I get really excited to be a UWRF student. Freddy always pumps up the crowd and spreads the school spirit to everybody. Thanks, Freddy.”

STUDENT voices

What do you think of Freddy Falcon as the UWRF mascot?

Dustin Engh, sophomore

“I would say that we should keep him around.”



Kevin McKeague, junior

“I think the falcon is a good idea. I think we should have a real falcon on campus and I hear we do, but it’s missing in action and I’d like to see it sometime.”



Laura Hanson, junior

“He’s cool. He’s been the mascot for probably as long as the UWRF has been around.”



East Coast Bias
rears its head in
Division III
Hockey Playoffs



Chris
Schad

Most people have heard it everywhere they look in sports. This is the number one excuse used to explain why their favorite teams are omitted from post-season play. It's heard in college football with the corrupt Bowl Championship Series. It's seen in baseball with full-circle ESPN coverage of all 19 Boston Red Sox vs. New York Yankees games, complete with a channel strictly showing Alex Rodriguez from every angle. It's heard in football with the fact that the NFC and AFC East games are pushed back to later times so everybody in America can see them instead of western teams, who are just as good or even better. Yet, the Division III landscape hadn't seen too much of it until the NCAA D III Tournament Bracket was released on Sunday night.

To kill any suspense for you readers out there, River Falls did get in and played Bethel on Wednesday night. If you missed that announcement, you should move out from under that rock you're living under. The winner of that game will go on to play St. Norbert on Saturday night in DePere, Wis. Those three sentences sum up the entire Western bracket.

The western division of D III hockey got screwed in this scenario and the two teams that are feeling the direct effects are UW-Stout and UW-Superior.

The NCHA was no pushover conference this season as even the fifth seed St. Scholastica Saints were able to get into the Peters Cup championship game. The league was one of the toughest in the country in my opinion. I had seen all 8 teams play and no game was a safe bet. The top four teams in the division sat near the top of the USCHO.com D III Poll most of the season and only three teams, two from the NCHA got in. Let me be the first to send out my condolences to Stout and Superior by saying they were both screwed. Stout led the NCHA for most of the season until losing the last three games to Superior and River Falls. The team played very well all season long, but apparently being ranked second with three weeks left in your season isn't good enough to get a tournament bid. Not to mention the Blue Devils had the same record as the Falcons did (21-5-2). The final weekend sweep by the Falcons definitely proved to be the reason why we made the tournament and they didn't.

Then there's Superior that went into its playoff series versus St. Scholastica with a 50-0-1 record in the last 17 years against the Saints.

The end result was a shocking set of losses on Saturday night when the team blew a late 3-0 lead in the third period and a late penalty shot let the Saints come here and knock off the Falcons.

Superior finished with a 20-win season and the fourth best record in the stacked NCHA. Oh yeah, in previous years, teams that were located in the eastern region and hosting the Frozen Four got the nod over more deserving teams. This year's Frozen Four will be held in Superior.

So with this simple formula, three teams are going to go to the Frozen Four in the east and one team from the west. The NCAA needs to look at these tournament resumes more carefully and not have their compass point toward the East.

Remember, last year the Falcons had a solid team, but a first round sweep by Stout wound up costing them a tournament berth. The reaction by the Falcons was that of 'What more do we have to do to get into the tournament?' That battle cry is being heard in Menomonie and Superior as we speak.

Falcons' season ends in 'Royal' disappointment

UWRF loses to
Bethel in first round
of NCAA Playoffs

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Bethel's Benoit Duhamel scored the go-ahead goal with 9:12 left in the game as the Royals went on to defeat the Falcons 2-1 in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

The loss puts an end to the Falcons season. The Royals will advance to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament in De Pere, Wis., to take on the St. Norbert Green Knights.

The Falcons started off the game with the early advantage. Joe Adams scored just 4:12 into the game on a shot from the high slot to give the Falcons a 1-0 lead. The goal was Adams' first point of the year.

After scoring seven goals the last time the teams met, it looked as though the Falcons were headed for another high-scoring game. But that goal would prove to be the team's last of the season.

Bethel had plenty of opportunities in the first period, outshooting the Falcons 14-7. Yet the score after one period was 1-0 in favor of the Falcons. Bethel wasted no time getting things going in the second period. The Royals first goal of the game came :30 into the period when defenseman Bill Menozzi snapped a shot by Falcons goaltender A.J. Bucchino.

The second period also seemed to favor the Royals offensively, even though Menozzi's goal was the only one in the period. The Royals outshot the Falcons 11-8 in the period.

In the third period, the Falcons were putting a lot of pressure on Royals goaltender Aaron Damjanovich before the puck was cleared by the Royals. Skating down the left wing, Bethel defenseman John Kovacs took a shot on Bucchino and the rebound kicked out to the right wing to Duhamel. Bucchino tried to slide over and make the save, but there wasn't much he could do as Duhamel sent it directly into the back of the net.

"We had a great flurry right before they came down and scored," Falcons head coach Steve Freeman said. "We hit the post and had two or three other really good shots. When you get into that situation, a one-shot hockey game, you have to be able to put those things home. They did and we didn't."

Bethel outshot the Falcons 38-30. Bucchino held the Falcons in the game by making 36 saves, but Duhamel played equally as well, tallying 29 saves.

"They played well as a team defensively," Falcons senior Jared Sailer said. "We had some chances and we just couldn't bury the puck. Their goalie made a couple of big saves late in the game."

The Falcons power play, which was key to the late season run, couldn't convert for the second straight game. The Falcons were 0-4 on the power play, after going 0-5 against St. Scholastica in the previous game. The Falcons lost by one in both games.

"I just think we can't overlook teams next year. We're going to be a good team, but we need to play hard every night."

Jim Jensen,
Falcon defenseman

Bethel will face the Green Knights Saturday. In the teams' meeting earlier this season, the Green Knights won 4-2 at home in the Cornerstone Community Center.

For UWRF, the loss is especially disappointing for the



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Forward Mitch Kerns chases down the puck during the third period of the Falcons first round game against Bethel University Wednesday night. The Falcons lost the game 2-1 and finished the season with a 21-6-2 record.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Junior Pat Borgestad attempts a slap shot during the third period of the Falcons 2-1 loss.

two seniors, Tyler Kostiuik and Jared Sailer.

"It was a tough loss, especially because we were so successful against the MIAC teams this year," Sailer said. "It was too bad our last game had to go out at Hunt Arena."

Kostiuik and Sailer joined the Falcons as freshmen in 2004 and are the players from that class who stuck with the team for all four years.

"They did a terrific job as far as leadership all year," Freeman said. "They were very vocal at the end, and I think the team was trying to rally around those guys as much as possible. I know everyone in the program has a great deal of respect for those two seniors."

The two seniors garnered respect and praise from coaches and players alike.

"They lead in the locker room and led by example out on the ice," Falcons defenseman Jim Jensen said. "It was great to get an opportunity to play with a couple of guys like that."

Although their last season ended in a disappointing fashion, the seniors have nothing but fond memories in

their stint as Falcons.

"The past four years have been great. There hasn't been one day that was a downfall for me," Kostiuik said. "I really enjoyed playing for this team. I played with a bunch of great guys and the atmosphere with the fans on campus was just amazing."

The Falcons will now direct attention toward next year. With the core of the team returning next season, there is reason to believe that this team will be strong once again.

"I just think we can't overlook teams next year," Jensen said. "We're going to be a good team, but we need to play hard every night."

With the end of the season, the coaches will soon put this loss behind them and start building for next season.

"We have a lot of talented hockey players coming back," Freeman said. "Through the recruiting processes, we'll take a look now at the end of our season and we'll plug in some players that we need, see where our weaknesses are. We need to take one more step, and we'll find a way to do that."

Women's hockey team looks forward to next season

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After starting the season with just 18 players on the roster, the women's hockey team played short-handed all season. Injuries and illness made that number even smaller as the season progressed, but the team played through it to finish the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) regular season with 20 points, its highest total since 2003-04.

They fell just one point short of taking the NCHA regular season championship. UW-Superior finished with 21 points, but the Falcons had the tie-breaker so the team would have won it had it earned gotten just one more point.

"You can't get any closer than that," Head Coach Joe Cranston said.

The Falcons finished the regular season with an overall record of 14-7-4, also the teams highest winning percentage since 2003-04.

Besides team accomplish-

ments, individual Falcons also achieved many accomplishments. Cranston was named the NCHA Coach of the Year and senior goalie Amber Lindner was named the NCHA Player of the Year.



Joe Cranston

All-NCHA. Forwards Cassie LeBlanc and Stefanie Schmitz, along with defender Jessie Dyslin earned honorable mention.

Cranston is the only coach in the team's eight-year history and has led the team to more wins than any other current coach in the league. He said this team one of his favorites in his career as a coach.

"This was a very special year and a great group of players to coach," Cranston said. "I will

always have a deep respect for this team and these players."

Cranston said he gives a lot of credit to his team for his second NCHA Coach of the Year honor.

"It's not an honor to me, it's an honor to the girls who worked unbelievably hard every day to accomplish all that we did with a roster of 13 skaters and 3 goalies," Cranston said. "They are the reason I received the award."

The NCHA Tournament didn't go according to plan for the Falcons, but they played hard. They lost the opening game 3-2 in overtime to Steven's Point and then lost the third place game 5-4 to Lake Forest.

"They were tough losses to take, but we played Steven's Point into overtime and it was anyone's game and we out-shot Lake Forest 67-21. What more

can I ask of my team?" Cranston said. "The losses take nothing away from these girls or this special team."

It was a tough blow to the tight-knit group who believed they had what it took to win the tournament and make it to the NCAA Tournament.

"The team was pretty upset afterwards, knowing our season was over. We had such a great group of people that it is sad to see it end," Lindner said.

"We all wish there was more."

Lindner is the third Falcon to be named the NCHA Player of the year. She finished the regular season with an 11-7-4 record, a 1.79 goals against average and .928 save percentage.

"The best part of it is that I didn't expect it at all," Lindner said. "It's an awesome way to

end my hockey career."

Lindner and Wallace will be the only seniors graduating. Next year's team will consist of eight seniors, making for a

well-balanced combination of young talent and experienced leadership.

Three of the four leading scorers for the Falcons this season were

freshmen including LeBlanc, who led the team with 25 points.

Though she won't be back to see it, Lindner said she believes the team will perform wonders next season, and Cranston agrees.

"I expect, that if this team's heart carries over into next season, we will be one of the best teams in the country, not just the NCHA," Cranston said.



Amber Lindner

SPORTS WRAP

Reimann selected All-WIAC for second time

Senior Traci Reimann was named to the first team and senior Melanie Preiner earned honorable mention to the 2007 All-WIAC basketball team. Reimann was named the WIAC Player of the Week on Jan. 15. She scored in double digits 18 times and in rebounds nine times. She had seven double-doubles. She scored a season high 22 points against Stout on Jan. 10 and grabbed a career high 17 rebounds against Finlandia on Jan. 2. Reimann led the team in assists eight times and in steals twice. She finished fifth in scoring and first in rebounding in the WIAC. Reimann finished her career as the school’s all-time leading rebounder with 840. Preiner, a 5-6 guard, was named the WIAC Player of the Week on Feb. 5. She was the team’s Player of the Week three times. Preiner was second on the team in scoring (10.6) and averaged 3.7 rebounds a game.

Freshmen basketball players earn mention

Falcons basketball players Jontae Koonkaew and Nate Robertson have both earned honorable mention to the 2007 All-WIAC team. Koonkaew, a 5-8 guard, finished third in scoring for the Falcons with a 13.2 average. He averaged 3.7 rebounds a game and led the Falcons in assists (82). He had 26 steals, second on the team. He finished 111-247 (.449) from the field and was 96-121 (.793) from the line. He was named the team’s Player of the Week on Feb. 5. Koonkaew finished 15th in scoring, fourth in assists and seventh in free-throw percentage in the WIAC. Robertson, a 6-7 forward, led the Falcons in scoring (14.6), rebounding (6.8), blocked shots (43) and steals (28). He also had 23 assists. He was 142-248 (.573) from the field and 80-139 (.576) from the line. Robertson was named the team’s Player of the Week on Feb. 12, Jan. 29 and Nov. 27. He finished seventh in scoring, sixth in rebounding, second in field-goal shooting percentage and third in blocks in the WIAC.

Softball team improves on young season

The Falcons softball team improved their record to an undefeated 4-0. The Falcons traveled to the Rosemount Dome to take on St. Catherine in a doubleheader. Putting together two solid games, the Falcons won 9-1 and 12-1, both games in five innings. The Falcon hitters combined for six home runs in the two games and the pitching staff, lead by Ashley Bertrand and Brittany Rathbun was solid. In the first game the Falcons also played solid defensively giving up no errors. “We crushed the ball,” head coach Faye Perkins said. “Just about everybody got to play and I think this is the two best back to back games I have seen.” The Falcons leave for Florida Saturday for the Rebel Spring Games and will begin play Sunday with a game against the No. 4 team in the country, Washington-St. Louis. Perkins said the game will be important for the Falcons to gage where they are at in the season.

Sports Wrap courtesy of UW-River Falls Sports Information

STANDINGS

| Men’s Hockey | | | | Women’s Hockey | | | |
|---------------------------|----|----|---|--------------------------|---|----|---|
| NCHA Standings | W | L | T | NCHA Standings | W | L | T |
| UW-River Falls (21-5-2) | 10 | 3 | 1 | UW-Superior(18-6-3) | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| St. Norbert (24-3-2) | 10 | 3 | 1 | UW-River Falls(14-9-4) | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| UW-Stout (21-5-2) | 10 | 3 | 1 | UW-Stevens Point(18-6-2) | 8 | 5 | 2 |
| UW-Superior (20-6-1) | 9 | 4 | 1 | Lake Forest(11-7-7) | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| St. Scholastica (15-12-2) | 6 | 7 | 1 | UW-Eau Claire(13-10-2) | 6 | 7 | 2 |
| UW-Stevens Point (7-18-2) | 3 | 10 | 1 | Finlandia(4-19-2) | 0 | 14 | 1 |
| UW-Eau Claire (9-14-4) | 2 | 9 | 3 | | | | |
| Lake Forest (3-21-3) | 0 | 11 | 3 | | | | |

For complete stats check out the UWRF Sports Information Website at www.uwrf.edu/sports

TOP PERFORMERS



Mindy Rudiger Softball



Cassie LeBlanc Women’s Hockey

Shortstop Mindy Rudiger was three for four with three home runs, seven RBIs, seven runs scored and four walks in the Falcon’s sweep of St. Cathrine Wednesday. Rudiger bats leadoff and has a .667 on-base-percent-age this season.

LeBlanc scored five points, three goals and two assists, in two NCHA tournament games on March 2 and 3 for the Falcons. She finished the season with 25 points to lead the team in scoring for the 2006-07 season.

Check out www.uwrfvoice.com for all your news needs.

Football team goes on the offensive to fill vacated coordinator position

Head coach John O’Grady likely to move over to defense

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After the recent retirement of UWRF football defensive coordinator Kevin Bullis, River Falls has begun the search for his replacement. Bullis will not be replaced with another defensive coordinator, however, but rather with an offensive coordinator.

“I’m only losing one coach and that’s Coach Bullis,” head coach John O’Grady said. “He’s decided after 18 or 19 years of college coaching that he wants to spend more time with his family. Whenever I lose an offensive coordinator or a defensive coordinator I have a choice because I don’t have enough assistant coaches here. I have to evaluate the situation we’re in and look at what I think would be best for us and decide, ‘do I want to stick with a defensive coordinator or do I want to move to an offensive coordinator?’ and I’ve chosen to go the offensive route this time.”

Assistant Coach Andy Kotelnicki will likely be moved from the defensive side of the ball to the offensive side to work with the new offensive coordinator, because Kotelnicki’s heart is on the offense, O’Grady said. This move would push O’Grady to the defensive side of the ball, where O’Grady hasn’t been for years.

“I played defense in college and I played on some very good defensive teams,” O’Grady said. “I think I’m kind of a defensive guy at heart. I think that’s why I always like running the ball so much. It’s exciting to me. It’s a challenge now; it’s been a while since I coached defense. Offenses have evolved so much, you better know what you’re doing because people can really hurt you if you don’t.”

Junior defensive back Bruce Baillargeon, who finished second on the team in total tackles this past season with 84, said he is looking forward to O’Grady moving over to coach the defense in his senior season.

“I’m excited about it,” Baillargeon said. “He’s played so he should know. We’ve kind of wondered if he was going to have more of a say in the defense and I guess he will now.”

The only way O’Grady will get his opportunity to coach the defense is to hire an offensive coordinator because hiring a third full-time assistant coach is not something that is going to happen any time in the near future, Athletic Director Rick Bowen said.

“I think our offense for the last four or five years has underachieved and I think we need some new and fresh input.”

John O’Grady,
head football coach

“When Kevin Bullis decided voluntarily to step down, we looked at all the things we could do,” Bowen said. “The opportunity then to have John move over to [defense] and hire somebody who wants to be an offensive coordinator just seemed like a natural fit.”

This past season the Falcons switched to a zone offense, abandoning the wishbone offense that O’Grady ran for 17 straight years as head coach. The change to a more conventional offense opens the door for UWRF to hire an offensive coordinator, O’Grady said.

“It would have been very difficult to find a guy with enough wishbone experience who I could have entrusted with the offense because it’s such a unique offense,” O’Grady said. “Now that we’ve changed systems, there are more guys out there that I think know a little bit more about the existing offense that we’re running.”

With spring practices starting April 1, the Falcons hope to have an offensive coordinator hired in the very near future to work with the



Jens Gunelson
Former Falcons defensive coordinator, Kevin Bullis, retired following the 2006 season after filling the position for 11 seasons. Bullis’ departure has opened the door for the Falcons to hire a new offensive coordinator.

offense during this session, Bowen said. A Search and Screen Committee chaired by Crystal Lanning is already working hard to try and put forth qualified candidates in a timely manner.

“The Search and Screen Committee will recommend three or four names to me,” Bowen said. “Then I will make the decision after input from talking to the football coach and talking to the chancellor, and then we’ll make the recommendation to the chancellor.”

A member of the Search and Screen Committee himself, O’Grady said he is happy this change will be made.

“I think our offense for the last four of five years has underachieved and I think we need some new and fresh input,” O’Grady said. “I’m enjoying this because I haven’t studied the defensive side for quite some time.”

With the departure of Bullis, O’Grady is faced with the decision of whether or not to change the defense before next season.

“I’m leaning right now towards keeping the same defense, maybe simplifying it a little bit,” O’Grady said. “I don’t believe in being really complicated. I want players to know what they’re doing.”

Baillargeon said he hopes the team sticks with the same defense. “It would help for everybody not to learn a whole new one, it’s always better that way,” Baillargeon said. “It’s a very fun defense. You can have a lot of smaller guys out there and a lot more speed.”

Regardless of who is brought in as the new offensive coordinator, and whether the team keeps the same defense, the ultimate goal for the Falcons will be to improve upon recent seasons. In the past four seasons, the football team has failed to win more than three games in a year.

“This is a team we need to have a winning record,” Baillargeon said. “We haven’t done very well [lately], so if we had a winning season, especially in conference, that’d be a good step forward for the program in general.”

Three Falcon women earn right to compete at nationals

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Jill Crandall and Carrie VanHouten, and junior Krista Hasselquist have qualified to compete in the NCAA Division III National Meet on March 9 and 10. The competition will be held at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind.

Crandall, a three time track and field All-American in the high jump and heptathlon, will compete in the high jump. She qualified with a jump of 5-5 1/4. It was her best jump of the season and was good 12th place in the nation. Crandall set several records during the season too; at the MSU-Mankato Open, she and three others set the school record for the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4:02.19. She also set the school record in the pentathlon at the WIAC championships at UW-Whitewater with a score of 3,474.

Crandall said that her season as a whole went well, but her high jump isn’t where she wants it to be right now because she is focusing on the pentathlon.

She said she’s not setting her expecta-

tions too high for placing.

“I’d just like to go and enjoy my last collegiate indoor meet and hopefully take some steps toward getting my high jump back on track for the outdoor season and the heptathlon,” she said.

In the high jump this season, Crandall had jumps of 5-4 1/4, 5-3 3/4 twice, and 5-5 1/4. She also competed in the 55 hurdles,

60 hurdles, long jump and shot put.

VanHouten will be competing in the pole vault. She placed third at conference with a jump of 11-9 3/4, which was a season best for her and good enough for 15th in the nation. It also set the school indoor record. VanHouten said this season was her best ever and does not have outrageous expectations for

Nationals “I just want to do my best and hopefully place.”

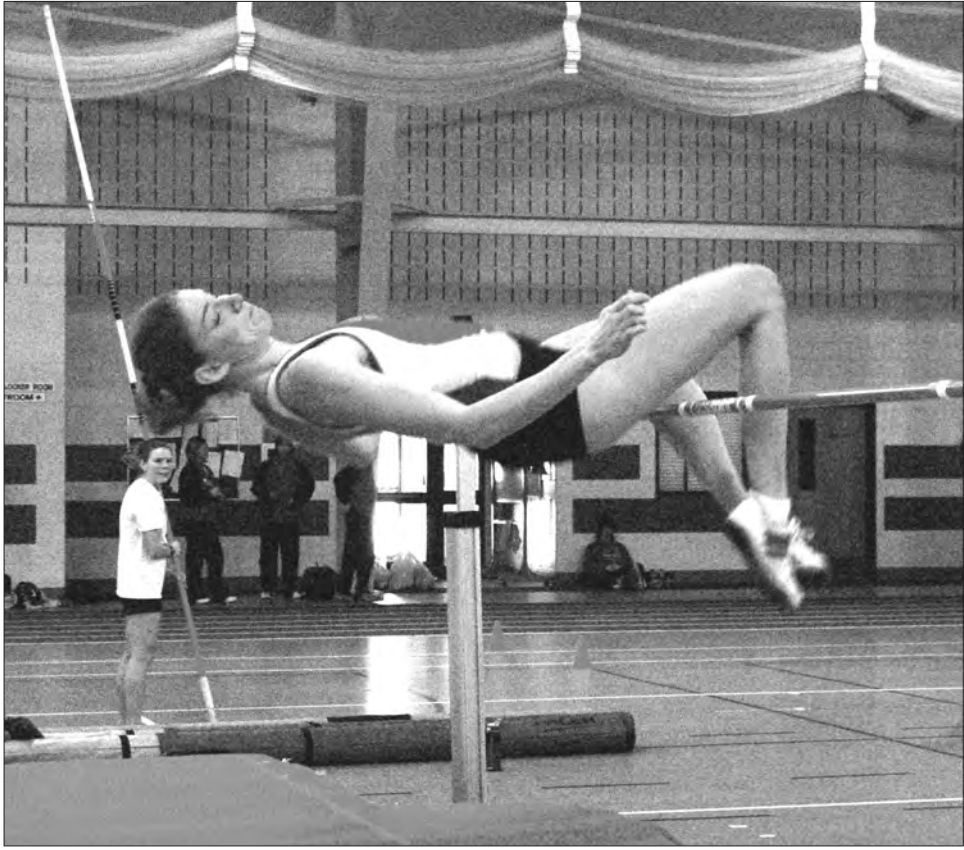
In meets this season she’s had jumps of 11-9 3/4, 10-9, 11-2 1/4, 10-10 and 11-4 1/2 in the pole vault. She also competed in the 55-meter and 200-meter dashes.

Hasselquist qualified to compete in both the shot put and the weight throw. She set season bests in both with a weight throw of 53-9 1/4 and a distance of 44-5 1/4 in the shot put. Her weight throw was ninth in the nation and the shot put eighth. Hasselquist’s weight throw scores for the year are 46-9, 46-11, 50-10 3/4, 45-11 3/4 and 53-9 1/4. In the shot put, she scored 41-10 1/2, 43-3 3/4, 44-5 1/4, 38-4 and 42-7 1/2.

Head Coach Martha Brennan said she is happy with how the Falcons indoor team performed overall this year and expects the meet to go well also.

“[They just have] to do what they’ve been doing all year,” she said. “Usually if you do that you’ll place.”

The Division III National meet will end the indoor track and field season. The outdoor season starts at 10 a.m. March 14-17 at the Alabama Relays.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Senior Jill Crandall attempts to clear the bar in the high jump during the Coca-Cola Classic Feb. 10 at Knowles. Crandall will compete in the high jump at the NCAA Division III National meet March 9 and 10 in Terre Haute, Ind.

Food transfers are untimely for students

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The new variety of food and payment options has been cause for debate since the University Center opened in January.

“I dropped my meal plan because I only have a set amount of time in which I can get food, and next to nothing transfers for lunch,” junior Derrick Knutson said.

Restaurant hours and transfer hours are one of the major problems with the new options. Riverside Commons, the all-you-can-eat option where the majority of students use transfer points, is only open until 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. This is the only option that allows transfer points for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The Riverside Commons meal plan is set on an 18-day rotation for variety.

Coyote Jack’s, which serves char-broiled burgers, chicken and side items with a southwestern flair, is open 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, the eatery does not offer transfer options. Another restaurant that does not offer transfer hours is Mamma Leone’s. Mamma Leone’s serves pizza, pasta and salads, but students have to use cash or credit cards if they want this meal option.

The only late night food option for students is Freddy’s Convenience Store. Students can get something to eat as late as midnight with their transfer points.

Dining Services Director Jerry Waller said they determined the transfer hours based on focus groups and surveys they conducted last October. These groups and surveys indicated that these were the venues and times students designated to be the most appealing. Other indicators of available transfer hours are based on the menus, the practicality of needing to be open and whether there is enough business to keep venues open during specific times.

An issue that students may not be aware of is that the money from transfer points goes directly to the Residential Dining Program. The food from transfers comes from Chartwells, but they do not receive any money. The money goes to the Residential Dining Program. When students purchase food with cash instead of transfer points, the money goes to Chartwells. The money earned from students who pay for their meals in cash helps pay for the workers’ salaries and equipment.

Along with the issue of transfer points, the University Center facility is unable to use all the equipment for all the venues simultaneously because the facility utilizes different equipment at different times. An example of the equipment use in different venues includes the fryers used downstairs. They are also used for Freddy’s Convenience Store during transfer hours. Therefore, having several transfer options open at one time is impractical.

Dining Services decided to choose venues that utilized a wide variety while complying with students who use the Residential Dining Program and for commuters who do not have meal plans. The variety of venues includes a sandwich shop, a Mexican place,



Slippy Douglas

The University Center has many places for students to eat, but not many places that are open at times that are convenient to students' schedules.

an Italian place, a burger place and a convenience store.

The dining area around each restaurant includes several tables and booths for students to utilize while they eat and study.

“[I’ve] never seen anything dirty ... [the] people all seem friendly,” senior Carrie Oftedahl said.

A question that was raised in the focus groups that were conducted by Student Services and Programs in October was the concern of student dietary health. The new food options were meant to provide students with healthier foods.

“I definitely think that it is better than before,” health and human performance major Stacy Dekkers said. “The big salad bar is very nice. Also, they have more healthy bread choices. So, yes, I would say it is healthier.”

Oftedahl said she thinks the new options are as “equally healthy” as the other options. Student Life Facilities Director Mike Stifter said that no matter how healthy the available options are to students, it is ultimately up to the student to decide to eat healthier.

Waller said there are several new options for students to choose to eat healthier. These include new menu options at the different venues and a broader availability of healthy foods. In Riverside Commons, healthier options include a wider bread selection, an expanded salad bar and more fresh vegetables.

Because of the facility setup and new meal options, Dining Services and Student Life Services are conducting ongoing focus groups that are conveying health issues and student concerns.

Student Services and Programs will be using approximately ten faculty, staff, community members and students for a month-long secret shopper investigation. Throughout March, these individuals will wander through the entire University Center looking at things such as retail, services, first impressions, smells, lines, students and layout of the building. Stifter said these secret shoppers will visit the facility three

times during the month. In April, the secret shoppers will get together to assess and survey their findings. Late spring semester, Student Services and Programs will act on the issues brought up by the secret shoppers.

For students who are unable to eat during transfer hours, there are options for students to get meals. The Student Services and Programs Web site includes a list of special dining needs.

According to the Web site, “sack meals may be arranged when meal times conflict with your class schedule, work or other campus activities. To participate in the sack program, you are required to complete the sack meal form available at the Dining Services Office in the University Center.”

There are also options for students who are too ill to leave the dorms. Sick trays are available through Dining Services.

The Web site states, “you may arrange a sick tray with the approval of your hall manager and/or the health nurse.”

However, Dining Services is not responsible for the delivery of the tray; therefore, arrangements must be made for delivery of the meal.

Another option provided by Dining Services is special dietary provisions.

According to the Web site, “if you have specific dietary needs, the University nutritionist will work directly with you in arranging your meals.”

Adjustments will continuously be made throughout the upcoming years to yield out problems.

“[It] takes a while for folks to settle,” Stifter said. “... [The] initial issues will be staggered out.”

Stifter also said that Dining Services and others in the facility are adamant about working through the problems.

Students are encouraged to give feedback on the new meal options. The Dining Services Committee Advisory Board meets at 4 p.m. every Tuesday in the Wind River Room in the University Center. The meetings are open to everyone.

Original student art showcased in reading series

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Every year, students from a variety majors sign up to read original pieces of poetry or short stories for the annual Student Reading Series.

“Sometimes in the past students have sung original songs or read poems about their art work,” Jenny Brantley, associate English professor, said.

This program has been in effect on campus since 1997.

“It is hard to say how many readers have participated in the last ten years-maybe 400-500 students,” Brantley said.

This event was created to give students the opportunity to showcase their original pieces of writing and to give them a chance to have others view and listen to them. It was designed to create a community of student writers, Brantley said.

“For me, as a faculty member, it is so exciting and refreshing to hear our students’ voices, to have glimpses into their ideas, to know that they think deeply and carefully about important things,” Brantley said.

Among the first to read this year are English majors Annaka Isenberger and Bradley Murphy. Murphy is a senior and Isenberger is a junior.

Bradley is no stranger to these readings. He has read on five different occasions over his academic career.

“I started in my freshman year with encouragement from Jenny Brantley, and even though I was extremely nervous, it was exhilarating,” Murphy said.

The Student Reading Series gives young writers who are becoming more experienced in the world of writing the opportunity to get direct feedback from both students and faculty members of the University.

“The reaction is always nice especially when professors and other people comment on your writing directly to you,” Murphy said.

The readings are an important part of the literary process because it enables writers to listen to others works and critique them. In turn, new ideas of what to write about may be generated from the listeners.

Isenberger has also been involved in a few student readings as well as three community readings at the public library in River Falls.

“I love reading my works because I love performing.”

Annaka Isenberger, student

works because I love performing,” Isenberger said. “To get my words out there is like letting people view the world through my eyes. It’s a high that cannot be explained.”

These writers believe that it is very important

that students and the community attend these readings because it gives them the opportunity to hear what their peers have created and to enhance their view of the student literary world on campus.

“I think that it is incredibly important for other students to attend these events because it gives them the opportunity to see that true talent can come from little towns,” Isenberger said.

These students have the potential to be some of the future great literary minds and by being a part of the Student Reading Series, getting their work noticed is made possible.

“These readings give them [the students] the chance to get a first hand glimpse at where literature is heading not so far down the road,” Isenberger said.

The first day for the series was scheduled from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m., Thursday, March 1, but due to the snowstorm it was canceled and rescheduled for Thursday, March 8. Other readings scheduled for this semester are March 22 and April 26, and are held in the Breezeway of the library.

Student Health Services puts emphasis on advertising

Brandi Stillings
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The Wellness Challenge, e-CHUG and anti-smoking marketing campaigns are displayed on several poster stands located throughout campus, including two placed in the University Center.

Student Health Services originally received the stands as part of a Tobacco Prevention Program from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use on campus.

Now, there are a variety of other organizations that provide funding to continue the health-related advertising.

River Falls Partnership is a youth substance abuse prevention group that focuses mainly on alcohol misuse and has provided funding for the fifth year.

Bringing Theory to Practice, dealing with mental health from the College of Arts and Sciences, and the State Wisconsin Employees from the campus and community are other organizations supplying grants this year as well.

In addition, some UW System schools such as UW-Oshkosh are providing grants to ensure that both they and UW-River Falls are getting the most accurate health data possible.

“Sharing a lot of data on students helps us incorporate into the marketing,” Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of Student Health

Services, said.

Other ways that Student Health Services is advertising their messages is through “stall talks” posters located in the bathroom stalls, alcohol and tobacco related information tables in the University Center and now on the Internet.

Student Health Services is trying a new “social norms marketing” which helps students realize that reality is much lower than they assume, Reilly-Myklebust said.

“With the new program, e-CHUG, it allows students to see actual data compared to other students because most of the time they over-estimate,” she said. “This will allow them to help correct those perceptions.”

The grants require the poster stands to be displayed in high-traffic areas around campus such as residence halls and academic buildings.

Some UW-River Falls students said they hadn’t even noticed the poster stands and the ones that do see them don’t feel affected.

“It would be interesting to see how much money I could be spending on alcohol a week,” sophomore Theresa Kurtz said. “[but] I have better things to do with my time. Unless I was forced to do it, I don’t think I would.”

Another student, sophomore Joe Engelhardt didn’t find the posters useful or influential for the campus.

“I don’t think students notice them because they don’t care,” Engelhardt said.

CLASSIFIEDS

To learn more about classified or display ad rates, contact the business office at 425-3624. You can also view them online at www.uwrfvoice.com

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‘Black Snake Moan’ scores high with reviewers



A.J. Hakari

If one didn’t know better, one might think that “Black Snake Moan” is a rather lurid tale of a black man keeping a white woman literally chained up in his house. But just as writer/director Craig Brewer proved with his 2005 debut, “Hustle & Flow,” there’s a lot more than meets the eye.

As “Hustle & Flow” was about more than just a pimp that wanted to be a rapper, “Black Snake Moan” delivers a much more touching tale than the ads suggest.

It perfectly illustrates how you can’t judge a book by its cover-or, in this case, a movie by its poster.

“Black Snake Moan” is a look into the downtrodden worlds of two lost souls in the deep South: farmer/retired bluesman Lazarus (Samuel L. Jackson) and Rae (Christina Ricci), a young woman lamenting her boyfriend (Justin Timberlake) heading off to boot camp.

It’s not long before Rae lives up to her reputation as the town tramp, descending into a whirlwind of drugs and promiscuous sex that leaves her bruised, bloodied and left for dead on a back road. Luckily, recently-divorced Lazarus comes upon her and sets about nursing her back to health. He aims to cure Rae of her “wickedness” by chaining her up to his radiator, igniting a battle of wills between two individuals who both need a good dose of redemption.

On the surface, “Black Snake Moan” looks to be a sleazy bit of softcore entertainment that got lost on its way to Cinemax. However, its themes are closer to that of “A Prairie Home Companion” and “Before Sunset.”

Though they may seem polar opposites, Lazarus and Rae are rather similar characters; both seek solace from their respective lives, Rae through nonstop sex and Lazarus through drinking following his wife’s departure.

Both are damaged goods searching for some form of atonement, and with “Black Snake Moan,” Brewer cooks up one offbeat situation for them to go about attaining it.

What makes “Black Snake Moan” click is that Brewer acknowledges how far-fetched the story is while playing it completely straight, setting up a convincing turn of events successfully stretched for the duration of the plot.

Near the end, Brewer’s quirky edge tends to wear off and lean a little on the preachy side, but for the most part, he never loses his keen sense of constructing multi-layered characters, maintaining a sweltering atmosphere and setting it all to one of the best soundtracks I’ve heard in years.

Ricci’s performance is unabashedly slutty yet sympathetic, Jackson is pitch-perfect as Lazarus, and although he’s not as impressive here as he was in “Alpha Dog,” Timberlake’s turn as Rae’s boyfriend is pretty tolerable.

A tale of love, sex and music that never fully loses its unique flavor, “Black Snake Moan” is akin to a great blues song; it’s steeped in sadness and tragedy, yet its outlook is unavoidably optimistic.



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.



Teresa Aviles

A question came to me prior to viewing the new movie, “Black Snake Moan.” Does the idea of a petite nymphomaniac (half-naked Christina Ricci) chained up in a house of an old man sell in the box office? The fact that the idea does sell does not make the movie misogynistic, but rather appealing to a sex-crazed nation. With a sultry Ricci and a preacher-like Samuel L. Jackson, the movie will squeeze out more noises from viewers than just a moan.

A hot sex scene with Ricci and Justin Timberlake appropriately starts out the film spewing the feeling of longing and sweat all over the place. With a tagline like, “Everything is hotter down south,” it’s hard not to feel like you’d want to tear your clothes off. Ricci shows, repeatedly, that this feeling is uncontrollable.

Ronnie (Timberlake) leaves Rae (Ricci) for the National Guard, but unfortunately Rae has always been able to help Rae battle. We’ll just call this condition “nymphomania.”

When a drugged Rae gets beaten up and left for dead on the side of the road, an old holy man, Lazarus (Jackson), finds her and brings her into his custody. After witnessing what a serious need of a hot beef injection can do to a girl, he chains her up in his house attempting to expel the devil in her.

Ricci and Jackson fit their

reputable characters and their on-screen relationship shines. While these two characters developed and acted well, Timberlake, as Rae’s boyfriend, failed to impress. Every scene he appeared in made me want to moan, in the disgusted way.

If there is anything I adored about this movie besides the high intensity sex craving, it was the soundtrack. Jackson’s singing and guitar strumming of seductive blues was hot enough for one to melt into the stained fabrics of their reclining movie theater chair.

With a steamy theme song “When the Lights Go Out” by The Black Keys, it sets the mood of a little known sexy South.

There are other ways to view this film, of course. I took the provocative route whereas others may see this as a race piece. Lazarus mentions once that a black man can’t just turn in a beaten white woman. Also, Tyrone, the “big black man” brags that she just needs “the real thing.”

You could also view this as a psychological film. This aspect is what made the movie respectful because it portrayed a real loving relationship, but represented its messed-up qualities also. Ronnie suffers from anxiety attacks and Rae suffers from child abuse repercussions. Although they had little in common, they still needed each other more than they needed anyone else.

In the end, Lazarus drops the “God said this” lecture and tells them “Ya gotta get your shit together and then go live your life.”

You may wish there were more to the story than Ricci groping herself, but I trust you will still leave thinking “Oh baby” over and over.

A.J. is a junior-year transfer student studying journalism and film studies. He mostly digs horror movies and documentaries.



Teresa is a junior-year transfer student studying journalism and geography. She enjoys dark comedies and documentaries.

Vagina Monologues promotes important message

Sarah Packingham
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Issues like rape, incest, sexual slavery and battery aren’t commonly talked about in today’s society.

Ten years ago Eve Ensler began performing the Vagina Monologues, traveling around the country and talking about all of the neglected topics. When the Vagina Monologues first started, the well known V-Day started as well.

The Vagina Monologues official Web site, www.Vday.org, has a lot of information on the history of the movement.

“V-Day’s mission is simple. It demands that the violence must end,” the site said. “It proclaims Valentine’s Day as V-Day until the violence stops. When all women live in safety, no longer fearing violence or the threat of violence, then V-Day will be known as Victory Over Violence Day.”

Now, schools like UW-River Falls continue to raise awareness about the issues surrounding violence against women.

This year will be the fourth year the Vagina Monologues

have been performed on campus, and every year they have been growing in popularity.

Senior Lindsey Exworthy is the organizer and director for this year’s shows that were performed at UWRF. She will also be narrating during the performances.

This is her second year participating in the Monologues, but her first year organizing. Exworthy said the Monologues give a very important message to everyone, not just to women.

“This year’s theme is Reclaiming Peace,” Exworthy said. “The money raised during this event goes primarily to Turning Point, our local sexual assault and domestic abuse center.”

The money for Turning Point is being raised from ticket prices and the silent auction that is held during the event.

Junior Katie Nelson attended the Monologues when she was a freshman and has been helping plan them ever since. This year she will also be performing.

Nelson said it isn’t hard to perform since she is a very open individual and she knows how important it is to inform people

about the issues facing women today.

“It’s important for people our age, but it’s also important to talk to young women and make sure they’re comfortable with themselves,” Nelson said.

Like Nelson, Exworthy also does not get nervous when performing on stage.

“I have a background of stage performances so being on stage doesn’t get to me,” she said. “However, I do get nervous about all of the things surrounding this performance. Things like, will people come, will we raise any money, will the audience get the message?”

Third year student Sarah Michaelson is also involved in this year’s production of the Monologues that were performed on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

While a number of students know the importance of the Monologues, there are still a number of people who don’t have any idea what they’re about.

“It’s not just about vaginas or just about sex,” Michaelson said. “It’s more about violence against women and the overall treatment

of women in society.

According to the Web site, “Between February 1 and March 8 (International Women’s Day) 2007, over 2,000 V-Day benefits will take place in over 950 communities and on college campuses. From Nigeria to NYU, China to DePaul University, from New Zealand to University of Puerto Rico, local activists will stage benefit productions of “The Vagina Monologues,” raising funds and awareness for local anti-violence groups in their communities.”

Freshman Daniel Burce said planned to attend the Monologues because his speech teacher was offering extra credit to students who went and answered a few questions about it, but that is not his only reason.

“I think that the program itself will be of value for the people who attend it,” Burce said. “Plus I have a friend who is going to be in it and I want to go support her.”

The Vagina Monologues sponsored by Student Senate were performed Wednesday and Thursday evening in the Falcons Nest of the University Center.



Submitted Photo

Eve Ensler developed and began performing the Vagina Monologues nearly 10 years ago. The Monologues bring issues affecting women today to the forefront.

LETTERDOKU

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Difficulty: Medium Jennie Oemig/Student Voice
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Solution for Letterdoku is available at www.uwrfvoice.com

Relient K’s sophomore album does well



Jenna Lee

As the winter season begins to wind down, and we are all in spring break mood, I wanted to review a new compact disc that really conveys and invokes the feeling of the new season. Immediately, I fell in love with Relient K’s newest effort *Five Score and Seven Years Ago*. It has everything a good pop punk album needs: kinda slow songs that make you think of that special boy or girl, as well as hard beats for those times when you feel completely misunderstood.

What most people don’t know about Relient K is that originally (and still technically) they are a Christian rock band. When their first album was released in 1998, they could have easily been compared to other very popular Christian based semi-punk bands like Good Charlotte and MxPx.

Relient K has been able to keep growing with their fans and adapt to find a more diverse fan base. They have not lost the core principles like GC and Fall Out Boy, nor have they relied on silly (and frankly childish) videos and lyrics like Bowling For Soup. That gives them integrity, which may not be an obvious key ingredient for fame and financial success, but it has really kept them going so strong, even though maybe under the radar of most pop punk and indie music lovers.

But knowing of their strong religious background, I was surprised the song called

“Faking My Own Suicide,” which I think is a huge Christian no-no (I’m a music critic not a theological authority). And although it’s just about “faking it,” I would not expect to hear anything like that from them. But that song, even more so than the others, is just too damn catchy and really well written for me to even really care about the possible deep religious meaning.

The other songs on this album really show how masterful the band is with lyrics. These songs have a way of putting into words all those feelings and situations that you can never find the right words for. But as soon as you think maybe the CD is getting a little too deep and real, “Crayons Can Melt on Us” pops up. With only a very serious piano playing, lead singer Matt Thiessen sings slowly, “I just wasted ten seconds of your life.”

It isn’t until the track suddenly

ends that you realize you have just had a very smart but cute joke played on you.

One of the biggest problems with today’s bands that “break overnight” is just that they break overnight. For years they play in their garages on hand-me-down or cheap equipment. Then, all of a sudden they are given \$5,000 Gibson guitars and PA systems that haven’t been used since the 80s, and they don’t know how to use them.

They are able to make songs of real quality, but they don’t because expensive instruments are not forgiving when you muffle a chord or skip a beat. Producers can only fix so many of those problems in the studio, and it is obvious on *Five Score and Seven Years Ago* that Relient K knows what they’re doing technically with their instruments and Thiessen’s vocals to produce a great sound and vibe.

Students postpone schooling for military duty

Josh Dahlke
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At first glance UW-River Falls may appear to be a quiet college community, seemingly detached from many of the global issues reported in the news, such as the war in Iraq.

In actuality UWRF is no stranger to the war, and some students are getting ready to fulfill their duties as members of the U.S. armed forces, while others have already stared war in the face.

Off to war

Chris Aeschliman, a 19-year-old freshman and member of the National Guard, is one student preparing to make his first appearance at an unknown destination overseas.

Aeschliman said that currently there are only rumors circulating about where his unit will end up, but he expects it will be somewhere in Iraq.

“It’s never set in stone until we actually get where we’re going,” he said. “That’s the way the military is.”

Aeschliman enlisted in the National Guard on Nov. 5, 2004. He is part of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry out of Menomonie, Wis.

Aeschliman will attend basic training in June at Camp Shelby in Mississippi, and in August he is expected to have boots on ground, meaning he will be deployed and on the ground by then.

His mother and father both serve in the National Guard. He said his father has already been to Iraq and has a good understanding of what it is like there.

“When you peel dead human out of your boot, or when you see maimed bodies all over the place, that’s a horrible thing to see.”

David Till,
National Guard member

Aeschliman said he thought it would be a good idea to enlist in the National Guard because of his parents’ involvement and the economic benefits that will help him pay for college.

Students in the U.S. armed forces receive a variety of benefits to help pay for school, including the Montgomery GI Bill, the Armed Forces Tuition Assistance Program and the Student Loan Repayment Program.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the GI Bill is designed to provide eligible veterans with up to 36 months of benefits for college, job training, entrepreneurship training and other forms of education.

For veterans to be eligible, they must meet certain requirements as outlined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Chris Aeschliman, a 19-year-old freshman and member of the National Guard is scheduled to make his first deployment to an unknown location in August. Aeschliman said he has an idea of what to expect since his father has been deployed to Iraq in the past.

According to military.com, the tuition assistance program is “a benefit paid to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. Congress has given each service the ability to pay up to 100 percent for the tuition expenses of its members.” As with the GI Bill, the tuition assistance program has certain eligibility requirements and an application process.

The loan repayment program is similar to the tuition assistance program, but the army will pay up to \$65,000 of a soldier’s qualifying student loans.

Aeschliman said he expected and was hoping to go to war when he signed up. The 105th Calvary of Wausau, Wis., didn’t have enough men so he volunteered in an effort to be deployed sooner.

“It really opened my eyes at, wow, I almost got murdered by someone.”

Greg Anderson,
National Guard member

“I just want to see the Middle East,” he said.

Aeschliman said he is aware of the dangers he will face if he ends up in Iraq.

“You’re going into a combat zone,” he said. “Even though it’s different fighting than 50 years ago, it’s still a combat zone. You’re going to be shot at and you’re going to have to return fire.”

Aeschliman said he has a life insurance plan which would provide his family with \$400,000 if the worst were to occur.

He said he knows his family, especially his mother, is concerned. Statistics warrant their concerns, as the possibility of injury or death is evident in any war.

Veterans

According to the Iraq Coalition Casualties Web site, 23,417 U.S. military personnel have been wounded as of Feb. 3, and 3,149 have died as of Feb. 21.

Fortunately for two UWRF students, they are not included in those statistics.

David Till, 30, and Greg Anderson, 23, both veterans of the war in Iraq, carry with them a myriad of experiences that have changed their lives.

Till, a UWRF student and employee of Veterans Services, has been in the National Guard for 13 years. He is a staff sergeant in Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 128th Mounted Infantry out of River Falls.

Till enlisted on Aug. 12, 1994. He said at the time he didn’t think he would go to war but he wanted a challenge. Like Aeschliman, Till said he knew the education benefits were

plentiful.

He said the mission of the National Guard is to be the state quick reaction force for any emergency that would merit their involvement, and to train for wartime.

His training was about to pay off when, in November 2004, he was deployed to Samarra, Iraq, a town between Tikrit and Baghdad.

Just as Aeschliman will soon experience, Till was deployed with a company of which he is not a member: Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry out of Arcadia, Wis.

Till returned to the United States in November 2005, but for 12 months he said he called Samarra his home.

Samarra is a place where on Feb. 22, there was a major bombing of a Shiite mosque, kicking off a war between the Sunnis and the Shiites.

Till said that particular mosque was where poor Muslims went if they couldn’t afford to go to Mecca.

While in Samarra, Till said he worked with the people of Iraq.

“We got to see the difference of who you’re fighting against and who you’re fighting for,” he said.

Till said he has no doubt that the United States went to war to help the Iraqi people, but others are skeptical.

“I don’t understand why we’re there in the first place,” freshman Nick Kantola said. “They couldn’t find chemical or biological weapons.”

Till disagrees.

“Everyone gets caught up in the whole [weapons of mass destruction] thing, but the truth of the matter is we got Saddam Hussein out of power,” Till said. “He’s a bad, bad man.”

Kantola said he does support the troops, regardless.

“If they want to be there, I’ll support them being there,” he said.

Till said he had many duties in Iraq. When he got to Samarra, there were only 20 Iraqi police officers, untrained. By the time he left the town, there were 800 trained officers.

“It’s never set in stone until we actually get where we’re going. That’s the way the military is.”

Chris Aeschliman,
National Guard member

He said he also did small things that made a big difference to the Iraqi citizens. He helped a family of eight get an air conditioner. He helped schools get simple things such as chairs and pencils. He gave children candy. He gave them things that he said many people take for granted.

“If you’ve never left the United States, you can’t make a justification of what [Iraq] is,” Till said. “These people don’t even have a bank in Iraq.”

Till is also well aware of the darker side of war, and he said he believes everyone is affected differently by the experience.

Some people go to war and never hear a gunshot, while others are forced to feel the shadow of violence war can cast.

“When you peel dead human out of your boot, or when you see maimed bodies all over the place, that’s a horrible thing to see,” Till said.

Anderson, a longtime resident of River Falls and a junior in broad business marketing at UWRF, enlisted in the National Guard in March 2003. He became part of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry out of New Richmond, Wis.

“I felt obligated to do some sort of service for the country,” Anderson said.

He also said he was bored with the normal college routine, and was curious about going to war.

Memories of war

In June 2003 he attended basic training for 16 weeks at Fort Benning, Ga. It was there he found out that his curiosity was to become a reality.

He said the captain of his training company called him into his office and told him to ‘get ready because you’re going to the sandbox.’

At that moment, Anderson said he felt “giddy and shocked,” and he wondered how he was going to tell his mother and family.

Bravo Company had already been training to go to Iraq at Camp Shelby, Miss. Anderson said he had to complete basic training at Fort Benning before he could join them. After finishing basic training he joined his company at Camp Shelby, where he completed additional training, focused more on actual wartime situations.

On Nov. 21, 2004, Anderson flew out of Mississippi headed for Kuwait, where he and his company would pre-



Beth Dickman/Student Voice

David Till a student and veteran of the Iraq war salutes the flag during a Veteran’s Day Memorial Nov. 11, 2006 outside North Hall.

pare to enter Iraq.

“[Going to Iraq] was always in the back of my mind,” Anderson said.

Anderson, along with the rest of Bravo Company got acclimated to the weather in Kuwait for a short time, and soon began their journey into Iraq. Some flew and some drove across the desert in a line of armored military vehicles known as a convoy. Anderson was part of the convoy, which took four hours. The company’s destination was Forward Operating Base (FOB) Cobra, 80 miles east of Baghdad.

The mission of Anderson’s company had several components.

They conducted routine foot patrols. They had observation points where they would sit in a “hot area” to make sure nobody was placing roadside bombs. They worked with city officials to build structure. They trained the Iraqi Army, and like Till, the police force. They participated in raids where they would burst into homes with guns at the ready, usually unannounced and at night, to look for any person or material that may have posed a threat.

“ ... the truth of the matter is we got Saddam Hussein out of power.”

David Till,
National Guard member

“I was thinking a hundred different things in my head,” Anderson said.

He said they found rocket-propelled grenades, AK-47s, bombs and bomb materials.

Anderson said he feels that when a person is faced with life-threatening situations, mental preparedness is key.

Raids and patrols required a lot of driving outside of FOB Cobra, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are common along roads in Iraq.

According to Globalsecurity.org, “An IED can be almost anything with any type of material and initiator. It is a ‘homemade’ device that is designed to cause death or injury by using explosives alone or in combination with toxic chemicals,

biological toxins or radiological material.”

Anderson’s position was the gunner for a humvee, an armored all-terrain vehicle with a hole in the top known as a gunner hatch and a mounted machine gun. Anderson said he would sit in what he called a “swing seat,” fully exposed to potential dangers such as gunfire or IEDs. The driver would often yell at him to stay out of the hatch.

Anderson said he knew the dangers of exposure.

“If we get hit by a roadside bomb, I don’t want to feel it,” he said.

Brush with death

One day while going out on a routine mission to check on a village, Anderson’s fate was tested. His convoy approached a bend no more than a mile from FOB Cobra. Someone aboard the first vehicle in the line saw a big potato sack, which Anderson said they thought was trash. Anderson’s vehicle was no more than five meters from the potato sack when it exploded at a capacity that could be seen, heard and felt from FOB Cobra. The IED shattered the windshield and blew out a tire of his humvee. He said he quickly managed his gun, but could find no target.

“People were running everywhere,” he said.

It was then he said he realized the shrapnel from the bomb had shredded the entire area around the gunner hatch, where he had been standing only seconds before.

“It really opened my eyes at, wow, I almost got murdered by someone,” Anderson said.

On Oct. 25, 2005, after 11 months in Iraq, Anderson returned to River Falls, where he continues his education at UWRF.

Aeschliman prepares to depart, while Till and Anderson look back on their experiences in Iraq with an admitted sense of accomplishment and appreciation for life.

During his deployment in Iraq, Anderson took leave in Ireland for a short time with images of the desert and the war fresh in his mind. He said when he arrived, the aroma of green grass made him truly happy. He ripped a clump out of the ground and smelled it, feeling refreshed.