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Falcon seniors make last mark on basketball court

STEVEN'S COLUMN, PAGE 5
Columnists provides perspective on Barack Obama

GOSPEL CHOIR, PAGE 7
Twin Cities choir to give performance for UWRF



'Great Debate' takes place just in time for Wisconsin Primary

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On the eve of one of the most important presidential primaries in Wisconsin history, the College Republicans, College Democrats and Socialist Alternative groups on campus participated in a debate in the University Center. The three groups discussed controversial topics: education and foreign policy, with an emphasis on the war in Iraq. Nick Carow and Dan Mahr were the representatives for the College Republicans; Frank Freeman and Matt Dale for the College Democrats; and Nick Schillingford and Alex Halverson for the Socialist Alternative.

The moderator for the debate was political science professor Neil Kraus.

"I believe a debate such as the one we had last night is an important way to hear an exchange of ideas on important matters," Kraus said in an email interview. "It seems to me that a college campus is one of the best places to have such a debate."

The first topic of debate for the night was education. Mahr, began the conversation with the advocacy of free school choice for all parents.

"[We] must be dedicated to delivering world-class education," proclaimed Mahr. "We should allow funds to follow students in their school choice."

Mahr and Carow emphasized the success of charter schools, which are similar to private schools because they are separate from the public school system, but different because they are not affiliated with a religion.

Freeman spoke for the College Democrats, emphasizing the failures of the No Child Left Behind legislation. Freeman argued that the public school system is an adequate system that needs improving, especially in the urban areas.

"[The problem is that] the teachers are spending time teaching to the test, not the curriculum," Freeman said. "Progress is not shown because of a flawed system."

The Socialist Alternative brought context to the both topics of debate.

"The educational system has a history of institutionalized funding and segregation," Schillingford said.

Shillingford argued that the measurement of the success of the public education system should take into account other aspects of life such as environment. He proposed that the educational system should remain independent of the two political parties and to provide funding by taxing the "mega-rich."

After twenty minutes of open discussion, the debate shifted to foreign policy and the war in Iraq.

The Socialist Alternative

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Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

UWRF students line up at the University Center to cast a vote for candidates in the Wisconsin presidential primary.

Voters hit the polls at UWRF

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UW-River Falls students braved the cold weather on Tuesday to turn out and vote in the Wisconsin presidential primary in the University Center.

Bush administration, the war in Iraq and congress have all been enjoying a popularity rating of less than 25 percent

"I've been disappointed with the current administration for the last seven years and we need change," senior Katie Bollig said.

Presidential results

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama and Republican candidate John McCain came out as the winners in Tuesday's Wisconsin presidential primary.

"More than four times as many people voted in the Democratic party than the Republican party, and the clear winner is Obama," Kinders said.

Obama gained 58 percent of the Democratic vote in Wisconsin beating out Hillary Clinton who took 41 percent of the votes.

In Wisconsin John McCain took 55 percent of the votes with Huckabee trailing behind with 37 percent of the votes.

Local results

UWRF faculty members and students were also on the primary ballot running for local government positions.

Rellen Hardtke, a professor in the physics department; Geoffrey Force, a part time professor in the Geography department and student Dustin Pfundheller ran for seats on the River Falls School Board.

"I've been concerned with education for a long time. My family thinks education is really important," Hardtke said.

There were six candidates running for two seats on the school board. The primary election was meant to eliminate two candidates so that there will be only four candidates on the ballot for the April 1 election.

Successful on campus

The polling station in the Falls Room of the University

See Primary, page 3

Full moon disappears over UWRF



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

A lunar eclipse was visible in the eastern sky Wednesday at 9 p.m. Partial lunar eclipses only occur between two and four times each year. The next total lunar eclipse will not be visible again in North America until Dec. 21, 2010.

CAS up for reaccreditation

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UW-River Falls is going through the reaccreditation process and University officials want everyone on campus to be informed about the University.

"Every so often, about every seven to ten years depending on the institution, every institution of higher education has to receive accreditation," Brad Caskey, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences said. "This basically states that [the institution] is doing its job of educating students."

On April 21 and 22, members of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will be visiting UWRF to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the University.

"Their job is to [evaluate] what we do well across the board," Caskey said. "Academics, student services, facilities, financial aid—everything and anything you can think about."

The HLC Web site goes into more detail

about the reaccreditation process. The HLC evaluates an entire educational institution as a whole, and, in accordance with the aspects Caskey mentioned, it also evaluates the institution based on governance, administration, institutional resources and relationships with internal and external constituencies, according to the Web site.

The tangible form of the reaccreditation process is a document that is about 275 pages long.

"What we do is prepare a report and we address some issues laid out for us," Caskey said. "We have just completed a two-and-a-half year process of writing this document that says 'here is what we are doing, here is what we think we are doing well and here are where the challenges lie.'"

Caskey had been directly involved in the writing of this document along with other UWRF faculty, students and staff. Jennifer

See Reaccreditation, page 3

Org started for military vets

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In the upcoming weeks, a new organization for all the military veterans on campus, both student and faculty, will be getting off the ground.

The UW-River Falls Veterans Club is primarily for veterans to socialize with each other, receive benefit information and keep up with legislation.

"[The club] has been an idea that has been bounced around

in some of the groups for quite a while now," club president Dave Till said. "Last semester we finished all the paperwork as far as getting it going."

The club is mainly for veterans, but is open to anybody.

"We want to get the campus involved and let them know what veterans have done," co-founder Ben Dreher said.

This will not be the first veterans club at UWRF.

"There was one during Vietnam, but that had a lot

bigger issues to deal with as far as negative publicity," Till said. "There have been other ones in the past that didn't get fully off the ground."

According to the UWRF Web site, there was also a veterans club from 1947 to 1950.

"There were very active vets social networks following World War II that actually led to major changes in academic offerings," Director of Public Affairs Mark Kinders, who is

See Vets, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Alvarez, Onega talk about work in Kenya

Linda Alvarez and Brian Onega will be talking about their work in Kenya, which includes a project for children. The talk will take place noon Tuesday in the Global Connections Office, which is in 102 Karges Center.

Pre-Vet Club offers GRE study sessions

On Tuesday evening's this semester the Pre-Vet Club will be having group study sessions for the upcoming GRE exams. The sessions will take place from 7-8 p.m. in the lower level of the University Center, next to the Riverside Commons.

Volunteer Carnival at Newman Center Monday

Students who are interested in learning more about volunteer and service opportunities in River Falls are encouraged to attend the Volunteer Carnival from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday. The event will also include games, prizes and food. The Newman Center is located on Cascade Avenue across from KFA.

Annual Soul Food Dinner to happen Wednesday

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 from 5:30-7 p.m. Tickets will be sold in the University Center from 11-2 leading up to the dinner.

Vaccination Clinic to take place Wednesday

Students will be able to get their Hepatitis B, Tetanus, MMR, Meningoccal and Hepatitis A vaccines at free or reduced cost between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in the University Center. The clinic will take place in the Timbelle Room, 231.

The Good Person of Setzuan to be performed

The Davis Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building is the location for the play *The Good Person of Setzuan*. The play will be performed Feb. 28-March 1 and March 6-8. All shows will begin at 7:30 p.m. Student tickets are \$4 and adults are \$7. This play is inspired by ancient Chinese folk tales.

Runway to Success returns to campus

Starting at 8 p.m. March 6, the Runway for Success will be taking place in the Entertainment Complex of the University Center. Students who attend will be able to learn about fashion trends that are appropriate for a work environment. The event is free and put on by Career Services.

Voice Shorts compiled by Student Voice staff

Check out the Student Voice 24/7

online at:

www.uwrfvoice.com.

The Voice Web site has polls, photos, bios and more.

Tune in to WRFW 88.7 FM

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

Senate discusses United Council, student committees

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Tuesday's Student Senate meeting was launched with a presentation by United Council of UW Students Executive Director Nicole Juan and Multicultural Issues director Shaltreese McCoy. United Council is a primarily student-run organization designed to lobby the Wisconsin Legislature. United Council focuses on issues such as tuition, financial aid, and multicultural/campus climate issues, and also provides training regarding campus (e.g. Senate operations and voter registration) procedure. UW-River Falls opted out of United Council two years ago due to a Student Senate decision that the expense of membership (approx. \$20,000/year) was in excess of the return on UWRF student investment. A vote concerning UW-River Falls renewed participation in United Council is slated for next spring semester.

Multicultural Issues and Womens Initiatives co-director Nikki Shonoiki spoke to United Council's credit (having worked with them). "They definitely do help all the campuses they work with, including [UW-River Falls]," she said. "They help out all the time ... all you need to do is ask." United Council will be conducting a conference dubbed "Building Unity" from April 11 until April 13 in Madison. This conference is designed to gather student concerns regarding access (focusing on minority groups as defined by race, gender and sexual orientation) to higher education.

The Senate meeting then moved on to Shared Governance Director, Terry Halverson. Senator Halverson's report stressed the need for more student involvement in Senate committees, including one opening on the Shared Governance Committee, and multiple openings in each of the Legislative Affairs, Finance and Diversity Issues and Women's Initiatives Committees. Interested students can apply for committees at sa.uwrf.edu/student-senate and are encouraged to contact Halverson.

Student Affairs and Academic Services director, Jennifer Biss, reported that her committee was looking into conducting a student survey and was "looking into a student readership program" designed to make available major Wisconsin newspapers to UWRF students. Also of concern to the committee were issues regarding students' rights. Specifically concerning the committee are Public Safety's actions, as well as the smoking policy on campus. Legislative Affairs director Craig Witte was very pleased with Monday's Great Debate as well as the turnout for the Wisconsin primary held on Tuesday. He continued his report by saying that he and three other Senators will head for Madison to lobby the State Legislature.

"I think the polling location was really good," Witte said. However, he did express concerns about the lack of signs letting students know where to vote. Finance director Jason Meier noted that the finance committee was still looking into options for the Senate reserve account. He concluded his report with

comments regarding a decision to provide CNN to the dorms. Shonoiki said that applications to participate in the "Building Unity" conference are due on Friday, Feb. 22. Co-director Laura Adrian spoke of the upcoming 'Take Back the Night' event coming up the week after spring break. Planned events include: a live band, keynote speaker, and an open-mic session "where students will be free to share their experiences and thoughts concerning violence towards women and sexual assault." No specific date for this event is set. Vice president Sara Dieck thanked everyone for the work they did in the Primary Election process. President Derek Brandt followed up on last week's business of the Senate election process, commenting that, "for this election...we will be leaving it in its current form, electronic polling online." He also commented on the election committee's concern with proper campaigning processes and locations. Leadership and Programming Board chair Mike Defenbaugh expressed concern about the Senate Campaigning and election process by saying the committee has "mixed feelings about [election rules]." A motion to approve J-term stipends for Brandt and Witte was passed unanimously. Two more motions concerning stipends and senate business cards were introduced. Student Senate meetings are held every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the UC. Students are encouraged to attend.

'Coffee with the Times' to spotlight weekly discussions

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The *New York Times* "Coffee with the *Times*" discussion takes place in the UW-River Falls Davee Library breezeway weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters. "'Coffee with the *Times*' was developed by the *New York Times* which is a partner of the American Democracy Project (ADP)," series coordinator and journalism department chair Colleen Callahan said. "Coffee with the *Times*" has been on the UWRF campus for three years. UWRF faculty, staff, students and community members are invited to volunteer to lead a discussion in which they pick their topic. The leaders of the discussion pick one or two *New York Times* articles they would like to discuss. The selected articles are available on the UWRF ADP Web site and at the event. "The series is not a lecture, nor a presentation, nor a debate," Callahan said in an e-mail. "Its mission is to engage people in conversation in an informal setting." Generally the discussion leader talks for 10-20 minutes; the rest of the time is for discussion among participants. The hours and days of the sessions are determined by the leaders of each discussion. At each session, there are light refreshments provided by the *New York Times*. "Discussion of current events led by individuals who are familiar, often experts in the area of discussion, is an excellent way to promote constructive dialogue among a variety of people on campus," associate vice chancellor for Enrollment Management Alan Tuchtenhagen said in an e-mail.

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. 10-
-A broken window was reported at Stratton Hall. The window and the replacement of the window was valued at \$120.

Feb. 12-
-A 19-year-old female was the victim of a hit and run accident as she was on Cascade Avenue approaching Main Street. The victim did not sustain any serious injuries.

Feb. 15-
-Kevin J. Raska, 21, was cited with disorderly conduct.

Feb. 16-
-Nate Thoreson, 18, was cited \$172 for underage drinking.
-James M. Thompson, 19, was cited \$172 for underage drinking.
-Joseph R. Ganske, 19, was cited \$172 for underage drinking.
-Joseph S. Gangl, 18, was cited \$172 for underage drinking.
-Thomas L. Lancaster, 18, was cited \$172 for underage drinking.

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Similiarites found between book, bill

Tyler Liedman
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The fantasy world of witches and wizards created by J.K. Rowling in her best-selling Harry Potter novels may be more realistic than it seems, according to professor Hilary Pollack, who Tuesday discussed her essay, “No Wizard Left Behind,” in the University Center.

Pollack, a professor in the teacher education department, is a fan of Rowling’s work, as well as an opponent of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the education bill introduced in 2001 by the Bush administration, meant to improve achievement and accountability in public schools. She said she began to notice “ominous similarities” between the two while reading “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.” In the book, the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is infiltrated by Delores Umbridge, a representative of the Ministry of Magic, the federal body of government in the magical world. While there, Umbridge implements strict and sweeping education reform, leading to controversy, confusion and rebellion among students and faculty.

“It’s so right on when we look at the problems of NCLB,” Pollack said. “It jumped out at me. I thought it needed to be said, and I said it.”

After preparation, Pollack presented her findings in May at the Phoenix Rising Conference in New Orleans.

In Tuesday’s discussion, Pollack said the goals of the NCLB legislation are unrealistic because they ignore the theory of averages: that 50 per-

cent of students must technically rank below the mean. “Educators predict that in 2014, when it will be required that all children reach levels of proficiency or above in reading and mathematics, that there will be confusion and turmoil in the schools.” “Turmoil,” Pollack said, “is played out in the novel when students are faced with a test of their own.”

Pollack also said she believes the overload of high-stakes tests included in NCLB creates an overly-stressful environment for students, and is not always an accurate measure of student achievement. She quoted Professor Umbridge from Rowling’s novel, comparing it to the rationale of the Bush Administration.

“Theoretical knowledge will be more than sufficient to get you through your examination, which, after all, is what school is about.”

To which Pollack countered: “The impact of the mandated testing that is at the core of NCLB will have profound and dramatic effects on the public education system.”

Dee McCollum of the College of Education and Professional Studies (COEPS) reiterated Pollack’s assertions about standardized testing as the single aspect of measuring proficiency, saying it forced teachers to “teach to the test.”

While many of the attendees agreed that the public education system in the United States is flawed, some, including professor Geoff Scheurman, were hesitant to point to NCLB and its policies of standardization as the sole culprit.

“I just figured people would fix it by the time it affected me,” she said “If there’s a problem, it will get fixed.

Super rally pumps up students for Obama

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Nikki Shonoiki gave a warm welcome to celebrities Kal Penn (“Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle”) and Brandon Routh (“Superman Returns”) as they appeared at UW-River Falls Feb. 14.

They were here to voice their political views at an on-campus rally; both Routh and Penn are in support of Barack Obama as our next president. Routh says Obama “has already proven he’s a leader” and “he [Obama] will inspire America to do more.”

The rally was sponsored by the UWRF College Democrats, and put together by Avery Newman. Penn and Routh gave

speeches on why they support Obama. After the speeches it was time to test the celebrities on their knowledge with some questions from the crowd. There were four main points, including education, the environment, the war in Iraq and healthcare.

After the rally there was a small amount of time when people were allowed get autographs and meet the celebrities. Penn and Routh agreed that they needed to reach out to everybody and that is why they decided to come to River Falls.

Neither were very active in politics at a younger age and although they weren’t involved, both believe it’s important for the younger people to get involved.

Change is what Obama stands for, and

both celebrities would like to see changes.

“[I want] access to affordable health care and education,” Penn said. “It’s not that they don’t want it, they can’t afford it.”

Routh had other ideas. “Pro-activity in politics, being informed about the future, and a united America ... hasn’t happened in a long time,” he said. “A president who listens to the people—these are things we can already see happening when we look at Obama.”

As a last thought, Penn told everyone in attendance to all look up the words politician and statesman, because this was the first time in a long time that we had a statesman running for the office.

Reaccreditation: Process begins

from page 1

Willis-Rivera, an associate professor of communication and theater arts, is another person who has spent time working on the reaccreditation process.

“I’ve had multiple roles in this process,” Willis-Rivera said. “I started out as one of about 50-some people gathering information on assessment. Assessment means being able to show that you’re learning what you’re supposed to learn [as a student].”

The process of getting UWRF ready for reaccreditation allowed Willis-Rivera to become more familiar with the campus.

“Before I started going to these meetings, I had no idea what HLC was or what reaccreditation meant,” Willis-Rivera said. “During this process I have come to appreciate so much more everything that this University has.” Willis-Rivera has also served on a committee for campus awareness of the reaccreditation efforts. That committee has come up with ideas to get students and staff involved in the reaccreditation process.

“One thing we’re going to be doing over the course of the next two months is an awareness campaign that focuses on students, staff and faculty awareness of what’s going on,” Caskey said. “Jennifer [Willis-Rivera] and I have come up with five particular contests that students are going to be involved with.”

The contests will start on the week of Feb. 25 and will involve such activities as a word find in the reaccredita-

tion document and a scavenger hunt around town, Caskey said. Prizes will be awarded to the students who win each particular contest and all of the students that complete at least one of the contests will have their name placed in a drawing for the grand prize.

“The ultimate goal is to get the whole campus educated about reaccreditation,” Caskey said. “It’s not unlikely that one of the visitors [member of the HLC] could walk up to anyone on campus and say ‘tell me about some assessments that are going on in your classes,’ or ‘what do you think about the facilities here?’”

Caskey and Willis-Rivera stressed that being an accredited institution is extremely important and it has a profound impact on students and everyone else at the University.

“No accreditation [means] no federal financial aid for students,” Caskey said “No federal financial aid [means] no students. No students, no University.”

Caskey, Willis-Rivera and all of the other people who have worked over the past two-and-a-half years on the reaccreditation process do not foresee UWRF not getting reaccredited, but they want everyone to be informed about the University.

“I’m grateful to know that the whole University is working towards reaccreditation because it not only assists me in trying to get into grad. schools, but it also gives me the simple satisfaction of knowing that I’m getting a quality education at UWRF,” student Jeff Milliren said.

Vets: Club prepares for first meeting

from page 1

also the club’s faculty advisor, said in an e-mail interview. “Those returning with the GI Bill wanted more than the limited choice of a teaching degree.”

“As a Marine Corps veteran with a son currently deployed in Iraq in the Marines, I was delighted to help out when I was asked to be the club adviser,” Kinders said.

The club has no members currently, since they have not had a meetin, but there are over 200 veterans on campus.

Till said that people know about the club and that he expects there to be over 50 people at the first meeting.

“Some future projects we have been talking about are having a spot where veterans

can go to hang out and maybe there would be coffee and snacks,” Till said. “A little corner, or nook, or something like that.”

Something simple as that could be beneficial.

“You feel out of place coming back [from Iraq],” Dreher said. “[the club] gives you a sense of family or community, and helps you feel more at ease.”

The club is ambitious, and will be doing more in the future than holding meetings.

“We would like to roll it out to have a say and get involved in some of the legislation that’s being put out at the state and federal level,” Till said.

The club’s meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 25 in the University Center’s Wind Room.

Primary: Students show up to vote

from page 1

Center reported 775 residents and students voted at their station.

“I think it was a good turn out,” Carol Zalusky, an election official, said. “I thought maybe 1000, but you never know.”

The UWRF Student Senate worked hard over the past weeks to pre-register students to vote.

“I think our pre-registration efforts helped out a lot,” Craig Witte, director of Legislative Affairs for the Student Senate, said. “It helps establish a pattern of life-long voters. I think that’s huge.”

Senate pre-registered over 500 students to vote and 270 more voters registered on the day of the primary, according

to Zalusky.

“This is the first year I’ve noticed where there was a significant amount of students helping out,” senior and volunteer Joe Eggers said.

“I believe that this election has more moderate and diverse candidates,” UWRF student Hasnain Rahman said.

Students may have been drawn to the polls due to the many issues being brought up by the presidential candidates.

Issues such as the war in Iraq and the economic recession may be important to students, Mark Kinders, Public Relations director and Legislative Liason for UWRF, said.

“The State of Wisconsin, especially students, has been paying attention to issues,” Kinders said.

For extended coverage of the elections check out www.uwrfvoice.com.

Debate: Opposite opinions presented

from page 1

representative Halverson began the second half of the debate with a historical reference to Chile’s tyrant government during the 1970s. He used the historical context to bring forth the problems with the current U.S. foreign policy.

“Competition for foreign

resources drives policy and that, ultimately, puts the country in danger,” Halverson said..

Organizers of the event were pleased with the event.

“Overall, I thought the debate was a success,” Kraus said. “Perhaps we might change the format slightly in the future, but overall it went well.”

CLASSIFIEDS

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EDITORIAL

Student advertising required outdoors

UW-River Falls is desperately in need of space devoted to student advertising.

While media like the Student Voice and WRFW are good for promoting campus events, we can only do so much. We can't print everything that we come in contact with; the paper is just not big enough. And there are not enough hours in the day for WRFW to talk about every single event that happens on campus and in the River Falls and surrounding communities.

There is a simple solution that can still fit into this University's plan for campus beautification. We need advertising on campus that's not just in one spot in the University Center.

The addition of the University Center initially seemed like a good idea. Students thought they would be able to promote their events in a bigger and better way.

Also, residence halls and classroom buildings have strict regulations on where you can post messages as well as what kinds of messages you can post. That makes it difficult to get the word out. Those who make the announcements usually put a lot of hard work and creativity into creating them.

Community members should also be able to post information for students. If a local coffeehouse is hosting an Open Mic Night, they should be able to get the word out to this campus community.

In order for advertising to be effective, it must catch someone's eye. If campus was to place three or four outdoor bulletin boards around campus, students would have more knowledge about what's going on and might even want to stay around more often for the weekends.

These message boards should be placed in high-traffic locations, such as between the Ag. Sci building and Hagestad Hall, in between the University Center and KFA and somewhere on the east end of campus.

However, it seems like the desire to keep the campus pretty might be getting in the way of an idea like this being put into effect. But it shouldn't. These boards can be designed to look nice and can be maintained to keep them from looking trashy.

UW-Eau Claire and the University of Minnesota have boards like these outside and people stop, read and become informed.

University administration frequently asks students to get involved on campus. This would be a painless yet perfect way to let people know what they *can* get involved in.

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

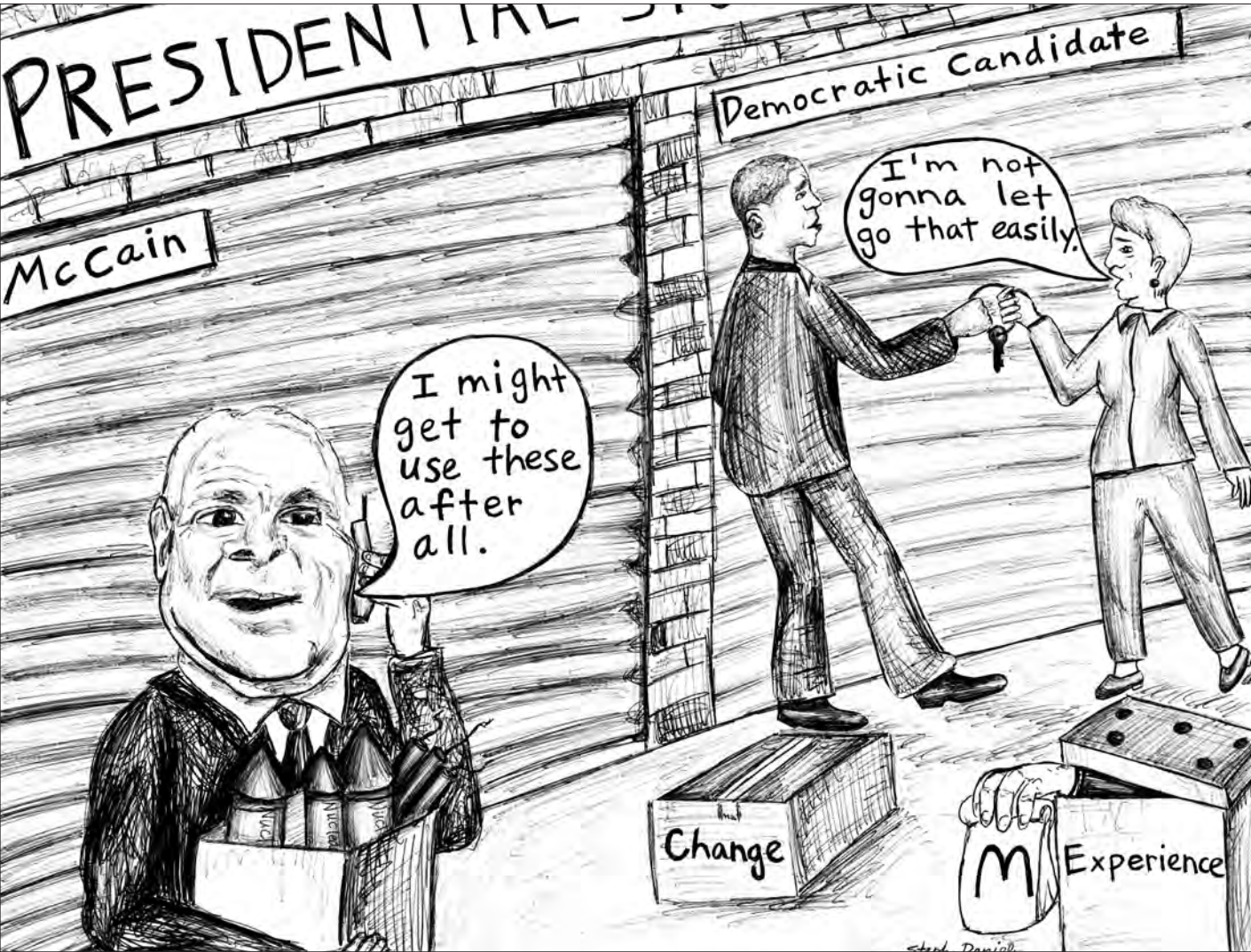
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Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

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

Plastic bags don't belong in recycling

As your article on Recyclemania correctly points out, plastic bags shouldn't go into campus or city recycling bins. However, there are local stores that do have plastic bag recycling bins.

Locally I've used the one at the entrance to Econofoods.

Walmart in Hudson also recycles plastic bags, as do the Byerley's stores in the cities.

There are certainly others. It is easy to stockpile these plastic bags until you are going to be shopping at one of these spots, thus keeping them out of our landfills.

William Cordua
Geology professor

Students should take voting role seriously

As I write this, the polls haven't closed yet. In fact, they haven't even opened. However, I can predict what will happen. I've seen it before. Students will turn out for Tuesday's primary election late and vote for a number of candidates they haven't even heard of. It's doubtful that many of them will have done enough research to have a real valid reason for casting their vote.

Most likely they are much like I am, swept up in the hoopla for a particular candidate and are unable to separate fact from hysteria. I know my pessimistic tale of voter apathy comes too late for the Wisconsin primary, but maybe it will change someone's opinion about voting in November, or even, brace yourself, in April. How many people knew there was an election in April?

In five years, I have worked on four elections, trying to get students registered and out to the polls. I don't have an exact number, but I think I've registered somewhere in the ballpark of 15 million students around campus; at least it seems like it. To put this in a context many of you might understand, a hockey player's jubilation after scoring a goal is a lot like what I feel after registering a student; except there is more paperwork for me. However, for all 15 million students I've registered, there are at least 30 million who've said no.

The same students, when I was a member of Student Senate, were those who would complain about high tuition and low financial aid.

The people you are voting for, in April and especially in November, will have an impact on your life. If you will still be going to school next year, they will have a huge impact on much of your

student life. They'll determine nearly every facet of your everyday life. Try to think of one action you do during the day that the government does not have at least some involvement in. From the electricity that powers the clock that wakes you up in the morning to the TV you watch as you fall asleep, government has played a role in you using it. Why don't students want to help pick an individual who will be making some of those decisions for them? I've heard arguments from people that it is their right to not vote. True, I can't really argue with that. However, have we gotten so complacent as a society that we have decided to forgo any voice which we still have?

There are a million and a half ways to get answers about candidates or find out where to vote, but students seldom use

them.

In 2004, the University had approximately 70 percent of the campus vote. What were the other 30 percent doing? Voting is easy, voting is quick and voting, believe it or not, is fun.

Last week Derek Brandt, the current president of senate, wrote a letter advocating students to run for office. I couldn't agree with the encouragement more.

It's easy to complain when an organization does not get enough money or a Senate vote is too controversial, but a lot harder to be actually making those decisions. I hope anyone considering running for Senate does so. If you're not, then vote. Its easier than voting in the primary; you don't even need to register.

Joe is a political science and international studies major. He has been involved in several activities on campus, including a last year's Student Senate president.

Questions, comments, complaints? Send your letter to the editor to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

New facility to give University respect

I came to UW-River Falls in August of 2002. The past (almost) six years have gone by quickly and I have relished the opportunity to teach, coach and live in River Falls.

I won't try to blow smoke at you and say that all has been candy and flowers. Not everything has gone according to the ideal plans I had conjured up in my head.

When I first came out for my interview for the position, there was a chance for anyone who was interested to come and sit in on a Q & A session with me and find out more about me. One of the attendees was a young woman who was to be the women's swim team captain the next season. Her name was Megan Broskoff and she obviously had a somewhat vested interest in this interview.

As the Q & A went on, Megan sat off to one side and didn't say a word. She just listened and watched me very closely. Finally, the moderator asked if there were any other questions before we finished up. Megan raised her hand and was called upon. In one of those very recognizable Minnesota accents she asked "What's a California surf dude wanna coach in Wisconsin for?"

Ok, ok, I'll get to the point of this article. I've used Megan's question to remind myself why I am here constantly, and here's why: I came here to coach the UWRF swimming and diving team, teach whatever classes the powers that be feel I should teach and help build something better for the future of this wonderful university. No matter what frustrating circumstances or negative Neds and Nellies I encounter, I keep fighting for those things that I feel will help towards that end.

One of the longest running battles on this campus has been the fight to make a new HHP/athletic/recreation building a reality. People

who have been here a heck of a lot longer than me have had their hopes rise and fall on too many occasions and have a very cynical take on the subject because of broken promises and plans.

Now, the promise has come again and it is showing signs of becoming more than words. Money has been earmarked for blueprints, committees are being formed for planning and there is a cautious air of optimism permeating the cold halls of Karges and the old/new Athletics Center in Hagestad.

I have a professional stake in the new building, maybe more so than most.

If the facility goes through as planned, it will include a very nice new aquatic facility. Having spent as much time as I have in the current campus pool, I can say without a word of doubt, "IT IS SORELY NEEDED!"

The HHP/Athletic facilities at UWRF are, hands down, the worst in the conference, and that includes Ramer Field. Aside from the proposed building, there are plans to renovate Ramer, and this is another project that I feel the student body needs to get behind.

When you look at the idea as a whole it truly is something that the entire campus can be proud of.

I hope that I will be here long enough to see this project come to fruition. It's a shame to see students doing lab work in a hallway and I would very much like to see future students getting their work done in an appropriate setting. Also, it would be nice to have more than five six-foot lanes to coach a team of more than 30 people in.

This past December, the swim team hosted one of the biggest invites in the country at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center. I'd much rather do it right here on campus. Stay warm!

Coach Bill Henderson is the head coach of swimming and diving at UWRF. He received his education from Sacramento State in California.

Media numb violence within society

Last week there were five high school shootings, but how many did you actually hear about or actually care about? As a society, we have become immune to everyday violence, simply because it happens everyday. We don't want to read about any more shootings, we've seen enough of those, plus we'd rather read about Britney's latest crazy escapade anyway.

When we encounter this violent news, we no longer give it the attention that we once did, like when the Columbine shooting happened. There has been so much overexposure of these violent events that we simply tune them out and aren't very shocked or affected anymore. "Oh, it's just another shooting," we say.

Our desensitization to these horrible violent crimes is horrifying, yet we can all admit that it's true. The only time that these events affect us now is when they are close in proximity or the death toll is high, like the Virginia Tech shoot-

ing. It is utterly disturbing that these shootings have become everyday occurrences.

To some extent, it's a wonder why all students haven't become paranoid and developed phobias of going to school. It's strange, but after I graduated from high school last year, I had this feeling of relief that I would never have to be a victim of one of these violent incidents. And then there was the Virginia Tech shooting, which proved that these incidences can occur at institutions of higher education as well.

As much as we've become desensitized to these events, there are always those moments when you picture yourself in that situation, and it adds an element of uncomfortable fear to our everyday lives. No matter where we are, are we really safe, or do we even care anymore?

The media is unintentionally making us numb to violence. Now, I'm not one of those people who believe that violence should be prohibited from video games, TV and movies. I like a nice violent horror film as much, if not more, than the average American. Is violent

media responsible for corrupting all the youth of America? No. Some, maybe. The point that I'm trying to make is not that this overexposure to violence in the media can lead to violent behavior, although it can in some instances, but that it is making us indifferent to the real-life violent events around us.

The Journal of Adolescence 27 (2004) defines desensitization as "the attenuation or elimination of cognitive, emotional, and ultimately, behavioral responses to a stimulus." To me this makes the state of being desensitized equivalent to being dead. When we stop being affected by the devastating violence around us, we are truly dead. So I guess it makes sense. A dead person wouldn't care about people being killed.

Taylor Caldwell discusses this desensitization to violence best in his book, A "Pillar of Iron." "The daily spectacle of atrocious acts has stifled all feeling of pity in the hearts of men. When every hour we see or hear of an act of dreadful cruelty we lose all feeling of humanity. Crime no longer horrifies us."

Natalie is a freshman with sophomore standing who enjoys running, reading, playing lacrosse, intramurals, and of course, writing. She also DJs for WRFW on Tuesday from 6-8 p.m.

Natalie Conrad



Obama delivers only hope, not solid answers

No one, I mean no one, pushes hope like Barack Obama pushes hope. Obama is definitely in the business of selling hope, and business is good.

Every Friday night, all the college kids get their paychecks from Shopko and Starbucks and head down to Obama's Hope General Store and stock up on two or three cans of organic hope for the weekend.

Our generation has adopted Obama as the savior of modern politics, the messiah sent down from above to save us from old Washington. But as the Killers sang, "He doesn't look a thing like Jesus, but he talks like a gentleman."

And what a gentleman he does talk like. But amidst the hand shaking and baby kissing, as Obama sweeps us away with a moving oration about changing the world, he really says nothing at all.

How can one man talk so much, with so many people hanging on every word, and say so little? Here lies the essence of the Hope Salesman's pitch. Nothing need be said, as long as it sounds honest and different.

The same phenomenon can be seen on the other side of the aisle. 67 percent of Californians who said the economy was their most important issue voted for John McCain, even though McCain admitted he knows almost nothing about the economy.

All the evidence leads to the same conclusion. Issues take a backseat to image. The image of McCain: old war vet who has earned his stripes and could lead the country out of the red. The image of Obama: young, hip guy who can break old Washington (even though he's been a member of old Washington for three years) and bring about "change" (even

though he's never really specified what this "change" will entail). The image of Hillary Clinton: crazy lady ... that's pretty much it.

With Oprah as his running mate, he appears to be unstoppable. But a man can't be a President with platforms like "hope for change" and "change is something we can hope for" and "hoping will change the world."

Obama has made a great run without identifying where he stands on issues. The liberal media has tossed up softball questions to both Democratic candidates, but when the primaries are over, there will be questions that need answers. Like, where are you going to get the

money for universal healthcare without increasing the deficit? Or, what is your specific plan to control illegal immigration?

But the media isn't all to blame. Both Obama supporters and non-supporters alike haven't asked the tough questions and have just let him slide by on looks and charm.

As you get done reading this column you may ask yourself, how can one man write so much and say so very little? Well, I look at the success of Obama and I figure it's smart to stick with what works. And since the election doesn't really appear to be about issues anyway, why include them in the discussion?

But as you open your can of hope Nov. 4, don't be surprised to find a 232-year-old can of the same beans fed to the many generations before us. Washington will never be broken; that doesn't even mean anything anyway.

Caleb is a senior journalism major and economics minor who enjoys debating about politics and the NFL draft.

Caleb Stevens



Insignificant complaining comparable to that of a plague

STUDENT VOICES

What do you hate hearing people complain about?



Kennedy Cullen, senior

"People who complain about spending three dollars for a movie in town."



Jake Speich, junior

"That life is too hard."



Mike Lombardi, junior

"About being too busy, but they're most likely playing video games three or four hours a night."

Student Voices compiled by Ben Brewster.



AJ Mattson, senior

"Significant others."



Dave Broberg, senior

"Chartwells."

ion and has the option to speak out about that opinion.

You've also forgotten that your elementary school teacher taught you to be nice to others. And you've forgotten that your middle school teacher taught you to respect others and treat them as equals.

For some reason or another, you've decided to pick up a copy of this week's Voice. And with that, you're perfectly capable of making your own choices. But so is the other guy or girl. So let him or her make his or her own decision for his or her own reason during any election.

Maybe the decision of who to vote for comes from parents' recommendation. Maybe the decision is based on how well the candidates exhibit themselves in debate. Maybe it's because the candidate adheres to certain religion. It may be for a "right" reason or a "wrong" reason; nevertheless, it's a reason. He's going to vote for someone he is comfortable with, and she will too. You cannot decide that for them. Deal with it.

School (a.k.a. exams, quizzes, homework, going in general). You have three tests this week, a paper is due on Friday and you can't find time to meet with your group to practice next week's presentation. And chances are, this probably isn't the first time it's happened.

You signed up for the classes, you want the degree and this semester's tuition is paid

Big men expected to step in, assist

Every so often a college student needs to return to his or her roots. I did this just the other day, by making a trip to the Wendy's in Hudson.

Now, contrary to what I've said about Taco Bell, I think Wendy's is a delicious oasis of rapidly-delivered fulfillment. Forget Maslow's Heirarchy, I can find self-actualization at the corner Wendy's. Just make sure my fries are hot.

Already I've lost track of my original idea.

Anyway, we sit down to enjoy our meal when I notice a nearby family, also enjoying the edible heaven of Wendy's.

There were two little kids, their mother, and a big burly dude with a rough beard, empty eyes that were looking for a fight and 300 pounds of cheap beer hanging around his waist. He looked like bad news right off the bat.

A few minutes later, I see Mr. Disgruntled lean across the table and make a hitting gesture toward one of the kids. The kid ducked and the mother laughed. The guy glares at the little guy and says to his son, "Shut the fuck up, you little dipshit."

And here's where I look down at my Easy-Mac-fueled forearms and think "Gee, I'd really like to go over and pound the squirmy guts outta that guy ... but I can't. I'd get the living crap beaten out of me!"

I was stuck in a lightning-fast moral dilemma, and I didn't do anything. The family left quickly, and I walked out later angry at the guy and angry at myself.

It's a terrible situation when kids are raised around a person like that, somebody who is cheap enough and cowardly enough to tear down a kid.

Now, I've come to my actu-

al point. When I look around at other guys on campus, I see a lot of big dudes. Whether they're powerlifters, football players or big-gutted beero-holics, alot of the guys I go to school with here are bigger than I am. If I ever get into a fight with one of these people, I'm a pancake!

So I ask, I implore, and I beg all the big guys on campus to use your powers for good, and not evil.

I give kudos to my friend Kevin Callahan, a former UWRF student and a 6' 4", 300 pound, powerlifting maniac.

A maniac who is also a brave defender of the defenseless. I know he has stood up when he has needed to, so thank you, Kevin.

The man I saw at Wendy's does not deserve respect, nor does he demonstrate what it means to be "a man."

The crucial equality of the sexes does not cancel out the need for big men to step in and do some good from time to time. Whether it's stopping a too-aggressive parent, helping a little old lady get Wheat Chex off the top shelf, or preventing some act of bullying, big, strong guys can help out in a million different ways.

The fact that I'm a strapping-yet-slender (read: skinny) chap doesn't excuse me from the responsibility of stepping in when I can.

Unfortunately, I didn't do that the other day, but I hope that in the future I can find some way to help.

In the meantime, pass over the Easy-Mac. My huge biceps need some more fuel.

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.



Joe Hager



Abby Maliszewski

for. Figure out your priorities and decide what's necessary to accomplish. If you don't want to study, don't, but then I don't want to hear about how you didn't do as well as you had expected. Take some responsibility of the consequences.

Life is full of choices and you're going to have to give up things along the way. I'm not talking about your precious movie night—I believe in doing some things for oneself to retain sanity.

Maybe you can handle everything this week, but you just don't feel like it. That's the wonderful thing about college: you don't have to do anything you don't want to. Just remember that there are hundreds of students who graduate with high grades; what will set you apart from them? What do you have to offer this world? What honestly makes you better than the others?

This month's utility bill. Yes, to stay warm and keep your pipes from freezing, you'll have to be running some heat into your house. If you refuse to drop the temperature below 70 degrees, think about other ways you can stay warm. Wear heavier/warmer clothes in your house and make sure you have on some thick socks. With the price of gasoline as high as it is, pur-

chase a space heater that uses electricity instead of gas. And turn off the lights and appliances when they're not in use.

Most recently I've complained about the consistent surprises of a dried substance found on the bottom of "clean" cups and glasses after I finish drinking some water.

Whether my roommates fail to properly wash their dishes or they just don't give a shit, I have no idea. I will soon have moved my own set of eating utensils into my room for only

my personal use. This way, if there is a speck of disgustingness, I will have no one to blame aside from myself.

If you are physically or mentally capable of fixing a problem that you may have, your complaining is unnecessary and absolutely pointless. Save the energy you're tossing into the redundant words expelling from your flapping jaw and put it into solving your own problems. There's a difference among the arts of complaining, grumbling, growling or whining and simply expressing dissatisfaction or discomfort. Pick a better way. I'd like to be able to say that I go to school with college students rather than elementary children.

Abby is a marketing communications major and has nothing more to say.

Seniors step up in final season

Joe Engelhardt
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As the buzzer sounds and players from both sides hit the showers, Falcons seniors Jana Benitz and Caitlin Hunstock know that their basketball careers are coming to an end. This will be the final season for these two as both look to move on.

Although Benitz isn’t graduating this year, she will not be back with the Falcons next season.

Benitz is continuing her major in elementary education with a minor in coaching. Hunstock will be graduating at the end of the semester with a degree in sociology and a minor in criminal justice.

These Falcons aren’t just linked by year in school, but also by number of seasons played and the fact that they both transferred to UW-River Falls. Benitz came here after spending two years at UW-Stout. Hunstock transferred from West Chester University in Pennsylvania.

Even though they did not win any championships, both have received several player of the game and player of the week mentions. Hunstock was nominated for a WIAC Player of the Week award.

Benitz tied for second in UWRF record books by getting eight steals in a game against Stout earlier this season.

This game was especially meaningful for her as she was playing against her cousin. Hunstock remembers a game earlier this season when she scored 26 points, a career high, against Augsburg.

The leadership ability of these two has not gone unnoticed.

“These girls became seniors in a tough time and they have done a great job stepping in as leaders, with all the new players we’ve had this year,” coach Cindy Hovet said.

Benitz has had a rough road to get to where she is. As a freshman at UW-Stout, she was red-shirted, which means that she could only practice with the team, and was not allowed to participate in any games. She has also recovered from two knee surgeries.

When asked what they will remember most, both talked about leadership and teamwork.

“I will remember this past year because I was team leader and I learned a lot about leadership,” Hunstock said. “Like how you need patience and need to stay positive.”

Being a leader requires more than just patience and a positive attitude, as teamwork plays an important part.

“Team bonding was big for us and the team has really gelled well together over the past few games,” Benitz said. “It’s been a hard season, but it has made us stronger.”



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Falcon seniors Jana Benitz and Caitlin Hunstock will see the end of their UWRF basketball careers as the season winds down. Both Benitz and Hustock were leaders on and off the court this year.

It has been a tough season for these two seniors, but both said that they don’t regret it and wouldn’t trade it in for a second. Both had individual wishes that they wanted to see before ending their basketball careers.

“It would have been nice to have a more successful season in terms of wins and losses,” Benitz said.

Hunstock wished for a different finish.

“It would have been nice to finish the season with my twin sister, because we started together, but we couldn’t finish.”

Even though the buzzer is sounding on their basketball careers, they won’t forget what they learned and will be able to use that to further themselves in the future.

Falcon men anticipate playoffs against Saints



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Senior Wade Harstad celebrates scoring a goal against UW-Stout last Friday at Hunt Arena. This weekend, the Falcons face St. Scholastica.

Sarah Packingham
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Playoff atmosphere is in the air once again for the UW-River Falls men’s hockey team.

On Friday and Saturday night, the Falcons, ranked seventh in the country, take on the visiting St. Scholastica Saints.

UWRF is entering the series as the second seed in

Falcons at Hunt Arena 4-3 in overtime.

“They’ll come out hard, but we know we can beat them,” sophomore forward Tyler Czuba said. “We’ll have to stay out of the box.”

The last time these two teams played each other in the playoffs was in the NCHA semifinals last season when the Saints won 2-1.

The Falcons have lost to the Saints the last three times they played at Hunt Arena, stretching back to

the NCHA, while Scholastica is seventh.

The Falcons record currently sits at 16-6-3 and the Saints are 9-12-4.

However, UWRF knows they can’t take their weekend opponent lightly.

“They’re a tricky opponent,” UWRF captain TJ Dahl said. “They’re a better team than the ranking shows. We’re just going to have to jump on them early.”

In the previous two meetings between the teams, each has one victory this season. The Falcons beat the Saints in Duluth 6-3 Nov. 16, while the Saints beat the

Feb. 3, 2007.

“Although that may be a daunting statistic for some,” Czuba said. “It’s not a fact that the team is worrying about.”

The team is focusing on the fact that they are two different teams between this season and last.

While the Falcons have seven seniors on their team this season, they are still fairly young.

Dahl added that his young teammates have really stepped up from the beginning of the year until now.

“They’re so committed,” Dahl said. “It makes a great atmosphere. It makes you want to work harder.”

Everyone on the team has a common goal.

“As a senior I really want to bring a league championship back to this program,” Dahl said. “We’ve been so close in the past.”

In conference play, Dahl leads the league in points with 22, followed closely by Derek Hansberry and James Henkemeyer with 17.

Scholastica sophomore Jordan Chong is eighth in the league with 14 points. Chong is also tied with teammate AJ Tucker.

The playoffs are a best of three series, including a mini-game following the Saturday night game if necessary.

Four members of the UWRF squad have been named to the All-NCHA first team, including Patrick Borgestad, Dahl, Hansberry and Henkemeyer.

Dahl, Hansberry and Jason Usher were also named to the All-Academic team.

Both games are set to begin at 7:05 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Hunt Arena.

Men’s basketball looks toward last game of regular season

Alayne Hockman
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The UW-River Falls men’s basketball team is coming up on its final regular season game of the year at 1 p.m. against UW-Whitewater.

The season has been alright for the Falcons so far, with a record of 9-15. However, the team’s good spirits have been contributing to their successes.

“It’s really important that we come together as a team for this upcoming game,” senior captain Scott Kelly said.

Falcon basketball fans welcomed a victory against UW-La Crosse Feb. 13 during the “Kram Karges” game. Hundreds of fans cheered for the team and the environment had a positive

impact on sophomore point guard Deonte Compton.

“We feed off the energy. If the fans could come out, I’m pretty sure that would help us,” Compton said.

“It’s really important that we come together as a team for the upcoming game.”

Scott Kelly,
senior captain

Though head coach Jeff Berkhof feels that the Falcons’ season is not going as well as he would like, the team still approaches every match-up simply “to

play well and win the game.”

Whitewater’s men’s basketball team is currently nationally ranked, a Falcon victory in Saturday’s match-up would be extremely conducive to their overall success this season.

In the WIAC, eight of the nine teams will advance to the playoffs and compete in the conference tournament. The conference champion will then receive an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

The Falcons will try for a victory in the game at Whitewater Saturday.

“It’s exciting,” Compton said. “It’s nerve wracking at the same time because we don’t know which teams we will be matched up with.”



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Courtney Davis goes up for a basket against UW-Oshkosh Feb. 16

UWRF, CSS clash in rematch

The UW-River Falls Falcons men’s hockey team has had a successful season so far. Last Friday night, the Falcons defeated the Stout Blue Devils 5-3. In that game where the Falcons looked like a completely different team than the one that hosted the St. Norbert Green Knights a week prior. The Falcons were aggressive. They came out and scored three goals within the first seven minutes of the game. Simply put, it appeared that the Falcons wanted it more than the Blue Devils did. With the win, the Falcons clinched the second seed in the NCHA Peters Cup Tournament.



However, here is the tricky part. The Falcons opponent this weekend is the St. Scholastica Saints.

On paper, the Saints don’t look like an intimidating team. The Saints come into the playoff series with the seventh seed and a 9-12-4 overall record (4-7-3 in NCHA play). Prior to the start of the season, the Saints actually received a first place vote from St. Norbert coach Tim Coghlin.

The Saints haven’t really lived up to their billing this season, but they can claim possible momentum coming into the series. The Saints have won three straight games at Hunt Arena.

The Saints have turned the home ice advantage for the Falcons into their own personal house of horrors. The Saints have gotten the best of the Falcons at every turn inside Hunt Arena the last three meetings and when you take a look at the last three games, the results have been maddening.

The real dagger in this streak came in the 2007 Peters Cup Tournament semi-finals. Scholastica defeated Superior in a mini-game to set up a match-up in the Falcons favor. The Falcons came out and played a sloppy game, and the Saints got a 2-1 win sending the Falcon fans into disbelief.

The games have had their patterns as well.. The Saints have found a way to exploit the Falcon defense in all three games. The Saints have gotten 102 shots out of the net. Ritter will need to have a similar performance this weekend.

Another key to the game will be the scoring balance for the Falcons. Coach Steve Freeman made a bold move when he put TJ Dahl to the second line. This could have created a chemistry problem for the Falcons, as Dahl played with Derek Hansberry and Pat Borgestad all this season and last season as well. Instead, the second line has gotten stronger as Dahl has instantly made Tyler Czuba and Nolan Craner even better than they were prior to the switch. Dustin Norman has made an impact with his ability to blast, what we call in the booth, the Slapshot of Death.

Finally, the Falcons need to tune stuff like this column out. There is a streak for the Saints, but it does not matter when the puck is dropped at 7:05 p.m.

Gospel choir to celebrate Black History Month

Jenna Lee
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For the past three years, the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir has been coming to UW-River Falls to spread its message of love through song, and this year is no exception. The Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir will be performing a Black History Month program at 8 p.m., Feb. 27, in the North Hall Auditorium. The choir began performing in 1990 as the Minneapolis Community College (MCC) Gospel Choir. In its first year the group won one of the most important amateur contests in the state: the Amateur Talent Contest at the Minnesota State Fair. Since then, the group has won a Minnesota Music Award for Best Gospel Group and made several professional studio recordings. The TCC Gospel Choir has also performed for audiences all over the country and performed with country star Trisha Yearwood.

Gospel music can offer a very different type of concert experience for an audience member. The tradition began with black spirituals in the African-American church. “They use a different quality of voice—strong and heavy, really moving,” J.W. Park, a professor in the music department, said. But Robert Robinson, the executive and artistic director for the choir, stresses the importance of combining the cultures of his vocalists to form one cohesive group. “They all have a love for gospel music,” he said. “We try to share different styles of gospel and take people on a journey.” The musical program will include traditional African American spirituals as well as other forms of gospel such as contemporary R&B and rap-infused songs. Stephanie Webster, a vocal major, said the UWRF crowd could expect an entirely different experience of a choir than what the University choir usually performs.

“A formal concert, which we give, has clapping between songs, but gospel choirs are much more engaging, with audience participation.” Keith Carl, also a student, has seen the TCC Gospel Choir perform for the past couple of years on campus, and is excited to attend the event again this year. “It’s a very inspiring group,” he said. “Not just spiritually—I’m not huge into religion—but it’s very positive music.” Robinson believes his group is unique because of the many different backgrounds his ensemble members come from. “This is a multicultural group and there aren’t a lot of those out there,” he said. “It is amazing to me after 18 years to see people of all ages and backgrounds come together that didn’t necessarily come from the same kind of homes and backgrounds.” Members of the choir have many different professions, Robinson said. Some members are also housewives, business executives and people

already embedded in the music industry. Robinson hopes that students, faculty and community members will come participate in the program next

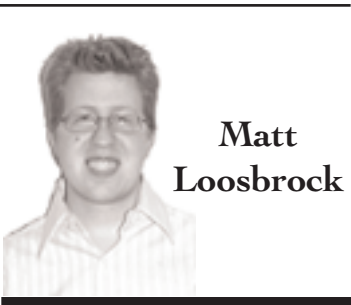
Wednesday evening. “We can all learn a little bit more about the power of the music,” he said.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice
Robert Robinson, executive and artistic director of the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir, will sing on the UWRF campus Feb. 27.

Marshall’s eclectic sound on full display with *Jukebox* album

Chan Marshall isn’t Bob Dylan. The iconic song master has written the greatest songs for nearly 60 years, while Marshall, at 36 years old, hasn’t touched half that. So when Marshall covers Dylan’s classic, “I Believe in You,” you would expect that she, like most musicians (with exceptions, like Jack White), would crumble underneath a style so monstrously beautiful (check out the “I’m Not There” soundtrack if you don’t believe me). Prepare yourself, because Marshall creates fireworks. Perhaps it’s similar heartache, Marshall’s cool, smoky voice and Dylan’s way of singing through melodies, or maybe it’s how Marshall tackles the song—taking her own route and channeling her inner demons—rather



Matt Loosbrock

than imitating Dylan. No matter. She is a master of song, finding the innermost soul and peeling it to the core. That’s how her brilliance shines in *Jukebox*, her second album of (almost) entirely covers. Through her music alter-ego, Cat Power, she takes a multitude of songs and strips them to nearly unrecognizable tunes. “New York” stands out as the most noticeable in this respect, as Marshall completely ignores Frank Sinatra and the traditional big band/Rat Pack path and turns it into something utterly sexy. No big bangs here, just a small drum kit, a guitar and a cool electric piano. She takes it easy with James Brown’s “Lost Someone,” using only guitar and a wood block. “Ramblin (Wo)Man,” a tune made famous by Hank

Williams, forgoes the country vibe—a wise move, considering the song seems to be an argument with herself, exercising personal demons haunting her since she was a child, having escaped drug abuse and insecurity. Not everything on *Jukebox* is a cover. Marshall crafted two originals on the album, “Metal Heart,” a powerfully eerie confessional about resisting the urge to lock up your deepest emotions to resist pain, and “Song to Bobby,” an upbeat (for Cat Power) song: Marshall’s ode to Dylan. “I want to tell you/I always wanted to tell you/that I never had the chance to tell you/the feeling in my from the beginning to my time of day” she says, “You were singing the songs in my head that I wanted to scream

out loud.” It’s a charming, special song for someone who Marshall has an adoring admiration for. *Jukebox* does have a tendency to sound same-y after a while, since the band rarely strays from the guitar/drum/piano line up, but clocking in at under forty minutes, it really doesn’t matter. When Marshall sings Joni Mitchell’s “Blue,” and you hear her soft voice whisper “Blue, here is a shell for you/Inside you’ll hear a sigh/a foggy lullaby/There is your song from me,” you’ll fall into her spell and say, “thank you.” *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).*

Through her music alter-ego, Cat Power, she takes a multitude of songs and strips them to nearly unrecognizable tunes.

Weak plot makes fast-paced ‘Jumper’ hard to follow



A.J. Hakari

I have to give credit to “Jumper” in one aspect of its storytelling. A sci-fi tale about people who can teleport anywhere on a moment’s notice, “Jumper” nails the fact that if most individuals had this power, they’d probably use it for such superficial reasons as getting revenge on bullies and robbing banks blind. Why fight crime when swiping some cash for yourself undetected is a breeze? Unfortunately, “Jumper” is comprised of just a handful of moments like this, not quite enough to lift the flick beyond being a diverting but ultimately confounding feature. As a teenager, David Rice (Hayden Christensen), in yet another “Mannequin Skywalker” turn) discovered that he had an unusual gift. Just by picturing a location in his mind, he found himself able to teleport (or “jump”) there in an instant. Many years and many pilfered banks later, David leads a pretty cushy life of jet-setting across the globe whenever he damn well pleases. But his world becomes a lot less safe once a secret society, led by the silver-haired Roland (Samuel L. Jackson, in a surprisingly ho-hum performance), catches up to him, an organization hell-bent on putting an end to all jumpers the world over.

Narrowly escaping imminent doom, David sets about fighting back against those determined to hunt him down, teaming up with a fellow jumper (Jamie Bell) to combat them not just to save their own skins, but also that of David’s childhood sweetie (Rachel Bilson). Just because a movie’s about people who go all over the map in an instant, that doesn’t give the plot permission to do the same. Such is the case with “Jumper,” which changes tones and scenes so fast you’re likely to be diagnosed with whiplash by the time the credits roll. This is one of those movies that realized it only had about a half-hour’s worth of plot, so it filled the remaining hour of running time with a whole lot of noise and a ton of special effects. This is all well and good, for as brutal on the eyes as it sounds, the constant jumping scenes are actually pretty cool. The teleporting surprisingly never gets tiring, especially in action sequences when stuff like a double-decker bus go hurtling through a desert. But I just wish that “Jumper” had been a little more adept at handling these scenes. On their own, they’re nice and entertaining, but the way the film jostles you around from tone to tone and subplot to subplot, you get the feeling that it’s not so much one movie as it is three or four of them scrambling for your attention all at once. When it comes to putting on a show more for the eyes than

for the brain, “Jumper” certainly gets the job done. There’s enough going on so that the film never really lags, although the flick’s fast-paced nature may frequently make you want to slap it just so it’ll settle down.

A.J. is a senior journalism student who has been reviewing movies for almost 10 years. He digs horror movies and documentaries the most.



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.

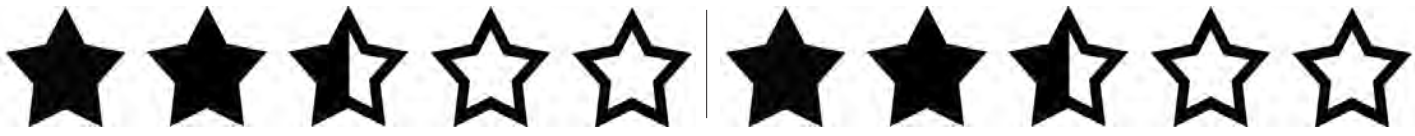
as characters and plotting. Hayden Christensen knows this better than most, having fore-fronted the blue-screen infected “Star Wars” prequels. This time, however, he tries to heat things up for Valentine’s Day with a little summer blockbuster-come-early: “Jumper.” Helmed by emerging director Doug Liman, “Jumper” tells the story of David Rice (Christensen), a lonely little outcast that has, you guessed it, a crush on the popular girl. Gifted with a genetic mutation, Rice discovers that his tortured teens are livened up by his ability to teleport across the planet. Running away from home and leaving IOUs in bank vaults around the world, Rice starts coasting through the ridiculously decadent lifestyle of penthouses and pleasure domes. His lazily ignorant existence comes crashing down when Rice gets caught between Roland (Samuel L. Jackson), a self-proclaimed pious NSA agent hellbent on hunting down the jumpers, and Griffin (Jamie Bell), a fellow Jumper devoted to hunting the hunter. The foundations lie on an intriguing sci-fi framework but nothing of value is built up around it. The movie doesn’t follow a story arc; rather it becomes a flashy and expensive advertisement for the sequels it desperately hopes will be made. Every scene, every plot contrivance is built on the hopes of an emerging franchise, with the crew stopping just short of getting on their knees and begging viewers to make it happen. Unfortunately, this self-



Ken Weigend

prophesying ruins the illusion. The cast acts like people who have already seen the endgame and are merely shuffling towards it. After disappearing for eight years and being presumed dead, Rice appears in his hometown and surprises the object of his old affections, the now grown-up Millie (Rachel Bilson). She should be floored by his apparent resurrection, but instead simply shrugs off his arrival like he’d been gone a trifling few hours. Liman, who showed excessive cool with “Swingers” and a knack for handling both action and story with “The Bourne Identity,” loses some of his film prowess with “Jumper.” The action is kept taut and is certainly cool, but no amount of CGI can keep the big bad wolf of movie coherence from blowing down this house of sticks and straw. Audiences may find themselves confused by the time the credits roll; there is not a single likable person to be found. The jumpers we’re told to root for lie, cheat and steal their way to lifestyles we can barely dream of while the government agents sent to stop them are cold-hearted murderers. Between corrupt good guys, righteous bad guys and that ‘slapped-together-five-minutes-before-being-due’ feel, “Jumper” winds up being a 90-minute commercial for its future self.

Ken is a junior journalism major with a film studies minor. He has aspirations to write film reviews as a career. His favorite genres are drama and comedy.





Comedian Jay Black entertained a crowd of about 200 students at the Falcon’s Nest in the University Center Feb. 12. Black, a New Jersey native and former high school English teacher, now spends his time performing his comedy act at colleges across the country.

Ben Brewster/Student Voice

Students face ‘Freeze-Factor’ at Winter Carnival

Stephanie Daniels
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The weather reflected the 2008 Winter Carnival theme, “Freeze-Factor,” as UW-River Falls students got together to compete in games and enjoy special events.

The competitive team component of the carnival began Feb. 8 with the “Fear the Snow” snow sculpture contest and ended Feb. 14 with an obstacle course.

Six teams competed in the games organized by the UWRF Traditions

Committee. The teams had seven opportunities to accumulate points, though not all teams entered every event.

“For number of teams competing, we’re down,” Sara Gliniany, coordinator of Greek functions and special campus-wide events, said.

Normally, several more student organizations and residence halls take part in the events.

“I think this Winter Carnival happened too soon to getting back from J-term,” Gliniany said.

Greek societies made up most of the

2008 teams. This is most likely because fraternities and sororities see the Winter Carnival as a tradition and planned for it well in advance while other groups got caught up with back-to-school adjustments and forgot about the event, Gliniany said.

Cold weather Feb. 9 and 10 meant a slow start to Winter Carnival festivities.

“I think since it was so cold that weekend, a lot of groups didn’t get out there and work on their sculptures,” Amanda Krier, Traditions Committee chair, said.

Two teams—Alpha Gamma Rho and Delta Theta Sigma and the Little Sisters—did manage to complete their snow sculptures despite the sub-zero wind chill. Delta Theta Sigma and the Little Sisters won the event with their sculpture of an igloo and an Eskimo.

Phi Mu’s team missed the snow sculpture contest because many of its members were at a sorority conference in Indianapolis. They signed up for all other Winter Carnival competitions, however.

“We thought it would be fun and a way to get new girls interested (in the sorority) and to just kind of throw our name out there,” Lizzie Adamec, a member of Phi Mu, said.

Phi Mu, whose six representatives sang “Respect,” was one of six teams that competed in karaoke Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

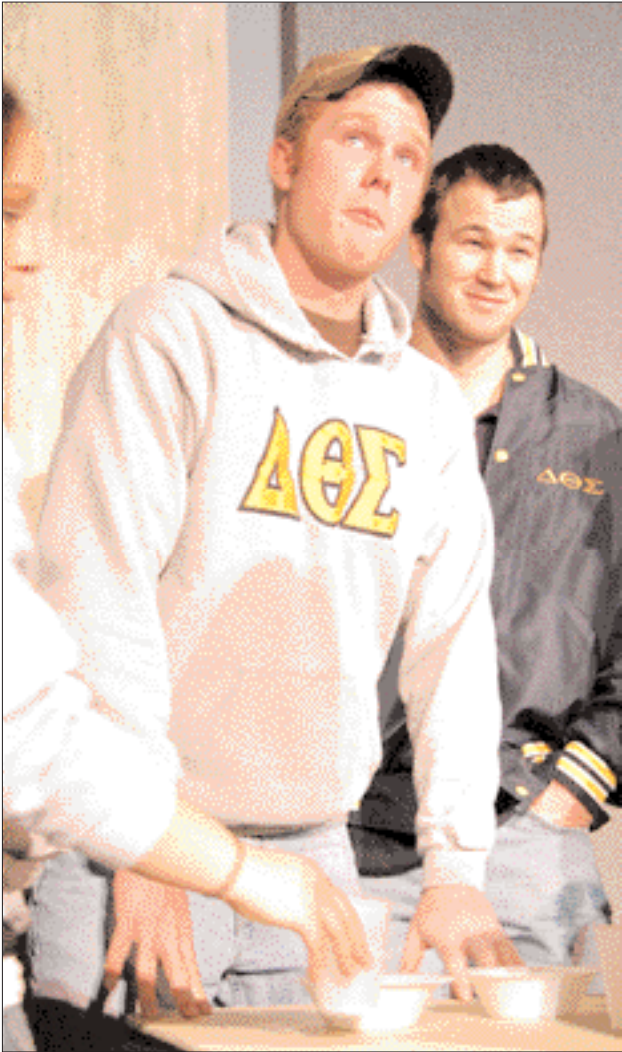
said. “If you do not sign one, you do not participate.”

Teams hurried to devour a mess of frozen and spicy foods, including frozen Tater Tots and dried habañeros. They either held their hands to their forehead and temples or fanned their face and chugged milk, depending on the food they were trying to force down.

Environmental science major Dane Christenson ate a dried habañero on behalf of Alpha Gamma Rho’s team. After the contest, Christenson drank Mountain Dew in big gulps. Tears dripped over his cheeks and down to his chin.

“It’s just really hot. It’s bad,” Christenson said. “Someone up there is going to die.”

The competition ended Feb. 14 with an obstacle course set up in the snow



Top Left: Kyle Nilsestuen competes in the “Food You Fear” eating contest Feb. 13 in the University Center. Top Right: Aaron Bergman rocks out while playing Guitar Hero at the All-Night Party in the Knowles Center last Friday. Bottom: Students skate along with Freddy Falcon during open skating at Hunt Arena Feb. 13.



Sally King/Student Voice



A live band called the Hootenanners led the groups on as they sang—or shouted—their songs, ranging from “Sweet Caroline” to “Baby Got Back.” Students not involved in the competition then had the chance to be lead singer of the band.

Junior Meghan Moynihan of Alpha Omicron Pi stood outside of the Falcon’s Nest Feb. 12 with some of her team members waiting to compete in the frozen t-shirt contest.

Her group decided to participate in the Winter Carnival “to show school spirit and just be involved in school fun,” Moynihan said.

Two representatives from each competing team worked together to see how quickly they could thaw out a t-shirt enough for one of the team members to put it on and run to an “x” mark on the floor of the aisle. Some students resorted to chewing at the t-shirts in an attempt to thaw the ice. Others stepped on the shirts and pulled up on them until their faces were red and dripping sweat.

Comedian Jay Black took over the stage with his energetic act after the one remaining team gave up on thawing their t-shirt.

His jokes never departed from subjects that college students—especially men—can relate to, so he got a lot of laughs and cheers from the audience.

“I don’t miss dating,” Black said. “I miss video games.”

As part of his bit on the importance of video games to young men, Black asked how many men in the audience have played video games three or more hours at a time. His question was answered with a torrent of cheers and clapping.

The smell of hot peppers drifted to the audience during the “Foods You Fear” eating competition held in the Falcon’s Nest Feb. 13.

“Last call on the waivers,” Krier

“I think since it was so cold that weekend, a lot of groups didn’t get out there and work on their sculptures.”

Amanda Krier,
Traditions Committee chair

between the Kleinpell Fine Arts building and the University Center. Students had to spin around wearing snowshoes with their foreheads pressed to a cardboard tube among other tasks that left them slipping and sometimes falling in the middle of the obstacle course.

Besides encouraging school spirit, the Winter Carnival supplied local charities with necessities which they will dispense to residents in need of their help, Gliniany said.

Teams could score additional points by collecting food items for the River Falls Food Pantry located at Ezekial Lutheran Church and personal hygiene items for Turning Point, a River Falls shelter for abused women and their children.

“We probably had two big boxes worth of hygiene items, and I suppose you could say like a van’s worth of food that we took to the food shelf,” Gliniany said.

The winning team was announced at the Feb. 15 hockey game against UW-Stout. Alpha Gamma Rho won with 751 points, followed by Delta Theta Sigma and the Little Sisters, who scored 713 points. Sigma Sigma Sigma and the Agricultural Education Society both earned 342 points to tie for third place.