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UWRF club team excels in recent tournaments

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Annual event honors creativity from staff, faculty

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Wis. Primaries to take place Feb. 19



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

February 15, 2008

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 94, Issue 14

Fans blanket UWRF in white



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Derek Hansberry, UWRF Falcon hockey player, waited for playing action on Feb. 8 in the Hunt Arena. The Falcons challenged one of their rivals, the St. Norbert Green Knights during the first ever “White Out” game. The Falcons lost to the Green Knights with a score of 4-1. Prior to the “White Out” game, St. Norbert ranked No. 1 in the nation, while UWRF trailed behind in rankings at No. 9. Fans in attendance dressed in white to demonstrate their support and unity. Noisemakers and other fan memorabilia were also provided at the game for students.

Deliberative Polling Project seeks input

Nicole Aune
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UW-River Falls will be taking part in the Deliberative Polling Project Feb. 23 to discuss the best strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions on campus.

UWRF is one of 15 campuses in the nation selected by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to participate in the project, which is run by the American Democracy Project.

Agriculture economics professor David Trechter is organizing the day-long event.

“Administration has said this is a very important issue. Students are going to be effected in important ways and they will take into account their views coming out of this process,” Trechter said.

Over 300 students volunteered to be a part of the Deliberative Polling Project, including sophomore Jenna Fritz.

“It’s important to have a student opinion about the issue,”

Fritz said.

Sophomore Amanda Hafeman didn’t sign up for the event because she didn’t feel that she’d make a difference.

“I do my best to try to save energy when I can,” Hafeman said.

Students that volunteered to take part in the event will be sent a briefing book describing the current energy situation on campus. The booklet will include the different types of energy used on campus, the total amount of money spent on energy, and a variety of options that are available to reduce greenhouse gases.

Options for reducing greenhouse gases include buying more nuclear power that doesn’t emit greenhouse gases, buying renewable energy blocks, generating energy on campus through windmills and conserving energy. Currently, the University Center is completely powered by renewable energy blocks.

During the event, participants will be split into groups

See Polling Project, page 3

Recyclemania efforts begin across campus

Stephanie Daniels
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RecycleMania got off to a slow start at UW-River Falls, but environmentally conscious students across campus are working to make sure students don’t forget about it.

“RecycleMania is a friendly competition among college and university recycling programs in the United States that provides the campus community with a fun, proactive activity in waste reduction,” according to the official RecycleMania Web site.

More than 400 U.S. campuses have entered the 2008 competition. The competition is broken into four divisions: most recyclables per capita, least trash per capita, most total recyclables and highest rate of recycling.

UWRF will be competing against campuses trying to collect the most recyclables per capita. In this division, the total weight of recyclables collected each week is divided by the campus population to determine the amount recycled by the average member of the campus community. After 10 weeks, final rankings of participating schools will be released.

“We’re actually running a little behind,” Sarah Knorr, ECO Club co-president, said at a RecycleMania workshop held Feb. 5.

RecycleMania began Jan. 27 when students were trying to adjust to the first week of classes, which made it difficult for the ECO Club to start its job of promoting the contest.

ECO Club members are now mobilizing to accomplish the goals they have for this year’s contest.

“The biggest thing is just getting students aware of the importance of recycling,” Rebecca Alexander, RecycleMania chair for the ECO Club, said.

To fulfill another goal, student recycling representatives from residence halls were invited to the Feb. 5 RecycleMania workshop.

“We’d really like to get the dorms involved to a greater extent than last year,” Alexander said.

Residence halls represent the biggest potential source of recyclable materials on campus. Through educational programs and activities, the ECO Club and recycling reps hope to get residence halls recycling to their full potential.

“Most people just don’t recycle because they don’t know what they can recycle,” Mandy Schmidt, recycling representative for Parker Hall, said.

This is why it’s so important to educate people about what is recyclable, Schmidt said.

Paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, aluminum and all plastics numbered 1 through 7 can be thrown into the recycling bins scattered around campus. A more complete list of what’s recyclable can be found through the UWRF Facilities Management Web site.

“Decrease plastic bag use” was written on the dry erase marker board as goal number one at the RecycleMania workshop. Local recycling facilities don’t accept plastic bags, so they simply end up in landfills after use.

Once students figure out what is recyclable, they should actually make the effort to recycle, Samantha Powell, recycling representative for May Hall, said.

“Make use of those (new recycling bins, you know,” Powell said. “Don’t just put them in your closet.”

UWRF placed 97th out of the 175 schools in its division in the 2007 competition.

The school’s rank might rise this year if the ECO Club’s campaign to increase recycling awareness in the residence halls is successful, Alexander said.

“There is a grand prize for the winning school,” Alexander said. “It’s a trophy, but to be honest, all of the schools involved will win.”

Manny Kenney, UWRF recycling coordinator and grounds maintenance supervisor, submitted the total weight of recyclables collected for the first week of the competition.

“Well, I think we’re off to a good start,” Kenney said.

UWRF had accumulated 15,300 pounds of recyclables as of Feb. 9.

Winter carnival offers students entertainment, competitions

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Cold temperatures greeted the beginning of this year’s Winter Carnival and made this year’s theme, “Freeze Factor” appropriate. Feb. 11 served as the introduction to the week’s events, which began with the traditional food drive.

The 2008 theme, “Freeze Factor,” is based upon the NBC reality show, “Fear Factor.” The theme was chosen by a senior committee member who had advocated the idea in previous years. This year’s committee is led by chair Amanda Krier.

The Winter Carnival provided students with a variety of

events that were mainly team-based competitions. Six organizations participated in the competitions in an attempt to gain points for their team. Students who did not belong to a participating organization could still participate in the competitions. However, they could not gain any points from their participation in events.

The food drive proved successful with a donated 500 items. The committee was pleased with the results of the food drive, Krier said.

Also taking place on Feb. 11 was the “Fear That: Live Band Karaoke” event located in the Falcon’s Nest. The karaoke competition was a new event that the committee decided to

originate in order to try a new event, said Krier.

“We decided to do karaoke to do something different this year,” she said. “We tried something new this year to see how it would go, and I think it was very successful.”

Following the food drive idea, the carnival committee also ran a “Personal Hygiene Drive” Feb. 12. The drive was designed as an effort to collect donations for a battered women and children’s shelter, called Turning Point. Donations included items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, toothpaste and other hygiene products.

Along with Tuesday’s

See Carnival, page 3

UWRF Greeks host blood drive

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On Feb. 5, UW-River Falls students, staff and members of the community descended on the University Center with one purpose in mind: saving lives. For five hours on a Tuesday afternoon, the UC Ballroom was host to a blood drive sponsored by the American Red Cross. By the drive’s end, a total 156 units of blood were collected, surpassing the goals of the organizers.

The drive was hosted by the Greek communities on campus. Sara Gliniany, the Greek coordinator, said she was thoroughly impressed by the turnout of willing donors, 95 percent of whom were students.

“There were more than 175 people who attended to give blood,” she said. “Near the end of the day we had to turn people away.”

Freshman Vic England donated for the first time at the event. He said he felt nervous about the process at first, but was glad he went through with it.

“It was a lot easier than I expected,” he said afterwards while enjoying free snacks in the



Niki Paton/Student Voice

Katelyn Peterson, a UWRF student, gave blood at the campus blood drive. “The system seems to work really well.”

Alyse Good is a veteran when it comes to giving blood. Last Tuesday’s event was her fifth

See Blood drive, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Lecture compares education to Harry Potter

Phi Delta Kappa Education Association will host a free lecture on February 19 comparing the politics of education in the U.S. to the Ministry of Magic in the popular Harry Potter book series.

The talk, given by Dr. Hillary Pollack, Assistant Professor in the Department of Teacher Education, will draw comparisons between the current system in the U.S. and the fictional Ministry of Magic's attempts to control teachers and classrooms. The emphasis will be on equality for students in schools.

The lecture will be held in the Willow Room, room 334 in the UC, from 11:50am to 12:55pm.

The Great Debate returns to River Falls

On Monday evening, The College Republican, College Democrats, and Socialist Alternative will be debating Foreign Policy and Education. The event is hosted by the Student Senate and Psi Sigma Alpha Political Honor Society and moderated by Dr. Neil Kraus.

Movie shown in South Fork Suites

South Fork Suites will be showing American Blackout in their movie room Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. The film investigates and exposes the disenfranchisement of African-American voters during the 2000 and 2004 Presidential elections through the perspective of former Democratic Congresswoman and 2008 Green Party Presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney. Discussion will follow the movie. Sponsored by Socialist Alternative.

Meeting for summer trip taking place Feb. 20

An informational meeting for those who are interested in a summer trip to Isreal and Jordan are invited to attend a meeting at 4:30 Feb. 20 in Room B107 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building.

For more information contact Steven Derfler at 425-0639.

Twin Cities Gospel Choir returns for to perform

The Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir gathers singers of various musical experience, ethnic backgrounds, and ages to celebrate music and spirituality through the rich traditions of African American religious music. The choir,s spirit and harmonies invariably bring audiences to their feet.

The Gospel Choir is set to take the stage at 8 p.m.

Soul Food Dinner leads up to performance

The Annual Soul Food dinner is designed to bring together students and the community in celebration of Black history month. In the Black community Soul Food dinners are a time of celebration for friends and family. The dinner is \$3 for students and will take place before the Gospel Choir Feb. 27.

UWRF hosts lunch for students, staff

Choosing appropriate channels for communication—e-mail, phone, memo, letter, face-to-face—has become increasingly difficult due to the multitude of forms of communicating. In this informative and interactive workshop, presenter Dr. Mialisa Moline, UWRF English department, will address lead activities relative to written workplace communication with an emphasis on the importance of audience, purpose and context. Participants will develop practical skills and techniques to use in the workplace.

Moline teaches courses in business and technical writing, professional and technical editing and cyberliteracy. Lunch N' Learn is a joint effort between the UWRF Outreach Office, River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Chippewa Valley Technical College, offering workshops to the community twice each year. Register with the Chamber at 425-2533 or <http://www.rfchamber.com/>. Lunch will be provided. The cost is \$30 for students and staff.

Voice Shorts compiled by
Student Voice staff

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Student Voice online
at:

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News and information programming

Monday: "The Week in News," with Phil Bock & Nicole Aune

Tuesday: "Let's Talk," with Rose Rongitsch

Wednesday: "Act on Ag," with Jodi Kauth

Thursday: "Mad Movie Man," with Adam Hakari & Ken Weigend

Friday: "Wisconsin and World Issues," with Ben Plunkett.

SENATE

Student Senate discusses small staff, upcoming elections

Jerry Clark
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The majority of the Student Senate meeting was spent discussing both the Senate election process and many of the Senate committees being short-staffed. The primary point of discussion regarding the Senate elections was how to conduct the polling process, with on-line returns in the last two years declining from around 300 votes to just over 100 votes, the concern is that the Student Senate isn't an accurate reflection of the student body as it is intended to be.

The various polling methods being considered are: continuing the on-line system as is or changing to a central polling location (possibly in the UC) with either paper ballots or a bank of computers not connected to the Web whereby [the voter], would log on using your 'w' number and submit your vote electronically. The center of the paper vs. electronic debate was aimed at the balance between voter turnout and the "green" (environmentally conscious) nature of the voting process.

The Senate wants students opinion. Interested individuals are encouraged to e-mail president derek.brandt@uwrf.edu to voice your position. Also, students also volunteer to be on the election committee, applications are due by noon Feb. 22.

Among the Senate committees still needing positions filled are: the Shared Governance committee, the Student Affairs committee, the Diversity Issues and Women's initiatives committee, and the Senate Election committee. If you would like to participate as a member of

any of these committees you can get more information on the Senate Web site or at the next meeting.

Further student involvement is needed by the Diversity Issues and Womens Initiatives Committee. Two events are currently in the works, for the Women's History Month in March. They are looking for help with putting together a "Take Back the Night" event and bringing in a guest speaker.

Vice Chancellor of Admissions and Finance Kristen Hendrickson, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Nanette Jordahl, and Provost Connie Foster were guest presenters at Tuesday's senate meeting, they detailed the "Campus Connections for Success Program" and it's accomplishments made since it's inception. This program that adds \$72 per full-time student to fees charged by the University.

Among the services provided (by student request) are: the extension of library hours an extra 15 hours per week , providing a 24-hour computer lab in South Hall, and the centralization of student support facilities. These facilities include: the Testing and Tutor center, English as as Second Language center, Disability Services and the Falcon Grants program.

Falcon Grants is designed to provide grant money to students for projects and travel expenses incurred related to academic studies. Among the factors slowing progress towards the centralization of the Testing and Tutor center is the need to find appropriate space on campus. Spaces in Hagestad Hall and Rodli Commons are being considered.

Provost Connie Foster concluded the presentation by laying out the UW System's framework for improving educational excellence and applicability to student needs. The program entitled Advantage Wisconsin encompasses student preparedness, a dual transcript system and better course transferability between UW schools.

Among notable Senate director reports was that of Finance Director, Jason Meier. He brought up the fact that Student Senate budget reserves are "Quite sizable" and then asked for input as to how these funds should be directed, as well as how to go about getting the student body's input. He proposed that since the funds come from student fees, that students have a right to say how they should be used.

Five Motions were passed unanimously at Tuesday's Senate meeting. The first was to allocate funds to pay stipends to Senate members who had worked during J-Term. Second on the list was a motion to investigate expanding news programming in on the campus cable television networks due to greater student interest during the election process. The third motion appointed Tony Casci to the Athlete Representative senate position. Fourth on the list appointed students to senate committees. The Fifth, brought up as an addendum to the Agenda, was to appoint members to the Senate election committee.

Student Senate's next meeting will be on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Deadlines loom over graduation

Joe Engelhardt
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Graduation is more than just a ceremony — it is a passage into a new chapter of a student's life. Every exit is another entrance. But before seniors can exit, certain requirements need to be met.

With spring semester now in full swing, seniors need to start thinking about meeting graduation deadlines. Seniors graduating in spring or summer need to meet these deadlines in order to be able to walk in spring commencement and to receive their degrees.

Those students who will receive their degrees at the completion of spring term 2007-08 or summer term 2007-08 may participate in spring 2007-08 commencement. There will be two spring commencement ceremonies; both held May 17 in the Robert P. Knowles Building.

The deadline for participating in the spring commencement ceremony must be in by Feb. 18. Any student wishing to speak at spring commencement may fill out application online at the commencement homepage.

Dan Vande Yacht, who works in the registrar's office, talked about how big commencement is.

"It is a big undertaking to take on commencement. We had around 3,000 guests last December and we expect to have around the same number this year."

As for graduation, all seniors must apply for graduation by filling out a form which is available to them in the registrar's office. Once the application has been filed out, a \$40 fee will be added to your UW-River Falls account. This fee does not include the

price of cap and gown.

When students apply for graduation, they must provide their own cap and gown. Those students who don't have their own may purchase them from the University bookstore starting in the second half of the semester. Tassels will also be available in the bookstore and must be purchased separately.

Some students may choose not to participate in the spring commencement ceremony and still graduate at the end of the semester. Vande Yacht said that there is a difference between commencement and graduation.

"Commencement is celebrating student and faculty achievement, while graduation is where all the requirements have been met and those students can receive their degrees." Kelly Browning also works in the registrar's office. She said that degrees are granted four times a year, fall, j-term, spring and summer.

Both Browning and Vande Yacht said that it is very important for students to meet the appropriate deadlines.

Senior Ryan Stridde understands the importance of meeting deadlines.

"Yes, it is important for students to know when the deadlines are because if they don't know, they won't turn their things in on time and they won't be able to graduate," he said.

As some students get closer and closer to finishing up their college careers, it is important for them to remember that deadlines play an important role and need to be met in order for them to leave and move on to bigger and better things.

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Editor's note: Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and UW-River Falls Public Safety incident reports.

- Feb. 3**

-Eric J. Bloms, 22, was cited for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and trespass to dwelling.

-Nathan L. Beeman, 29, was cited for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Feb. 4**

-Chauncey E. Vacek, 19, Jacob P. Haseltine, 19, and Jason A. Doherty, 19, were cited for possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana in Grimm Hall.

Vacek and Haseltine were cited with possession of marijuana, and Doherty was cited with possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Feb. 5**

-An iPod, valued at \$350 was stolen from the University Center.

-Nolan M. Craner, 21, was cited for disorderly conduct.
- Feb. 6**

-Abby R. Pederson, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
- Cara A. Brown, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.

-Peter S. Chmelik, 20, was cited for disorderly conduct and retail theft.
- Feb. 8**

-Tess E. Lardie, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.

-Heather R. Scholz, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.

-A cell phone and a phone charger. valued at \$150 were stolen from a dorm room in Crabtree Hall.
- Feb. 9**

-Jennifer E. Gaffer, 20, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in May Hall.

-Blaze R. Fugiona, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.

-Jordan D. Childs, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.

Wanted:
Assistant News Editor, Freelance Reporter and
Advertising Rep.
E-mail: editor@uwrfvoice.com.

Polling Project: UWRF pursues strategy to reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions

from page 1

of 10 to 15 students. For about an hour students will discuss the best strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and writing down questions they have.

All 300 students will be brought together and their questions will be answered by expert panelists. There will be panelists from differing energy perspectives including renewable energy such as wind and solar energy, nuclear energy and energy conservation.

One of the panelists will be environmental science and management professor Kelly D. Cain. Cain is also the director of the St. Croix Institute for

Sustainable Community Development (SCISCD).

Recently, Cain helped put together an energy audit which concluded that UWRF is the second most efficient campus in the UW-System in terms of energy use per square foot of space. Cain has also been working on data collection measuring the carbon footprint of the campus.

After lunch, students will be split into small groups and will attempt to answer the question of how the university will pay for the strategies they have thought of.

After about an hour of group discussion, all students will get together for the afternoon panel discussion with a new set of panelists to talk about the

fiscal side of the equation.

“We’re trying to get someone from the department of administration in the governor’s office since it was the governor’s idea to do this, and they may have some information of how it might be paid for,” Trechter said.

The first things that are done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are relatively inexpensive and have a big impact, whereas when you get closer to being off the grid, the more expensive it gets, Trechter said.

“It’s a lot more expensive to get that last 25 percent than the first 25 percent,” Trechter said. “So how pure do you want to be and what is the trade off?”

When considering the cost, it is

important not to think in today’s dollars. With energy prices continuing to increase, the money that one might spend now may seem relatively cheap in the future, Cain said.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions goes beyond the results of this project. Trechter and Cain are also concerned about university vehicles that faculty use to drive to other colleges and events around the state.

Whether it is taking students on field trips, class related efforts, faculty and staff travel for University-related business or outreach efforts, the University vehicles get a lot of use. Cain noted the large number of meetings that he goes to off campus. Each trip can be between 60 and 100

miles, and he is just one person in a Dodge Neon.

The university is considering replacing the Neon’s with fuel-efficient Priuses.

“It’s an interesting conundrum; we want to be engaged with the region and beyond, which often necessitates someone on campus going to those places,” Trechter said. “We are supposed to be giving students a globally informed perspective. Well, if you don’t go to Europe or India or somewhere, how can you have a globally informed perspective?”

At the end of May, some students and faculty will be traveling to Peru for the Chancellor’s Global Leadership Colloquium.

Carnival: “Freeze Factor” participation lacking

from page 1

hygiene drive, an event entitled “Frozen Fear” took place. This particular competition involved two participants un-thawing a frozen t-shirt with only the use of their body and hands. The first team to unthaw the shirt and wear it was declared the winner.

The Falcon’s Nest hosted another event following “Frozen Fear”: a performance by comedian Jay Black.

On Wednesday, the popular poster sale came to the Falcon’s Nest, which provided a variety of posters for students to view and purchase. At noon, the “Food You Fear: Eating Contest” was next on the list of competitions for teams to compete in. The competition offered a selection of spicy and extremely cold foods for teams to attempt to consume food as quickly as possible.

Although this year’s “Freeze Factor” offered a number of events and entertainment for UWRF students, the week-long occasion experienced a

lack of student participation. A total of six organizations partook in the events. The carnival week came immediately after break, and that was to blame for the lack of participation, said Krier.

“We didn’t get as many teams as expected, but I think that’s due to it coming up so quick,” Krier said. “It started right after winter break. It’s a learning process, and next year we plan to have it later in the month.”

Many students claimed they were not aware that the Winter Carnival week was even taking place.

“I didn’t even really know about it. I think I might go to the poster sale, but I don’t plan on participating in the rest of the events,” sophomore, Cassie Wood said.

The “Freeze Factor” winter carnival concluded its week with a Falcon hockey game against UW-Stout and an “All Night Party” in the Knowles Center.

Blood drive: American Red Cross sponsors blood drive

from page 1

time in the donor’s chair. She stressed the importance of repeat donors in blood drives.

“It’s the current donors that are the most helpful,” Good said.

She explained that when a major disaster such as 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina occurs in the U.S., the rush of first-time donors can create a surplus of blood, much of which can’t be used quickly enough.

When asked why she continues to donate, Good said it was her way of making a difference.

“It’s something that’s readily available,” She said. “It takes almost no time, no effort, and it’s a good way to help someone.”

Both Good and England said they were impressed with how easy the donation process was.

“I think the convenience of the blood drive plays a factor,” Gliniany said. “It is right on campus and students can

schedule appointments from their dorm room and simply stop by between or after classes.”

According to the American Red Cross, blood donations are essential to the practice of medicine.

“If not for the ready availability of blood components, life-saving medical treatments, such as the treatment of serious injuries, organ transplants, bone marrow transplants, complicated surgical procedures and cancer treatment,would not be possible,” the agency said in their Web site. “It is important that all healthy, eligible people donate blood regularly.”

There are four basic steps to the standard donation process. Step one, registration, begins as soon as the donor signs in. Information is then provided to help donors determine their eligibility.


Once they have finished reviewing the materials, a Red Cross representative conducts a confidential assessment of

health and travel history. If the potential donor is eligible, a mini physical is conducted that includes readings of blood pressure, pulse and temperature. A small blood sample is also collected to make sure the iron level is high enough.

Step three is the actual donation. According to the Red Cross, this step takes an average of 10 minutes and is relatively painless.

Afterwards, donors are encouraged to spend at least 10-15 minutes in the refreshment area, where they are served snacks and juice to help boost blood sugar and fluids before leaving. Depending on the wait time, the whole process lasts about one hour.

The next University-sponsored blood drive takes place on April 2 and 3 in the UC Ballroom. Students and staff can schedule donation appointments at www.membersforlife.org using the sponsor code 2453.



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Chancellor’s Global Leadership Colloquium

PERU

Informational Meeting

Monday, February 18, 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Global Connections Office

102 Hagestad Hall (Old Bookstore)

Travel to the mysterious and enchanting land of Peru with Chancellor Betz and Dr. Kelly Cain. Explore the ancient lands of the Incas and visit historical sites such as Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley, and more!

Come to the Informational Meeting to find out how you will be enhancing your leadership skills and global awareness through village-based interaction and learning while helping Peruvian villagers.

Broaden your perspective of the world while standing at the headwaters of the Amazon River in the Andes Mountains. Familiarize yourself firsthand with the mass deforestation and destruction occurring in our world’s largest rainforest!



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS

PRESIDENT'S DAY GREAT DEBATE

Monday, February 18
6:00 PM

Riverview Ballroom University Center

- College Republicans
- College Democrats
- Socialist Alternative


DEBATING Foreign Policy and Education

Moderated by: Dr. Neil Kraus

Free Event



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SHARED GOVERNANCE ASSOCIATION
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STUDENT SENATE

EDITORIAL

Hungry students left standing

For students who want to grab a quick lunch and wish to be able to sit down in the Riverside Commons in the University Center, that is not always possible.

While we’ve had this beautiful, brand-new building for a little over a year, there are still some kinks that need to be worked out, including seating in the Commons area.

Daily, hundreds of students eat in the Commons, but it’s not always an easy place to eat.

The new Commons area is supposed to be able to seat as many people as both of the Rodli cafeterias used to. Although the room looks large, with lots of tables and places for students to sit, it’s still frustrating during busy times to have to stand around and wait for a table while your food gets cold.

The overcrowding in the Commons is not a problem during all the hours of service, but definitely during the peak dining hours. Around noon and 5:30 p.m. it’s extremely difficult to find seating, and one can often spend much of their time simply looking for a place to sit.

One way to solve that problem is for the consumers themselves. There are a number of tables set up for small groups of students and for larger ones. If you have a smaller group, don’t sit at the table for six.

Or, consumers could shove their meals down their throats to make room for those waiting. Forget chewing; that’s what the digestive process is for.

What we see as an easier solution would be this: allowing students to bring their lunch out into the lower level area of the University Center. It would greatly reduce the lack of seating during peak times.

The problem with the seating is with the University Center, but a solution could be made with a little bit of help from Chartwells.

Opening up more transfer options during high-volume times at Mondo, Coyote Jack’s and the Roots Café would not only expand dining options for students, but would also reduce the level of stress and chaos that the main dining center usually sees during rush times.

Students shouldn’t have to search so hard for a spot to sit and should have more options for eating transfer meals.

With the end of the Chartwells’ contract in sight, maybe the University should start listening to student suggestions before renewing the contract.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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

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

Active students needed for elections

In the past, the Student Senate has struggled against student apathy and low voter turnout rates.

The Student Senate election committee is fired up and is ready to host a well promoted, competitive election. To do this we need your help.

We are currently seeking four active students to join our committee to help promote elections and create a higher turnout.

If you are interested, please e-mail a letter of interest that describes your qualifications or a resume to derek.brandt@uwrf.edu.

Derek Brandt
Student Senate President

Students to choose representation

The University of Wisconsin River Falls is a part of Pierce County. As you may already know, on Feb. 19 there will be a series of presidential and local primaries.

The purpose of this letter is to inform the 90 percent student population of Pierce County District #6 just what your elected official thinks of the student body.

Mr. Larson, the Pierce County Supervisor for District #6 does not deserve the support of the student body.

I hope this letter will convince you of such.

I attended a Pierce County meeting in Ellsworth, Wis. and during a brief recess I questioned Mr. Larson about a

bond that would finance repairs and construction projects throughout the county.

Instead of providing me an itemized budget sheet, he looked me straight in the eye and said, “Why do you care about how the county spends it’s money; it’s not like you are a taxpayer.”

Wrong, Mr. Larson, very wrong, indeed. The 6,000 or so students here pay the .5 percent sales tax on goods and services in River Falls and Pierce County and we have the right to know how our money is being spent.

There is a large population of students that also live off-campus, who pay rent to property owners who in turn pay high property taxes. We are an economic force, and we should be respected as such.

I even provided him a chance

to apologize for his rude comments, and when I asked for an apology, he again looked me straight in the eye and said, “Tough.”

You know what, it’s going to be tough for you, Mr. Larson, when the student body mobilizes in support of our very own Nikki Shonoiki who is a student and will respectfully and accurately represent the influential student population in Pierce County.

Elected officials largely ignore us because students historically do not vote. It’s time to stand up and defend your interests by voting on Feb. 19.

Francis Allen Freeman
Junior

Valentine’s Day created by companies

I don’t know if I’m just out of the loop, but I was surprised to realize that I really haven’t heard that much about Valentine’s Day this year.

Not that I’m complaining.

I enjoy the romantic dinner and chocolate and flowers as much as the next girl, but I am sick of seeing all the hype and advertising. Because let’s face it—Hallmark doesn’t care about your warm-fuzzies and the jewelers don’t care about changing your life. They care about money.

It is nice to think that someone thought up the idea that there should be a national holiday to appreciate those special someones in our lives. But it’s gotten out of control.

First of all, too many women use Valentine’s Day as a competition. Who can get the most flowers or candy or desperately-entreating suitors? Who got the ring instead of the necklace?

Then there’s the other category. These are the people who forgot that Mr. Scrooge is only supposed to show up around

Christmas. They’re the ones that can’t ignore the fact that they might not have a significant other to spoil or spoil them.

Either they end up sullen or they bad-mouth the entire holiday and spout crude or morbid jokes to make up for their lack of pink and red hearts and lace frills.

Of course there are people who fit at any point in between. I can’t say I’d be upset if I woke up to a room full of roses (I didn’t), but I couldn’t be upset if all I got was a paper valentine from a friend (I did).

I guess I just hate how the whole day typically feels like a chick flick or a marketing joke.

But, I suppose that’s what happens when you let a greeting card company create a national holiday.



Katrina Styx

Katrina is a senior majoring in English with a literature emphasis and a minor in print journalism. She loves animals and travel, but her passion is working with words—either writing or reading them. She hopes to someday make a career of editing.

Psychological game has only loss

You are playing The Game. I just lost The Game. You also just lost The Game.

You have also just been cursed. For the rest of your life you will be playing The Game, but it’s alright, because you have been playing The Game your whole life anyway.

The rules are simple:

1. You are playing The Game.
2. Whenever you think about The Game, you lose.
3. The loss must be announced.

To make this clearer, The Game is nothing. It is in your head and in the heads of everyone else in the world. The objective is to not think about The Game. To help, there are strategies that people use to train themselves to not think about it. Whenever you think about The Game, you must announce aloud “I lost The Game” resulting in a thorough explanation to any inquisitive minds that consequently ask you about your proclaimed loss.

As unbelievable as it seems, The Game is internationally known and is thought to have been created nearly 20 years ago. There are Facebook groups about The Game. There is even an Urban Dictionary definition of “I lost The Game.”

I found out I was playing The Game on Friday night at a crowded house party. I was instantly surprised that I had not heard of this popular strategy to make one go insane.

There are a few deviations of The Game and a widely used exception in which if you think about The Game within 30 minutes of the last time you thought of it, it does not count.

Another frustrating aspect of this mind bender (besides trying not to think about it,) is that you cannot quit playing. Everyone is playing as soon as conscious thought begins. This means the only way to quit playing The Game is to discontinue your conscious thought, thus, dying.

My immediate reaction to The Game was that it is completely juvenile and a poor excuse for the modern Internet users and a demographic of college students and beyond to feel connected to the world. With millions of people across the globe losing The Game each day, it provides a sense of networking that drives people to spread such a non-material novelty. When one person loses The



Teresa Aviles

Game and declares so, the surrounding persons consequently will exclaim that they have also lost The Game and will most likely scold the person for making them all lose.

But why do people play The Game? You do not know you are “winning” until you lose. Why does it exist? What makes an individual decide that their mind will conform to all the others that follow the non-existent rules? How does participating in the acknowledgement of such an idea better society?

I argue that The Game and its absurd rules do not actually exist. This made my mind twist with a realization that one cannot have a mental construct of something that does not exist. For example, centaurs are not real but humans and horses do exist, which therefore brings centaurs into existence, despite their lack of reality. Since the actual thought of The Game exists (which is all that it consists of), The Game is brought into existence. With this in mind, you lost.

Teresa is a journalism major and a geography minor. She enjoys kangaroo burgers and creating pretty maps.

Candidates lack important quality

The race for the most powerful position in the United States is well under way. Through primaries and caucuses, four main candidates have set themselves up to become the next President of the United States.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, John McCain, Mike Huckabee and Barack Obama have all won states while making a variety of promises and guarantees in exchange for potential votes.

McCain and Huckabee, the two Republican contenders, have ran campaigns pledging to keep the United States safe from terror among other potential dangers, including their Democratic rivals.

Obama and Clinton, once they moved past their jabs during debates, have both pledged to increase health-care, even going to far as to mention the Holy Grail of liberal politics: universal health-care. For all their differences, there is one key similarity between all four candidates: no one has mentioned balancing the budget.

Unless you are a finance major or a math junkie balancing the budget is not a particularly sexy topic. Even to me the idea of candidates crisscrossing states expounding the virtues of fiscal responsibility makes me yawn. However, in reality, a balanced budget could be the difference between the U.S. is ability to maintain itself as a world super power or become the 21st century is version of the UK. Currently the United

States’ national debt is at \$9,427,905,175, 302.47. Nine trillion dollars. The only way to pay that kind of money back would require every United States citizen to pay \$31,000. I barely have \$31 to my name, much less \$31,000. A week ago, President Bush proposed a \$3.1 trillion budget. If the federal government could find a way to spend no money for the next three years, there would still be a debt that measures in the hundreds of billions. The national debt increases by nearly \$1.5 billion dollars a day.

So what you may ask. How does this debt affect me? Republican or Democrat, the campaigns that your candidates are running are going to require money. For you little Democrats out there anyone paying insurance knows that insurance is not cheap. Subsidized healthcare would require an astronomical amount of money. Even Mr. Obama cannot account for where the money to pay for such an undertaking is going to come from.

The situation is no different for the Republicans. Much of the \$1.5 billion spent by the government every day is going to support troops and the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan. Another Republican campaign goal calls for increased security

along the U.S.-Mexican border. A fence stretching across key sections of the border would not be an inexpensive undertaking.

With all this fiscal irresponsibility by these presidential hopefuls, is there a clear winner? The answer is a simple yes. Foreign investors, including many Middle Eastern states and China, see enormous gains by purchasing U.S. capital. Every year, the United States pay billions of dollars in interest payments to foreign investors. Much of the U.S. economy is now dominated by foreign influence.

I’m not about to advocate abandoning our troops fighting overseas or forcing low income families to go without medical care. However, both parties need a strong dose of reality. Money does not grow on trees. Almost every initiative taken up by the government is going to require a significant amount of money. Candidates need to move away from the spend, spend, spend mentality that has dominated the United States for the past decade. The key to the 2008 Presidential election may not be *how can the government spend my money* but instead, *how can the government save it.*



Joe Eggers

Joe is a political science and international studies major. With any luck Joe will be graduating this coming May.

Season is evil in many ways

I don’t like you. I don’t like you one bit, Old Man Winter. You rolled into River Falls back in December, and it’s time you make like a tree and get the french toast out of my town.

You wore out your welcome quicker than a bum with a megaphone and a bad case of the Bloaties. I don’t care where you go after you leave; I don’t care if we ban you to a harsh life of vagrancy and exile. I just want you gone.

Every year you rear your rheumy head like an old, unwanted uncle that stays too long and takes all the hot water. Your wrinkly fingers carry in them a cold so arthritic and dry that my own young, supple hands resemble freezer-burned pastrami popsicles after just a few minutes in your whirling winds. You invade our homes with drafts that can cause the Bubonic Plague, or at least mild discomfort. I hate you.

You make things so damn inconvenient. I

spend three hours a day cramming myself into the space suit I need just to survive your frigid touch.

You make me senselessly expend valued energy stepping over seas of salt-slush. You cover our cars with blankets of a substance we might as well rename “You’re-Gonna-Belate-Powder.” Well, I guess “snow” is noticeably less lame than my more accurate version. But you’re still a salty dog.

You’re a deceptive old con as well. How many times have your frozen puddles given way to hidden three-inch mires of muck hovering just above absolute zero? And not to mention the ice!

That damn ice can send Chevys careening off canyons or into oncoming semi-trucks. It can cause minor yet embarrassing

ing falls on the campus paths. How are the most hopeless of us to find love if we’re constantly crunching our skulls on that deadly, invisible killer ice? Stop ruining our hopes and

they’ll get this nasty wiseguy by the name of Global Warming to come in here and kick your ass back to the pole. You’re a goner, Wrinklecheeks.

And don’t think you can rely on your Ecofriends to swoop in and save the day—some day soon they’ll all recognize you for who you really are: a whole lot of blizzardy non sense that has no business in my town.

I used to like you. You used to be an alright guy. What happened? Who died and made you king of the douchebags? Justice is coming, my friend.

Old Man Winter, pack your suitcase and bust humps on down the road.

Maybe Eau Claire is looking for some hardship. Give ‘em all you got.



Joe Hager

Joe is a marketing communications major with a creative writing minor. This is his second semester writing for the Student Voice. He is interested in movies, religion, politics, culture and people.

Your “pretty” flakes drop from the flaming sky like so many Nazi paratroopers bent on devistation.

Students know where to find distractions, stray from study habits

It’s hard to believe that it’s already second semester. I feel like I just finished moving in and organizing my stuff; however, the organization part is still a work in progress.

As a freshman, the first semester was an entirely new experience, with new friends, new living situations and a whole new level of classes and work loads. It almost seemed easier to adjust to everything last semester than it does now.

As second semester freshmen, we are no longer the same inexperienced people we were in September. Now we have about 15 completed credits, tons of crazy stories, and an understanding of everyday campus life, which we didn’t have before.

Along with this new knowledge comes an ego, which can, at times, lead to the inability

to focus on the important things and put our minds back in our books.

When I started my classes last September, I had no idea what to expect. The books were larger, the classes were more intense and my planner had never been so scribbled on.

Because of this unfamiliarity, I went to the extreme and read every word in the text and took every note possible. This semester, however, is a totally different story. Since break I’ve been finding it harder to stay focused and get my old study habits back. Honestly though, who isn’t feeling like this after being able to do nothing for a whole month?



Linda Abel

I started wondering why I’m not being as intense with my homework as I was last semester. Upon talking with some of my classmates, I narrowed the reason down to one large problem: istractions.

Of course we had tons of distractions before, but now we know exactly where to find them, and in my case, procrastinating on doing my homework longer.

One student told me that having too many casual “get togethers” available put a damper on her study time. I would be willing to bet that this is a problem for many other students here at UW-River Falls as well. I admit, it is really hard to

resist closing a book and watching a movie or going to a party with a bunch of friends.

In reality, the only way to fix this problem is to stand back and look at the big picture. Sometimes everything gets jumbled in our brains and running from the least fun is our first reaction.

Remember Falcons, we’re here to have fun, but also to work as hard as we can to achieve our goals.

So as a welcome back to campus note, I wish you all good luck; and keep in mind, the parties with still be there tomorrow.

Linda is double-majoring in marketing communications and business communications with an emphasis in professional organization. In her free time she likes to dance, watch movies, hang out with friends and spend time with family.

STUDENT voices

What do you do to escape from stress in your life?



Brady Hannigan, freshman

“I eat and sleep.”



Ben Tufte, freshman

“I listen to the music on my iPod”



Jontae Koonkaew, sophomore

“Spider Solitaire and lotion. I eat”



Britta Roreck, senior

“Art—I paint, and draw”

Columnist dares students to do something different

The majority of people on this earth get annoyed once in a while. Generally, the people that usually don’t get annoyed do the annoying. If you’re one of those people who *get* annoyed, you know what it’s like to want to flee for your sanity.

You know—that girl in class who *always* asks a question right before class is let out? That guy who is always jumping around and yelling loudly to get all the attention he can? The girls eating lunch repeating “oh my god” and “like, no way” between eye-rolls and confessions of their current obsessions?

Some people resort to alcohol. It’s what they use to “get away” from everything.

I’m not sure that I use alcohol as an escape—maybe more as an enhancement for various reasons ... like to better my cricket score.

So I began thinking about what my “escape” is. I guess when I need to get away I just get up and go.

But I can never really get away, because I’m still around me. You’re probably thinking, well no shit, but I’m asking you to think a little differently.

Riddle me this:

Do you ever get sick of yourself? I mean, you’re around yourself all the time. You probably know what you want to do, what you think. and, what your ideas are. You never have to question yourself because you know how you’ll respond.

Thoughts are mulled over in your head; kind of like a conversation.

But do you have a tendency to keep following the same path and making the same choices? I mean, do you ever do

something completely and absolutely inexplicably out of your ordinary? Something that really makes you pause for a moment and think *man, I honestly cannot believe I did that.*

But it’s not so much about just doing something; you’re choosing to do something (and some of you process your thoughts far too much to finally come upon your decisions).

You’re the way you are because you choose to be that way.

How about you choose something else today? Answer a question like your boss would. Order an entrée that your sister likes a lot but you never really got into. While shopping, pick out the ugliest outfit and try it on. And then pose yourself in the mirror like that outfit was absolutely meant for you.



Abby Maliszewski

How about you choose something else today?

Do something different. Don’t wear your favorite shirt tomorrow (even though you haven’t worn it for a week).

Give yourself some versatility; a versatile individual will have more options in his or her future. You may understand someone better, or at least give them a chance. You’ll discover a new appreciation, and you’ll definitely find out something about yourself that you never would have otherwise.

Depth is achieved through questions, not answers. How does a person expand once he or she has the answer? The sky is suddenly no longer there—you’ve

already reached your limit.

So mull over the answer. Play with it a little bit. Or ... simply forget the answers.

There’s a lot of escapes out there. Some of you crank up some tunes and rock the hell out; take a variety of drugs and ponder life and all its entities while lying in a hammock ... or in winter’s joy, your bed; and some of you play with your lives by cliff jumping or bull riding or eating McDonald’s ... or shit, crossing Cascade Avenue.

My escape? People. Especially strangers. They don’t know you. There’s no relationship, but they’re interesting. You can learn a lot about strangers, talking to them or just observing. (Hmm ... he’s really loud and obnoxious. Am I loud and obnoxious? Maybe I am; I’d better quit. She’s quiet, but looks like she has something to say, but her friends keep cutting her off. Why won’t they let her speak? Why won’t she just raise her voice?)

I dare you to jump in a bush, tackle someone in water, wear pigtails because it’s unprofessional, get in a frosting fight, write a letter to your grandmother with your inferior hand, try mango tea, run away for a day, drive around the block backwards, realize that what you did was stupid, and laugh at yourself.

Do something different.

I dare you.

Abby is a marketing communications major and learns by watching you. She thinks Valentine’s Day is a lame excuse for “love” and urges you to do something for your significant other because you want to—not because the calendar tells you to.

Women’s track, field off to a solid start



Ben Brewster/Student Voice

Becky Ponick participates in the long jump event during the Coca-Cola Classic, an indoor track meet held at the Knowles Center Feb. 8.

Alayne Hockman
alayne.hockman@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls Women’s indoor track & field team has been doing well this season, with four of its athletes having qualified for the NCAA Division III national meet so far. As of now, three UWRF athletes have provisionally qualified for nationals: Jessica Reed in the 55-meter hurdle, Becca Jordahl in the 5,000

meter run and Vicki Cooper in the shot-put and 20 pound weight throw. Jordahl ran a 17:21.45 at the MSU-Mankato Open Feb. 2, which is a provisional qualifying time for nationals. Her time for the 5,000-meter run also broke a UWRF school record by 38 seconds, according to UW-River Falls Sports Information. On the other hand, senior captain Krista Hasselquist’s first-place toss of 46-4 1/4 in the shot-put at the UW-Stout Open Jan. 22 guaran-

tees her a spot at the national meet, which will be held in Ada, Ohio, March 14 and 15. Hasselquist’s shot-put toss distance also broke a school record, and she threw a provisional qualifying distance in the weight toss as well. Adding to her list of accomplishments, Hasselquist, a two-time All-American, was recently named the WIAC Field Athlete of the Week on January 28. Cooper was named a UWRF Athlete of the Week (Jan. 28), according to UWRF Sports Information. “Overall, the team looks stronger than it has

“The team hopes to continue the success of their third place conference finish last year to the indoor meet this year.”
Krista Hasselquist,
Senior Captain

in years,” Hasselquist said. The team has grown quite a bit in terms of numbers since she and Cooper, both seniors, joined their freshman year. While exploring how the team has been so successful this season, Cooper said, “It’s quantity, but we’re also gaining a lot of quality.” The team “hopes to continue the success of their third place conference finish last year at the outdoor track & field meet to the indoor track and field meet this year,” said Hasselquist. The indoor conference meet will take place Feb. 29 and March 1 at UW-Superior. The Falcons hosted the Coca-Cola Classic indoor track meet last weekend, where several UWRF athletes shined. In the women’s events, Hasselquist took first place in both the shot-put and the weight throw events on home turf. Jessica Reed finished first in the 55-meter hurdle at 8.84 seconds. Adding to the Falcons’ accomplishments last weekend were second place finishers Natasha Arnold in the 400-meter dash, Shannon Zweifel in the 800-meter run, Becca Jordahl in the mile run and Maria Michaud in the 3,000-meter run, according to UWRF Sports Information. The Falcon men were also awarded at the Coca-Cola Classic for outstanding performances. Jason Phillippi received first place in the mile run for his time of 4:16, provisionally qualifying him for the national meet. Also finishing first were Nick Zeien in the 600-meter dash and the 4x400 relay team. JD Rojas and Josh Dietz placed second in the 500 meter run and the 55 meter hurdles, respectively. The Falcons will next compete at the St. Scholastica Invitational Feb. 16.

Falcon lacrosse plays matches at Xcel Energy Center

Ben Brewster
benjamin.brewster@uwrf.edu

The Falcon men’s and women’s lacrosse teams previewed their upcoming seasons Feb. 10 with exhibition games played at the Xcel Energy Center. The day started with a game between the Minnesota Swarm and the Portland LumberJax in which the Swarm won 14-13 in overtime, keeping them undefeated on the season with a 6-0 record. After the Swarm game was finished, the Falcons and UW-Stout took the field. All the lights in the arena were turned off except the ones lighting the field. Much of the crowd cleared out, but the action on the field was just as intense. It is nice to get the opportunity to play where the Swarm play,” said men’s coach Nate Jacobsen. “Everyone is pretty jacked up.” It showed, as the Falcons beat UW-Stout by a score of 10-3. “It really gives us a sense of accomplishment to see our fans show up to the Xcel and play for them at a professional venue,” said team president Blake Ashley in a telephone interview. “It brings club sports to a whole new level.” Trask Reed and Corey Loesch both scored two goals and Jason Hinrichs scored one in the first half, giving the Falcons a 5-2 lead they would never relinquish. They continued to play well in the second half, scoring five more goals from Jake Johnson, Tyler Smith, Rich Grinstead, Ben Kinne and another from Loesch. “There is a definite rivalry [with Stout] because we finished ahead of them overall [last year] and going into our final game they won the division,” Ashley said. “[Beating them] made me proud and it set a standard for the team for the rest of the year.” The men’s team started out slow in 2006, their first year of competition in the Great Lakes Lacrosse League (GLLL), when they had a 2-8 overall record. They quickly improved last year, with a 9-2 overall record in the GLLL and a 4-1 record in the West Division. For the upcoming season, the Falcons lost some players to graduation but also got some new talent. “We’re very optimistic- we have a great goalie who is brand new this year, Matt Reschetz,” Ashley said. “He started proving himself [against Stout].” At the conclusion of the men’s game, the women’s team took the field against Hamline University. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” team president Maria Hockert said in an e-mail interview. “It was awesome to be the behind scenes and see where the Minnesota Wild and Minnesota Swarm players get ready



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Men’s lacrosse player Jeff Ginter anticipates his next move in an exhibition game held at the Xcel Energy Center Feb. 10. to play.” The Falcons got off to a good start with senior Ashley Warren scoring two goals within the first few minutes. The scoring continued with goals from sophomores Kristen George and Rachel Peterson and another from Warren. “Everyone put up a good fight and ran hard,” Hockert said. “It was a great way to begin our season.” The game ended with a 6-2 Falcon victory. Regular seasons for the lacrosse teams do not begin until the end of March. The men’s first game is at UW-Platteville at 1:30 p.m. March 29 vs. Winona State, and the women’s is 7:30 p.m. at Hamline.

Twins fan ready for season to start

Some people have a different interpretation of what paradise



Chris Schad

is. For Tony Romo, it’s hanging out with a horrible singer turned horrible actress in Mexico. For Johan Santana, it’s swimming in his new found vault full of money a la Scrooge McDuck. For Brett Favre, it’s going to a tractor pull in Mississippi. For me? I would say sitting behind home plate with a beer in my hand at Miller Park. Speaking of which, I had a dream the other day. It was June. It was about 80 degrees outside on a Sunday afternoon and there I was with my sunglasses on just soaking in the moment. Right in front of me, I could see Twins pitcher Francisco Liriano ready to take on Milwaukee’s best. Not the 30 pack, but the Milwaukee Brewers lineup. Liriano was matched up with Ben Sheets and the two were just dealing to their adversaries. Finally, the Twins flinched first. After I made fun of Prince Fielder for being fat, he gave me a piece of my mind. Fielder hit a ball so hard, I think he could have taken down Spudnik if it was still up in orbit. The next batter was Ryan Braun, who promptly did the exact same thing. With the Brewers having a 2-0 lead, Liriano was pulled in the eighth inning for Pat Neshek. Neshek flailed with every pitch as he got the Twins back into it with a scoreless inning of relief. Even though Neshek struck out the side, it looked like it was too little, too late for the loveable Twins. The Brewers had put in new closer Eric Gagne and he was snorting and kicking his leg back like a horse. However, as Gagne ran to the mound, a syringe fell out of his pants, which he promptly stuck back in his pocket. Twins manager Ron Gardenhire ran out to complain about the obvious steroid use that 40,000 people had just seen. Unfortunately, the umpire was Gardenhire’s adversary Angel Hernandez who has thrown Gardy out multiple times during his career. Once again, Hernandez pulled the trigger and Gardy slammed his hat down and started kicking dirt at Hernandez. Finally, the ninth inning would commence. Outfielder Carlos Gomez led off the inning for the Twins and he laced a Gagne fastball into the gap. While Mike Cameron was trying to get to the ball for the Brewers, Gomez was busy racing around the bases with his speed, the kind of speed that makes that bionic sound when he runs, you know? Bananananan! Eventually, Ryan Braun got to the ball first and tried to throw home, but as usual, the throw was incredibly errant. Gomez hit an inside-the-park home run. The next batter was Joe Mauer, who watched the first two pitches go by for strikes and then grounded to short. With one out, the Twins turned to Michael Cuddyer who singled to left, and then Justin Morneau who was drilled in the ribs. The Twins sent Delmon Young to the plate and he delivered. Young drilled a Gagne pitch up into Bernie’s Dugout high above the playing field. The ball smoked Bernie and he fell down his slide and into a giant mug of beer. (OK, I wish, he actually slides into home plate.) Young rounded the bases and made the game 4-2 in favor of the Twins. The bottom of the ninth came around and Joe Nathan came out to close it for the Twins. Nathan immediately loaded the bases with no one out. Then up came Rickie Weeks, who struck out for the Brewers. Shortstop J.J. Hardy was the Brewers last hope, and he sent a laser right to shortstop Adam Everett, who flipped it to second baseman Alexi Casilla, and threw it to Morneau for the final out. As the Twins celebrated at home plate, I could feel the beer that Johnny Redneck threw from the upper deck and then all the sudden I heard the worst sound known to man, the alarm clock. I woke up and it was 33 below outside and I flipped on the radio. After they had the weather report said that the icy cold abyss would continue, I heard music to my ears. “Pitchers and Catchers for the Minnesota Twins will report to spring training Sunday.” What a warming thought.

Chris is the 21-year-old Sports Director of WRFW. He is also the Voice of Falcon hockey and football.

SPORTS WRAP

Women’s hockey earn 4-0 win

Three first period goals and solid goaltending help the Falcon women’s hockey team pick up a 4-0 win at Concordia on Sunday afternoon.

Early in the first period, Jenna Scanlon put the Falcons on the board with her 11th goal of the season off an assist from Jessie Dyslin at 3:49. Later in the period, a Concordia hooking penalty set up a Kacie Anderson power-play goal, her second of the season, at 9:38 off a Cassie LeBlanc pass. With seconds to spare in the opening period, Jamie Briski found the back of the net with her seventh goal of the season with assists from Ashly Berner and Stephanie Schmitz.

The Falcons put the final tally on the board with an Abby Sunderman goal, her fourth of the season, at 13:15 of the second stanza. Dyslin and Kelly Jensen assisted on the play.

The Falcons will host Finlandia for a two game NCHA set next. Games will get underway at 2:05 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Hunt Arena.

Falkon track places first in six events

Members of the Falcon track and field team placed first in six events at the Coca-Cola Classic on Saturday at River Falls.

In the women’s events, Krista Hasselquist placed first in both the shot put and the weight throw, throwing 44-11 and 49-11 1/4 meters, respectively. Jessica Reid placed first in the 55 meter hurdles with a final time of 8.84. Natasha Arnold placed second in the 400 meter dash with a time of 62.72. In the 800 meter run, Shannon Zweifel placed second with a time of 2:26.59. Becca Jordahl placed second in the mile run with a time of 5:06.59. Maria Michaud came in second in the 3,000 meter run with a time of 10:51:94.

In the men’s events, Nick Zeien placed first in the 600 meter dash with a time of 1:22:85. Jason Phillippi placed first in the mile run and qualified for the nationals in the provisional category with a time of 4:16. The 4x400 relay team placed first with a time of 3:28:09. JD Rojas placed second in the 500 meter run with a time of 15:54:74. Josh Dietz placed second in the 55 meter hurdles with a final time of 8.28.

The Falcons next compete at the St. Scholastica Invitational starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Men’s hockey lashes foresters 10-1

UWRF nets seven unanswered goals in the third period to push their way past the Lake Forest Foresters.

In the first frame Derek Hansberry taps home the first goal of the game just 3:33 into the contest. Assisting on Hansberry’s power-play goal was Jim Henkemeyer and TJ Dahl.

The second RF goal came in the second period when NCHA goal scoring leader Patrick Borgestad added his 22nd goal of the season. On the play Josh Meyers sent a pass that Borgestad turned to his back-hand and then pushed the puck passt Foresters goalie Scott Campbell.

Lake Forest answered with a goal of its own almost eight minutes later as David Ridos put a rebound past RF’s Stephen Ritter. The assists went to Justin Taylor and Ryan Kupperman.

Just over three minutes later Dahl redirected a pass past Campbell to put the Falcons ahead by two going in to the third. UWRF’s Dustin Norman and Borgestad earned the assists on the goal.

In the third period the game got away from Lake Forest, as the Falcons score seven goals on 18 shots. During this span five goals were scored in under six minutes.

RF’s Wade Harstad and Riley Riddell were responsible for four goals in the third frame, two each. It was Riddell’s first and second goals of the season. It was Harstad’s fifth and sixth goals so for this season.

Borgestad added another in the third, tapping off a three point night.

Currently the Falcons are tied in NCHA standing with UW-Superior at 15 points and one point behind UW-Stout. This means the Falcons (15-6-3, NCHA 7-5-1) control their own destiny next Friday when the Blue Devils (15-6-3, NCHA 7-4-2) come to Hunt Arena. With a win RF could jump ahead of Stout and earn the second sead in the NCHA playoffs, but a tie or a loss could drop RF to as low as the fourth sead entering the playoffs.

Men’s basketball lose at UWEC

The Falcons men’s basketball team got down early and never recovered at UW-Eau Claire Saturday, losing 77-54.

RF dug itself a hole right away by scoring one point in the first six minutes. EC took advantage by leading the game off with a 15-1 run before the Falcons got their first field goal from freshman forward Wade Guerin at the 13:34 mark of the first half, making the score 15-3.

The Blugolds pushed their lead to 17 on two occasions before RF responded with a 12-2 run, capped by a Guerin lay up, with 2:58 left in the half putting the score at 26-19.

EC responded with an 8-2 over the final minutes of the first half and the Blugolds took a 34-21 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Senior forward Scott Kelly led the Falcons in the first half with five points. Guerin and sophomore guard Deonte Compton added four points apiece. Junior guard Jesse Elling led RF in rebounds in the first half with four.

The Falcons started the second half quickly cutting the deficit to eight with a senior guard Courtney Davis lay up and a senior guard Willie Wright three-pointer. But RF went scoreless over the next 4:19 as EC went on a 14-2 run and held a 20-point, 48-28, lead with 13:15 left.

Dan Beyer led all players in points and rebounds, scoring 17 points and adding 14 rebounds to cap off his day.

Guerin led the Falcons with, a career-high 13 points.Guerin also added four rebounds. Freshman forward Jake Voeltz led the Falcons with five rebounds.

Sports Wrap courtesy of UW-River Falls Sports Information

Men’s volleyball team makes headway

Teresa Aviles
teresa.aviles@uwrf.edu

They’ve got double the team. They have 16 fit guys ready to pounce. They are strategically placed for maximum performance. UW-River Falls doesn’t have an official men’s volleyball team, but the two men’s volleyball club teams have been heating things up this winter.

On Feb. 1, the UWRF men’s volleyball teams played their fourth tournament of the season in Mankato, Minn. at the Otto Arena. It is one of 11 tournaments that will be held this season before the conference in late March.

UWRF was one of only two universities in the tournament that has two teams. RF Red made it to the silver bracket at the tournament and RF Black did well in the gold bracket.

“The place was packed. There weren’t a lot of our friends there [in Mankato] but we were doing well. We had beaten three or four teams that we have never beaten before,” said Jack Dunn, UWRF student, and men’s volleyball club president.

Winona State University, Michigan Tech, MSU-Mankato and Bethel University were among those that the RF Black defeated. In their third season, the team is glad to have all but one starter back from last year.

“Everyone has gotten better and better,” Dunn said, “We’ve started out well. I have high hopes for this year.”

The men’s volleyball teams are still recruiting players if anyone is interested in joining a great, athletic volleyball team through the University. Practices are held twice a

week in Karges Center, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

The team is also interested in hosting a home tournament on campus in hopes of sparking more of an interest in upcoming games throughout the campus community.

“We want people to know that anyone is welcome. We would love to have fans attend the games,” said Damon Liberatore, UWRF student and RF Black coach.

The interest to host a volleyball tournament on the UWRF campus is held high for the team, but they have struggled with the administration for an arena and the funds.

“We’re not able to schedule tournaments here. Varsity and intramurals always come first. It’s like we’re treated like third class citizens by being a club team instead,” Liberatore said. “Although Kurran [Sagan] is amazing. He’s helped us out a lot.”

After competing in MSU-Mankato’s two-year-old modern courts, which have treadmills in the skyways above their heads and are fully equipped with flat-screen computers, the team wonders why they cannot even obtain a decent hour to practice.

“If we are going to have



Submitted photo/Student Voice

The UW-River Falls men’s club volleyball teams will be playing in a number of tournaments this season.

club sports, we need Karges to be open for us to practice. 10 p.m. to midnight at Knowles is not an ideal time to practice, but that is the only time the space is available,” Liberatore said.

With limited gymnasiums and a tight budget, the University must provide the facilities that will be contributing the funds to keep the buildings and the organizations running.

“This issue exists at most universities. It’s a sad fact. We only have two buildings here to accommodate so many

teams,” Sagan said. “To use a facility off-campus would be pricey.”

What the men’s volleyball team essentially needs is the support of the student body.

“Even though we have two teams, there is always room for more. We would love to have people join us. Even if you don’t think you’re any good at volleyball, we have amazing coaches. If I can learn how to play the game, then anyone can,” said Brandon Frank, UWRF student and RF Red team captain.

Twins coach teaches youth at Knowles

Sarah Packingham
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Minnesota Twins batting coach Joe Vavra brought a bit of spring to River Falls with a batting clinic Sunday.

The Knowles Center was the location of the clinic that went from 3-6 p.m. and was for youth in the community ages 8-18.

The UW-River Falls club baseball team helped set up and organize for the event.

This event held at UWRF was just one of the many clinics Vavra helped put on during the Twins off-season.

“I really like baseball and I really like working with kids,” Vavra said. “[I like] the way they look at you and listen to what you’re saying.”

Officials estimated that about 100 youth came out for the event, despite the freezing temperatures outdoors.

When teaching children, Vavra said he doesn’t do it any differently than he would with a 36-year-old veteran.

The words aren’t that difficult and all the mechanics are pretty much similar, Vavra said.

With the Twins Vavra has had the opportunity to work with players like former batting champion Joe Mauer, former MVP Justin Morneau and Torii Hunter.

During the off-season, the Twins lost some of their offensive powers, but Vavra is not too concerned.

He said he is looking forward to working with new players coming into the Twins organization for spring training.

While this is the first event of its kind at the Knowles Center, it’s surely not going to be the last.

Knowles Cener assistant director Ben Fraser said the Twins are planning on coming to UWRF June 30 and July 1 for an official hitting camp.

On June 30 and July 1, former Minnesota Twin Rod Carew, Mark “Lunch” McKenzie, along with a former Falcon baseball player and a Twins player to be announced will be in town to teach the basics of hitting to youth from around the area.

“We were extremely happy with the turnout,” Fraser said. “It gave great exposure to the University and Knowles.”

Next Week in Sports:

Men’s Hockey:
Playoff preview. Going into the final weekend of the season seedings for the playoffs are undecided.

Men’s Basketball:
Preview of the final regular season game of the year against UW-Whitewater

Women’s Basketball:
Feature of the two Falcon seniors Jana Benitz and Caitlyn Hunstock.

AND MORE.

Attention Writers and Artists!

Prologue, UWRF's literary and art magazine is looking for your written and visualpieces for its 2008 publication.

Take advantage of the opportunity to have your work published and share your visions with the UWRF community.

Submission forms will be available outside the English office, 241A Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Guidelines and rules are posted on the forms.

Deadline for submissions:
Thursday February 20 at 4:30 p.m.

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Upcoming Study Abroad Fair great opportunity

Phillip Bock
phillip.bock@uwrf.edu

The Global Connections Office will be holding a Study Abroad Fair Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Center Falcon's Nest to help inform students of the many Study Abroad opportunities available to them at UW-River Falls.

Students will have the opportunity to meet with trip leaders, program coordinators, financial aid staff and Global Connections staff to learn more about study abroad programs, Carissa Williams, a Peer Advisor in the Global Connections Office, said.

The University offers more than 30 international Study Abroad experiences that can take students to Europe, Mexico and dozens of other destinations.

The Study Abroad Fair is one way for students to get informed about the many opportunities available to them, and can help stu-

dents plan how Study Abroad classes will fit into their degree plan, Williams said.

"We usually tell students to plan early," Katie Oenga, Study Abroad and International Student advisor, said. "It's a good time to talk to their parents and look at financial aid and look at the programs."

The University offers semester long programs, such as Wisconsin in Scotland and The Abby in France, which can immerse students in another culture for an entire semester. Shorter summer and J-Term programs, such as the study tour to Belize, Ireland or Italy, are also available.

Faculty members from UWRF serve as the tour guides on study tours.

Third party providers, such as Academic Studies Abroad, will also be at the Fair to answer students' questions.

For a more complete list of programs available visit the Global Connections Web site at <http://www.uwrf.edu/globalconnections>.

Financial Aid is available for Study Abroad Programs, and members of the Financial Aid office will be present at the fair, Williams said.

"There's something that often stops [students]." Oenga said. "I can find a program that fits you; if you think you don't speak another language. Well in most of our programs your language of instruction will be English."

"It's an experience you never forget," grad student Robert Boyer said. "You come back with a different perspective on the world."

Studying abroad looks great on a resume, Oenga said.

"[Studying abroad is] essential to get a job now, if you want to get a job you have to go somewhere," Oenga said. "Being more aware of other cultures and being more aware of the world also helps you learn about yourself."

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS

Visiting Professor

Ed Lotterman

Author and Syndicated Columnist



The Federal Reserve in Transition: Greenspan to Bernanke

A Public Presentation

February 21, 2008

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Kinnikinnic Theater, University Center

University of Wisconsin-River Falls

A reception from 4:30-5:30 p.m. will follow the presentation in the Ames Gallery of the University Center

In addition to several classroom appearances during the day Ed will be attending a reception from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Staff Lounge located on the 1st floor of the Agricultural Science building.

For more information contact:
Professor David Trechter,
107 Regional Development Cntr
715-425-3129, david.d.trechter@uwrf.edu
www.uwrf.edu/lotterman

This Visiting Professor event is proudly sponsored by:
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
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Department of Agricultural Economics



Library exhibit honors UWRF faculty

Katrina Styx
katrina.styx@uwrf.edu

Chalmer Davee Library will be hosting an exhibit Feb. 19 to honor UW-River Falls faculty and staff for scholarly and creative works published during 2007.

Organized by library staff member Cate Dodson, "Celebrating Research, Scholarship and Creative Achievement '08" is an annual exhibit designed "to recognize the intellectual and creative achievements of faculty and staff of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls by honoring the work that goes on outside of the classroom," according to the CRSCA Web page.

Faculty and staff who wanted to be recognized this year were required to submit an application form to the library. Submitted materials include scholarly journals, fine arts displays, academic posters, funded grants and many others.

The event is more than a pat on the back for university employees, according to library director Valerie Malzecher.

"Scholarly work and creative activities help to inform the work that faculty do with students in the classroom, but it also enriches our communities, helps to grow our economy and changes lives," Malzecher said.

Last year, 91 faculty members from across the university were honored. This year, there are 101 exhibitors.

It's easy for students to forget that faculty and staff who stand in front of the classroom are more than just teachers. According to Bill Campbell, all university faculty work on projects beyond the classroom.

"For some it's a matter of thinking about and researching materials for a new unit or course; for others it's ground-breaking research, e.g. creating new molecules, developing new feeding regimens for horses to prevent disease, growing living tissue in the laboratory," Campbell said.

"Faculty research is closely linked to our most productive and engaged teaching; I am better teacher because I write, and a better writer because I teach," assistant professor Lissa Schneider-Rebozo said.

Schneider-Rebozo was too busy with her research and academic responsibilities to submit any work this year.

Whatever the work being done, it is important that students take an interest in the work produced by the university.

"I think it's important for students to know that their instructors are keeping current in their fields and breaking new

ground, otherwise they're just teaching from the text as in high school," Campbell said.

Many professors also include their students in the projects to enhance classroom learning, Campbell said.

For the last five years the library has published a booklet naming all the exhibitors with citations for their exhibits.

This booklet has been included for review by the Higher Learning Commission for the reaccreditation process this semester and was displayed for the Board of Regents last fall, according to Malzecher.

"It serves as an important record of the scholarly, creative work and grant-funded projects that our faculty and staff are involved in," she said.

The work will be on display for a few weeks in the library, but students are encouraged to attend the reception Feb. 19. Faculty and staff will be in attendance from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to talk with those present about their works. There will also be live music and refreshments.

"It's important for students to know their instructors are keeping current in their fields and breaking new ground, otherwise they're just teaching from the text as in high school."

Bill Campbell,
Director of Grants and Research

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Campus-wide events honor Black History Month

Jenna Lee
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February is known as the month of love, the month when a rodent tells you how the weather is going to be and the month that is strangely short a few days. But it is also the month of cultural pride for many around the nation. February is Black History Month.

Black History Month originally began as Black History Week in 1926 and was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Woodson hoped to inform the nation of the achievements made by the African American community. He chose the month of February to honor the birthdays of two important civil rights leaders: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Every year on campus, students, faculty and community members come together in February to celebrate Black History Month. According to Sanaa Jaman, president of the Black Student Union, BSU schedules several academic and cultural events on campus to “create awareness, share experiences and create better understanding throughout the school.”

The BSU kicked off the month with “Pizza and Obama!” Jan. 31. About 100 people showed up to discuss the 2008 presidential election and Senator Barack Obama’s historic campaign.

The next day, a panel gathered for a discussion and rap session called “Black Love: Examining black male/female relationships.” According to Nikki Shonoiki, a member of

the BSU, it was a small gathering of mostly BSU members. However, she thought it was very insightful for the students in attendance who were not in African American relationships. The group discussed statistics and trends concerning marriage, relationships and pregnancy within the black community.

One of the biggest events planned for Black History Month took place Feb. 12. Jane Rhodes, an author and speaker, held a reception and book signing at 2:30 p.m. in the University Center. Following the book signing, Rhodes gave a lecture called “Framing the Black Panthers.” This lecture (by which Rhodes’ book is also titled) explored the relationship between the news media and the Black Panther political

party.

The BSU schedule has three more events during the last week of February. On Feb. 21, “Africa Night” will begin at 7 p.m. in the Falls Room near Riverside Commons. The film “Malcolm X” will play in the Kinnickinnic River Theater Feb. 21 and Feb. 23 at 6 and 9 p.m.

Finally, Black History Month will hold its last event Feb. 27 with a Soul Food Dinner. While all the other events scheduled for Black History Month are free and on campus, the meal will cost \$3 for UWRF students and \$5 for non-students. This dinner will take place at 5:30 p.m. at the Journey House, located at 143 E. Cascade Ave.

All students, faculty, staff and community members are invited by the BSU to partici-

pate in Black History Month.

“It is important for students to attend because we need to create awareness and educate people about black history and what it means to the African

American students on campus,” Jaman said. “It’s important because as a campus we need to share our cultures with each other and expand our horizons.”

Black History Month Schedule of Events

Feb. 21: Africa Night, 7 p.m., Falls Room

Feb. 21: “Malcom X,” 6 & 9 p.m., Kinnickinnic River Theater

Feb. 23: “Malcom X,” 6 & 9 p.m., Kinnickinnic River Theater

Feb. 27: Soul Food Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Journey House (143 E. Cascade Ave.)
--\$3 for UWRF students
--\$5 for non-students

The Mars Volta’s fourth album an ‘experience’

Never heard a man speak like this man before,” snarls Cedric Bixler-Zavala, the singer/lyricist half of The Mars Volta on *The Bedlam in Goliath*. It’s like he’s speaking to himself in a thrash of tongues that, according to Volta, were inspired by aggressive spirits infested inside a Ouija board discovered in Jerusalem. Ghosts or not, The Mars Volta have made their fourth album accessible with classic rock-driven time changes (think Rush, Pink Floyd), hissing guitar trips and Middle Eastern influenced structure. It’s also their boldest album. Those time changes come quick and without notice, jabbing fast and hard. Volta’s other half, guitarist/producer Omar Rodriguez-Lopez, doesn’t rely on cheap hooks or riffs to draw you in, but scythe-like slashes that lead to incoherent



Matt Loosbrock

The album opens with “Aberinkula,” a fast paced, high falsetto of alienation. Each instrument is displayed as a technical, almost robotic form. “Have you seen the living/Tired of their own shells” Bixler-Zavala cries out immediately and aggressively, like he’s observing how we’re operating: through routine and repetitive behavior. So what does Volta do? Have not one, but two interludes, toss in distorted vocals and go ape-shit with a snake charming sax solo with enough guitar freak-outs to blow

seizures. Or how about when Bixler-Zavala screams “I’m starting to feel a miscarriage coming on,” in “Goliath,” named exactly how it sounds. Simply put, *The Bedlam in Goliath* is an experience, taking traditional song craft and kicking it into the bizarre temple that is The Mars Volta.

The album opens with “Aberinkula,” a fast paced, high falsetto of alienation. Each instrument is displayed as a technical, almost robotic form. “Have you seen the living/Tired of their own shells” Bixler-Zavala cries out immediately and aggressively, like he’s observing how we’re operating: through routine and repetitive behavior. So what does Volta do? Have not one, but two interludes, toss in distorted vocals and go ape-shit with a snake charming sax solo with enough guitar freak-outs to blow

out your ear drums. Take that!

The Bedlam in Goliath has its calm moments of serenity and tranquility, too. “Metatron” has an interrupted moment of beauty, with Bixler-Zavala crooning high over Rodriquez-Lopez’s meditated guitar work. “Tourniquet Man” is a trip of experimented sounds and hypnotizing melodies, as Bixlar-Zavala cries “Let me be your tourniquet man/let me keep you as a favor/when I hear your fingers/they will spell my name/as I trade the faces of the holders.”

The true moment of bliss lies in “Conjugal Burns,” a gorgeously eerie piece guaranteed to give shivers with words like “I’m nowhere

near the place/you sent me here to breathe/but I’m drawing closer to the present/and I’ll find a space with no memories.”

However, like their 2005 masterpiece, *Frances the Mute*, Volta’s new disc suffers from information overload. Songs can be overwhelming, like “Ilyena,” with electronic noises playing underneath tampered vocals that sound as if Bixler-Zavala was singing underwater. It’s these utterly bizarre moments, tied in with parts that can only be described as a cluster, of noise that bog the album down. Don’t let it turn you off. When *The Bedlam in Goliath* is finished, it’s their message’s confession, repentance and faith mutating into science that will haunt you. And it shouldn’t be any other way.

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Matt is a senior double majoring in music and creative writing who likes lots of music types, old and new (save for modern country, which is not his thing).

Hudson, McConaughey reunite for lackluster ‘Fool’s Gold’

A.J. Hakari

Usually, the term “fool’s gold” refers to a mineral that can be mistaken for real gold. But when applied to a new adventure/comedy of the same name, though, the gold is the amount of moolah the flick will pull in opening weekend, and the fools are those souls unfortunate enough to endure this boring crud.

Having slogged through “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days” together, Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson reunite to play Finn and Tess, a married couple on the verge of divorce. While she wants to settle down and complete her degree, he’s off gallivanting on an endless search for buried treasure.

But their divorce hasn’t been final for five minutes before Finn presents Tess with evidence of the potential find of their lives: the Queen’s Dowry, a lost Spanish treasure trove worth hundreds of millions. In no time, the pair is in hot pursuit of the loot. But they’re going to have to work fast to track it down, because a rap mogul (Kevin Hart) that Finn once crossed has gotten word of the Queen’s Dowry as well, going so far as to hire Finn’s former mentor (Ray Winstone) to uncover it first.


There are few things I hate more than a movie that overestimates itself to a fault, and

“Fool’s Gold” is indeed such a flick. In the wake of the huge success of the “National Treasure” movies, you can just feel that the people behind “Fool’s Gold” are trying way too hard to stake out a potential franchise of their own. But everything the film does to try to impress itself upon the viewers only contributes to its annoyance factor. The script comes jam-packed with way too many “endearing” characters, who are more along the lines of stereotypical caricatures.

It also has a strange habit of having a character say a humorous line (in how the objective is to come across as funny; whether or not it succeeds is another matter), then waiting a few beats before someone else says something. It’s almost as if the writers

ty. But whereas at least a good part of “The Holiday” actually worked, you’ll have better luck finding your own stash of buried treasure than you will finding any real entertainment value out of this hollow venture.

A.J. is a senior year journalism student. He enjoys all genres, but he digs horror and documentaries the most.



Ken Weigend

It’s hard to pinpoint exactly where cinema went wrong. Somewhere along the celluloid highway it became acceptable to shoot a sub par script with the excuse of an exotic location backed by a cookie-cutter cast of Cracker Jack reject stock characters. Enter “Fool’s Gold,” the latest Hollywood feast of flesh that stresses not smart plotting but sun-baked hotties running amuck in places the average movie-goer can only dream of visiting.

In this sense, “Fool’s Gold” morphs itself into a travelogue intent on merely bragging about its locale while serving as a subversive ad for your local gym and sun tan parlor. Brought in to guide you through this bronzed plastic oasis is Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson. This time around, the pair aims to cure audiences’ winter blues by delivering a jolt of island electricity a la “Into the Blue.”

Ben “Finn” Finnegan (McConaughey) is a surfer-bum turned treasure hunter obsessed with discovering the Queen’s Dowry, a centuries-old booty of 40 chests overflowing with the glittery promise of a fresh start. Finn has sunk everything he has, including his marriage to Tess (Hudson), into his quest for glory and gems.

Discovering a vital clue to the treasure’s whereabouts, Finn finagles his way back into Tess’s life by charming his way onto the yacht she now works on. Using his school-boyish charisma, Finn convinces the yacht’s owner, billionaire Nigel Honeycutt, (Donald Sutherland) and his Blackberry toting bimbo daughter (Alexis Dziena), into a romp across the

South Seas in search of the legendary Spanish wreckage.

Along for the ride is a bevy of hackneyed characters so stereotyped they defy convention. Director Andy Tennant should be applauded for assembling such a diverse but forgettable cliched troupe.

The end result of mashing all these cardboard cut-outs together is something akin to squeezing them all into a blender and hitting puree. Will it blend? Obviously not! Tennant seems to suffer from identity crisis as he scotch-tapes this spoof of common sense together; he can’t seem to decide whether to pursue the lackluster action plot or the sexless romantic comedy. Borrowing heavily from his sources of inspiration, films such as “National Treasure” and “Sahara” may even consider pressing charges for identity theft.

Not even the cast seem to care about what’s going on; perhaps they signed merely for a free trip to the Caribbean. Most of the females, led vivaciously by Dziena, degrade themselves into little more than moving bikini models, and the dialogue delivered is so trite and laughable that the entire cast may as well be reading lines from the Peanut’s parents.

In the end, the film works as troubled doppelganger. The movie sets out with a cavalier attitude, hoping to coast along the very waves it is shooting. Banking that the promise of hot beach bods will bring bundled up patrons in from the snow, “Fool’s Gold” almost seems content as being a colorful and fleshy, but ultimately futile, escape from commonplace life.

Ken is a junior journalism major with a minor in film studies. He is an aspiring film critic and an avid DVD collector.

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thought that these lines would absolutely kill, so they’d better pause for a bit for the assured laughter to clear up.

As for the performances, the acting’s only as good as the material allows the performers to be. McConaughey can play the role of the lovable goofball in his sleep, so he makes it through the production relatively unscathed. I also have to give credit to Hudson, who I’m not that big a fan of, for not allowing her character to unravel and end up coming across as a one-note shrew.

In the end, “Fool’s Gold” reminded me a lot of “The Holiday,” in that the film pretty much exists just to be pret-



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.





Barack Obama



Hillary Clinton



Mike Huckabee



John McCain



Ron Paul

Wisconsin presidential primary set for Feb. 19

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When the Wisconsin primary comes around next Tuesday, the republican side may be cut and dried. But the Democratic side will be a showdown, and Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois message of change is what resonates with younger voters, and may be the deciding factor.

Republican front-runner Sen. John McCain of Arizona owns a nearly insurmountable lead of 812 delegates to former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee's 217. Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney withdrew from the race after a disappointing Super Tuesday, when he gained only 201 delegates.

"If this were only about me, I'd go on. But it's never been only about me. I entered this race because I love America, and because I love America. In this time of war, I feel I have to now stand aside for our party and for

"Obama will bring out people who wouldn't otherwise vote."

Davida Alperin,
UWRF Political Science
Chair

our country," Romney said in a Feb. 7 speech.

The Republicans must win 1,191 delegates to earn the nomination, whereas the democrats race to 2,025. McCain has a 595-delegate lead on Huckabee, but Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York and Obama are nearly tied, with Obama having a slight edge after sweeping last week's "P o t o m a c Primaries."

Candidates have spent millions of dollars and countless hours attempting to gain the youth vote and no candidate has been more successful than Obama.

All of the candidates have official Facebook groups where people can "support" their particular candidate. Ron Paul has the most Facebook supporters for Republicans, recording nearly twice as many as McCain, even though Paul has only won 16 delegates.

But it is Obama whose impact is really being felt on the social networking site. All of the supporters of McCain, Romney, Huckabee, Paul and Clinton added together (301,395) don't even come close to Obama's 385,104 supporters.

"I really appreciate Obama's ability to lead and look for alternative solutions to problems," senior Christine Selby said. "I also think he is an example of what good leadership should look like in a lot of ways in his ground up efforts. I also think he is extremely intelligent."

Obama's official Web site notes the impact his "Yes We Can" message about change has had on students in particular.

"Senator Obama's candidacy for President has inspired millions of young Americans to believe in their power to make America great again," reads the intro on the Students for Obama Web page.

Acting Political Science Chair Davida Alperin is not a student, but sees the immense student support for Obama.

"I think he's really clear about

wanting not just policies to be different but our approach to politics to be different," Alperin said. "Obama will bring out people who wouldn't otherwise vote."

Obama owns a 1,253-1,211 delegate lead over Clinton after sweeping the three Feb. 12 primaries in Washington D.C., Virginia and Maryland, setting up a Feb. 19 showdown.

"Because Wisconsin is one of the last states to vote, we will be making a large impact on who becomes the Democratic candidate," senior Kim Betzold said.

The timing of the primary is intriguing seeing that it lies between Super Tuesday and the primaries in important states like Ohio and Texas.

"I think it's [democratic nomination] still in play," Alperin said. "Four years ago Wisconsin and Minnesota

didn't have much say."

This Tuesday's Hawaii caucuses and the primaries in Wisconsin and Washington are set to be the next battlegrounds between the two potential Democratic nominees. The competition between Clinton's focus on working-class voters and Obama's attention to young voters will be an interesting subplot to follow as the Wisconsin primary unfolds.

"If we would only get out there to vote we can make a huge difference. It's all about using our voice through the power of the vote."

Joy Stanton,
UWRF junior

Stanton represents the excitement generated by the Obama campaign. She said she would probably vote for a Republican, or Obama. Depending on how well excitement translates into votes, she may have to make that decision come November.

River Falls gearing up for local district elections

Primary basics

Every year Wisconsin holds elections on the first Tuesday in April for offices including Judges, City Council, County Board, Town Board, and School Board. In 2008 the spring general elections will be held on April 1.

Primary Elections are held when there is more than twice the number of candidates as the available seats. This year there will be primary elections for Judges in Saint Croix County, the River Falls School Board, the River Falls District 4 Alderperson, and the Pierce County Board district 6 representative. Local Primary Elections will be held on Feb. 19.

To be able to vote in this election a person must be 18 years of age or older by Feb. 19, a U.S. citizen and have maintained a residence in Wisconsin for 10 days prior to the election. Students from other States can vote in Wisconsin if they have lived here for 10 days; this includes students who live on campus.

The UWRF Student Senate has printed an insert in this week's paper that shows the polling locations for residents of the city of River Falls. Students who live on campus vote in the Falls room on the lower level of the UC. Polling locations are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 19.

To find your polling location if you live elsewhere use the River Falls Votes Web site at: www.uwrf.edu/riverfallsvotes.

On that Web site, students can also find information for what to bring to the polls for same day voter registration.

"Hopefully students will have heard about the election many times before Tuesday" according to Thomas Friant, a leading member of River Falls Votes "The reason so much information is out there is because it is important."

School Board

The School District of River Falls has two seats up for elec-

tion in 2008. Both of the previous incumbents have decided not to run and a number of people have filed papers to run for the seats.

Because of the quantity of candidates there will be a primary election Feb 19. The four people that receive the most votes will move on to the general election April 1. Since there are two open seats, voters can vote for two candidates.

The six candidates for the school board include two well-known people on campus: Dustin Pfundheller, a previous member of the UW- River Falls Student Senate, and Rellen Hardtke, a professor in the physics department.

Other candidates on the ballot are Eunice Beauchman, Geoffrey Force, Peggy Foster-Harris and Stacy Johnson-Myers.

"My family background of having my parents as educators has helped create my interest in an education system that helps build the citizens we need for a successful America," Pfundheller said about the election, "I will work to guarantee the education that future generations need to be successful in all of their endeavors".

"Data from around the U.S. shows that excellent public education and higher graduation rates dramatically decrease local crime, drug use, poverty, and incarceration rates," Hardtke said in the Facebook group "Hardtke for School Board." "As a district, we should also recognize that young people learn in a variety of ways. We should continue to support educational options that capitalize on these different learning styles and pay attention to current research on best practices in education".

County Board

Nikki Shonoiki, 20, a UW-River Falls junior, is running for county board in District 6. This district, wards 9 and 10 of the City of River Falls, includes all of the River Falls campus and residence halls.

Shonoiki has held leadership



(From left to right) Ben Plunkett, Nikki Shonoiki, Rellen Hardtke and Blake Fry are running for local public office. Shonoiki and Hardtke will run on the Feb. 19 ballot, while Fry and Plunkett wait till April 1.

positions on campus as the co-chair of the Diversity Awareness Committee as well as on the Student Senate, where she holds the position of Diversity and Women's Initiatives director. She is also a member of the Black Student Union on campus.

The Pierce County Board deals with many issues that affect students such as roads, public health issues, recycling and environmental issues, the Sheriff's Department, agricultural issues, economic development and job creation.

"I made the decision to run because I realized that the vast majority of this district is made up of students, and we have been grossly underrepresented in our local government," said Shonoiki. "I believe that I will be better able to represent the student body than any other candidate".

The elections for this seat have been closely contested in the past. Two years ago the result was a tie and the winner,

Mike Larson, was determined by a coin toss.

This year there are three candidates, so there will be a primary Feb. 19 with the top two candidates advancing on to the election April 1.

Pat Hagan has "served in technical positions with the U.S. Army and National Guard" as well as worked in manufacturing with degrees in engineering physics according to a Feb 13 article in the Pierce County Herald.

Mike Larson has served on the Board for eight years and is running again. Larson served on many committees in his eight years on the board, according to the Herald article. These include "Health and Human Services, Law Enforcement, Land Management, Building, Fair, Highway, LCC, Extension, Drug Court and Emergency Management.

Compiled by Ben Plunkett

OFFICIAL PRIMARY BALLOT
FEBRUARY 19, 2008
FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE VOTE & NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

503

NOTICE TO ELECTORS: THIS BALLOT MAY BE INVALID UNLESS INITIALED BY 2 ELECTION INSPECTORS. IF CAST AS AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, THE BALLOT MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK OR DEPUTY CLERK.

IMPORTANT: USE ONLY A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED.
DO NOT USE RED INK!

To vote for the candidate of your choice, complete the arrow to the RIGHT of the candidate's name. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, write the person's name on the line provided and complete the arrow to the RIGHT of the line.

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE VOTE

In the Presidential Preference Election, if you vote more than once, your vote will not be counted.

To vote for the candidate of your choice, or for the unaffiliated candidate, complete the arrow to the RIGHT of the candidate's name or to the RIGHT of "Unaffiliated Candidate". To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, write the person's name on the line provided and complete the arrow to the RIGHT of the line.

Consent ONE arrow ONLY for this office ONLY within the party of your choice.

YOU HAVE 1 OF 3 OPTIONS:
Express your preference for one of the persons whose name is printed on this ballot, or
Vote for an unaffiliated delegation from Wisconsin to the national convention of the party of your choice; or
Vote in the name of another person to become the Presidential candidate of the party of your choice.

IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE ELECTION, YOU MAY ONLY VOTE ONCE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

BARACK OBAMA
HILLARY CLINTON
JOE BIDEN
MIKE GRATEL
CHRIS DODD
BARACK OBAMA
JOHN EDWARDS
BILL RICHARDSON
UNSTRUCTURED DELEGATION

Write-In

REPUBLICAN PARTY

EDUCAN HURTER
FRED THOMPSON
TON TANCREDIO
MITT ROMNEY
RON PAUL
MIKE HUCKABEE
JOHN MCCAIN

COUNTY SUPERVISOR
DISTRICT 6
(Vote for ONE)

PAT HAGAN
NIKKI SHONOIKI
MIKE LARSON

Write-In

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RIVER FALLS

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
(Vote for ONE)

EUNICE BEAUCHMAN
GEOFF FORCE
DUSTIN PFUNDHELLER
PEGGY FOSTER-HARRIS
RELEN HARDTKE
STACY JOHNSON-MYERS

Write-In

OFFICIAL PRIMARY BALLOT
FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE VOTE & NON-PARTISAN OFFICE
FEBRUARY 19, 2008

For
CITY OF RIVER FALLS

Ballot Issued By

Signature of Issuance Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Absentee Ballot Issued by

Signature of Issuance Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Certification of Elector Assistance
I certify that the within ballot was marked by me for an elector, who is authorized under the law to have assistance upon request, and as directed by the elector.

(Signature of assisting elector)

PIERCE COUNTY, DISTRICT 2
WARDS 9 & 10