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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

STUDENT VOICE

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UWRF remembers Va. Tech.



Students, faculty and staff share their thoughts, ties to Monday's shootings at college campus

Jennie Oemig
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A candlelight vigil was held Tuesday evening in remembrance of those who lost their lives at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech.) in Blacksburg, Va.

At 8 p.m. more than 80 UW-River Falls students and staff congregated around the fire pit on the south side of the University Center, expressing sympathy and sorrow for the families and friends of the victims of Monday's shootings. Those attending the vigil were also able to sign a banner that will be sent to Virginia Tech. late Friday afternoon.

The banner was available for students and staff to sign in the University Center throughout the week.

Though Monday's events occurred a little over 1,000 miles away, they have made a lasting impression on the lives of people at UWRF.

Junior Amanda Krier has a friend who attends Virginia Tech.

Krier said when she first heard about the shootings, she "blanked" on the fact that she knew someone who went to college there. After realizing a friend of hers attended college there, she tried to call him and sent e-mails, to which she did not receive a response until Tuesday evening.

In the e-mail Krier received from him, he said he was fine and didn't know any of the victims. Krier said he was too devastated to



respond immediately and had been mourning since the shootings.

As a college student, Krier was among the many students across the country who were surprised at the events that took place on the Virginia Tech. campus.

"I'm just shocked," Krier said. "I can't believe something like that would happen. It's just devastating."

Theatre Professor Gorden Hedahl said his daughter, Melissa, graduated from Virginia Tech. six years ago and lives with her husband,



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Top left: A group of students, faculty and staff gather for a remembrance ceremony in the fire pit area outside the University Center Tuesday night. Left: From left to right, students Aaron Bergman, Catherine Polnaszek and Shaun Priesgen stand with candles in remembrance of the Virginia Tech. shootings Monday. Above: Karyn Kling and Lindsey Tillman sit during the candle-lit ceremony, sharing thoughts and condolences for the victims at Virginia Tech.

Jeremy Kirkendall, in Christiansburg, Va., which is less than ten miles away from Blacksburg, Va.

Kirkendall attends college at Virginia Tech. and was in class when the shootings took place.

"I got a call from Melissa on Monday morning, indicating that Jeremy had been on campus in class at the time of the shooting and was safe in a lock-down in a different building," Hedahl said.

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EXPECTATIONS IN EDUCATION

Opinions vary about qualifications of respect, behavior in classrooms

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the fourth installment in a six-part series. Next week look for a story about technology in the classroom. In a society where most students carry cell phones and iPods, and teachers use the Internet and PowerPoint for lectures. What impact does technology have on the learning process?

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Students at UW-River Falls have varying opinions about what qualifies as respectful and disrespectful classroom decorum.

All classrooms are different and for that reason the behavior of students toward their professors varies.

"Overall ... professors are respected by most students," junior Katrina Styx said. "Every class has those students who don't care and won't take their education seriously, but I think that most students realize that they are here for an education and are

willing to give their professors their due."

Styx said she has been in classrooms where professors treat students fairly, but that is not always the case.

"... I've had professors who treated me like I was still in high school and some who didn't even care enough to get to know me at all," she said. "In a small school I think that one of the best things is the fact that most of the professors know you by name, and those who don't even try I feel are slighting the students."

Some students said they have noticed professors can be condescending at times and don't give their students the respect they deserve.

"There are a few [professors] I've had who real-

ly seem to not care for our opinions or feel that since we are students we must now know anything in regards to their specialities or otherwise," sophomore Justin Diercks said.

Diercks said one reason behind a professor's disrespect of students may be their educational background.

"[Some] professors need to realize that a few letters in front of their name does not make them the sole authority on any given subject," Diercks said. "Even the worst student might bring something to light worth considering, and comments shouldn't be thrown out immediately because it doesn't fol-

See Opinion, page 3

Free health clinic set to open this month

Clinic will offer resources, services to uninsured, low-income residents

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In 2004, about 272,000 Wisconsin residents were uninsured for the entire year, according to a Jan. 9 report released by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. With fundraising efforts, uninsured and low-income residents of Pierce and St. Croix counties will now have a place to go for basic medical care.

Located in Unit 2 of the River Falls Medical Clinic, the free clinic will be open every Tuesday night, beginning April 24, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. No appointments will be taken, but

patients will be served on a first-come, first-serve basis, with registration beginning at 5 p.m. On average, the clinic's staff aims to serve 20 to 30 patients each night.

To be eligible for the clinic's services, patients must meet two criteria. First, they must be uninsured and second, they must have a household income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. For a household of one, this is \$18,888 per year; for a household of four, \$38,202 per year.

Sophomore Ashley Vogler said she didn't know about the clinic until recently, but was very supportive of the clinic's mission.

"I think it's a great idea," Vogler said. "If it allows people with no or low income to still receive medical advice if needed, I'm for it."

See Clinic, page 3

Nine students receive Chancellor's Award

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Chancellor Don Betz presented nine UW-River Falls students with this year's Chancellor's Award and a bronze medallion during a ceremony April 16.

The award is the highest non-academic honor a student can receive at UWRF. It is awarded to upperclassmen and students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills in service and commitment to the University and community.

Students are nominated for the award by faculty, academic staff members and student peers from Student Senate.

The recipients are: Joseph R. Eggers, Katherine J. Leisch, Ashley E. Olson, Nicole K. Peters, Lacey M. Felmler, Kathryn A. Krtnick, Natsumi Kubo, Vang Lo and Jonathan J. Hill.

Eggers is a political science and international studies major. He is also president of the Student Senate.

"Some of the very best students were honored tonight, and I am glad I could be one of them," he said. "I have been trying to be an active voice for students on campus. Once you're here, as long as I am here, you are bound to get somewhere."

Leisch is a biology and health and human performance



Niki Paton/Student Voice

Chancellor Don Betz, left, presents senior Ashley Olson with a Chancellor's Award Monday in the ballroom of the University Center. Nine students received the award for the 2006-07 year.

major.

"I imagine that those who have received the award, present and past, never go through four years of doing what they are enthusiastic about and think that one day it will be recognized

See Award, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Collection set up to help Ngoboka family

A fire Sunday destroyed the home of economics Professor Pascal Ngoboka. Ngoboka informed University officials that he and his family are safe but the home was a total loss. The College of Business and Economics (CBE) is collecting cash to help the family with their immediate needs. Contributions may be dropped off in the CBE Office, 124 South Hall.

Athletic Department holds rummage sale

The UW-River Falls Athletic Department will be selling parkas, warm-ups, jerseys, bags and other items from various teams on campus from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 20. The sale will be held in Karges Gymnasium.

Green kiosk grand opening celebrated

The grand opening ceremony of the green kiosk will be at 12:15 p.m. April 20 in the University Center. The kiosk is located across from the information desk. Speakers will discuss highlights of the new environmental display. Professor Kelly Cain will be one of the speakers.

Professor’s speech addresses climate

A professor from Oberlin College will speak at a presentation called “Rumors of Unfathomable Things of Politics and Climate Change” at 4 p.m. April 20 in the University Center Ballroom. David Orr has written five books and has published more than 150 articles in scientific journals, social science publications and popular magazines. He is best known for his work on environmental literacy in higher education and his recent work in ecological design. Students, faculty, staff and the general public are welcomed to attend. A book signing and reception will follow. The event is sponsored by the Earth Consciousness Organization. For more information, contact Matthew Meyer at matthew.meyer@uwrf.edu.

Dance team seeks new members next year

The UW-River Falls Dance Team will be holding try outs for the 2007-2008 academic year April 23-26 in the dance studio in Karges Center. Participants will learn a dance from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. April 23-25 and tryouts will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. April 26. There is a \$10 fee to tryout.

Jerusalem women speak across Wisconsin

Three women from Jerusalem will speak about their first-hand experiences living in the region and present their vision for achieving peace and stability at 11:45 a.m. April 24. The event provides a female perspective on the conflict in the Middle East. One woman is an Israeli Jew, one a Palestinian Christian and one a Palestinian Muslim. The women are speaking as part of a tour called “Jerusalem Women Speak: Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision” and is sponsored by Partners for Peace. The general theme of the tour is everyday life in Israel and Palestine during a time of significant conflict.

Dance Theatre’s concert brings diversity

UW-River Falls Dance Theatre spring concert will be at 7:30 p.m. from April 25-28 in the Blanche Davis Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. The concert will consist of diverse choreography by faculty, guests and students ranging from hip-hop, lyrical and classical Japanese. It will feature the work of guests Eddie Oroyan from Black Label Movement Dance Company of Minneapolis, Minn., Bryan Gerber from Aurora Dance of St. Paul, Minn., and Einojo Senju from the Senju School of Classical Japanese Dance of Osaka, Japan. The cost is \$5 for students and \$7 for adults. For more information, contact Karla Zhe at karla.k.zhe@uwrf.edu.

Event to celebrate diversity in community

Students, staff, faculty and the general public are invited to attend Unity in the Community from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 25 to celebrate diversity on campus and in the community. The event will take place at the campus mall between the University Center and the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Students and professionals will perform, focusing on cultural music, dance, food, poetry, theater and art. The community celebration will be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Veteran’s Park in downtown River Falls. The cost is free.

Times discussion focuses on race issues

Professors Cyndi Kernahan and Sandy Ellis will lead a discussion about race and the news at 12:15 p.m. April 25 in the University Center Falls Room. The discussion is titled “Race: How is this big story (not) being covered?” The event is part of the Coffee with *The Times* series.

Documentary examines hate crimes

An award-winning documentary about hate crimes will be shown at 8 p.m. April 25 in the North Hall Auditorium. “Journey to a Hate Free Millennium” seeks solutions to ending hate and hate crimes that have become frequent events. The multimedia event is free for students, \$3 for 18 and under and \$5 for the general public. Tickets will be available at the door starting at 7 p.m.

Business college receives accreditation

UW-River Falls College of Business and Economics received international accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) earlier this month. The accreditation puts UWRF in an elite group that makes up less than 10 percent of the world’s business schools that have achieved business and/or accounting accreditation from AACSB. Earning accreditation is a three- to seven-year process where a business school undergoes intense internal review, evaluation and adjustment. Nine other schools received accreditation and will be announced at the AACSB’s annual meeting April 22.

SENATE

Student Senate Elections will be held Monday and Tuesday in the University Center.

Write-in candidates must receive at least 10 votes on the ballot.

The next Student Senate meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

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The Board of Regents approved the implementation of differential tuition for UW-River Falls students April 13. Beginning in fall 2007, students will pay an additional \$36 per semester. It will average out to about 29 cents per day, Chancellor Don Betz said. “It will generate about \$300,000 to \$380,000 total per year,” he said. Mary Halada, vice chancellor for administration and finance, said the differential tuition will help pay for library resources, a testing services center and undergraduate and scholarly research expenses. Chalmer Davee Library hours will be extended by 15 hours per week and more online journals and references will be purchased. The new testing services center will provide stu-

dents with tutoring services, learning disability tests, and a place to make up exams or take graduate exams. The differential tuition will help undergraduate and scholarly research programs and pay for expenses, such as travel to conferences to present research. “The campuses who have done it have seen improvements,” Budget Director Kristen Hendrickson said. “The state doesn’t provide funding for these things.” The BOR also approved to renew differential tuition for UW-Oshkosh and the implementation of the program for UW-Madison. Students at UW-Oshkosh pay a \$55-per-semester differential. Next fall, students at UW-Madison who are in the bachelor’s of business administration major will have a \$500-per-semester differential. Students pursuing a certificate in business will pay a \$150-per-semester differential.

Library hours may be extended

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The money will come from the differential tuition program that, if approved, will take effect fall semester 2007. The initial idea for this proposal came from an interest of UWRF students to make the Chalmer Davee Library available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. After budgets cuts in 2002, students were left with limited accessibility to the building, as the library cut its hours of operation by eight hours a week. Library officials, along with several members of UWRF staff, focused on a way to meet students’ requests for more library time and enhance student services on campus. They responded to the requests with an idea to make some expansion, but an around-the-clock library would not be necessary for this campus because students would not use the library until late hours of the evening. “The goal we are trying to meet with this proposal is to develop services we aren’t currently providing or enhance resources we already have,” UWRF Budget Director Kristen Hendrickson said. If the proposal is passed, the library will add 15 additional hours a week. The new hours proposed are Sunday noon to 1 a.m., Monday-Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 1 a.m., Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The costs of the extension will cover bringing in a permanent night supervisor, added student assistants and security officials until closing. A question many students on campus may be asking themselves is whether or not this will be beneficial. Many students do not find themselves using the library late at night. Becky Davis uses the library until close one or two nights a week. “If the library was open until 1 a.m. I would more than likely use it until close,” she said. I am often rushing to get out of here by 11 some nights.” Davis does not live on campus, but she finds the library to be a better place to study and do homework than at home with all the distractions. “I maybe use the library four or five times a month but it’s mostly just to pass the time



Kenny Yoo/ Student Voice

Chalmer Davee Library may extend hours next year with the inception of differential tuition. The increase in hours will allow students an additional eight hours per week to access to the library and the computer labs within.

in between classes,” senior Andrea Murray said. “I don’t think that I would use the library at 1 a.m. unless it was during finals week. Maybe if I lived on campus or in River Falls, I would use the library more.” Purchasing additional online journals and reference sources will provide around-the-clock access to resources that UWRF students can use anytime, anywhere. Some of these additional sources, totaling an estimated \$110,000 a year, will include converting print journals to electronics; The New York Times archive; additional document delivery; additional JSTOR modules such as the Health and General Science Collection, Ecology & Botany Collection, Biological Sciences and two Arts and Sciences Collections; and added online databases such as Food and Science Technology Abstracts, Communications & Mass Media Complete, Education Research Complete and more. These resources could be an advantage for those students who would not necessarily benefit from added library hours as statistics indicate students use online resources at a much higher rate than print.

“I would not be affected by an increase in library hours because a lot of professors these days don’t assign homework where you need to use the upstairs of the library. I can find most of my material on the library Web site,” Senior Ashley Bauer said. If the proposal is passed, the new library hours will begin during fall 2007. Valerie Malzacher, the Chalmer Davee Library director, said she feels that being able to fund library initiatives is extremely important to the students. “With all the outside commitments students have, the non-standard library hours will be very beneficial,” Valerie Malzacher, Chalmer Davee Library adviser said. Library hours will be very beneficial,” Malzacher said. “I am pleased that the Student Senate recognizes that strong library resources, services and hours of operation play an important role in helping students succeed as they transition through the University.” She also stated the heart of the proposal is to enhance electronic access. “This will infuse life into what we can do with our electronic resources,” Malzacher said.

“With all the outside commitments students have, the non-standard library hours will be very beneficial.” Valerie Malzacher, Chalmer Davee Library adviser

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

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- April 5
 - At approximately 11:30 p.m., River Falls police officers were called to 101 S. Third St. for excessive noise and “loud parties.” Kristen D. Witte, 18, Cherchill-Anne V. Corrales, 19, Alison M. Lund, 18, Jeffrey L. Manahan, 20, Lisa M. Palm, 19, Heather M. Ideker, 18, and Chris J. Pagel, 19, were cited \$172 for underage consumption. Kathryn T. Kampa was cited \$109 for loud noise.
- April 6
 - UWRF Public Safety was called to Johnson Hall for a “possible underage alcohol consumption,” according to reports. Alex C. Petersen, 19, was cited for disorderly conduct for yelling in the hallway and slamming a door after being confronted by officers. He was not cited for underage consumption.
 - River Falls police were dispatched to the Holiday Gas Station on North Main Street at approximately 1:55 a.m. for a shoplifter. Kathryn T. Kampa, 21, was cited \$172 for shoplifting and ordered to pay \$4 in restitution for a stolen cheeseburger and malt milkshake according to reports.
- April 11
 - UWRF Public Safety was informed at approximately 1:30 a.m. that there was a fire on the loading dock of the Nelson Center. The fire was set using a large box of used football cleats and an overhead projector that was placed on a cart. The River Falls Fire Department was called to the scene to extinguish the fire. There are currently no suspects.
 - A child was bitten by a dog at 10:05 a.m. while he was walking through the Health Fair with his mother. The dog belonged to Kristy Pavek, a member of the Sexual Assault Response Team, who was working at the table the group sponsored. The mother is choosing not to take any legal action against Pavek.
- April 13
 - At approximately 3:35 a.m., River Falls police officers were called to the 1000 block of East Cascade Avenue. Justin W. Fallon, 21, was cited \$172 for disorderly conduct for banging on windows of an apartment and yelling profanities.

- Adam J. Mattson, 21, was cited \$83 for open container on South Main Street at approximately 1 a.m.
- Megen L. Schellin, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Prucha Hall.
- April 14
 - Kyle R. Reimann reported that his bike was stolen from the rack outside South Fork Suites. The approximate value of the bike is \$600, according to reports.
 - Brian D. Amys, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
 - Jessica K. Rasmussen, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
 - Amy L. Trecka, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
 - Lauren F. Robertson, 20, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
 - Kristen N. Grubich, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Hathorn Hall.

- April 15
 - Isaac E. Nellesen, 22, was cited \$109 for urinating in public on South Main Street at approximately 1:20 a.m.
 - Ryan T. Casselman, 25, was cited \$109 for urinating in public on North Main Street at approximately 2:30 a.m. Kevin P. McKeague, 22, was with Casselman at the time and was also cited \$109 for urinating in public.
- April 16
 - Matthew J. Schoessow, 19, and Alexandra A. Johannsen, 18, were arrested by River Falls police officers at approximately 5 p.m. Police officers were called to Grimm Hall on a report of a “strong odor of burning marijuana,” according to reports. Johannsen admitted to police that drug paraphernalia was hidden in certain locations of her dorm room. Johannsen was cited \$312 for possession of drug paraphernalia. Schoessow was cited a total of \$687 for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.
- Parking
 - The metered parking lot will be closed to students, faculty and staff Friday morning for “Campus Visit Day.” The lot will be reopened Friday afternoon.

Briefs compiled by Amber Jurek

Vigil: Students, faculty personally connected to Va. Tech.

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Hedahl said tragic events are more personal when immediate family members are involved, but realizes it affects those who aren't directly impacted as well.

"... This event is disturbing to everyone, particularly to those who live and work on an open university campus," he said. "It undermines the sense of safety and security that we have in familiar surroundings, and it thrusts us into the realization that we simply can't know and predict what is in store for us."

Though the incident took place in Virginia may cause alarm, Hedahl said he hopes people will not live in fear that their lives are constantly in danger. "I hope that this incident doesn't move us into a position of constant fear where we build increasingly thick walls of security around us," Hedahl said. "Instead, I hope that it will help us realize that every moment is precious and that we need to live life fully."

Speech professor Ken Stofferahn said he was an assistant professor of theatre arts at Virginia Tech. from 1985-87 and was shocked by the events that occurred Monday morning.

"The first radio reports that I heard were of a single shooting," Stofferahn said. "Then as the day went on and the tragedy escalated, I became more shocked."

Stofferahn said his old office at Virginia Tech. was in a building close to Norris Hall, where the second shooting occurred.

"I could see my old office window in the background of the news footage as I became glued to CNN during the day," he said.

As information regarding the events unfolded on television news channels Monday, Stofferahn said he began trying to contact acquaintances at Virginia Tech.

"I tried to call old friends and colleagues to see if they were OK but phones were either busy or no answer," he said. "I e-mailed friends and did find out Tuesday morning everyone I knew and their families were fine. The waiting for that news was the hardest part for me."

Sociology Professor Rich Wallace said he was a faculty member at Virginia Tech. from 1991-95.

"Virginia Tech. is a place that my wife and I considered home, a place [that] was comfortable and fit us in a way that made us feel that we were meant to be there," Wallace said. "To think that someone would violate the trust of others and

willfully show such a disregard for life at a place where we emphasize life and growth at maturation is disturbing."

Wallace said many of the faculty members he knew during his tenure at Virginia Tech. were still employees when Monday's shootings occurred.

"At this point I haven't gotten any word that the people I knew were even in the building, which I am eternally thankful for, but it is such an awful blemish on the university," he said.

Wallace said that those who work at and attend Virginia Tech. are the ones who make the university the school it has become.

"It is their spirit, their drive and their desire that should be how the university is seen and remembered, not the behavior of a single individual," he said.

Terry Brown, professor and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said she received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech.

"It is personally devastating to me to see photos of police carrying wounded students out of buildings where I had classes as an undergraduate," Brown said. "... I struggle now to shut out the horrifying images from [Monday] with memories of the beautiful Blue Ridge hills where the campus is nestled, tubing after class down the New River in spring and studying the poems of Coleridge under a tree along the Drill Field."



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice
A student blocks the wind to help another person light a candle at the vigil Tuesday night outside the University Center.

Clinic: New facility provides medical assistance, education

from page 1

The clinic will provide health education and basic medical assistance colds, ear infections and joint pain, but will not duplicate services provided by county health departments, such as reproductive health services, dental care, immunizations, narcotics or mental health services.

Mary Conroy-Johnson, chairperson of the free clinic, said they expect to get patients from many different backgrounds.

"We aren't specifically targeting anyone," Conroy-Johnson said. "We'll take them regardless of status, from any walk of life, as long as they meet the criteria."

The plans for the clinic were in progress long before now and UW-River Falls has been involved from the beginning, Student Health Services Director Alice Reilly-Myklebust said.

"We've had many conversations with planners about the free clinic related to students," Reilly-Myklebust said.

Back in February, UWRF students raised nearly \$700 for the free clinic. Members of Student Support Services (SSS) raised money during the fall semester through bake sales, coin jars and a spaghetti dinner. They presented a check to Conroy-Johnson and Jill Slaikeu, vice-chairperson of the free clinic on Feb. 27, according to a UWRF Public Affairs news release written by Denise Burce.

SSS Advisor Rose Rude said, originally, someone in an SSS member's family could have used a free clinic growing up.

The unidentified member was very passionate about the issue and other SSS members agreed



Slippy Douglas
The future site of the new free clinic is located in Unit 2 of the River Falls Medical Center. The clinic opens April 24.

with her, which was originally how SSS got involved, Rude said.

"The SSS Leadership team felt it was very important to give back to the community and we were seeking opportunities to do this," Rude said. "[The free clinic] is a safety net for people both in the community and for students."

Conroy-Johnson said she was impressed with the work ethic displayed by the students that helped with the fundraising.

"They did a bang-up job," Conroy-Johnson said. "It was very moving to see young kids working like that."

While monetary donations are always accepted, volunteers are just as needed. The volunteer registry can be found on the clinic's Web site and a list of positions from nursing care professionals, responsible for assisting healthcare providers, to greeters, responsible for meeting patients at the front doors of the clinic.

Students who can't provide monetary donations are encouraged to contribute through vol-

unteering or fundraising, Conroy-Johnson said. In February, all proceeds from the Third Annual Tom Linehan Memorial Open Doubles Pool and Euchre Tournament went to benefit the clinic. There is also the possibility of a pancake breakfast in the near future, Conroy-Johnson said.

All volunteers will go through a short orientation and training session and will need to be able to provide references since they'll be "working with a very vulnerable population," Conroy-Johnson said. Refreshments will also be provided by and for volunteers.

Anyone interested in donating money, volunteering their time or learning more call Volunteer Coordinator Mary Steele at (715) 307-3949 or visit the clinic's Web site, www.freeclinicpiercestcroix.org. Anyone and everyone who wants to help is welcome to do so, Conroy-Johnson said.

"There are lots of ways to contribute," Conroy-Johnson said. "Time is just as valuable [as money]."

Award: Recipients prominent members of the UWRF community, society

from page 1

by such a prestigious award," she said. "That is part of why it feels so honoring to be a recipient. For all we — past and present recipients — thought is that we were doing just what we love."

Felmlee is a biology major and active in UWRF's Gay Straight Alliance.

"It is humbling to know that the campus community has recognized the ways I have contributed and it is an honor to have been selected for the Chancellor's Award," she said. "I have met wonderful people and gained a life changing experience as a result of my involvement at UWRF."

Peters is a speech communication major and has been involved with the Agricultural Education and Speech Communication Departments as well as Student Services.

"I have been very fortunate to have had immense support from [these departments]. This support has afforded me many chances to become involved in different organizations and projects," she said. "And the residence halls have helped me fully take advantage of the educational opportunities at UWRF."

Krtnick is a marketing communications and biology major. She is a student-athlete, a member of the Health and Human Performance

Facilities and Fees Committee and the Recreation Committee, a Student Senate representative and has interned for the Kansas City Chiefs Summer Training Camp at UWRF.

"During the past four years, being involved in the University has been a top priority for me," she said. "I have pushed myself to be a positive role model in every endeavor — on the volleyball court, in the classroom and in any leadership roles I have pursued. There are so many students on this campus that actively contribute to the community and have so much passion for the different organizations and leadership roles. I am grateful to be one of the few bestowed with this award."

Kubo is a speech communications major and from Japan. She said she enjoys volunteer work and has been dedicated to helping others learn about cultures, including her own.

"One of my dreams is that other people be interested in other cultures," Kubo said.

She is a member of the UWRF Dance Theater team and went with team members to Japan to learn about the Japanese culture.

"I thank Karla Zhe for helping me do the trip," she said.

Lo is a marketing communications major. She has participated in the Upward Bound program for four years in high school and has been a staff member for the last three years. She has also been involved in the Asian American Student Association, Multicultural Services and Student Senate.

"I enjoy giving back to UWRF and the community," she said. "It's the least we can do to make a difference."

Hill is a business administration and marketing communications major and has also been very involved on campus.

"I have tried to work over the past years to help students through their college journey by sharing my experiences and being there for them through their own college career," he said.

"I am very grateful for receiving such an honor, and I hope to do more work for this institution in the future," Hill said.

Olson, a psychology major, could not be reached for comment. In the past, the award was normally given to fewer students, however, Betz said it was a tough decision.

"It was a rich pool of applicants. There was no easy way to separate number five from number six, number six from number seven, all the way up to number nine," he said. "If we have this many people that are deserving, we should give it out to that number of people."



Niki Paton/Student Voice
Chancellor Don Betz presents Katy Leisch with a Chancellor's Award Monday in the ballroom of the University Center.

Opinion: Students give as much respect as received from professors, staff

from page 1

low the profs line of thinking."

Senior Brentt Fease said students get from their professors what they give.

"For the most part, students show professors as much respect as professors show their students," he said.

Looking back in time, Fease said society has an impact on what is considered respectful and disrespectful and today's society favors a more social atmosphere.

"The way students seem to behave toward professors would have probably seemed disrespectful to the old traditional professors of, say, 50 years ago or so," he said. "The way things are today, though, where most classes have a relatively casual atmosphere, I think students actually show more respect to professors when they treat them like equals."

When a student arrives late for class or leaves early, professors may view it as disrespectful, junior Maren Farvour said if there is a distraction, it is only because the professor causes it to be a noticeable disruption.

"I don't think late arrivals and early departures

"Cell phones going off in class are definitely disrespectful to teachers."

Amber Goessl, student

tures are a distraction ... unless the teacher stops what they are doing to acknowledge that person," she said. "That I do think is disruptive."

Fease said if a student arrives late or departs early, that person often has a good reason to do so.

"... More traditional professors might interpret it as disrespectful, but I think those with a more modern mindset understand that students aren't trying to insult anyone ...," he said.

With cell phones becoming a fixture in everyday life, students have been known to bring them into the classroom setting.

"Cell phones going off in class are definitely disrespectful to teachers," sophomore Amber Goessl said. "It says, 'I don't care that I'm here enough to turn my phone on

silent. My life comes first.'"

Goessl said cell phones can impede the learning process.

"As a student, it is really distracting to have someone's phone go off in class," Goessl said. "Everything stops ... the teacher stops teaching and everyone looks. It's really annoying."

Fease said most students whose cell phones do go off aren't intentionally trying to be rude and most leave them on accidentally.

"It's only really rude if you answer it and start chatting away in the middle of class," he said.

Styx agrees that students are not purposely trying to disrespect their professors or fellow students, but at times disruptions can grow to be excessive.

"... Everyone will forget every once in a while to turn off his or her cell phone, or special cases would require some to leave early or arrive late," she said. "But I would definitely consider classroom disturbances to be disrespectful, and generally they do bother me."

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EDITORIAL

Killer wins, brutality overshadows tragedy

After the tragic events at Virginia Tech., conversations filled the campus, including our newsroom, questioning what would happen if something like that occurred here at UW-River Falls. As we took the time to look closely at the issue at hand, we realized that it is not simply a problem that happened in Virginia, but rather a growing trend of horrific incidents, all tied to the current college-aged generation.

When the shootings at Columbine took place, the age of the killers matched those of the current university upperclassman; they were juniors and seniors in high school, and so were we.

Now, we're at the end of our education and so was Cho Seung-Hui, the student at Virginia Tech. who went on a shooting rampage on Monday.

What is wrong with our generation that we feel the need to express ourselves through violence and anger?

It seems that in the society today, pressure and stress build greater than ever before, but that pressure is also proportional to the amount that individuals expect to get.

We live in a greedy society where children carry cell phones before they reach the age of 10 and adults of every age spend \$600 to buy the latest great videogame system. Aside from material items, punishment for any wrongdoing is lax. Even if a plan is not mapped out for us, we all expect to graduate, get a job and have a fairy-tale ending. Unfortunately there is not a magical ending for every human being. For some, their lives are taken from them; for others, the path is simply not headed in a positive direction.

At Virginia Tech. there were 32 victims. Those 32 students and faculty lost their lives because of one man's greed. His name and his actions will unfortunately live in infamy — this is just what he wanted.

After Columbine and 9/11, the United States banded together to grieve as a solid unit. Everyone seemed to jump onto the proverbial bandwagon in order to support the families who lost loved ones and to feel sadness over the idea of each tragic event. Today, it seems the majority of the country has hopped on the bus again. The more we express our shock and anger, the closer we get to letting Cho get exactly what he wanted.

By constantly talking about the incident, we are overshadowing the actual event that took place Monday. Maybe we shouldn't spend all this time ranting over the actions of a cowardly human being, but instead spend the time in these many conversations reminiscing about the amazing lives that victims lived.

The bright side to this tragedy may be draped in a dark shadow, but there is one there. It is up to us, people removed from a situation like this to grieve for Va. Tech. in our hearts, but to keep in mind the most important aspect of the whole ordeal — the victims.

Don't let the bad guy win.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

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

All editorial content in the *Student Voice* is determined by the newspaper's Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper's advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall or to student.voice@uwrf.edu.

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

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

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Input welcomed, appreciated

Last week's editorial on the Office of Financial Assistance hit home. This is my first year as the director, and I want input from students, even when it's negative. The author was right on track when pointing out the complexities of the entire aid process. Even professionals with years of experience still have much to learn, particularly with rules changing constantly.

Our office is often put in a position to give potentially devastating news to students. However, being the bearer of bad news is no excuse for providing inadequate or rude service. The good news is that change is on the horizon. We are about to hire three full-time administrators, whose principal focus will be to ensure we provide meaningful, understandable and compassionate service. We've made some changes already, such as reducing the number of our forms and rewriting them to make them less daunting. We will be undergoing additional training for our staff and reworking our Web site. Finally, as part of the overall restructuring of Enrollment Services that began shortly before I arrived, we are excited to be part of many changes that will positively affect our office

as well as Admissions and the Registrar.

Please bear with us as we move forward. In the meantime, I want you to know we have (anonymous) feedback forms outside our office door, and I encourage you to take the time to complete one once you've been in to see us. In addition, feel free to e-mail me or stop by to see me about any issues you have. All of my staff is dedicated toward making the financial aid process as easy as possible, but the editorial shows we need to try harder to make our office an inviting one. You have my guarantee that we are addressing these issues.

Sandra Oftedahl
Director of Financial Assistance

Student responds to Iraq column

Let me start out with the two quotes that have influenced me to write this letter, "...I want to say thank you to the men who fight for us everyday," and "Our boys need information ... " Something is missing here. Last time I checked there were at least two sexes in our world today, both of which are fighting and risking their lives everyday. It is only right that we recognize the women soldiers who endanger their lives fighting for our

country.

I must say, I do not believe in the war our country is fighting today, but me saying this does not mean I do not support the troops. The strength and courage those people have is unbelievable and cannot go unrecognized.

I could probably go on for days about why I don't agree with the war, but for your sake and mine I will just say this: In the end, when this is all said and done, have we really won anything? Is spending billions of dollars and losing thousands of men and women really winning? Our country is in debt enough as it is, and spending money on something that could have no end just doesn't make sense to me. A new CNN poll showed that as many as 61 percent of Americans oppose the war, and we cannot ignore the fact that our European allies object, as well as all of Iraq's neighbors. It seems to me that there are too many reasons to continue on with this war, and I am a part of a large population that agrees.

Kasey Barrett
Student

IT Services defended

A balanced account of the recent e-mail outage should include acknowledgment of

around-the-clock efforts expended by Information Technology staff to reinstate e-mail as thoroughly and rapidly as possible. I work down the hall from the IT offices and saw these efforts first-hand. They included 18-plus-hour days, often without breaks or meals; relentless, eye-blurring review of technical data; and meeting constant inquiries from a sometimes-hostile public with detailed, honest status updates. Moreover, I would like to take this opportunity to express my overall satisfaction with IT to date. I have worked at UWRF for only seven months, but over the last decade, I have worked at a number of academic institutions, including some tech-savvy heavy-hitters. In my interactions with UWRF IT, I found the best balance between professionalism and responsiveness of any IT department I have encountered. Help Desk inquiries are answered thoroughly and efficiently; requests for input on storage systems, software and hardware are addressed comprehensively, quickly and collegially. I, for one, will use these uniformly positive impressions to place the events of last week into perspective.

Alyson R. Jones
Area Research Center/University Archives

Americans don't ask right questions

Is it a week to be funny? Some say now more than ever. My gut tells me to make a serious comment on the Virginia Tech. shooting, though I know my words will have no power to hallow this searingly memorable day more than those who have died.

The facts are these: Cho Seung-Hui shot and killed 33 people in two separate incidents at Virginia Tech on April 16. The names of the confirmed deceased are as follows: Ross Alameddine, Jamie Bishop, Brian Bluhm, Ryan Clark, Austin Cloyd, Jocelyne Coutoure-Nowak, Daniel Perez Cuerva, Kevin Granata, Matthew Gwaltney, Caitlin Hammaren, Jeremy Herbstritt, Rachael Hill, Emily Hilscher, Jarrett Lane, Matt La Porte, Henry Lee, Liviu Librescu, G.V. Loganathan, Partahi Lumbantoruan, Lauren McCain, Daniel O'Neil, Juan Ortiz, Minal Panchal, Erin Peterson, Michael Pohle Jr., Julia Pryde, Mary Read, Reema Samaha, Waleed Shaalan, Leslie Sherman, Maxine Turner and Nicole White. This list represents not only lost hopes and dreams, but also the costliest school shooting in U.S. history.



Kris Evans

How does America respond to a day that viciously transcends our understanding? We have moments of silence, ask why, provide comfort, discuss over cigarettes, lower the flags, point fingers and seek to absorb the small amount of news and the large amount of speculation that whirls around the void of the information age, a void created by the absence of truth.

What is the truth of this tragedy? What can we learn? What are we capable of wrapping our minds around? These aren't the questions I hear. Most people want to know what kind of gun was used, as if that mattered, or who failed to close down a city-sized university in two hours, as if it were possible. We ask questions about all the mundane little facts because we want something to talk about, a subject we can be in-the-know about. Call it intellectual voyeurism.

When the facts of the situation provide us with no lasting meaning, we begin our search for heroes to the end that we might insert, graft, transplant meaning into a meaningless occurrence. Is it selfish to clutch to the actions of desperate people in

the throws of their lives for the sake of allaying our own cynicism? We try to find ways of making their deaths glorious. Some were. And this does fill me with hopes. I hope their families find comfort in their loved one's bravery. I hope there aren't one hundred microphones atop the eulogy podium at the funeral service. I hope they won't have to watch a made-for-TV movie about the day their most cherished person died. I hope we can forfeit our need to tout someone else's loss for our own selfish needs.

What I'm asking for is reticent dignity. Be silent, even when you want to gossip because you know that making small talk of the deaths of 33 people brings no honor to those who have died, or comprehension to an event that was completely pointless. Carry yourself as you should, in the manner of a mourner who knows neither the victims, nor their killer.

Do not forget the day, or those who died; do not let your memory betray all who are involved. Instead come to an understanding of this event without cheapening it through hollow words and false conjecture about motive and heroism. Approach it quietly, with dignity, and with the honor for those who have passed that only the vociferous void of bowed silence can convey.

Have a gripe about something?
Write a letter to the editor.

Right to freedom of speech defended

It is funny how important moments tend to happen. On Monday morning, I woke up feeling quite ill and so I stayed home instead of going to my 8 a.m. lab. As I held my post on the couch and drifted in and out of sleep, I could not help hearing intense debate on every morning talk show about the recent firing of Don Imus over a racial remark he made. This troubles me on many levels. First of all, what he said was appalling and ignorant. He makes it clear that racial tension still resides in our country. Aside from this fact, what caused me the most trepidation is the complete disregard for the First Amendment. All Americans have the right to freedom of speech. This is a guarantee that no one can take away. But, with Imus’s firing, can it? Yes, what he said was sick, I am not arguing that at all, but he had the right to do so. Imus had the right to say what he did just as Larry Flynt had the right to publish an ad parody claiming that well-known minister Jerry Falwell lost his virginity to his mother in an outhouse while they were both tanked. I do not think there is any man in America who wants people to think his first sexual experience was tapping his drunken mother in an outside bathroom. Regardless, the First Amendment protects all speech including the most vile, like that

of Imus or Flynt. As Americans, we should know this. Freedom of speech is the reason some citizens burn our flag despite the fact that numerous Americans have died to protect it. The founding fathers gave us this right when they wrote our Constitution, and this most recent problem is one in a long line of First Amendment debates. Despite this, we all must remember what Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said in 1919 of Schenck versus the United States, a case dealing with wartime propaganda: “The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent. It is a question of proximity and degree. When a nation is at war many things that might be said in time of peace are such a hindrance to its effort that their utterance will not be endured so long as men fight and that no Court could regard them as protected by any constitutional right.” As Holmes states, the only time speech can be controlled or stopped is when the

words said, printed or broadcast present a “clear and present danger” to the nation during war. Imus did not do that with his comments. He only spoke his opinion, which we have the right to believe or not to believe. By implementing the seeds of censorship, the freedom of speech is now in a precarious position. What will be the next thing someone says in accordance to their constitutional right of free speech that will cause them to lose their job? I think what Imus said is wrong, but who can define what a country thinks is offensive? This is why we have the First Amendment - so we can speak freely, even if what we say can be looked at as stupid, racist or wrong. When we take this right away, we are one step closer to living in a world of Stalinism where we are censored if we say anything that may even hint at social or political dissent. So, while what Imus said is wrong, firing him for saying it is worse. Who knows what the implications of this will be. I know that I hope I never see the day where someone can control what I say or write.



Blair Bengs

Facebook as a social outlet causes concerns



Keighla Schmidt

Facebook seems to have seriously changed the lives of people all around me. There are a few ways this social network leaves its daily impression on me. Some things I appreciate and others really just drive me nuts. I enjoy I have the ability to know things about people I went to grade school with just because I can read a few words about them whenever they change things. It’s also enjoyable to have access to communicate with people without worrying about using valuable cell minutes or texts. Also, I like being able to “stalk” people in a socially acceptable manner. It tells me how they are feeling according to their status, if they are online and also what type of weekend they had according to their photo albums. What really drives me insane is the way people use Facebook to tell the world they are having relationship problems. It seems when a couple starts fighting the “In a relationship” status changes to “It’s complicated” then, suddenly each are “Single.” The little icon shows a broken heart, I can’t wait to see what happens within the next hour at that point. Sure enough, both of their hearts have mended and the relationship status once again boasts the two people are “In a relationship.” Or, what’s with people who say they are engaged or married to their best friends? Really? If you’re looking for sympathy from people and wanting to sway people to see things your way, stop! It’s just annoying. Another grievance I have is “friend-ing” someone right after you shake their hand at the bar/in class/at a party as soon as you can get to a computer to request a confirmation. You’re not really their

friend, so don’t pretend you are. I sincerely hope you don’t think your popularity is based off the number of “friends” on Facebook. Also, while I can be slightly accused of the same thing, why are all the photos that people really want to look at composed of at least one alcoholic beverage. Is it just because that’s when photos are taken most, or they’re posted to aid memory triggers from that night? Either way, it’s approaching out of control. At this point, Facebook has become something more than just a friendly virtual social meeting point. My life as a journalist in the past few years have changed. I’m sitting trying to accomplish some things this week while watching the news about the Virginia Tech. University shooting. The reporter on CNN used Facebook as a source to show one venue through which students are letting each other know they are okay. If I need a phone number or need to get a hold of someone for a story, I often times look to see if someone has a cell phone number posted. For some reason, students also seem to reply quicker when contacted via Facebook. Facebook has reached a point where it’s not just a silly place to forever immortalize the inside jokes and crazy nights on an implicit World Wide Web, but a valid social utility. Ultimately, I have to confess I will be a Facebook member for a long time. As much as I may say I hate reading people’s drama, I keep reading it. I’ll keep skipping over the “remove tag” link on the photos from my weekend with friends and as soon as I see a great photo taken I’ll continue to think “Oh, there’s an ‘FB’ shot!” It keeps me interested, and I spend hours browsing it. It has serious potential to run the lives people lead in this time when they are focused on appearing to be a certain way. It’s a narcissistic society unlike any previous where people find validity in things not “real” but virtual. Facebook is just one way that notion is solidified.

Twins deserve to move out of Metrodome

There is no doubt in my mind that the Twins deserve their new stadium. Never mind about the team’s incredible season last year, which is the stuff Hollywood movies are inspired by, or the fact that the Twins have the best pitcher in Johan Santana, the American League’s batting champ, Joe Mauer and the most valuable player, Justin Morneau. Forget about the fact that the Twins are a team in just about every sense of the word —something pretty rare in professional sports lately and are quite entertaining both on the field and in sports columns in the Star Tribune. The Twins deserve a new stadium because the Metrodome is the biggest shithole on the planet and the fans are suffering for it. That’s a bit of an exaggeration, but when you are watching a game and your hard plastic seat is angled toward the outfield rather than the dia-



Cassie Rodgers

mond, the knees of the giant behind you are knocking into your head and your neighbor just spilled beer all over your shoes because the cup holder is at a 45 degree angle, shithole doesn’t begin to convey how much that place sucks. The whole building is like one big booby trap for opposing teams, which would be great except for the occasional Twin who gets caught up in the snare. The fact that we can manipulate what happens on the field by opening or closing a door is a testament to the Dome’s shoddiness and unprofessionalism. Apparently there are not enough words in the English language to convey its suckiness. The Twins are good and the fans are great, but there are even more reasons to build a stadium. Baseball is meant to be played outside, and although

many people may not think this is a multi-million dollar reason, it’s only because they haven’t been to an outdoor game. It’s magical. But baseball fans are not the only ones who will benefit from the new ballpark. A lot of the ballpark money is going right back into Minnesota, with the hiring of construction workers, plumbers, electricians and so on who are in charge of getting the place up and running. Nearby business will almost certainly see a boost in their income as well, with floods of Twins fans killing time before games and celebrating afterwards. Out-of-town fans will certainly be more inclined to pay for a hotel stay with a nice new ballpark to come to instead of the Metrodome. Businesses making more money will need to hire more people to keep up with the demands and more food and merchandise needs to be shipped in; there’s a huge economic chain of reactions all inspired by the excitement of a new ball park. Minnesotans have had the Metrodome so long that gratitude for the new

place will certainly be years in wearing off. You may ask yourself, ‘if the Metrodome is so bad, then why do the Vikings still have to play there?’ Well, the Dome is set up primarily for football, so some of the discomforts of a Twins’ game don’t apply. But the Dome still is not a great football facility, and in a few years Minnesotans are going to have a new football stadium to worry about. I think it would be in everyone’s best interest if we spaced the construction of these sports complexes apart as much as we can. As a sports fan, it’s easy for me to agree to any stadium plans, because new buildings are always fun. But even if you don’t like sports at all, there still should be some appreciation for the revenue the sports industry brings to a city. Athletes make big money because people pay big money to see them and those people deserve to be accommodated. Nobody wants to eat filet mignon at a McDonald’s, and I don’t want to see my team in the baseball abyss known as the Metrodome.

Death of author leaves the world with a legacy not to be forgotten

Author, artist and counterculture icon Kurt Vonnegut Jr., who was best known for novels such as “Slaughterhouse-five” and “Cat’s Cradle” died April 11 in Manhattan from brain injuries at 84. By all accounts, Vonnegut led a fascinating life. He was a man with strong beliefs rooted in social equality and much of his work reflected his hatred of violence in almost any form. He was a very spiritual man, but despised the way the idea of god had



Tyler Liedman

been abused by organized religion. “I am a humanist,” he said in “God Bless You, Dr. Kevorkian”, “which means, in part, that I have tried to behave decently without any expectation of rewards or punishments after I’m dead.” Since the announcement of his death last week, internet blogs and profiles

have been bombarded with sparkling tributes and long-winded obituaries. Many, including this columnist, shed a tear or two when they heard the news. Others, some who had never even heard of Vonnegut’s work, were suddenly obsessed with a man they knew almost nothing about. Why is it that we celebrate an individual most after they have died? Why, after years of slowly forgetting about an artist, do we suddenly become obsessed with the minute details of their lives and cry and spend weeks worshiping and proclaiming them an innovator and icon

of their trade? “The most important thing I learned on Traftamadore,” wrote Vonnegut of the alien world he invented for “Slaughterhouse-five”, “was that when a person dies he only appears to die. He is still very much alive in the past, so it is very silly for people to cry at his funeral. All moments, past, present and future, always have existed, always will exist...Now, when I myself hear that somebody is dead, I simply shrug and say what the Traftamadoreans say about dead people, which is ‘So it goes.’” Kurt Vonnegut would not have want-

ed us to lament his death. He thought on a much larger scale than the single lifetime he experienced. In truth, he died a cynical, angry old kook who chain-smoked and complained like every other old kook. He was an extreme pessimist and.It is his his work that will live on in high school literature classes and cardboard boxes packed away in dusty basements. There are so many things you could say about Vonnegut’s life, but I think he would have wanted it much simpler than all that: Kurt Vonnegut Jr. lived 84 years, and then he died. So it goes.

STUDENT VOICES

What would you like to say to the students of Virginia Tech.?



Jennifer Miller, freshman

“I’d like to say I am sorry for your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you from all over.”



Nick Iverson, sophomore

“I don’t know, it’s just awful. There’s not a lot you can say, we didn’t go through it... what can anybody know at this point about it. We’re still finding things out about it. It’s just awful.”



Tina Haines, senior

“It’s overwhelming. I feel tearful right now. I’ve got horrible goosebumps and it’s very hard to talk about. I wish them the best.”

Nick Mancino, sophomore

“It’s a bad thing that happened but I don’t think it should let the student’s spirit down. I think they should stay true to their school and continue to promote Virginia Tech. because it is a good college...because of one person that shouldn’t hold back what the college is capable of.”

Amy Bohrer, junior

“My sympathies are with you. College is hard enough without having a tragedy to deal with. I hope that you can end the semester strong.”

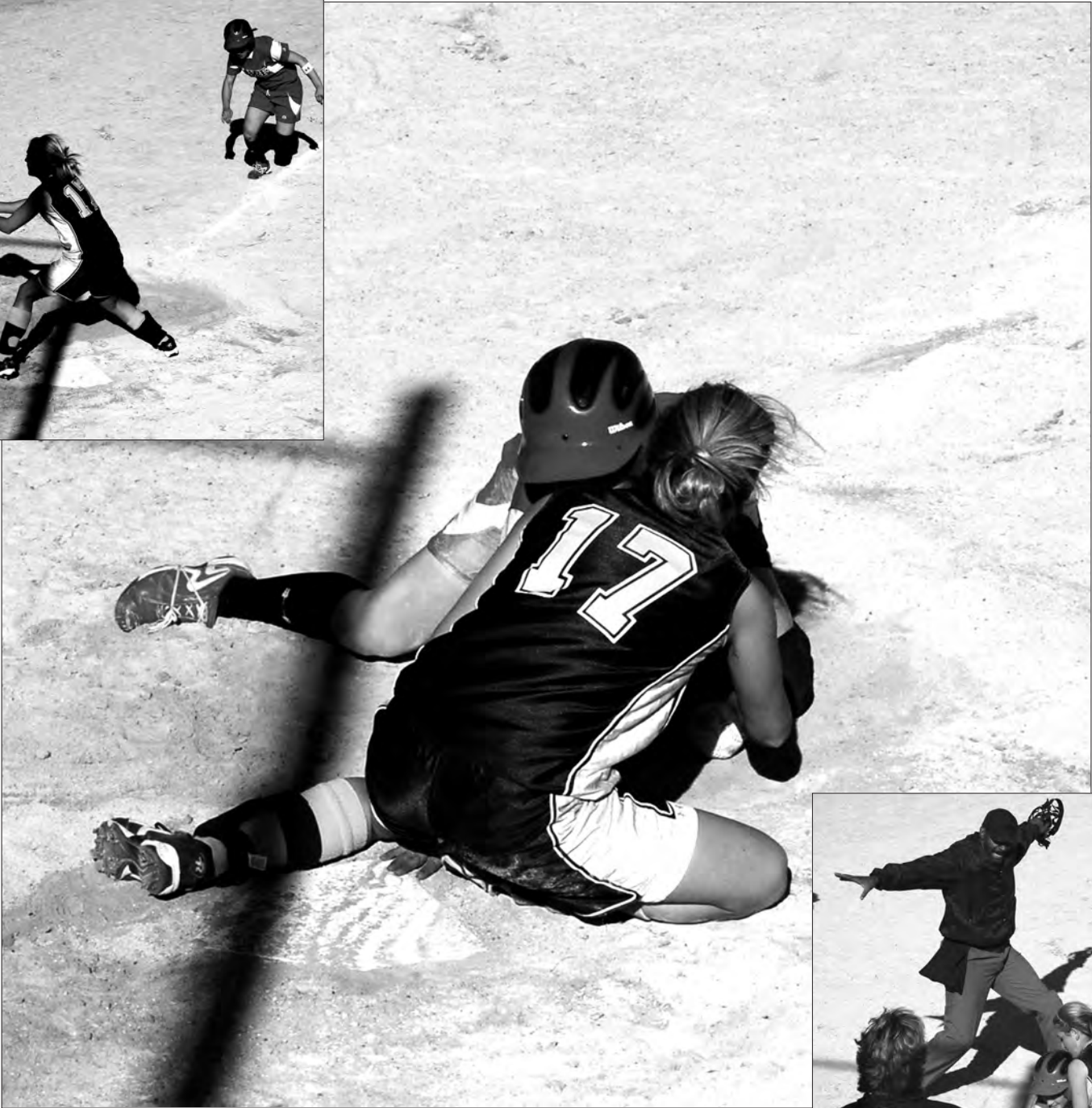


Amy Horacek, freshman

“Our prayers and thoughts are with you and I hope everything goes back to some what normal.”



Falcons’ roll continues despite obstacles



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice
Freshman Rebecca Troop scores the game-winning run in the eighth inning Tuesday against UW-Stout. Troop scored after a throwing error on Stout right fielder Jackie Juan. She was initially called out by the home plate umpire, but was called safe after it became clear Stout pitcher Kristy Hoffman dropped the ball.



Nick Sortedahl
nicholas.sortedahl@uwrf.edu

Despite losing leading hitter Emily Howlett to a freak injury, the UW-River Falls Falcons swept UW-Stout in a doubleheader on Tuesday to bring the team’s winning streak to 10 games in a true team effort.

The Falcons won the first game 4-3 in eight innings and the second game 6-3 after trailing for a majority of that contest.

With the two wins the Falcons are now 23-5 on the season and 6-0 in the WIAC which puts them atop the conference at presstime. Their first place status depends on the outcome of their doubleheader with UW-Eau Claire Thursday.

The wins were made bigger because the team overcame the loss of third baseman Howlett, who leads the Falcons with a .494 batting average and in most major offensive categories, including hits, doubles, RBIs and slugging percentage. Howlett injured her back on Monday playing with preschoolers.

“I told the team that’s the mark of a good team ... when you can play well under adversity,” head coach Faye Perkins said. “And that’s what we did.”

After the Falcons’ second game, a come-from-behind victory, Howlett emerged from behind the left field fence and was mobbed by her teammates. She said Perkins told her not to join her teammates in the dugout because her presence could be a distraction. Howlett couldn’t stay away though, and she watched the second half of the second game from behind the left field fence after returning from a doctor’s appointment.

Injuries hadn’t been an issue at all this season for the Falcons, but they began to mount on Tuesday with the loss of freshman utility player Jessica Lundgren, who is second on the team with seven stolen bases and serves as one of the team’s primary pinch runners.

Perkins said it was a true team effort to win despite the loss of two key players.

“It wasn’t that one person was going to have to pick it up,” Perkins said. “Everyone’s going to have to pick it up a little bit.”

Taking over for Howlett defensively at third base was Ashley James. James, who normally starts at catcher for the Falcons, drove in three of UWRF’s four runs in the first game. She went three-for-four in the game, including a two-out single in the bottom of the eighth inning to set up the game-winning run; she went three for seven in the two games. James’ replacement behind the plate, freshman Rebecca Troop, scored the winning run in the first game. She reached base after drawing a two-out walk and scored on a throwing error by UW-Stout right fielder Jackie Jaun. Troop also did a good job of blocking arant pitches and called two good games behind the plate, Perkins said.

Pitcher Brittany Rathbun got the hit that led to Troop’s winning run. Rathbun also bailed the Falcons out of a fifth-inning jam when she relieved starter Ashley Bertrand with no outs and runners on first and second. She finished the game to get her tenth win of the season. She also picked up the victory in the second game, relieving freshman Sarah Stoffa

See Softball page 7,

Women’s lacrosse completes seventh season, could reach varsity status

Ben Brewster
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Beginning in 2001, the UW-River Falls women’s lacrosse team has been an active club sport on campus.

“It was [started] by a student here at UWRF who was interested in lacrosse ... we didn’t have a team, so she started her own,” said current club president Maria Hockert.

Hockert said it has been hard to get the team started and find girls who are interested and want to play.

Since lacrosse is a club sport, they receive annual funding from the school Leadership Development and Programming Board (LDPB), but also do fundraising by selling T-shirts.

The team would like to make lacrosse a varsity sport, “but a lot of work is going to have to be put into it,” Hockert said.

To become varsity, another men’s sport would have to be added as well under the Title IX law. Title IX requires all schools to have the same number of men’s and women’s sports.

Currently, the team plays in the Upper Midwest Women’s Lacrosse League (UMWLL). The UMWLL is a 14-team league with teams from schools all over Minnesota and Wisconsin.

“The UMWLL has been formed to help promote and regulate the sport of women’s collegiate club lacrosse in the Upper Midwest, specifically though not exclusively in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota,” according to the Web site.

The River Falls team plays in the South Division, along with the University of Minnesota, University of St. Thomas, St. Olaf College, Carleton College, Gustavus Adolphus College and

UW-La Crosse. The North Division includes College of St. Benedict, Bethel University, University of Minnesota-Duluth, Hamline University, UW-Stout, MSU-Moorhead and UW-Eau Claire.

The River Falls roster consists of 15 players: one goalie, three defenders, ten attackers, and two midfielders. All women are welcome to come and play, Hockert said.

“Experience or no experience ... we just want to have fun,” she said.

As with most club sports, there is no paid coach; the team is coached by attacker Kara Vier.

This year the team has made steps in the right direction after finishing 0-7 overall for the 2006 season. The team finished this season in fifth place in the South Division with a 3-6 overall record and a 2-4 record in conference play.

The team’s wins this year were an 11-0 victory over UW-Stout on April 10, a 12-6 victory over Gustavus Adolphus on April 14 and a 13-3 win over UW-La Crosse on April 15.

Vier led the team in most offensive stats, including 21 goals, 23 points and 2.87 points per game. Junior Ashley Warren was strong on offense with 16 goals, 20 points, 4 assists and 2.50 points per game. Sophomore Ashley Pillsbury led the team in assists with 5. Freshman Lisa Palm played all nine games at goalie with 114 saves while allowing 66, for a .63 save percentage, which was third in the league.

Hockert said the team is looking ahead to next season.

“Each year we have progressed greatly and we hope to continue the tradition we have of improvement,” she said. “Next year we would like to secure a spot in the playoffs, and with the money given by LDPB, we are hoping to get a coach.”



Sarah Packingham/Student Voice
Junior Ashley Warren attempts to scoop up the ball April 14 against Gustavus Adolphus. The Falcons won the game 12-6. Warren scored 16 goals this season and averaged 2.5 points per game. UWRF finished with a record of 3-6 overall and 2-4 in conference play.

Not only is it a sport, cheerleading is the only sport worth writing about

I started writing articles for my high school paper during my senior year. One of my first stories was about whether or not cheerleading is a sport. In the business, we call that hard news. I figured that I should have one of my final school-related pieces re-address this issue, but with a much more mature take on the subject.

The opinion I formulated in high school is that it doesn’t matter if cheerleading is considered a sport or not. Being a “sport” is just a label. This was before I knew about things like funding and how, if cheerleading was considered a sport, it would receive more school support.

Four years later, I am looking at cheerleading through a more worldly set of eyes. I am now an adult and have to look at things without a childish bias toward the team sports I played when I was younger. By doing so, I’ve finally learned the truth: cheerleading is the most physically challenging and competitive sport of them all. Not only is cheerleading a sport, I would rank it as the number one sport for anyone to get their son or daughter involved in.

First off, it is physically taxing. Think it’s not? You try standing for an entire football game. What? You do stand for entire football games? Well, try doing that with one-fourth pound pompoms in each hand, doing shoulder presses for 50 cheers at 12-15 reps per cheer. And just when you think you’ve had enough, your team scores a touchdown and you have to do push-ups while spelling out

the name of your team. Spelling and exercising at the same time? No, this is not the United States trying to create some sort of super intelligent army. This is the sport of cheerleading.

I took in a cheerleading game earlier this year and was amazed at how I could have been so blind when I was younger.

These people are warriors. They started the game the way they start every game, with the national anthem. Almost immediately after its conclusion, we were under way. No matter how many times I hear “Let’s go team!” my heart still races with excitement. All the while, the pompoms are waving defiantly in the air, as if to say “Take that, gravity!” Just when I was about to achieve nirvana, the cheerleading game reached halftime. The halftime show was a 30-minute snoozefest, featuring two teams playing a football game. I’m going to go get something to eat; let me know when the real game’s back on.

Finally halftime was over and the cheerleaders came back onto the field. The cheerleaders’ football team was trailing by 17 points at this time, and yet they still chanted “We’re number one!” Why? Because they were making a statement. It doesn’t matter what happens in the football game. They are talking about themselves when they say “We’re number one!”

The game ended abruptly when one of the cheerleaders fell and landed on her neck. It was a pretty brutal fall. The girl was put on a stretcher and carted off the field, but not without leading a cheer with the limited range of movement she had on the cart. Name



Paul Winkels

another sport in which you’ve seen anyone motion to the crowd after being put on a stretcher. Baseball? Funny stuff. I said name a “sport.”

Anyway, cheerleading is a sport that teaches a lot of life skills, such as leadership and clapping ability. Teamwork is established, as well as problem-solving abilities. When a sign with the word

No, this is not the United States trying to create some sort of super intelligent army. This is the sport of cheerleading.

“FIGHT” written on it is upside down, you learn to turn it the correct way. Where else would you learn things like this? And I would dare you to find someone who can spell “victory” faster than a cheerleader can.

So, next time you see a cheerleader on television, don’t just look at them for their skimpy outfits and suggestive dances. Don’t look at them for their layers of makeup or global warming-causing hairstyles. Especially don’t mock their confusion when they cheer because they didn’t know what was going on, and don’t laugh when one of them spins the wrong way. These are errors for the coach to correct the next week in practice, as the team prepares for the next cheerleading game. So instead of being critical, remember the things I’ve just enlightened you to. Next time you hear a group of cheerleaders chanting “We’re number one,” just smile and politely say, “We know you are.”

SPORTS WRAP

Falcons freshman earns player of the week

Outfielder Ashley Hammerbeck helped the Falcons to a 6-0 record, including four WIAC wins, last week and has been named the WIAC Player of the Week, according to league Sports Information Director Matt Stanek.

The Falcons won four WIAC games on the road. The left fielder finished 6-14 at the plate for a .429 average in the six games. She scored six runs and led the Falcons with three doubles. She had four RBIs and walked three times. She stole one base. Hammerbeck made one error in 10 chances in the field. She had hits in four of the six games going 3-5 with two RBIs and a run scored at Platteville and 3-6 with two RBIs and a run scored at La Crosse. She walked three times and scored twice in the 7-2 win over St. Scholastica. In the 8-6 win at Platteville, she tied the game with a two run double in the fifth. In the 7-5 win at La Crosse, Hammerbeck doubled home a run in the sixth to start a three-run rally that tied the game, 5-5, at the time. In the 4-1 win at La Crosse she singled home the team’s fourth run in the sixth with two outs.

On Thursday the Falcons will play at UW-Eau Claire at 4 p.m. and on Sunday will host UW-Stevens Point at noon.

Multi-event athletes compete at St. John’s

Bruce Baillargeon, John Weisbrod, and Clint Christy finished the Saint John’s Decathlon Monday during the second day of events held at Clemens Stadium in Collegeville, Minn.

Leading the men upon the completion of the meet, Bruce Baillargeon finished fifth overall with a total of 5448 points. He started the day with a 12th place finish in the 110 hurdles in a time of 17.59. In field events, Baillargeon threw the javelin 123-10 for eighth and the discuss 93-7 for ninth. Finishing fifth in the pole vault he vaulted a height of 13-3 1/2. Ending the day with the mile run, Baillargeon stopped the clock at 4:55.03 for 10th place.

John Weisbrod earned 4007 total points to complete the meet in 19th place. On the track Weisbrod took 19th in the 110 hurdles with a time of 20.08 and 16th in the mile finishing with a time of 5:31.52. Throwing the javelin for 110-8 and tossing the discuss for 67-7 1/2 he produced 12th and 23rd place finishes. For a 17th place finish in the pole vault, Weisbrod vaulted at 10-0.

Not participating in the mile, Clint Christy did not receive an official place finish in the meet. Christy did compete in discuss to place first with a throw of 118-5 and the javelin to take second with a distance of 149-6. An eighth place finish in the pole vault with a height of 12-7 1/2 ended the field competition for Christy. With a time of 16.24 Christy placed fifth in the 110 hurdles.

Falcon Joe Weinrich did not compete in the second day of events. He was in 13th place after the first day of events.

Next for the Falcons is the Phil Esten Challenge at La Crosse beginning at 1 p.m.

Falcons take part in Blugold Open

Several members of the men’s and women’s track and field teams participated in the Blugold Open Saturday. The meet, hosted by Eau Claire, was held at the Simpson Track Complex.

Opening the meet with the women’s 10,000 distance run freshman Sandra Kirchner earned a third place finish with a time of 41:33.39.

Also in the distance, Amanda Kozicky placed eighth in the mile with a time of 5:03.74 to beat out 20 other competitors.

Jessica Reed and Shannon Zweifel led the women in the hurdle events. Zweifel represented River Falls with a first place time with a time of 63.39 in the 400 hurdles and a fourth place finish in the 100 hurdles in 16.26. Reed moved up a spot from her prelim finish of third to take second in the 100 hurdles in a speedy time of 14.97.

Running the 800, Leah Korf crossed the line at 2:23.74 for 15th place. Racing against 57 athletes in the 200 Falcon Jessa Graveson produced a 28th place finish in a time of 28.08.

In the field Krista Hasselquist tossed the shot for a first place distance of 45-8 1/2. She later went on to place 12th in the hammer throw with a distance of 42.71.

Pole-vaulting for the Falcons, Holly Kromway and Carrier VanHouten finished the meet for the women. Kromway tied for sixth with a vault height of 10-6 while VanHouten shared 12th with a height of 10-6 in a tie breaking draw.

For the men, Jason Youngblom earned a top place finish in the 10,000 meter run with a third place finish in 32:54.92. Bobby Hanson took ninth in the event with a time of 34:33.94.

Leading the men with a first place finish in the 3000 steeple-chase, Junior Jason Phillippi stopped the clock at 9:28.15.

Competing in middle distance Falcons Nick Zeien and Andrew Reckard ran solid races in the 800. Zeien finished the event in 11th with a time of 1:59.74 and Reckard followed with a time of 2:00.65 for 16th place.

Falcons Rick Stewart and Bryan Waitas placed in the top half of competitors in the 200. Stewart led with a 12th place time of 23.42; Waitas finished closely in a time of 23.52 for 15th .

Off the track, the Falcons represented River Falls in field events. Charlie Sowa threw the javelin for a second place distance of 169-2. In the hammer, Dustin Joliciur and Anthony Goeltz finished in 13th with a throw of 139-10 and 18th place with a distance of 130-4.

In the long jump, Londe Richardson and Rick Stewart ended the meet for the men. Londe leaped for a distance of 20-10 1/2 to take seventh followed by Stewart in eighth at a distance of 20-10.

No team scores were kept.

Sports Wrap courtesy of UW-River Falls Sports Information

STANDINGS

Fastpitch				
WIAC Standings	OVR	W	L	
UW-River Falls	23-5	6	0	
UW-Oshkosh	16-6	5	1	
UW-Stevens Point	21-5	6	2	
UW-Whitewater	14-8	2	4	
UW-Eau Claire	19-7	2	2	
UW-Stout	11-11	2	4	
UW-Superior	12-12	1	3	
UW-LaCrosse	8-15	1	5	
UW-Platteville	8-16	1	5	

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

Men’s lacrosse team remains undefeated

The UW-River Falls men’s lacrosse team won the championship in the Chicago Machine Lacrosse Invitational April 14 and 15. The Falcons defeated Northern Illinois University 4-1 in the opening round, Northwestern University 5-2 in the second round and DePaul University 7-5 in the championship game. The Falcons are now 8-0 overall and 6-0 in the western division of the Great Lakes Lacrosse League. They are currently ranked fifth overall in the leagues power rankings. The Falcons will take on 5-2 UW-Stout on the road on Saturday in their final game of the regular season. They will wrap up their season Saturday, April 28 in Illinois.

Two-sport athletes strive for balance

Despite overlapping season issues, athletes couldn’t be happier

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Athletes who compete in two sports at UW-River Falls have become more common in recent years.

The majority of athletes who dual-compete couple track with another sport; often, the second sport is football.

It takes a very dedicated and disciplined individual to compete in two sports and maintain their grades in the classroom, said Head Football Coach John O’ Grady, who currently has more than a handful of players competing in track and field.

“The great majority of players who compete in two sports are very disciplined, otherwise they wouldn’t be doing it in the first place,” O’Grady said.

Though there are some conflicts of interest between coaches when the seasons overlap, O’Grady said he feels it is a positive situation for the teams and the athlete.

“We have to improve our overall team speed,” O’Grady said. “Having our players compete in track and field really helps that.”

O’Grady said he feels it is also very beneficial because it keeps the athletes in competitive situations year-round.

Head Track and Field Coach Martha Brennan said the biggest problem she sees when a student-athlete competes in two sports is being able to get the coaching staffs to support the athletes in both sports and to compromise with the other coaches.

This goes back to the conflict of interest issue. For example, when early spring practice for football rolls around, the players who compete in track cannot be there and that can create problems for both the coaches and the players.

“Sometimes I feel I should be doing football workouts when I’m at track, otherwise I will be letting my football teammates down,” football and track and field athlete Jamie Bisch said. “But I know track is a great way for me to prepare for football.”

O’Grady doesn’t allow his players who also compete in track to participate in early



(Left and top right) Kenny Yoo/Student Voice; (Bottom right) Jen Dolen

Left: UWRF junior Jamie Bisch covers Derek Stanley of UW-Whitewater Nov. 11. Bisch also participated in indoor track this year competing in the 55 meter and 200 meter sprints. Top right: Sophomore Mindy Rudiger makes a throw Tuesday against UW-Stout. Bottom right: Rudiger returns a shot Sept. 15 during a match against Ripon College.

spring football practice.

“You have to let them totally devote themselves during their different seasons,” O’Grady said. “It cannot be both ways because it just doesn’t work.”

Besides the one pitfall of having seasons overlap, Brennan said she feels it is very beneficial to the athletes to compete in two sports because they can stay fit year-round.

“Track is a unique sport because it complements all other sports,” Brennan said. “Athletes who compete in track will be better in other sports because our sport involves all motor skills from running, sprinting, throwing and jumping.”

Bisch said he feels one of the greatest benefits of competing in two sports is getting to see how other coaches train because it gives him a good variety of workouts.

“I also like it because it is very demanding and keeps me busy,” Bisch said. “I like challenges, so it is a pretty good fit.”

Aside from the many athletes who combine track with another sport, there are other athletes who compete dually with a different combination of sports.

Mindy Rudiger has taken on the challenge of competing in

both softball and tennis.

Like most two-sport athletes, Rudiger said she feels the greatest difficulty arises when she is not able to work with the team during the non-traditional season.

“For example, in the fall, I miss the fall practices for softball because I am playing tennis,” Rudiger said.

Rudiger said the heavy workload that comes with being a

“Part of being able to be a two-sport athlete is having understanding, supportive coaches.”

Mindy Rudiger, sophomore softball and tennis player

two-sport student-athlete has never been an issue for her.

“In high school I was a three-sport athlete, so I’m used to having practice or games year-round,” Rudiger said.

Rudiger is now a sophomore and has competed in both sports since coming to UWRF as a freshman. She said she likes that she didn’t have to choose one

sport when leaving high school and gives a lot of credit to her coaches for making it all possible.

“Part of being able to be a two-sport athlete is having understanding, supportive coaches,” Rudiger said. “I have been fortunate because Lee [Lueck] and Faye [Perkins] allow me to play two sports and have supported my decision.”

Rudiger is head women’s tennis coach Lueck’s third two-sport athlete.

“I’ve been lucky that all three have had excellent academic credentials and able to pull that element out,” Lueck said.

But like other coaches, Lueck said he has to deal with competing schedules.

“The biggest problem with tennis and softball arises in the spring when we lose that player for tennis practices and tennis meets,” Lueck said.

Lueck said he believes the team will have a shot at making nationals this season, which will take place just as the softball season is getting under way.

“I’ll need Mindy for that meet,” Lueck said. “[But] will Faye or Mindy be willing to compromise?”

Coed Badminton Club offers fun, competition

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Broomball, flag football and ultimate Frisbee won’t be seen at the Olympics, but they can be found on the UW-River Falls campus. In spring of 2005, badminton joined the growing list of intramurals offered to UWRF students and has grown in popularity since.

Intramurals and club sports are two types of athletic activities offered to interested students on campus. Club sports are for people that are interested in a particular sport, such as lacrosse, that isn’t offered through varsity athletics. Intramurals, on the other hand, are for the average student interested in athletic competition but with no previous experience in that sport, such as dodgeball or badminton.

Kurran Sagan, recreational leadership coordinator for UWRF, said that intramurals rarely change from year to year, as they are originally started due to interest within the student community.

“We have a strong history of success with our activities,” Sagan said. “If we offer something new...it usually comes from a murmur we hear from students for something we do not offer.”

New proposals must first go through the Student Organization Committee for approval before achieving official recognition by the University. After doing some paperwork, such as developing a working constitution and a safety plan, groups then work with the leadership staff to get fund-



Kurran Sagan

ing and practice space.

The Coed Badminton Club (CBC) became official spring semester of 2005. Kai Vue and Vang Lo created the club with the intention of promoting the sport of badminton. Lo, a senior majoring in marketing communications, said that his passion for the sport was ultimately what fueled its creation.

“I love the sport of badminton,” Lo said. “I feel that we should have a club to promote the sport...and more importantly to give UWRF students, faculty staff members and surrounding communities the opportunity to play and have fun playing.”

CBC’s current member list includes nearly 60 members of different experience levels, ages and fields of study. According to their Web site, anyone interested competing, learning new techniques or simply playing the game is encouraged to join. Lo said that more involvement is anticipated and welcomed.

“It’s like showing part of the iceberg - we still haven’t touched or marketed to the bottom of the iceberg yet,” Lo said.

There are no meetings or mandatory practices, but the club as a whole does participate in a badminton tournament each fall and again in the intramurals tournament in the spring, usually mid-April.

Interested students are welcomed to stop by Karges gym anywhere between 7:00 and 10:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays to join in the practice. The only requirement for potential members is to dress to play. All equipment is provided by the club.

Lo encouraged anyone from students to community members to stop by and see what the club has to offer.

“Anyone can join us for a good badminton time,” Lo said. “Stop by sometime.”

Softball: Team perseveres in sweep of UW-Stout without services of leading hitter

from page 1

after Stoffa gave up three runs and seven base runners in three innings. Rathbun pitched four perfect innings in game two. All told Rathbun pitched 8 innings, giving up three hits, one walk and one run while striking out 10 and picking up both wins to push her record to 11-3 on the season. She said her drop ball was “really working” and that she’s finally starting to feel fully recovered from her tumultuous slate of off-season injuries.

The biggest surprise was Rathbun’s three-for-six performance at the plate while serving as the team’s designated player (hitter) for both games. The three hits represented the first this season for Rathbun.

“It was a beach ball today,” she said, referring to how well she saw the ball at the plate.

One of Rathbun’s hits came with one out in the fifth inning of the second game with the Falcons trailing 3-0. It started a rally that was capped by game tying three run home run by shortstop Mindy Rudiger. Rudiger’s line drive over the center field flagpole, on the first pitch of the at bat, increased her single-season home run record to seven.

“I was just trying to make solid contact,” she said. “That’s what I do every time I get up.”

Rudiger also drove in the last two runs of the game for the Falcons with a two-out sixth-inning single to push the score to 6-3. Rudiger finished the game with five RBIs and now has 22 on the season and is hitting .367, both of which are second on the team to Howlett. She said she enjoys the opportunity to come up with the game on the line.

“I’ve practiced all my life for those clutch situations,” she said.

Perkins said the season has gotten off to an ideal start.

“It’s gone great,” she said. “The team is really coming together.”

Next up for the Falcons is a Thursday doubleheader at UW-Eau Claire, the preseason favorite to win the WIAC. UWEC is ranked fifth in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll, but was swept by UW-Stevens Point on April 14 in a double shutout.

“I think they’re down,” Perkins said. “This is a great time for us to be going over to play Eau Claire. We know Eau Claire is beat-able.”

It is unknown whether Howlett will be able to play against UWEC. Lundgren will likely be out for an extended period of time.

The first pitch against UWEC is scheduled for 4 p.m. and the results of this game were unavailable at press time.

Personalized license plates chosen for variety of reasons

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Several students and faculty at UW-River Falls have personalized license plates, also known as vanity plates.

“I do have a UWRF license plate as does Susanne, my wife,” Chancellor Don Betz said. “We came from universities where they were quite prevalent. I was a bit surprised to see few here when we arrived in the summer of 2005, but now I spot a few more.”

Provost Charlie Hurt also has university license plates on his vehicle.

“Chancellor Betz chose 1 UWRF so, as the chief academic officer, I chose 2 UWRF, following his lead,” Hurt said.

The choice for personalized plates varies among users. The chancellor and provost said they selected UWRF plates because they wanted to support the school.

“I wanted to advertise the fact that I am affiliated with UWRF, a point I am very proud to advertise,” Hurt said. “I also wanted to contribute to the UWRF and this was an easy way to do so for me.”

Betz said he chose to display university plates for similar reasons. “The plates are a way to promote UWRF and to display pride in the University, its history and its mission to serve the people and our students,” Betz said.

Wisconsin residents who decide to put university plates on their vehicles are benefiting the campus monetarily.

“Proceeds from the annual tax deductible University fee goes to support scholarship programs on each UW System campus. Each of the 13 campuses has an individual logo,” according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Web site. The Web site also states that any resident of Wisconsin can purchase UW System plates, even if the residents are not UW alumni.

However, some students choose personalized plates for less dignified purposes.

“It is kind of entertaining when you are on a long road trip to read personalized license plates,” senior Stacy Dekkers said.

Purchasing personalized license plates takes time and money. According to the WisDOT Web site, “a \$15 personalized plate fee is required each year in addition to the regular annual registration fee.” This means that every time a customer with personalized plates

purchases registration tags, they have to pay an additional \$15 for the plates. However, the site states that “personalized license plates for motorcycles or farm trucks, which are renewed biennially, cost an additional \$15 for each year of registration (\$30 total).”

In Minnesota, the cost of personalized plates includes a \$100 application fee and an \$8.50 filing fee, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/Dot) Web site. However, the \$100 application fee is only a one-time fee, whereas in Wisconsin it is an annual \$15 fee on top of the cost of registration tags.

In both Minnesota and Wisconsin, customers must go through an application process, which entails strict guidelines before getting personalized plates. In Minnesota, customers must select at least six characters and no more than seven characters. Also, at least one alphabetical letter must be included within those characters. In Wisconsin, customers must also select six to seven characters, but do not have to include alphabetical letters. Also, part of the application process in Wisconsin includes a section where customers must explain their reasoning behind the message they want on the license plate. Minnesota applications do not require an explanation.

According to the WisDOT Web site, “all personalized plate messages are reviewed by members of the Special Plates Unit. WisDOT may refuse to issue any combination of letters or numbers, or both, which the department determines may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or which may be misleading.” Therefore, swear words and other derogatory language is not permitted on personalized license plates.

Personalized plates are not limited to individual messages, but the plate itself can be specialized. In both Minnesota and Wisconsin, there are several types of personalized plates including military plates, prisoner of war plates, university plates, collector plates, fire fighter plates, emergency medical technician plates and several others.

Along with the \$15 annual fee, the plate options include additional fees. Green Bay Packers plates cost an additional \$25 per year for a tax-deductible donation to Lambeau Field. For a UW personalized plate, an additional \$20 is donated to the particular school. Also, the University plate can be personalized for an additional \$15 per year, which adds up to \$50 every year for personalized university plates.

In Minnesota, university plates also do not require residents to be



Kenny Yoo/ Student Voice

Personalized license plates, like the one shown here on Provost Charlie Hurt's SUV, cost \$15 annually. The proceeds from university plate fees aid scholarship programs of schools in the UW Sytem.

alumni of the individual school. For a University of Minnesota plate, there is a “\$10 plate fee and a minimum contribution of \$25 due with each registration renewal,” according to the Mn/DOT Web site. This means that an individual must annually donate a minimum of \$25 to the particular school the personalized plate represents on top of the \$10 flat fee.

Messages on personalized plates can range from names to elaborate sayings.

“I will never forget one license plate I saw when I was younger, it said ILBCNU,” Dekkers said. “My sisters and I thought it was so cool, because it’s saying ‘I’ll be seeing you’ with letters.”

For more information about personalized license plates, visit the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Transportation Web sites at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/> or <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/>.

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5-km race gets students involved

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A new event was introduced this year and was run entirely by students of UW-River Falls. The Bunny Hop was a five-kilometer race held at UWRF April 14.

The students in the physical education course, Sport Recreation and Fitness Management (P ED 450), organized the affair. The Bunny Hop teamed students with coordinators of the Health Fair to produce the event.

The Bunny Hop was advertised around campus through flyers and brochures that were posted in the various campus buildings.

“I decided to participate in the Bunny Hop because I saw a brochure for it and it looked like fun,” student Sarah Knuth said.

A race some may be more familiar with is the annual Turkey Trot, which is put on by the same class during fall semester. This event was created due to the addition of a spring semester of the PED 450 class. It was appropriately titled the Bunny Hop in conjunction

“I wanted to give these students the same opportunity that the students in the fall got with the Turkey Trot.”

Jeff Berkhof,
PED 450 instructor

with falling on a date close to Easter, class instructor Jeff Berkhof said.

“I wanted to give these students the same opportunity that the students in the fall got with the Turkey Trot,” Berkhof said.

The event was targeted toward students but welcomed and encouraged anyone in the community to take part in the race.

“It’s a great opportunity to get out and do something and exercise,” Berkhof said.

The students from the class were broken up into different committees and were designated to coordinate different aspects of the event. Some were in charge of T-shirts, others registration and some students directed the actual event.

“It gets the students involved,” director Scott Ramberg said.

There were over 40 students pre-registered to run in the race, and more showed up the day of the event to participate. Participants in the event also received a T-shirt for signing up.

“It’s a good experience that involves the community as well as students,” Ramberg said.

Participants paid a fee upon registration for the event. The proceeds went toward the purchase of the T-shirts distributed at the race. Any money remaining will go to Student Health Services and to the Turkey Trot in the fall.

“I will definitely wear my Bunny Hop shirt with pride,” Knuth said.

Participants of the event said the race was both fun and well-organized by the students, but they would like to see more students and community members participating in the next one.

“The event was very fun, however, a little smaller than I thought it would be,” Knuth said.

Though it was a race, all were welcome to participate and were able to walk or run at their leisure.

“I like to run. The event was, without a doubt, a fun time,” student Anthony Orlando said.

The event was a success in terms of functionality and did its job in getting students and community members involved and active on campus.

Next year, the goal is to get more participants to come out and take part in the event as well as returning participants from this year’s event.

“Maybe next year I can get a bigger group of friends to do it with me,” Knuth said.

Corrections

- In last week's article, "ECO members prepare for Earth Week," ECO was said to be an acronym for Earth Conscious Organization. The acronym actually stands for Earth Consciousness Organization.
- In last week's article, "UWRF frats utilize Facebook for publicity, not recruiting," it was stated that to be in the Delta Theta Sigma (DTS) fraternity, students must be studying agriculture. Students do not have to be studying agriculture in order to join the fraternity.

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‘Aqua Teen’ movie receives high reviews



A.J. Hakari

As I sat down to write my critique of “Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters,” I came to the realization that I had no freakin’ clue how to review this movie. For the first time in my nearly nine years of writing movie reviews, I was absolutely stymied. Like the cult TV show it’s based off, the “Aqua Teen” movie is a veritable buffet of randomness; 90 minutes in which anything goes, nothing is sacred and you’ll either think it’s a ginormous waste of time or one of the funniest movies you’ll ever see — and me, I’m leaning more toward the latter.

A big-screen version of Cartoon Network’s “Aqua Teen Hunger Force,” this little slice of insanity focuses on a trio of bickering, super-powered food-stuffs: Master Shake, a perverted milkshake; Meatwad, an idiotic meatball; and Frylock, a super-intelligent order of fries who pretty much rolls his eyes at everything his roommates do. What little plot that manages to creep out of the bizarre script involves the Insanoflex, an exercise machine prophesized to bring about the end of the world as we know it that’s also pursued by such characters as Dr. Weird, the Cybernetic Ghost of Christmas Past, and two eight-bit creatures from the moon.

My exposure to “Aqua Teen Hunger Force” having not gone past clips my roommate showed

me, I really had no clue what to expect with an hour and a half’s worth of the same screwed-up sense of humor. Still, I can pretty safely say that if you think the show is a blast, then this movie will be a dream come true. From a “Let’s all go to the lobby” cartoon with a profane twist to its strange knack for setting chickens aflame, “Aqua Teen Hunger Force’s” task is to cook up a gag per second and see how much the viewer can take before saying when.

For me, the movie ran a little too thin at times and hit a couple dry patches in scrambling to throw something on the screen. But on the whole, I haven’t laughed this hard at a movie since “Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny,” another movie where a potty mouth and a tendency to go for the weirdest jokes possible only boosted its hilarity. Just imagine if “Meet the Robinsons” had cranked its funkiness factor up to 11, had a few beers and spent its childhood with Hunter S. Thompson’s epileptic brother, Phil.

Comedies are really hard to pin down, since laughter is such a subjective thing. What’s funny to one person is about as hilarious as a heart attack to the next, and in the case of “Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters,” I can’t quite describe precisely what was so damn funny about it. However, I laughed my ass off, and if the thoughts of an exercise machine spreading destruction, a flying watermelon containing Rush drummer Neil Peart and cult hero Bruce Campbell voicing a giant chicken tender cause you to giggle, then this “Colon’s” for you.



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

The best part about going to a new epic movie on opening night is the atmosphere. All the punk-ass kids and the Adult Swim-loving college students attend with crude humor and a ruckus-causing agenda. “Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters” is the ultimate party time for fans, stoners and death-metal elitists around the country.

The movie, written and directed by Matt Maiellaro and Dave Willis, is about as random as the television show, which is aired on Cartoon Network’s “Adult Swim” programming for adults.

The kids will leave the theater saying, “Fuck sandals!”

The plot, which suitably gets lost in the tangents and other miscellaneous subplots, consists of The Aqua Teens (Master Shake, Frylock and Meatwad) acquiring a sought after, supernatural exercise machine called the Insane-O-Flex, which has the potential to destroy the world. Nearly all of the show’s characters make their appearance in the film and do so with a nostalgic comfort and absolute hilarity.

The Mooninites, who should be famous now for the stupidity of Boston residents exploiting January’s marketing campaign for the film. The Plutonians strive for the Insane-O-Flex also and accompany the Cybernetic Ghost of Christmas Past/Satan.

The Cybernetic Ghost presents himself as evil as possible while providing the raunchy sex humor to robot/alien relations. Of course Carl, the neighbor of the rented shack of the Aqua Teens, is a necessity to the film.

The film contains so many of the silliest, most outlandish scenes and subplots, I simply cannot even remember half of them. Flashbacks are also popular in this film. Even the beginning is slightly nonsensical, using a delayed intro with the beloved intro song playing and the characters all representing their appropriate roles of the song lyrics: “Meatwad gets the honeys, G.”

Though I enjoyed the experience of seeing a movie with such epic anticipation, the funniest parts came sparingly. The characters are all there and they all fit their show’s personality, but the best ones have little onscreen action. Carl, my favorite ATHF character, is on the exercise machine for half of the film.

This movie has been the most difficult to review. It has been said that it is “critic-proof” because most critics have never seen the television show and/or cannot write about randomness. I stand by the theory that there are two types of people in the world: those who get the humor of ATHF and others who don’t.

“Aqua Teen” is definitely for fans of the show. As a fan of “Adult Swim” before it was even called “Adult Swim” (I’m talking about “Space Ghost,” kids), I was fortunate to enjoy and appreciate such a film.

Overall, “Aqua Teen” will “make the homies say ‘ho!’ and the girlies wanna scream.”

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.

Brother Ali’s latest album hits the scene



Jenna Lee

The idealist in me would like to believe many of the race barriers have been broken down within the music industry. Eminem is white and one of the biggest names out there. Travis McCoy, lead singer of Gym Class Heroes, is black and becoming one of the most well-known front man in today’s indie scene.

But there is still a lot of respect that has to be earned by musicians who move into genres where they are not usually heard. Brother Ali and his new album *The Undisputed Truth* will not only break through those remaining race barriers, but the entire rap scene as well.

Brother Ali does not associate himself with any race and really, he has no reason to.

As an albino Muslim rapper from Minneapolis, he has had to create a completely new place for his music to belong. With help from another uptown hip-hop wonder, Atmosphere, that place is growing to hold more fans than anyone could have anticipated.

His message of love and understanding through confusing times speaks beyond people’s skin color to their souls.

The first single off the album, “Truth Is,” is a raw look at Brother Ali’s determination to be successful, not only in his music, but in all aspects of his life.

The beat is not especially complicated or interesting, but it’s catchy and sticks in your head.

What I found more interesting was the sample voice used in the background.

Though it just echoes Ali’s chorus, I felt that it reflected the rapper’s mid-African and Islamic roots through the tone and inflection, without overpowering Brother Ali’s own words.

Although Ali puts his religious beliefs at the forefront of many of his songs, his preaching does not come off as patronizing — as if he is trying to convert his listeners to a particular religion.

Rather, he raps about the life lessons we all come by no matter what culture we learn them in.

The Undisputed Truth is all about changing and growing.

Brother Ali and his new album *The Undisputed Truth* will not only break through those remaining race barriers, but the entire rap scene as well. Brother Ali does not associate himself with any race and really, he has no reason to.

My favorite song on this compact disc is also the most mellow and relaxed song - “Walkin’ Away.” The record samples a carefree whistle, which may be surprising since the song is about his ex-wife who tried to kill him. But what Brother Ali says is that “sometimes we outgrow the role that we play,” which shows the completely honest and heartfelt tone of this album and how Brother Ali chooses to reflect on his life.

Rap and hip-hop albums are not usually the first CDs I pick up when I am looking for something new to add to my collection.

However, I will quickly admit that I am going to be missing out on new breakthrough artists like Brother Ali if I don’t start looking past the labels and really listening to the music.

The Undisputed Truth is going to be one of, if not the most, popular rap albums of the year.

Student premieres film on campus

Sarah Packingham
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When Jimmy Jensen was a freshman at Ferris State he was told to make a decision between two of his passions: making movies and playing hockey. He didn’t choose either but decided to do both regardless.

Now a junior at UW-River Falls, Jensen is preparing to premiere his movie, “Goodbye Guys,” at 9 p.m. April 20 at the Kinni River Theatre in the University Center.

Jensen said the film is based on some real life experiences.

“You look at the characters and one of them is based on me, while I don’t play him,” Jensen said. “It’s about a kid who grew up with the wrong crowd always hanging around them and he moved out of the city and made something of himself ... You probably can’t find a good guy in the movie, but sometimes you have to root for the bad guy.”

While most people interested in filmmaking have had some sort of training or experience, Jensen said he did not.

“It started off I was just good at writing and I taught myself how to do this,” Jensen said. “It was like those people who get a new phone and learn how to use it without using the manual.”

While Jensen directed the film, he acted in it as well. Other members of the cast include members of the hockey team and friends he worked with. The entire movie was filmed in the city of River Falls.

Jensen said he started the project in September while taking a film class.

“I was done filming around Christmas and I made it look like something I could hand in,” he said. “But I couldn’t just be done.”



Submitted Photo

Jimmy Jensen leans on the pool table at the bar in his latest film ‘Goodbye Guys.’ He is premiering his 45-minute movie Friday at the Kinni River Theatre in the University Center.

Now that hockey season and the film class are complete, Jensen said he averages about 40-45 hours a week working on the movie. He spends many hours, including many late nights, in the production room in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

Junior Wade Harstad is planning on attending Jensen’s premiere mainly because he stars in it and is interested in seeing the final cut.

“I thought it was an interesting experience,” Harstad said. “I might have a future in the movie business.”

This will be the first time a student-made film will be shown in the theater and Jensen said he is doing his best to promote it. He has made a Facebook event to

“I just hope it’s a good turnout. I just want people to see it. If things go well I’ll schedule another showing.”

Jimmy Jensen,
‘Goodbye Guys’ director

inform people of and invite them to the premiere. He has also placed table tents in the dining areas and rented a table in the University Center, recruiting his younger brothers to help spread the word.

Over the summer, Jensen said he plans to film his first full-length film. He said he wanted to do it sooner, but wouldn’t do it without his brothers being in

Make sure you check out this week’s Letterdoku online at www.uwrvoice.com.

Crash shows reality of drinking, driving

Brandi Stillings
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At 7 p.m. Monday, UW-River Falls students, faculty and the community watched as their peers were pulled from a car wreck on Third Street by North Hall.

Crash on Cascade is a mock car crash designed to demonstrate the results of driving under the influence of alcohol.

The River Falls Police Department, Fire Department and emergency medical services (EMS) worked together to ensure the safety of the accident victims.

The intensity of the accident scene was high, but the air smelled of ketchup and frozen fruit bars.

The ketchup was used for fake blood effects on the vehicles while the fruit bars were a reward to sorority members for participating.

Greek fraternities and sororities made up most of the audience with a few other students and local residents sprinkled in the crowd.

Amanda Krier is a UWRF junior and the president of the organization, Changing the Attitudes of Students, Choices, Actions and Decisions Everyday (CASCADE). “CASCADE was formed last spring and has 25 students. The organization is a national peer education network that educates students to train others on health and wellness issues. Anyone can join CASCADE; the network is half Greek and half non-Greek,” according to UWRF Public Affairs.

Krier participated in the event last spring as one of the victims of the car crash; she was rescued from an overturned van by EMS workers and firefighters.

“We do it to show off that we have fabulous police and fire departments in River Falls,” Krier said. “And also what can happen when you mix drinking and driving.”

This is the second year CASCADE has worked to put on this production and the organization plans on making it an annual event, she said.

“We had about 200 people come to watch the car crash last time,” Krier said

Another accident victim from last year noticed the differences in this year’s event.

“Last year it took a lot longer to get the victims out of the vehicle,” Phi Mu fraternity member Lisa Stratton said. “It seemed more real with the coroner taking one of the victims away.”

Students should take it seriously and see it first hand instead of relying on statistics, she said.

Senior Kendra Knutson has never been to the mock car crash and recalls past events.

“It brings back memories of a previous car crash, and ambulances make me nervous,” Knutson said. “I think it is a good event to do because some college students think it’s okay to drive after a couple drinks; it’s a wake up call.”

Theta Chi member Arron Marker agrees with the benefits of watching the accident results.

“This is very educational,” he said. “It really shows what can happen when you drink and drive.”



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Naomi Magner plays the role of a drunk driver in the second annual Crash on Cascade while Matt Strom played a passenger in her car who went through the windshield. The crash took place outside North Hall on Third Street. The event was held to help students better understand the ill effects of drinking and driving.

Crash on Cascade started with two cars placed on the street to look like a serious, fatal accident.

One car contained five college students, including the drunk driver, and the other consisted of a few sober high school students.

The cars are provided through Jerry’s Towing, located in River Falls, and are used as the props during the event’s simulation.

Some students were “thrown” through the car windows while screams of pain poured from the other conscious victims.

They were all covered with multiple wounds and blood to add a dramatic result.

Naomi Magner, a theatre minor at UWRF, played the “drunk driver” who was arrested and placed in a police car for the remainder of the event.

“When they took the tarp off it became real,” Magner said. “It hit home more than I thought it would, and was a good experience.”

There were about a dozen firefighters and EMS members attending to the victims.

Four ambulances were on standby and a medical examiner was taking pictures and measurements of the crime scene.

“It was pretty close to the same as last year,” Dean Gerisak of the River Falls Fire Department said. “This is good practice for us and training for the new guys.”

The River Falls EMS was involved in the mock crash previously and were once again working in collaboration with CASCADE as part of Greek week.

“We want to bring awareness to accidents in general,” paramedic Bobby Moody said. “It could happen to anyone.”

People need to better understand how things happen in crashes because they happen a certain way on television, Moody said. It’s more realistic to see your own friends in the accident.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Members of the River Falls Fire Department use the Jaws of Life to pry open a door on one of the cars used in the Crash on Cascade. The firefighters used the tool after they broke the window on the car so they could get trapped and injured passengers out.

Firefighters worked to get everyone out of danger in front of a large crowd consisting of members fraternity and sorority who were in attendance as part of their Greek Week events. Besides firefighters, the River Falls Police Department and the emergency medical service were on call to help in the mock crash.



UWRF five-year trend of underage-drinking tickets reveal drastic rollercoaster effect

Shalena Janis
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From 2002-06, the five-year trend of the total number of underage-drinking tickets issued to UW-River Falls students each year reveals a rollercoaster effect with high spikes followed by a year or two of drastic lows.

Within the five years, 2004 had the highest year of tickets with a total of 262. For the next two years, a slow decreasing average of 32 percent brought the numbers down below 200, a *Student Voice* data analysis showed.

“The pattern I see is a year with heavy enforcement [during the high numbers] and a greater compliance the following year or two after [during the low dips],” Public Safety Director Dick Trende said. “This also depends on the type of students who reside in the buildings.”

In 2005, nine out of every 100 students who were under the age of 21 and living in UWRF residence halls received an underage-drinking ticket, according to the data analysis.

The two years had similar numbers in the amount of tickets given during the academic school terms.

Trende said he viewed the trend as a high compliance from students because Public Safety officers have never changed the procedures of apprehending or issuing underage drinking tickets to students who were consuming or possessing alcohol in the residence halls.

“Whenever we get calls, we enforce the law,” Trende said. “Anyone can report a violation, and we respond within the context of the law.”

In an event of receiving such a call, an officer responds as quickly and thoroughly as provided by their current activity, he said. The officers are not allowed to unlock, forcefully open or enter a room when unwanted, but procedures abided by an officer during a search include administering a preliminary breath test (PBT), investigating for alcohol presence and smelling for alcohol on a person’s breath.

“If they smell alcohol on a person’s breath, that is substantial [to issue a citation],” Trende said.

The dramatic lows in the numbers during a given year are not attributed to the number of officers available on campus or their inability to get to a residence hall to resolve a situation involving underage drinking, Trende said.

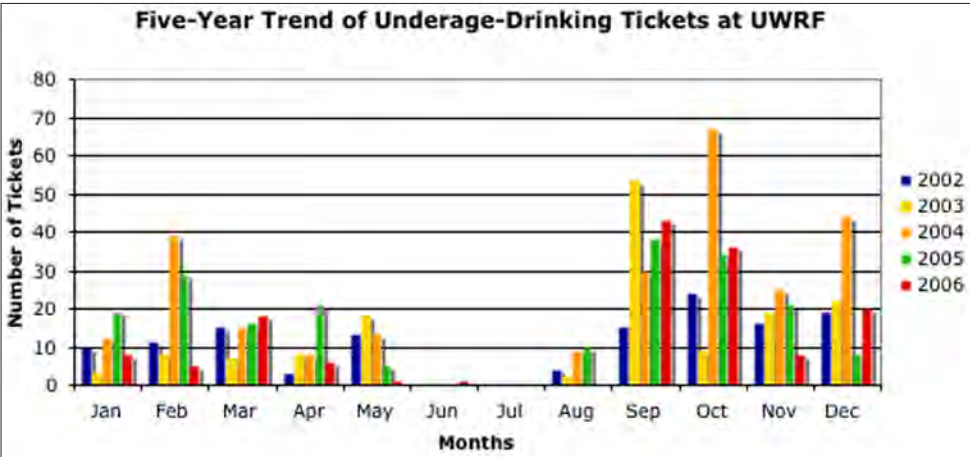
“It makes it very challenging to fill the schedule for our type of coverage,” he said. “We are certainly stretched to fill overtime.”

Public Safety currently has four full-time officers and one limited-term officer, he said. The department is looking to fill the limited-term position in the near future with a full-time officer.

“Staffing impacts our ability to provide a service,” Trende said. “If there’s a delay to a response of service, there is a reason. We have a fairly large area to cover.”

When Trende took the position as director a month ago, a goal he wanted to achieve this semester was finding a better system to schedule his officers. Public Safety is not short on staff, yet it is limited.

Even though the five-year trend shows a rollercoaster of numbers



Shalena Janis/Student Voice

A five-year trend from 2002 to 2006 of the number of underage-drinking tickets at UWRF reveal drastic highs and lows from year to year and month to month.

University policy already in place.”

Most residents have the perception that RAs are there only to bust them when drinking, she said, but they are really there to help and bring safety and security to the building.

“They do it because they know they have to,” Feist said.

For the students who have received underage drinking tickets, Abts said she thinks the process is a significant one. Many of the students not only have to deal with the monetary aspect, but also need to complete an e-CHUG file and write a report.

“I think by having the students complete this e-CHUG and report, they have to take time and think about their actions,” she said. “It forces students to reflect and contemplate their actions in the future.”

The cost alone might deter a student who is under the legal age from drinking because for a first-offense citation, it could cost \$160 to \$249, depending on the age and any other additional costs, like court costs and fees. If a student is between the ages of 17 to 20, a fourth or subsequent offense could be as high as \$753.

Feist said students who receive underage tickets need to view it as a preventative measure.

“The first citation ... is a wake-up call,” she said. “It’s somewhat of a motivation to change their behavior.”